European projects on nature conservation
The example of the LIFE NATURA PINASSA project

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LIFE nature and biodiversity training in Budapest
(LIFE14 CAP/HU/000010)

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Forests and forestry in Catalonia

- Forest surface = 2 M hectares (60 %) 1.5 M covered by trees
- Private forests = 77 % of the total forested area
- 40 % of the treed area incorporated in the last 40 years
- Most forest communities are Mediterranean forests
Forests and forestry in Catalonia

- Low productivity
- No management
- High wildfire risk; Habitat & species loss

Forest management is necessary for conservation

Promotion of forest management
(sustainable & multifunctional)

Drought
Extreme events + pests
Fire

Need for forest management planning at different scales
The Forest Ownership Centre (CPF)

It is a body governed by public law with its own legal identity, attached to the Government of Catalonia’s Ministry of Agriculture, with competences on regulating and providing technical and economical support for private forests.

The CPF functions are:

- Promotion of sustainable forest management (SFM) by means of forest planning instruments
- Calling for and processing applications for subsidies on SFM to private owners and related topics
- Knowledge transfer and dissemination of new forestry practices in the sector
Sustainable management for conservation of black pine forests in Catalonia

LIFE+ NATURA PINASSA (LIFE13 NAT/ES/000724)
1. Project design

• **The problem**: Clear definition of the environmental/conservation problem to be solved by the project – clearly linked to the EU and national policies (and the different LIFE categories).

• **The solution**: must be already developed (LIFE is a demonstrative program), some research/development as part of the monitoring.

• **Partnership**: Useful and motivated

• **Budget & length**: Should be realistic (VAT,..), but room for adjustments in the implementation phase, if necessary.
PART 1. Project design

Different possibilities...

**LIFE DEMORGEST**
- 2013-2017
- 1 partner
- 0.59M€ (50% UE)

**LIFE PINASSA**
- 2014-2018
- 4 partners
- 1.4M€ (75% UE)

**LIFE SUBER**
- 2014-2018
- 5 partners
- 1.1M€ (50% UE)

**LIFE FUTUR AGRARI**
- 2013-2017
- 5 partners
- 2.4M€ (50% UE)
Sustainable management for conservation of black pine forests in Catalonia

LIFE+PINASSA (LIFE13 NAT/ES/000724)

Implementation of multiple actions aimed at improving the conservation state of black pine (Pinus nigra subsp. salzmannii var pyrenaica) forests within the Catalan Nature 2000 network
Black pine forests area: 117,692 ha

The problem

Degradation of an EU protected habitat (Pinus nigra habitat), enhanced by Climate Change with high local impact
Young, dense and simply structured forests, without management

Some problems in the black pine habitat...

Destabilized structures, with intense exploitation in the past
Vulnerable structures to large forests fires

Structures with no regeneration capacity
Degradation of black pine forests, affected by large forest fires

We need specific and integrated action to improve biodiversity, production and fire prevention
The solution

To promote forest management through the implementation of new silvicultural models that integrate production, fire prevention and biodiversity conservation criteria

1) ORGEST silvicultural models

2) Conservation criteria
The partnership

• Nature conservation requires **cross-sectoral work** at regional level
• Nature conservation might mean **conflict** in different directions: need to be aware and be **inclusive**
• Every partner has a **specific responsibility in the project**. The project topic must be included in their working agenda for motivation!

• **We find more efficient:**
  - A lead partner easy available and capable to engage the others
  - If difficulties for co-financing or not good internal organisation, better as collaborators, not partners (grants to NGOs?)
  - Some partner close to policy-making bodies
  - **To involve stakeholders** (partners or not) in the preparation phase as much as possible!!
LIFE PINASSA PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

- Forest Ownership Centre (coord)
  - Public company
- Forest Tecnology Centre
  - Public Research Centre
- Forest Firemen
  - Public administration
- Fundació Catalunya-La Pedrera
  - Private institution
One of the partners is the only institution in Catalonia that can conduct this action.
Part 2. Project actions

• **Preparation actions** are important if actions are in the field/forest: Finding the best sites takes always more time than expected. It is important to identify all possible restrictions that may impede/delay the execution of works.

• **Implementation actions**: Number of hectares and impact on the territory. The more detailed the better?, there is room for adjustments (if justified) in the implementation phase.

• **Monitoring actions (ecological and socio-economic)**: Even if they are conducted by the end of the project, you might need to gather information from the beginning (esp. socio-economic).

• **Dissemination actions**: Knowledge transfer & Communication are key in nature conservation projects.
Preparatory actions:

1) Selection of stands: technical and transfer requirements. **300 hectares distributed in 7 SAC**

2) Property agreements, public or private

3) Ecological inventories
Management: Contract works, training and monitoring
Implementation of conservation criteria
1. Impact of the implementation actions: Measurements + Reports
2. Environmental evaluation: Complementary studies and networking!

3. Socio-economic evaluation, using the results of the monitoring and dissemination actions
Monitoring and environmental evaluation tools

We use widely used tools, new tools that need validation or unexpected tools that are incorporated to the project in the process of networking, to improve project results.

**Fire behaviour Simulators - CTFC**

**Biodiversity Index - CPF**

**Catalogue of tree microhabitats – Integrate + project**
a) Knowledge transfer activities / Capacity building

- Essential when % of private forests is high – need to change behaviour

- Importance to tackle “multipliers” and conduct public-oriented actions
• Innovative tools: **Marteloscopes** (LIFE+ DEMORGEST)
Dissemination actions

b) Communication to society and policy makers

- Raising public awareness (reach media) is key in conservation issues

- Key role of NGOS and private conservation institutions

- Build up a common message among all actors is powerful
Information panels (compulsory) in LIFE PINASSA were made by Fundació Catalunya-La Pedrera
Unexpected impacts of EU co-financed projects …

- Allow work on important topics which otherwise would not be in our agenda
- Facilitate internal Networking at regional level
- Build up a common message: Important in controversial conservation issues! Higher potential impact on instruments & policies
- Demonstration sites act as a catalyser for new knowledge transfer actions

Good luck and thank you!

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