



LIFE Project Number
LIFE11 NAT/MT/1070

Final Report
 Covering the project activities from 01/10/2012 to 29/04/2016

Reporting Date
18/08/2016

LIFE+ MIGRATE
**Conservation status and potential sites of community interest for
Tursiops truncatus and *Caretta caretta* in Malta**

Project Data

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Project location | Malta |
| Project start date: | 01/10/2012 |
| Project end date: | 29/04/2016 |
| Total Project duration (in months) | 43 months |
| Total budget | € 964,006.00 |
| Total eligible budget | € 952,006 |
| EU contribution: | € 476,003 |
| (%) of total costs | 49.38% |
| (%) of eligible costs | 47.51% |

Beneficiary Data

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2. Executive summary

The main targets of LIFE+MIGRATE Project is to understand the status of the populations of the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and of the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) in Malta and to identify important areas for them. These species are protected by the EC Habitats Directive, Directive 92/43/EEC, as well as numerous other multilateral agreements (regional and international conventions) to which Malta is a party. To adequately protect and conserve these species their population status needs to be known and habitats which may prove to be crucial for their life and reproduction needs to be identified. Such habitats, if present around the Maltese waters, should also be protected. The project, thus aims to try to close these knowledge gaps by establishing the conservation status of these populations and any important areas for them which may include potential feeding grounds and/or important migratory routes.

Before the project began (through desk top efforts) and throughout the implementation of the LIFE+MIGRATE project, ongoing measures were carried out to gather relevant biotic¹ and abiotic² data. This data was collected and collated from information presented in peer reviewed papers and other documents, submitted by various experts, organisations, volunteers and others. Volunteers who have become part of this project (please refer to Section 5.2.11) and officials from the Maritime Squadron of the AFM and of the CPD keep notifying us with cetacean and turtle sightings. A large amount of A1 biotic data was also obtained through collaborations with BLM through a similar previous project they carried out on seabirds but which collected cetaceans and turtle data and through a definite methodology. With regards to Action A1, MEPA had issued two direct orders (DO) to obtain the necessary data. One DO was with the Physical Oceanographic Unit at the University of Malta to provide MEPA directly with the oceanographic data, in relation with sea surface currents, salinity and temperature; and also bathymetry. The other direct order was with the Fishing Federation to collect biotic data related to cetaceans and marine turtles around the Maltese islands. It was ensured that the data obtained was compliant with the INSPIRE Directive.

Action A2 Biotic maps were already produced for a number of sightings received from other projects and sightings data received from NGOs and volunteers (such as from Birdlife Malta).

This project includes the direct boat-based observation surveys as described further in Action A3 further below, which action is under the remit of KAI Marine Services. Surveying at sea on board the research vessel *Aurora Boreal*, to collect the relevant data on these species was done in six months spread over two years with over 780 hours at sea, covering 5796 km which yielded 293 observations of marine turtles and 50 sightings of cetaceans. Also, the data gathered includes 460 hours of acoustic recordings from three hydrophone set-ups: a 200 m long stereo towed array, a VEMCO acoustic tag decoder and a new state of the art autonomous recording system known as “Soundtrap”, which captures cetacean vocalisations as well as broadband man-made noise, providing a unique new tool for the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Seabirds and other important species like sharks were also studied as well as other important human activities including development of a series of micro

¹ Biotic data: is biological data for these species, including historic one and of associated/prey species, which may affect the population of the loggerhead turtles and the bottlenose dolphin;

² Abiotic data: non-living data but which may affect the living components in this case data mainly related to physical oceanography and marine spatial planning issues including marine uses of the sea.

plastic debris sampling in addition to macro plastic sampling. This is, to our knowledge, the most intense survey performed in these waters. Data gathering included mapping of human activities and sampling of underwater noise.

In addition, the outcome of the surveys, includes a series of management proposals and as well as the design of new NATURA 2000 site for the Annex II species, *Caretta caretta* and *Tursiops truncatus*. The survey has provided baseline data on cetacean and sea turtle populations for future monitoring of the trends in their conservation status in Maltese waters. Lastly, the combination of the survey results with the discussions with different stakeholders, such as fishers, mariners, divers, coast guards, now provides relevant information for the management of certain potential risks that have been identified, as bycatch of sea turtles in the hooks of longlines, entanglement in ghost fishing gear and debris, noise pollution, vessel strikes or water pollution from operational accidents in bunkering operations.

For the accomplishment of scientific and conservation objectives, the survey produced a series of presentations, videos (including shots for the E6 video) and a blog (<http://kaimarineservices.com/lifemigratesurveys/>) to maintain a window of the action with the general public.

Following the analysis of the data collected from Actions A1 and A3; and the necessary consultations between the beneficiaries, it resulted that three sites were identified as pSCIs to be proposed as Natura 2000 for the loggerhead turtle and the bottlenose dolphins, which pSCIs are located in the following areas:

- West of Gozo;
- South of the island of Filfla; and
- North of Gozo.

These three mentioned sites were incorporated with the SPAs proposed through the LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project. Eight sites were proposed by the said LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project, whereby two of these overlapped with two sites proposed by this project. Hence, a total of eight sites were being proposed as pSCIs & SPAs. More information about the designation process can be found in Section 5.1.4, further below.

The project also included a number of Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) actions, most of which have been successfully achieved with some others in progress. The project brand, Action E1 and the roll-up banners, Action E2, replacing the stated conventional notice boards specified in the grant agreement, were produced within the first 3 months of the project. Moreover, nine other banners were produced, whereby two of these nine were replicas with slight modifications of the mentioned 3 banners, which were in a bad state after excessive usage. The other seven of the nine banners included information about key dolphin, whale and marine turtle species found in the Mediterranean, as well as, information about the importance of Natura 2000 sites for the two species under study.

The LIFE+ MIGRATE's official website (www.lifeprojectmigrate.com) as per the Grant Agreement Action E3 is to provide information about the project and the species under study. The website was regularly updated with different documents and news which are uploaded frequently (such as newsletters, press releases, events and many other issues) with related pictures of such events to give also a snapshot for the people who could not attend. The official website became fully functional in May 2013, but previous to that, a temporary page

on the MEPA's website had been set up, still functional to date. Although not specified in the Grant Agreement, a Facebook page was also set-up for the general public. Additionally, a blog of the survey coordinated by KAI Marine Services was operative during the A3 survey period at <http://kaimarineservices.com/lifemigratesurveys> providing a day by day window of the research activities at sea.

E-newsletters produced, as part of Action E5, are a cost-effective and an environmentally friendly solution to further publicize the project, whilst ensure a continued interest in the project through sending the newsletter's site to all volunteers and the entire mailing list. In these newsletters the most recent news about the project was being published including snapshots and articles by volunteers who wished to recount an interesting sighting episode and their personal experience with these flagship species. In total, a number of 12 e-newsletter have been uploaded on the project website and distributed amongst the project's subscribers.

Another action promoting visibility of the project and awareness was the short video (Action E6). In total four videos (slightly different modifications of the initial one) have been produced, which are the following:

- Fifteen-minute video in Maltese with no subtitles;
- Fifteen-minute video in Maltese with English subtitles;
- Fifteen-minute video in English with no subtitles; and
- Two-minute video (ideal for social media) in Maltese with English subtitles.

Furthermore, it important to point out that two of the above mentioned videos have been featured on local popular Television at peak time hours. More information on the production and the featuring of such project videos are described further below in Section 5.2.6.

The brochure of Action E7, designed by MEPA, was published in June 2014 (with a previous version produced in March-April 2013) with the printing done through an amalgamated tender including other publicity material for actions E10 and E11. The brochures were distributed not only during all the LIFE+ MIGRATE events that followed, but also in many other general MEPA events which focused on environmental issues. The hard copies of the brochures were produced both in English and Maltese languages; and are available in an electronic format on the website. Also, a Spanish version of the brochure is also available, but only as a soft copy. It important to point out that until the brochures were officially available, an A4 brochure issued with the help of BOV, the co-financier, helped to attract volunteers to assist the project and also fulfilled the functions of the brochure which due to the tendering process took some time to be finished.

The layman's report was finalised in the second quarter of 2016. It is both available in English and Maltese versions; which versions can also be found in an electronic copy on the project's website. Copies of such reports are being attached as Annex 7.3.1 of this Final report.

As part of Action E9, the project was ensured to be regularly featured on various media, more frequently than actually stipulated in the Grant Agreement. A list of features in relation with the LIFE+MIGRATE project can be found in Section 5.2, further below.

The project also included the production of promotional items, such as:
Polo shirts (Action E11);

- Caps (Action E11);
- LED torch key chains (Action E 10);
- Beach umbrellas (Action E10); and
- Stickers (Action E10).

These items display the logos of the project, Natura 2000, LIFE and of all the beneficiaries. The polo shirts, caps and key chains are currently being disseminated to the volunteers who participated in the Action A3 surveys and to the sea-users, who attended the training seminars for E11. The umbrellas, key chains and stickers were disseminated in summer 2014 and were continued to be distributed to the general public on the beaches in summer 2015. The stickers and the LED key chains replaced the adhesive grommets with the former being attached to bins on the beaches, as detailed in the Grant Agreement to remind the public that every bit of litter may pose a threat to the marine ecosystem and particularly to turtles.

Throughout the lifetime of the project, a total of 25 training workshops on the identification of marine turtles and cetaceans were held to specifically address diverse members of the public, apart from the maritime squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta and the marine section of the Civil Protection Department, diving schools and other marine stakeholders. A certificate-giving ceremony was held in December 2014 to all the officials of the Armed Forces of Malta who participated in the training. Initially, it was envisaged that another certificate-giving ceremony was to be held for the remaining volunteers, however, due to unforeseen circumstances, this ceremony was not held and instead, the certificates were given directly to the remaining volunteers.

Apart from these workshops, other awareness raising events included participation in the boat show (organized by BOV), in 2013, where MEPA and KAI, the latter also present with their boat and equipment as a show case of the project, gave further information on the said project, also through a looped video on the project and through direct promotion in the MEPA stand. In addition, three successful umbrella-dissemination events were held in summer of 2014 in three popular local sandy beaches, in collaboration with the respective Local Councils where other promotional materials like the stickers and brochures were also disseminated. Furthermore, the project was also promoted during the beach cleanup event hosted by Let's Do It (Malta) and during the Earth Day events (both in 2015 and 2016) hosted by the Higher Secondary School. Such events further increased the visibility of the project and gave further information to the public.

Within the context of Actions E13 and E14, KAI with MEPA's assistance organised a series of sectoral workshops between the 26th of September and the 3rd of October 2014. The workshops held at the Malta National Aquarium and Nature Trust's premises, had a very positive outcome with both national and international participation including from regional organisations. These workshops were addressed to stakeholders from the transport, energy, national security, fisheries, tourism, education and research sectors. A number of speakers gave speeches and presentations which included conservation aspects of the two species under study and their habitats, also in relation with the above-mentioned sectors. These workshops together with two fishery committee meetings held previously in Gozo and Marsaxlokk, were the outcome of a stakeholders communication process which included one to one meetings initiated in 2013 followed by mini sectoral meetings with the aim of actively involving stakeholders in the development of the NATURA 2000 Guidelines (E 14). This process was

steered by the E13 and E14 feed-back monitoring action D1 in order to adjust the stakeholder communication strategy as necessary. The draft *Natura 2000 Guidelines for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in Malta* (E14), was used as basic working document for the final sectoral workshops, the objective of which is to provide guidance for the establishment of conservation measures on the bottlenose dolphins and the loggerhead turtles in Malta; and to guide stakeholders in their actions in order to reduce risks for such species and their habitats. Once finalised, the final draft of the NATURA 2000 Guidelines document, incorporating all inputs from stakeholders, together with the proceedings of the workshop and a sectoral service website was printed and simultaneously, made available on the project website.

The project was monitored, and all concerned parties were frequently informed and updated on the project's progress. In fact, every month a summary of the project's progress was compiled by MEPA with relevant input from the associated beneficiaries and provided to the Monitor. Additionally, a number of CION/Monitor meetings were also held, whereby both CION and the Monitor were also briefed and updated on the status of the project. Apart from the previously-mentioned summaries of progress, technical reports were also produced; for which the inception report, the midterm report and the progress report have already been drafted submitted previously; and the final report was submitted now.

MEPA also needs to report about the financial situation of the project at specific timeframes, also an on-going process and for this MEPA has regular meetings with RSM, a financial company appointed to take care of the accounting and to provide financial advice for this project. They were also involved in relation to the further government subvention needed for the continuation of project following KAI's termination notice of the 7th May 2013 and for the Maltese Government had to make good for KAI's inability to fully fund their part in the project. Though this subvention was approved in August 2013, due to further changes in the Government administration and in the Ministries concerned MEPA had to negotiate this further with the Ministry of Finance and MSDEC to get the balance requested approved. Further discussions had to be done even in 2015.

Another important aspect of the project is networking with other projects, which is crucial to maximize information exchanges and experience-sharing between local and foreign similar projects. This is explained in more detail in Section 5.1.7, further below.

Through Action F3, an independent auditor was chosen to audit the whole project, after a Call for quotation was issued. Following the evaluation of such call, PKF Malta were chosen and notified accordingly. PKF had compiled an audit report of the project, which report can be found attached with this Final Report as Annex 8.7.

With regards to the After-LIFE Conservation Plan (Action F4), an internal (to decide the material to disseminate to this committee and other such issues) and an external committee (the actual stakeholders) were set up. This committee was regularly informed about recent scientific updates of the project until the final results of the survey and the significant areas can be communicated. Eventually, the After-LIFE Conservation Plan was finalised and can be found attached with this Final Report as Annex 7.3.2.

Paragraph summarizing each chapter of the main report

Chapter three provides an introduction about the population status of the two Mediterranean marine species under study in this project, in relation with their behavioural patterns. This chapter also gives an insight on how this project will also be contributing towards other international projects with the same context. Finally, this section concludes by giving an overview about the socio-economic context of the project in the Maltese Islands. The next chapter gives an account on the administrative structure by describing the entities involved and the management systems and structures within, hence stipulating how the said project is managed. All the actions of this project are described in detail in chapter 5, along with the status of such actions, status of completion and if not yet finalized, how each action is envisaged to be continued. This chapter also includes an analysis of the resultant long-term benefits. This report concludes by giving an account of the current financial situation of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project.

3. Introduction

3.1. Background

3.1.1. Overall Objectives

This project's main aim is to address information gaps with regards to the population status of the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), by obtaining data about them, their migratory routes, feeding grounds and aggregation areas, so as to establish their conservation status and contribute towards the identification of areas³ essential to their life and reproduction. These areas will be proposed as pSCIs (proposed Site of Community Interest, as defined under the EC Habitats Directive 92/43 EEC) to Government for their eventual inclusion in the NATURA 2000 network, if found to be present. The identification and establishment of pSCI and the conservation status of these species are the overall objectives.

The specific objectives of this project are:

- assessing the Conservation Status of both the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle and creating baselines for the assessment of trends which may lead to identification/ consideration of potential hotspots or other important areas;
- to verify such potential hotspots or other important areas, through the use of boat-based observations; and
- to promote the project and increase its visibility as well as carry out awareness-raising campaigns and education efforts through the use of the information material including brochures, roll-up banners and a short video developed for the project.

Apart from the EU NATURA 2000 Framework, this project will also contribute towards meeting Malta's obligation under other multilateral environmental agreements.

3.1.2. Sites involved

Three sites for the loggerhead turtles and cetaceans were chosen, which are better described in Section 5.2 (Action A4).

The project's results confirmed that Malta provides good aggregation spots in offshore areas for juvenile and sub-adult turtles. It was confirmed that areas within the waters of Malta are clearly important as a migratory corridor and as possible foraging sites for the loggerhead turtle, with a higher occupancy by juveniles and sub-adults. It is noticeable that all areas lie at a distance from the coast with some of them bordering the territorial sea.

These same areas identified for the loggerhead turtle appear as the highest density areas for delphinids. However, results also indicate that whereas Maltese waters can be considered of very high relevance for *Caretta caretta*, in the case of cetaceans, densities of the bottlenose dolphins are relatively low in comparison to other Mediterranean regions.

³ Area/s found up to the territorial sea or within the 25 nautical mile boundary of the Maltese Fisheries Management Zone established through the European Council Regulation 813/2004.

With regards to cetaceans, the project showed that Maltese waters are used by cetaceans but the relevance is not as high as in the case of sea turtles or in comparison to other cetacean hotspots identified throughout the Mediterranean.

3.1.3. Targeted habitat types and/or species

As explained above, the main species targeted in this project are the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*). Nevertheless all species of cetaceans and turtles encountered were also studied, as well as any other notable mega-fauna species encountered. Such non-target species, were also recorded. In doing so, the project value was maximised and further contributed towards narrowing current knowledge gaps relating to the pelagic marine environment present within the territory of Malta.

The bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle are locally protected through the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (SL 549.44). Such regulations transpose, amongst other EU Habitats Directive. In this respect, both the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle are listed in Annex II and Annex IV of this Directive; their inclusion in Annex II implies the need of designating SACs for such species whilst the reference to Annex IV for such implies the need of a strict protection regime for both species, which is provided by national legislation under the EPA (CAP 549).

The loggerhead turtle is also indicated as a priority species in Annex II ‘for the conservation of which the Community has particular responsibility in view of the proportion of their natural range which falls within the territory’.

3.1.4. Main conservation issues being targeted

In the Mediterranean Sea, the bottlenose dolphin population, being mostly a coastal one, is exposed to number of human activities which may occur with greater intensity around the coast.

At present, the main pressure in the Mediterranean seems to include low prey availability due to potential over-fishing, incidental mortality in fishing gear and environmental degradation of the important habitats. Additional potential threats may include direct disturbance or collision from boating and shipping, underwater noise, toxic effect of xenobiotic chemicals, epizootic outbreaks, and climate change.

On the other hand, loggerhead turtles in the Mediterranean face threats both on land and in the marine environment. Malta is not considered as a nesting site, due to the small proportion of sand (only 2% of the coast is sandy) and the very rare and sporadic nesting which occurs. In view of this, the marine threats were considered.

In this respect, marine pressures and threats appear to be linked with incidental capture in fisheries gear and coastal development - the latter may affect relevant coastal habitats used by turtles. Intentional killing is also considered a relevant issue in some parts of the Mediterranean.

In Malta the risks appears to be mostly linked to Fishing Aggregation Devices⁴ FADs, although the data obtained could not distinguish whether the origin of such risk is from Maltese or other fisheries - also due to the migratory nature of such species. Other risks will need further assessment, which will be addressed through the 'After-Life Conservation Plan.

3.1.5. Conservation measures

As to the bottlenose dolphin, it was reckoned that conservation measures that directly target the species may be very effective and complement area-based management efforts. When dealing with populations that have a fragmented distribution, such as in this case, the conservation of sites that can contribute to gene flow is of special relevance.

As explained above, the species targeted in this project are legally protected through international and national laws against harmful activities that may harm their conservation status. Moreover, various actions are already being carried out to rehabilitate any injured marine turtles which are incidentally caught by fishermen and/or found beached by NGOs and which are then released once rehabilitated.

The collaborations offered from various institutes which were not partners in this project may lead to further strengthening ties in the near future and to further collaborations to create synergy and enhance the protection of marine species and surveillance of MPAs.

The designation of pSCIs will further enable better protection to these species on the basis of spatial management. The After-Life Conservation Plan stressed the need to protect these nationally as MPAs under the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (SL 549.44), 2006.

The establishment of specific measures within such MPAs will involve a number of sectors and stakeholders and their implementation would thus enable the working together of such different sectors and stakeholders.

Since aggregation areas for turtles were clearly identifiable through this project, these will help direct the focus of species monitoring to specific areas and will thus enhance direct national conservation efforts.

Once the 3 sites (mentioned in 3.1 above) become accepted by the EU Commission, Malta will have six years to establish the conservation objectives and management measures to ensure that the favourable conservation status of the species within the site is either maintained or improved as may be the case.

In order to achieve this, various factors and features would need to be considered. Many of these features and factors have been included in the After-LIFE Conservation Plan.

The proposal focuses on conservation objectives that target the loggerhead turtle and the bottlenose dolphin. A number of objectives have been identified that are expected to either complement or enrich the output of this project. It is expected that the Conservation Plan will continue to build our capacity in order to select the correct the conservation objectives and associated management measures within the management plan. The related conservation

⁴ Particularly for the dolphin fish (*lampuki*) fishing

objectives and management measures are expected to be developed by ERA and MSDEC through stakeholder consultations to be carried out in the course of 2017, and will also involve all relevant governmental bodies. Such Programme of Measures (PoMs) will take into consideration the results identified through LIFE MIGRATE (and the related LIFE + Malta Seabirds project), as well as this After-LIFE Conservation Plan. Indeed, the After LIFE plan includes actions that will assist the competent authority in selecting the most appropriate and effective measures to be included in the PoMs. Other frameworks would be considered in parallel in order to create synergies and have a more holistic and efficient approach. This would ensure that the management of the designated sites is in line with the requirements of the Nature Directives, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and other related EU legislation and multilateral environment agreements, including the United Nations Barcelona Convention.

Moreover, the safeguarding of selected areas from negative impacts is of utmost importance. The assessment of impacts within protected areas can be used to identify measures to mitigate those activities that would be identified to have a significant negative impact on the status of the marine protected areas or the protected species that are hosted within them. A number of such issues are already identified in the National Marine Monitoring Plan, which was reported in 2015 as part of the MSFD reporting processes but which streamlines monitoring requirements emanating from various marine-related policies. . Such Monitoring Plan is already being implemented by various Governmental entities, and is expected to include funding from EU sources. In this respect, the Monitoring Plan governs the first phase of implementation, i.e. 2016-2018, and selected issues earmarked in this Conservation Plan will be incorporated into the next phase of the reporting cycle, from 2019-2021, in line with the timeframes indicated in this Plan.

3.1.6. Socio-economic context

Malta's socio-economy depends partially on the marine sectors such as the fishing industry and international and domestic tourism and recreation.

A number of merchant vessels are registered in Malta making it the second largest register in Europe. There are over 100 shipping agents and brokers in Malta that provide services to shipping companies.

The fishing industry is relatively small and artisan with a low contribution towards the national GDP. The fishing industry supports the livelihood of at some 1,400 people through the fishing, marketing and fleet related activities. However the social importance of this industry far outweighs its economic importance. Furthermore fisheries are seen as adding value to the tourism sector through the availability of fresh fish and the 'preservation' of traditional fishing methods.

3.2. Expected long-term results

3.2.1. The 1st Data results

5331 km were covered visually, with 293 sightings of *Caretta caretta* and 50 cetacean sightings.

Turtles abundance was not uniform throughout Maltese waters, ranging from 0.5 to 46.9 (mean of 5) turtles per 100 km of effort in the grids of 10 km side, with an average density for Malta between 0.4 to 7.2 specimens per square kilometre.

50 sightings of cetacean species were made out of which 4 odontocetes species were identified: the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*, 38%), the striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*, 30%), the common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*, 24%) and the sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*, 2%). Four sightings were not identified to species level (6%).

The project's primary expected result was to propose Sites of Community Importance (pSCI) for the loggerhead turtles and the bottlenose dolphins within the Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ), through a combination of modelling of available biotic and oceanographic data.

As a result, three sites within the FMZ were proposed as pSCIs, which shown to be ideal for the conservation of these two marine species, particularly for the loggerhead turtles. Two of these pSCIs proposed by the LIFE+ MIGRATE project shown to be also important for sea bird conservation proposed by the LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project, which also proposed other SPAs.

Thus, in total, nine new marine protected areas, which cover a total area of approximately 3,450 km² beyond Malta's immediate coastal waters and within the mentioned 25 nautical mile zone, have been proposed by the two mentioned LIFE+ projects (both established in Malta). This will be better described in detail in Section 5.1.3.

The related conservation objectives and management measures are expected to be developed by ERA and MSDEC through stakeholder consultations to be carried out in the course of 2017, and will also involve all relevant governmental bodies.

The Programme of Measures (PoMs) will take into consideration the results identified through LIFE MIGRATE (and the related LIFE + Malta Seabirds project), as well as the After-LIFE Conservation Plan.

Indeed, the After LIFE plan includes actions that will assist the competent authority in selecting also measures to be included in the PoMs. Other frameworks would be considered in parallel in order to create synergies and have a more holistic and efficient approach. This would ensure that the management of the designated sites is in line with the requirements of the Nature Directives, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and other related EU legislation and multilateral environment agreements, including the United Nations Barcelona Convention.

The safeguarding of the selected areas from negative impacts is of utmost importance. Assessment of impacts within protected areas can be used to identify measures to mitigate those activities that would be identified to have a significant negative impact on the status of the marine protected areas or the protected species that are hosted within them. A number of such issues are already identified in the National Marine Monitoring Plan, which was reported in 2015 as part of the MSFD reporting processes but which streamlines monitoring requirements emanating from various marine-related policies. Such Monitoring Plan is already being implemented by various Governmental entities, and governs the first phase of implementation, i.e. 2016-2018. Indeed selected issues earmarked in the aforementioned After-Life Conservation Plan will be incorporated into the next phase of the reporting cycle, from 2019-2021, in line with the timeframes indicated in the After-LIFE Conservation Plan.

The data resulting from the project was positive and did not show signs of deterioration. This indicates that the current and ongoing measures being carried out by the relevant stakeholders, particularly, the fishing industry are effective. Therefore, the After-LIFE Conservation plan will encourage such authorities to continue their efforts in this direction. This can be done by further soliciting the cooperation of fishers to report any incidents.

The three sites are expected to receive legal protection by designating them as Special Areas of Conservation of International Importance through national legislation under the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended).

With regards to areas covered, they are the following:

- Area proposed North of Gozo/Malta - MT0000106 *Il-Baħar tat-Tramuntana* 31902 Ha (however this has been combined with a proposed SPA, as described above and the total area of both combined is provided);
- Area proposed to West of Gozo/Malta - MT0000110 *Il-Baħar tal-Punent* 22020 Ha; and
- Area proposed in South of Malta, near Filfla - MT0000110- *Il-Baħar tan-Nofsinhar* – 83519 Ha (however this has been combined with a proposed SPA, as described above and the total area of both combined is provided).

4. Administrative part

4.1. Description of the management system

4.1.1. Description and schematic presentation of working method

The project is divided into 3 major phases, as can be seen in Figure 4.1, which are the following:

- The desktop exercise;
- The collection of field data; and
- Related Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) which as described in Chapter 5 was included in nearly every part of the project.

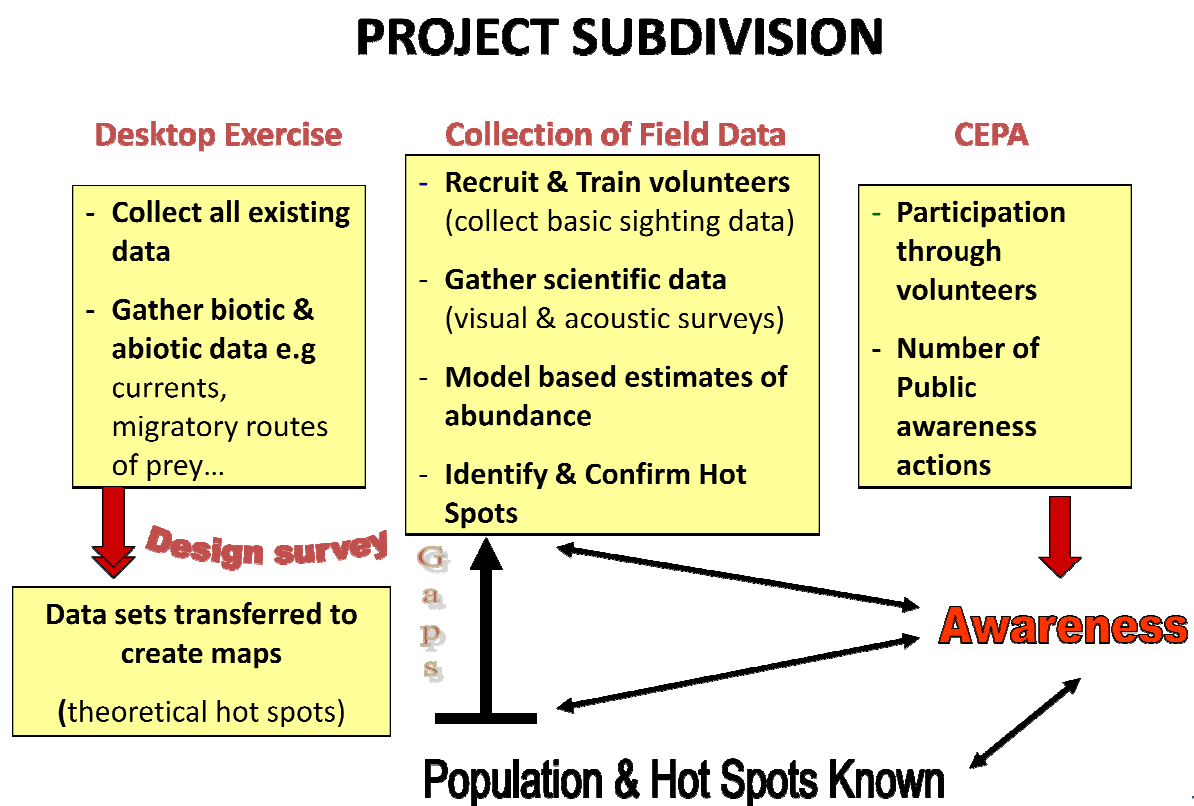


Figure 4.1: The subdivision of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project.

Each phase makes a contribution to the main aim of the project i.e. the identification of important sites and the data on the conservation status of the species concerned.

In the desktop exercise, all the necessary data which was available was collected and which also included data on prey species from Fisheries.

Some of the direct biotic data on cetaceans and turtles was difficult to obtain as explained in detail in chapter 5.3 with regards to Action A1. Complimentary data was then obtained from previous surveys (LIFE + Malta Seabirds Project and LIFE Garnija project), data from fishers

and other historic records as well as from literature (including scientific papers, reports and books).

All this data together with part of the initial surveys (2013) were then analysed to produce the first initial drafts maps of the ‘theoretical’ hot spots which were then further confirmed and modified according to the further data obtained from the A3 surveys in 2014 and from the oceanographic data obtained from A1 Action (abiotic - which included sea surface salinity, temperature and currents for monthly and daily averages, taken from satellites and radars and bathymetric data collected at 100 & 1155 m) and all the other A1 data, such as wind and sea-state and human activities, as well as other species, e.g. seabirds.

Other data was also obtained from citizen science information obtained. A modelling exercise using established methodology was then employed so as to identify potential Natura 2000 sites. Mapping of potential risks was also done and the latter included the following:

- Debris pollution (ghost fishing / macro & micro plastics); and
- Noise pollution.

The above are better described in Annex 7.2.4.1 of this Final Report.

The Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) parts included the training of volunteers on how to gather more precise data as well as all the related awareness campaigns that were done to promote the project and disseminate the results (Action E13 and E14 - meeting and workshops with sectors and NATURA 2000 Guidelines) which are further described in chapter 5.2.

4.1.2. Activities and tasks per phase and planning

Most of the initial months in 2012 were taken up with planning of a number of issues, actions and activities in connection with setting up the logos, creating the networking, doing the roll-up banners and creating databases of the interested volunteers to be later invited for the project launch which was done in February 2013. Later calls were issued for the website and also for the publishing of the brochure. Since the latter was time consuming (in view of the tendering procedures), another brochure was issued whilst awaiting the tendering process to take its time.

Considerable planning which was undertaken for this project. In fact, a number of activities had to be done over the summer periods. Such activities included the summer A3 activities under the responsibility of KAI and for which they and MEPA had to pre-plan for the survey methodology (which began in November 2012), but also had to plan and all the related tenders for employing the people to be on-board during the survey, for the vessel itself and for the buying (and renting) of all the necessary equipment in time for the survey. Permits for working on the protected species and on protected sites as well as animal welfare permits also had to be processed beforehand by MEPA and by the Veterinary Services Division in liaison with MSDEC. In fact for 2014, since MSDEC were the Ministry responsible for animal welfare division they coordinated with for the speedy release of the 2014 permit. Likewise, the E11 training workshops had to be pre-planned with avoidance of the peak summer months for AFM and for the divers in view of their intense activities during these months. The dissemination of the umbrellas campaigns had to be carried out in summer (which for Malta

extends up to October) when the temperature is still high and the people are still present on beaches.

The marine surveys involved both visual and acoustic ones. The visual survey involved platform lookout posts (which depended on the sea state) alternating naked eye with binocular scans of the horizon.

The same methods as in LIFE SCANS II and the Alboran Sea (1990 – 2013) (LIFE02NAT/E/8610 – LIFE07NAT/E/00732), and other Mediterranean sites, were used.

The methodologies used are an international reference.

As outlined above, the survey planning involved the following:

- Transect design – MAIN TRANSECT GRID vs OFF EFFORT TRANSECTS;
- Using standard protocols;
- Combining methodologies; and
- Adjusting to wind and sea state.

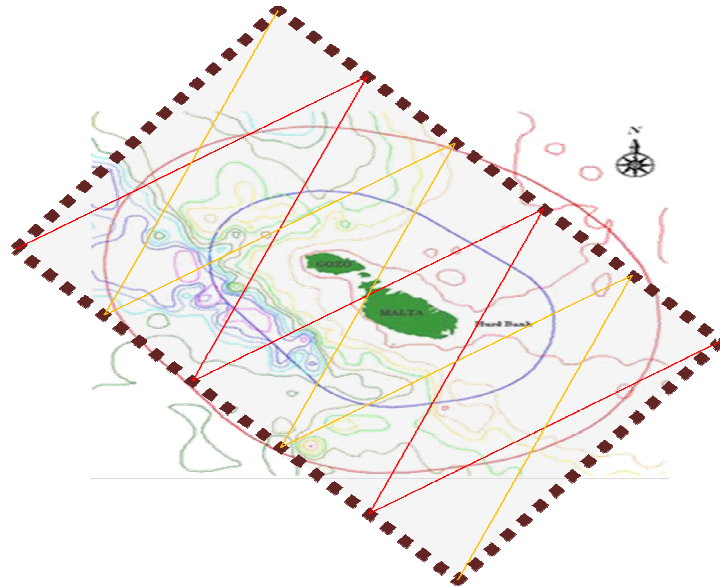


Figure 4.2: A Map showing the transects lines for the A3 surveys in Malta.

The point sampling transects data, consisted of recording every 20 minutes, which means approximately every 2 nautical miles (in view of the average speed of the vessel). This involved a human activity sampling i.e. direct observations.

The visual line transect survey was complemented with visual and acoustic surveys (5,331 km surveyed visually & 3,311 km surveyed acoustically). A towed array of 200m with the IFAW PAMGUARD software was used. During acoustic surveying a constant 20 minutes watch was kept on the headphones and on the PAMGUARD software.

For cetacean sightings the following were recorded:

- Basic data: angle , distance, species, number of individuals and behaviour

- Complementary data was also taken whenever possible (which included the sea state and the positive response of dolphins)
- Photo identification trackings;
- When cetaceans or sea turtles detected, the vessel would conduct a careful approach to a distance of 100 – 200 metres;
- It was then established whether to continue ON transect effort or go OFF transect effort.

The survey allowed to:

1. Establish baselines for further monitoring of trends in conservation status for:
 - Species
 - Distribution and abundance
 - Human activities
 - Noise
2. Establish protocols for further monitoring of trends in conservation status and establish a monitoring plan;
3. Set up a photo identification catalogue.

For Sea turtle sightings the following were recorded:

- Basic data: angle, distance, species, number of individuals and behaviour ;
- Complementary data was taken whenever possible (sea state, sea turtle not aware or disturbed by vessel); and
- OASIS Experiments (N = 46) - Filming aggregation and behavioural response
- Sea-Turtle tracking through VHF tracking for 2 individuals was also done.

Debris pollution sampling was also done and included:

- Macro plastic (GOPRO transects) and
- Micro plastic (OCEANCARE – 5 Gyre filter).

The planning of Actions E13 & E14 and other actions are described in detail in the relevant sections describing them. Furthermore, the activities and tasks which were done during the life time of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project will be better described in Section 5.

4.1.3. Beneficiaries involved in the project

As described above, MEPA⁵ was the coordinating beneficiary, responsible for coordinating and heading the whole project with the contribution of two associate beneficiaries; KAI Marine Services (KAI) and the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC, previously MTCE, but which changed following change in the administration in 2013), along with Bank of Valletta p.l.c. (BOV), as the official co-financier of this project. All the mentioned beneficiaries have actions under their remit, which are better explained in Annex 7.3.1 of the progress report.

⁵ As of the 4th April 2016, the MEPA demerged in two authorities namely the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) and the Planning Authority (PA).

The following individuals from MEPA are contributing in the project:

- Mr Darrin T. Stevens as the Project Leader and as the Unit Manager of the Ecosystems Management Unit within MEPA and later as head of Biodiversity Unit within ERA;
- Ms Carmen Mifsud as the Project Manager and Senior Environment Protection Officer at MEPA;
- Mr Nikolas Cassar the Assistant Project Manager;
- Ms Marlene Attard as the Director of Corporate Services and hence responsible for the overall financing issues of the project and the liaisons with the Finance Section and with the Ministry of Finance (the latter being responsible for the funding issues of Malta) in view of the subventions necessary, in particular for the change which had occurred in May 2013, due to KAI inability to match the original sums envisaged in the project and in the Grant Agreement;
- Ms Joanne Zammit, Ms Stephanie Micallef, Mr Neil Sant and Mr Glanville Goodlip from RSM as the External Financial Controllers, appointed by the DCS, following the financial aspect of the project;
- Mr. Alan Borg from the International/Funding Projects Team as the liaison person with the DCS and with MEPA's financial controller, on the financial aspects of the project;
- Ms Claire Cordina Borg, Mr. Martin Psaila and Ms Marie Louise Bajada⁶ as part of the National Affairs team and also taking care of some of the artworks of certain actions were carried in-house;
- Ms Maria Spiteri nee Mallia⁷ and Mr Peter Gingell from the Public Relations and Communications Office, responsible for the issuance of press releases and the overall management of the E-actions from a public relations point of view;
- Mr Christopher Cousin, as the officer dealing with issues linked with Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), designation of pSCIs and the After-LIFE Conservation Plan;
- Mr Matthew Grima Connell and Ms Marie Therese Gambin, as the officials involved in issues related to data management and INSPIRE compliance; and
- Dr Petra Caruana Dingli, Perit Vince Cassar and Perit Michelle Piccinino, as the directors of Environments and heads of Environment Protection Directorate.

From KAI's side, the personnel contributing in the project are:

- Ms Ana Tejedor as the Director of KAI;
- Mr Ricardo Sagarminaga as the Principal Investigator and Captain of the boat surveys; Ms Pilar Zorzo as the workshop administrative coordinator and the person responsible for KAI's financial issues;
- Ms Natacha Aguilar as one of the experts particularly on the acoustic part of the boat-based survey;
- Mr Bruno Claro also responsible for the logistics of the survey;
- Mr Joaquin Fayos as the sailor and chef of the boat; and
- Ms Hanna Kuhfuss as a survey technician⁸.

⁶ Ms Marie Louise Bajada stopped working at MEPA on 2nd October 2015 and thus, she is no longer contributing in the project as from this date.

⁷ Ms Maria Mallia was on maternity leave between January and June 2015. In view of this, Ms Maria Spiteri nee Mallia's role in the project through this time was done and followed-up by Ms Marie Louise Bajada.

A list of KAI's personnel contributing in said project can be found in Annex 7.1.5 of this Final Report.

The representatives from MSDEC are:

- Ms Kathiano Ghio, Director PDPID (April– October 2014), later replaced by Ms Margaret Cassar, as the head of this team and responsible for the overall position and action implementation of MSDEC in this project (amongst other the designation of the N2K and the project closing event);
- Ms Claire Petril Vella, as the head liaison person between MEPA and MSDEC and who was assisting the project throughout and reviewing the necessary documentation;
- Maria Elena Muscat nee Attard (October 2012 – May 2013); which was later wasreplaced by Mr Vincent James Tabone (March 2014 – December 2015) and later replaced by Ms Bernice Farrugia (January 2016 – April 2016) as the national focal point (and EU fund officers) and assisting by reviewing the necessary documentation and the main MSDEC contact points.

The project also was dependent on data, materials and services supplied or made available by external volunteers, relevant stakeholders and subcontractors. Such contributions are generally communicated in meetings, training workshops and other associated events, apart from direct data receipt through the website, emails and by phone.

Figure 4.3 shows an organigramm, visualising the structure of all the individuals and entities involved in this project.

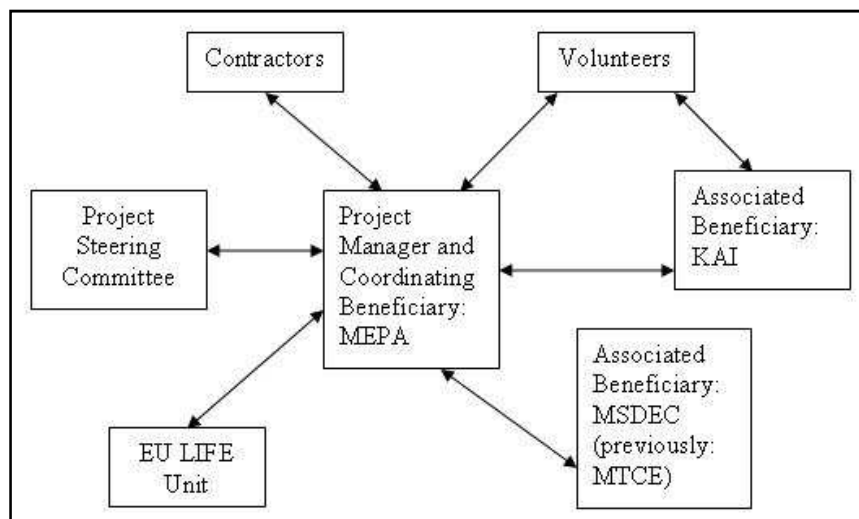


Figure 4.3: Organigramme showing the structure of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project.

⁸ Mr Joaquin Fayos, Mr Bruno Claro, Ms Natacha Aguilar and Ms Hanna Kuhfuss have stopped contributing in this LIFE project, as per Annex 8.9.2 of the MtR.

4.1.4. Grant Agreement amendments done during the LIFE+MIGRATE project

During the life time of the project, there were two main (major) amendments in the said project, which are better described in Table 4.1, reported below.

| Name | Date | Remarks on Modification |
|---|------------|---|
| Supplementary agreement no1 to Grant Agreement for Project LIFE11 NAT/MT/001070 | 03.12.2012 | The agreement was done for the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Article 24.6 of the CPs was replaced by the following Article: ‘The bank account or sub-account used by the coordinating beneficiary must make it possible to identify funds paid by the Commission’; and 2. Article 24.7 of the CPs was replaced by the following article: ‘Interest yielded by pre-financing paid to the Beneficiary is not due to the Commission but is considered as revenue for the project in the sense of Article 24.4’. |
| Amendment no23 to Grant Agreement for Project LIFE11 NAT/MT/001070 | 20.05.2015 | The modification of the LIFE+MIGRATE GA was done since the finance plan as set out in Annex I of the said GA was amended as set out in Forms A3, A4, FA and FC. This had to be done following the inability by KAI to match the funds originally envisaged in the Grant Agreement and with Malta/MEPA taking over such an added financial burden |

Table 4.1: Table showing the GA amendments done within timeframe of the project.

4.1.4. Partnership agreements

Partnership agreements (PAs) were drafted by MEPA, following all the necessary internal approvals, and approvals from the project partners, following the Grant Agreement & the common provisions (Annex 7.1.2.), ensuring that the duties and responsibilities of all beneficiaries are outlined. These agreements were already described in section 4.3 of the IncR and in Annex 7.1 of the same report (IncR) and submitted to CION in 2013.

4.2 Evaluation of the management system

4.2.1. Management and co-ordination of the project

As detailed in Action F1 of this project, a project management system was necessary to ensure coordination and management of all parties involved in the project and to ensure the timely and effective delivery of the project’s deliverables. Thus, communication amongst the coordinating beneficiary’s officials, the associated beneficiaries and with other third parties,

such as RSM (the financial controllers of the project), volunteers and stakeholders, had to be ensured and followed up regularly for an effective project management.

This communication was mostly done through emails and direct contact with numerous third parties and the project partners. Selected parts of this communication was done through telephone and/or video conferencing sessions, with the added advantages of allowing quicker communication with information and updates sent more efficiently. These communication modes are also relatively cheap when compared with travelling and postage, with the potential disadvantage of a higher degree of misunderstanding and misinterpretation of information. This occasionally led to a number of problems, particularly in view of the language barrier. Hence a number of face-to-face meetings, such as steering committees and ad-hoc meetings were held, whenever possible to discuss the issues directly and get clarifications on how to proceed. Video and telephone conferencing facilities were also employed to facilitate communication where face-to-face meetings were not possible.

With regards to the partnership agreement, the original agreement with KAI was revised since KAI indicated they were not in a position to cover all the funds originally envisaged in the Grant Agreement. This was amended, with Malta covering the pending funds, leading to some delays as the financial Government system usually takes long; notwithstanding this, MEPA took intermediate measures to ensure the smooth running of this project and not compromise the surveys, since these needed to be carried out in summer.

The coordinating beneficiary was also responsible to organise, structure and set the successive steering committee meetings, whose purpose is to discuss and deliberate particular actions and any difficulties faced with all beneficiaries involved and if necessary, make up and provide better strategic direction. In total, seven steering committee meetings were done, as can be shown in Table 4.2. Topics discussed within these mentioned meetings can be found the minutes, which minutes can be found in Annex 7.1.4.3 of the Midterm Report (SCM I); Annex 7.3.2 of Progress Report (SCM II – SCM V); and Annex 7.1.2 (SCM VI and SCM VII).

| Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) | Dates | Annexes |
|---|--------------|---|
| SCM I | 23.04.2014 | Annex 7.1.4.3 of MtR |
| SCM II | 17.12.2014 | Annex 7.3.2.1 of PrR |
| SCM III | 17.02.2015 | Annex 7.3.2.2 of of PrR |
| SCM IV | 16.06.2015 | Annex 7.3.2 of PrR |
| SCM V | 17.09.2015 | Annex 7.3.2 of PrR |
| SCM VI | 26.11.2015 | Annex 7.3.2 of PrR & Annex 7.1.2.1 of this FR |
| SCM VII | 19.01.2016 | Annex 7.1.2.2 of this FR |

Table 4.2: Table showing the dates of all the SCMs held within the lifetime of the project.

According to necessity, and in particular periods of the project, MEPA carried out ad-hoc meetings, depending on the nature of the problem at times with only one of the associate beneficiaries, to ensure smooth continuation of the different parts and/or actions in the project. A case in point being the ad-hoc meetings done with KAI, which one was held on the 22nd of

August 2014⁹ (Annex 7.1.4.1 of MtR) and another one held on the 25th September 2014 (Annex 7.1.4.2 of MtR) to discuss the smooth running of the Action E13 sectoral workshops and Action E14. Similarly with MSDEC, a number of ad-hoc meetings were carried out to discuss the government sponsorship needed for all the beneficiaries between July and November 2014. Also, an ad-hoc meeting was done between MEPA and MSDEC on 23rd January 2015, whereby certain issues, such as the MTCE/MSDEC's cost statement and Action E12 (Project closure), were discussed (Annex 7.3.3 of PrR). Regular meetings were also carried out within MEPA, particularly during the the last phase of the project, so as to ensure a smooth running of the project.

4.2.2. Communication with CION and the Monitoring team

A part from steering committee meetings, there were also visits by CION and the EU external Monitoring team, which usually occurred once every year. The purpose for these visits was for CION and the Monitor to observe the progress of the project at particular point in time. In total, there were five CION and/or Monitoring visits, which are summarised in Table 4.3 below.

| CION/Monitoring Visits | Dates | Annexes |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| Initial Monitor visit by Mr Sando Angiolini | 7 th December 2012 | |
| Monitor visit by Mr Sando Angiolini | 21 June 2013 | |
| Monitor visit by Ms Teresa Catelani. | 30 th May 2014 (adjourned to 2 nd June 2014). | Annex 7.1.4.4 of MtR |
| Monitor visit by Ms Teresa Catelani and Ms Ioana Cazan (EU CION). | 25 th February 2015 | Annex 7.3.4 of PrR |
| Monitor visit with Ms Teresa Catelani and Ms Merle Lehtveer ¹⁰ . | 15 th February 2016 | Annex 7.1.3 of this FR. |

Table 4.3: Table showing the dates of all the CION/Monitor visits held within the lifetime of the project.

In addition to the visits, the coordinating beneficiary had an obligation to report the progress of the project to CION and the Monitoring team by means of the technical reports, which are listed in Table 4.4.

| Report | Submission date | Status |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Inception Report (IncR) | 26.11.2013 | Concluded |
| Midterm Report (MtR) | 15.01.2015, as amended on 13.05.2015 | Concluded |
| Progress Report (PrR) | 01.12.2015 | Concluded |
| Final Report (FR) | 29.07.2016 | Current report |

Table 4.4: Table showing the submission dates and status of each report.

⁹ In this meeting, members from UOM were also present.

¹⁰ This meeting was split up in to sections running in parallel, whereby one meeting was about technical issues and the other was related to financial matters.

Furthermore, communication with CION was done by means of letters. It was always ensured that every query raised by CION in their letters in relation to the project was answered and communicated accordingly to the rest of the partners by the coordinating beneficiary. The replies for the questions raised by CION in their last three letters (Dated: 25th August 2015¹¹; 12th January 2016¹² and 14th March 2016¹³) can be found in Annex 7.1.4 of this Final Report.

Lastly, the coordinating beneficiary, with review by KAI Marine Services and MSDEC, compiled a summary of progress every month. These summaries included the monthly progresses made in every action of the project, which were reported to the EU External Monitoring Team accordingly.

¹¹ ENV-E-3 IC/ML/sp ARES (2015) 3502343 – 25/08/2015

¹² ENV-E-3 SG/ML/ip ARES (2016) 156172 - 12/01/2016

¹³ ENV-E-3 SG/ML/ip Ares(2016)1273177 - 14/03/2016

5. Technical part

5.1. Technical progress, per task

A detailed description of the technical progress of the actions is provided in below.

5.1.1. Action A1 – Gathering of relevant biotic and abiotic oceanographic data available

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Expected start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Expected end date: | 31.03.2013 |
| Actual start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Actual end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | Relevant data such as habitats maps, maps of ocean currents, bathymetry, salinity and temperature, migratory routes of fish prey, and other protected areas in the vicinity, will be obtained by the project within the first 2 months. |
| Achieved results to date: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information on cetacean and marine turtle data from individuals and volunteers;• Cetacean and marine turtle data and information from foreign third parties through networking;• Cetacean and marine turtle data from BLM ;• Cetacean and marine turtle data from Dr A. Vella through the surveys done by AFM ;• Cetacean and marine turtle data from Fishers of the Fishing Federation; and• Data in relation with ocean currents, bathymetry, salinity and temperature from IOI at UoM• Above data was rendered INSPIRE compliant |

Table 5.1: Expected and achieved results of Action A1.

Planning and preparation for this action started in October 2012 and also earlier with regards to pre-planning, and included gathering of biotic data related to marine turtles and cetaceans and other species which may interact or on which these species depend, abiotic oceanographic data and other spatial data.

5.1.1.1. Collection of biotic data

The biotic data is continuously being collected from the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM), volunteers and other Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). MEPA and KAI have in fact, provided a number of training workshops to such officials from the mentioned organisations and a number of other sea-users like divers and fishers on the identification of cetaceans and turtle species, which will be discussed further below (Action E11), such that incoming data is provided as accurate and precise, as possible.

Initial biotic data on potential prey fish species had also been collected from the Fisheries Department and the relevant information and data (as annexed in the Inc report-pls also refer further down in 5.1.2) had been submitted to KAI for integration.

Other data and information was also obtained from local and regional scientific papers and all this data including photocopies of all relevant scientific papers were submitted to KAI in early summer 2013, for consideration and inclusion.

Through the excellent networking established with Birdlife Malta (BLM), MEPA has managed to gather data in relation to cetaceans and turtles sightings gathered during their surveying for sea-birds in their project: LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project and LIFE + Garnija.

Other biotic data was also needed for this project, which data was decided to be gathered from specialised organisations or entities. A direct order and justification for issuing a direct order and to collect such data was drafted in the beginning of the project (Annex 7.2.2.1 of the MtR). Once finalised, it was discussed internally to determine the specific expert who could provide the necessary data. Dr Adriana Vella from University of Malta (UoM) was contacted and it was agreed that she would provide us with the data. Following the necessary approvals, a contract with Dr Vella was drafted, as per MEPA's normal templates and procedures. Nevertheless, the process was halted since Dr Vella kept notifying of her unavailability. Furthermore, she did not agree with the standard contract, which was a normal procurement procedure/template by MEPA. Eventually, following the internal approvals of the Direct Order, it was sent for higher approval and the Attorney General (AG) did not approve that public funds are given directly to any Government/ University employees, as per Annex 7.2.2.5 of the MtR. This led to the cancellation of the direct order.

Following the steering committee of the 23rd of April 2014 (Annex 7.1.4.3 of MtR), it was decided that data would be gathered directly from fishermen and other stakeholders through a process of consultation to be lead by an expert in the field. Initially, this was chosen to be the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA) within MSDEC. However, due to delays from DFA, the coordinating beneficiary together with the endorsements of the associated beneficiaries, decided to instead contact the Fishing Federation (FF) directly. The first meeting with these representatives was done on the 4th September 2014 to discuss the logistics of the gathering of biotic oceanographic data. In this meeting, the representatives of the said Federation were informed about the logistics for gathering such biotic data. This meeting was then followed up with a number of other meetings in 2015 with the enacted representative (Dr Carabott Damato)¹⁴, following which a DO was finally issued in August 2015 with the contract signed in November 2015.

Other internal meetings were held with higher management and the procurement team at MEPA in relation to the collection of biotic data from FF. As a result, the following have been produced:

- TORs for this new DO for collection of biotic data by fishers (Annex 7.6.1.1 of PrR), which have been continuously updated and redrafted following the numerous internal meeting that were held;
- A new and simpler sighting form and species identification key, as requested by the Fishing Federation in the meeting held in September 2014;
- Logging sheets (in English and Maltese- since some fishers prefer use of the Maltese language);

¹⁴ The representative was enacted in September 2014.

- A justification memo for issuing such a direct order instead of a call for quotations, which was based on the fact that we needed this information urgently at this stage and the fact that such data from fisheries is best to be obtained directly from them; and
- approvals which were necessary from the Ministry and OPM for the issuance of such a DO.

Two other meetings were held in July 2015 with two representatives of the Fishing Federation, whereby the following were discussed:

- the above-mentioned direct order (in more depth) and the new and simpler sighting form and species identification key such that it would be satisfactory for the fishermen; and
- the possibility of organising training workshops on cetacean and marine turtle species identification to all fishers (members of the Federation) who will be contributing in this initiative such that the provision of this biotic data would be more precise and accurate.

The above-mentioned training workshops were held on 24th and 25th August 2015, with logistics taken care of by both MEPA and the FF. During these workshops, the fishers were taught how they could record accurate sightings if they happen to encounter such species out at sea. MEPA, with the help of the FF, provided numbered (specific for each fisher) survey sheets to the fishers who attended these training workshops. Once the fishers collected the needed data, the appointed consultant would collect them and list such loggings in a specific categorisation sheet which had been provided by MEPA. A short reception was organised at the end of the training workshops, and paid through Action E11 funds with the logistics being taken care of, by the FF. Quotations for this reception were sent to MEPA upon request and the cheapest quote was chosen, noting that it was fair and reasonable.

The final draft of the DO including the justification memo was sent for approval to DCS, CEO, MFIN, PPS and OPM, as per the normal procedure for such direct orders of this financial category. Finally, on 13th October 2015, the DO was officially approved (Annex 7.6.1.2 of the PrR). The drafted contract for the carrying out of this service was eventually drafted and published on 12th November 2015 (Annex 7.6.1.3 of the PrR).

Whilst the DO was being finalised, FF started collecting the data between September and December 2015 (with the DO specifying that previous accurate data collected, should also be submitted when available) and provide them to MEPA, in order to improve on the restrive time-frames.

As soon as FF provided all the collected biotic data (Annex 7.2.2.1 of FR), MEPA analysed it as to proceed with the payment to the said Federation. Following MEPA's analysis, a meeting was held with Dr Carabott Damato to discuss certain queries which resulted from such analysis. When such queries were clarified, MEPA verified the data and proceeded with the payment to FF for providing the required service. In parallel, the biotic data was also sent to the Information Resources Unit (IRU) who successfully plotted it on maps (Annex 7.2.2.2 of FR).

5.1.1.2. Collection of abiotic data

With regards to the collection of abiotic data, a Direct Order (DO) and a justification memo were drafted by the coordinating beneficiary to collect such data from the University section working on oceanography (Annex 7.2.2.2 of the MtR). The DO for physical oceanography was eventually sent for higher endorsement following discussions by the Procurement Team of the coordinating beneficiary with the AG..

A meeting was held between MEPA, KAI and UOM on the 22nd of August 2014 (Annex 7.1.4.1 of the MtR), whereby these entities discussed and agreed on the data needed for the project in connection with relevant abiotic oceanographic data. Following this meeting, and various negotiations and discussions in September 2014, a final meeting was held between MEPA officials and officials from International Ocean Institute (IOI) at the University of Malta (UoM) on 24th September 2014 to finalise the administrative details of the new draft of the DO (Annex 7.2.2.3 of the MtR). The direct order and related justification for such a direct order were approved by the UoM, higher MEPA officials, PPS, OPM and eventually by the Ministry of Finance on the 5th of November 2014 (Annex 7.2.2.4 of the MtR).

Following the above, a contract was drafted and sent to all the relevant parties involved (i.e. MEPA and UoM) to be signed. The contract was initially signed by the CEO of MEPA and subsequently by the University's Rector: Prof Juanito Camilleri, on behalf of the University of Malta on the 5th of December 2014 (Annex 7.6.1.4 of PrR), which is the date when the contract came into force.

Throughout January and February 2015, UoM provided MEPA with all the required data and maps¹⁵ mentioned in Annex 1 of the said contract (also please refer to Annex 7.6.1.5 of the PrR). The data included the following:

- Bathymetry;
- Daily & monthly sea surface currents taken from radar;
- Daily & monthly sea surface salinity & temperature taken from ROSARIO¹⁶; and
- Daily & monthly sea surface temperature taken from Satellite.

Once, all of these data were received by MEPA, they were immediately sent to KAI to integrate them with their analysis of Action A3. In the meantime, MEPA held a meeting with the Information Resources Unit (IRU)¹⁷ to have a better understanding and build shape files with the received data from UoM.

5.1.1.4. INSPIRE compliance data

As per regulations of the LIFE+ Common Provisions (Article 14), all data (including spatial data) collected within LIFE+ project need to meet INSPIRE Directive compliance requirements. In this respect, all the data collected within the time frame of this LIFE+

¹⁵ It was ensured that the daily and monthly oceanographic data provided were collected in the same time period when the 2013 and 2014 boat-based observation surveys of Action A3 were made.

¹⁶ ROSARIO is the shelf scale forecasting model which we is used to publish daily forecasts. For more information, one may wish to click on the following link: <http://www.capemalta.net/MFSTEP/results0.html>.

¹⁷ IRU is MEPA's responsible unit for mapping and GIS issues.

project, such as the previous mentioned data from UoM and FF, as well as other data collected from other third parties, needed to be rendered INSPIRE compliant.

All the beneficiaries had limited skills to perform such a conversion exercise and thus, MEPA, as the coordinating beneficiary had to follow this up. MEPA set up a meeting on 16th February 2016 with Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA), the National INSPIRE Competent Authority, to seek assistance. MEPA was then recommended by MITA to communicate with Epsilon Italia srl for the issuing of a direct order (DO) to do such a task, as they (MITA) were not in a position to assist directly, since even the local Authority lacked the necessary expertise and they themselves relied on this company for assistance on INSPIRE compliance.

The coordinating beneficiary had also requested whether MITA could recommend other candidate bodies which could assist in this endeavour such that quotations would be then requested. MITA had indicated that they had worked with Epsilon Italia srl and that this company has the necessary skills and experience, and had also invested time reviewing details of some of the national source datasets that were to be harmonised, which was fundamental noting that this could speed up considerably the process and at the same time saving costs. They also informed that they were not aware of any other companies doing such detailed work.

Thus, considering that:

- MITA, as the National INSPIRE Competent Authority had worked well with Epsilon Italia srl;
- MITA indicated that Epsilon Italia srl had already reviewed details of national source datasets that were to be harmonised, allowing the coordinating beneficiary to save costs; and
- MITA indicated that Epsilon Italia srl were the only body competent of converting the relevant data to be INSPIRE compliant;

it was decided that a DO with Epsilon Italia srl could be considered (Annex 7.2.3.1 of this FR).

Epsilon Italia srl was eventually contacted by MEPA and kindly offered to provide this service and sent us the quotation (Annex 7.2.3.2 of this FR).

Following some discussions, MEPA was asked by Epsilon Italia srl to conduct an exercise in order to see which data (collected within the LIFE+ MIGRATE project) was going to be converted into INSPIRE and under which dataset group will they be classified. It was decided that the data will be categorized in three specific dataset groups (Annex 7.2.3.3 of this FR), which are as follows:

- Species distribution;
- Noise; and
- Bathymetry.

The species distribution dataset was eventually split up into another four subsets in accordance to the data provider, which are as follows:

- Data from Fishers (the data collected by FF as part of Action A1 of this LIFE+ Project);
- Data from KAI Marine Services (data collected throughout the Action A3 boat-based observation surveys);
- Data from BLM (data in relation to cetaceans and sea turtles collected through the LIFE+ Malta Seabirds Project); and
- Data from AFM also provided by Dr Adriana Vella (data containing sightings of cetacean and marine turtle species collected by AFM and which was presented to the coordinating beneficiary).

Please refer to Annex 7.2.3.3 of this FR.

In addition, the Bathymetry dataset group was also divided into two subsets, according to the resolution of such dataset provided, which are:

- 1/64 degrees; and
- 1/1096 degrees.

Similarly, please refer to Annex 7.2.3.3 of this FR.

Following this exercise of dataset classification, a DO was drafted and sent for all necessary approvals from higher internal management, MFIN and PPS. On 21 April 2016, the mentioned DO was approved, as per Annex 7.2.3.4 of this FR and eventually, the contract was signed on the same day (Annex 7.2.3.5 of this FR). Following the signing of the mentioned contract, Epsilon Italia srl provided us with the converted INSPIRE compliant data in GML format (Annex 7.2.3.6 of this FR) and a harmonisation report (Annex 7.2.3.7 of this FR).

5.1.2. Action A2 - Create multilayer GIS maps with available data and model potential hot spots

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Expected end date: | 30.06.2015 |
| Actual start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Actual end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | A series of draft maps indicating potential hotspots will be created throughout the project, each map updating the previous one based on the data collected throughout the project. |
| Achieved results to date: | <p>Maps were produced for a number of sightings reported by volunteers, others sea-users, NGOs and other third parties. These are in Annex 7.3.6 and Annex 7.3.7 of the IncR; and Annex 7.2.3.8 and Annex 7.2.4 of the MtR.</p> <p>KAI have produced maps of encounter rate of <i>Caretta caretta</i> and <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> based on the data from the 2013 and 2014 boat based surveys. These were submitted with the MtR as Annex 7.2.31 and 7.2.3.2.</p> <p>Maps were also produced following the submission of :</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biotic data from the fishers of the FF (Annex 7.2.2.2 of this FR); and • Oceanographic data from UoM (Annex 7.6.1.5 of the MtR). <p>Both of the above were given to the coordinating beneficiary by means of DOs, as mentioned above in Section 5.1.1.</p> <p>In addition, maps based on the bathymetry and the oceanographic features (sea surface currents, temperature and salinity) were also produced. These were submitted as Annex 7.6.1 of the PrR.</p> |
|--|--|

Table 5.2: Expected and achieved results of Action A2.

Planning and preparatory work started in November 2012. Through KAI (who provided knowledge from their area) the main prey species for the bottlenose dolphin and the common dolphin were identified. Although prey species might vary slightly in different sub-regions in the Mediterranean, this was quite good groundwork. The Fisheries Department was consulted with regards to important spawning or nursery areas for such fish species and which might overlap with hotspots for cetaceans. The Department provided us with a review of data from the 2003-2008 Medits Survey data which indicates that there is an important area for hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), this being an important prey species for the bottlenose dolphin, in the South-East region (and to a lesser extent in the North-East region) of Malta within the 25 nautical mile. The hydrographic data of the Sicilian straits, which were attached in the inception report, shows which areas are contributing to possible potential ‘prey’ hot spots which might also be ‘hot spots’ of interest to this project.

Maps had already been produced for a number of sightings reported by volunteers, others sea-users & NGOs, which maps were provided in the inception report. A further map (Annex 7.2.3.8 of MtR) showing preferred sites (like hotspots) for cetaceans from the BLM data (database in Annex 7.2.4 of MtR) was also appended with the Midterm report.

As already indicated, marine spatial planning data maps had been collected with data related to marine protected areas, bunkering sites, fish farms, marine harbours and other relevant information. This data was be used in conjunction with the maps above to identify potential hot spots relevant to these areas. A sample of these maps was provided in the LIFE+MIGRATE Inception Report in Annex 7.3.7 of MtR.

In addition, KAI produced data and maps of relative abundance and encounter rate of *Caretta caretta* and *Tursiops truncatus* which are based on the data from the 2013 and 2014 boat based surveys. These are discussed further below in Action A3 (Annex 7.2.3.1 of MtR and Annex 7.2.3.2 of MtR).

Further maps were produced and elaborated following further information provided through A1 DOs with UoM (Annex 7.6.1.5 of the MtR) and FF (Annex 7.2.2.2 of this FR). The maps were compared with the maps generated by means of the Action A3 boat-based surveys and in this respect, a number of meetings were held with IRU at MEPA in order to have a better understanding of these plotted data on maps through the use of GIS.

All of the maps created under this action contributed to the potential hotspots for these marine species under study and eventually lead to Action A4 (designation of the sites).

5.1.3. Action A3 – Boat-based observations

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Expected start date: | 01.01.2013 |
| Expected end date: | 31.03.2015 |
| Actual start date: | 01.08.2013 |
| Actual end date: | 08.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | <p>On an annual basis, the observations will result in detailed maps of sightings and superimposed over maps of other biotic and abiotic factors. These maps will eventually lead to the final result of the project - detailed maps of the sites to be proposed as pSCIs for these species.</p> <p>It is expected that this action will result in the designation of at least one potential Natura 2000 Site for both species.</p> <p>The action should also provide vital baseline data on abundance, distribution and habitat use, not only for the design of Natura 2000 sites but also for the future monitoring programmes in the framework of the Habitat Directive that will need to analyse trends in conservation status of species and habitats.</p> |
| Achieved results to date: | <p>In addition to the expected results, KAI has also produced other Maps which were attached to the MtR and show: the visual survey efforts; and acoustic detections of dolphin whistles and clicks (collected during the 2013 survey);</p> <p>Kai produced a real-time acoustic tracking of clicks of dolphins and a sea-campaign report (attached with MtR).</p> <p>KAI also collected and compiled: Raw data collected from both 2013 and 2014 boat-based surveys Photo-ID catalogue; and An Image bank. These are attached with this PrR.</p> <p>An Action A3 report was also compiled. This is attached as Annex 7.2.4.1 with this Final report.</p> |

Table 5.3: Expected and achieved results of Action A3.

Action A3 was coordinated and conducted by KAI Marine Services in five phases, which are as follows:

- survey preparation;

- survey development;
- survey data analysis;
- survey scientific and public outreach; and
- action report and NATURA 2000 management considerations.

Survey preparation

This phase included compilation of bibliographic data, survey design planning and selection of staff and equipment.

The selection of methodology for data collection and analysis was based on previous LIFE projects, such as LIFE 07/NAT/E/000732 INDEMARES, SCANS II and LIFE 02 NAT/E/8610 Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in Murcia and Andalusia, in order to enhance NATURA 2000 networking and enable comparative analysis.

The survey was designed and adjusted to the requirements of statistical analysis. An innovative combined statistical analysis of visual and acoustic survey data was performed to pool together data in order to consolidate statistical robustness of NATURA 2000 site selection proposals.

The main goal of the survey design was to ensure a homogenous coverage of the Maltese Fisheries Management Zone (25 nautical miles around the islands) using a research vessel travelling at a steady speed adjusted to survey both cetaceans and sea turtles (and other marine megafauna).

In order to accomplish the action goals, KAI Marine Services conducted the following activities:

Staff calls and selections

A first call for the crew personnel was issued by KAI on the 12th December 2012 and was closed by the 26th December 2012 following review of the proposals by KAI. The selection was then approved by the KAI Team and the following persons were appointed:

- Ana Tejedor
- Pilar Zorzo
- Ricardo Sagarminaga
- Natacha Aguilar
- Joaquin Fayos
- Hanna Khufus
- Bruno Claro

In addition, the following KAI Assistances were selected to be part of the 2013 survey:

- Marga Roldan
- Nacho Rodriguez
- Efrain Morales
- Cristel Reyes

The invited crew and volunteer programme was modified in the 2013 survey as a result of delays in the start of the survey. A total of 8 volunteers participated in the 2013 surveys and

one official representative from MEDPAN was invited to participate as a crew member in a 7-day expedition.

A second call for the crew personnel was issued by KAI on the 22nd April 2014 which closed on the 15th May 2014 following review and evaluation of the proposals by KAI. The selection was then also approved by the KAI Team and the following persons were appointed:

- Ricardo Sagarminaga (Captain and Principle Investigator of the survey vessel);
- Joaquin Fayos (Sailor and chef of the survey vessel);
- Ana Tejedor (survey technician); and
- Bruno Claro (survey technician).

In addition, KAI has counted also on the help of several KAI Technicians in the 2014 survey, as follows:

- Natacha Aguilar;
- Salvador Sanchez;
- Pilar Zorzo;
- Loreto Villa;
- Raquel Tejedor;
- Oscar Merchan; and
- Sandra Verdugo.

Survey vessel call and selection

The call for the research ship in 2013 was drafted by KAI and MEPA provided input with regards to ensuring that it abides with the common provisions and to adapt it to a formal and official style as per other MEPA calls. The call was issued on the 22nd April with submissions of calls being accepted until the end of 10th May. A number of quotes were submitted, but most of the boats which quoted did not remain available for chartering for the survey since this had to be postponed to a later date until the financial aspects were sorted. The final contract was signed with the Catamaran Menorca (Annex 7.2.4.2 of this FR) and the survey of 2013 was conducted with the catamaran *Aurora Boreal* and a rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) (Annex 7.2.5 of MtR), which was the tender to the main vessel. KAI informed that both vessels catamaran and RHIB, proved to be adequate for the work to be conducted with the former equipped with solar panels and a recycling system, which also proved to be a cost-efficient vessel for the survey with a very low consumption in fuel.

The call for tenders “Vessel for LIFE+ MIGRATE Survey 2014 – Action A3” was edited in coordination with the MEPA (with regards to the administrative issues and not the technical requirements) and posted on KAI Marine Services website (as well as on the project’s website) on the 21st of April 2014 of 2014 with a deadline for receiving offers till the 15th of May 2014. KAI also mailed this call to international sailing charter companies and specialised distribution lists (LISTSERV@LISTSERV.REDIRIS.ES and marmam-bounces@lists.uvic.ca). KAI informed that a total of 6 offers were received and KAI carried out the evaluation. On the 16th of May KAI chose the vessel “Lady Lauren” an offer made by the Italian company SEAPROJECT. However, on the 11th of June 2014, KAI Marine were informed by this company that given the timeline of contracting they would not be any more in a position to conduct the work as bidden. On the 16th of June 2014, KAI Marine contacted the second most advantageous bidder according to procurement procedures (also following advice from

Monitor), which was Catamaran Menorca with the vessel *Aurora Boreal* as per the previous year (Annex 7.2.4.2 of this FR). The company informed positively about the availability of the vessel. More information is provided in Annex 7.2.8 of MtR.

Coordination with actions A1, A2 and other bibliographic Revisions for the execution of the scientific survey

A first meeting between KAI and MEPA was held at the start of the 2013 survey during which a first package of information (bibliography of cetacean research in Maltese waters and results of BLM survey) were received.

A meeting was also held in the end of August 2013 at MEPA with regards to the integration of the survey data in the GIS system of MEPA.

Other meetings were held with the Department of Fisheries and the University of Malta taking the opportunity of days of adverse weather conditions for surveying.

Maps from action A3 was provided to MEPA in March 2015 for integration in action A2 and the design of NATURA 2000 sites. All the data of Action A3 was then provided to MEPA in August 2015 with the last updates provided in February 2016.

Equipment selection and acquisition

The technical equipment necessary for the 2013 and 2014 survey was purchased on time. This included:

- Hydrophone – towed array of Benthos AQ4 elements;
- Photo Id cameras, chargers, batteries and memory cards and discs;
- GOPRO video cameras, chargers, batteries and memory cards and discs;
- Laptops and memory discs;
- AIS;
- RHIB;
- TV monitor screen;
- Binoculars; and
- Anchoring buoy and chain gear.

Survey data bases, software, data collection checklists, training materials and notepads were prepared / designed and printed.

The additional equipment required for the 2014 survey was also purchased in time following the contract modifications sent in November 2013 (Annex 7.2.9 of MtR).

Survey design and preparation of equipment and software

Nature permits (Annexes 7.2.11.1 and 7.2.11.2 of MtR) for research on protected species and also for surveying and activities in Marine SACs were processed and granted in time for both 2013 and 2014 boat-based survey by MEPA. Meetings were also held by MEPA with the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Department in connection with the animal welfare permits (Annexes 7.2.11.3 and 7.2.11.4 of MtR), with KAI also attending these meetings to facilitate the explanations on the handling and methodology to be employed. MSDEC had

also contributed by facilitating the obtainment of these permits, noting that the animal welfare department falls under the Ministry (MSDEC)

The softwares Logger and PAMGUARD (IFAW) and Plotter (IO Conserve) were prepared in time and the hydrophones calibrated.

Coordination with oceanographic remote sensing platforms

KAI Marine selected a series of sources for the downloading of data on wind, waves, sea surface temperature, currents, etc.

Survey development

The visual surveying was conducted from two separate observation platforms with a height of eye of 2.5 and 12 meters respectively.

These surveys took place over 6 months in 2013 and 2014, totalling over 780 hours of visual survey covering 5331 Km under effort (this excludes time sailed with adverse sea state or passage “off effort”). A total of 460 hours were spend developing the passive acoustic surveying using a towed array hydrophone, recording man made noise and cetacean vocalisations. Overall, this adds up to 5796 Km of surveying in adequate surveying conditions.

Acoustic data were collected using a 200 m long towed hydrophone array with two HP-03 broadband frequency hydrophone elements. Sound was amplified with a 2 kHz high pass filter and digitized with an analogue to digital converter at a sampling rate of 96 kHz, resulting on an approximate flat response from 2 to 45 kHz. Sound was recorded continuously as WAV files using Pam Guard software. A sampling protocol of dedicated listening stations every 30 min was carried out during the acoustic survey.

A total of 16.000 point samplings (2-nautical mile radius) of human activities were conducted to map maritime transport, sport fishing, commercial fishing and yachting.

The survey yielded 460 hours of acoustic recording and tracking data of 293 observations of loggerhead turtles and 50 cetacean observations.

Survey data analysis

The survey area selected was slightly larger than the Maltese fisheries management zone and was covered by a predesigned grid. For the visual survey, the research area was divided into quadrats of 1km and 10kms resolutions.

Total cetacean species encounter rate, and *Caretta caretta* encounter rate was calculated for each quadrat, in both resolutions. The encounter rate was calculated as: $(n/Eff) \times 100$, where n/Eff is the number of sightings per effort (km) for every 100 kms covered.

The Analysis using Kernel density function models shows that cetaceans are more likely to occur along the deepest areas of the western/north-western part of the survey area. When incorporating environmental variables in the analysis (depth and slope in 10x10 km grid), the distribution of bottlenose dolphins suggests a preference of this species for areas with a depth

between 200m to 600m. The final report suggests that further studies should focus on this to confirm this hypothesis (Annex 7.2.4.1 of this FR).

Dolphin clicks and whistles were detected in 15% and 23% of these stations, respectively. Dolphins were identified visually as bottlenose dolphin, common dolphin and striped dolphin. Acoustic encounters included an unusual detection of a group of sperm whales, producing echolocation clicks and communicative codas. While shipping noise may have influenced the acoustic effective strip width of the survey, the results of the visual survey coincided with the acoustic data, showing that cetaceans were more abundant towards the west of Malta. The segregation in the number of dolphin encounters with clicks and whistles in the north and south of Malta suggests that different species of dolphins may have different areas of preference.

Results highlight that the abundance of delphinids is higher towards the west coasts of Malta and Gozo. The remarkable abundance of loggerhead turtle sightings in days with optimum sighting conditions confirms that Malta might be a critical area of the eastern Mediterranean population of this species.

Turtle abundance was not uniform throughout Maltese waters, ranging from 0.5 to 46.9 (mean of 5) turtles per 100 Km. The mapping of high density areas is considered in the KAI expert advice for the design of NATURA 2000 sites. This expert advice notes that the highly mobile nature of the species must be considered. We can therefore not talk of a specific population in Maltese waters, but a level of usage of these waters by juvenile, sub adult and adult turtles of two distinct population segments that range throughout the Mediterranean and North Atlantic Ocean.

Bottlenose dolphins showed a relatively high group size with a mean of 15 animals which is only surpassed in the Mediterranean by Alboran. However the survey data analysis shows a low relative abundance of around 3 individuals per 100 Km for bottlenose as well as other dolphin species. Taking into consideration also the analysis of the photo identification and considering the high survey effort performed, the outcome of the abundance analysis is of 79 individuals using the Maltese waters during the survey period.

Networking and scientific and public outreach

- A survey blog was developed at the start of the 2013 survey and maintained fully operative during both survey periods of 2013 and 2014 at: <http://kaimarineservices.com/lifemigratesurveys/day-28-finishing-an-expedition-with-volunteers/>.
- The survey vessel, upon an invite by MEPA participated together with MEPA (who also set-up a stand) during 2 days at the BOV Malta boatshow organised by BOV in the Port of La Valetta in September 2013.
- An official launch of the of the 2014 boat survey was organized in La Valletta by MEPA together with the RMYC held on the 4th of July, whereby the Minister of the environment and the parliamentary secretary of MEPA, together with MEPA's chairman inaugurate this event. MSDEC and MEPA officials and some of KAI's team were also present. The speeches of this event can be found in Annex 7.2.7 of MtR.

- During adverse weather condition days for surveying, the vessel was used as a platform of opportunity for organising MIGRATE coordination meetings with MEPA and meetings with stakeholders under actions E13 and E14.
- Also, ensuring no disruption to days at sea for surveying, the vessel was used as a platform of opportunity for the training students. Other volunteers from action E11 were also trained.
- In 2014 the survey vessel provided a platform for the film crew, as part of Action E6
- A short video on KAI's work was done and edited by KAI in 2013.
- Special guests invited to participate in the survey included representatives of OCEANCARE, MEDPAN and IUCN.
- Also increasing the scientific networking, KAI invited members of Birdlife Malta to participate in the survey and registered data on key bird species observations.
- With regards to the scientific outreach of Action A3 and for networking purposes, in 2015, a series of posters and presentations of the preliminary results were prepared for the ECS and for the ECS workshops (which were held in Malta in April 2015) and the ICCB-ECCB (France, 2015). These presentations were prepared also for outreach in 2016 as final results targeting these scientific fora as well as others, such as the ISTS, ACCOBAMS or the GFCM, which expressed a strong interest with regards to the conclusions, results and outcome of the LIFE+ MIGRATE.
- The KAI team also conducted a series of ocean noise pollution samplings and underwater noise levels in the Maltese waters. These underwater noise levels were recorded with the SoundTrap (Ocean Instruments New Zealand), a broadband miniaturised autonomous recorder with a sampling frequency up to 288 KHz provided by the University of La Laguna (Canary Islands, Spain). This hydrophone was deployed in strategic sampling points around the islands, with the objective of develop a marine underwater noise map and comparing natural acoustic levels around Malta with different kinds of human activities, such as marine traffic. Underwater noise, affects not only marine wildlife but also fisheries and aquaculture.

Action report and NATURA 2000 management considerations

The Action A3 report was produced at the outcome of the 2014 survey including the action goals, specific objectives, preparatory actions, methodology, results and conclusions which cover aspects as monitoring plan baseline, conservation status, and potential risk mitigation and management recommendations.

KAI extended the survey analysis and reporting work package, in the process integrating the oceanographic data of Action A1. Once integrated, KAI then provided a final draft report of Action A3 in August 2015, whereby MEPA and MSDEC gave their feedback. Correspondence on this issue followed, with KAI sending the final Action A3 report on 8th April 2016 (Annex 7.2.4.1 of this FR).

Also, discussions by MEPA (and eventually ERA) were held with regards to the data compliance with the INSPIRE Directive, ensuring full compliance of data collected by Action A3.

In terms of management conclusions and management considerations, an assessment was carried out of:

- the Conservation Status of the bottlenose dolphin and loggerhead turtle;

- the identification of potential risks and management measures; and
- the identification of habitats in Maltese waters in view of designing NATURA 2000 sites.

These assessments were based on the results of the survey data analysis with regards to abundance and distribution of cetaceans and sea turtles, as well as their level of residence, habitat use and site fidelity in the different areas in relation with the registered oceanographic and anthropogenic parameters.

Results of action A3 provide a baseline for the management of risk and for the future monitoring as specified in the NATURA 2000 Guidelines of Action E14. KAI Marine closes the report with a series of suggestions for future monitoring of the trends in conservation status based on the development and maintenance of a photo identification catalogue for the bottlenose dolphin.

An analysis and discussion on conservation status is included in the report of action A3 taking into consideration the peculiarities of highly mobile pelagic species before presenting the categorisation of the Habitat Directive, which gives us a partially degraded category for the loggerhead turtle. On the other hand, restoration possibilities are classified as “easy” for *Caretta caretta* and “possible” for *Tursiops truncatus*. For both species we are talking of “populations not isolated and within the extend distribution range”, and in terms of categorising the value of the site for the conservation of the species, the bottlenose dolphin ranks “significant value” whereas the loggerhead turtles stands out as “excellent value”.

A note is made by KAI on the relevance of Maltese waters for the Mediterranean common dolphin, a population of special concern according to the IUCN and ACCOBAMS.

On the basis of the results of Action A3, and in complement to the delivery of all the data and GIS shapefiles, KAI Marine Services presented with a proposal for the design of NATURA 2000 sites to the other project partners.

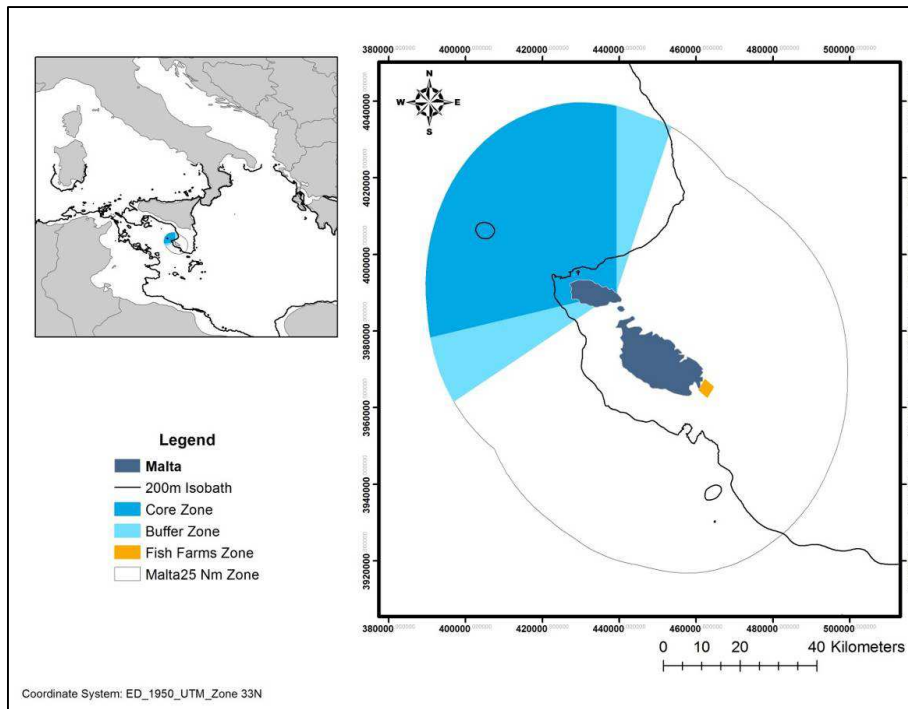


Figure 5.1: Maps of NATURA 2000 site design proposal developed by KAI

Following such proposal, the steering committee meeting met on 17th September 2015 and agreed to proceed with the 3 sites as shown in Figures 5.2 – 5.4, which are the following:

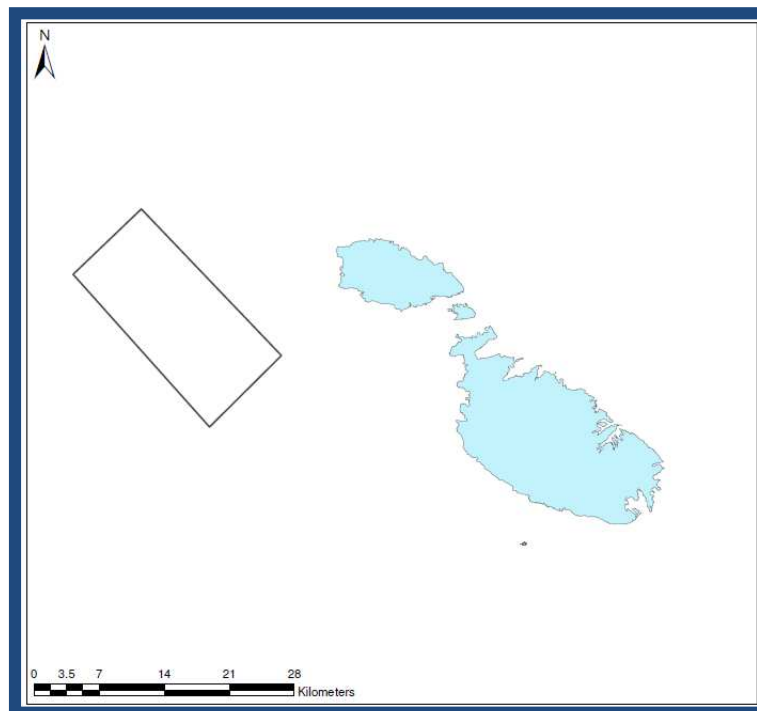


Figure 5.2: Indicated possible protected area to the west of Gozo for turtles and cetaceans.

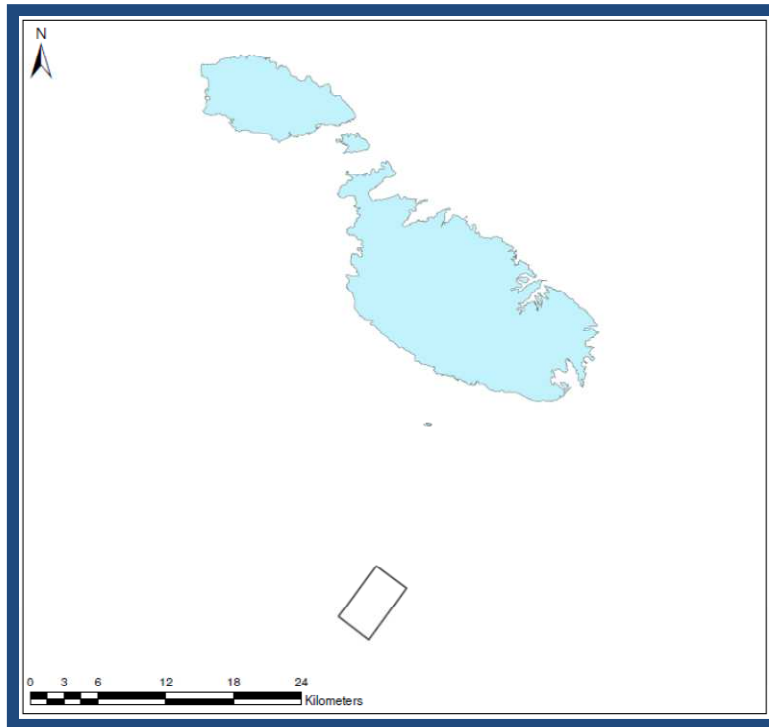


Figure 5.3: Indicated possible protected area to the south of Filfla for turtles and cetaceans.

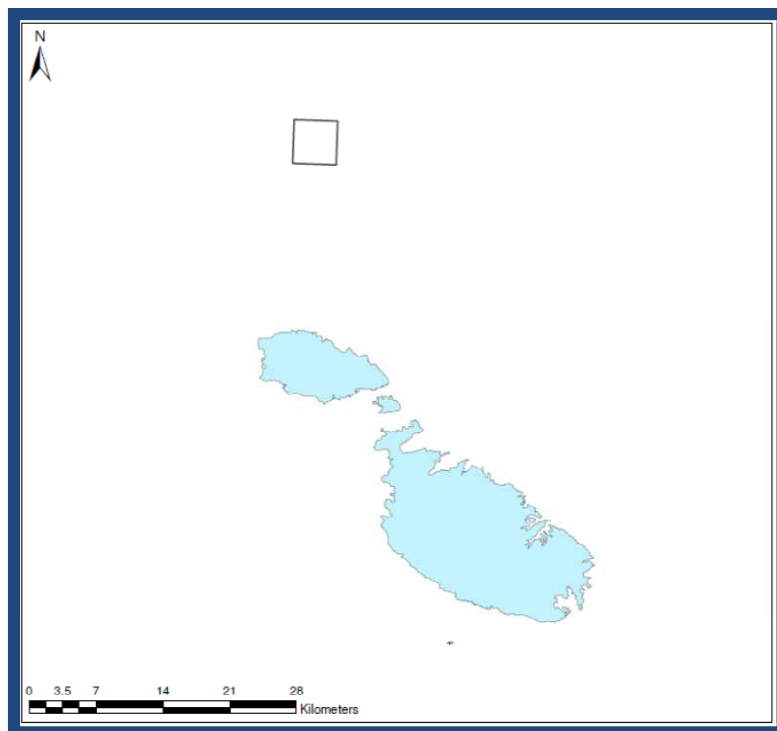


Figure 5.4: Indicated possible protected area to the north of Gozo for turtles and cetaceans.

The reasons for selecting the above three sites were due to the following:

- Geographic coverage – since the sites in the southern area are in line with Annex III of the Habitats Directive to include all regions;
- Analysis of combined results from Action A1 results from Action A1 and Action A3 indicating the importance of the south province for turtles; and
- Sites identified through other projects, such as the LIFE+ Malta Sebirds Project.

Planned output and time schedule

In terms of timing, action A3 preparations were developed as planned in the first semester of the project, but initial difficulties, as described above, led to a 30-day delay in the initiation of the first 3-month survey in 2013. This delay was however compensated with an extension of the survey of 30 days in October 2013. After this, the action has been developed as planned maintaining its schedule.

In terms of output, the action produced the key outputs expected for management (NATURA 2000 site proposals, Conservation Status analysis, Management and Monitoring proposals).

The data gathered also included additional activities of relevance to NATURA 2000, such as the experimental sampling of macro and micro plastics and the passive acoustic monitoring with trials of the “Soundtrap”, a novel hydrophone prototype that captures cetacean vocalisations as well as broadband man-made noise, providing a unique new tool for the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Indicators used to test the performance of the action

Indicators for testing the performance of the action can be divided with regards to the phase of data collection and data analysis. With regards to data collection indicators are mainly in relation to survey effort days of survey and mileage of transects; equipment used; and data collected).

With regards to data analysis the indicators are in relation to sample size which will affect the output of the action in terms of its use as scientific foundation for management and future monitoring of trends in the conservation status of the target species; abundance / relative abundance, distribution, photo-id catalogue, acoustic survey modelling, etc.

With regards to expert advice and considerations for management the indicators are in relation to the presentation of:

- NATURA 2000 site proposal(s);
- Analysis of Conservation Status and monitoring baselines; and
- Potential risk identification and management proposals.

Modifications

The action was not modified. Slight changes in the acquisition of equipment, and data collection and storage devices were made. These changes and the rationale behind them were presented in the report presented at the end of the first survey in November 2013 (Annex 7.2.9 of MtR). See also a full description at the Final Action Report (Annex 7.2.4.1 of FR)

Major problems

There have been no major problems that have affected the accomplishment of the action objectives. Problems of delays in administrative preparations included the challenge of finding vessels for the survey during the summer period. To the difficulty of vessel availability, the timing and delays in vessel call closure led to problems of vessel offers being cancelled. Port facilities, repairs and need for acquisition of equipment (batteries, moorings, memory discs, etc.) were all solved promptly in order to ensure the smooth and efficient development of the survey. Adverse climatic conditions (surveys can only be conducted with sea state 3 or less) were an expected limiting factor. Delays of action A1 were solved by extending the period of the action A3 analysis and report editing period.

Improvement & Innovation

The following includes a number of issues linked with improvement and innovation, as applicable:

- A major improvement and innovation was with regards to the combined visual – acoustic survey data analysis. Through this Action KAI Team developed a pioneer method to combine visual and acoustic detections to increase the sampling size available for habitat modelling. Simultaneous visual and acoustic surveys were conducted during 2860 km of transect lines, with 5331 km surveyed visually and 3311 km surveyed with acoustics methods. Integrating acoustic and visual data from an uneven coverage is challenging due to the different probability of animal detection of both survey methods. To account for this source of bias we obtained a correction factor (CF) for the survey effort, based on the number of acoustic/visual detections not captured by the other survey method, when both methods were at work.
- The training of E11 volunteers and work with diverse research and conservation institutions in the context of the survey (Nature Trust, Birdlife Malta, ADI associates, University of Malta, Sharklab) constituted a positive step towards ensuring the follow-up of a coherent monitoring of cetacean and sea turtle populations. The action moreover feeds into action E14 (NATURA 2000 Guidelines) defining the basic monitoring plan according to the process of the Scientific Committee of LIFE02NAT/E/8610. The combination of both served as a guide for a cost efficient monitoring plan to ensure the continuity of monitoring using as baseline the outcome of action A3.
- filming of the video of Action E6 and the other additional outreach materials produced.
- invitation of key networking stakeholders and participation in the 2013 BOV Malta Boat Show.
- gathering preliminary micro-plastic samples during the cetacean and sea turtle field research in Malta in August 2014.
- increasing the scientific networking: through this Action, KAI registered data on key bird species observations and with the collaboration of University of La Laguna

conducted a series of ocean noise pollution samplings and underwater noise levels in the Maltese waters.

- the use of two innovative tools of electronic monitoring: the kinetic tags for turtles and the “Soundtrap” hydrophone. Both were used and tested in the framework of the surveys.

Outline the perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project

Action A3 sets the ground for the establishment of a monitoring plan of the trends in the conservation status of cetaceans and sea turtles in Malta, setting a baseline and offering concrete recommendations as the development of a bottlenose dolphin monitoring programme based on photo identification.

5.1.4. Action A4 - Map proposed pSCI’s and propose to the Government of Malta

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Expected start date: | 01.10.2014 |
| Expected end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Actual start date: | 01.09.2015 |
| Actual end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | <p>At the end of the project, the expected result is a map or a set of maps of pSCIs for <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> and <i>Caretta caretta</i>. It is expected that at least one site for both species satisfying the criteria of the Habitats directive will be identified and mapped.</p> <p>The maps will clearly indicate these areas providing coordinates, a boundary, and mapped habitats where this information is available. The maps will be provided in hard copy and as GIS layers. A separate map will be produced for each area, and each map will be accompanied by the data required for the Standard Data Form for SCIs.</p> <p>These sites will be proposed for inclusion in the Natura 2000 network, by the end of the project.</p> |
| Achieved results to date: | <p>Three maps have been produced, each showing different pSCIs to be proposed for N2K sites for <i>C. caretta</i> and <i>T. truncatus</i>. Please refer to Annexes (Annex 7.2.5 of this FR).</p> <p>These sites were incorporated with the pSCIs proposed through the LIFE+ Malta Seabird project. In fact, eight sites were proposed by said LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project project, whereby two of these overlapped two sites proposed by this LIFE+ project. Therefore, new nine sites were proposed as pSCIs in total.</p> |

Table 5.4: Expected and achieved results of Action A4.

As mentioned above, in August 2015, KAI sent the results to MEPA. According to KAI's findings, Malta provides good aggregation spots in offshore areas for sea turtles and in fact, it was confirmed that areas within the Maltese waters are clearly important as a migratory corridor and as possible foraging sites for the loggerhead turtle, with a higher occupancy by juveniles and sub adults.

The identification of areas for the bottlenose dolphin, following the Habitat Directive criteria, was not as robust as in the case of sea turtles for which Maltese waters stand out as very important. The results of action A3 and A1 combined indeed show a relatively low usage of Maltese waters by cetaceans if compared with other sites in the Mediterranean region. Nevertheless, the sites as proposed by the project to the European Commission also incorporate such dolphin species, although it should be kept in mind that the areas identified for the bottlenose dolphin have lower relevance than those of *Caretta caretta*, particularly at the regional Mediterranean scale. The sites being proposed in the project also incorporate the conservation of other non-Annex II cetacean species, as well. On the other hand, it should be noted that habitat of opportunistic feeding of the bottlenose dolphin were found around fishfarms; this is not of outstanding relevance at a regional scale, but targeted action was still recommended in the After-LIFE Conservation Plan.“

Along with the Action A3 data, KAI also proposed their site for designation to conserve better the cetacean and the loggerhead turtle population¹⁸, as can be seen in Annex 7.2.5.1 of this FR. This area covers part of the Gozitan coast from the North East to the South West (moving anti-clockwise).

Following the submission of KAI's proposals, MEPA held an internal meeting on the 3rd of September 2015 to discuss this proposal in more detail and if there are other alternatives. In fact, MEPA had come up with three site proposals of sites based on the reasons indicated in Section 5.1.3.

Two of these proposals are within the original large area proposed by KAI in the Northwest of Malta and they both show clusters which correspond to very high probabilities of loggerhead turtles encounters. The other site proposed by MEPA is the South of island of Filfla, in a different area from the large one proposed by KAI. This site was also suggested by MEPA on the basis of KAI's collected data from the boat-based observation surveys and the data collected from Fishers (Action A1).

The following will give a brief description of the previously-mentioned sites being proposed by MEPA:

- **Site 1: The proposed site in the West of Gozo, which is being referred as *Il-Baħar tal-Punent***

This site completely encapsulates the area where a dense aggregation of turtles was noted and observed. This also resulted after a modelling exercise which was carried out taking that into consideration oceanographic factors. This could be part of a migratory route that may exist

¹⁸ As mentioned previously, this site was mainly proposed by KAI due to sea turtle presence.

around Malta and it is partially located on the borders of the territorial sea. Please refer to Annex 7.2.5.2 which shows a map that give an indication of the area being proposed and Annex 7.2.5.3 which is the standard data entry form (SDF) about such area.

- **Site 2: The proposed site in the South of Filfla, which is being referred as *Il-Baħar tan-Nofsinhar***

This site may form part of the migratory corridor on the south of Malta. Apart from the results of LIFE+ MIGRATE, various reports accounted for the observation of turtles in this area. It also covers an area which after a modelling exercise resulted that marine turtles may aggregate in this area. Please refer to Annex 7.2.5.4 which shows a map that give an indication of the area being proposed and Annex 7.2.5.5 which is the SDF for this area.

- **Site 3: The proposed site in the North of Gozo, which is being referred as *Il-Baħar tat-Tramuntana***

Site 3 which is geographically significant noting that it lies to the north of the islands, borders an area in which a dense agglomeration of marine turtles was observed and resulted from the modelling exercise. This area may also form part of a migratory corridor in Maltese waters, although more studies at Mediterranean level may be required to ascertain this hypothesis. Please refer to Annex 7.2.5.6 which shows a map that give an indication of the area being proposed and Annex 7.2.5.7 which is the standard data entry form (SDF) about such area.

An outline working document was drafted, summarising and discussing the pros and cons of each option (based on scientific grounds to enable site designation by MSDEC). This document was first discussed with the project partners (KAI and MSDEC) in the steering committee meeting which was held on 17th September 2015 and was eventually sent to them for their views and comments. The reason for selecting these three sites is included in Section 5.1.3.

After receiving feedback, it was decided that that three sites would be considered.

Also, the sites proposed by MEPA shown to be relevant to the collected biotic data from FF, as part of Action A1 of this project. In fact, Annex 7.2.2.2 of this FR shows that there was a number of sightings of such marine species in the area in the vicinity of the island of Filfla. Thus, this observation showed to relevant to the sites being proposed by MEPA.

The selections of these three proposed sites contain a number of strengths, amongst which are the following:

- The sites confirmed that are important for the marine species under study, particularly the loggerhead turtles and cetaceans;
- they contributed in the national and international legal protection against activities which may potential affect the population status of the mentioned species; and
- measures can be carried out to regenerate the population status of such marine species.

On the other hand, selection of such sites may also pose a number of weaknesses, such as the following:

- The establishment of measures within MPAs generally would involve a number of sectors and their implementation requires approval from relevant authorities; this may create delays in the implementation;
- specific measures related to navigation, which may be necessary in order to enhance protection measures may require the approval through the International Maritime Organisation; and

The above mentioned strengths and weaknesses are better described in the After-LIFE Conservation Plan (ALCP). This conservation plan acts as a tool to ensure future protection and management for the conservation of the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle and it outlines further potential complementary related work that may be necessary. The ALCP will be briefly described in Section 5.1.9 and it is attached with this FR as Annex 7.3.2.

Eventually, MEPA forwarded the proposal of the three sites to MSDEC, as the Competent Authority for designation of N2K, for their consideration and to start the inter-ministerial process to enable the designation process. They were given a deadline of 5 months (March 2016) for this inter-ministerial consultation as to be in line with the project deadline, which according to the Grant Agreement is 29 April 2016. In this regard, since it was also discussed and agreed by all beneficiaries that that the deadlines of the Layman's report and the After-LIFE conservation plan were to be extended as to include information and specific details and updates on the ensuing designated sites.

Whilst the five-month inter-ministerial consultation was being held, the LIFE+MIGRATE team at MEPA attended a MEPA board session on 21st January 2016, whereby they presented the state of affairs in relation to Natura 2000 in Malta and the designation of marine protected areas (MPAs), particularly in relation to the commitments that Malta has taken to honour the Nature Directives (ND) and the designation of marine Natura 2000 sites (Annex 7.2.5.8 of this FR). During this board session, the resultant three pSCIs developed through the LIFE+MIGRATE project and the resultant findings being proposed by the LIFE+ Malta Sea Birds project were also presented and discussed in detail.

Eventually, the conclusions of this MEPA board session were passed to MSDEC, in such a way that they can continue and conclude their inter-ministerial consultation in order for the sites to be formally accepted as pSCIs. On 14th April 2016, the proposed sites were presented by MSDEC and the Project Leader to the Cabinet of Ministers, following the inter-ministerial processes. The sites were approved.

Upon approval of sites, the database and the GIS files were uploaded on the EU's Eionet website (Central Data Repository).

Eventually, during the closing conference of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project on 29th April 2016, the nine sites both proposed through this project and the LIFE + Malta Seabird Project were publicly announced¹⁹. This will be better explained in Section 5.2.12.

¹⁹ Please refer to the following:

- <http://www.tvn.com.mt/mt/news/l-era-tipproponi-8-siti-marittimi-protetti-ghan-nom-ta-malta/>
- <http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2016-05-02/local-news/ERA-designates-eight-new-marine-protected-areas-on-behalf-of-Malta-6736157185>
- <http://netnews.com.mt/news/propost-il-holqien-ta-8-zoni-marittimi-ghall-harsien-ta-natura-2000/>
- <http://www.inewsmalta.com/dart/20160429-tmien-oni-odda-all-protezzjoni-tal-lejjaq-tal-ba-ar-madwar-il-ejjer-maltin>

5.1.5. Action D1 – Monitoring of Action E13 and E14

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.01.2013 |
| Expected end date: | 30.06.2015 |
| Actual start date: | 01.04.2013 |
| Actual end date: | 08.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | The interviews should offer quantitative information with regards to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of participation in numbers • Level of knowledge and understanding of Natura 2000 at the beginning and at the end of the project • Evaluation of the workshops, materials and the project • Identification of issues of concern • Identification of issues of special interest |
| Achieved results to date: | KAI provided a stakeholder mapping and a roadmap for actions E13 and E14, as well as F4. KAI also compiled a report which gives an account of the results emerged from Actions D1, E13 and E14 (Annex 7.2.6 of this FR) which addressed the level of participation and awareness. |

Table 5.5: Expected and achieved results of Action D1.

Action D1 is related to the monitoring of actions E13 and E14, the sectorial workshop and the NATURA 2000 Guidelines. Continuous monitoring and evaluation is critical in the process of the stakeholder communication strategy which the team of KAI takes from the LIFE02NAT/E/8610 project and the OSPAR “stakeholder communication strategy task” developed by Spain in 2008.

The Action D1 monitoring provided the feedback that readjusted the chronogram of action E14, changing from 2, 5-day workshops in 2013 and 2014, to a more gradual move from one to one meetings with stakeholders to small workshops and finally the final sectorial workshop In Autumn of 2014 which has the ultimate goal of providing a series of NATURA 2000 Guidelines that are fully understood and accepted by all stakeholders.

In April 2014, as part of this process, KAI provided MEPA with a roadmap, documents and a questionnaire for stakeholders to be disseminated under action F4. However initially no feedback was received from stakeholders and such initial lack of feedback on the roadmap could have lead to a potential risk for actions E13 and E14. Eventually following further enhancement and further details in this roadmap, some feedback was received.

-
- <http://www.newsbook.com.mt/artikli/2016/4/29/proposti-8-zoni-marittimi-ghal-natura-2000.45213/>
 - <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20160429/local/dolphins-seabirds-and-turtles-get-eight-new-protected-sites.610443>
 - http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/lifestyle/environment/64616/eight_new_protected_sites_for_dolphins_turtles_and_seabirds

Furthermore, it is important to highlight the following:

- Action D1's schedule and output were on track. The key milestone of actions E13 and E14 was the sectoral workshop held from September 26 to October 4. Action D1 provided the feedback for the development of this workshop and the consultation process following up from this.
- The main indicators for this action are the response of the stakeholders, the stakeholder map and the stakeholder communication strategy road map.
- no significant problems have been encountered; and
- Action F4 should ensure the follow-up of management and monitoring of this Action.

A draft report which about actions D1, E13 and E14 (Annex 7.2.6 of this FR) for this specific action was compiled by KAI and sent to the other project partners for their review in August 2015. After revision of the action report by MEPA and MSDEC, KAI Marine Services amended the report accordingly and sent it back to the coordinating beneficiary on 8th April 2016.

5.1.6. Action F1 - Project Management

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Expected end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Actual start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Actual end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | <p>A project manager will be engaged by the end of December 2012.</p> <p>A minimum of 7 Steering Committee meetings will be held (following the first kick off meeting), during which the Project Manager will present the progress reports and issues for discussion and guidance. The Steering Committee will be an efficient and effective vehicle for decision-making and a driving force for the project execution.</p> |
| Achieved results to date: | <p>A project manager from beginning to end and an assistant Project manager as from June 2014 were appointed.</p> <p>A total of seven steering committee meetings and ad-hoc meetings (and meetings with Monitor and/or CION) were done. Please refer to Section 4.2.1 further above.</p> |

Table 5.6: Expected and achieved results of Action F1.

The project management has been described in detail in Chapter 4, i.e. the administrative section.

5.1.7. Action F2 – Networking with other projects

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Expected end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Actual start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Actual end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | The project will identify other similar projects and networks which will be approached to maximise information exchange and experience-sharing, thereby increasing the added value of this project. Some travel to attend relevant workshops and meetings where the project can gain exposure is expected. |
| Achieved results to date: | Networking has been done with various local and foreign entities and projects. Section 5.1.7 of this FR will give an overview of the networking done throughout this LIFE+ project. |

Table 5.7: Expected and achieved results of Action F2.

There has been numerous communications between KAI and MEPA with ACCOBAMS via email and phone to discuss the research plan and methodologies. Most recent and updated research and methodologies are thus readily available.

MEPA is also in contact with researchers globally and other similar past and present projects. The Project Manager is also part of the IUCN, Species Specialist Group, MTSG (Marine Turtle Specialist Group) and is the national focal point for ACCOBAMS, hence facilitating communication with such institutes.

KAI, as part of the LIFE+MIGRATE, has set the ground for an optimal networking, representation and outreach of the project in the relevant sectors. In fact, KAI has taken part in the following (Annex 7.2.12 of MtR):

- the Scientific Committee meeting of ACCOBAMS of 2012 held in Monaco from the 13th to the 15th of November.;
- the meeting of the International working group for the loggerhead turtle in January 2013 (Madrid);
- the International Sea Turtle Symposium in February 2013 (Baltimore); whereby they presented project goals, the work conducted in the Western Mediterranean and a brief introduction to the survey work of Action A3;
- the FAO GFCM – ACCOBAMS meeting of April 2013 (Tangiers); whereby KAI presented a collaboration proposal with France and Italy in relation to cetacean and turtle interactions with fisheries;
- ACCOBAMS/GFCM agreement: A presentation for the development of a ToR on bycatch in the context of the Fisheries Sectorial workshop of action E13 was made in conjunction with France (GTMF) at the meeting of this agreement held in Tangiers (Morocco) in April 2013;

- Regional sea turtle conservation meeting with *Groupe Tortues Marines de France* in June of 2013 (Camargue); and
- the IMPAC 3 on 21-23 October 2013 in Marseille, whereby the LIFE+ Project MIGRATE was presented during the workshop on stakeholder involvement.

KAI has also done a presentation of project at workshop on spatial planning in the framework of the European Cetacean Society (Setubal 7-15 April 2013) and established communication with other relevant networking organizations.

There were also meetings relevant to LIFE+ Project MIGRATE were held with different parties at this last conference with regards to preparations of Actions E13 and E14:

- With regards to the fisheries sector a coordination meeting was held on 24/10 with representatives of MEDPAN, ACCOBAMS, FAO – GFCM, GTMF and IFREMER in order to work on the road map proposal to be presented at the Artisan Fisheries conference to the Maltese Fisheries Authority and MEPA at the end of November.
- KAI participated in the workshop on stakeholder involvement which addressed several key issues of relevance for the development of Actions E13 and E14.
- A meeting was held also with J. Levenson of the US IT company CONSERVE.IO with regards to the possibility of developing APPs as “Spotter” and “Alert” for action E11 of LIFE+ MIGRATE

The Action E13 workshops organized by KAI, counted with the participation of international organizations such as ACCOBAMS, RAC-SPA, REMPEC, IMO, MEDPAN, etc.

The project details were also sent to the 9th scientific committee of ACCOBAMS which met in April 2014 and wherein all the work and details of the project were outlined so as to maximise cooperation between researchers in the Mediterranean area working on these species.

The coordinating beneficiary, MEPA, have also established further links with the Italian Tunisian Cetacean Research project (<http://itucrc.blogspot.it/>), with whom we met in a Regional Mediterranean Meeting for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). MEPA is currently discussing issues of any helping each other in any training and exchange of data, as necessary.

An invitation was sent to MEPA by ACCOBAMS to attend the Third Biennial Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries (CSMC3) in Lebanon between the 21st and 23rd October 2014. However, MEPA could not attend this event due to dangerous political issues within the said country at the time the event.

A lot of communication happened between MEPA and BirdLife Malta (BLM). Initially a MoU was drafted but later MEPA decided to write a letter of intent in view of synergies of the projects for provision of data and other resources which may be beneficial to both, in view of BLM’s work on the LIFE + Seabirds Project. Through this letter of intent, BLM has provided MEPA with data on cetaceans and turtles gathered during their sea-bird surveying projects. In return, through this project sea-bird data was provided to Birdlife and they were also provided space on the research vessel during the summer surveying. MEPA also

provided training on identification of cetaceans and turtles to officials and volunteers from BLM.

In September 2014, MEPA had a meeting with Mr. Roberto Crosti from the *Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale* (ISPRA) to discuss networking possibilities. Another letter of intent was drafted to cover this networking so that data gathered on cetacean and turtles by ISPRA through their platform of opportunities- ferries that they use will be exchange with data obtained from the LIFE+ MIGRATE project. In fact, this data was provided to MEPA in end of 2015, but could not be used as most of the areas monitored by ISPRA fell outside the scope of this project. However, such data may nonetheless be important when seeking the greater picture of the migration of these species.

MEPA and KAI drafted two separate (and on different aspects) abstracts each in November 2014 in order to present and discuss the findings and the networking issues of the project and to be able to participate and increase the networking within the European Cetacean Society in March 2015. The abstracts were the following:

- *Busy Ocean: how spatially disturbed are cetaceans with regards to anthropogenic activities at sea? A case study in Malta* – abstract drafted by KAI, with MEPA's reviews.
- *The involvement of the Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) and the Civil Protection Department (CPD) - Maritime section, as well as local communities in Cetacean Conservation in Maltese waters* – abstract drafted by MEPA, with KAI's and AFM's reviews.

In November 2014, MEPA submitted an abstract on marine turtles with the title of: *An exceptional sea turtle nest record in 2012 and the related emergency conservation measures set-up in Malta*. This paper describes this unique event and inferred on the potential increase in the populations of this turtles in the Maltese waters, which links it with the LIFE Migrate project. In the following month, this abstract was accepted for a poster presentation at the 35th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation in Dalaman, Mugla-Turkey, which symposium also included various discussions on turtles both from a global perspective and a regional one. The networking was essential as a number of papers on better conservation of these species, were presented including how more innovative surveys and identification of individuals are being carried out. This symposium was held between the 17th and the 24th of April, and was attended by the project manager, as part of the networking involved in the LIFE+ MIGRATE. Networking, in fact, was done particularly with the Mediterranean group with regards to the set-up of a Demographic parameters group for turtles in the Mediterranean and MEPA will be contributing with the LIFE data accordingly.

A Workshop under the name of *Proposal for a collaborative study on Marine Debris Ingested by Sea Turtles* was also held during the mentioned symposium/conference in Turkey. This workshop was held by a group currently working with the French Ministry for Ecology, in order to implement the MSFD and MEDPOL indicator 10.2.1²⁰. In this conference, the mentioned group proposed the set up an informal working group of specialists in order to share data / knowledge on debris ingestion by sea turtles and associated risks across the

²⁰ MSFD and MEDPOL indicator 10.2.1 is dedicated to the ingestion of marine debris by sea turtles (research aspects only), especially considering the biological constraints.

Mediterranean and the adjacent Atlantic waters and we were present for the meeting. This group will also consider levels of debris quantities at sea shores and at sea and turtle observations at sea (ship/aerial surveys).

In addition, the LIFE+ MIGRATE team (along with the LIFE BaHAR at N2K team) at MEPA received an invitation to attend the LIFE platform meeting on the Management of Marine Habitats, which was held in Madrid between the 26th and the 27th of March 2015. Following internal discussions, it was decided that the meeting was to be attended by the assistant project management officer and that the LIFE+ Migrate team should be updated with the marine biogeographic issues also from the Protected Areas team within the same unit who also attended the biogeographical seminar in France in May 2015.

In the context of features in Action E9 local popular media (Please refer to Section 5.1.22), an ACCOBAMS training course was held between the 16th and 20th March 2015 (Annex 7.4.1 of PrR). This one week course was about cetacean conservation and it the local coordinator for this course was the MEPA project manager of the LIFE Project, being also the ACCOBAMS focal point. It was held at the University of Malta, through collaboration with the CLAS at UoM and ACCOBAMS Secretariat. The rest of the LIFE+ MIGRATE team of MEPA attended this course, as part of their work. In addition, a lecture about the LIFE+ MIGRATE project was done by the Project Manager and included as part of the syllabus of this course²¹.

On the 21st and the 22nd March 2015, MEPA presented the LIFE MIGRATE project at the ACCOBAMS workshop (ECS workshops) under the name of Strengthening the Cooperation for a Better Cetacean Conservation in the ACCOBAMS AREA: Working together with common tools, held at the Intercontinental hotel in Malta (Annex 7.4.2 of PrR). In this workshop, the Project Manager who gave an overview of this project, managed to make further network connections with:

- Mr Mehdi Aissi from Tunisia and Ms Antonella Arcangeli from Italy with regards to data and presentations in relation with fixed line transects Mediterranean Monitoring. MEPA was then also asked to exchange information and presentations on the LIFE+MIGRATE project with them since the Mr Aissi is also the Mediterranean regional representative of ACCOBAMS in the 10th scientific committee (SC10) and in fact the LIFE+ MIGRATE project was also presented by him in the latest ACCOBAMS SCM which was held in Nice, France (20th – 22nd October 2015) This also increased the networking with the rest of the scientists in Mediterranean, who are also working on such aspects.
- NETCCOBAMS and Intercet – these were introduced during the workshop and once ready, data in connection with LIFE+MIGRATE can be put through to these system

²¹ Links:

- <http://www.um.edu.mt/for/prospective/notices/accobamstrainingcourse>;
- <http://www.um.edu.mt/clas/accobams>;
- http://www.um.edu.mt/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/238504/LAS3002_Programme.pdf;
- <http://www.um.edu.mt/clas/studyunit/las3002>; <http://www.accobams.org/>
- <http://www.inewsmalta.com/dart/20150320-kors-spe-jalizzat-ta-ta-ri-dwar-il-arsien-tal-bijodiversit-fl-universit>
- http://www.illum.com.mt/ahbarijiet/socjali/40922/kors_tari_spejalizzat_dwar_ilarsien_talbijodiversit_fluniversit#.VQw21dLF_8o

and species' migrations (through the use of photo ID catalogue) which can be understood better if they are seen in the entire context of the Mediterranean ; and

- A PhD student who did her research on sperm whales in the Mediterranean who presented her findings with the presentation on the 'Movements of Sperm whales in the Mediterranean sea - An example of collaborations between institutions'. Ms Capinelli was contacted to inform her of the sperm whales sightings that were made in summer of 2013 during the boat based surveys and collaborations were set-up such that, as soon as the data and photos of these spermwhales are available through the project and officially approved for networking they would be shared such that it can be identified if such sperm whales were ever sighted elsewhere.

In March 2015, Mr Roberto Crosti from the *Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale* (ISPRA) was contacted, to provide any data that may have been collected and available through the Tunisian-Palermo 'platform of opportunity' vessels which were recording cetaceans, turtles and other important pelagic mega fauna, which data was given in May 2015. Furthermore following the networking with Ms Carpinelli, InterCet and Netcobbams (as described above), KAI were contacted to ask for provision of the Sperm whale tail fin photos such that the regional context of the movements of such whales and hence their conservation could be better followed-up.

Further discussions with BLM were done in June 2015 regarding networking that is occurring between us in connection with data gathered through surveys and which we are exchanging, since further data from that submitted for Action A1 in the inception report had been collected through their surveys and which data can also be included with the collected data of this LIFE MIGRATE project, since they had collected data also in other months and not only in summer which also gave more depth and a different perspective to our data.

In July 2015, the LIFE+ MIGRATE team gave a presentation to representatives from the LIFE project mentioned below as part of networking:

- LIFE+ Saving Buskett (from Malta);
- LIFE+ DINAMO (from Italy); and
- LIFE+ MAESTRALE (from Italy).

This presentation was done since officials from the Local LIFE+ Saving Buskett project (Action F5) were carrying out a number of networking activities with other local and foreign LIFE+ projects and hence they proposed to meet MEPA and the other 2 local LIFE teams. The University of Molise is one of the LIFE+ Saving Buskett project's foreign networking partners which had visited earlier in 2015 and where they were introduced to LIFE+ DINAMO and MAESTRALE. Whilst there, representatives from the University of Molise helped the LIFE Saving Buskett project to extend their networking with other Italian projects, namely LIFE+ MGN - Making Good Natura and LIFE+ ManFor C.BD. In this respect, the LIFE Saving Buskett team reciprocated by introducing them to other Maltese LIFE+ projects, which thus included the LIFE+ Migrate project.

Local networking was also done with LIFE+ BaHAR during June and July 2015. The LIFE+ MIGRATE team at MEPA provided OCEANA (an associated beneficiary of the LIFE+ BaHAR project) with the relevant sighting forms such that they can record sightings of marine turtle and cetacean species whilst conducting their surveys. The LIFE+ MIGRATE

team provided a number of brochures to the LIFE+ BaHAR team in order to disseminate during their photo exhibition between the 10th and 30th of August 2015. In exchange, the LIFE+ MIGRATE team also disseminated a number of LIFE+ BaHAR deliverables (namely pens, writing pads and info-sheets) during the training workshops and the public talks which were done during the summer period of 2015 (as described in Action E11).

Following a notification from the Technical Desk Officer of the EU Commission (in June 2015) about the possibility of a visit from the EU Commissioner Hon K. Vella to the LIFE MIGRATE project, various contacts were made internally and internal protocols (about official replies) had to be followed. In July 2015, following such protocols and approvals for an official communication, MEPA informed the Commissioner's office that we would be honoured to have such a high delegation visit in the project. Such visit was eventually commenced on 29th April 2016, as part of the closing conference.

On the 3rd of August 2015, the LIFE+ MIGRATE team received an invitation from GIS3M & from the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to attend an international workshop on bottlenose dolphins in Marseille in December 2015. MEPA submitted an abstract on the networking carried out through the local training done to AFM and other entities intended for presentation at the ECS 2015: Local networking with regards to extending such networking to the Armed Forces and Civil protection Officials. This presentation focuses on the work done by MEPA in Action E11 which was the training done to such officials and wherein we managed to train all the maritime squadron of AFM and CPD officials as well as a number of people from NGOs, Diving clubs and fishers amongst others. In this respect, following consultation with higher MEPA management, the associated beneficiaries and the entities directly involved in this issue, MEPA edited and submitted the abstract which was eventually accepted on the 18th November 2015. This abstract was eventually presented in the above mentioned international workshop between 1st and 2nd December 2015. Throughout this workshop, project brochures were disseminated during this workshop to all the attendees. Also, MEPA managed to make a number of connections with researchers working directly on the bottlenose dolphins in the NW Mediterranean as to collaborate and exchange related data and information. New methods of monitoring were also discussed as was the recent phenomenon of sightings of such dolphins near fish farms.

The Project Manager also contacted Transport Malta in order to facilitate work for an Italian research team (Tethys) to conduct an aerial survey over Maltese waters. Such surveys will continue to complement the data gathered from this project's survey and being an aerial survey it may shed more light on pods and/or groups of species and/or extent the extent of such pods as well as on abundances (also in other season, not only in summer) for cetaceans present in our area, although the main focus of this survey are fin whales and their migration patterns but obviously other cetacean sighted will also be noted and their sightings integrated in the system. In July 2016, Tethys sent us the aerial survey data which will also help to continue to look at the greater pictures of the abundance and presence of these species also in other seasons and a larger scale (noting surveys was done in the end of March and it had a different, aerial, perspective),

The LIFE+ MIGRATE team also gave input on the Cost Effective Analysis (CEA) and Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) on management measures drafted for cetacean conservation which

were prepared by the Mediterranean group discussing the MFSD issues and which were further tackled also by the MSFD local team at MEPA. This information was presented and discussed at the 5th Co-ordination and Alignment Meeting (CAM 5) in Barcelona between 23rd and 24th September 2015.

Networking was also carried out to support research and aerial surveying for cetaceans and turtles in the areas around Malta and in fact, MEPA also assisted in the gathering of the necessary approvals for such surveys to occur. On 28th March 2016, MEPA had a meeting with Prof Simone Panigada vis-a-vis aerial surveying for cetaceans and turtles in the areas around Malta as it may seem as a good alternative to such biotic data. In fact, the next day, MEPA was invited to participate in such an aerial survey.

5.1.8. Action F3 - Audit

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.07.2015 |
| Expected end date: | 31.12.2015 |
| Actual start date: | 01.10.2014 |
| Actual end date: | 29.07.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | Audited financial statements will be provided to the Commission together with the final report, due by the end of July 2016. |
| Achieved results to date: | An interim and a Final Audit report has been produced. These are attached with this FR as Annex 8.7. |

Table 5.8: Expected and achieved results of Action F3.

This project requires audit since it needs to verify that national legislation and accounting rules have been respected, as well as, certify that all costs involved respect the common provisions of LIFE+.

Terms of reference (TORs) for this independent financial auditor were compiled in accordance with the Grant Agreement, the Common Provisions, and the Guidance for Financial Management and Reporting provided by the Commission. Also, the TORs were sent to RSM Malta for further reviewing. Following internal approvals by DCS and CEO the call for quotation was drafted and issued by MEPA.

The internal reviewing of the Call for Quotations for the Provision of Independent Financial Auditing Services was eventually finalised. On the 26th of September 2014, the said Call was published as QT17/2014 on the MEPA website: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/info-quotes>, which closed on 22nd of October 2014. Apart from being published on the MEPA website, the Call was published on the following:

- the Government Gazette on the same day it was originally published (i.e. on the 26th of September 2014); and
- the Malta Independent (a local newspaper) on the 2nd October 2014.

During the Call's publishing phase, there was a clarification period between the 7th and the 10th of October. During this period, MEPA received to a number of queries, which were answered and published.

As a result, four bidders have shown their interest and submitted their proposal and bids. Table 3 shows a summary of the bidders and their financial offers.

| Bidder | Financial Offer (including VAT) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| PKF (Malta) & Co | € 2,500.00 |
| 3a Certified Public Accountants | € 3,481.00 |
| Grant Thornton | € 3,540.00 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | € 5,841.00 |

Table 5.9: Quotations received for auditing of the project.

All bidders resulted to be technically competent with the TORs of the Call. In this respect, PKF (Malta) & Co (address: 35, Mannarino Road, Birkirkara, BKR 9080, Malta) with official firm registration number: AB/26/84/40 was selected to be the independent audit firm to start auditing the project as from the first quarter of 2015. MEPA awarded this Call of Quotations on the basis of the lowest price which was compliant with specifications.

In addition, a contract was drafted and sent to the awarded firm for signature. The contract was signed on the 24th of November 2014, and a meeting between MEPA and PKF Malta will be held in December 2014 to start the implementation of this contract.

As per TORs of the said contract, an interim audit should be held in 2015, followed by an official audit in line with the common provisions of the grant agreement, which will be done towards the end of the project.

Copies of documents, agreements, report and the consolidated financial statement were sent to the auditors in order to familiarise themselves with the project. Eventually, the auditors presented MEPA with a list of queries, which included all beneficiaries. The associated beneficiaries were notified accordingly to provide MEPA with the requirements requested by the auditors and at the same time, MEPA took care of its audit-related issues and queries.

There have been a number of correspondences between PKF and MEPA; and eventually, the final audit report was produced and submitted to the coordinating beneficiary (Annex– 8.7 of this FR).

5.1.9. Action F4 – After Life Conservation Plan

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.01.2014 |
| Expected end date: | 30.06.2015 |
| Actual start date: | 31.01.2014 |
| Actual end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | A final agreed After-LIFE Conservation |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| | Plan will be presented as a separate chapter of the final report in English, in paper and electronic format. It will be made available to the public on the project website. |
| Achieved results to date: | The After-LIFE Conservation Plan was produced and it is being attached with this FR as Annex 7.3.2 of this FR. |

Table 5.10: Expected and achieved results of Action F4.

Work for the After-LIFE conservation plan started in January 2014 and an After-LIFE conservation plan committee was set up (Annex 7.2.10 of MtR). There were various internal and external meetings which were held to decide upon the adequate stakeholders to be chosen, which were eventually identified. These main stakeholders were chosen to sit on this committee consist mainly on institutional stakeholders who may carry out the necessary consultations with the sectors they represent. The members of the committee are the:

- Malta Tourism Authority (MTA);
- Armed Forces of Malta (AFM);
- Continental Shelf Department (CSD);
- Civil Protection Department (CPD);
- Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC);
- Ministry for Gozo (MGOZ);
- Transport Malta (TM);
- Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA); and
- Malta Environmental and Planning Authority (MEPA).

The committee is chaired by MEPA and information disseminated to stakeholders is discussed between the project partners so that there is an agreement on this issue. The main objective of this committee was to elaborate an after-LIFE conservation plan which will set out a strategy for the continuation and development of the actions being undertaken in the project once it terminates, to ensure that the efforts of the project continue to be effective.

It was envisaged that the said Plan will explain the procedures to be followed in order for the proposed pSCIs to be designated as SACs, and the appropriate management measures required for each site in order to ensure the long-term management of the site/s and species concerned.

After the first meeting, held in January 2014 (Annex 7.2.10 of MtR), it was agreed that rather than disseminating the information through face-to-face meeting, it was felt to be efficient to communicate through emails. Further information on the implementation of this action is provided in section 5.3.4 in view of the changes done in the Grant Agreement.

MEPA kept providing updates to the After-LIFE subcommittee group, such as the following:

- The two draft maps produced by KAI after the 2013 boat-based surveys displaying preliminary results of encounter rates for cetaceans and loggerhead turtles respectively (December 2014); and
- Information about the preparation of the sectoral workshops (January 2015).

The communication with the After-LIFE Conservation Plan Committee had to be suspended for some time pending further updates. This was overcome following the submission of results in August 2015 by KAI, when they integrated the oceanographic data of action A1.

MEPA compiled the draft After-LIFE Conservation Plan, which was reviewed internally, i.e. by relevant sectors within MEPA and was sent to the project partners for their review. Following comments and relevant consultation by MSDEC, it was updated accordingly.

Also, the Plan was further updated following a number of suggestions indicated by CION in their letters (Annex 7.1.4 of FR). In fact, it was ensured that the ALCP addressed the following matters:

- the conservation measures for the new sites and updates for existing ones;
- additional of potential legal protection status for the new sites or any restrictions on boats or fishing;
- the responsible entity who will organize the involvement of key private stakeholders;
- If and as appropriate, further work to complete the information gathered so far and if necessary to adapt the site's perimeters and/or SDFs accordingly; and
- Including the costs of certain measures and/or plans.

Once finalised from the coordinating beneficiary's side, the ALCP was sent to the previously-mentioned After-LIFE Conservation Plan Committee for a six-week consultation, it was then revised and finalised accordingly

Comments received from the consultation process were integrated in the ALCP. It was sent for proof reading and amalgamated with internal monitoring and other issues, such that everything could be streamlined. Following this, the document was re-checked by the LIFE+ MIGRATE team and further comments and feedback were inserted.

Also, following the approval of the proposed sites during the parliamentary cabinet described in Section 5.1.4, information on the conclusion of the site designation exercise were included in the ALCP. Thus, in April 2016, the final text on the designated sites was added accordingly in the mentioned conservation plan, in time for the closing of the project, even though it could not be compiled earlier (June 2015) in view of the late receipt of results.

This is hereby being attached with this report as Annex 7.3.2, which envisages to provide future protection and management on the proposed sites.

5.2 Dissemination actions

5.2.1. Objectives

It is important to note that this project was advertised so that its visibility and awareness increases with the general public. Thus, this project consists of dissemination actions which produce deliverables that are awareness-raising and educative such as the brochures, roll-up banners and the short video.

5.2.2. Dissemination: overview per activity

Each action involving dissemination processes is going to be described here-under.

5.2.2.1. Action E1 – Develop project brand

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Expected end date: | 30.06.2013 |
| Actual start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Actual end date: | 30.11.2012 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | A brand will be created by the end of June 2013. It will be a unique instantly recognisable image, which will incorporate the project and its aims into a graphic. Through its use on all relevant publications and materials, awareness and appreciation of the value of these species and the project in particular is expected to increase. |
| Achieved results to date: | Project brand (logo) was created in the fourth quarter of 2012 (submitted as Annex 7.2.1 of the IncR) by November 2012. Hence it was created 7 months earlier than envisaged in view of the need for its wide use. |

Table 5.11: Expected and achieved results of Action E1.

The development of the project logo, which was under the remit of MEPA, was outsourced by requesting three quotations, as per Government procurement regulations, since the amount falls within (or under) the €2,500 threshold stipulated for getting quotes. Quotes were requested from branding and marketing companies, as per details in the Table 5.12 below, on the 20th November 2013 and replies were received up to the 24th November 2013 (final receiving date was also specified).

Steve & Co. were selected as they were the cheapest technically compliant Service provider (€325) offering a product as per the specifications requested.

The logo created is quite attractive and eye-catching with two instantly recognizable images of these animals, hence directly linking these species, the main focus of this project and helping the public to familiarize with the project's aims, as well as learn to associate the brand with the project's aims and actions. The Conservation concept and the concrete actions that will be carried out are then transmitted via the wording used "*A Wave of Hope for Marine Life*"²². Hence, this logo incorporates the project and what this project aims to do in apposite artwork that people will see, memorize and instantly recognize. People are more likely to remember a company, business or project by its logo, as it is easier to remember a name through association with a picture.

This Action was expected to be developed by the end of June 2013 (as specified in the grant agreement); however, due to the importance of the use of this logo in all promotional material on this project, it was developed and concluded much earlier, in November 2012. This logo

²² The wording was also translated in Maltese, being: "*Raġġ ta' tama għall-ħajja tal-baħar*".

was used on all publicity and awareness-raising tools including the website, posters, brochures, roll-up banners and all publications emanating from this project.

| Service provider | Financial Offer (including VAT) |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Steve and Co | €325.00 |
| RightBrain | €413.00 |
| Content House | €826.00 |

Table 5.12: Quotations received for design of project brand.

5.2.2.2. Action E2 – Notice-board

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Expected end date: | 30.06.2013 |
| Actual start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Actual end date: | 25.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | Three (in certain parts 2 were specified) identical notice-boards (we did roll-up banners, see further below) will be installed at the premises of the beneficiaries. |
| Achieved results to date: | <p>Three roll-up banners were created by February 2013 (please refer to Annex 7.2. of the IncR).</p> <p>Apart from that, nine other roll-up banners were produced, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two roll up banners (similar to the existent ones); one in English and one in Maltese; and ● Seven roll-up banners on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ identification of key Mediterranean dolphin species in EN (x2); ○ identification of key Mediterranean turtle species in EN (x2); ○ identification of key Mediterranean whale species in EN (x1); ○ information on ‘Why we need N2K site for <i>C. caretta</i> and <i>T. truncatus</i>’ in EN (x1); and ○ the same as the above but in MT (x1). <p>The layout of the above- mentioned banners are attached in Annex 7.3.3.</p> |

Table 5.13: Expected and achieved results of Action E2.

This action was under MEPA’s responsibility. There was a slight modification in this action from what was written in the Grant agreement, as it was deemed that roll-up banners would be more practical rather than fixed notice boards, since the former are more convenient, manageable and easily transportable to be displayed anywhere as necessary. These banners were initially displayed during the official Project launch and the stakeholders event (*vide* Action E4) , and they have been extensively used in all official talks, training sessions, seminars and the boat show event, as per details below. Another modification which was done was in relation to the language and the numbers. The GA specified that three identical banners would be made (which may have been an oversight, as in parts of the description of this action, only two were mentioned); in practice we produced two in English and one in Maltese. The Maltese language banner was seen particularly important for use during the stakeholders’ meetings, where particular categories like fishermen, who are more versed with the Maltese language, would find the banner in the Maltese language more effective.

The design for these roll-up banners started in November 2012 and was carried out in-house by the Coordinating Beneficiary. The banners clearly displayed the logos of following:

- the project (brand), as described further above in section 5.2.2.1; Natura 2000 and LIFE+;
- The beneficiaries; and
- the co-financier (BOV).

It was also ensured the wordings, layout and EU funding were in line with the publicity requirements, as specified in the common provisions and as stipulated by Maltese policy governing such EU funding. The banners were attractively designed to provide basic information about the project's aims and objectives, and the measures being taken to achieve these objectives. They also invite interested parties and stakeholders to visit the project’s website gain more information and participate as volunteers in the boat-based observations.

The three roll-up banners were printed and produced on 10th February 2013, following a call for quotations sent to relevant service providers as specified in Table 5.14 below.

| Service provider | Financial Offer (including VAT) |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Impression ltd | €435 |
| Big Exhibits | €495 |
| E-motion signworks | €400 |

Table 5.14: Summary of quotations received for production of the three initial banners.

The cheapest offer by E-motion Signwork was taken up since it was the most technical compliant offer with our requirements (as per details of the call).

Once produced, the roll-up banners were prominently displayed at the premises of the Coordinating Beneficiary (one at Hexagon House, Marsa²³ and one at St. Francis Ravelin, Floriana) and one at MSDEC. One of these banners was also displayed on the Catamaran used by KAI for the A 3 Surveys, when MEPA invited them to the boat show in September 2013, where together (MEPA & KAI) the project was promoted for 3 days from the catamaran and a stand we had at the boat show. Following this, KAI took the banner with them to Spain to promote the project also in their premises from summer 2013 till end of summer 2014, when they returned this banner. At hexagon house, the banner was placed next to turtle model in the foyer, which model was created before the initiation of the project, but which was deemed appropriate to be used for this project to promote the protected species in question and to intrigue any passers in being instigated to better check out the banner and ask questions at the reception about the project (since we placed all these near the reception area, where we later also provided brochures for wider dissemination to interested people who might ask questions on the turtle, etc). This turtle model was also transported to other LIFE+MIGRATE-related events mostly during the training (where we also used it to elucidate certain diagnostic features directly on the dummy to show how to recognise the different species of turtles), and thus, it also served as an indirect promotion and awareness-raising of the said project.

Due to frequent usage and transportation (to all of the outdoor and activities done in other places) of such roll-up banners, they started deteriorating and were no longer fit for use. Thus, after consultation with the Monitor, more banners were envisaged to be produced to replace the current ones.

Initially, it was envisaged that eight will be produced, whereby:

- Four would be similar to the existent ones; two in Maltese and two in English; and
- Four other roll-up banners to be used during any further training workshops and other related life-Migrate events . Hence it was decided that two of these banners would be displaying an identification key for the different cetaceans with the other two showing an identification key for marine turtles, all of which species are part of the Maltese populations. These banners were envisaged to continue to inform and educate people on such species and how to continue to protect, also when and if the important marine areas are identified through the project.

However, there were some further changes of such plans following a number of internal meetings held in 2015. It was decided that nine roll-up banners would be produced instead of eight, which will include the following:

- Two roll up banners (similar to the existent ones); one in English and one in Maltese; and
- Seven roll-up banners to feature the following:
 - an identification of key Mediterranean dolphin species (in EN);
 - an the identification of key Mediterranean turtle species (EN);
 - an identification of key Mediterranean whale species (EN);
 - an the identification of key Mediterranean dolphin and turtle species (EN);
 - an identification of key Mediterranean dolphin and turtle species (MT);
 - information on ‘Why we need N2K site for *C. caretta* and *T. truncatus*’ (EN); and

²³ This roll-up banners was also lent to BOV for a short period of time (from August to September 2013) for promotion of this project in their main branch in St. Venera.

- o the same as the latter, but in MT.

Production of two banners

It was decided that the above-mentioned two banners to replace the previous ones were to be printed as soon as possible, in view of their immediate need. A call for printing of such roll-up banners was thus drafted, with the TORs internally approved after carrying out the necessary consultations with the Change Agents of the new Authority (ERA) in view of issues icw the MEPA/ERA logos. After obtaining the necessary approvals, the said call was sent out by the MIGRATE team (MEPA) on 29th August 2015 to the three providers indicated in Table 5.15. Details of the service providers were provided to us by the PR office of MEPA, following approval by chairman of such a list to ask calls of quotations from.

| Service Provider | Financial Offer (+ VAT) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| SignRite | No quotations received |
| E motion | €240.00 + VAT |
| Impressions | €253.00 + VAT |

Table 5.15: Quotations received for the production of two roll-up banners to replace the existing ones.

Only two provided a quotation, despite the fact that numerous reminders were sent. Eventually, MEPA evaluated the received bids and it was decided, that even though E-motion provided the cheapest, technically compliant bid, the award should be given to Impressions Ltd. E-motion was the same service provider which produced the original banners, which got badly damaged following transportation and which we were trying to avoid since material of inferior quality may have been used. Thus, to avoid a similar mishap after just a few months, the award was given to Impressions Ltd., since the bid was also technical compliant. The chosen contractor was contacted and informed of this and that the text and design would be sent shortly.

In the meantime, MEPA reviewed and updated the previous text, to adapt it to the current conditions and hence included some slight changes and lessons learnt. In parallel MEPA also worked on the artwork, whereby modifications in the layout and design were also made. Such modifications included changes in the new contact numbers and the addition of the reference to the project's Facebook page and project's website (since before it was accessed through MEPA's website). The N2K logo was positioned next to the LIFE+ logo, which logos were both aligned towards the left side of the banner to give them further prominence.

In addition, two bleeds were inserted in the new layout, whereby one was displayed at the top and the other at bottom. These bleeds contained the logos of the beneficiaries and the co-financing statement. The only difference between the bleeds is that the top one contained the MEPA logo, whereas bottom one contained the ERA logo. This was done in view of the upcoming splitting of the functions MEPA (into ERA and Planning Authority). In fact, these banner were produced when MEPA was still in function and therefore, in the meantime, the bottom bleed was left rolled (unseen) in the base of the roll-up banner. Once ERA was

established (in April 2016), the top bleed (containing the MPEA logo) was cut off and the ERA logo was made visible²⁴.

Once the text and layout were finalised, MEPA translated the text into Maltese for the relevant Maltese banner.

The new modification in the artwork of these banners (both in EN and MT) were sent for approvals to higher management and the associated beneficiaries. Once such approvals were sought, the said artworks were sent to the service providers, who finalised these two banners by 11th February 2016.

The artwork of these two roll-up banners can be found in Annexes 7.3.3.1 and 7.3.3.2 of the FR.

Production of seven roll-up banners

The design and printing of the other previously-mentioned seven banners were kept on hold such that we could print them with ERA’s logo only, rather than inserting another bleed with MEPA’s logo (like it was done for the previously mentioned two banners).

Following a number of consultation with MEPA PR, it seems that there were difficulties in producing the two banners on an identification of key Mediterranean dolphin and turtle species (one in EN and one in MT); which had to be similar to the identification key of the Action E7 brochures. In this respect, there were again some further changes of the plan and instead the following were produced:

- an identification of key Mediterranean dolphin species (in EN) x2;
- an the identification of key Mediterranean turtle species (EN) x2;
- an identification of key Mediterranean whale species (EN);
- information on ‘Why we need N2K site for *C. caretta* and *T. truncatus*’ (EN); and
- the same as the later one but in MT.

Once the demerger was taking place, work on the production of these seven banners was initiated. When the the text was finalised, it was sent for higher management approvals. Similarly to the previous banners, the text was also translated to Maltese and the necessary approvals were sought from higher management. As for the design and layout, given the retrsrive timeframes we had, we included this with the call (TORs) to be sent for the printing.

The PR at the Planning Authority was responsible to issue the call for quotation for the design and printing of such roll-up banners. The call was in fact sent to the service providers mentioned in Table 5.16.

| Service Provider | Financial Offer (inc VAT) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Impressions | €1,115.10 |
| AF Sign Studios | €949.90 |

Table 5.16: Quotations received for the production of the seven roll-up banners.

²⁴ Such a task was ensured to be inserted as a TOR in the previously mentioned call for quotations. Thus, the service provider was notified that once MEPA’s demerger would take place, it will be contacted to cut off the top bleed and make the bottom bleed visible (i.e. the bleed containing the ERA logo).

The award was given to AF Sign studios, which provided the cheapest and most technical compliant bid. Once the service provider was selected, the text was sent and the seven banners were designed, printed and finalized on 25th April 2016. The design and layout of these seven roll-up banners can be found in Annexes 7.3.3.3; 7.3.3.4; 7.3.3.5; 7.3.3.6 and 7.3.3.7 of this FR.

Usage of roll-up banners

It was ensured that at least two roll-up banner would be present during all events related to the LIFE+ MIGRATE project. In fact, the banners were ensured to be in related events such as the following:

- the official launch of the project held on 12th February 2013;
- the boat show (26-28th September 2013), one was displayed on the boat and one in the gazebo promoting the project to boat owners present at this annual show;
- the official public talks, such as the ones done to the Royal Malta Yacht Club between the 26th and 28th of September 2013 and *Din l-Art Helwa* on 22nd August 2015;
- the Action E13 sectoral workshops which were held at the Malta National Aquarium and NTM premises between 26th September and 3rd October 2014;
- the beach clean-up related event at Wied iz-Zurrieq and at a conference held hosted by Let's Do It (LDI) Malta held on 9th May and 29th May 2015 respectively;
- the number of project awareness-raising event held on beaches, such as Gnejna Bay, St Thomas Bay and Pretty Bay;
- the training workshops with the volunteers, diving clubs and various organisations;
- the boat-based surveys inauguration day on 4th July 2014;
- for the project closing conference event on 29th April 2016, all the banners were displayed.

5.2.2.3. Action E3 - Website

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Expected end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Actual start date: | 01.04.2013 |
| Actual end date: | 29.04.2016 (will remain functional up to 5 years after as per contract and CPs) |
| Expected results (as per GA): | The project website will be designed, created, and up and running by the end of June 2013, and maintained and updated regularly throughout the duration of the project. This action will be carried out through a subcontractor selected after obtaining quotations from the market. |
| Achieved results to date: | Project website was set up and it is still running. |

Table 5.17: Expected and achieved results of Action E3.

The website action development was under MEPA's remit. A dedicated webpage on LIFE+MIGRATE was set up on MEPA's website to promote the said project until the official website was launched, since it involved the issuance of a tender which needed its timing and

could not be issued and awarded immediately. This website included basic and detailed information about the said project for the viewers. In this respect, this webpage was also updated with adverts for volunteer recruitments whilst the boat-based observation surveys were being conducted.

In the meantime, a call for quotation (approved by the government) for the designing, setting up, hosting and maintaining (for up to 5 years after project finishes) the website for the project (Action E3) was published in January 2013 and a number of submissions were received. The chosen subcontractor was Webee Malta, as it offered the cheapest and most technically compliant offer out of all the Service providers who participated, as shown in the Table 6.

| Service provider | Financial Offer (including VAT) |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Key Software (CCG Software) | €900.00 |
| Crimsonwing | €49.00 per hour (excl VAT) OR Bronze Package - €8,832 (excl VAT) OR Silver Package - €14,448 (excl VAT) OR Gold Package - €23,616 (excl VAT) |
| Alert Communication Ltd | €1,062.00 |
| Media Consulta Malta Ltd | €2,080.00 per year |
| Webee Malta | €805.00 |
| Pure Design | €1,080.00 |
| Luke Vella | €2,680.00 |
| M7Alpha Design Studios | €2,600.00 (total for 10 years) |
| Adverteyes | €53.10 |
| Hive Info System | €120.00 per year |
| Cyberspace Solutions Ltd | €15.00 per hour |

Table 5.18: Quotations received for hosting and maintaining the LIFE+ MIGRATE website.

In March 2013, a meeting was held between MEPA and the chosen subcontractor for further discussions and the new website was up and running by April 2013. A contract was then signed between both parties, which also included maintenance of the website for five years after the ending of the project. With regards to the payment of the website, Weebee Malta has to be paid on a yearly basis between 2013 and 2016.

Since its initialisation, the website has been regularly maintained and updated to ensure that interested parties are kept abreast of the developments of the project. It is constantly updated by inputting new information about the project and posting publications, such as the electronic-version brochures and e-newsletters. In addition, it is important to point out that after an internal meeting held in August 2014, there were discussions for potential updates for the website.

In the IncR, it was reported that the total number of unique visitors since the website became active was 889, whereas the total number of hits was 83,505. From the 2013 analytics, it can be observed that between July and September 2013; the number of unique visits for the website was of about 515 and the number of hits was 39,551. This outcome can be due to fact the 2013 boat-based surveys happened during these months and since we were training and requesting volunteers, there was a higher interest in the project and consequently in the people trying to access the website.

In 2014, there was a remarkable upsurge in both the number of unique visits and hits, as can be shown in Annex 7.3.2 of the MtR. The number of unique visits of the website between January and November 2014 was 6,052, whereas the number of hits between the same period was 228,215. Furthermore, it can be observed that the highest number of unique visits and hits was in July 2014, with a number of 1,010 and 39,808 respectively. The reason for the result was probably the same as before, i.e. due to the recruitment of the 2014 boat-based surveys.

The number of website hits continued to increase throughout the time period reported in the previous progress report, as can be seen in Annex 7.2.1 of the said PrR. This shows that during the summer months, the number of unique visitors has increased noticeably. The trigger during this time was probably the uploading of the project video on the website, which link (via the website) was shared on the social media network to increase its exposure.

From December 2015 onwards, there seemed to be a fluctuation in the number of unique visits and hits, as can be seen in Annex 7.3.4 of this FR. In fact, it can be noted that there were a number significant increases during the months of March and April 2016. This was probably prompted by the publication of the project on the Sunday Circle in March 2016; and the featuring of the project video during April 2016 (Please refer to section 5.2.9 for more information).

Following recommendations given during the CION/ Monitor visit in February 2016, the layout of the website was slightly modified. Most of the tabs remained the same, however, there were some restructuring of features. Website now contains the following (a full description of what the tabs entails also follows):

- **Home page**

The Home page, not modified, is the first page that is accessed when someone enters the project website. It serves as a hub and pathway to a lot of tabs and other information. The homepage also had a section, whereby one could easily report a cetacean and/or marine turtle species.

- **About us**

This section contains a description of the project, its aims and the involved beneficiaries (us) who are contributing in the LIFE+ MIGRATE project.

- **Marine species**

The section about Marine species mainly gives a detailed overview on the two species under study, i.e. the loggerhead turtle and the bottlenose dolphin. We have included a modification to include a detailed description on other marine turtles and other cetacean which are also found in the Mediterranean sea.

- **Actions**

This section gives a summary description of each action of the LIFE+MIGRATE as described in the Grant Agreement . This section is a completely new one introduced recently after the CION/Monitor visit.

- **News and Multimedia**

The following were uploaded under this section:

- Roll- up banners: the soft-copies of the design and text of the original roll-up banners (both in EN and MT) and the soft copies of the roll-up banners regarding marine turtles, dolphins, whales and the importance of N2K (both in EN and MT) were also uploaded online.
 - E- Newsletters: all issues from 1 to 12 were uploaded online. And this subcategory has currently been placed under the news and multimedia section whilst before news and newsletters were a single tab.
 - Videos: which included the original project videos (which videos will be explained further below in Section 5.2.2.6); the videos produced by KAI under the name of “LIFE+MIGRATE – KAI EXPEDITIONS MALTA 2014”; and other videos about various types of cetaceans in the Mediterranean sea.
 - Brochures: These included the brochures produced under Action E7 (available in EN, MT & ES²⁵) and under Action E14 (i.e. the sectoral brochures produced by KAI).
 - Press releases: such as the one on the training workshops held at Calypso sub-aqua club on 21.07.2015, and that held at *Majjistral* Park on 27.07.2015 and many others.
 - Media articles: which contain PDF files of articles which were featured on media.
 - Posters: these include the sectoral posters produced by KAI in relation to Action E14.
 - N2K Guidelines: These are guideline sproduced by KAI following the sectoral workshops and have been uploaded.
 - Reports: These include the IncR, MtR and the PrR. Once finalized and approved by CION, the FR will also be uploaded under this section.
 - Other publications: these included publications such as scientific papers which are related to the marine species under study.
 - Information on Training and Awareness: such as invitation to public talks and awareness-raising activities.
 - Information to volunteers: notices to volunteers regarding the boat-based surveys.
 - Links: these contain a list of links to relevant websites. We have included links to many other documents and official reports on turtles e.g. amongst others one finds links to the RAC/SPA’s fishermen turtle handling booklet and a link to the Natura 2000 website established by KAI as part of Action E14.
-
- Contact us: This section consists of contact information on who to contact with regards to the project.

²⁵ ES brochure: <http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/image.jpeg>

LIFE+ MIGRATE Facebook page

Social media, namely Facebook, is an important tool for increasing the visibility of the project, and therefore it enables the project to be advertised and promoted quite easily. Although this was not an obligation of the project, in fact, a Facebook page for the LIFE+MIGRATE project had been set up with the aim of delivering the content of the same project to the public²⁶. It was ensured that all documents, materials and other information which were uploaded on the project website, were also shared (or summarised in a few lines) via the project's Facebook page. This was also done to get more viewers on the LIFE+MIGRATE website and hence, increasing the project's visibility.

The Facebook page of the LIFE+ MIGRATE can be accessed from the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Project-Migrate/35854561758918>.

Promotion of LIFE+ MIGRATE project in other websites and social media

Moreover, BOV and KAI (as well as other stakeholders like the AFM and many of the local diving clubs e.g. Calypso Malta) also provided updates on this project through their websites and social media channels, such as the following:

- <https://www.bov.com/page.asp?n=newsdetails&i=10436>;
- www.kaimarineservices.com
- <https://www.facebook.com/KAI.Expeditions?ref=hl>;
- <http://kaimarineservices.com/lifemigratesurveys>;
- www.marinenature2000malta.com;
- www.afm.gov.mt; and
- www.facebook.com/ArmedForcesOfMaltaafm;
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/calypsomalta/>
<http://www.calypsosac.org/events/other-social-events?start=10>

and

Furthermore, KAI hung up two short videos of its Actions A3 and E13, which as

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIDB6wH7IJ0>; and
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_MHai7ak_Q

5.2.2.4. Action E4 – Project launch

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.01.2013 |
| Expected end date: | 31.03.2013 |
| Actual start date: | 01.01.2013 |
| Actual end date: | 12.02.2013 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | It is expected that around 30 invitees will attend the project launch, including the local media, NGOs and relevant authorities. |
| Achieved results to date: | The official launch was held on the 12th of February 2013 and generated good coverage in the local media. Please refer to Annex 7.3.2.1 of the IncR. |

Table 5.19: Expected and achieved results of Action E4.

²⁶ Mainly those who have a Facebook account, which nowadays, nearly everyone has one.

The project launch, under the remit of the former MTCE (Ministry for Tourism, Culture and the Environment), was held on the 12th February 2013, as an earlier date was not possible due to other Ministerial commitments. The launch was expected to be held within 4 months of project start being 1st October 2012, as per excerpt from the Grant Agreement. The event was held at 15:00 at a high profile venue, the Grand Hotel Excelsior in Floriana. The event started with a welcome note by Dr Ian Stafrace, MEPA’s former CEO, followed by an opening speech delivered Hon Dr Mario De Marco, former Minister for Tourism, Culture and the Environment who congratulated MEPA and its partners for securing funding for this project, while Hon. Dr De Marco highlighted the importance of this project, particularly for the conservation of biodiversity. The project details were then introduced by Ms Carmen Mifsud, LIFE MIGRATE- Project Manager, within MEPA, who gave an overview of what the project entails. This was followed by a short speech by Ms Vanessa Macdonald, Head Media and Community Relations at BOV, as the co-financier in this project.

A session for questions from the panel and the media present followed with the media showing a lot of interest in this project. After a short break, the event resumed with a presentation entitled ‘Stakeholders Role in the project: Queries and Discussions’, where stakeholders had the opportunity to get a better understanding of this project, their role in it and how they can be of contribution.

The stakeholders session event was attended by over 15 people from an audience of 20 people who attended the launch (from over 133 who were invited, in total) by the Ministry for Tourism, the Environment and Culture as the responsible partner for this action, included representatives of public & government entities, NGOs as well as the private sector and other relevant stakeholders. The details of the list of attendees and stakeholders were already displayed in the Inception report. Low turn out was mainly because this event coincided with an electoral campaign held in March, but nonetheless this event was still covered by media as listed in Table 5.20.

| Date | Media | Title |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 13th February, 2013 | Newspaper | The Times of Malta |
| 13th February, 2013 | TV | Net TV |

Table 5.20: Media coverage for Action E4.

Such coverage resulted in information shots which provide a start for both attendees as well as the general public to create interest in this project so as to seek more information. This resulted in an audience which was clearly more aware about these species and the need for Natura 2000 sites to protect them and what kind of work was planned to be undertaken through this EU Funded project so as to protect our environment.

Information about the project was also disseminated through an information press release & flash news issued by MEPA and other information on marine issues and the marine species in question (marine turtles and cetaceans) which were displayed at the entrance and distributed to the attendees during this event. The project information was printed on 3 roll-up banners,

produced through Action E2 and which were placed at the entrance of the hall and inside the conference room.

A previous launch had also been held on the 25th July 2012, when MEPA received the official notification that the project was chosen by the EU Commission for LIFE+ funding and this was extensively covered by the Media as well. However this could not be considered as the official launch but as a pre-launch since the official project initiation date was October 2012.

5.2.2.5. Action E5 – E-Newsletter

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Expected start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Expected end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Actual start date: | 01.06.2013 |
| Actual end date: | 26.02.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | The design and layout for the project's e-newsletter will be developed in-house at MEPA by the 6th month. After that, a newsletter will be published every quarter. |
| Achieved results to date: | <p>12 issues of the newsletters have been uploaded on the project website and published.</p> <p>The following issues have been published to the project's subscribers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter Issue 1 (2nd quarter 2013); • Newsletter Issue 2 (3rd Quarter 2013); • Newsletter Issue 3 (4th Quarter 2013); • Newsletter Issue 4 (4th Quarter 2013); • Newsletter Issue 5 (1st quarter 2014); • Newsletter Issue 6 (3rd quarter 2014); • Newsletter Issue 7 (4th Quarter 2014); • Newsletter Issue 8 (1st Quarter 2015); • Newsletter Issue 9 (2nd Quarter 2015); • Newsletter Issue 10 (3rd Quarter 2015); • Newsletter Issue 11 (4th Quarter 2015); and • Newsletter Issue 12 (1st Quarter 2016). <p>Issues 1– 6 are annexed with MtR; Issues 7-11 are annexed with PrR; and Issue 12 is attached as Annex 7.3.5.1 with this FR.</p> |

Table 5.21: Expected and achieved results of Action E5.

This action was under the remit of MEPA. The e-newsletter is necessary to ensure a continued interest in the project. It served as a reminder to visit the website, providing brief updates about the progress of the project, helping the project to keep in touch with interested parties and volunteers. Preparations for this action started in March 2013 and it was ensured that every e-newsletter which was issued was sent to all the invitees and stakeholders of the project launch. Later on, all the volunteers who registered to date and all the environment and

planning stakeholders of MEPA were subscribed to receive the LIFE+ MIGRATE e-newsletter.

In the MtR, it was reported that there were a total number of 1,599 subscribers, as per Annex 7.3.3.1. of the said MtR. When the project terminated in April 2016, it consisted of a total number of 1702 subscribers, as can be observed in Annex 7.3.5.2 of this FR.

As indicated in Table 5.21, a total number of twelve newsletters have been issued publicly, which are the following:

- **Newsletter Issue 1 (2nd quarter 2013)²⁷**: This first newsletter gave an introductory overview of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project, along with its aims and additional information with regards to the partners collaborating in the project. It also provided scientific details about the primary marine species under study in this project: the loggerhead turtles and the bottlenose dolphin. Please refer to Annex 7.3.3.2 of MtR for more information.
- **Newsletter Issue 2 (3rd Quarter 2013)²⁸**: This issue gave a detailed description about KAI Marine Services and their role as partners in this project. It also gave a detailed description about the methodology employed in this survey as well as the oasis experiment which KAI were also conducting in parallel with this project. Please refer to Annex 7.3.3.3 of MtR for more information.
- **Newsletter Issue 3 (4th Quarter 2013)²⁹**: the third issue of the newsletter was published. This issue gave an account of the boat-based survey since this had just been concluded and hence we wished to update the subscribers with the events on-board and any exciting encounters KAI had made. It also provided some basic information about the striped dolphin and sperm whale, in view of the encounters that KAI had with these mentioned marine species in summer 2013. Please refer to Annex 7.3.3.4 of MtR for more information.
- **Newsletter Issue 4 (4th Quarter 2013)³⁰**: The forth issue provided further updates on the 2013 boat surveys and general information about other deliverables of the project which were finalized such as the logo and the roll-up banners. There was also a description of the boat show event which happened in September 2013 promoted by BOV and which gave an added exposure of the project and of the survey boat and the survey methods to the people interested in boats and/or attending this event with the intention of buying a boat. A detailed description on the common dolphin, the fin whale and the green turtle were also included in this issue. Please refer to Annex 7.3.3.5 of MtR for more information.

²⁷ Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/E-Newsletter-No_1.pdf.

²⁸ Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/LIFE-MIGRATE-NEWSLETTER_No2.pdf

²⁹ Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/LIFE-MIGRATE-NEWSLETTER_No3.pdf

³⁰ Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/LIFE-MIGRATE-NEWSLETTER_No4_.pdf

- **Newsletter Issue 5 (1st quarter 2014)**³¹: Newsletter Issue 5 was published in 1st quarter 2014. This newsletter gave an overview of the on-going actions of the project. It also gave an overview of the production of a number of promotional items like polo shirts and caps. As part of the updates on species encountered and general knowledge provided, the 5th issue gave a description of the Risso's dolphin and the long finned pilot whale, also because the former species had been sighted a number of times by some volunteers. This issue also gave a description of the role of BOV, as the co-financiers in the project. Please refer to Annex 7.3.3.6 of MtR for more information.
- **Newsletter Issue 6 (3rd quarter 2014)**³²: This sixth issue gave a brief overview of the implementation of various actions following from the latest newsletter publication. This included the production of polo-shirts, caps, brochures and stickers as promotional items developed through this project and the second official Ministerial launch of the 2014 boat-based observation surveys. This issue also provided information about the Cuvier's beaked whale and the leatherback turtle, two species which have had not been previously discussed in preceding newsletters, but which merited some attention since they have been recorded in Maltese waters, also recently. Please refer to Annex 7.3.3.7 of MtR for more information.
- **Newsletter Issue 7 (4th Quarter 2014)**³³: The seventh issue was published in December 2014 and it gave an overview of the beach activities which occurred during summer 2014, to create more project awareness with such beach users. This issue also included articles written by two dedicated volunteers who described their experiences in the 2014 boat-based observation surveys. Please refer to Annex 7.2.2.1 of PrR for more information.
- **Newsletter Issue 8 (1st Quarter 2015)**³⁴: The eighth publication included three articles, which included:
 - An overview of the training workshop to AFM officials, as well as, the certificate-giving ceremony held the previous December, at the AFM premises;
 - A description of the Action E13 sectoral workshops, held in September 2014; and
 - An article written by a BOV official about their contribution in the project.
 The 8th issue of the newsletter was officially published on 9th March 2015. Please refer to Annex 7.2.2.2 of PrR for more information.
- **Newsletter Issue 9 (2nd Quarter 2015)**³⁵: After a brain-storming exercise, the following articles were included:
 - current status of the project;
 - The ACCOBAMS training course which was held in March 2015;
 - The LIFE+MIGRATE stand at the Earth day event at Higher Secondary School in Naxxar, Malta; and

³¹ Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/LIFE-MIGRATE-NEWSLETTER_No5.pdf

³² Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/LIFE-MIGRATE-NEWSLETTER_No6.pdf

³³ Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/LIFE-MIGRATE-NEWSLETTER_No7.pdf

³⁴ Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/LIFE-MIGRATE-NEWSLETTER_No8.pdf

³⁵ Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/LIFE-MIGRATE-NEWSLETTER_No915.pdf.

- o An article regarding occasional species which visit the Mediterranean Sea, focusing on the Hawksbill sea turtle and the killer whale.

This edition was eventually published in June 2015. Please refer to Annex 7.2.2.3 of PrR for more information.

- **Newsletter Issue 10 (3rd Quarter 2015)**³⁶: This issue was published in August 2015. and included information on :
 - o Turtle and dolphin sightings in Malta;
 - o Let's Do It (Malta) campaign held in May 2015 (refer to Summary of Progress May 2015)
 - o Correction of an erroneous press statement released in July about the scarcity of the Risso's dolphin (which according to this article was not recorded in the past 34 years) ; and
 - o Detailed information about a leatherback turtle found dead and stranded in Cirkewwa in July 2015.

A copy of this issue can be found in Annex 7.2.2.4 of the PrR.

- **Newsletter Issue 11 (4th Quarter 2015)**³⁷: The 11th issue was launched in October 2015, and gave an overview of the various training workshops held during summer 2015, mainly done for fishers, diving schools, Majjistral Park officials and other NGOs. In fact, this issue also featured an article about the experience of an official from Majjistral Park, who collaborated with MEPA on these workshops. This edition also featured other articles about the project's promotion beach events which had been held in September 2015, a brief overview about the project's video and a description about occasional marine species spotted in the Mediterranean, focusing on the Kemp's ridely sea turtle and the rough-toothed dolphin. Please refer to Annex 7.2.2.5 of the PrR.

- **Newsletter Issue 12 (1st Quarter 2016)**³⁸: This issue was published in February 2016 and it gave a summary on:
 - o project awareness event done to young students who attended San Anton school at Mgarr (Malta); whereby beach umbrellas, brochures and stickers were disseminated;
 - o networking done during a workshop on bottlenose dolphin conservation in Marseille, whereby the coordinating beneficiary presented an abstract of a paper on the networking done with stakeholders during this project;
 - o two other articles regarding occasional species which visit the Mediterranean Sea, focusing on the Olive ridely sea turtle and the harbour porpoise.

For more information, please refer to Annex 7.3.5.1 of this FR.

A thirteenth issue of the newsletter was envisaged to be issued in April 2016 (2nd Quarter 2016), and in fact, the coordinating beneficiary was brainstorming ideas for articles to be potentially featured on this issue. However, due to time constraints which were mainly related to MEPA's demerger and finalizing of urgent matter of the same project, this issue was never published.

³⁶Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/LIFE-MIGRATE-NEWSLETTER_10.pdf.

³⁷Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/LIFE-MIGRATE-NEWSLETTER_No11.pdf.

³⁸Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/LIFE-MIGRATE-NEWSLETTER_No12.pdf

5.2.2.6. Action E6 – Short Video

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Expected end date: | 30.06.2013 |
| Actual start date: | 01.12.2013 |
| Actual end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | The video, in Maltese and English, will be developed by the end of June 2013, and will be aired on local TV stations, and uploaded onto the project website. |
| Achieved results to date: | <p>Four LIFE+MIGRATE videos has been produced, which are the following:</p> <p>A fifteen-minute video in MT with no subtitles (Annex 7.1.1 of the PrR);</p> <p>A fifteen-minute video in MT with EN subtitles (Annex 7.3.6.1 of this FR);</p> <p>A fifteen-minute video in EN with no subtitles (Annex 7.3.6.2 of this FR); and</p> <p>A two-minute video in MT (Annex 7.3.6.3 of this FR).</p> <p>The fifteen-minute MT video (with no subtitles) was featured on TV in August 2015, as per Annex 7.2.3.10 of the PrR. The two-minute video was also feature on local TV in April 2016, as per Annex 7.3.8.9 of this FR.</p> <p>All video were uploaded on the project website and shared via Facebook.</p> |

Table 5.22: Expected and achieved results of Action E6.

Action E6, which was under MEPA’s remit, was initially intended to start in the last quarter of 2012 and to be finalised by the second quarter of 2013. It was decided to issue the video towards the end of the project, in 2015, beginning of 2016, to assist in the dissemination of the results of this project.

In the mean-time, other video footages were produced during the year (2013 & 2014) also for E9 and which had the intention of gathering more volunteers and introducing the project to the public. In these videos the website as well as the call for volunteers, were referred to, these being the primary aims of the video described in E6. Thus the aims of action E6 with regards to volunteers were already attained through such video footages. They were done for the ‘*Malta u lil hinn Minnha*’ award-winning TV series, a program aired on TVM (Public Broadcasting Services) on Sunday morning and repeated thereafter at different time of the day on different channels (TVM, TVM2). They were included as an E9 Action (feature on local popular media), however, as stated fulfilled the primary aims of the E6 Video. These video features were aired on the 18th December 2013 and on the 9th June 2013 and one of them featured the Project Manager, filmed on the 21st May 2013, giving the training presentation to AFM, hence instigating further the interest from volunteers. In both instances, together with

the video footage about the training and details on the project, we also informed about the need for volunteers and the project's website for those who wished to subscribe. Thus, MEPA felt that it provided good publicity for the project through such media already and the need to revert the focus to disseminate the results through a video footage rather than repeating another video footage with such issues, since the aims for volunteers had already been reached. Following this notification to the Commission, they replied that the video should be finalised by autumn 2014.

A tender was issued so that the selected subcontractor could join in the 2014 boat-based observation surveys (done by KAI) and record footage directly of species in question (if they happen to see such cetaceans on the relevant days when they join), the survey methods and get interviews from KAI's team such that the project's results and methodology can be visually promoted better. This tender was issued as T02/2014 on the MEPA website and the Government Gazette on the 14th of March 2014 and closed on the 9th of April 2014. It was also publicized on local newspapers (the Malta Independent on Sunday) on the 16th March. Throughout the publishing phase of the said tender, there was a clarification period between the 26th and the 28th of March 2014, whereby all queries in relation to the subject of the tender was answered.

On the 8th of May 2014, Mediacoop was chosen and following his acceptance [price-€7,994.50 (including VAT)] a contract between them and MEPA was signed on the 6th June 2014.

On the 18th of June 2014, a meeting was done with Mediacoop to discuss on how to proceed with the production of the short video and in what issues MEPA could help with regards to interview needed and other material to finalise this video. In this meeting, Mediacoop described briefly how they intended to progress and as per requirements of the tender sent a rough idea of the storyboard by the 2nd week of July. The storyboard was reviewed by MEPA, however modifications had to be made and further updates and information were awaited, such that the text could fall better in place if in context with the filming.

Eventually, works began on the filming on the video. The video was intended to contain the following:

- video footages of the boat-based surveys being conducted;
- a number of footages showing marine turtles and cetaceans which were encountered during the said boat-based surveys; and
- interviewing the members who took part in the LIFE+MIGRATE surveys.

In this respect, MEPA introduced Mediacoop to KAI, which liaised together in view of the filming of the 2014 boat-based surveys. In addition, Mediacoop also filmed the interviews with KAI during these surveys, and eventually, also with the project management team at MEPA. KAI also provided underwater footage of dolphins and sea turtles (produced during the A3 boat surveys) to Mediacoop.

However, there has been some delay in the production of the video in view of unforeseen circumstances such as bad weather or unavailability of personnel during the filming of the boat-based observation surveys. In this respect, an addendum to the tender document had to

be done. The addendum also had to be drafted since there were also no video footages of the bottlenose dolphin species (one of the marine species in subject), and it was not appropriate to produce such a video without featuring this species. Following the necessary approvals from higher MEPA officials, the addendum was signed by both the CEO of MEPA and Mediacoop (the video subcontractor) and thus the end date of this deliverable was shifted to the beginning of February 2015.

It was agreed that Mediacoop should provide a script and a draft video by January 2015 whilst MEPA was handling the issue in relation to the lack of bottlenose dolphin video footages.

In fact, the script was delivered by Mediacoop and discussed and approved internally by MEPA (including by higher management and the PR office) following a number of different version and an early storyboard. Eventually, Mediacoop also produced and provided MEPA with a draft version by mid-January 2015, which draft version was approved. In the mean time, Mediacoop were also invited to film footage of the AFM workshop held on the 15th December 2014, although previous footage done for *Malta u l'hinn minnha* (which was featured in 2014) was also reviewed by MEPA with the intention to be included in the video. The draft video before the final version was also discussed and eventually approved by the PR office.

By January 2015, MEPA had asked a number of regional and international experts who work on the bottlenose species and managed to receive very good video footages of the this dolphin, which were subsequently immediately sent them to Mediacoop (the contractor for this tender) to finalize the video and including the copyright of these experts or the companies they work with in the final video footage. The original project video (Annex 7.1.1) was finalised in February 2015 and was shown during the EC and Monitor's visit on the 25th of February 2015. Following recommendations from the Monitor, the video was sent back to Mediacoop for some slight final modification.

Once the project video was amended and finalised, MEPA's PR office managed to make the necessary arrangements with the Maltese public broadcasting services officials, to air it on the national local TV station throughout the month of August for free (Annex 7.2.3.10 of the PrR).

Following MEPA PR's approval, the video was uploaded on MEPA's Youtube account, put on the project's website³⁹ and eventually shared on the project's Facebook page⁴⁰. The project was also disseminated to the project partners, other MEPA officials, volunteers, the individuals registered in the LIFE+ Migrate mailing list, other local and foreign marine institutions and/or e-NGOs⁴¹ and other marine environment-related entities to increase the visibility of the project. In fact, ACCOBMAS⁴² and BOV even took the opportunity to upload the project video on their respective websites.

³⁹ Link: <http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/life-migrate-video/>.

⁴⁰ Link: https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=751749824935423&id=358545617589181.

⁴¹ These marine NGOs or institutions were the ones who kindly freely provided MEPA with the footages of the bottlenose dolphin and with photos of the dorsal fins of the dolphins which was used for the photo-identification part of the dolphin footages.

⁴² Link: <http://www.accobams.org/index.php>.

In parallel, there were numerous internal discussions, also with the PR office to discuss the wide dissemination of this video and a number of options were discussed including dissemination to Air Malta for in-flight entertainment, the Gozo channel operators for featuring during the 20 minute ferry trip between Gozo and Malta, showing it at the Malta National Aquarium, which frequently show such national videos on wildlife. MEPA checked the feasibility of these options vis-à-vis funds needed for such dissemination and there are still some savings for such dissemination actions. However, it was discussed and decided that a shorter video (of 1-to-2 minutes long) would be more pertinent for such use, particularly for social media and if it could be produced from such savings. Thus, Mediacoop, who were awarded the contract following a tender and who did the original video were asked about the production of such a short video (both in English and Maltese and with subtitles). This was first approved internally by higher management (Chairman & CEO) since it entailed a 'direct order' based on the justification that Mediacoop were the original video footage producers and thus they already had all the original materials and video footages needed and seeking another external service provider would thus be much more expensive.

Also, there were discussions to produce another video with English voiceover (refer to Annex 7.3.6.2 of this FR) , since such a video would be more appropriate for use where tourist are present e.g. on the Gozo ferry and at the Malta National Aquarium. After getting all the necessary approval, Mediacoop was also contacted for an English script, which MEPA reviewed and sent back with comments accordingly. Mediacoop sent a quotation for this task, which was approved and the relevant videos were all produced and finalised in late February-March 2016.

There were also discussions with MEPA PR office to discuss the following pending issues irw with the project video:

- the project video in MT with EN subtitles;
- the two minute video, which is to be used for sharing in social media networks.

Following this meeting, Mediacoop was contacted again, in order to see how the above mentioned video can be finalised. Mediacoop informed MEPA that there were no problems to produce MT video with the EN subtitles and in fact, the video was produced free of charge and finalised by the first quarter of 2016 (Annex 7.3.6.1 of this FR). However, they had needed some time to work on the other two, mainly to construction the storyboard for both videos.

With regards to the two-minute video, PR requested a confirmation (also in view of the costs involved) from higher management in order to proceed, which confirmation was accepted. Following this, MEPA contacted Mediacoop to start drafting the storyboard of this video. This storyboard of this particular video needed to capture the highlights of the project and concentrate on the most salient points as to be able to summarise it two minutes and hence could not just be extracted from the original video. In fact, there has been numerous re-drafting of the said storyboard both by Mediacoop and MEPA. Eventually, a meeting was held between both entities on the final editing of this two-minute video and it was finalised in the first quarter of 2016, uploaded on the website and shared on Facebook; after gaining the necessary approvals from PR, higher management and project partners. This video in attached with this FR as Annex 7.3.6.3.

After producing the above latest three videos, MEPA was in liaison with the National Aquarium (at Qawra), who offered to feature the EN video free of charge at their premises to their daily clients, as per previous agreement made with this entity (Annex 7.3.6.4 of this FR). Also, MEPA liaised with Gozo Channel to feature the project video on their ferries. In fact, Gozo Channel offered to feature the MT fifteen-minute video with EN subtitles and the two minute video (Annex 7.3.6.5 of FR).

Furthermore, the coordinating beneficiary managed to contact PBS to feature the two-minute video everyday during the month of April 2016 at peak times (Annex 7.3.8.9 of FR). PBS were contacted directly since it is the main public television station that has the most viewers (Annex 7.3.6.6.). This is also discussed in more detail in Section 5.2.2.9 (ActionE9) further below.

In addition to the above-mentioned videos, KAI produced two short videos: a 3-minute video of action A3 and the boat-based surveys over the 2014 summer period, which videos were uploaded on the project website. This video also served as a means to raise public awareness about turtles and cetaceans; and at the same time increasing the level of visibility of the project until the actual LIFE+MIGRATE video was produced and published. The video can be found in the following link: <http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/lifemigrate-kai-expeditions-malta-2014/>.

A second video was produced by KAI in the context of action E13, focusing on the Lampuki fishery https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_MHai7ak_Q.

5.2.2.7. Action E7 – Brochures

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Expected start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Expected end date: | 31.03.2013 |
| Actual start date: | 01.01.2013 |
| Actual end date: | 13.02.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | <p>A minimum of 75,000 brochures will be printed by March 2013 - 50,000 in English, and 25,000 in Maltese. These will be distributed through the local media, and at events. They will also be available at the offices of MEPA and the MTCE, since these are often visited by the public.</p> <p>It is expected that these brochures will generate an interest in the project and will result in increased traffic on the project website, and an increased level of cooperation from the public, especially with respect to Action E11.</p> <p>The brochure will also be available online in three languages: Maltese, English and Spanish.</p> |
| Achieved results to date: | 25, 000 MT and 50, 0000 EN versions of the brochures have been produced, both hard copies and electronic versions, as per Annex 7.3.4of the MtR. |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>A Spanish version of the brochure has also been produced but only in electronic format, as per Annex 7.3.7 of this FR.</p> <p>All electronic versions of the brochures have been uploaded on the project website.</p> <p>The brochures have been widely disseminated, especially during training workshops and project promotion events. Brochures were also given to other entities and third parties, so that they can disseminate them within their premises.</p> |
|--|---|

Table 5.23: Expected and achieved results of Action E7.

Hard copies of the brochures

This action was under the remit of MEPA. Planning and design of the official LIFE+MIGRATE project brochures started in January 2013 and finalized from the textual & design point of view. In view of large amounts of brochures to be produced, the printing had to be outsourced through a tender, to follow Government procurement regulations, and hence the printing and production of the brochures for this Action had to be done through a tender amalgamated with other deliverables for Actions E10 and E11, to avoid further procurement delays with single tenders, increasing the efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

The tender T12/2013 was published on the 29th November 2013 on the MEPA website and the Government Gazette on the same day after approval by the Chairman and subsequently by Principle Permanent Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister (PPS at OPM). This tender eventually closed on the 20th December 2013 and it had a clarification period between the 6th and 12th December 2014. The budget available for this contract was € 43,000 and 2 bids were received, as per Table 5.24.

| Service providers | Financial Offer (including VAT) |
|--------------------------|--|
| Gutenberg Press Ltd. | €65,978.00 |
| Mompalao Trading Ltd. | €18,205.50 |

Table 5.24: Quotations received for printing of brochures and purchasing of the promotional items

The bid from Gutenberg Press Ltd. was rejected at the financial evaluation stage on the grounds that the offer presented was way over the maximum budget stipulated for this call for tender and even though, the other tenderer's offer was within the threshold, it was administratively non-compliant since only the first page of the Tender Form was submitted. On 30th January 2014, this tender thus had to be declared cancelled following the internal approval systems.

Following the cancellation of this tender procedure, and the closure of the appeals period, MEPA re-checked the technical offer presented by Mompalao Trading Ltd., which would have otherwise been technically compliant as requested in the issued tender document.

A decision was taken by the DCS, approved by Chairman and later CEO to issue a direct order with Mompalao on the basis that it was technically compliant and since re-issuing

another tender would have implied in further delays of the project. Following the internal approvals this direct order was then approved by the PPS at OPM.

The English version brochures were sent for printing in April 2014 and 50,000 copies of this version were ready by May 2014. In parallel, the text of the brochures was translated to Maltese, which brochures were eventually sent for printing and another 25,000 copies were available by June 2014. A copy of both English and Maltese versions of the brochures can be found in Annex 7.3.4.1 and Annex 7.3.4.2 of the MtR.

In the meantime, whilst MEPA was awaiting the above mentioned procedure for issuing a tender to produce these brochures, it cooperated with BOV, the project's co-financier, to create an attractive volunteer appealing brochure (depicting dolphins) to invite volunteers to this project. This brochure was disseminated throughout all BOV branches in Malta as well as through MEPA's reception offices after April 2013. This brochure/leaflet still achieved the aims of the brochures (before they were produced) and helped to attract and generate interest amongst the public for this project. It also contained reference to the project's website and hence motivated the people to sign up as volunteers. These brochures were and are still being disseminated, along with the official project brochures.

A number of brochures were observed to contain some print magenta stains, which rendered the brochure visibly inappropriate. A statistically valid number of random samples of these brochures had been examined from each box to check the extent of the problem. This took quite some time, but fortunately, it resulted that only very few brochures were actually printed with damages and hence in September 2014, MEPA verified that this tender was completed.

In addition, the logos of Natura 2000 and LIFE+ were placed and printed on the back side of the English version of the brochures. After the visit of the Monitor on the 30th of May 2014, it was suggested that these logos would be placed on the front cover of all version of the brochures in order to gain more prominence⁴³. As a result, it was decided that a small sticker containing these logos would be produced, printed and placed on the front side of the English versions (since the MT could be corrected in time as they were still to be printed). This seemed as the best alternative to avoid waste of paper (for the production of the brochures) and additional expenses.

On 19th February 2015, the LIFE+ Migrate team at MEPA had a meeting with the National Affairs Unit to see a way forward on the production of the stickers (containing such logos) to be affixed on the 3 gate A4-brochures. One of the design artwork experts in MEPA had come up with this solution and had worked a specific template, such that whoever could take the printing call, would know exactly what needs to be printed and where to eventually affix them, when finalised Procurement procedures were discussed and it resulted that TORs with specific technical specifications should be drafted in order to publish an open call. Meetings were also held with the procurement team, in which further updates on the TORs were done.

⁴³ By that time, the MT brochures were not yet sent for printing. Therefore, following this meeting, the layout of MT version was edited accordingly, whereby the N2K and LIFE+ logos were positioned in the front to gain more prominence. This edit was also done in the electronic format of both EN and MT versions of the brochures.

After obtaining the necessary approvals, the calls for the printing of 50,000 stickers and the affixing of these stickers were sent to the relevant service providers mentioned in Table 5.25 on 29th August 2015.

| Service Providers | Financial Offer (including VAT) |
|--------------------------|--|
| Five Star Printing | Does not offer the service |
| UV Print | No quotations received |
| Best Print Malta | No quotations received |
| Dormax Press Co. Ltd | No quotations received |

Table 5.25: Quotations received for printing and affixing of stickers.

After providing the above-mentioned service providers (as per Table 5.25) with a stipulated deadline, only Five Star Printing replied back, however, stating that it does not offer that service. The call was re-sent again to the other three service providers. However, no quotations were received, even though the call was further re-issued for another two times. Currently, MEPA is dealing with the procurement team and the National affairs to try and find a way forward and an overall solution as soon as possible.

Following a meeting with Nation Affairs, it was decided that a direct order should be done to specific service provider, as this would still be in line with procurement regulations in place.

Dormax Press Co Ltd was contacted directly by MEPA and after a number of negotiations; they provided a quotation for the printing of and affixation of the said stickers with the N2K and LIFE+ logos. After reviewing such quotation, MEPA reconsidered whether such a task should be done in view of its feasibility. Eventually, before proceeding with the direct order, this query was raised at the CION/Monitor meeting held on 15th February 2016, so that they could confirm that we could proceed. CION then informed that it was not necessary to do the stickers to do the LIFE and N2K logo on the front since it was acceptable as it was. . Thus, it was decided that such a task would be discarded.

Electronic format of the brochures

The electronic versions of both the Maltese and the English version of the brochures were produced by June 2014 and were uploaded on the project website. One can easily access these electronic brochures in the following links:

- MT brochure:
<http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/life-migrate-brochure-mt/>; and
- EN brochure:
<http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/life-project-migrate-identification-brochure/>.

Also, these can be seen in Annex 7.3.4.3 and Annex 7.3.4.4 of the MtR.

According to the grant agreement, a Spanish electronic version of this brochure was also expected to be produced. It was agreed that quotations for the Spanish translation would be sent by public relations office of the coordinating beneficiary to three specific and relevant service providers. The call was sent out in January 2015 and it was sent to the service providers mentioned in Table 5.26.

| Service Providers | Financial Offer (including VAT) |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Global Translation Solutions (GTS) | €151.04 |
| Transcripta Translation Services Ltd | €168.16 |
| Euris Consult Ltd | €173.88 |

Table 5.26: Quotations received for translation of the brochures from EN to ES.

The cheapest and most technical compliant quote, i.e. Global Translation Solution (GTS), was chosen, after which the necessary approvals from higher management were obtained. The service provider was contacted and notified accordingly. In February 2015, the English text of the brochure was given to GTS, which translated it in a few days time. After receiving the translated text from GTS, it was sent to KAI for proof reading, and they approved it, following some minor modifications they recommended.

The translated text was inserted in the general layout and design of the official brochure, which task was done in-house by MEPA. Following a number of internal discussions and obtaining the necessary approvals from higher management and project partners, the ES version of the brochure was finalized and uploaded on the project website on 13th February 2016 (Annex 7.3.7 of this FR). One can easily access it in the following link: <http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/image.jpeg>.

Dissemination of brochures

It was ensured that once the electronic versions were uploaded online, they were disseminated to subscribers of the LIFE+MIGRATE e-newsletter mailing list.

With regards to the hard copies of the brochures, they were disseminated to various third parties during events and activities related to the project. In fact, the brochures were disseminated during the following:

- the Action A3 boat based surveys inauguration day;
- the numerous Action E11 training workshops organised for fishers, divers, AFM, volunteers and other various stakeholders;
- the Action E10 project awareness events, such as the ones held at *Ġnejna Bay*, *Pretty Bay* and *St Thomas Bay*;
- the Action E13 sectorial workshops held between 26th September and 3rd October 2014;
- Public talks, such as the ones held at Boat Fair and at *Din l-Art Helwa*;
- turtle-release events organised by Nature Trust Malta (NTM), and in which MEPA had collaborated;
- the certificate-giving ceremonies done to AFM on the 15th December 2014;
- lectures of Systems of Knowledge (Environmental Module) at the University of Malta Junior College, whereby a representative from MEPA communication office was present;
- LIFE Marine Platform meeting on 26th and 27th March 2015
- Earth day events (22nd April), both on in 2015 and 2016;
- The Clean up event hosted by LDI Malta (9th April 2015) and the meeting of the LIFE Migrate team with the Minister of Environment, that of Transport and the Environment Commissioner Dr Carmelo Vella on the said day;
- The LIFE *BaHAR* for N2K's (another EU LIFE project) photo exhibition (held during August 2015);

- Freshers' Week on Campus (28th September 2015 – 02nd October 2015), which were disseminated by Scubed (a science student organisation at the University of Malta);
- Toastmasters (Malta) for their public speaking meeting on the 22nd September 2015 wherein the project manager gave a speech on local dolphins, their importance and the EU LIFE MIGRATE project;
- San Anton School, which will disseminate them to their students;
- the Sunday bio-diversity tours, which event was held every Sunday by MEPA (and eventually, ERA) between November 2015 and April 2016;
- an international workshop of LIFE+ Malta Seabird project (23rd November 2015).
- the Bottlenose Dolphin Conservation workshop organised by GIS3M and held in Marseilles in December 2015;
- an Induction Course hosted by ERA to University Students in April 2016; and
- the LIFE+MIGRATE closing conference event on 29th April 2016.

A number of brochures were continuously left in the foyer of the main offices of MEPA and at hexagon house⁴⁴, whereby they were disseminated by the receptionists and to be taken by people waiting in that area to be called for an appointment with the customer care personnel.

In addition, a number of these brochures were also provided to a number of entities in order to be distributed within their premises; which entities are the following:

- Malta Tourism Authority;
- Armed Forces of Malta;
- Bank of Valletta;
- Birzebbuga local council;
- Marsaskala local council;
- Mgarr local council;
- EcoGozo Regional Development Directorate;
- Dive systems diving schools;
- Calypso diving school;
- Shark lab (an local NGO focused on the conservation of sharks and chondrichthyes); and
- the library of the life guards' premises at Golden Bay.

5.2.2.8. Action E8 – Layman's report

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.07.2014 |
| Expected end date: | 31.12.2015 |
| Actual start date: | 01.11.2014 |
| Actual end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | The layman's report is expected to be finalised and printed by the end of December 2015. 500 copies will be printed in |

⁴⁴ Hexagon house was the premises where the environmental part of MEPA was established. After MEPA's demerger, it was the official premises of ERA.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| | English, and 100 in Maltese. |
| Achieved results to date: | 500 copies of EN versions and 100 copies of MT versions of the layman’s reports. A copy of both versions can be found in Annex 7.3.1 of this FR. Both versions are also in electronic format. |

Table 5.27: Expected and achieved results of Action E8.

This action was under MEPA’s remit. In October 2015, works began on the drafting of the Layman’s, whereby originally it was envisaged that it would have the following structure:

- Introduction
- Species – Natura 2000
- Training and identification
- Surveys
- Results about the following:
 - Training
 - Stakeholder
 - Citizen Science
 - Site designation
- Conclusions & After-LIFE

However, after numerous edits of the said report, the structure was slightly modified, whereby it resulted to be as follows:

- Project Identity - which provided some details about the LIFE+ MIGRATE project such as beneficiaries involved, website address and contact details;
- Table of contents;
- Aims and objectives – which gave an overview of what the goals entailed to achieve by this project;
- The Marine species – whereby a description about the bottlenose dolphin, the loggerhead turtle and other related marine migratory species were given;
- Activities – this section gave an overview of the tasks done in the project such as the collection of data, the training done to help individuals to distinguish marine turtle and cetaceans from one another, the involvement of stakeholders and the project promotion events done to raise awareness;
- Results – which section gave a summary of the findings and maps which were established following the analysis of the collected data;
- Chosen sites – the part of the report provided a description of the three pSCIs being proposed by the coordinating beneficiary as part of this project (Please refer to Section 5.1.4);
- Lessons learnt – this section gives a summary of the lesson learnt from observations taken whilst the project was being held;
- Next steps – this part of the layman’s report focused more on the After-LIFE and it gave a descriptions of actions to be taken after the termination of the project;
- Glossary – definition of key and scientific words were given in order to be understandable by the people who read the layman’s report.

Once the final draft of the above mentioned layman’s report was produced, it was sent for internal proof reading.

It was suggested by MEPA’s PR office, that there should be two separate calls for the design and the translations as follows:

- Three quotes for the translation to Maltese; and
- a call for the design and printing of the report

The above was decided since most service providers would not have such specialised translators if they are more specialised in design and printing and hence we would risk getting a lesser quality end product if MEPA had combined the call.

The issuing of the above mentioned calls were delayed in order to insert a section on the chosen sites, as previously mentioned. However, this could only be incorporated in the said report following the conclusion of the site designation exercise by MSDEC (described further above in Section 5.1.4). Initially, it was envisaged that the sites would be selected by latest beginning of April 2016 and it was discussed that the above-mentioned Calls should be sent to the respective service providers at that time.

Unfortunately, the sites were not selected by the beginning of April 2016 and in order to not waste time, it was decided that text of the layman’s report, excluding the part of the chosen sites, would still be sent for translation to Maltese. The section on the chosen sites would therefore be sent later, should the sites have been approved by Cabinet. It was also decided that if such sites were approved at a later date then mid-April 2016, the mentioned section on Chosen sites would then eventually not been included in layman’s report.

A call was sent out to various service providers for the translation of the layman’s report from EN to MT.

The cheapest and most technical compliant quote from Global Translation Solution (GTS), was selected, after which the necessary approvals from higher management were obtained. The service provider was contacted and notified and the EN text of the said report was sent accordingly for translation.

Since the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposed sites in mid-April 2016, GTS was contacted again to translate the section on the chosen sites. Since this was not part of the quotation originally published, GTS sent out another quotation, which price was agreed to.

In the meantime while the first translation was taking place, a call for quotation was also sent out relevant stakeholders with regards to the printing and design of the said layman’s report. The Call was sent out the service providers listed in Table 5.28.

| Service Providers | Financial Offer (including VAT) |
|--------------------------|--|
| Gutenberg Press Ltd | €3,481 |
| Logix Creative | €3,436.75 |
| TBWA\ANG | €3,543.87 |
| Outlook Coop | €2,795 |

Table 5.28: Quotations received for design and printing of the layman’s report.

Outlook Coop was selected as it offered the cheapest and most technically compliant bid of €2,795. In this respect, Outlook was informed that it was the chosen subcontractor and text of the layman’s report, both in EN and MT, was sent accordingly. Also, a number of pictures were sent to Outlook Coop to be included in the report, which photos were taken during the lifetime of the project such as photos of species encountered during the boat-based surveys and the project-related activities being held.

500 copies of layman’s reports in EN and another 100 copies of the same report in MT were produced.

Once finalized, copies of this report were immediately given to the following entities, as to disseminate them within their premises:

- AFM;
- BOV;
- EcoGozo; and
- a number of diving schools.

In addition to the above, a number of copies of the layman’s reports were disseminated in the project’s closing conference event on 29th April 2016.

A copy of the EN version of the layman’s report can be found in Annex 7.3.1.1 of this FR and another copy in MT can be found in Annex 7.3.1.2 of the same FR. Also, a soft copy of both versions can be found online by accessing the following links:

- MT layman’s report:
<http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/marine-doc-MT.pdf>; and
- EN layman’s report:
<https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/marine-doc.pdf>.

5.2.2.9. Action E9 – Feature on local popular media

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.10.2012 |
| Expected end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Actual start date: | 04.12.2012 |
| Actual end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | The project will feature in a minimum of one TV or radio programme, newspaper or magazine per quarter. The interest generated by this action is expected to be reflected in the number of visitors to the website and subscribing to the mailing list, and the number of volunteers participating in the boat-based surveys. |
| Achieved results to date: | The Project was featured on local media (mostly: TV, radio, newspaper and magazines) every quarter from October 2012 till April 2016 and with a higher number than originally envisaged in the Grant Agreement. |

Table 5.29: Expected and achieved results of Action E9.

This action was under MEPA’s remit. From its beginning till its end, the project has been featured in many local as well as regional popular media including television, radio, and various articles in local newspapers and local and regional magazines. The features were done on a much more frequent basis than the required quarterly basis stipulated in the grant agreement.

Table 5.30 summarises the features on local media from the project’s initiation until the publication of the inception report.

| Date | Media | Title | Quarter | Annex |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| 18th December 2012 | TV | ‘Malta u l’hinn Minnha’ - Sunday program . This was filmed on 4th December 2012, aired on 18th December 2012, with a repetition on 17th February 2013. | IV (2012) | |
| 12th February 2013 | Newspaper and Press releases | Newsflash re project (see E4) | I (2013) | Annex 7.2.6.d of IncR |
| 12th February 2013 | TV | NET TV: Launch of project – interview with Project Manager. | I (2013) | Annex 7.3.8.1 of this FR |
| 13th February 2013 | Newspaper- The Times of Malta | ‘Major study of Dolphins and Turtles’ | I (2013) | Annex 7.2.6.c of IncR |
| March 2013 | Article in Magazine- ‘Growing up’ | ‘Growing up in Malta’ by Ms. Vanessa MacDonald | I (2013) | Annex 7.2.6.a of IncR |
| 17th April 2013 | Talk at RMYB for annual boat race | ‘Round the Islands- Malta Race’ | II (2013) | Annex 7.2.7.a of IncR |
| 18th April 2013 | Press release by BOV | ‘16 boats for BOV Round the Islands 2013’ | II (2013) | Annex 7.2.7 of IncR |
| 22nd Apr 2013 | Radio | ‘Familja waħda’ (one family) Radju Malta (93.7MHZ-FM) | II (2013) | Annex 7.2.6f of IncR |
| 30th May 2013 | Newspaper - Article | Outlook (Journal) - included with Times Newspaper –following training session of AFM- – | II (2013) | Annex 7.2.6.e of IncR |

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|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------|------------------------|
| | | ‘Maritime Squadron Personnel receive intensive training in marine species recognition’ | | |
| 9th June 2013 | TV | ‘Malta u l’ hinn Minnha’ - Sunday program – Filming training to AFM on 21th May 2013. It was eventually aired on 9th June 2013, with a repetition on 23rd June 2013. This was described on AFM website (www.afm.gov.mt) and their Facebook. | II (2013) | |
| 29th July 2013 | Radio | Radio program (Radju Malta- ‘Familja Wahda’), wherein we gave further information and updates on the project and alerted the public about the potential for joining this project as volunteers | III (2013) | Annex 7.2.6.f of IncR |
| August 2013 | Article in Magazine | ‘Engineering Today’, issue number 46 which is published three to four times a year- ‘All hands on Deck to safeguard our Marine Heritage’ | III (2013) | Annex 7.2.6.b of IncR |
| 8th August 2013 | Press release by BOV | ‘Sea Users briefed on the Life+ Migrate project and get training on the identification of dolphin and turtle species’ | III (2013) | Annex 7.2.10.a of IncR |
| 18th August 2013 | Newspaper article- Sunday Times | ‘Dolphin and Turtle Identification Project Launched’ | III (2013) | Annex 7.2.10.e of IncR |
| 18th August 2013 | Newspaper article- Malta Today | ‘BOV Support MEPA Project for Dolphins and Turtles’ | III (2013) | Annex 7.2.10.d of IncR |
| 18th August 2013 | Newspaper article- Malta Independent | ‘Sea Users briefed on the Life+ Migrate project’ | III (2013) | Annex 7.2.10.c of IncR |
| 2nd September | PBS – | 1 Million to study | III 2013 | Annex |

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|--------------------|--|---|------------|---------------------------|
| 2013 | interview by Ms. Sylvana Debono | migratory species on the news of TVM. This video was not saved on a DVD since PBS did not have a back up of this footage. | | 7.3.5.1 of MtR |
| 10th December 2013 | Newspaper article | Project MIGRATE | IV (2013) | Annex 7.3.5.2. of MtR |
| 16th December 2013 | Radio | Radju Malta – Familja Wahda - LIFE+MIGRATE Project. | IV (2013) | Annex 7.3.5.3 of the MtR |
| 11th February 2014 | MedPan article: regional dissemination to all Marine protected areas managers and interested officials in MPAs | The EU LIFE+ MIGRATE Project | I (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.4. of the MtR |
| April 2014 | Article in Magazine | Article in AZURE – Diving and Water sports in Malta and Gozo Issue 5 “Journey of Life”. | II (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.6 of MtR |
| 30th April 2014 | Presentation – Event hosted by MTA | The presentation was about the project, but mainly focusing on cetaceans (the presentations annexed as 7.3.2.3a and 7.3.2.3b in the inception report were the ones which were shown in this event). | II 2014 | Annex 7.3.5.7 of MtR |
| 29th June 2014 | TV | The LIFE+MIGRATE project was promoted on a local television program: Malta u l’ hinn Minnha which was recorded on 13.03.2014 and aired on national television (TVM) on 29.06.2014. | I (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.5 of MtR |
| 4th July 2014 | Newspaper | Study on bottlenose | III (2014) | Annex |

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|----------------------|--|---|------------|-----------------------|
| | article – The Times of Malta (online) | dolphin and loggerhead turtle needs volunteers. | | 7.3.5.8 of MtR |
| 4th July 2014 | TV | TVM News – The launch of the boat-based observation surveys. | III (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.9 of MtR. |
| 5th July 2014 | TV | Smash - The launch of boat-based observation surveys. | III (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.9 of MtR |
| 5th July 2014 | Newspaper article- The Times of Malta | Malta is unique for migratory species. | III (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.10 of MtR |
| 7th July 2014 | Press Release by MEPA | LIFE + Project Migrate | III (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.11 of MtR |
| 7th July 2014 | Newspaper article- Orizzont | Proġett għall-konservazzjoni tad-denfil ta' geddumu qasir u l-fekruna tal-baħar (A project for the conservation of the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle). | III (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.12 of MtR |
| 14th July 2014 | Radio | Radju Malta2 - LIFE+MIGRATE Project. | III (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.13 of MtR |
| 15th July 2014 | Press Release by BOV | Marine information sessions on cetaceans and turtles. | III (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.14 of MtR |
| 20th July 2014 | Newspaper article- Sunday Times of Malta | Learning to help dolphins and turtles. | III (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.15 of MtR |
| 16th September, 2014 | Press release by MEPA | Young Children attend at Gnejna Bay Activity. | III (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.16 of MtR |
| 16th September, 2014 | Newspaper article – The Malta Independent (online) | Children attend MEPA Gnejna Bay activity. | III (2004) | Annex 7.3.5.17 of MtR |
| 26th September, 2014 | Facebook Status by Malta National | Action E13 Sectorial Workshops (26/9/2014) Link: https://www.facebook.com | III (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.18 of MtR |

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|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------------------|
| | Aquarium | /malnationalaquarium/posts/708344235913779 | | |
| 8th October 2014 | Radio session | Radju Maria – Minn Lenti Differenti - interview (LIFE+MIGRATE and marine ecosystem) which eventually aired on the 6th of November. | IV (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.19 of MtR |
| 6th November, 2014 | Press Release by NTM | Two loggerhead turtles get freed (The LIFE+MIGRATE project was mentioned in this press release by NTM). | IV (2014) | Annex 7.3.5.20 of MtR |
| 31st January 2015 | Social Media Network (Website) | Facebook upload by BOV, the co financier of the project - a video was uploaded on their Facebook group (BOV Club). The video is the same one which was produced by KAI and which features the boat-based surveys over the 2014 summer period produced by KAI (LIFE+MIGRATE – KAI EXPEDITIONS MALTA 2014) ⁴⁵ . | I (2015) | 7.2.3.1. of PrR |
| 3rd February 2015 | TV | A TV live session was featured on 'Kalamita', a local popular program shown on One TV (one of the local stations) at 13.00. In this feature the project manager gave an overview of the LIFE+MIGRATE project and also described the volunteering scheme, the training session and the status of the project at that time. Also, a number of pictures of the training sessions and of dolphins and turtles which were sighted during the survey were shown in this | I (2015) | 7.2.3.2. of PrR |

⁴⁵ Link: <https://www.facebook.com/bovclubmt/posts/764941173581220>.

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| | | program to increase and entice the interest of the spectators normally following such a programme which is run on a daily basis during the weekdays. | | |
| 5th February 2015 | Article in Newsletter | A comprehensive article describing all the work carried out in this project up till that date was written and submitted to ACCOBAMS by MEPA on 31st October 2014 and was officially featured in the ACCOBAMS newsletter (FINS Vol. 6 No. 1) 46 which was issued on 5th February 2015, though we had been given to understand that it would have been issued in the last quarter of 2014. | I (2015) | 7.2.3.3 of PrR |
| 3rd March 2015 | TV | Since an ACCOBAMS course on dolphins and whales (the first one of its type done in an English Speaking country) was done between 16th and 20th March 2015, we took the occasion (since the project Manger who is also the ACCOBAMS focal point was coordinating this local course) to invite individuals to attend this course. In fact, it was featured on ONE news (one of the main local station), which also featured the LIFE+ Migrate project, also in view of the current local work done through this project, to conserve these species. Hence the work | I (2015) | 7.2.3.4 of PrR |

⁴⁶ Link: <http://www.accobams.org/images/stories/FINS/fins%2061.pdf>.

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| | | on this project was commended as a good example which eventually should lead to long term conservation of these species in view of the primary objective of this project | | |
| 7th March 2015 | TV | Similar to the above, the invitation to the ACCOBAMS course on dolphins and whales (which course was between 16th and 20th March 2015) was featured on TVM news, the LIFE+ Migrate project was again mentioned as per above-mentioned details. | I (2015) | 7.2.3.5 of PrR |
| 26th March 2015 | Radio Session | ‘Minn Lenti Differenti’ (the name of the programme meaning from a different perspective- on Radju Maria (a local religious radio station) – which featured an interview (done by MEPA’s PR office) was recorded with the project manger and the project assistant in relation to LIFE+MIGRATE on 27.01.2015 and which was eventually aired on the 26th of March 2015 with a repetition on the following Wednesday 1st April 2015. | I (2015) | 7.2.3.6 of PrR |
| April 2015 | Article in Magazine | Throughout the month of April 2015, an article on the LIFE+MIGRATE was featured on “il-Bizzilla” (the official magazine published by Air Malta) under the name of | II (2015) | 7.2.3.7 of PrR |

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|-----------------|--------------------------------|---|------------|------------------|
| | | “Navigating through the Maltese Waters” ⁴⁷ . | | |
| 14th June 2015 | TV | The LIFE+MIGRATE project was promoted on a local television program: Malta u l’hin Minnha which was recorded on 12.03.2015 and aired on national television (TVM) on 14.06.2015 at 10:30 am with a repetition on TVM 2 on 15.06.2015 at 11:00 and on 26.06.2015 at 20.30. | II (2015) | 7.2.3.8 of PrR |
| 21st July 2015 | Social Media Network (Website) | On 21st July 2015, the project manager carried out a training workshop to Calypso diving-club, which club uploaded a related-post on their Facebook group. In this session, a commemoration plate was given to the PM on the commendable work of the LIFE+ MIGRATE team to carry out such training. | III (2015) | 7.2.3.9 of PrR |
| August 2015 | TV | The project video was shown on National Local TV (TVM & TVM2) throughout the month of August, with some of these being shown even during peak times. | III (2015) | 7.2.3.10 of PrR |
| 6th August 2015 | Press release | A press release was issued on the training workshops done to Calypso diving club on the 21st of July 2015. | III (2015) | 7.2.3.11 of PrR |
| 6th August 2015 | Press release | A press release was issued on the training workshops done to Majjistral Park officials on the 24th of | III (2015) | 7.2.3.12. of PrR |

⁴⁷ Link: <http://www.airmalta.com/destinations/malta/bizzilla-magazine/bizzilla-detail/il-bizzilla-april-2015>.

| | | July 2015. | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--|------------|--------------------------|
| 6th August 2015 | Radio Session | On 02.07.2015, an interview with the LIFE+MIGRATE team was recorded at Radju Maria (Program: Minn Lenti Differenti) about the project and also about marine species in general; which recording was aired on 6th August 2015. | III (2015) | 7.2.3.13 of PrR. |
| December 2015 | Online newsletter article | An article: 'A wave of hope for marine life' was submitted and featured on Majjistral Park's online newsletter. Link: http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=06f7d57b1e20855b5188ea690&id=5c581b3eb4&e=%5bUNI%5d . | IV (2015) | Annex 7.3.8.2 of this FR |
| 2nd December 2015 | Radio session | An interview with the LIFE+ MIGRATE team was recorded in November 2015 at Radju Marija (Program: Minn Lenti Differenti) about the project and also about marine species in general; which recording was aired on 2nd December 2015 at 13.30, with repetitions on 5th December 2015 at 20.30 and on 8th December 2015 at 01.00. | IV (2015) | Annex 7.3.8.3 of this FR |
| 28th December 2015 | Radio Session | A live interview with the project manager was recorded at Radju Malta 2 (program: Radio Mocha). This radio session was on marine turtles, whereby the listeners were briefed about the aims of this project, what to do in case they find injured turtles | IV (2015) | Annex 7.3.8.4 of this FR |

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|--------------------|---------------------|---|-----------|--------------------------|
| | | and what the project contributed to date in terms of establishing the population abundance and priorities for these species in Maltese waters. This radio session was held on 28th December 2015 from 13:00 till 14:00, with a repetition on Friday 8th January 2016 at the same time. | | |
| 22nd February 2015 | Radio Session | <p>Another live interview with the project manager was recorded at Radju Malta 2 (program: Radio Mocha). This time the radio session focused on cetaceans vis-à-vis the project. This radio session was aired on 22nd of February 2015, with a repetition on Friday 4th March at the same time.</p> <p>This programme should also be on line in podcast form on the page: https://www.facebook.com/RadioMochaMalta/?ref=ts&fref=ts.</p> | I (2016) | Annex 7.3.7.5 of this FR |
| 27th March 2016 | Article on Magazine | An interview was held with Sunday Circle (a popular local magazine) on the 3rd March, in view of a publication of an article about all the work done through the LIFE+ MIGRATE project. The article was published on the Sunday Circle Magazine on 27th March 2016. | I (2016) | Annex 7.3.8.6 of this FR |
| April 2016 | TV | Throughout the month of April, the two-minute | II (2016) | Annex 7.3.8.7 of |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|-----------|--------------------------|
| | | project video was featured on local TV during peak times. | | this FR |
| 29th April 2016 | Online articles | As described in section 5.1.4, eight sites both proposed through LIFE+ MIGRATE and the LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project, were publicly announced ⁴⁸ during the closing conference of 29th April 2016. | II (2016) | Annex 7.3.8.8 of this FR |

Table 5.30: LIFE+ MIGRATE media coverage during the lifetime of the project.

Budget deviation in Action E9

In the PrR, it was reported that there has been a modification in the budget, whereby Action E9 was allocated which a budget⁴⁹. Please refer to Annex 7.5.2 of the PrR with regards to the project budget deviation.

The reason for providing a budget to this action was because originally it was envisaged that the following will be produced:

- Production of an article on the Sunday Circle (Other Costs);
- Design of a newspaper insert in EN and MT regarding the project (External Assistance) and the sites chosen;
- Printing the above-mentioned EN insert in an English-written Sunday newspaper (Other Costs); and
- Printing the above-mentioned MT insert in a Maltese-written Sunday newspaper (Other Costs).

From the above, only the article on Sunday circle was done, as can be seen in Annex 7.3.8.8 of this FR. The other tasks were not done in view that the sites were chosen at a date very close to the deadline of the project. In this respect, it was discussed and agreed internally (Annex 7.3.6.6 of this FR) by the coordinating beneficiary that the two-minute project video would be featured on PBS, the only national broadcasting service provider in Malta, during peak times in the month of April 2016. This, in fact, served a good alternative to increase the project's visibility on local media (which is the main aim of Action E9).

Thus, following the above, there were further slight deviations in project budget, which can be seen in Annex 8.6 of this FR.

⁴⁸ Please refer to the following:

- <http://www.tvn.com.mt/news/l-era-tipproponi-8-siti-marittimi-protetti-ghan-nom-ta-malta/>
- <http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2016-05-02/local-news/ERA-designates-eight-new-marine-protected-areas-on-behalf-of-Malta-6736157185>
- <http://netnews.com.mt/news/propost-il-holqien-ta-8-zoni-marittimi-ghall-harsien-ta-natura-2000/>
- <http://www.inews.malta.com/dart/20160429-tmien-oni-odda-all-protezzjoni-tal-lejjaq-tal-ba-ar-madwar-il-ejjer-maltin>
- <http://www.newsbook.com.mt/artikli/2016/4/29/proposti-8-zoni-marittimi-ghal-natura-2000.45213/>
- <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20160429/local/dolphins-seabirds-and-turtles-get-eight-new-protected-sites.610443>
- http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/lifestyle/environment/64616/eight_new_protected_sites_for_dolphins_turtles_and_seabirds

⁴⁹ In the original budget, Action E9 did not consist of a budget.

5.2.2.10. Action E10 – Advertising on local beaches

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Expected start date: | 01.01.2013 |
| Expected end date: | 30.06.2015 |
| Actual start date: | 01.12.2013 |
| Actual end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | This action is expected to further generate interest in the project, which will be reflected in the numbers of visitors to the website and subscriptions to the mailing list. It should also result in an increase in volunteers for Action E11, and most importantly, it should help to reduce the amount of litter that ends up in the sea in the summer as a result of increased beach use. |
| Achieved results to date: | <p>There have been a number of project promotion events during the lifetime of the project. These event were held on local beaches and also at other venues such as schools and external conferences.</p> <p>The following have been produced, as part of this action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beach Umbrellas; ● LED torch key chains; and ● Stickers. <p>The latter two items were produced instead of adhesive grommets.</p> <p>The items were disseminated to the general public during in the above-mentioned project promotion events in order to increase the visibility of the project.</p> <p>The above-mentioned stickers were stuck on the bins which were present on beaches, whilst the project promotion events were carried out. These stickers carried a message reminding the public that every bit of litter may pose a threat to the marine ecosystem, particularly to turtles which were depicted in these stickers. In order to be attractive to the public a cartoon figure of a turtle was illustrated on the sicker stating the following quote:</p> <p><i>“Plastic that ends up in the sea might kill me... be responsible of your waste.”</i></p> |

Table 5.31: Expected and achieved results of Action E10.

Production of promotional items: Beach umbrellas, key chains and stickers

As detailed above in Action E7 and further below in Action E11, a tender was drafted and issued in November 2013 for the provision of the beach umbrellas, the stickers and LED torch

key chains (Annex 7.3.6.1 of the MtR)⁵⁰ which was amalgamated with the deliverables of Actions E7 and E11. All these deliverables were ensured to carry the EU co-financing statement and the logos of the Natura 2000, LIFE+, the project and the partners involved⁵¹. There was a slight delay in this Action in view of procurement procedures, as described above but these items were produced and available by May 2014.

Project awareness events in beaches

MEPA also was in contact with the following local councils:

- Mellieħa: for disseminating the materials in Mellieħa Bay and Golden Bay;
- Mgarr: for disseminating at Gnejna Bay;
- Xagħra: to hand out such material at Ramla Bay in Gozo;
- Marsaskala: for the distribution of the items at St Thomas Bay; and
- Birżebbuġa: to similarly give out the above-mentioned materials at Pretty Bay.

As can be observed from above, these specific local councils were contacted since they have a bay under their jurisdiction. However, only representatives from Mgarr, Marsaskala and Birżebbuġa showed interest. On 7th of August 2014, a meeting was held which such representatives to see how such items could be distributed. Following this meeting, a number of ideas for such dissemination of these items were discussed and each representative needed to discuss such issues with their respective local council colleagues and majors before commitment (Annex 7.3.6.2 of the MtR).

In view of such need of internal approvals by the councils, this issue also took some time. The Mgarr local council came up with an idea to help organise and collaborate with MEPA in an activity at Ġnejna Bay aimed for six-to-seven year old children attending the Mgarr summer school. This activity took place on the 15th September 2014 and MEPA took the opportunity to inform and update these children on marine turtles and cetaceans and on the project and they also took part in an ad-hoc small quiz to check how much information was grasped by these children. Each student was also given an umbrella, a brochure, cap, a key chain and a sticker, which were left with the school staff for later dissemination in view of safety reasons (mainly because of the umbrellas). MEPA has successfully disseminated 103 umbrellas to the said children, the summer school staff and the local council (Annex 7.3.6.3 of the MtR).

The local councils of Marsaskala and Birżebbuġa agreed to help out in dissemination of umbrellas to the general public present at St Thomas Bay and Pretty Bay respectively, which beaches are both situated in the south of Malta. On the 20th of September 2014 two LIFE+MIGRATE events were done in which the umbrellas and other promotional materials were disseminated. One event was held at St. Thomas Bay at nine o'clock in the morning,

⁵⁰ Stickers and LED torch key chains have been made instead of adhesive grommets, as per Grant Agreement which will be described in more detail hereunder.

⁵¹ With the exception of the key chains, which only contain the logos of Natura 2000 and LIFE+.

whereby 82 umbrellas were disseminated, including 18 members of the Malta Netball Association, who happen to be present at this beach during our event (Annex 7.3.6.4). The other event at Pretty Bay occurred slightly later at noon, in which 96 umbrellas were disseminated (Annex 7.3.6.5 of the MtR). There was a quite good feedback from the majority of public who were present as they showed an interest about the two migratory marine species in question.

In 2015, the project was promoted at *Wied iż-Żurrieq* during a beach clean up event hosted by Let's Do It Malta (LDI Malta) on 9th May 2015. LDI Malta is a civic-led mass movement with the aim of cleaning beaches by recruiting volunteers and/or divers to be help out. The said location was chosen specifically since it was a diving cleaning site. A five-minute talk was given to the divers who were present at the time with the banner in the background. In addition, beach umbrellas, stickers and key chains were disseminated to the divers during this event (Annex 7.2.4.2 of PrR). Furthermore, the LIFE+ MIGRATE team at MEPA had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Environment, Minister of Transport and the Environment Commissioner Dr Carmelo Vella during the same event.

Furthermore, MEPA, in collaboration with *Majjistral* park, held a project promotion event at Gnejna Bay in the following summer (Summer 2015). During this event, a brief talk was given to the people who were present at that time whilst brochures and beach umbrellas were disseminated. Previous to this on the same day the team also made promotion of the project at Golden Bay to the people present and to the life guards present and a number of brochures were left with the life guards in view of the policy on this beach not to disseminate paper material which the people may throw on the beach and hence people interested could approach the life guards and pick up the amount of brochures they need, as necessary (Annex 7.2.4.4 of PrR).

‘Stickers on Bins’ Campaigns

In all beach events, MEPA also stuck a number of stickers on bins present on these beaches. These stickers carried a message reminding the public that every bit of litter may pose a threat to the marine ecosystem, particularly to turtles which were depicted in these stickers (Annex 7.3.6.6 of the MtR and Annex 7.2.4.5 of PrR). In order to be attractive to the public a cartoon figure of a turtle was illustrated on the sticker stating the following quote:

*“Plastic that ends up in the sea might kill me...
be responsible of your waste.”*

Other project awareness and promotion events

Apart from beaches, the project was advertised at other venues, whereby the above-mentioned promotional materials were also distributed. In fact, the project was also promoted during the following events:

- **Boat show (26th -29th September 2013)**

Between the 26th & 29th September 2013, MEPA who then also invited KAI, noting they were present for the 2013 marine survey was invited, through BOV, to a boat show to further promote the project to boat owners or potential ones visiting such a show. During the event, held in Isla, the Grand Harbour, the work carried out by the project was explained by MEPA, using a gazebo for such aims and aided with promotional material and a looped video of the Action A3 survey done by KAI, to further generate interest. The same was also done by the exhibition of the boat used for the Action A3 survey (which together with other boats was exhibited from a pontoon in Isla) and through KAI's team who also explained the project and the survey and also showed the above-mentioned video. Through this boat show, a total number of 26 persons showed interest in this project. Please refer to Annex 7.2.11 of IncR for more information.

- **A Systems of Knowledge lecture**

The Communication office of MEPA gave a talk to students on environmental issues during a Systems of Knowledge Lecture (Environment Module) at the University of Malta, Junior College on the 28th of January 2015, whereby LIFE+ Migrate was mentioned and details and status of the project were provided.

- **Earth day events (22nd April 2015 and 2016)**

On 22nd April 2015, the Communication office of MEPA participated in a day event held by the Department of Environmental Science and the School Management Team at Higher Secondary in Naxxar, Malta for commemorating Earth Day. A stand was set up, whereby students and educators could obtain information about the environment; including information on the LIFE+ MIGRATE project (Annex 7.2.4.1 of PrR). During this event, approximately 50 stickers and 50 LED key chains were disseminated to the people attending the event. This event was again held on the same day in 2016 (22nd April 2016) at the same venue, whereby the project was again promoted by giving out information and promotional materials to the people who attended. In fact, similarly to the previous one, approximately 50 stickers and 50 LED key chains were given out (Annex 7.3.9 of this FR).

- **A conference hosted by LDI Malta**

Following the brief talk provided to divers at the beach clean-up event at *Wied iż-Żurriq*, MEPA were asked by LDI Malta to provide a presentation in detail about the project during a conference on 29th May 2015 to mark their successful conclusion of the said clean-up campaign. In fact, MEPA did a power point presentation on the project and its achievements, as well as on the impacts on plastic, particularly in relation to the harm such plastics can have (so that the theme of plastics could be better included with this project) on the species, these species being the main objective of this LIFE MIGRATE project (Annex 7.2.4.3 of PrR). The Minister of Environment and the chairman of MEPA were also present for this event and the speech of the latter was also written by the project manager to further elucidate the importance of this project.

- **LIFE+MIGRATE closing conference**
The closing conference of the project (29th April 2016), which will be described further below in Section 5.2.2.12, also served as a mean of promoting and raising awareness on the project, its tasks and the two marine migratory in subject. During this event, most of the materials produced in the timeframe of the project was given out the public, such the layman’s report, the N2K guidelines and the brochures (both produced under Action E7 and E14). In addition, approximately 50 stickers and approximately 100 key chains were distributed to the attendees of the closing conference.

Dissemination of promotional materials to third parties

The promotional items produced under this action were also given directly to the following:

- **Malta Tourism Authority (MTA):** Approximately 50 beach umbrellas and 100 stickers were given to MTA to display them during their beach events (most of which are done in Ghajn Tuffieha) and to be used by their life guards on the beaches;
- **The Fishers of the FF:** Approximately 45 LED key chains were disseminated to Fishers who attended the training workshops on the 24th and 25th of August 2015;
- **Majjistral Park:** Seventeen beach umbrellas were disseminated to Majjistral Park to be distributed amongst its officials and its members on 13th September 2015;
- **EcoGozo Directorate:** In September 2015, a number of umbrellas and key chains were given to EcoGozo who would disseminate them in Gozitan schools (and which will be used in outdoor activities for students);
- **San Anton School:** Twenty beach umbrellas were disseminated to San Anton School in Mgarr in order to be similarly used in outdoor activities for students; and
- **Volunteers:** Apart from the polo shirts and caps (which will be described below in Section 5.2.2.11), the LED key chains were also provided to the volunteers who participated in Action E11 training workshops.

5.2.2.11. Action E11 – Involvement of volunteer participants in boat-based observations

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.01.2013 |
| Expected end date: | 30.09.2014 |
| Actual start date: | 01.06.2013 |
| Actual end date: | 15.02.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | A minimum of 50 participants are expected to attendees in training workshops every year. |
| Achieved results to date: | 25 training workshops have been produced, whereby a number of individuals, volunteers and NGOs were briefed on the identification of cetacean and marine turtle species. Each year, more than 50 participants attended training workshops. Some of the participants who attended the training workshops were appointed as volunteers and took part in the boat-based |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>observation surveys.</p> <p>Also, polo-shirts, caps and certificates have been produced. A number of these items have already been given to the participants who attended the training workshops.</p> |
|--|--|

Table 5.32: Expected and achieved results of Action E11.

Action E11 was under MEPA's remit and focuses on training and the involvement of stakeholders, such as leisure-craft owners, fishermen and other sea-farers on a voluntary basis to participate in gathering data about the two species in topic from boat-based observations.

As part of this action, adverts need to publish for the recruitment of the volunteers to take part in voluntary boat-based observations. The call for quotations for adverts for the 2013 volunteer recruitment (QT 05/2013) was issued on MEPA website and government gazette on the 21st June 2013 and closed on 8th July 2013. Likewise, the call for quotations for issuing the 2014 newspaper adverts (QT 05/2014) was published on the same two media of the 28th February 2014 and eventually closed on the 26th March 2014. In both instances, both calls underwent a higher approval procedure by the unit management, public relations team, Chairman, CEO and subsequently by PPS at OPM. As a result of this approval system and due to some public procurement issues, the call for the 2013 adverts had to be issued late.

Two Service providers participated and the cheapest technically compliant offer (which is still slightly over the stipulated €6,000 earmarked for this call, at 6384.30 Euros), was submitted by Communique Creative Ltd., and thus this contractor was chosen. Communique Creative Ltd. was awarded this call following a contract. For the 2013 the design was made by the company and for 2014 took the liberty to make the design of the adverts.

New Maltese procurement regulations entered into force on the 1st July 2013 and all Service providers now need to sign the new Statements on Conditions of employment and provide MEPA with the requested documents as stipulated in the form. Hence this continued to delay this Action. The contract agreement with the company in question – Communiqué Creative Ltd. was consequently signed on the 13th August and hence the adverts appeared on four Consecutive Sundays between:

- the 25th of August and the 15th of September in 2013 (These are already attached in the IncR and marked as Annexes 7.2.8.a – 7.2.8.b) ; and
- the 11th of May and the 1st of June in 2014, as can be seen in Annex 7.3.7.1 of the MtR.

These adverts appeared to be effective since a number of people showed their interest and applied to attend workshops.

Most of the individuals who applied for volunteers did not have sufficient knowledge to distinguish from one species to another, hence they had to be trained through the workshops. These workshops were coordinated by MEPA with the intention to provide volunteers with

sufficient information about the different species of cetaceans and marine turtles in the Mediterranean when providing sightings data. These training workshops consisted of some four to five hours which were split into identification of cetaceans and marine turtles present in the Mediterranean (and around the Maltese waters) as well as general biological information and threats and pressures issues of relevance to such species.

KAI Marine Services also collaborated in this Action, by supporting MEPA and providing a series of documents as well as attending four of these workshops. In fact, in April 2014, KAI also attended one of the training sessions and provided parts of the talks along with MEPA. During the 2014 shipboard survey, approximately 50 volunteers who attended the training of Action E11 were given the opportunity to participate in a seven day survey expeditions to gain experience and learn directly; only a few of these were selected by KAI. BOV and other organisations such as AFM, CPD *Majjistral* Park and all the diving clubs assisted MEPA by hosting some of these training workshops at their premises, as per tables below.

Workshops were also addressed for specific organizations, such as the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM), the Civil Protection Department, NGOs and diving clubs in Malta. People and officers within these organizations are frequently out at sea and thus they have bigger probability of encountering these species. By the end of 2015, MEPA trained more than 100 officials from the maritime squadron and the air-wing officials of the Armed Forces of Malta; as well as all the officials within the marine section of the Civil Protection Department.

Tables 5.33, 5.34 and 5.35 below display a summary of all the workshops done in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively.

| 2013 | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Date | Participants | Host Organisation(s) | Venue | No of people attending |
| 26th April | AFM / Volunteers / BLM | MEPA | AFM | 19 |
| 21st May | AFM / Volunteers / BLM | MEPA | AFM | 12 |
| 8th August | Volunteers | MEPA and BOV | BOV | 19 |
| 30th August | AFM / Volunteers / BLM | MEPA and KAI | AFM | 26 |
| Total: | | | | 76 |

Table 5.33: List of training workshops done in 2013.

| 2014 | | | | |
|--------------------|--|----------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Date | Participants | Host Organisation(s) | Venue | No of people attending |
| 20th March | AFM | MEPA | AFM | 23 |
| 27th March | CPD | MEPA | CPD | 4 |
| 1st April | PDSA / Water colours diving club | MEPA | MEPA | 2 |
| 7th April | CPD | MEPA | CPD | 5 |
| 17th April | AFM | MEPA | AFM | 10 |
| 22th April | NGOs + Diving clubs (water colours + PDSA) | MEPA and KAI | MEPA | 13 |
| 24th April | ATLAM diving club | MEPA | MEPA | 15 |
| 29th April | Calypso diving club | MEPA | MEPA | 5 |
| 2nd June | CPD | MEPA | CPD | 4 |
| 18th June | Amphibians diving club | MEPA | BOV | 8 |
| 11th July | Volunteer Training Workshop | MEPA and KAI | BOV | 50 |
| 1st August | Volunteer Training Workshop | MEPA and KAI | MEPA | 28 |
| 18th September | AFM | MEPA | AFM | 14 |
| 15th December 2014 | AFM | MEPA | AFM | 19 |
| Total: | | | | 200 |

Table 5.34: List of training workshops done in 2014.

| 2015 | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Date | Participants | Host Organisation(s) | Venue | Number of attendees |
| 21 st July 2015 | Calypso diving club | MEPA | Calypso | 14 |
| 24 th July 2015 | Majjstral Park officials and volunteers | MEPA | Majjstral park | 13 |
| 4 th August 2015 | Calypso diving club ⁵² | MEPA | Calypso | 12 |
| 6 th August 2015 | ATLAM diving club | MEPA | Atlam | 18 |
| 24 th August 2015 | Fishing Federation and Fishers | MEPA | Cottonera Sports Complex | 26 |
| 25 th August 2015 | Fishing Federation and Fishers | MEPA | Cottonera Sports Complex | 22 |
| 27 th August 2015 | Majjstral Park officials and volunteers | MEPA | Majjstral park | 14 |
| Total: | | | | 119 |

Table 5.35: List of training workshops done in 2015.

It can be noted from the above tables that each year, more than fifty participants attended the training workshops.

The 25 training workshops were divided as follows:

- 6 sessions to AFM & CPD officials;
- 7 sessions to diving schools;
- 2 sessions to Fishers from the FF (as described further above in Action A1); and
- the remaining were done to volunteers and NGOs.

The attendance sheets of all the volunteers who attended for the workshops can be found in the following:

- Annex 7.2.12.c of the IncR;
- Annex 7.3.7.3 of the MtR; and
- Annex 7.2.5.1 of PrR.

The list of all the attendees who came for all the training workshops can be found in Annex 7.3.11 of this FR.

⁵² It is important to point out that another training workshop was done previously in 2014 to Calypso diving club which was about cetaceans. This specific training workshop focused on marine turtles and there were many new attendees who had not done last years training and thus, they asked for a further repetition of last year's training.

Furthermore, photos of such training workshops can be found in:

- Annex 7.2.12 of the IncR;
- Annex 7.3.7.4 of the MtR; and
- Annex 7.2.5.2 of the PrR.

Apart from the call for volunteer recruitment advertisement, this action also included a call for tender for the polo-shirts and caps (Annex 7.3.7.2 of the MtR). As stated before, this call for these deliverables was amalgamated in a single tender with other deliverables for Action E7 and E10 to avoid further procurement delays. These items were distributed to the participants as a token of appreciation for attending these training workshops.

As a token for participating and attending the training workshops, the volunteers and the other participants were given certificates. The design of the certificate (Annex 7.3.7.5 of the MtR) started in 2013 and was finalised in 2014 and after a number of internal MEPA approval processes and following external approvals from the project partners. They were printed in October 2014, following a call for quotation for such printing, sent to three suppliers to print 500 certificates on golden parchment papers, as indicated in Table 5.36.

| Service providers | Financial Bid (including VAT) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Salesian Press | €330.40 |
| Copy Club (Tradex Ltd) | €200.00 |
| Agius Printing Press | €224.20 |

Table 5.36: Quotations received for printing of certificates

Copy Club (Tradex Ltd) was awarded the call for quotation since it offered the cheapest bid and was technically compliant.

A number of certificates were distributed in a certificate-giving ceremony addressed to the Maritime Squadron of the AFM officials (and also the air wing) at their premise which was done on the 15th December 2014, exactly after the training workshop of the 15th of December 2014 (Annex 7.2.5.5 of PrR). In this ceremony, most of the high officials from both the Maritime squadron and the air force of AFM were present⁵³ and all the AFM officials who participated in these training workshops in relation to identification of marine turtles and cetaceans were invited and given a certificate of attendance. During this event, a total number of more than 100 certificates were disseminated to the said officials, along with polo-shirts,

⁵³ Namely: Lieutenant Colonel Albert Brincat (Staff Officer 1, Training AFM Headquarters), Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Mallia (Commanding Officer Maritime Squadron), Lieutenant Colonel Clinton O'Neill (Commanding Officer Air Wing), Major James Grixti (Second in Command Maritime Squadron) and Sgt Mark Tabone.

caps and key chains. Both the workshop and the ceremony were promoted and featured on AFM's Facebook page⁵⁴.

Another certificate-giving ceremony was envisaged to be done to distribute the certificates to the participants of the training workshops. However, this never occurred due to time-constraints and due unavailability of participants⁵⁵. In this respect, all the remaining participants were contacted to collect the certificate from the coordinating beneficiary's premises.

Apart from training workshops, MEPA also held a public talk on the 22nd of August 2015 at *Din l-Art Helwa* premises in Valletta, in collaboration with *Majjistral* Park. This public talk was done specifically to the members of *Majjistral* Park and members of the NGO called *Din l-Art Helwa*, although the general public was also invited to attend. During this two-hour talk, the Migrate team gave a presentation of the project and gave a general quick overview (not like the detailed training done to be to identify the species) of different species of marine turtles and cetaceans that are generally found in the Mediterranean Sea. The attendance sheet and the photos of this public talk can be found in Annex 7.2.5.3 of PrR and Annex 7.2.5.4 of PrR respectively.

5.2.2.12. Action E12 – Project closure

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Expected start date: | 01.04.2016 |
| Expected end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Actual start date: | 01.11.2015 |
| Actual end date: | 29.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | It is expected that around 50 invitees will attend the closing event, including the local media, NGOs, relevant authorities and relevant stakeholders. |
| Achieved results to date: | The LIFE+ MIGRATE closing conference was held on 29 th April 2016. A total number of 106 invitees were invited to the closing conference, however only 43 attended, as per Annex 7.3.10 of this FR. |

Table 5.37: Expected and achieved results of Action E12.

⁵⁴Link:https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=847746985245494&id=386056758081188&_tn_=%2As

⁵⁵ These participants were mainly from diving clubs since they were normally too busy with diving expeditions.

Works on this action began in late 2015, whereby MEPA was in contact with MSDEC as this was an action under their remit, mainly in relation to the:

- selection of the venue for the closing conference (and the involved logistics regarding food, drinks and if lunch break or small coffee breaks would be included);
- who was to be invited from MEPA's end;
- the list of speakers and invitees; and
- the agenda of such conference.

After a number of discussions, the date of the closing event was confirmed to be on the 29th of April 2016. On 26th February 2016, calls for request for quotations to organise such a closing conference were sent by MSDEC to various service providers, as per Table 5.38.

| Service providers | Financial Bid (including VAT) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| The Palace Hotel | €2,625 |
| Grand Hotel Excelsior | €3,675 |
| Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa | €3,525 |

Table 5.38: Quotations received for hosting the LIFE+ MIGRATE closing conference.

Apart from the above three five-star hotels, there were also two other hotels contacted: Fortina Hotel and Spa Resort, which however had no venues big enough for the requested amount of invitees, and Phoenicia Hotel, which was unavailable due to refurbishment.

After receiving the bids it was decided that the Palace Hotel would be selected as it offered the cheapest and most technical compliant bid. The awarded service provider was contacted by MSDEC in view of the signing of the contract, which was sent to the Hotel from MSDEC and signed by the Director-PDPID on 10th March, 2016. Once contract was signed, MSDEC was in frequent contact with the selected Hotel as to discuss the logistics of the mentioned closing conference (Annex 7.3.10.7 of this FR).

The seating capacity of the venue was approximately of 75. In this regard, there were various discussions between MSDEC and MEPA in view of the list of invitees. It was agreed by both entities that:

- MSDEC would contact approximately 30 invitees, which included individuals from CION, MaltaRep, Ministries and other relevant government entities; and
- The coordinating beneficiary would ask another 50 invitees to attend, and also a reserved list for another 25 invitees, which included volunteers who participated in boat-based surveys and other representatives from third parties who contributed in the project.

There were two invite lists used for issuing the e-invites; one with the list provided by the coordinating beneficiary and another with the list identified by MSDEC. The invite lists can be seen in Annex 7.3.10.1 of this FR. Once the invitees were identified, a formal initiation was sent to them on 20th April 2016 to attend such a closing conference (Annex 7.3.10.2 of this FR).

Also, in the meantime MSDEC and MEPA were in contact with each other vis-a-vis the structure of the agenda. There have been various modifications in the agenda until the last day when the conference was going to be held. These amendments were mainly due to the fact that certain speakers could not be present, either due to unavailability or due to health reasons.

Additionally, the day before, the government had announced a change in Ministers of particular Ministries, this including MSDEC's Minister at that time, the Hon. Minister Leo Brincat, who was to attend and open this conference but who a day before, was nominated by Government as a representative of the European Court of Auditors. The Hon Minister thus could not open and attend this conference. A copy of the final official agenda of this closing conference can be seen in more detail Annex 7.3.10.3 of the FR.

The event started at 10am on the stipulated date (i.e. on 29th April 2016) with a welcoming note by Prof Victor Axiak, who is the newly elected Chairman of the recent established Environment and Resources Authority (after the splitting of the MEPA functions into environment and planning, as previous discussed), followed by a speech from:

- Dr Ian Borg (Parliamentary Secretary for the EU Presidency of 2017 and EU funds);
- Arch. Vincent Cassar (Chairman of former MEPA);
- Mr Darrin Stevens (Project Leader), who gave a speech on Status of Marine Protected Areas, the Marine Protected Areas selected and subsequent actions including the AFTER-Life Conservation Plan;
- Mr Nikolas Cassar (Assistant Project Manager Officer), who gave an overview on the tasks done in the project in relation to awareness, communication and training;
- Ms Carmen Mifsud (Project Manager), who did a presentation on the scientific surveys carried out⁵⁶ in the said project and provided a speech on stakeholders consultation process; and
- Hon. Karmenu Vella (the Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries), who concluded the conference.

As briefly mentioned above, it was envisaged that Minister for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change, Hon. Leo Brincat, would be making a speech in the closing conference. However, this failed to happen since there was a Ministerial reshuffling on the previous day, and a newly appointed Minister was announced, who however was not yet sworn in and therefore unable to attend for that day. He was however, informed of the event.

The presentations of the above-mentioned speakers can be found Annex 7.3.10.4 of this FR.

Approximately 43 attendees were present in the closing conference, out of the approximately 100 who were invited, as per Annex 7.3.10.5 of this FR. The attendance sheet was prepared by MSDEC few days before the event, after the deadline for registration, and taking into account the registered participants and those with no reply.

In addition, photos of this closing conference can be found attached with this FR as Annex 7.3.10.6.

Information about the project, particularly in relation with the selected pSCIs (as discussed in Action A4), were disseminated through press releases and flash news, which are accessible in the following links:

⁵⁶ The power point presentation on the boat-based surveys was compiled by Mr Ricardo Sagarminaga (KAI Marine Services) as initially, he was going to present it. Unfortunately, Mr Sagarminaga could not attend due to health reasons and the same presentation was instead done by the Project Manager.

- <http://www.tvn.com.mt/mt/news/l-era-tipproponi-8-siti-marittimi-protetti-ghan-nom-ta-malta/>
- <http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2016-05-02/local-news/ERA-designates-eight-new-marine-protected-areas-on-behalf-of-Malta-6736157185>
- <http://netnews.com.mt/news/propost-il-holqien-ta-8-zoni-marittimi-ghall-harsien-ta-natura-2000/>
- <http://www.inewsmalta.com/dart/20160429-tmien-oni-odda-all-protezzjoni-tal-lejjaq-tal-ba-ar-madwar-il-ejjer-maltin>
- <http://www.newsbook.com.mt/artikli/2016/4/29/proposti-8-zoni-marittimi-ghal-natura-2000.45213/>
- <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20160429/local/dolphins-seabirds-and-turtles-get-eight-new-protected-sites.610443>
- http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/lifestyle/environment/64616/eight_new_protected_sites_for_dolphins_turtles_and_seabirds

5.2.2.13. Action E13 – NATURA 2000 Capacity development of relevant stakeholders (institutions, fishermen and NGOs)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Expected start date: | 01.01.2013 |
| Expected end date: | 31.12.2014 |
| Actual start date: | 01.08.2013 |
| Actual end date: | 08.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | <p>Two five day workshops with the participation of key stakeholders from Malta and invited experts. An opportunity to present NATURA 2000 and provide information as well as an opportunity to build bridges between stakeholders who will need to work together to ensure the success of the marine NATURA 2000 in Malta.</p> <p>It is expected that between 25 to 45 participants from institutions, research and conservation organizations and sectoral backgrounds will attend each of the workshops.</p> |
| Achieved results to date: | <p>Sectoral workshops have been carried out between 26th September 2014 and 3rd October 2014. These workshops have been targeted to the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport & energy; • Security & safety; |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries; • Tourism; and • Education & research. <p>Each workshop was attended by an average of 28 participants.</p> |
|--|---|

Table 5.39: Expected and achieved results of Action E13.

This action, coordinated and developed by KAI Marine, was initiated in April, prior to the survey of 2013 (action A3) and finalised at the end of 2014. The action was linked to action F4 (Afterlife Management Plan) and action E14 (NATURA 2000 Guidelines). Both actions E13 and E14 were monitored and guided by action D1 (Monitoring of actions E13 and E14), which provided the feedback for optimising the strategy of communicating with stakeholders. An action roadmap was designed following the same process designed and set by the Scientific Committee of LIFE02NAT/E/8610 with regards to stakeholder involvement in NATURA 2000 management plans.

Action D1 guided the change in the schedule of workshops, starting the stakeholder capacity development process moving from “one to one” meetings in 2013, gradually to an intensive 6-day sectorial workshop at the end of the survey of 2014.

In the first stage of this road map, during the surveys of 2013 and 2014, in coordination with MEPA, a series of one to one meetings and discussions were held in preparation for the 2014 sectorial workshops. These meetings and workshop were to target and include the main human activities which are known to have potential interactions with cetaceans and sea turtles:

- Security and Safety;
- Science and Education;
- Fisheries;
- Tourism;
- Energy Development; and
- Transport.

Preliminary results following analysis by KAI of the 2013 survey (Action A3) were used to identify potential risks and to help in the design of the structure and the related text of the “NATURA 2000 Guidelines” document which was to be the working document of the sectorial workshops.

A total of 89 one to one meetings in port, 15 one to one meetings at sea and 8 meetings with the fisheries, research, environment and security administrations were held. Although a meeting template / checklist was developed, in most cases it was considered more productive to conduct informal discussion in order to obtain a more positive response from stakeholders. Also during this first phase, KAI Marine Services proceeded to develop a stakeholder mapping in order to plan and strategize the following phases. This mapping is summarized in Annex 7.2.6 (Action E13 Final Report).

In March of 2014 and based on the results of actions A3 and E13 of 2013, KAI initiated the compilation of materials and documents for the development of sectorial capacity development workshops. Additionally, tenders for external assistances services needed for the development

of the workshops were also published and awarded (Records of these services are presented in Annex 7.2.6 (Action E13 Final Report)). The external assistance tender for carrying out the technical organisation of the sectoral workshop, was awarded to Mundo Gobius (Annex 7.2.6 of this FR), a Portuguese company with a long experience in communications projects related to nature conservation. The travel expenses of the number of speakers as well as a number of other participants was done through a travel agent appointed by KAI through a tender who took care of all the logistics of such travel.

The workshops were held between the 26th of September and the 3rd of October 2014 (excluding the weekend) in the Malta National Aquarium (with the exception of the last workshop done at NTM), and had a very positive outcome with an important number of national and international participants. These included officials from universities, e-NGOs, research organisations as well as Regional Organisations like ACCOBAMS, RAC-SPA, REMPEC, IMO, MEDPAN.

The workshops had a total of 77 speakers and participants and an average number of 29 participants per day. The opening session of the workshops and the sectoral workshop on Fisheries recorded the highest number of participants (39 and 35, respectively). Over the 6-day workshops, a total of 60 presentations and speeches were performed.

Fixing the date for the fisheries sector presented a challenge (since on good days fishermen would be out at sea) and hence two fishermen committee meetings were held prior to the formal workshops in Mgarr and Marsaxlokk by KAI. In parallel, KAI also organised a technical meeting in Mgarr after the fisheries workshop (on the 1st of October 2014) to discuss issues of concern for fishermen.

A sectoral website, <http://www.marinenatura2000malta.com/en/index.php>, was produced under action E14 as a tool for facilitating participation and communication of stakeholders in both actions E13 and E14.

Concluding the stakeholder capacity development process, a consultation period followed the workshops allowing stakeholders to give their final inputs in both actions E13 and E14 (NATURA 2000 Guidelines document editing).

A report on Action E13 and D1 as well as other key deliverables such as the sectoral workshop agenda and, proceedings are included in Annex 7.2.6. These were sent to MEPA by KAI in August 2015. Following review and suggested amendments by MEPA, KAI Marine Services analysed such revisions and improvements and sent it to the coordinating beneficiary on 8th April 2016.

The action was developed adjusting its roadmap and stakeholder communication strategy in accordance with the feedback of action D1. The action achieved its goals within the timeframe expected with no problems.

The main indicators for this action were the following:

- the stakeholder map and the action roadmap adjusted to action D1;
- the number of meetings;
- the level of participation in the sectoral workshops; and
- the report and minutes of the sectoral workshop.

With regards to the improvements of the Action the following can be highlighted:

1) The Action development led to identify the risk of sea turtle bycatch in surface longlining. Using our previous experience, KAI team made the delivery of 38 line-cutters to the fishers through the assistance of Nature Trust Malta. 2) The E13 workshops organised by KAI, counted with the participation of international organisations such as ACCOBAMS, RAC-SPA, REMPEC, IMO, MEDPAN, etc. and International entities such as IO Conserve, Fundacion Biodiversidad (Spanish Ministry of Environment), University of Saint Andrews or the University of Aarhus. All these entities raise the value of the Action by showing key lessons learnt into the LIFE+ MIGRATE Project and by raising the project into the international arena of their respective institutions. 3) The Actions details were also sent to the 9th Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS which met in April 2014 and wherein all the work and details of the project were outlined so as to maximise cooperation between researchers in the Mediterranean area working on these species. 4) A link to cover for sharing data gathered on cetacean & turtles by ISPRA through their platform of opportunities- ferries and data obtained from the LIFE+ MIGRATE project was established.

Photos of the Action E13 sectoral workshops can be found in Annex 7.3.8.4 of the Mtr.

5.2.2.14. Action E14 – Guidelines and good practice codes for NATURA 2000

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Expected start date: | 01.01.2013 |
| Expected end date: | 31.12.2014 |
| Actual start date: | 01.04.2013 |
| Actual end date: | 08.04.2016 |
| Expected results (as per GA): | There is an important need to provide updated information based on science to serve as guidance for relevant authorities to establish management measures and stakeholders to adjust their actions in order to reduced risks for Habitat Directive species and habitats. |
| Achieved results to date: | The deliverables of this action has been produced, which are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The N2K Guideline document; • Seven sectoral posters; • Seven sectoral brochures; and • The N2K website (Link: www.marinenatura2000malta.com). Please refer to Annex 7.2.6 for more information. |

Table 5.40: Expected and achieved results of Action E14.

Action E14 was initiated in April 2013 by KAI with the compilation of information and data from other LIFE projects and international programmes for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles. This included management plans, guidelines, and codes of conduct, best practice

and recommendations of relevant frameworks. In this first process, KAI counted on the collaboration of Oceancare, NOAA, MEDPAN and REMPEC.

Feedback from action E13 via the E13 and E14 monitoring action D1 was used to generate a first draft Natura 2000 Guideline structure and editing roadmap. This was presented to MEPA in April of 2014, who provided continuous feedback and which was then subsequently used as working document in the first mailing to stakeholders of Action F4 (Afterlife Management Plan) in May 2014.

The document was discussed with stakeholders through the one to one and sectoral meetings held in parallel to the survey in July, August and September 2014.

The website <http://www.marinenatura2000malta.com/en/index.php>, was produced under action E14 as a tool for facilitating participation and communication of stakeholders in both actions E13 and E14.

A total of 250 sectoral posters were produced as part of Action E14 by KAI following review and amendments suggested by MEPA and MSDEC and which were subsequently distributed to participating institutions and persons during the workshops. These posters focused on a positive message to sectors inviting them to take a more active role in NATURA 2000. MEPA, MSDEC and BOV, as partners in this project were provided with packages of these posters for further distribution. A set of these posters are have already been submitted as Annex 7.3.8.3 with the MtR.

The second draft “NATURA 2000 Guidelines” was used as a working document during the sectoral workshops of Action E13. These were sent to the fisheries administration and other stakeholders including MEPA on the 21st September 2014. These guidelines, as actions D1 and E13, followed the same lines and principles as set out and as designed by the Scientific Committee of LIFE02NAT/E/8610.

At the outcome of the workshop, a consultation period was opened in order to give stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the final editing of the guidelines.

This consultation period closed on the 6th of November 2014, with comments from MEPA, DG Fisheries, RAC-SPA and MSDEC with the latter collecting all the comments from the other relevant Authorities like TM, Fisheries etc.

In December 2014, KAI sent the NATURA 2000 Guidelines documents (Annex 7.3.13.1 of this FR) and the sectoral brochures (Annex 7.3.13.2 of this FR) to the project partners for their review, following which the documents were finalised and printed. Links to the above mentioned deliverables have been made in the project website, which links are the following:

- N2K Guidelines: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/KAI-LIFE-Migrate-Guidlines_FINAL-correction.pdf;
- Sectoral brochures: <http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/category/brochures-2/>;
- Sectoral posters: <http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/category/posters/>; and
- Sectoral service website: <http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/life-migrate-natura-2000-website/>.

5.3 Evaluation of Project Implementation

5.3.1. Evaluation of Methodology

This section will give a detailed description of the evaluation of methodological procedures which were employed throughout this project.

Most of the actions in the same group: grouped in A actions (mostly applicable to A3 Action) the D action (monitoring) and E actions in this project had similar methodologies.

Furthermore all the actions (with the possible exception of the monitoring of the actions - action D), including the surveying, A3 action of this project, had correlated communication, educational and public awareness (CEPA) measures linked with them. Most of the time, these CEPA measures were divided amongst all the 3 beneficiaries, with beneficiaries at times having to implement an entire action e.g. MSDEC which were entrusted to carry out the closing conference, obviously with the assistance of the coordinating beneficiary, as necessary (e.g. invitations lists and speeches and presentations made), or with some measures and actions being carried out jointly e.g. a few of the Action E11 training sessions to the volunteers.

CEPA measures were also carried out between beneficiaries and other third parties, such as the following:

- the Monitor
- contractors;
- volunteers;
- stakeholders;
- NGOs; and
- other organisations.

As described earlier, certain communication (especially amongst the beneficiaries and between the coordinating beneficiary and the EU Monitor) occurred by means of emails and telephony. These modes of communication are quicker with information and updates exchanged quickly and they also proved to be very cost-efficient, since these means are much cheaper when compared to travelling and postage. The disadvantage was due to the greater risks of creating misunderstanding and misinterpretation with such information, which occasionally lead to other challenges to be overcome between the partners. This was even more so an issue because English was not the main means of communication of one of the beneficiary concerned. It also proved to be a hurdle when invoices in the Spanish language were sent to the coordinating beneficiary. Translations had to be done and this proved to be quite a laborious exercise.

In view of these issues a number of face-to-face meetings (or skype sessions), such as steering committee and ad-hoc meetings, were held to discuss better the challenges at hand and get further direct clarifications on how to proceed.

During the steering committee meetings we came up with list of tasks which need to be done and specifically by which partner these should be done. We also decided in such meetings on the time frames to be applied. The latter however also proved to be a challenge since such timelines could not always be followed in view of other work that the partners had

Published information and updates in connection with the project written by the MEPA project team, or which was produced by the other beneficiaries, had initially to be sent to the coordinating beneficiary (except for the daily survey blog, for which KAI updated directly unless there were posts involving third parties, as was the case for the post mentioning the training session and meeting with MEPA and AFM or when it was clearly necessary). The coordinating beneficiary, as part of a Governmental structure had to undergo specific internal approval procedures applicable to different strands of issues as per procedures. Some of procedures involved approval of the Project Leader and Unit Manager, Director of Environment, the Public Relations Officers (especially on PR issues), approvals from officials (Team Manager-procurement officer and Accounts Manager, amongst others) within the Directorate of Corporate Services (especially on financial issues) & of DCS (Director of Corporate Services), Chief Executive Officer (CeO) & Chairman, and the Principle Permanent Secretary (PPS) at OPM (external to Malta Environment and Planning Authority) as necessary. The latter's approval is only needed for approvals of Direct Orders and for issuing DoC- Department of Contracts - Tenders (apart from approvals within the DoC itself, which are then also necessary).

CeO's, Procurement Team Manager & Accounts Manager and DCS's approvals were all necessary for issuing of Tenders (and for acceptance of the contractor and signing of the contract) and on financial matters.

Publications which needed only part of these approvals (PR, Unit Manager and up to Director of Environment level) generally included the following:

- e-newsletters;
- press releases;
- posters; and
- Scientific papers (those written by MEPA) written throughout the lifetime of the project and on project details and results.

The above system was most of the time quite efficient although it also involved quite some time for some approvals to be in place. Usually the time necessary for such approvals was also factored in, however when the new of an issue was either unexpected or transient (e.g. during the sighting of sperm whales and other important findings) it was difficult to get approvals in time and quick enough for immediate publication.

On the other hand when the actions had been timed and part of the project's roadmap e.g. the press releases necessary for Action E4 launch, all such press releases were written beforehand and we had time to get all approvals in time. In comparison when the launch of the first survey was coming up, since the exact dates, depended on the weather, we had some difficulties in getting all approvals in time. Despite this, it was still managed, by putting extra effort in chasing and following these more closely. The latter meant that further time had to employed, which rendered the issue less cost effective in terms of time management of the project.

All through the process we also ensured that all publications and related information was compliant with article 13 (and others) of the common provisions in connection with such publicity material. This entailed amongst others that logos of all the beneficiaries and the co-

financier, as well as, the LIFE+, Natura 2000⁵⁷ and the logos of project itself were always present in all such publications. Following the above-mentioned procedures, the relevant document or information intended for publication would then be sent to all the project partners and to the co-financiers for their final feedback and endorsement. Once the coordinating beneficiary obtained all such necessary final endorsements, then the publication would be rendered official.

With regards to the production of certificates, further approvals (to the above) had to be sourced also from the Human Resources Management (HR Manager) as we had to check if the Authority was in a position to issue such certification and include the word 'training' since neither the Authority nor KAI could be officially recognised as a 'training Authority'. This took quite some time, since there was also higher Management correspondence from HR Management on this issue. In the end we reached a compromise by using the words '*Certificate of Participation*' (rather than Certificate of Training on ...) and then explained further down that this is '*for participating on a voluntary basis in training by MEPA and KAI Marine services on Identification of Cetaceans and Marine Turtles*'. Again this entire process proved to be quite laborious and time consuming and not cost effective in terms of efficient time management.

With regards to Scientific papers (those written by MEPA and posters and some of the papers written by KAI), apart from the internal approval system already described, we also went through the partners' and stakeholders' concerned approval system. E.g. when MEPA wrote a scientific paper for networking to present to a bottlenose dolphin conference (held in December 2015 in Marseilles), we got KAI's approval for the abstract and later also for the entire paper, that of AFM (which went to their highest authority), Birdlife and the Civil Protection Department.

As described in the other chapters, a number of Actions in this project entailed issuing Departmental, or Department of Contracts (DoC) tenders, or call for quotations depending on the money threshold involved, for provision of services or procurement of goods. Each Department of Contracts tenders have to be set with a maximum threshold value price, which the potential contractor cannot exceed (or if exceeded then the financial bid would be non compliant).

The following thresholds for the different forms of Tenders/Calls for Quotes are applicable:

- less than €2,500 (excluding VAT), three quotations are sent to three or more random service providers;
- between €2,501 and €6,000 (excluding VAT), a Call for Quotation or Departmental Tender would be needed; and
- between €6,001 and €42,000 (excluding VAT), a Departmental Tender needs to be issued;
- between 42,001- €125,000 (excluding VAT), a DoC Local Tender needs to be issued;

The processes for issuing all the above involves similar methodologies, but different standard forms or templates apply to the different categories outlined above. Following the conclusion of the technical terms of reference-TORs- (following internal discussions of what is needed-

⁵⁷ As described earlier on, it needs to be ensured that the logos of LIFE+ and Natura are relatively larger than the other logos to gain more prominence.

many times with the involvement of the other partners concerned, at times also after consultation with the Monitor, what is possibly available on the market), such TORs are inserted, depending on the category, on either the call for quotes template (if applicable) or in the DoC or Departmental Tender.

Then these undergo approximately the same internal reviewing and approval system as discussed before, with the inclusion of the CeO, Procurement Team Manager & Accounts Manager and DCS's approvals. For DoC Tenders, the PPS and the DoCs approvals are also necessary. Once the necessary approvals were all in place, the call or the relevant tender would be made available to the public for a time frame of three to four weeks. The setting out of the timeframes and the actual issuing of the tender, was set by the procurement team, since it depended on the list of other tenders to be issued and on other procurement time frames and hence other waiting times had to be incorporated.

Within the publishing phase of the call or tender, there is a clarification period, whereby potential bidders have the opportunity to ask questions and together with the procurement team a reply would have to be made within relatively short time frames. As soon as the publishing phase ended, there was an evaluation phase to select the cheapest and most technical compliant bidder, which is followed by another internal approval system for the approval of the selected contractor. When the bidder is selected, a contract would be drafted, reviewed, sent and signed; followed by a meeting with the selected bidder to discuss the contract in depth. Obviously all this was very time consuming but when it was part of the road map, time for such issuance of tenders or call had been incorporated in the system. When nearing the end of the project a number of calls had to be issued quickly for asking for services not initially envisaged, issues were much more restrictive and the entire approval system proved to be quite demanding in terms of time frames, when we already were restricted with such time.

In one case, a direct order was issued following the 'failure' of a tender. This was only possible because the technical bid was in fact correct whilst some procedural issues were done incorrectly by one of the relevant bidder. Hence a direct order was then issued and approved. This was the case for contracting the production of caps, t-shirts, brochures, umbrellas and such other promotional items for the project.

A Direct Order instead of a tender can be also issued when there is enough justification that there is only one person or institute which can give such a service and this was thus follow-up when we need the services of an expert on INSPIRE compliance which the Competent Authority in Malta (MITA) suggested that we should use the services of a particular company whom they also had worked with to ensure synergy. Another direct order was also issued when we needed data on fisheries since the latter were one entire body and when we need to get physical oceanography data, since only one institute in the University of Malta were doing such work.

In such cases of direct orders, a similar procedure to the tendering process was followed, however times frames were much more favourable since the time required for evaluation and for awaiting for publication and the time lines for replying to questions and the like were obviously not included and hence such a system was much more favourable and much less time was wasted on the procedures, since a single specific service provider would be

contacted directly. A meeting would be set up with the service provider to discuss the technical details that would be required and if the person or institute involved were in a position to provide them. After the direct order is drafted, it is reviewed and approved both internally (with the above-mentioned system) and by the partners, as necessary. Once the necessary approvals were in place, the contract would be drafted, reviewed by all concerned and again, internally approved, followed by another meeting with the service provider for the acceptance /approval and signature of the contract. The Direct orders issued proved to be a much more cost effective system in terms of time lines involved, then when tenders were issued. Direct orders involved a much shorter approval system and many procedures which were not necessary (and which are normally very time consuming) so they proved to be much faster. Moreover when a tender is issued there is the risk of failure of the tender, risks of nobody applying or who applies would be not eligible (like the tender for the recruitment of the Assistant Project Manager for the project), risk of an appeal and other risks, which means that a lot of time would have been lost to go through al such procedure which then would have to be re-done twice if the tender needs to be re-issued and /or a direct order is issued instead. Hence when they can be issued (they can only be issued in very limited cases, due to the applicable procurement issues) Direct orders tend to be much more effective in terms of time management.

This project also entails technical, financial and auditing reporting, which follow similar methodologies, as outlined above. They must be in accordance with the common provision of this LIFE+ project and the official template of each respective report, which is available in the 'toolkit' on the LIFE web page. Once each report is drafted, it needs to follow the same approval procedure described above, both internally and from all the project partners, before it is officially published.

As can be noted in the above, most of the publications produced had to be reviewed and approved by all the beneficiaries involved in the project. Though this was a very effective procedure to reduce any potential oversights in such publications, this procedure can cause severe delays, mainly due to:

- the time taken for the reviewing; and
- temporary unavailability of certain officials collaborating in the project.

In fact this methodology, particularly of all the internal approvals necessary was at times causing several delays to the project and other alternatives had to be thought and sourced, whilst awaiting the procedures e.g. production of another type of leaflet whilst awaiting for the conclusion of the tender on the production of such materials (tender included umbrellas, caps, t-shirts and brochures).

The procurement Government procedure of choosing the cheapest technically compliant bid was also a drawback since many times the cheapest meant a poor quality of service rendered. Such an issue, frequently cannot be completely covered through very stringent and precise technical Terms of reference, as some issues of such service rendered cannot always be completely covered with TORs.

5.3.1.1 The A-actions

With regards to the A1 data, we tried to gather all the scientific papers and results however it was not possible to draw any particular areas of importance or hot spots from such data.

We also tried to approach one of the local experts on cetaceans to get such data through a tender but this also proved difficult as the person in question was not available within our time frames (and the tender was not approved from OPM at that time) and a decision was taken by the steering committee following a number of months that we needed to get the data quickly from elsewhere and hence we approached and were provided initial data from Birdlife Malta (through collaboration and networking) and later we also got other data directly from fishermen (direct order). A1 oceanography data and data from fishermen was collected through direct orders with methodology explained above.

Other sources for the A1 data included:

- Complementary data was also obtained directly during survey
- Technical reports and publications
- Data from other LIFE projects
- Oceanography & bathymetry – University of Malta
- Human activities
- Cetacean, sea Turtle and seabird surveys from BIRDLIFE
- Reading in connection with sea surface salinity, temperature and currents (monthly & daily averages) taken from satellites and radars (ROSARIO).
- Biotic data
- Biotic data collected from Fishers
- Collection of data through other data provided from AFM & from volunteers
- Additional data through citizen science, monitoring & scientific papers

Hence for A1 data, the most cost-effective was the data obtained from Birdlife Malta, through their kind sharing of such data. Most of the previous methods for getting the data (directly on cetaceans through other local experts) proved to be difficult.

The survey preparations involved several lengthy and complex work packages including:

- Administrative preparations
- Technical Preparations (equipment, survey design, data compilation..)
- Team selection (KAI – personnel from University of St. Andrews / Bioecomac – Univ. Lisbon)- all these were done through tenders / calls
- Permits on species & on studies to be carried out in particular areas as well as animal welfare permits
- Equipment testing and calibration (hydrophone, laptops, software, A.I.S.)
- Vessel tenders and selection

Vessel availability for the summer months in conjunction with the length and complexity of preparations were a particular challenge. An option would have been changing the survey season, but a climatological analysis showed that this could have a detrimental impact on the number of good surveying condition days (sea state less than 3 Douglas).

A big challenge was faced in May 2013, when one of the partners informed they could not match funds originally envisaged. The coordinating beneficiary sourced other partners (Italians and also Spanish) and a lot of time (2 months) was actually employed to built up proposals and continue the rest of the project with them since as coordinating beneficiary we had to solve this problem (as per the common provisions). Following several proposals and budgets discussions with them, they (new potential partners), they still could not match the required funds. A decision in the end was taken, following parallel negotiations with the Government of Malta and MEPA to make good for KAI's inability to match part of the funds, to continue working with KAI.

The methodology of the survey itself was straight forward and standard. This is the same method as in LIFE SCANS I and II, LIFE02NAT/E/8610 and LIFE07NAT/E/00732), and also the same method as used by the majority of cetacean and sea turtle research groups, using also the common softwares IFAW LOGGER, PAMGUARD and the IO CONSERVE SPOTTER.

The integration in action A3 of data from A1 as initially planned in the project was not possible in the timeline established. This however did not affect the survey data collection. For the data analysis phase, the delay in reception of oceanographic (which was sent in February 2015) was also solved by extending the work time of the analysis.

Full information on this action – Action A3 with all related and full details can be found in Annex 7.3.4 of this FR.

5.3.2. Comparison of results achieved against objectives

The table below gives a summary of the status of the tasks (deliverables and milestones) of the project in comparison with the actual objective proposed in the grant agreement.

| Action | Task | Foreseen in the revised proposal | Achieved | Evaluation |
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| A1 | Collection of biotic and abiotic oceanographic data | As per Section 5.1.1, initial biotic data had to be collected from Dr. Vella, which due to various reasons failed to be provide through the DO/tender done. After this, Birdlife was approached and | Achieved. Parts of this data were obtained later then envisaged | MEPA has already collected data from BLM, as mentioned in Section 5.2.2.1 and hence A3 survey could be carried out based on that data. MEPA had also drafted and published a direct order with the IOI physical oceanography at the University of Malta to get |

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| | | <p>they provided a lot of important data. Following the April 2014 steering committee, it was further decided to get further data by going directly to the fishers, which initially was not successful as we did it through the Department of Fisheries. After that it was decided to issue a direct order to the fishing cooperatives/association directly, who accepted to continue to gather such data from the fishermen by appointing a representative.</p> <p>According to the original timeframe (as shown in Gantt chart 1). This action had to be finalised by the second quarter of 2014. In fact most of the data we got from BIRDLIFE was at our end by 2013 when the A3 survey began. All the action was finished by the fourth quarter of 2015.</p> | | <p>the oceanographic data. This data was at MEPA's & KAI's by January 2015 and hence could be included in the modelling for the identification of sites.</p> <p>With regards to further bioitic data that was needed, MEPA drafted a direct order with fishers and the data was available by December 2015.</p> |
| A2 | Three (1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd) draft maps of hotspots | This action was foreseen to be ready by the second quarter of 2013, second | Achieved | MEPA had already drafted maps (1 st Draft) from the data provided by BLM, as per section 5.2.2.2. |

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| | | <p>quarter 2014, and second quarter of 2015 and the deadline for the last draft map was extended to the fourth quarter of 2015.</p> | | <p>In addition, two maps were done (2nd Drafts) showing encounter rate of <i>Caretta caretta</i> and <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> which are based on the first projections of preliminary data from the 2013 boat based surveys, as per sections 5.2.2.2 and 5.2.2.3.</p> <p>Further maps were done following 2014 surveys and which included other biotic and abiotic data.</p> |
| A3 | <p>Analysis of distribution and abundance of target species</p> | <p>Six months of shipboard survey and analysis of conservation status, and for the design of NATURA 2000 sites and management guidelines.</p> <p>Under the category of expendable goods a series of modifications on expenses related mainly to data gathering and storing (e.g. liquid Nitrogen, hard disks, computer coolers) that had not been specified in the LIFE contract had to be done (Annex 7.2.9.). These fall under the same category as consumables, which have seen a significant reduction due to the low fuel</p> | <p>Achieved with data which continued to be analysed in 2015 so that pSCIs could be proposed</p> | <p>The surveys were conducted successfully. The final analyses were done by KAI.</p> |

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| | | consumption levels of the catamaran. | | |
| A4 | Map of proposed pSCIs sent to Government and designation of Natura 2000 sites (by Government) | This action started in August-September 2015, after all the data and its analysis was made available to MEPA. It was envisaged to take till the end of the project. | Achieved | This task was done towards the end of the project so as to have all the the data resulting from the other A actions. The preparatory works for this action begun in the October 2014, but the proposals were assessed following receipt of all the the results of Actions A1 and A3. |
| D1 | Monitoring of E13 and E14 | Analyse sectoral context, map stakeholders, evaluate participation and provide feed back for adjusting E13 and E14 | Achieved | Achieved and action closed successfully. |
| E1 | Project brand | No foreseen revisions, though was envisaged that there would be an increase in the visibility of the project, thus, increasing the visual exposure of the project brand. | Yes | The project logo and branding had been successfully achieved much before the originally envisaged time frames. In fact it was supposed to be done in June 2013 when in fact we had produced it by November 2013 in view of its envisaged early use. It was is ensured that the logo is visible on any publication and event related to the LIFE+MIGRATE and there was increased visibility of the project, due to the great number of promotions to the project done. |
| E2 | Notice boards -Roll-up banners | Originally we were expected to create notice boards (there was an original | Yes | Three rollup banners had been successfully produced and displayed and included the project's logo (Action E1), the Natura 2000 logo, the LIFE+ logo, the |

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| | | <p>discrepancy in the numbers listed in the actual action details) but we requested a modification to do roll-up banners rather than notice boards, since these could be transported for various activities.</p> <p>9 (2 to replace the original 3 worn-out banners that we had made in February 2013, and an additional 7 to further show the species and their identification) further roll-up banners were produced as per minor modifications described below.</p> <p>The initial 2 banner to replace were done in the 1st quarter of 2016, whilst the rest were done in April 2016.</p> | | <p>associate beneficiaries' logos, the co-financier's logos and all publicity requirements as specified in the common provisions and as stipulated by Maltese policy governing such EU funded projects. They also contain a description and target of the said project.</p> <p>These initial banners were been done by February 2013, although again they were envisaged to be done by June 2013, as per the GA. Hence these were immediately visible.</p> <p>The banners drew attention to the project website, and invite interested parties to visit the website for more information and to participate as volunteers in the boat-based observations.</p> <p>Following internal discussion and in steering committee meetings it was suggested to produce more banners to replace the worn out ones and also to provide more information to the public on the species present in Malta (also as confirmed by the project) and on their identification. Such banners would further help to illustrate important information and instill further love and conservation for such species.</p> |
| E3 | Website Up and Running | There was a slight updating of the website (by | Achieved | The website was visited regularly by people, as per Section 5.2.2.3. |

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| | | division into tabs - e.g. actions & news and multimedia) to render it more user-friendly. | | <p>The website contains sufficient information on cetaceans and turtles and their habitats. It was regularly updated with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informative videos of the said species; • e-newsletters; • press releases; • a log book to report a sighting; related publications and papers; and • Photos related to the project; • Any related activity done at that time • Training sessions <p>We have also included the layman's report, the approved sites and links to all the SDFs for the 3 different sites identified and approved as pSCIs.</p> |
| E4 | Project Launch | No changes, as was done on time in February 2013 and it was done as expected, to be held within 4 months of project start being 1 st October 2012, as per the Grant Agreement | Fully achieved | <p>This was an action done mostly by MTCE (previous Ministry) with MEPA's assistance and was done together with the stakeholders' meeting and although there was a low turnout though over 133 were originally invited, it was mainly because this event coincided with an electoral campaign held in March. A suggestions could be to hold such a launch at the right moment and await for political issues to return to normal, even if it means being slightly late on the Grant agreement dates.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Nonetheless this event was still amply covered by media as listed in the tables in the inception report.</p> <p>A previous non official launch had been held on the 25th July 2012, when MEPA received official notification that the project was chosen by the EU Commission for LIFE+ funding and this was also extensively covered by the Media (refer to Annex 7.3.2 b of the inception report). This initial pre-launch though not part of the GA, was quite important nationally as it gave further impetus (and an initial taste of the project) to the protect and also to the media.</p> <p>The general coverage (of all) resulted in information shots which provide a start for both attendees as well as the general public to create interest in this project so as to seek more information. This resulted in an audience which was clearly more aware about these species and the need for Natura 2000 sites to protect them and what kind of work was planned to be undertaken through this EU Funded project so as to protect our environment.</p> <p>The official project Launch was held on the 12th February 2013, with a stakeholders meeting following the launch. Though this was important to save on other venue</p> |
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| | | | | costs (if held on a different date) it ended up being quite taxing on the project management team (since the manager had to do most of the presentation for both fora) and would have been better (though not cost effective) if done separately on another day and hence venue. |
| E5 | E-newsletters | No changes envisaged as this was an on-going process | <p>Finalised with the last number being issued in the first quarter of 2016 (issued in February).</p> <p>This was fully achieved with the possible exception of the latest issue expected for April (2nd quarter 2016), but which due to the demerger issues of MEPA and due to other pressing issues could not be finalised.</p> <p>Also this latest issue was to cover one month in an entire quarter since the project stopped in April 2016, hence it can potentially be considered as not necessary.</p> | <p>As per Section 5.2.2.5, 12 e-newsletters have been successfully published</p> <p>A large proportion of the public have subscribed to the e-newsletters, as per section 5.2.2.5, which was mainly linked with the timing of the advertisements featured on the newspapers which encouraged them to log on the project website and subscribe.</p> <p>The most affected target group were obviously people who are computer literate. However, other groups were also targeted since through the radio and TV we also targeted others with updates on the upcoming and recent news (refer to action E9).</p> <p>The GA stated that we would produce the 1st newsletter 6months after beginning of project, after which it would be published every quarter. We produced 12 newsletters in total. With the first published in April 2013, then another 2 in 2013, 4 in 2014 and</p> |

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| | | | | another 4 in 2015 and 1 in 2016. |
| E6 | Short Video | The project video was finalised by the end of the 1 st quarter of 2015, as projected in the amendment. We suggested a number of other amendments which included a much shorter video - 1-2 minute long in view of the importance of uploading such on social networks; a video in Maltese but with English subtitles and the original also in the EN language with MT/EN subtitles. | All video were finalised by 2015, with the latest one (short video and EN versions) done in the first months of 2016. | <p>During the boat-based surveys, a number of video footages were filmed by KAI marine which included footage of the boat vessel, encounters with cetaceans and turtles and all the related equipment in use, and were uploaded on the project website. This was done as an intermediate measure until the official project video could be done and finalised (the latter took long also because of a tender involved & since we wished to include parts of the surveys).</p> <p>Initial amendment (to produce the video by a later date & not June 2013) was suggested since such production in the beginning would not have given an insight on the methodology of the data captured and would not have shown the interesting features with these flagships species as well as the work carried out on-board the survey boat. The videos included interviews with officials working on the project (both at KAI and MEPA). If this amendment had not been agreed to then we would have produced a video with no interesting features of these species and of the survey work done on the boat.</p> |

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| | | | | <p>Social media video was done for a greater & quicker impact on the younger generation and those who follow such networks more closely. Moreover, the longer video (15 mins) could not be used for Television during peak times in view of the exorbitant sums of money needed even for a 2 minute video let alone a 15 minute and anyway its length meant it would be annoying to use for peak times.</p> <p>Hence had we not executed such changes and done the short video we would not have managed to have it up and running on the Main TV station at peak times.</p> <p>Also the production of the complete English version with EN/MT subtitles meant that it could be used also for tourists present on the Gozo ferry.</p> <p>With regards to lessons learnt noting that certain footages were very difficult to obtain (footage of bottlenose dolphin) and the liaison of another external company (the contractor who won the tender for the video making) with the partners in view of the survey work footages needed and of the interviews more careful preplanning should be included with the inclusions of the partners</p> |
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| E7 | Brochures | <p>The English and Maltese brochures were finalised by the second quarter of 2014, as per Gantt chart 1.</p> <p>The Spanish brochures were done the third quarter of 2015.</p> <p>As detailed in the GA this was expected to be provided in March 2013 however since we could not meet such timeframes in view of problems with the tendering process (the bidders were not eligible based on the tendering process), we had to await further time for the production of these and others. Hence to satisfy the GA timeframes we suggested that we would produce another brochure until the tendering process was final.</p> <p>After one of the visits by the Monitor in 2014, it had been suggested that in the hard-copy version of the brochures, the logos of Natura 2000 and LIFE+ were to be placed and given more prominence on the front cover.</p> | <p>Achieved, ES translated brochures were also done as envisaged.</p> | <p>The brochures were done in English and Maltese and they provide sufficient information about the project and additional information about the different types of cetacean and marine turtle species in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>Electronic versions of the Maltese and English brochures were also uploaded on the project website.</p> <p>With regards to the amendment, we produced another brochure within GA stipulated time frames, through help from BOV (the co-financier- who helped in the design and the printing). Although this was an intermediate measure, such initial brochures contained all the information stipulated for this action. However we then produced the final brochures which were much more detailed and contained further information which we saw as very crucial and important for the volunteers to have i.e. identification information. The brochures were made available throughout a large number of events and workshops related indirectly and also directly to the LIFE+MIGRATE. Brochures were also provided in bulk to BOV for provision to its numerous branches around</p> |
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| | | <p>Since the EN versions had already been done the only possibility was to order a small sticker with these logos and stick it to the front. We issued a call several times and nobody submitted though we were certain that the services could be done. Following various discussions with a particular service provider who did a number of runs to ascertain it could be done, we showed the Commission in Feb 2015, how they were to be done on some dummies which were run. Following this the Commission then informed us that they were acceptable as they were and that we didn't need to do this modification.</p> <p>We had been in time to do this initial modification requested by the commission(later on dismissed) directly on the E versions and also directly on the MT versions before they were printed.</p> | | <p>Malta. Boxes of these brochures were also disseminated to local councils in Malta, the AFM, a number of e-NGOs and other entities interested like HSBC, diving clubs, fishers, national aquarium and university of Malta. Such entities would then disseminate these brochures to their members.</p> <p>With regards to the ES translation of the brochure we thought it was rather superfluous since most people accessing such sites would rather have the EN version and the site did not target the Spanish people. We had initially discussed this with the Monitor but did not pursue further to avoid further modifications. But we are of the opinion that it was not necessary and not cost effective at all.</p> |
| E8 | Layman's report | The layman's report was ready | Yes though it was available in hard | The TORs were drafted very early, however since |

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| | | <p>by the end of the project (April 2016) and in fact the hard copies were also disseminated at the closing conference of the conference to all present. Initially it was expected to be finalised by December 2015.</p> | <p>copy at the end of the project</p> | <p>we needed to have the written report which could not be finalised early, most of these related issues were slightly late. All the general structure of this report together with the entire contents were written and finalised by December 2015 but it could not be finalised since we need to include the information data and results of the sites which were awaiting Ministry's endorsement. Hence this report could be only finalised when the sites were approved by the Cabinet following such approvals, this we compiled the rest of the 2-3 pages on such sites were drafted and concluded the report which was then available at the end of the conference. This caused a lot of unnecessary pressure as ideally this report should be compiled when all information (even on the sites) is available and approved by all concerned.</p> <p>With regards to the Maltese translation of this report, kindly refer to above in section 5.3.1 Evaluation of Methodology.</p> |
| E9 | Feature on local popular media | A number of proposed amendments were done to this action, one of which entailed the promotion of the video (E6) on local | Achieved | <p>Main aim was to increase visibility of the the LIFE+ MIGRATE project is promoted on local media. With regards to the video, this was discussed further above.</p> <p>With regards to the insert</p> |

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| | | <p>TV, however this was discussed exhaustively under that action (E6-video).</p> <p>Initially, as an amendment, it was envisaged that a 4-8 pages newspaper insert about the project would be done for which an external service provider would then provide its design. This was however not done due to time constraints and due MEPA's demerger. Instead of this the above mentioned 2-minute video was then featured on the local main TV station during peak times in April.</p> <p>A direct order with the Public Broadcasting Authority (TVM) was done being the only national broadcasting service provider in Malta.</p> <p>The featuring of this 2 minute video further increased the project's visibility.</p> <p>An article on the Sunday Circle was also envisaged as an amendment (financial) to this</p> | | <p>we did in the Sunday Times, the latter is the most widely read newspaper in Malta and the monthly magazine it issues (Sunday Circle) has a much higher shelf life then the actual newspaper.</p> <p>The Sunday circle magazine is also considered as Malta's favourite magazine and it is collected by many, since it is issued once monthly and is theortically free (not soniderign the epsnes of the actual newspaper).</p> <p>In this long article we described the LIFE+ Migrate and its conclusions, as well as, an interview about the project with the project Manager, and with the project assistant.</p> |
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| | | <p>action. This was done as the surveys at sea had finished and we needed to keep maintaining the project's visibility. We targeted the Sunday Times which periodically issues a free magazine called the Sunday Circle.</p> | | |
| E10 | <p>Advertising on local beaches - Stickers, LED torch key chains and beach umbrellas with logos.</p> | <p>Stickers and LED torch key chains were produced instead of the adhesive grommets on bins.</p> <p>The exact meaning of grommets when it was written was not understood and this could not be followed up further, hence to ensure that we could follow-up this as best we could, we produced both stickers for bins and key chains with the same prices or lower than indicated.</p> | Fully achieved | <p>The beach umbrellas, stickers and key chains were finalised and were at MEPA's end by Summer 2014, in time to be disseminated at the beach's since summer season continues till end of September.</p> <p>As per above (also E7), the said promotional items were also (apart from people on beaches which we directly targeted) disseminated to the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA for onward dissemination to their numerous stakeholders), local councils (again for further onward dissemination to people in their locality), volunteers, divers, AFM officials and BOV headquarters (for onward dissemination to their several branches), e-NGOs and other entities interested like HSBC, fisheries bodies like the federation, national</p> |

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| | | | | <p>aquarium and university of Malta. All these entities would then disseminate these brochures to their members.</p> <p>We ourselves stuck a number of stickers on bins in numerous beaches around Malta.</p> <p>Some of these items (mostly the key chains) were also disseminated during the various training workshops held (25 in total) and other LIFE+MIGRATE-related events.</p> |
| E11 | Polo shirts and caps for Volunteers | <p>Originally the GA specified T-shirts but given that the price was marginal and they tend to be smarter and more hard-wearing.</p> <p>The polo shirts and caps have been mostly distributed to the volunteers during the training workshops and also in the certificate-giving ceremonies as an additional token for attending the workshops and for use during any boat surveys/boating they do</p> | Achieved | <p>The deliverables are: Polo shirts, baseball caps were available as from May/June 2014.</p> <p>Most of these items have been disseminated during the training workshops and/or delivered or picked up by the various entities mentioned above (BOV, eNGOs, AFM, Diving clubs, fishers from the federation etc...) and also during the certificate-giving ceremonies done in 2015.</p> |
| | Certificates for Participation | | Achieved | <p>The certificates were printed and disseminated. They have been disseminated to the AFM (from the maritime squadrons and Airwing</p> |

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| | | | | who did the trainign) in December 2014 and have continued to be disseminated (to those who had attended the training workshops for identification of cetacean and marine turtle species) in winter of 2015. |
| | Recruitment and Training of Volunteers Participants (2013 and 2014) | Initially only 1/2 day training Sessions were envisaged but since we anticipated that we had to train a wide range of audiences from different sectors we had to develop an entire strategy on how and when to train all those interested. We though this ws very important also in the long run since these people are all the time out at sea and any contribution they could make to population dynamics and to other data contribution would be beneficial both for the project and for for the after-life when the MPAs ‘start functioning’. | Was on-going and has been achieved | As per above, a total number of 25 training workshops were done. The training workshops have been beneficial to volunteers who participated in the boat-based surveys since they provide data and such data should be as accurate as possible . moreover they would have learnt to distinguish marine turtle and cetacean species from one another and if not precisely at least what to look for when they see such cretaures and which they can later check up with the brochure or other material we dissmeinated to them . |
| | | Training workshops were thus done to AFM (maritime sqadron and Airwing), CPD, | | |

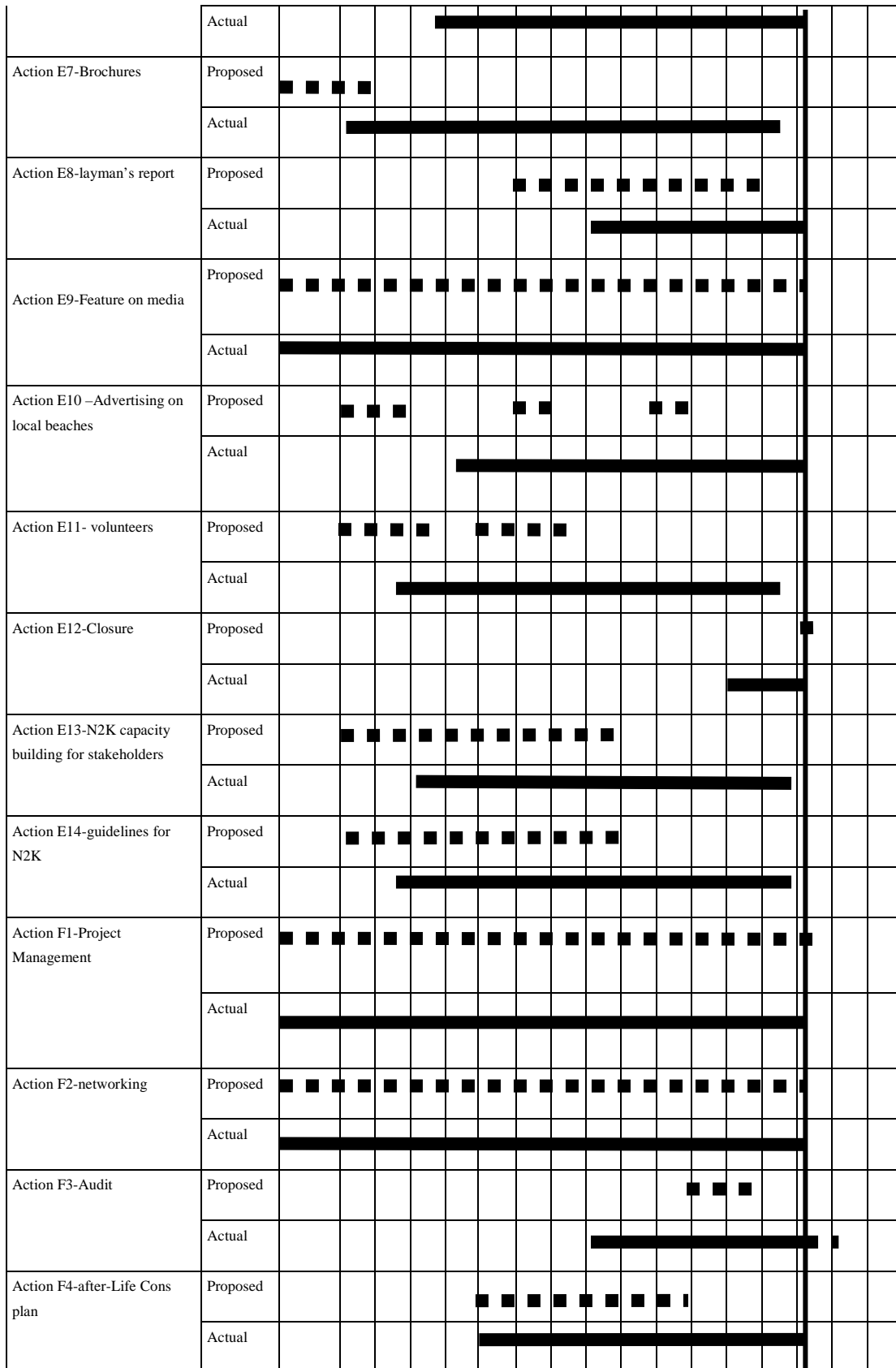
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| | | <p>diving clubs and many other organisations like diving clubs, eNGOs, fishing federations and other interested fishers, other interested people from the public in general.</p> <p>In total some 25 workshops and training sessions were done to increase visibility of the project and continue to update and capture the interest of the public and particular sectors.</p> | | |
| E13 | Capacity development of NATURA 2000 stakeholders | <p>Development of stakeholder communication strategy and sectorial workshops for the capacity building and involvement of stakeholders.</p> <p>This action was monitored by action D1 which provided the feedback for adjusting the strategy and road map, and also linked to action E14.</p> | The initial plan of two 5-day workshops was adjusted to move progressively from one to one meetings to a broader workshop at the end of the survey action A3 in September – October 2014. | The action fulfilled its objectives, taking into consideration feedback and adjustments directed by its monitoring action D1. It was very important that these one to one meetings were held for example with the fishers and with the diving clubs since they helped to elaborate further the guidelines which in the end need to be also implemented by these people |
| E14 | NATURA 2000 Guidelines + good practice codes | The sectoral posters had already finalised by time of the workshops and in fact were | Fully achieved | The action fulfilled its objectives (N2K Guidelines document, sectoral posters, website and brochures are the |

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| | | disseminated there. The N2K guidelines, website and brochures were ready by the end of 2015/beginning of 2016. | | deliverables of this action). Since the guidelines had also to be reviewed by the other partners and had to be developed with the assistance and from the various sectors they could not be produced immediately and it was crucial to take their input since in the end such stakeholders would play a major role in the conservation of these species and in the protection of the sites identified. |
| F1 | Signing of the grant agreement and cooperation agreement | There was a modification in the grant agreement – Supplementary Agreement no 1 which was in view of administrative changes with regards to the issue of the interest generated. This was signed in Dec 2012. The 2 nd amendment was signed in May 2015 and applied from July 2013 and was due to the fact that KAI marine could not contribute the original sum agreed and signed for (as in previous GA and partnerships agreement) and Malta/MEPA had | Achieved | The original Grant agreement had been signed in 2012 Three cooperation agreements exist between the coordinating beneficiary and KAI, MSDEC and BOV respectively. These agreements were described in more detail in Section 4. The partnership agreement with KAI had to be modified following the May-June 2013 notification that KAI marine could not contribute the original sum agreed and signed for (as in previous GA and partnerships). The original PA with KAI had not yet been officially sent to the Commission and hence it was only sent after the modification referred to in the 2 nd modification as described earlier. |

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| | | <p>to fork out the added balance (€137,120) since KAI could only contribute €120,000, from the total allotted sum they had to contribute of €257,120.</p> <p>In view of these modifications and signatures had to be done to forms A3, A4, FA and FC</p> | | |
| | <p>Appoint Assistant Officer (Project management)</p> | <p>The original post was issued as a tender but we had to do various modifications since the first call failed as no one from those who applied were really eligible for the post. Following this an internal call and subsequently a call at ETC had to be issued.</p> | <p>Achieved</p> | <p>This process took very long as the initial tender failed to result in an eligible persona and then several modifications were done such that the call would be issued through a different process. In fact it was issued first as an internal MEPA Call and which had to be out for a specified number of weeks (as the Government/MEPA systems requested by law) which call was then advertised at ETC (Employment and Training Corporation). Following which the present officer applied and then it went through the normal application and interview procedures. The project leader (Darrin) was amongst the interviewing panel.</p> <p>There had to be a change in the nomenclature of this call to be in line with</p> |

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| | | | | <p>MEPA structure and related calls. Thus, the call for Assistant Officer (Project management) was then appointed in June 2014 (Mr Nikolas Cassar was appointed).</p> <p>The project manager continued to manage the project (alone for 21 months) until the post was taken-up (June 2014), however, even following that, the manager and the assistant then managed the project together, in view of the amount of work it involved.</p> |
| | Steering committees & ad-hoc meetings | Though initially envisaged in F1 these meetings were not covered financially and hence we had to devise systems such that when to be held KAI would be present so initially we started combining them with 2 training workshops and/or when the surveys were in progress. Later on we started holding them through video conferencing/skype and then later also through conference telephone calls. We also held a number of ad-hoc meetings with MSDEC and other | Fully achieved | 7 steering committees were held apart from a number of number of ad-hoc meetings with the partners and/or other stakeholders e.g. Oceanographers (for A1 oceanography data), KAI and MEPA to discuss and finalise the data needs. |

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| | | stakeholders as necessary | | |
| F4 | After-LIFE conservation plan | <p>According to Gantt chart 1, this was envisaged to be ready by second quarter of 2015. Since this also depended on the submission of all results, which were only available after August 2015, work on this could not follow exactly said time frames. However, a draft of this document was ready by September 2015, following which internal and ministerial consultation had to be done. This could not be finalised early since we had to await the final decision and approval of the sites by the Ministry. The latter were approved by April 2016 following which we could include the sites information in this plan and hence approve it internally and through Ministry and partners and stakeholders involved.</p> | Achieved | <p>An after-LIFE conservation plan committee had been set up by MEPA in 2014, which consisted of a number of members from the previously set MPA Steering committee since this included the major stakeholders involved in the set-up of marine protected areas. This group were regularly updated with any publications, updates and results produced from this project. However formal meetings with them were initially only done in the beginning but then the group was updated and followed-up through email correspondence. We had to await the analysis of results of the A3 surveys, the action E13 workshops and the Action E14 guidelines for further information to be disseminated in end of 2014-2015. Hence the latest documents re the results were sent in September 2015, following which we sent the After-life CP for a 3 weeks consultation, in February 2016, after we had sent the document for internal (MEPA) consultation. Once all comments were cleared, the document was concluded by April 2016,</p> |



Gantt chart 1: Progression of the project from the beginning till the end.

5.3.3. Indicate which project results have been immediately visible and which results will only become apparent after a certain time period.

These issues were discussed in above table, mostly in the evaluation of the project action and/or its modified version Row.

The Project logo/brand (E1) and roll-up banners (E2) were actually available and immediately visible before the actual time frames (of the GA) envisaged.

The After-Life Conservation plan will be visible and much more used mostly after the project and will be especially helpful during the drawing up of appropriate conservation measures. This report together with the Layman's report and the E14 guidelines will also further help in the drawing up of management plans for the areas chosen and in pursuing further action for the conservation of these species .

5.3.4 If relevant, clearly indicate how a project amendment led to the results achieved and what would have been different if the amendment had not been agreed upon.

These issues were also discussed in above table, mostly in the evaluation of the project action and/or its modified version Row.

5.3.5 Indicate the effectiveness of the dissemination

As observed from above, the project has a number of dissemination actions which involves tasks such as:

- organising activities and events for the dissemination of promotional material;
- giving and passing out brochures and other materials and freebees;
- providing presentations during the Action E11 and Action E13 workshops;
- featuring the project on various media; and
- Issuing e-newsletters and various press releases for the different events done during the project's lifetime.

All of the above had ample information and provided knowledge about the project and the two specific marine species (as well as other marine megafauna present in the Mediterranean) under study. Thus, raising more awareness and increasing the visibility of the project.

The effectiveness of these dissemination processes was mainly visible by the positive back feedback of the people after a particular workshop and/or other related event. This can also be seen from the number of hits of the project website, as described above in Section 5.2.2.3 and per Annex 7.3.2. Moreover we had various volunteers and groups or NGOs asking us to do the training sessions for their particular group and for which we had to modify our strategy and include much more training sessions to try to cover as wide a spectrum as possible.

In fact, we had direct requests from a number of local diving clubs to attend their weekly diving meeting in order to do the relevant training. In these cases we divided the training into cetaceans and turtles so that we could cover 1.5-2 hours every time and cover these groups of species rather than do the entire training in one go, since their weekly meetings only ran for a maximum of 2 hours and anyway it would have been too tiring for them.

We also received a recognition award (commemorative plate) for our training on cetaceans and turtles by one of the local diving clubs, Calypso Malta in July 2015 (refer to Annex 7.2.5.2 of PrR). We also received a lot positive feedback from these diving clubs on their facebook e.g. Calypso Malta and Atlam and also directly through email following these training workshops that we did. AFM also recognised our efforts in the training workshops also through their website as well as in the certificate giving ceremony we did in December 2014 which was attended by the highest officials of the AFM (see Section 5.2.2.10).

5.4 Analysis of long-term benefits

5.4.1. Environmental benefits

5.4.1.1. Direct and quantitative environmental benefits

The species targeted in this project, the bottlenose dolphin (all cetacean species) and the loggerhead turtle (all marine turtles), are legally protected not only through national laws but also regional and international ones. They are protected from killing, any direct disturbance and directly harmful activities that may harm their favourable conservation status.

Following the 6 month summer surveys conducted by KAI Marine in 2013 and 2014, an assessment was made of such data together with the oceanographic data. Such analysis was done to check the relevance of potential foraging, migration and reproduction habitats from such data in Maltese waters for the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle.

The assessment included a study of abundance, distribution, level of residence and home range in the different areas, and use of the habitat in relation to oceanographic and anthropogenic parameters. Through these results a baseline for the management of risks and for the future monitoring as required for the NATURA 2000 sites, was also done, which are outlined in the Guidelines produced through Action E14 (please refer to Section 5.2.2.14), A 3 report, the After-Life Conservation-Plan, the Laymans report, as well as the SDF (standard data forms) submitted to the EU commission with regards to the sites chosen and submitted in April 2016.

A high number of sightings of the loggerhead turtles (n=293) and cetacean (n=50), identified as bottlenose dolphins (38%), Striped dolphin (30%), and Common dolphin (24%) and Sperm whale (2%) were recorded (Please refer to the Figure 5.5 below). An assessment of the Conservation Status of the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), Common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*) and Loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and their foraging, migration and reproduction habitats in waters around Malta was carried out. Based on the EC Document “Guidelines for the establishment of the Natura 2000 network in the marine environment”, particularly Sections 4.3 and 4.4 which deal specifically with locating and assessing Annex II

species and the rationale for the selection of sites for these species, and using examples presented in Appendix 4 this assessment includes a study of abundance, distribution and use of the habitat and their relation with the environmental and anthropogenic parameters that could affect them, as well as their level of residence and home range in the different areas.

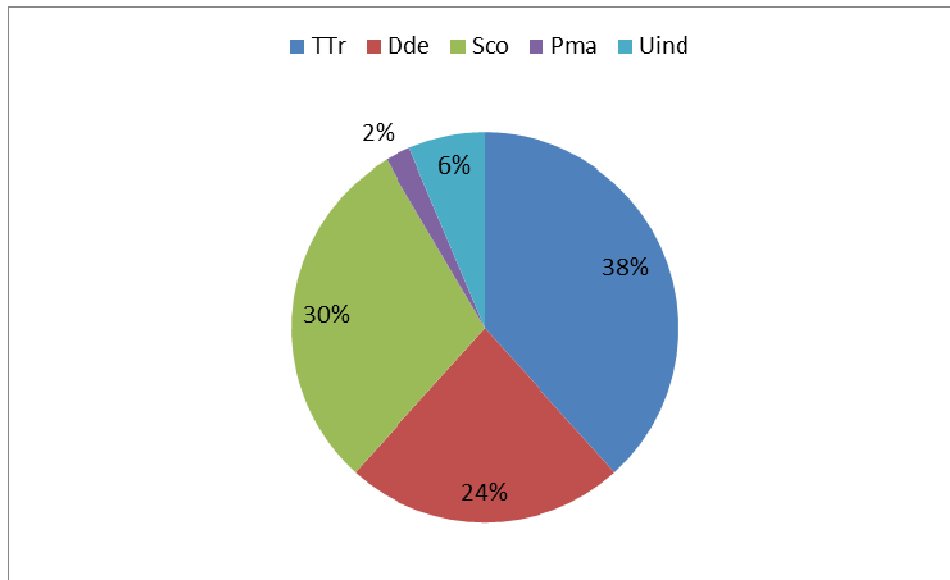


Figure 5.5: Pie chart showing the frequency, in percentage, of the cetacean species encountered during the effort survey. TTr: *Tursiops truncatus*; Dde: *Delphinus delphis*; Sco: *Stenella coeruleoalba*; Pma: *Physeter macrocephalus*.

Bottlenose dolphins showed group sizes ranging from 1 to 35 individuals. The common dolphin showed group sizes ranging from 3 to 45 individuals, and a mean group size of 20 individuals. The mean group size obtained was slightly lower than previous research in Maltese waters for this species (Vella, 2004). The striped dolphin group size ranged between 2 and 60, and showed a mean group size of 27 individuals, and it was the species with the higher mean group size obtained during the survey in Maltese waters. Sperm whales were located in the deep waters south of Malta (35,70 N, 14,26 E) in summer 2013. They were detected acoustically and the group was formed by at least four individuals. Whales were travelling towards the south-southeast while performing foraging dives.

The three delphinidae species observed seem to overlap in areas with depths between 200 meters to 600 meters with no slope to 4 degrees slopes, since striped dolphins were not observed in areas above 200 meters depth, and common dolphins were not observed in areas below 600 meters depth. The bottlenose dolphins can be found at different depths, but there is noticeable preference for the deepest areas, as well as near the coast on the S of Malta. This particular aggregation of bottlenose individuals near the coast is directly related with their interaction with the fish farms that are present in the area, being an opportunistic species.

The number of cetaceans found in Maltese waters is considered low, comparing with other areas in the Mediterranean Sea, as per Figure 5.6.

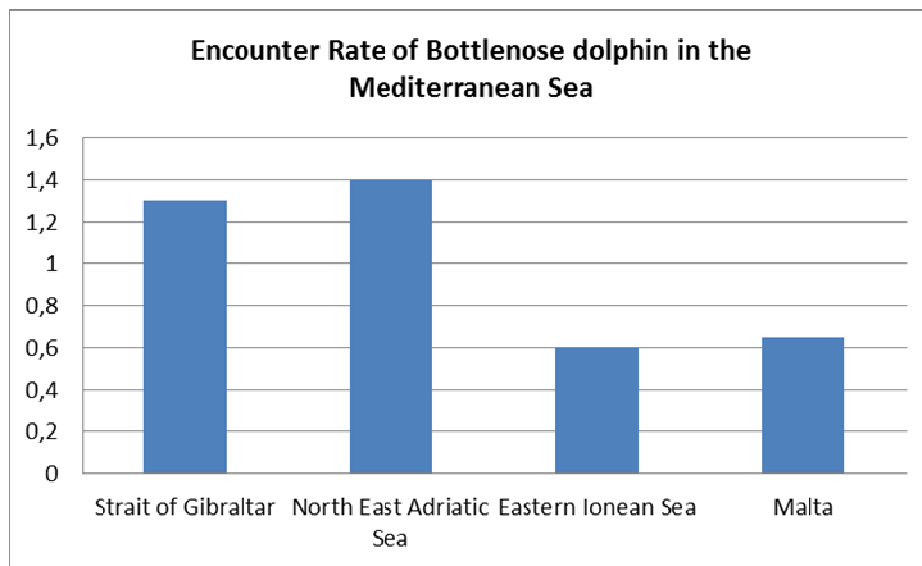


Figure 5.6: Bar graph showing encounter rate of bottlenose dolphins from other areas of the Mediterranean Sea (Bearzi 2003), compared to Malta (data of this project).

The fish farms have been proposed as an area of interest to monitoring the populations of the species of interest, the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), as regular presence and activity was found for this specie around some of these fish farms.

The remarkable abundance of loggerhead turtle sightings confirms the previous indications we had that Malta can be considered as a critical area of the eastern Mediterranean population of this species. KAI have also highlighted that further research is required to assess if the deep waters south and west of Malta are of importance for deep-water species such as sperm whales, or if the species encountered indicate simply an occurrence of an occasional presence of this species in Malta.

A number of important policy implications and managements measures have been set in place and outlined in the After-LIFE Conservation Plan and also explained in layman terms in the Layman's Report in order to conserve these species and their habitats adequately.

Many of these had already been specified in the guidelines finalized by KAI (Action E14) and reviewed accordingly by the partners. In Malta a number of turtles are incidentally caught through long-line fishing and hence the suggested management techniques briefly listed below (and in the after-Life Conservation plan and in the N2K Guidelines) should be having a great conservation benefit for marine turtles in these areas, as well as other benefits also in other areas if they are applied by various fishers and not only in the specific areas.

Baseline data on these was gathered and further monitoring will continue to build on such initial baselines (Action E14). KAI through Action A3 have carried out an assessment of basic noise 'baselines' levels in some areas, as well as collection of microlitter data in 3 haul areas. These baselines will also contribute further to the Programme of Measures (POMs) currently being finalized by Malta (initial assessment, GES and targets - <http://www.mepa.org.mt/water-msfd-refer>, for marine litter and underwater noise) for Malta since such data was not yet available for Malta previously.

A number of actions which are already on-going will continue to be followed-up like:

- Rehabilitate injured marine turtles, which are then released once rehabilitated; and
- collaboration with institutions which were not partners which may actually lead to further strengthened ties in the future for further collaboration to create synergy to enhance the protection of marine species and surveillance of MPAs.

The designation of SCIs will enable better protection to these species on the basis of spatial management. Three areas which are potentially important as foraging grounds for young and/or sub-adult turtles and for cetaceans have been proposed as pSCI. These areas lie at a distance from the coast with some of them bordering the territorial sea.

The safeguarding of selected areas from negative impacts is crucial. Hence, the ALCP identifies the need to protect such areas at national level. The assessment of impacts (a normal process for development that is to be carried within such areas or nearby) within protected areas can be used to identify measures to mitigate those activities that would be identified to have a significant negative impact on the status of the marine protected areas or the protected species that are hosted within them. A number of such issues are already identified in the National Marine Monitoring Plan, which was reported in 2015 as part of the MSFD reporting processes but which streamlines monitoring requirements emanating from various marine-related policies. Such a Monitoring Plan is already being implemented by various Governmental entities, and is expected to include funding from EU sources. In this respect, the Monitoring Plan governs the first phase of implementation, i.e. 2016-2018, and selected issues earmarked in this Conservation Plan will be incorporated into the next phase of the reporting cycle, from 2019-2021, in line with the timeframes indicated in this Plan.

Specific proposed objectives proposed, which are common for the loggerhead turtle and the bottlenose dolphin are including further below, however they are fully developed in the attached ALCP as Annex 7.3.2 with this FR.

The sites proposed in this document have already been proposed as pSCIs to CION, but will also be nationally protected under the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006, to ensure a national legal framework.

A public campaign will also be conducted to raise awareness of the existing laws and penalties and to encourage the public to report any illegal observations.

An assessment, providing quantitative information, will be carried out to identify gears that are causing deaths or injuries to turtles and/or dolphins. This will assess the significance of interactions. Available data originating from rehabilitated turtles, dead specimens that are

transported to the rehabilitation centre and any other observations through citizen science, will also be used. During future monitoring, a distinction, will be made between by-caught turtles in local fishing gear and those which are injured by ‘foreign’ gear. This will assist in ascertaining what local specific modifications we need to carry out on our local gear, if the case.

Further discussions will be also held with all stakeholders and with the support of the Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change with regards to improving the system of notification of lost gear. An MoU between MSDEC, the entity in charge of the rehabilitation centre; ERA, the Competent Authority in relation to the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006; and the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture noting the obligations in relation to bycaught turtles; will be done to ensure that injured turtles are rehabilitated.

Through the website of this project, which is to be maintained up to 5 years after project finalisation, the results of the measures of the after-Life Action Plan, will be made also available. A section could also be devoted to publish important relevant telephone numbers and applicable regulations to MPAs.

With regards to incentives, in the future depending on the numbers of sustained sightings in the areas designated, we may develop some form of strictly managed dolphin/turtle watching events. Other jobs may potentially also be created in connection with management of such sites and/or a wardening system that may also be developed further.

The training of E11 volunteers, different sea-users (like divers), conservation institutions and /or environment NGOs and the training of all the maritime squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta and of Civil Protection Department has also helped to set-up further positive conservation attitude and will ensure further monitoring of cetacean and sea turtle populations by these different groups. In these training workshops MEPA gave an in-depth training on species identification and also on the correct handling procedures should they encounter stranded or beached animals and hence the conservation implications of such training is direct and the long term benefits are the obvious potential saving of the specimen in difficulty. Their successful recovery will then depend on the effectiveness of the rehabilitation centre, which however to date has very great success rates.

Most of these issues have also been already tackled directly or indirectly also further above together with the direct environmental benefits as it is quite difficult to completely separate the two issues.

5.4.1.2. Relevance for environmentally significant issues or policy areas

As per the 7th EU Environmental Action Programme, our prosperity and healthy environment stems from a circular economy where wastage is minimised as much as possible and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society’s resilience. This Project will help build on particularly one of the three key objectives of this action Programme notably that to protect, conserve and

enhance the Union's natural capital. It will also strive to deliver on the overall goal of better implementing the legislation and providing better information by improving the knowledge base as well as integrating fully the environmental requirements and considerations into other policies.

5.4.2. Long-term benefits and sustainability

5.4.2.1. Long-term and qualitative environmental benefits

As described above, the After-LIFE Conservation Plan will have a long-term effect on the conservation of the two mentioned marine species migrating through Maltese territorial waters. The proposed pSCIs is only the first step of many for effective conservation spatial conservation. These areas have been inventoried, mapped and proposed for inclusion in the Nature 2000 network, and need, as indicated in the ALCP, to be included in national legislation and eventually managed (EU MS have 6 years to establish such conservation measures in view of the necessary consultations that needs to be undertaken with all stakeholders) using the most appropriate measures for each site. The After-LIFE Conservation Plan has identified a number of these measures), and has also planned the necessary strategy with the in principle 'necessary commitment' from the relevant stakeholder groups and entities.

The proposal focuses on conservation objectives that target the loggerhead turtle and the bottlenose dolphin. A number of objectives have been identified that are expected to either complement or enrich the output of this project. It is expected that the Conservation Plan will continue to build our capacity in order to select the correct the conservation objectives and associated measures. The related conservation objectives and measures are expected to be developed by ERA and MSDEC through stakeholder consultations to be carried out in the course of 2017, and will also involve all relevant governmental bodies. Such Programme of Measures will take into consideration the results identified through LIFE MIGRATE (and the related LIFE + Malta Seabirds project), as well as this After-LIFE Conservation Plan. Indeed, the After LIFE plan includes actions that will assist the competent authority in selecting the most appropriate and effective measures to be included. Other frameworks would be considered in parallel in order to create synergies and have a more holistic and efficient approach. This would ensure that the management of the designated sites is in line with the requirements of the Nature Directives, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and other related EU legislation and multilateral environment agreements, including the United Nations Barcelona Convention.

It will be important to ensure that the natural habitat of the species is not degraded and this may entail addressing actions that negatively affect such habitats rather than those affecting the species. Details of these are listed in the After-LIFE Conservation Plan. In the interim, until the establishment of the conservation objectives and management measures, it will be ensured that the sites (and also the species) will be protected from negative impacts. The programme of measures is expected to safeguard various factors and features that are important for the MPAs. The programme will eventually be consolidated with the specific conservation measures. The conservation status of habitats that are hosted in such sites will be maintained and adequately managed from degradation.

Some measures which will continue to develop the actions initiated in the LIFE Project in the following years and which will ensure the longer term management of the sites and of the species have been proposed in the ALCP and include Table 5.42.

| Conservation objective | Management objective | Action | |
|--|--|---|--|
| CO 1: To maintain or to improve the conservation status of turtles and/or bottlenose dolphins in MPAs | MM 1: Identify the significance, in line with the Habitats Directive requisites, of any negative interaction between turtles and dolphins, respectively, and fishing gear. | <p>An assessment is to be carried out to identify those gears that are causing deaths or injuries to turtles and/or dolphins. It needs to provide quantitative information. It will be used to assess the significance of any interaction. Data that may be already available will be used including for example that originating from rehabilitated turtles, dead specimens that are transported to the rehabilitation centre and any observations through citizen science (see also MM 12). A distinction, whenever possible, should be made between those turtles which are by-caught in gear of local fishing vessels and those which are injured. This noting that lost gear by foreign vessels in waters outside the FMZ may drift to within the FMZ. Data from the MSFD monitoring programme as reported in October 2015 will also be fed into this assessment.</p> <p>ERA will seek to sign a MoU with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture so that a programme is carried out in collaboration with fishers who will collect relevant</p> | Indicators |
| | | | Compilation of report that will provide information of gear interaction and measures to reduce any negative interaction. The results should provide data on by-catch in terms of number per unit effort (no/1000hooks/hr) for all the species caught. Any improvements in the data are also an indicator. Signing of the MoU. |
| | | | Attributes |
| | | | Number of turtles reported as dead or injured by fishing gear. Number of lost gear that is reported so that the pressure resulting from such gear is monitored. Furthermore, this will allow to generate mitigation measures to avoid losing any gear that may be more frequently lost. |
| | | | Leader / players |
| | | | ERA; DFA |
| | | | Funds |
| In line with the data collection framework (DCF) workplan, funding for the implementation of the DCF will be through EMFF: a programme will collect data on by-catch from drifting longlines targeting large pelagic fish collected from quarterly trips during respective fishing seasons as from 2018. | | | |
| Cost (Euro) | | | |
| Cost of reporting instrument; and officers' salary: 15,000 EUR; | | | |

| | | <p>data.</p> <p>Further discussions will be held with all stakeholders and with the support of the Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment and climate change with regards to improving the system of notification of lost gear.</p> | <p>5,000 EUR estimated average cost which include partial cost of DCF to collect the data as established for this measure.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Date</p> <p>2017: Start report to conclude action by 2021</p> |
|--|---|--|--|
| Conservation objective | Management measure | Action | Indicators |
| CO 1: To maintain or to improve the conservation status of turtles and/or bottlenose dolphins in MPAs | MM 2: Once MM1 is concluded, any measures that may be recommended to reduce any identified negative interaction has to be implemented | <p>Through the report generated from the LIFE+ MIGRATE project a possible negative interaction with turtles from surface longlines was indicated. In order to reduce this interaction pilot studies focusing on the modification to longlines used in the MPAs may need to be considered. This could entail: a change in the design of the hook; a change in the type of bait that is used on the use of surface longlines in such areas; a change in the depth of the longline within the water column or; a change in the number of hooks that may be allowed to be used at any one time in the MPAs; or other new measures that may be identified in the future.</p> <p>Since there are various measures that can be implemented to achieve the same objective it is suggested that such measures are only decided once the report in MM 1 is</p> | Indicators |
| | | | Conclusion on the measures to be adopted with regard to fishing gear. Percent change in the number of by-catches within the pilot study. Number of fishers receiving training. |
| | | | Attributes |
| | | | Change in the number of turtles reported as dead or injured by fishing gear |
| | | | Leader / players |
| | | | ERA; DFA |
| Funds | | | |
| Potential funding as part of Malta's EMFF operational programme could possible fund research on possible alterations to gear; national funds for the changes to gear. | | | |
| Cost (Euro) | | | |
| This cost will vary depending on the measure to be implemented. It may also involve a socio-economical aspect if a permanent ban on longlines is established. Therefore at this stage no estimate of this cost can be made until the measures to be adopted have been decided. Cost will involve communication through letters and allocation of an officer. | | | |

| | | <p>concluded and a consultation is conducted with the DFA. This will ensure that the right measure is adopted and would not lead to unnecessary changes in the fishing operations.</p> <p>Furthermore, training to fishers would enable them to acquire knowledge on how to disentangle a turtle and release it safely in the wild.</p> | <p>National funds: Analysis of data: 3,500 EUR for an officer 4 hours per week for one year. Analysis of results to assess significance allocation of an officer for one month: 2,500 EUR Two 4-hour sessions to train fishers: 4,000 EUR Costs of modifications to gear in a phased approach so as to assess efficacy of such measure over one year is estimated around 200,000 EUR.</p> |
|---|---|--|---|
| | | | Date |
| | | | 2021, the period by which measures have to be implemented |
| Conservation objective | Management measure | Action | |
| CO 1: To maintain or to improve the conservation status of turtles and/or bottlenose dolphins in MPAs | MM 3: Ensure that severely injured or dead turtles and dead dolphins that are by-caught are landed. | This would require the setting up of a MoU between MSDEC, the entity in charge of the rehabilitation centre; ERA, the Competent Authority in relation to the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006; and the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture noting the obligations in relation to bycaught turtles; to ensure that injured turtles are rehabilitated. This may require a number of meetings with the fishers which can be included in MM2. A mechanism also needs to be set up to ensure that dead specimens of turtles and dolphins are analysed so that the cause of death can be investigated and recorded. Where possible and relevant, a | Indicators |
| | | | MoU signed and implemented |
| | | | Attributes |
| | | | Number of rehabilitated and dead turtles |
| | | | Number of turtles which were analysed through necroscopy. |
| | | | Leader / players |
| | | | MSDEC; ERA; DFA and Veterinary Services Department |
| | | | Funds |
| | | | National funds. |
| | | | Cost (Euro) |
| Cost of full necropsies may vary from 100 to 800 EUR per turtle – depending on the type of analysis made. Total per year estimated at 5,000 EUR | | | |
| Date | | | |
| | | | This is an ongoing action but it needs to be documented through standard operating procedures and formalised by 2017. Once |

| | | necropsy on a number of dead turtles should be carried out to ensure that these cases are investigated and allow the collection of statistical data. | initiated this action should be kept ongoing and therefore there is no target date for its completion. However, during 2021 this measure is to be revisited to assess its efficacy and review as necessary. |
|--|--|---|---|
| Conservation objective | Management measure | Action | |
| CO 1: To maintain or to improve the conservation status of turtles and/or bottlenose dolphins in MPAs | MM 4: Identify the significance and subsequently reduce the mortality of turtles and dolphins caused by ingesting debris, microplastics and litter; entanglement with litter for example plastic bags. | The information that will be gathered from MM 3 will assist to reach conclusions to achieve this management measure. Since it is noted that turtles and dolphins may ingest plastics, a campaign is to be launched so that the public is made aware of the consequences of marine litter. The campaign will address the importance of these species, but will also focus on owners of vessels, including both leisure and fishing vessels. The campaign will be carried out in phases, and should include various adverts broadcasted on different media, the production of information material that are to be distributed to vessel owners, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the campaign. | Indicators |
| | | | Publicity material is completed and adverts compiled. |
| | | | Citizen science exercise launched (see also MM 11). |
| | | | Publication of the Necropsies' Results (see MM 3) |
| | | | Attributes |
| | | | Number of turtles reported entangled in litter. |
| | | | Amount of marine litter ingested in dead turtles. |
| | | | Number of turtles dying because of ingested litter |
| | | | Leader / players |
| | | | ERA; MSDEC, |
| Funds | | | |
| National funds, with possible ERDF funding. | | | |
| Cost (Euro) | | | |
| Campaign: a 45,000 EUR campaign within the first two years and another one in the fourth year, total: 90,000 EUR | | | |
| Date | | | |
| 2018 material is printed, 2019-2020 campaign. | | | |
| CO 1: To maintain or to improve the conservation status of | MM 5: Gather data so as to reduce any cases of turtle and bottlenose | Data on ship strikes will be gathered from TM, necropsies and through a citizen science exercise. The campaign that will be | Indicators |
| | | | Part of MM 4 |
| | | | Attributes |
| Part of MM 4; Number of specimens injured or dead from | | | |

| turtles and/or bottlenose dolphins in MPAs | dolphin injuries and mortalities due to ship strikes. | employed in MM 4 is also to include relevant aspects concerning speed in MPAs If, in the future, after analysing the results of the MSFD Monitoring Programme, it transpires that collisions are significant, collaboration with Transport Malta can be sought so that measures can be adopted such as for example, a Notice to Mariners can be issued, in those seasons, when turtles aggregate in the identified MPAs to reduce risks of collisions. | ship strikes |
|---|---|--|---|
| | | | Leader / players |
| | | | ERA; MSDEC, |
| | | | Funds |
| | | | Part of MM 4 |
| | | | Cost (Euro) |
| | | | Part of MM 4 |
| Date | | | |
| | | | Part of MM 4 |
| Conservation objective | Management measure | Action | |
| CO 1: To maintain or to improve the conservation status of turtles and/or bottlenose dolphins in MPAs | MM 6: Reduce any injuries and mortalities of turtles and dolphins to fouling of hydrocarbons. | Once again since there is no evidence, the results from MM 4 are to be used to identify any significance. If this is positive, the public campaign, further in the future, is to also include measures that refer to hydrocarbons. Furthermore, the monitoring exercise that will be undertaken under the MSFD will include the monitoring of hydrocarbons in sediments and water column and therefore the data generated through this exercise and the mitigation measures proposed under the same would enhance any other measures that may be deemed necessary within MPAs. | Indicators |
| | | | Part of MM 4 |
| | | | Attributes |
| | | | Part of MM 4 |
| | | | Number of specimens interacting with hydrocarbon |
| | | | Leader / players |
| | | | ERA, MSDEC |
| | | | Funds |
| | | | Part of MM 4 |
| | | | Cost (Euro) |
| Part of MM 4 | | | |
| Monitoring costs through national funds and EMFF, as per MSFD applicability. | | | |
| Date | | | |
| 2021 | | | |
| | MM 7: Ensure that the proposed marine protected areas remain effective | Monitoring activities to remain effective through all seasons through a citizen science exercise that would lead to the assessment of the number of specimens in each MPA and | Indicators |
| | | | Citizen science exercise with related monitoring programme initiated. |
| | | | App and Facebook page published. |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | throughout all seasons. | <p>an indication of age groups; a photographic record of dolphin specimens, focusing on their dorsal fin.</p> <p>The extension of this exercise to other Marine waters may be considered depending on results attained.</p> <p>A mobile application and a Facebook page are to be developed to facilitate this citizen science exercise. In line with the MSFD monitoring programme, monitoring at a National scale will be undertaken every six years. The monitoring programme may be updated as deemed necessary on the basis of improved knowledge.</p> | <p>MSFD monitoring results.</p> <p>Attributes</p> <p>Turtle and dolphin abundance on an annual basis.</p> <p>Leader / players</p> <p>ERA</p> <p>Funds</p> <p>National and EU funds</p> <p>Cost (Euro)</p> <p>To be determined</p> <p>Date</p> <p>2021</p> |
| | MM 8: Establish a monitoring programme to periodically evaluate the status of MPAs. | <p>The MSFD monitoring programme will be reviewed and revised as stipulated in the relevant Directive with a view to ensure that relevant biological and physico-chemical parameters are adequately monitored within MPAs. These include the establishment of acoustic monitoring stations and the abundance of prey that is available to turtles and dolphins; micro-plastics, hydrocarbons, salinity and chlorophyll. The abundance of prey may possibly be estimated through the results of the Meditts survey. The analysis of prey is linked to MM 4: common prey is also to be identified stomach contents analyses of dead turtles undergoing necropsy.</p> | <p>Indicators</p> <p>Monitoring programme compiled and results available.</p> <p>Attributes</p> <p>Information on biological and physical parameters is recorded.</p> <p>Analysis of stomach contents in MM 4.</p> <p>Leader / players</p> <p>ERA; DFA can provide information on certain fish stocks and actions taken on fishing effort, if any, in such areas.</p> <p>Funds</p> <p>National and EU funds.</p> <p>Cost (Euro)</p> <p>To be determined</p> <p>Date</p> <p>2020</p> |
| Conservation objective | Management measure | Action | |
| CO 2: Noting | MM 9: | The sites proposed in this | Indicators |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| the migratory nature of turtles and dolphins it should be ensured that these are adequately protected throughout the Maltese territory | Existing laws that protect these species should be properly enforced and rendered popular through advertisements to enhance public awareness | document should be nationally protected under the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006, to ensure a national legal framework. A public campaign that may also be part of MM 4 should raise awareness of the existing laws and penalties. The campaign should also encourage the public to report any illegal observations. The LIFE+ MIGRATE project has drawn attention to the potential situation where the bottlenose dolphin is unnecessarily disturbed when it congregates around fish farms cages. These may lead to situations which attract people to such areas to observe these species. Similarly, people may also be attracted to follow or to stop and observe pods of dolphins in other areas. In order to ensure that such activities do not pose a threat to the dolphins it is suggested that a special rules or a guidance Code of Conduct, drafted by ERA with input from relevant stakeholders, as applicable, are identified specifically for such areas such that these species are adequately protected from unnecessary human interference. | Issue of Government Notice in the Government Gazette under the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 designating the protected areas. |
| | | | Initiation of the campaign. |
| | | | Special Rules/Code of Conduct for area where dolphins congregate are to be enacted. |
| | | | Attributes |
| | | | Number of public reports. |
| | | | Number of court cases. |
| | | | Leader / players |
| | | | ERA; MSDEC |
| | | | Funds |
| | | | Part of MM 4 |
| | | | Cost (Euro) |
| | | | Part of MM 4 Code of Conduct: 20,000 EUR |
| Date | | | |
| Part of MM 4 Legal Designation: 2016 Rules: 2021 | | | |
| CO 3: To ensure that the public is elucidated | MM 10: Continuation of the project's website | The website that was developed as part of this project is to be kept updated. The updates would include the results of the measures of this Action Plan. Apart from | Indicators |
| | | | Website is regularly updated, at least once every three months |
| | | | Attributes |
| Record of new information presented. | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | updates, a section could be devoted to publish important relevant telephone numbers and applicable regulations to MPAs. | Leader / players ERA Funds National Funds Cost (Euro) Officer's salary 2 days per month: 200 EUR Date 2017 | | |
| Conservation objective | Management measure | Action | | | |
| CO 3: To ensure that the public is elucidated | MM 11: Involvement of the general public in data recording about MPAs through citizen science | The general public participation is to be considered when data collection exercises are carried out. This measure is also reflected in and part of other measures mentioned earlier in this plan. An ongoing data collection can be launched by considering a citizen science exercise. Interested members from the public are to be encouraged to approach ERA to be instructed how to collect data without causing disturbance to specimens. This action would need to provide the public a number of presentations and relevant printed material. In conjunction to this a mobile application is to be considered so that relevant information or any recording data can be provided electronically. | Indicators Initiation of citizen science exercise. Number of persons from the public engaged. Quality and quantity of data collected. Number of instruction sessions given to those who wish to participate. Printed material to be used by the public is completed. | | |
| | | | Attributes | Amount and quality of data collected. | |
| | | | Leader / players | ERA | |
| | | | Funds | National and MSFD | |
| | | | Cost (Euro) | Citizen Science App development and servicing: 10,000 EUR Printed matter: 5,000 EUR | |
| | | | Date | 2017 to start data collection, an ongoing exercise. | |
| | | | Indicators | Public event programme | |
| | | | MM 12: Establish an | An annual day should be targeted in which there is an | |
| | | | | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| | annual dedicated day to raise public awareness about the turtle and bottlenose dolphin. | emphasis to increase public awareness and education about turtles, dolphins and other cetaceans. It should also comprise the distribution of printed material and souvenirs that indicate the need to protect these species. The material to be distributed during these events should be preferably funded through private sponsors. This will provide a space for corporate responsibility and private companies may be highly interested to participate and assist. | completed |
| | | | Attributes |
| | | | Number of persons visiting event |
| | | | Leader / players |
| | | | ERA |
| | | | Funds |
| | | | National and sponsorships |
| | | | Cost (Euro) |
| | | | Preparation officer's salary, max. 30 days: 2,500 EUR |
| | | | Printed matter: 4,000 EUR |
| Hiring of venue and equipment: 1,500 EUR | | | |
| Date | | | |
| First day to be organised in 2019 | | | |

Table 5.42: Description of the conservation objections, as specified in the ALCP.

Remaining threats

Fishing gears, particularly Long-lining and fish aggregating devices (FAD) used to target dolphinfish are possibly the most likely fishing methods that can have a negative effect on turtles. Long-lining can result in by-catch by the turtle getting hooked whilst trying to feed on the bait. The use of FADs in fishing can result in turtles being entangled in the twine of the FAD itself and it may also be incidentally caught (but the latter is more remote from FADs).

An assessment is to be carried out to identify those gears that are causing deaths or injuries to turtles and/or dolphins. It needs to provide quantitative information. It will be used to assess the significance of any interaction. Data that may be already available will be used including for example that originating from rehabilitated turtles, dead specimens that are transported to the rehabilitation centre and any observations through citizen science (see also MM 12). A distinction, whenever possible, should be made between those turtles which are by-caught in gear of local fishing vessels and those which are injured. This noting that lost gear by foreign vessels in waters outside the FMZ may drift to within the FMZ. Data from the MSFD monitoring programme as reported in October 2015 will also be fed into this assessment.

Through the report generated from the LIFE+ MIGRATE project a possible negative interaction with turtles from surface long lines was indicated. In order to reduce this interaction pilot studies focusing on the modification to longlines used in the MPAs may need to be considered. This could entail: a change in the design of the hook; a change in the type of bait that is used on the use of surface long lines in such areas; a change in the depth of the longline within the water column or; a change in the number of hooks that may be allowed to

be used at any one time in the MPAs; or other new measures that may be identified in the future.

Since there are various measures that can be implemented to achieve the same objective it is suggested that such measures are only decided once the report in MM 1 is concluded and a consultation is conducted with the DFA. This will ensure that the right measure is adopted and would not lead to unnecessary changes in the fishing operations.

Furthermore, training to fishers would enable them to acquire knowledge on how to disentangle a turtle and release it safely in the wild.

Another potential issue may be linked with navigation, including collision and pollution impacts. The latter may be direct, through noise, or indirect, such as for example, the dumping of marine litter, especially soft plastics. Litter also results from land-based activities. With regard to noise, more data is required to be able to quantify this as a pressure and threat and also to qualitatively assess its impact, if any. Official statistics, if available, need to be referred when elaborating appropriate measures.

Litter, especially that consisting of transparent plastic material, which can easily be misidentified as potential prey by a turtle, may also be a pressure on turtles.. Although this pressure exists, the significance of impact would need to be evaluated. Therefore further research is being recommended in order to identify the appropriate action that may be taken. On these issues, the ALCP identifies measures how the significances of such issues will be addressed.

The information that will be gathered from MM 3 will assist to reach conclusions to achieve this management measure. Since it is noted that turtles and dolphins may ingest plastics, a campaign is to be launched so that the public is made aware of the consequences of marine litter. The campaign will address the importance of these species, but will also focus on owners of vessels, including both leisure and fishing vessels. The campaign will be carried out in phases, and should include various adverts broadcasted on different media, the production of information material that are to be distributed to vessel owners, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the campaign.

Data on ship strikes will be gathered from TM, necropsies and through a citizen science exercise. The campaign that will be employed in MM 4 is also to include relevant aspects concerning speed in MPAs

If, in the future, after analysing the results of the MSFD Monitoring Programme, it transpires that collisions are significant, collaboration with Transport Malta can be sought so that measures can be adopted such as for example, a Notice to Mariners can be issued, in those seasons, when turtles aggregate in the identified MPAs to reduce risks of collisions.

Details regarding what and which actions will be carried out, when, and by whom, and potential sources of finance have all been listed and included in the ALCP. This plan was drafted in consultation with the After-LIFE Conservation Plan Committee, as described in Section 5.1.9.

5.4.2.2. Long –term and qualitative economic benefits

Although there are no direct economic benefits envisaged from this project after its completion, however, as a result of the identification of pSCIs for the loggerhead turtle and cetaceans, there may be indirect economic benefits which cannot be underestimated. The creation of marine protected areas, and the effective management of activities within such sites often results in the provision of a safe refuge for other non-target species, including species of economic importance. An increase in the stocks of such species may be of a direct economic benefit to the fishing industry. There are also potential indirect benefits to the recreational industry. Such examples would be eco-tourism activities such as cetacean and turtle watching.

5.4.2.3. Long-term and qualitative social benefits

The declaration of Natura 2000 sites and their management will certainly create benefits both in terms of strict environmental aspects, but also in relation to socio-economic issues, including the better understanding of our resources (including fisheries) and their uses which in the longer-run would lead to more sustainable uses of the Maltese waters and their resources.

Some of these benefits are also overlapping with the above described benefits since some may be socio-economic, such as job creations. Furthermore, one of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project's objective is to create awareness about the population of the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle and their habitats vis-à-vis sustainability. This will raise and provide long-term awareness in terms of environmental and socio-economic factors. As a result, this awareness will serve as an asset for future generations. Dissemination actions will benefit by providing important information about these two marine species, which can contribute significantly for long-term awareness. This will be discussed in more detail further below.

5.4.2.4. Continuation of the project actions by the beneficiary or by other stakeholders.

These have already been described above in Section 5.4.2.1 and details of these and who will be carrying out such actions are listed in the ALCP specifically in part 5 form page 22 till page 28.

5.4.3. Replicability, demonstration, transferability, cooperation: Potential for technical and commercial application

This project can be replicated elsewhere quite easily since all the methods and detailed descriptions of the actions can be done in other Mediterranean countries since likewise we had replicated the studies done in another LIFE Project in Spain in Malta.

Moreover, the data can be further elaborated upon in order to obtain also other seasonal and other data to continue to increase such baseline data. We have in fact already been contacted by other Mediterranean countries (namely Italy) to assist in other projects, e.g. LIFE EUROTURTLES (please refer to Section 5.1.7). Indeed, we consider that the project has had

very high visibility (eye-catchers), in same and other sectors both on local level but also at the EU level.

5.4.4. Best Practice Lessons

This project helped a number of individuals, volunteers and organisations to be able to identify the different species of marine turtles and cetacean species. As a result of the training workshops, a number of people can easily distinguish different species from one another and thus, it was found to be beneficial to both parties since more accurate data could then be collected from such third parties. This is also backed up by the aid of the brochures, newsletters and the website which also contain a lot of information about the identification of the mentioned marine species.

LIFE+MIGRATE promotional events, such as the beach activities organised with the local councils, have the potential to increase awareness of the said migratory species. Upon submission of the promotional items, people might generate more interest to go and continue researching about the project and the species involved. Hence, people can become more informed in such a way that they can alter their behaviours and their way of thinking to reduce the impacts on these species. Such examples behaviour alteration could be the following:

- using fabric shopping bags instead of plastic bags; and
- avoiding throwing rubbish in the sea.

In addition, promoting this project to children is also important, as was the case in organising the beach activity in Ġnejna with the summer school pupils. This is considered as an asset since children have the affinity to learn faster than adults and transmit such information more rapidly and with greater impacts to their families. This would therefore increase further long-term awareness about the species under study and their habitats.

The project is also expected to contribute to an increased awareness about Natura 2000 and the Habitats Directive in general, and these species in particular, among the Maltese general public and interested parties. This increase in awareness and the generation of interest are added value. Increased awareness is expected to result into further positive behavioural change or, which will serve to further involve the public in conservation efforts towards such species.

Actions E13, E14 and D1 followed the best practice developed in LIFE02/NAT/E/8610 later used by the OSPAR Convention. In LIFE+MIGRATE, this formula proved also successful in establishing the best possible stakeholder communication and involvement in the development of NATURA 2000 Guidelines.

Action A3, the use of standardised survey and analysis methodology, together with networking at the international level, allowed to adjust activities making use of state of the art protocols going beyond the objectives established originally for the Action.

5.4.5. Innovation and demonstration values

In the analysis phase, a novel method was developed to integrate visual and acoustic survey data in one same model. Other examples of innovation include the use of new hydrophones systems and micro plastics pollution sampling.

The reliance on electronic correspondence and the use of digital media is favourable in this project rather than the printed media. The newsletters are always published electronically, and they are sent via email to the subscribers not by post. Hence, not only it is an environmentally friendly solution, but it is also a cost-effective solution since there are no costs⁵⁸ are involved.

On the other, there are other tasks in the project such as reports and brochures, where printed media cannot be avoided. As a result of this, it is ensured that:

- there are restrictions for paper usage of such tasks; and
- the papers used will be chlorine-free and FCS certified (or equivalent) where possible.

It is essential to point out that this project entails an effort to reduce the carbon foot print and be cost effective by diminishing the use of transportation. That is why that most of communication is done by means of emails and telephony. In addition, there is also a big effort to keep air travel to the barest minimum.

The sailing vessels adapted for the research work offered a lot of energy efficiency mechanisms.

Apart from the training of volunteers of E11, filming of the video of E6, invitation of key networking stakeholders and participation in the 2013 BOV Malta Boat Show, through collaboration with the NGOs OCEANCARE and FIVE GYRES the survey conducted a series of micro plastic debris sampling in addition to macro plastic sampling, which was quite an innovative activity in Malta, having been carried out for the first time.

Also, KAI conducted a series of ocean noise pollution sampling and underwater noise levels in the Maltese waters. This is also the first such study done in the Maltese Islands. These underwater noise levels were recorder with the SoundTrap (Ocean Instruments New Zealand), a broadband miniaturised autonomous recorder with a sampling frequency up to 288 KHz provided by the University of La Laguna (Canary Islands, Spain).

The project also contains EU added demonstration values. There is a demonstration value derived from the translational cooperation between Malta and Spain on this project. This partnership exploits the strengths of both partners to ensure efficient and effective use of resources and expertise in order to successfully achieve the goals of the proposal. KAI has extensive experience and expertise in carrying out similar research work, and this cooperation therefore was purposely set up to exploit this experience and expertise, so as to ensure that the project is efficient and effective, and the results are comparable with results obtained for other areas, since the methodology to be employed is the same.

⁵⁸ Such costs are mainly related to printing and postage.

5.4.6. Long-term indicators

There are a number of actions which will serve as long-term indicators. These actions which will need to be continued after the end of the project include:

- Action F4 – After-LIFE conservation plan: As discussed earlier on, this action will continue to monitor the population of *Tursiops truncatus* and *Caretta caretta* in the areas designated; and
- the dissemination actions (such as the newsletters and training workshops): Which as discussed above, will contribute to raise long-term awareness about the two mentioned species and reinforce the change in attitude and behaviour.

The conservation status of the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle (and including their habitat types) will continue to be assessed based on the results of the population studies from Action A3 boat-based surveys and following the management proposals outlined in the After-Life Conservation Plan. As per the habitats directive obligations, specifically according to Article 17 reporting, these assessments will be done carried out every six years and the favourable conservation status will be assessed following the conservation plan set out by this project (i.e. Action F4).

6. Financial part

This section will give a detailed description of the project from a financial point of view.

6.1. Summary of Costs Incurred

6.1.1. Original budget of the project

Table 6.1 below shows a summary of the original budget for each cost category of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project

| | Cost category | Budget according to the grant agreement (€) |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Personnel | €288,646.00 |
| 2 | Travel and subsistence | €65,924.00 |
| 3 | External assistance | €410,000.00 |
| | Durables: total non-depreciated cost | |
| 4 | Equipment sub-tot | €24,000.00 |
| 5 | Consumables | €101,600.00 |
| 6 | Other direct costs | €15,000.00 |
| 7 | Overheads | €58,836.00 |
| | TOTAL | €964,006.00 |

Table: 6.1 Original budget of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project.

6.1.2. Budget Deviations

Throughout the life time of the project there have been numerous modifications in the budget.

The first budget change was reported in the MtR, whereby a number of budget shifts were made by KAI in the actions under their remit. Such modifications are better described in Annex 7.2.9 of the said MtR. Such shifts were accepted in principal as per point of Annex attached with letter from CION dated 25.05.2015.

In the PrR, it was reported that further deviations were done in the budget, both by MEPA and KAI, which are better described in Table 6.2 of the said PrR and Annex 7.5.2 of the same PrR.

However, following the latter mentioned report, CION notified the coordinating beneficiary in their letter (reference number Ares (2016)156172 – 12/01/2016) with the following:

The proposed non-substantial technical and financial changes for each action detailed in annex 7.5.2 are acceptable, insofar as they will help you to better achieve the objectives of the related actions and of the project as a whole. Please note that the eligibility of the related costs will only be evaluated at the Final Report stage, and that you will have to repeat this information (changes and justifications, summarised as appropriate) in the Final Report as that Report must cover all that has been done since the beginning of the project and is the basis of your final payment request.

*However, the combined effect of these non-substantial budget modifications would lead you to exceed the 10%/30,000€ limits for personnel costs by 7,146€ (based on your current provisions) and this sum would be ineligible at the final payment stage. Should you wish to avoid this ineligibility, you would have to submit a budget amendment request at least three months before the end of the project, ie by the end of January. If you plan to do so please take note of the guidelines on our website and consult Ms Catelani of the external monitoring team:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/toolkit/pmtools/lifeplus/amendments.htm>.*

Along with this letter, CION also communicated with the coordinating beneficiary via telephone. CION informed us that CPs were misinterpreted wrongly and stated that the cost category threshold is to be either equal to the addition of the 10% or the €30,000 to the original budget stipulated for that specific cost category and not the addition of the two (which was how we interpreted it). This would depend on which ever would be the most suitable for the project as a whole and in our case; it was the addition of the €30,000 as it is the most economically beneficial.

By adding the €30,000 with the original budget of the personnel cost category (€288,646), the threshold for the personnel cost category would therefore be €318,646. However, the new budget proposal proposed in the PrR for this cost category read €325,792 (as per Annex C of Annex 7.5.2 of the PrR), which would imply that there were €7,146 above the previously-mentioned threshold (€325,792-€318,646 = €7,146).

If this exceedance of €7,146 was to be considered, a GA amendment would have been produced since there would have been a substantial change. Since it would not have been suitable to request for a GA amendment at that point in time (January 2016), seeing that the project was coming to an end in less than four months time, a decision was taken by all concerned that this money would be considered as ineligible.

Therefore, the other alternative was to lower the proposed budget for the personnel cost category, in such a way to become less than the mentioned threshold. When the coordinating beneficiary reviewed this issue, it resulted that this exceedance of €7,146 was due to the addition of budget in the personnel cost category of KAI.

KAI were notified accordingly about this issue. They analysed the budget modification again and informed MEPA that if there were no other alternatives, it would have to be assumed that the €7,146 would be lost.

The exceedance of €7,146 was therefore considered as ineligible and it was removed from KAI's personnel of Action E14. The necessary amendments of deviations have been done accordingly, along with other deviations of MEPA/ERA. The later deviations by MEPA/ERA mainly include the following:

- The replacing of the LIFE+MIGRATE newspaper insert with the featuring of the two-minute video of national TV; and
- The addition of the budget medications made under Actions, A1, E2, E11 and F1 (Actions under the coordinating beneficiary's remit).

The new deviations which occurred during the LIFE time compared to the original budget can be found attached with this FR as Annex 8.6. Furthermore, Table 6.2 shows a summary of such deviations in project budget from the original one.

| | Cost category | Deviated project budget (€) |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Personnel | €318,646.00 |
| 2 | Travel and subsistence | €55,303.67 |
| 3 | External assistance | €420,507.00 |
| 4 | Durables: total non-depreciated cost Equipment sub-tot | €3,452.00 |
| 5 | Consumables | €64,425.71 |
| 6 | Other direct costs | €30,066.97 |
| 7 | Overheads | €58,836.00 |
| | TOTAL | €951,237.70 |

Table 6.2: Deviated budget of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project.

6.1.3. Comparison between original and modified budgets of the project

Table 6.3 below shows a comparison between the original and modified project budget.

| | Cost category | Original Budget in Euros (€) | Deviated Budget in Euros (€) | Threshold, as per CPs Art 15.2 (Original Budget + €30,000) |
|---|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Personnel | €288,646.00 | €318,646.00 | €318,646.00 |
| 2 | Travel and subsistence | €65,924.00 | €55,303.67 | €95,924.00 |
| 3 | External assistance | €410,000.00 | €420,507.00 | €440,000.00 |
| 4 | Durables: total non-depreciated cost Equipment sub-tot | €24,000.00 | €3,452.00 | €54,000.00 |
| 5 | Consumables | €101,600.00 | €64,425.71 | €131,600.00 |
| 6 | Other direct costs | €15,000.00 | €30,066.97 | €45,000.00 |
| 7 | Overheads | €58,836.00 | €58,836.00 | €88,836.00 |
| | TOTAL | €964,006.00 | €951,237.70 | |

Table: 6.3 Comparison between original and deviated project budget.

It can be observed that there were no substantial changes *sensu* CPs. This resulted due to the fact that the modified budget of each cost category did not surpass the budget threshold indicated in Article 15.2 of the CPs. In this case, it did not surpass the addition of €30,000 with the original costs foreseen of each cost category.

6.1.4. Analysis of costs incurred in the project

Table 6.4 shows a summary of incurred costs in the project from the beginning of the project till the end of the project in comparison with the modified budget indicated previously (as per Table 6.2).

| | Cost category | Deviated Budget (€) | Costs incurred within the timeframe of the project (€) | Percentage of total costs (%) |
|---|---|---------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Personnel | €318,646.00 | € 360,956.10 | 113.28% |
| 2 | Travel and subsistence | €55,303.67 | € 51,213.99 | 92.61% |
| 3 | External assistance | €420,507.35 | € 389,579.93 | 92.65% |
| 4 | Durables: total non-depreciated cost Equipment sub-tot | €3,452.00 | € 3,452.00 | 100.00% |
| 5 | Consumables | €64,425.71 | € 59,633.86 | 92.56% |
| 6 | Other direct costs | €30,066.97 | € 26,236.97 | 87.26% |
| 7 | Overheads | €58,836.00 | € 39,620.25 | 67.34% |
| | TOTAL | €951,237.70 | € 930,693.10 | 97.84% |

Table 6.4: Project costs incurred.

Table 6.4 shows that the percentage of total costs of the LIFE+MIGRATE project is 97.84%, which is less than 100%. This means that the total project budget cost has not been superseded, and in fact, it can be noted that only €930,693.10 were incurred⁵⁹.

The following gives an analysis of the cost incurred per cost category:

- **Personnel**

Table 6.4 shows that €360,956.10 has been spent as personnel costs in the lifetime of the project.

Personnel costs were calculated by taking the Gross wages of each and every individual working on the project for each consecutive year in relation to the amount of hours worked on such project.

Details for personnel working on projects were inserted in the financial report, which include name and surname, job title, role in project and the action related to such projects.

Other details in relation with Annual Personnel costs working on projects were inserted, which included the annual gross salary for the periods worked on the project and other allowances in relation with:

- COLA;
- General Expenses;
- Government bonuses;
- Over time;
- Qualification allowances; and
- Costs in relation with Arrears (if present).

The annual obligatory social charges were calculated as the total National Insurance payable by employees in the period of 1 year.

Annual Productive hours have also been inputted, which included the total amount of hours each individual worked in one year irrespective if the amount of hours worked on the project. These were compared to palming records and were obtained from the total number of hours found on the timesheets.

Finally, the total hours worked on the project were obtained from the timesheets for each and every month and taking into account all the criteria mentioned the amount in EUR for each individual for a year was calculated.

The same calculation process for the personnel costs have been used for all the beneficiaries.

In addition, it can also be noted that the maximum threshold for of the said cost category have been superseded by approximately €42,310.10 (€360,956.10- €318,646).

This resulted due to:

⁵⁹ Also, it can be observed it that not even the original project budget of €964,006 was superseded.

- the issue about the €7,146 described further above in section 6.1.2; and
- the fact that other personnel contributing in the project have been inserting their total number of hours worked in the project, despite the fact that Form F1 of the GA indicates the maximum budget they should earn (these will be also explained in detail in Section 6.5 further below).

In this respect, it is being declared that the personnel will claim the costs according to what is stipulated in Form F1 of the GA.

- **Information about certain personnel**

- **Ms Carmen Mifsud (MEPA):** As from October 2012 till June 2015, Ms Carmen Mifsud was reporting to Mr Darrin Stevens (Unit Manager, Ecosystems Management). As from July 2015 till March 2016, she was reporting to Perit Vincent Cassar (who was the Acting Director of Environment and Chairman of MEPA). As from April 2016, she was reporting to Director of Environment of ERA, Perit Michelle Piccinino.
- **Ms Maria Spiteri nee Mallia (MEPA):** Between January and May 2015, Ms Maria Spiteri nee Mallia was on maternity leave. In this respect, the number of hours declared in her pay slips while she was on maternity leave was inserted in the Annual Number of Productive Time Units of the financial report. This was done so as to calculate her rate of time of 2015 (Annex 8.9 of this FR).

- **Travel & subsistence**

It can be observed from Table 6.4, that 92.61% of the costs allocated for travel and subsistence following the deviations (Annex 8.6 of this FR) were utilized. This shows that nearly all costs allocated for this cost category was used, which were mainly due to travel costs involved under Action A3, E11, E13 and F2.

- **External assistance**

€389,579.93 has already been spent for this category, as per Table 6.4, resulting into nearly spending of the budget allocated for External Assistance (EA) (approximately 93%). These costs incurred were mainly due to the External Assistance costs listed in Table 6.6, further below.

- **Equipment:**

The cost allocated for equipment has been all spent for the Action A3 surveys. The only equipment cost utilised was for the purchasing of the RHIB, following the deviations made by KAI, which have been submitted with MtR (Annex 7.2.9 of the MtR).

It is important to point out that a deprecation of a maximum of 50% was applied on the incurred equipments. This is due to the fact that the cost was incurred by KAI, which is a private beneficiary and thus, it had to abide by Article 25 of the CPs.

Hence, the total cost of the RHIB amounted to €6,904, but only €3,452 (50%) are being considered as eligible, as per Table 6.4.

- **Consumables**

Approximately 92.56% of the costs incurred were spent on the consumables category, which shows that nearly all costs allocated for this cost category were spent. Compared with other actions for the same category, Action A3 had the most costs incurred with a sum of € 35,616.71 (as per Table 6.6). The other major costs were used for the production of brochures, caps, polo shirts and other promotional items (Actions E7, E10 and E11) which were amalgamated, as described further above in Section 5.2. Also, major costs incurred under this cost category were due to the printing of the layman's reports and the hosting of project launch and closing conferences.

- **Other Direct Costs**

Some of costs incurred under this category were mainly due to the issuing of newspapers adverts in 2013 and 2014, as part of Action E11 (please refer to Section 5.2.2.11), which amounted to €13,248.75⁶⁰ in total.

It is important to point out that following the budget deviations, there has been an addition of an 'Other Direct Cost' category in the following actions:

- Action A3
- Action E6
- Action E9; and
- Action E14.

These deviations and deviations are better described in Annex 7.2.9 of the MtR and Annex 8.6 of this FR.

- **Overheads**

Approximately 67 % were spent as overheads, which were mainly spent for expenses, related to:

- Action A3;
- Courier post
- Purchasing of DVDs which contain footages featured on TV⁶¹.

6.1.5. Total costs being declared under this project

Following the above financial analysis, Table 6.5 shows the amounts which are going to be declared under this project.

⁶⁰ A budget change was made for this, which is described in the Budget modification document (Annex 8.6 of this FR)

⁶¹ This was mainly due to the fact that initially, Action E9 (media coverage) did not have an allocated budget to purchase related materials and information.

| | Cost category | Total costs being declared under the project (following budget deviation) (€) |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Personnel | € 318,646.00 |
| 2 | Travel and subsistence | € 51,213.99 |
| 3 | External assistance | € 389,579.93 |
| | Durables: total non-depreciated cost | |
| 4 | Equipment sub-tot | € 3,452.00 |
| 5 | Consumables | € 59,633.86 |
| 6 | Other direct costs | € 26,236.97 |
| 7 | Overheads | € 39,620.25 |
| | TOTAL | € 888,383.00 |

Table 6.5: table showing the total costs being declared under the project.

6.1.6. Funding

EU Contribution: The European Commission contributed to €190,401.20 in the project in 2012 and another €190,401.20 in 2015. The remaining €95,200.60 are expected to be given later on in 2016 or 2017. In addition, KAI were already given the sum of €415,980 (€207,990.80 x 2) as part of their first payment (40%) and second (40%) of the partnership agreement. The remaining 20% will be given to KAI according to their actual incurred costs, following the upcoming EU Contribution.

Other sources of funding: There were two co-financing payments by BOV, both of which occurred in 2014. The co-financing payments amounted to €10,000.

Direct Income: There were no direct incomes generated in the LIFE+ MIGRATE project. In addition, it important to point out that the bank account of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project is a current account and there no interest is credited to it.

6.2. Accounting system

Each beneficiary was responsible to keep a record of their expenditure, by means of timesheets and invoices. Eventually, these were inserted in a statement of expenditure report⁶². Each beneficiary was to send a soft copy of the said report, along with other copies of their invoices and timesheets⁶³ to the coordinating beneficiary, upon request. The invoices were classified according to the appropriate cost category, as per Table 6.4.

After being compared with the palming records, the timesheets were filled up by each staff working on the project and it is an effective method which ensures all the personnel's time devoted to the project. It also records the personnel's hours spent on other project and activities, if applicable. It was ensured that all timesheets were to sign the timesheets within

⁶² This is a financial reporting spreadsheet template which is available in the 'toolkit' on the LIFE web page.

⁶³ The copies of the invoices and timesheets are sent to the coordinating beneficiaries are both hard and soft copies.

the following month and it is important that the coordinating beneficiary ensures all partners' timesheets are received and checked.

All the invoices received and belonging to the coordinating beneficiary needed to contain the reference of the project, and also, if possible, the reference to the specific action, as per common provisions of the grant agreement. To ensure this, the supplier was notified beforehand. Alternatively, a stamp has been used indicating the reference number of the project. In addition, the invoices also need to be adequately detailed⁶⁴ as to allow recognition of single items covered by the service delivered. Furthermore, it is important to highlight that each invoice is to be signed and stamped by the responsible beneficiary.

For all beneficiaries, the invoice of a particular good and/ service is usually sent by the supplier as soon as that particular good and/or service is done and received. It is important to point out that in the case for the MEPA/ERA & MTCE/MSDEC, if the goods and/or services received are related to:

- communications, the invoice is generally sent to PR office;
- travel, the invoice is usually sent to the travel department; and
- if it not related to the above, it is sent directly to the LIFE+MIGRATE team of the beneficiary .

Once the goods and/or services are considered rendered and accepted by all the beneficiaries, the related invoice would be sent to the accounts department for the payment.

Eventually, when the payments have been affected, a proof of payment was requested for recording purposes and to insert the date of payment in the financial reports.

Moreover, it is important to highlight that physical and soft copies of financial-related documents (i.e. invoices, timesheets, purchase orders and proof of payments) were always stored accordingly at the coordinating beneficiary's premises and inserted in the accounting system. The accounting system which was used was SAGE and it was frequently updated.

SAGE uses accounting nominal codes, whereby these codes are set up to have 4 digit numbers. The first three digit number of such nominal code refers to the type of the cost category, i.e. whether it is:

- Personnel (474);
- Travel & Subsistence(438);
- External Assistance (457);
- Equipment(6300 – inserted as a fixed asset account);
- Consumables (462);
- Other Direct Costs (481);
- Overheads (471).

The general code for the code account is: 911.

On the other hand, the last 4th digit refers to the beneficiary who incurred that particular cost. In our accounting system, each beneficiary had been numbered as follows:

- KAI – 1;

⁶⁴ The invoices should be detailed by having a clear description and cost of each item purchased.

- MEPA – 2; and
- MTCE/MSDEC – 3.

These are better described in the extract of cost accounts from SAGE, attached as Annex 8 with this FR.

6.3. Partnership arrangements

Partnership and co-financing agreements exist between the coordinating beneficiaries and the other beneficiaries and co-financier respectively. These were already described in detail in the Section 4.3 in the IncR and attached as Annex 7.1 of the same report.

6.4. Auditor's report

As per section 5.1.8, the auditing firm was selected to be PKF (Malta) & Co (address: 35, Mannarino Road, Birkirkara, BKR 9080, Malta). This company has audited the LIFE+ MIGRATE project and constructed an audit report⁶⁵, which can be found attached with this FR as Annex 8.7.

6.5. Summary of costs per action

Table 6.6 displays a relationship of the costs incurred in the project vis-à-vis the actions and the cost categories.

⁶⁵ The audit report was constructed as per template downloaded from the 'toolkit' on the LIFE web page

| Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|--------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| A1 | € 97.21 | € - | € 48,233.22 | € - | € - | € - | | € 48,330.43 |
| A2 | € 97.21 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 97.21 |
| A3 | €184,455.00 | €15,025.15 | €233,628.60 | € 3,452.00 | € 35,616.71 | € 5,839.12 | | € 478,016.58 |
| A4 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |
| D1 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |
| E1 | € - | € - | € 324.50 | € - | € - | € - | | € 324.50 |
| E2 | € 2,718.46 | € - | € 1,648.44 | € - | € - | € - | | € 4,366.90 |
| E3 | € - | € - | € 2,904.91 | € - | € - | € - | | € 2,904.91 |
| E4 | € 979.97 | € - | € - | € - | € 638.15 | € - | | € 1,618.12 |
| E5 | € 2,684.74 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 2,684.74 |
| E6 | € - | € - | € 9,646.50 | € - | € - | € 5,900.00 | | € 15,546.50 |
| E7 | € 2,423.99 | € - | € 151.04 | € - | € 2,835.00 | € - | | € 5,410.03 |
| E8 | € 1,659.42 | € - | € 525.24 | € - | € 2,795.00 | € - | | € 4,979.66 |
| E9 | € - | € - | € 30,000.00 | € - | € - | € 1,170.00 | | € 31,170.00 |
| E10 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € 6,342.50 | € - | | € 6,342.50 |
| E11 | € - | € 1,304.00 | € 475.48 | € - | € 9,227.00 | €13,248.75 | | € 24,255.23 |
| E12 | € 6,896.38 | € - | € - | € - | € 2,175.00 | € - | | € 9,071.38 |
| E13 | € 11,495.00 | €27,968.52 | € 49,800.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 89,263.52 |
| E14 | € 20,282.00 | € - | € 9,742.00 | € - | € 4.50 | € 79.10 | | € 30,107.60 |
| F1 | €127,166.73 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 127,166.73 |
| F2 | € - | € 6,916.32 | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 6,916.32 |
| F3 | € - | € - | € 2,500.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 2,500.00 |
| F4 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |
| Overheads | | | | | | | €39,620.25 | € 39,620.25 |
| TOTAL | €360,956.10 | €51,213.99 | €389,579.93 | € 3,452.00 | € 59,633.86 | €26,236.97 | €39,620.25 | € 930,693.10 |

Table 6.6: Summary of costs incurred per action.

For each action in the project, Tables 6.7 - 6.30 below give an indication on the major discrepancies and the:

- the summary of costs per action set out in the Grant Agreement (Form FB); and
- the summary of costs per action set out in the deviations document (Annex 8.6 of this FR).

- **Action A1**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Original budget | A1 | € 715.00 | € - | € 55,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 55,715.00 |
| Deviated budget | A1 | € 715.00 | € - | € 55,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 55,715.00 |
| Incurring costs | A1 | € 97.21 | € - | € 48,233.22 | € - | € - | € - | | € 48,330.43 |

Table 6.7: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action A1.

The personnel costs incurred (€97.21) under this Action did not surpass the original/deviated budget of €715, which costs were of the data analyst (Mr Antonello Rizzo Naudi). It is important to point out that Mr Rizzo Naudi only contributed to 7.5hrs in total under this action during the month of November 2013. Article 24.2 of the CPs, states that *Staff working for the LIFE project less than 2 full days per month on average is exempted from the time registration obligation*. Nevertheless, Mr Rizzo Naudi still submitted one timesheet, i.e. for November 2013.

On another note, it is important to point out that incurred external assistance costs for this Action also covers the costs spent for the conversion of the existent data⁶⁶ into INSPIRE compliant, which cost were unforeseen. Such data was essential to be INSPIRE compliant as to be in line with Article 14 of the CPs, which states that *electronic tools, which include spatial data and are produced in the frame of a LIFE+ project, had to comply with the Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Union (INSPIRE)*. In this respect, an amendment was made, which is better explained in the Deviations document, attached as Annex 8.6 with this FR.

Otherwise, it seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action A2**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Original budget | A2 | € 4,290.00 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 4,290.00 |
| Deviated budget | A2 | € 4,290.00 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 4,290.00 |
| Incurring costs | A2 | € 97.21 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 97.21 |

Table 6.8: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action A2.

It can be observed that the personnel costs incurred (€97.21) under this Action did not surpass the original/deviated budget of €4,290, which costs were of the data analyst who coincidentally is the same previously mentioned personnel: Mr Antonello Rizzo Naudi. Similarly to the above, Mr Rizzo Naudi only contributed to 7.5hrs in total under this action

⁶⁶ These are the data which have been collected within the timeframe of the project.

during the same previously mentioned month, i.e. November 2013. Hence, he submitted the timesheet for that month only despite the fact that Article 24.2 of the CPs states that *Staff working for the LIFE project less than 2 full days per month on average is exempted from the time registration obligation.*

Otherwise, it seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action A3**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Original budget | A3 | €157,400.00 | €17,424.00 | €243,000.00 | €24,000.00 | €48,000.00 | € - | | €489,824.00 |
| Deviated budget | A3 | €185,334.00 | €15,025.15 | €233,628.60 | € 3,452.00 | €35,616.71 | € 5,839.12 | | €478,895.58 |
| Incurred costs | A3 | €184,455.00 | €15,025.15 | €233,628.60 | € 3,452.00 | €35,616.71 | € 5,839.12 | | €478,016.58 |

Table 6.9: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action A3.

Table 6.8 shows that there were deviations from the original (Grant Agreement) as better explained in Annex 7.2.9 of the MtR and Annex 8.6 of this FR. Nevertheless, following these deviations, it appears that there have been no major discrepancies in the cost categories of this action.

- **Action A4**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| Original budget | A4 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |
| Deviated budget | A4 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |
| Incurred costs | A4 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |

Table 6.10: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action A4.

It seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action D1**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| Original budget | D1 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |
| Deviated budget | D1 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |
| Incurred costs | D1 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |

Table 6.11: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action D1.

It seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action E1**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Original budget | E1 | € - | € - | € 1,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 1,000.00 |
| Deviated budget | E1 | € - | € - | € 324.50 | € - | € - | € - | | € 324.50 |
| Incurring costs | E1 | € - | € - | € 324.50 | € - | € - | € - | | € 324.50 |

Table 6.12: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E1.

It seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action E2**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Original budget | E2 | € 396.00 | € - | € 2,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 2,396.00 |
| Deviated budget | E2 | € 396.00 | € - | € 2,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 2,396.00 |
| Incurring costs | E2 | € 2,718.46 | € - | € 1,648.44 | € - | € - | € - | | € 4,366.90 |

Table 6.13: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E2.

Even though the total incurred personnel costs superseded the original/deviated budget, only the €396 will be considered as eligible.

With regards to the €1,648 utilized as external assistance expenses for the production of the banners, it incorporates the additional nine banners, which were originally unforeseen. These changes are better described further above in section 5.2.2 and in deviations document attached as Annex 8.6 with this FR.

Otherwise, it appears that there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action E3**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Original budget | E3 | € - | € - | € 6,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 6,000.00 |
| Deviated budget | E3 | € - | € - | € 3,909.96 | € - | € - | € - | | € 3,909.96 |
| Incurring costs | E3 | € - | € - | € 2,904.91 | € - | € - | € - | | € 2,904.91 |

Table 6.14: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E3.

It seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the allocated budget of this action.

- **Action E4**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Original budget | E4 | € 536.00 | € - | € - | € - | € 1,000.00 | € - | | € 1,536.00 |
| Deviated budget | E4 | € 536.00 | € - | € - | € - | € 1,000.00 | € - | | € 1,536.00 |
| Incurring costs | E4 | € 1,175.85 | € - | € - | € - | € 638.15 | € - | | € 1,814.00 |

Table 6.15: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E4.

Even though the total incurred personnel costs superseded the original/deviated budget, only the €536 will be considered as eligible. Otherwise, it appears there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action E5**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Original budget | E5 | € 396.00 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 396.00 |
| Deviated budget | E5 | € 396.00 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 396.00 |
| Incurring costs | E5 | € 2,684.74 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 2,684.74 |

Table 6.16: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E5.

Even though the total incurred personnel costs superseded the original/deviated budget, only the €396 will be considered as eligible. Otherwise, it seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action E6**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Original budget | E6 | € - | € - | € 19,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 19,000.00 |
| Deviated budget | E6 | € - | € - | € 13,100.00 | € - | € - | € 5,900.00 | | € 19,000.00 |
| Incurring costs | E6 | € - | € - | € 9,646.50 | € - | € - | € 5,900.00 | | € 15,546.50 |

Table 6.17: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E6.

Table 6.16 also shows that €9,646.50 incurred covers the external assistance costs to produce the original fifteen-minute video in Maltese with no subtitles (€7,994.50, including VAT); along with following videos, which were originally unforeseen:

- fifteen-minute video in Maltese with English subtitles (this was free of charge);

- fifteen-minute video in English with no subtitles (€649.00, inclusive of VAT); and
- two-minute video in Maltese with English subtitles (€1,003, inclusive of VAT).

Moreover, it can be observed from the same Table 6.16 that there were significant changes between the original and the deviated budget, particularly in the addition of an ‘Other Direct Cost’ category to incorporate costs for the featuring of the 2 minute video on the Gozo Channel.

The above mentioned changes are better described in Annex 8.6 of this FR.

Furthermore, it seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action E7**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Original budget | E7 | € 396.00 | € - | € 1,000.00 | € - | €10,000.00 | € - | | € 11,396.00 |
| Deviated budget | E7 | € 396.00 | € - | € 151.04 | € - | € 2,835.00 | € - | | € 3,382.04 |
| Incurring costs | E7 | € 2,423.99 | € - | € 151.04 | € - | € 2,835.00 | € - | | € 5,410.03 |

Table 6.18: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E7.

Even though the total incurred personnel costs superseded the original/deviated budget, only the €396 will be considered as eligible. Otherwise, it seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action E8**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Original budget | E8 | € 396.00 | € - | € 2,000.00 | € - | € 5,000.00 | € - | | € 7,396.00 |
| Deviated budget | E8 | € 396.00 | € - | € 2,000.00 | € - | € 5,000.00 | € - | | € 7,396.00 |
| Incurring costs | E8 | € 1,659.42 | € - | € 525.24 | € - | € 2,795.00 | € - | | € 4,979.66 |

Table 6.19: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E8.

Even though the total incurred personnel costs (€1,659.42) superseded the original/deviated budget, only the €396 will be considered as eligible. Otherwise, it seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action E9**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Original budget | E9 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |
| Deviated budget | E9 | € - | € - | € 30,100.00 | € - | € - | € 2,000.00 | | € 32,100.00 |
| Incurring costs | E9 | € - | € - | € 30,000.00 | € - | € - | € 1,170.00 | | € 31,170.00 |

Table 6.20: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E9.

Originally, this action did not have an allocated budget. However, a change had to be done in order to incorporate external assistance costs for featuring of the 2-minute video on PBS⁶⁷ during the month of April 2016 at peak times⁶⁸,

Moreover, it can be observed from the same Table 6.19 that there were significant changes between the original and the deviated budget, particularly in the addition of an ‘Other Direct Cost’ category to incorporate costs for publishing an article on the Sunday Circle, a local, popular magazine in Malta.

The above mentioned changes are better described in Annex 8.6 of this FR.

Otherwise, it seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action E10**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Original budget | E10 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € 8,200.00 | € - | | € 8,200.00 |
| Deviated budget | E10 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € 6,342.50 | € - | | € 6,342.50 |
| Incurring costs | E10 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € 6,342.50 | € - | | € 6,342.50 |

Table 6.21: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E10.

It seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the allocated budget of this action.

⁶⁷ PBS was chosen since it is the only national Public Broadcasting Service Provider in Malta.

⁶⁸ It was important that the video was shown during peak hours as to gain more exposure.

- **Action E11**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Original budget | E11 | € - | € 4,000.00 | € 3,000.00 | € - | €26,000.00 | €12,000.00 | | € 45,000.00 |
| Deviated budget | E11 | € - | € 1,310.00 | € 751.25 | € - | €10,227.00 | €13,248.75 | | € 25,537.00 |
| Incurring costs | E11 | € - | € 1,304.00 | € 475.48 | € - | € 9,227.00 | €13,248.75 | | € 24,255.23 |

Table 6.22: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E11.

A budget deviation had to be done in the ODC category of this Action, whereby the cost was changed from €12,000 to €13,248.75, which was due to the fact of over-bidding issue by the bidder, as specified in deviations and Deviation document (Annex 8.6 of this FR). Otherwise, there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action E12**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Original budget | E12 | € 1,113.00 | € - | € - | € - | € 3,400.00 | € - | | € 4,513.00 |
| Deviated budget | E12 | € 1,113.00 | € - | € - | € - | € 3,400.00 | € - | | € 4,513.00 |
| Incurring costs | E12 | € 6,896.38 | € - | € - | € - | € 2,175.00 | € - | | € 9,071.38 |

Table 6.23: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E12.

Even though the total incurred personnel costs superseded the original/deviated budget, only the €1,113.00 will be considered as eligible. Otherwise, there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action E13**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Original budget | E13 | € 3,600.00 | €33,500.00 | € 50,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 87,100.00 |
| Deviated budget | E13 | € 3,600.00 | €27,968.52 | € 49,800.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 81,368.52 |
| Incurring costs | E13 | € 11,495.00 | €27,968.52 | € 49,800.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 89,263.52 |

Table 6.24: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E13.

Table 6.23 shows that there were changes between the original and the deviated budget which as better explained in Annex 7.2.9 of the MtR and Annex 8.6 of this FR. Nevertheless, following these deviations, it can be observed that there have been no major discrepancies in the cost categories of this action.

- **Action E14**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Original budget | E14 | € 15,876.00 | € - | € 8,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 23,876.00 |
| Deviated budget | E14 | € 17,942.00 | € - | € 9,742.00 | € - | € 4.50 | € 79.10 | | € 27,767.60 |
| Incurring costs | E14 | € 20,282.00 | € - | € 9,742.00 | € - | € 4.50 | € 79.10 | | € 30,107.60 |

Table 6.25: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action E14.

Table 6.24 shows that there were changes between the original and the deviated budget which as better explained in Annex 7.2.9 of the MtR and Annex 8.6 of this FR.

Furthermore, the total incurred personnel costs (€25,088) superseded the deviated budget. This issue was explained further above in section 6.1.2, whereby it was indicated that remaining €7,146 (€25,088 - €17,942) will be considered as ineligible.

Otherwise, there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action

- **Action F1**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Original budget | F1 | €103,532.00 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € 3,000.00 | | €106,532.00 |
| Deviated budget | F1 | €103,532.00 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € 3,000.00 | | €106,532.00 |
| Incurring costs | F1 | €127,166.73 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | €127,166.73 |

Table 6.26: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action F1.

Even though the total incurred personnel costs superseded the original/deviated budget, only the €103,532 will be considered as eligible.

The €103,532 will cover all the salary of the Assistant Project Manager and part of the salary of the Project Manager, which salary of the said project manager was not originally foreseen. This is better explained in the Deviations document (Annex 8.6 of this FR),

Moreover, it is important to point out that no costs were incurred under the 'Other Direct Costs' category since there were no costs incurred for the advertisement of the Project Manager recruitment.

Furthermore, it seems that there have been no major discrepancies in the other cost categories of this action.

- **Action F2**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Original budget | F2 | € - | €11,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 11,000.00 |
| Deviated budget | F2 | € - | €11,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 11,000.00 |
| Incurring costs | F2 | € - | € 6,916.32 | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € 6,916.32 |

Table 6.27: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action F2.

It is important to point out that the €50 out of the €6,912.32 already incurred were used for the registration fee of the Bottlenose dolphin workshop which was held in Marseille in December 2015, which €50 was originally unforeseen. Otherwise, there seems not be any major discrepancies in the allocated budget of this action.

- **Action F3**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Original budget | F3 | € - | € - | € 20,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 20,000.00 |
| Deviated budget | F3 | € - | € - | € 20,000.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 20,000.00 |
| Incurring costs | F3 | € - | € - | € 2,500.00 | € - | € - | € - | | € 2,500.00 |

Table 6.28: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action F3.

It seems that here have been no major discrepancies in the allocated budget of this action.

- **Action F4**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| Original budget | F4 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |
| Deviated budget | F4 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |
| Incurring costs | F4 | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | | € - |

Table 6.29: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Action F4.

It seems that here have been no major discrepancies in the allocated budget of this action.

- **Overheads**

| | Action no. | Personnel | Travel and subsistence | External assistance | Equipment | Consumables | Other costs | Overheads | TOTAL |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Original budget | Overheads | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | €58,836.00 | € 58,836.00 |
| Deviated budget | Overheads | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | €58,836.00 | € 58,836.00 |
| Incurred costs | Overheads | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | € - | €39,620.25 | € 39,620.25 |

Table 6.30: Relationship of incurred costs with the original and deviated budgets for Overheads.

It seems that here have been no major discrepancies in the allocated budget of this action.

7. Annexes

7.1. Administrative annexes

- 7.1.1. List of Annexes in Previous reports
 - 7.1.1.1. List of Annexes in IncR
 - 7.1.1.2. List of Annexes in MtR
 - 7.1.1.3. List of Annexes in PrR

- 7.1.2. Agenda and Minutes of SCMs
 - 7.1.2.1. SCM (26.11.2015) (Minutes only as Agenda was submitted with PrR)
 - 7.1.2.2. SCM (19.01.2016)

- 7.1.3. Agenda, Attendance and Minutes of Monitor's and EC's visit (15.02.2016)

- 7.1.4. Replies to the CION letters
 - 7.1.4.1. Reference: ARES (2015) 3502343 – 25.08.2015
 - 7.1.4.2. Reference: ARES (2016) 156172 – 12.01.2016
 - 7.1.4.3. Reference: ARES (2016) 1273177 – 14.03.2016

7.2. Technical annexes

- 7.2.1. List of abbreviations

- 7.2.2. Information collected from Fishing Federation
 - 7.2.2.1. Tabulated data collected from Fishing Federation
 - 7.2.2.2. Plotted data collected from Fishing Federation

- 7.2.3. INSPIRE compliant data
 - 7.2.3.1. Direct Order with Epsilon Italia srl
 - 7.2.3.2. Quotation obtained from Epsilon Italia srl
 - 7.2.3.3. Dataset list
 - 7.2.3.4. Approvals for Direct Order
 - 7.2.3.5. Signed contract with Epsilon Italia srl
 - 7.2.3.6. Harmonised data in GML format
 - 7.2.3.7. Harmonisation report

- 7.2.4. Action A3 deliverables
 - 7.2.4.1. Action A3 report (compiled by KAI)
 - 7.2.4.1.1. Annex I: Survey blog
 - 7.2.4.1.2. Annex II: Video
 - 7.2.4.1.3. Annex III: Permits
 - 7.2.4.1.4. Annex IV: Personnel selection process
 - 7.2.4.1.5. Annex V: Selection criteria for the E11 volunteers
 - 7.2.4.1.6. Annex VI: Vessel selection process
 - 7.2.4.1.7. Annex VII: "Protocolo para realizar contrataciones externas en el marco del proyecto LIFE11 NAT/MT/1070-LIFE MIGRATE"

- 7.2.4.1.8. Annex VIII: “Protocolo para la estipulación de gastos de viajes y dietas en el marco del proyecto LIFE11 NAT/MT/1070-LIFE MIGRATE”
- 7.2.4.1.9. Annex IX: “Protocolo elementos inventariables KAI”
- 7.2.4.1.10. Annex X: Photo - Identification Catalogue
- 7.2.4.1.11. Annex XI: Contract changes (November 2013 and February 2015)
- 7.2.4.1.12. Annex XII: Preparatory bibliographic compilation
- 7.2.4.1.13. Annex XIII: Microplastic debris sampling
- 7.2.4.1.14. Annex XIV: “Estudio de distribución de delfines en aguas de Malta con técnicas de muestreo acústico y visual”. Salvador Sánchez Puchalt. Master en Biología Marina: biodiversidad y conservación. Universidad de La Laguna.
- 7.2.4.1.15. Annex XV: Raw data
 - Image
 - Video
 - Audio
 - Acoustic survey
 - Visual survey
 - GIS data
- 7.2.4.2. “Action A3 in images” presentation
- 7.2.4.3. List of KAI Personnel
- 7.2.5. Action A4 deliverables
 - 7.2.5.1. KAI’s proposal map
 - 7.2.5.2. Map of pSCI (West of Gozo)
 - 7.2.5.3. SDF of pSCI (West of Gozo)
 - 7.2.5.4. Map of pSCI (South of Filfla)
 - 7.2.5.5. SDF of pSCI (South of Filfla)
 - 7.2.5.6. Map of pSCI (North of Gozo)
 - 7.2.5.7. SDF of pSCI (North of Gozo)
 - 7.2.5.8. Presentation held during MEPA board (21.01.2016)
- 7.2.6. Report on Actions D1, E13 & E14 (compiled by KAI)
 - 7.2.6.1. Annex 1: Action E13 - Personnel selection process
 - 7.2.6.2. Annex 2: “Protocolo para realizar contrataciones externas en el marco del proyecto LIFE11 NAT/MT/1070-LIFE MIGRATE”
 - 7.2.6.3. Annex 3: Action E13 – External assistance selection process
 - 7.2.6.4. Annex 4: “Protocolo para la estipulación de gastos de viajes y dietas en el marco del proyecto LIFE11 NAT/MT/1070-LIFE MIGRATE”
 - 7.2.6.5. Annex 5: Action E13 – Travel agent selection process
 - 7.2.6.6. Annex 6: Stakeholder mapping
 - 7.2.6.7. Annex 7: List of workshops stakeholders
 - 7.2.6.8. Annex 8: Workshops invitation documents
 - 7.2.6.9. Annex 9: Workshops agenda
 - 7.2.6.10. Annex 10: Workshops photo gallery
 - 7.2.6.11. Annex 11: Workshops attendees
 - 7.2.6.12. Annex 12: Workshops presentations
 - 7.2.6.13. Annex 13: Documents sent after workshops

- 7.2.6.14. Annex 14: Workshops report
- 7.2.6.15. Annex 15: Action E14-Personnel selection process
- 7.2.6.16. Annex 16: Posters
- 7.2.6.17. Annex 17: List of guidelines stakeholders
- 7.2.6.18. Annex 18: Response to public consultation comments
- 7.2.6.19. Annex 19: NATURA 2000 Guidelines
- 7.2.6.20. Annex 20: Brochures
- 7.2.6.21. Annex 21: Website

7.3. Dissemination annexes

- 7.3.1. Layman's report
 - 7.3.1.1. English version
 - 7.3.1.2. Maltese version

7.3.2. After-LIFE Conservation Plan

7.3.3. Layout of newly-produced banners

- 7.3.3.1. New layout of EN banner
- 7.3.3.2. New layout of MT banner
- 7.3.3.3. Layout of banner showing key Mediterranean dolphin species
- 7.3.3.4. Layout of banner showing key Mediterranean marine turtle species
- 7.3.3.5. Layout of banner showing key Mediterranean whale species
- 7.3.3.6. Layout of banner about importance of N2K for loggerhead turtles and bottlenose dolphins (EN)
- 7.3.3.7. Layout of banner about importance of N2K for loggerhead turtles and bottlenose dolphins (MT)

7.3.4. Website hits and visits

7.3.5. E-newsletters

- 7.3.5.1. E-newsletter issue 12
- 7.3.5.2. Updated list of e-newsletter subscribers

7.3.6. Project videos

- 7.3.6.1 Fifteen-minute video in Maltese with English subtitles
- 7.3.6.2 Fifteen-minute video in English with no subtitles
- 7.3.6.3 Two-minute video in Maltese with English subtitles
- 7.3.6.4 Proof of video-featuring at Malta National Aquarium
- 7.3.6.5 Proof of video-featuring in Gozo Channel
- 7.3.6.6 Minutes indicating why PBS and Gozo Channel were chosen to feature the project video

7.3.7. Spanish version of Action E7 brochure (available in Electronic version only)

7.3.8. Media Coverage

- 7.3.8.1 Video clip of project launch as shown on NET TV (12.02.2013) (DVD)

- 7.3.8.2 Online article about LIFE+ MIGRATE in Majjistral Park's e-newsletter, under the name of "*A wave of hope for marine life*" (December 2015)
- 7.3.8.3 *Radju Maria* – interview (LIFE+MIGRATE and marine ecosystem) (02.12.2015)
- 7.3.8.4 Radio Mocha – interview re LIFE+ MIGRATE focusing on marine turtles (28.12.2015)
- 7.3.8.5 Radio Mocha – interview re LIFE+ MIGRATE focusing on cetaceans (22.02.2016)
- 7.3.8.6 Article about LIFE+ MIGRATE in Sunday Circle (a popular magazine) under the name of "*Quantifying Malta's Sea*" (March 2016)
- 7.3.8.7 Airing dates of 2-minute project video during April 2016
- 7.3.8.8 List of online newspapers re pSCI's announced in the closing conference (29.04.2016)

7.3.9. Earth day event (2016)

7.3.10. LIFE+ MIGRATE Closing Conference (Action E12)

- 7.3.10.1 List of Invitees
- 7.3.10.2 Layout of Formal Invitation
- 7.3.10.3 Agenda
- 7.3.10.4 Presentations
- 7.3.10.5 Attendance sheet
- 7.3.10.6 Photos
- 7.3.10.7 Contract with Hotel

7.3.11. List of training workshop attendees

7.4. Final table of indicators

8. Financial report and annexes

- 8.1. Standard Payment Request and Beneficiary's Certificate
- 8.2. Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects
- 8.3. Consolidated Cost Statement for the Project
- 8.4. Financial Statement of the Individual Beneficiary
 - 8.4.1. MEPA
 - 8.4.2. KAI Marine Services
 - 8.4.3. MTCE/MSDEC
- 8.5. Form 'Funding'
- 8.6. Budget Deviation Document
- 8.7. Audit Report
- 8.8. Extracts of Cost Accounts
 - 8.8.1. Audit Trail
 - 8.8.2. Ledger Accounts
 - 8.8.3. General Ledger Project Profit and Loss
 - 8.8.4. Statement of Financial Position
 - 8.8.5. Trial Balance (2012)
 - 8.8.6. Trial Balance (2013)
 - 8.8.7. Trial Balance (2014)
 - 8.8.8. Trial Balance (2015)
 - 8.8.9. Trial Balance (2016)
- 8.9. Requested financial documents by CION
 - 8.9.1. Carmen Mifsud's timesheets (2014)
 - 8.9.2. Ricardo Sagarminaga's timesheets (2013)
 - 8.9.3. Ana Tejedor's timesheets (2013)
 - 8.9.4. Maria Elena Muscat nee Attard's timesheets (Nov 2012)
 - 8.9.5. Carmen Mifsud's payslips (2014)
 - 8.9.6. Carmen Mifsud's contract
 - 8.9.7. Maria Elena Muscat nee Attard's timesheets (2013)
 - 8.9.8. Maria Elena Muscat nee Attard's payslips (2013)
 - 8.9.9. Maria Elena Muscat nee Attard's contract
 - 8.9.10. Ricardo Sagarminaga's payslips (2013)
 - 8.9.11. Ricardo Sagarminaga's contract
 - 8.9.12. Ana Tejedor's payslips (2013)
 - 8.9.13. Ana Tejedor's contract
 - 8.9.14. Joaquin Fayos' timesheets (2013 & 2014)

- 8.9.15. Joaquin Fayos' payslips (2013 & 2014)
- 8.9.16. Joaquin Fayos' contract
- 8.9.17. Copy of Invoice KAI 446
- 8.9.18. Catamaran Menorca contracts and financial documents
- 8.9.19. Mundo Gobius contracts and financial documents
- 8.9.20. Explanatory note regarding Martin Psaila's unsigned timesheets
- 8.9.21. Maria Spiteri nee Mallia's payslips (2015)