

After-LIFE Report

for the period of 2026 – 2031, following the completion of
the LIFE PanPuffinus! Project.

30th April 2026

Compiled as part of the LIFE PanPuffinus! Project LIFE19 NAT/MT/000982



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ARM	Aquatic Resources Malta
BLM	BirdLife Malta
BS	Balearic Shearwater
DFA	Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
EMFF	European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
ERA	Environment and Resources Authority
ESAS	European Seabirds at Sea
HCRM	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
HOS	Hellenic Ornithological Society (Greece)
IFR	Fisheries Research Institute
Ifremer	Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer
IRBI	Iniciativa de Recerca de la Biodiversitat de les Illes
ISM	Invasive Species Management
LPO	Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (France)
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NECCA	Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (Greece)
OFB	Office français de la biodiversité
SEO	Sociedad Española de Ornitología (Spain)
SPEA	Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves (Portugal)
YS	Yelkouan Shearwater

1. Project Context and Rationale

The LIFE PanPuffinus! project is a transnational initiative funded under the European Union's LIFE Nature and Biodiversity programme, designed to address key conservation challenges affecting two seabird species, the Balearic shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*) and the Yelkouan shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*). Both species are endemic to the Mediterranean region and are listed under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, reflecting their threatened conservation status and the need for targeted conservation action. The Balearic shearwater is currently classified as Critically Endangered, while the Yelkouan shearwater is considered Vulnerable, with both species impacted by human-induced mortalities causing downward trends in their population.

At sea, incidental capture in fishing gear remains one of the most significant pressures, particularly affecting adult survival rates and thereby population viability. In parallel, invasive alien species at breeding colonies, such as rats, continue to negatively impact reproductive success by preying on eggs and chicks. The project therefore adopted an integrated approach that combines actions to address these threats at sea and on land, recognizing the ecological interdependence of these environments in the life cycle of shearwaters.

Implemented over a five and a half year period from September 2020 to February 2026, the project covered a broad geographic area across the Mediterranean basin, including Malta, Greece, Spain, France and Portugal. This transnational scope reflects the wide-ranging distribution of the target species, which breed on islands across the Mediterranean and forage over extensive marine areas that span national jurisdictions. Effective conservation of these species therefore requires coordinated action across countries, as well as engagement with a range of stakeholders operating in different environmental and regulatory contexts.

The project was coordinated by BirdLife Malta and brought together a consortium of partners specifically, the Aquatic Resources Malta (Malta), the Hellenic Ornithological Society (Greece), the Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (France), the National Environment and Climate Change Agency (Greece), the Sociedad Española de Ornitología (Spain), and the Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves (Portugal). This partnership enabled the implementation of a coherent set of actions across multiple sites and jurisdictions, while also supporting the exchange of knowledge and best practice at regional level.

Through its activities, the project improved the understanding of seabird–fisheries interactions, supported the development and testing of mitigation measures to reduce bycatch, and strengthened engagement with fishing communities to encourage uptake of these measures. On land, the project contributed to the control of invasive species at key breeding sites, the development of biosecurity

plans, and the monitoring of breeding success. It also delivered a range of communication and dissemination actions aimed at raising awareness among stakeholders, including fishers, policy-makers, and the public, and at promoting the integration of project outcomes into relevant policy and management frameworks.

In the longer term, the project is expected to contribute to measurable improvements in the conservation status of both target species. Reductions in fisheries bycatch, supported by the continued uptake of effective mitigation measures rolled out across target fleets, are expected to enhance adult survival rates. Additionally, sustained biosecurity and invasive species management actions at breeding colonies should lead to improved or stabilised reproductive success. The project has also laid the foundations for continued monitoring and adaptive management through the development of toolkits, datasets, and best practice guidelines that can support future conservation efforts. Importantly, the strengthening of cooperation between conservation organisations, authorities and the fishing sector is expected to facilitate the integration of seabird conservation considerations into management practices at both national and regional levels.

The purpose of this After-LIFE Report is to define how the results and achievements of the project will be maintained and further developed beyond the end of the LIFE funding period. In line with the requirements of the LIFE Programme, the report outlines a set of objectives, and corresponding site specific actions required to ensure the sustainability of project outcomes including the continuation of key conservation measures, the long-term use and updating of project outputs, and the ongoing dissemination and uptake of results. It identifies the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders and highlights opportunities for further integration into policy, management and practice. By setting out a clear framework for the post-project phase, this report aims to ensure that the benefits generated by LIFE PanPuffinus! project are sustained over time and continue to contribute to the conservation of Mediterranean seabirds.

2. SWOT Analysis

Strengths of the project and approach • Consortium composed of partners with transferrable previous experience in fisheries bycatch and control of invasive non-native predators • Cross-border collaboration between countries at a Mediterranean, regional level plus one country in Atlantic to tackle seabird bycatch • Collected comprehensive data on seabird bycatch and mitigation measure trials, filling in a significant data gap • With investment of time to build relations with fishers, trust was established allowing for meaningful mitigation trials • Increased capacity in finding solutions to seabird bycatch, controlling and eradicating invasive non-native predators • Optimised efficiency of rodent control and monitoring at seabird colonies	Weaknesses encountered • Reluctance of fishers to engage in data collection and mitigation trials • Collection of data required a lot of human resources and effort to build trust and relations with the fishers • Small datasets, multiple factors and complex species assemblages made it hard to determine efficacy of some of the tested mitigation measures for seabird bycatch • Persistent and multiple threats in project sites with high anthropogenic pressure • Implementation of conservation actions in privately owned land is complex and difficult to achieve • COVID Pandemic imposed restrictions on the team to visit harbours and meet fishers face to face. This caused a delay at the start of the project and resulted in less time available for the project to meet fishers and engage them in the project.
Opportunities for scaling, replication, or policy uptake • Replicable methodologies in collecting seabird interaction and bycatch in fisheries data developed • Identified high risk areas of seabird bycatch where future mitigation efforts can focus • Developed a replicable non-native predator monitoring toolkit • Improved seasonal rodent control methods and monitoring, together with measure of shearwater breeding success as conservation target • National plan of actions adopted in some partner countries and the possibility to replicate them in the other countries • Harmonised data protocols to be applied regionally	Threats to long-term sustainability • Engagement with fishers requires a lot of human resources that needs to be constantly sustained • Limited long-term funding opportunities for repeated actions • Poor policy uptake of required actions to reduce seabird bycatch and continue biosecurity actions • Challenges in accessing breeding sites in Malta, Greece and Spain, requires a skilled and experienced team to carry out control of invasive non-native predators • Increased human visitor pressure to sites putting further pressure on waste management system • Low awareness of stakeholders on their impact on the viability of seabird populations • Increased and synergistic anthropogenic pressures at seabird colony sites, threatening the efficacy of conservation actions

3. After-LIFE Conservation Plan

3.1. Strategic objectives for reduction of seabird bycatch in fisheries

To ensure that conservation measures implemented during the project to reduce seabird bycatch in fisheries are maintained and continue delivering positive outcomes for the target species, six key objectives have been identified. As the context varies across participating countries, the actions needed to achieve each objective will also differ. Below we present a description of each objective and the actions that can be taken to achieve them, followed by the specific actions that will be undertaken by each partner country, detailing the scale of the action i.e. at a national or project sites level.

Objective 1: Maintain and upscale data collection on the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target species in target fleets

Description: Through questionnaires, on-board observations, and self-reporting logbooks, LIFE PanPuffinus! has compiled a comprehensive dataset on the scale and characteristics of seabird bycatch of the target species in the target fleets: longlines in GR, MT, ES and FR, purse seines in PT and trammel nets in PT & GR. However, for some target fleets and areas, the dataset was small. Additional data should therefore be collected to increase the sample size, improve its representativeness, and strengthen its statistical robustness. Common databases and protocols developed in LIFE PanPuffinus! for data collection should be used.

Actions:

- Continue engaging and collecting further data with fishers who participated in LIFE PanPuffinus! through logbooks and/or onboard observation
- Engage with new fishers of the same target fleets to collect data on the scale and characteristics of bycatch through questionnaires, on-board observations, and/or self-reporting logbooks
- Further dissemination of fisher guides to target fleets for accurate reporting in e-logbooks

Objective 2: Review the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target species in fleets not targeted as part of the LIFE PanPuffinus! Project

Description: Data gaps exist in the reviews of the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target fleets conducted during LIFE PanPuffinus! For example, no data on recreational fisheries has been collected

by all partners. Common databases and protocols developed during LIFE PanPuffinus! for data collection should be used.

Actions:

- Conduct questionnaires as a first step to collect general information on bycatch characterisation
- Expand monitoring through on-board observations and/or self-reporting logbooks for fleets that show evidence of bycatch and seabird interactions
- Further dissemination of fisher guides to target fleets for accurate reporting in e-logbooks
- Fishers training for correct use of electronic logbook for improved reporting of bycatch

Objective 3: Update seabird bycatch risk maps with new data

Description: Seabird bycatch risk maps were developed in LIFE PanPuffinus! using fishing effort information collected through questionnaires between 2020 and 2022 together with data from fisheries institutions up until 2023. Fishing effort data was overlaid with shearwater distribution data obtained from at-sea surveys (ESAS) and tracking individual shearwaters with GPS-loggers. These maps should be updated regularly, at a minimum every 5 years.

Actions:

- Update risk maps with new questionnaire and fisheries effort data
- Integrate seabird bycatch location data from target fleets into bycatch risk maps to validate previous and further identify bycatch hotspots

Objective 4: Develop and/or trial mitigation measures for fisheries for which no satisfactory measures currently exist, adapted to the local context

Description: During LIFE PanPuffinus! it was not possible to test mitigation measures on all gears and fleets affecting *P. yelkouan* and *P. mauretanicus*, and prioritisation was made to those with high spatial overlap with *P. yelkouan* and *P. mauretanicus* and with preliminary indications of seabird bycatch. Some of the measures require further testing both for their technical efficacy and for their efficacy within the target fisheries and areas. Moreover, mitigation measures were also chosen based on demonstrations of success in other projects, as well as in exchange of knowledge between partners and fishers¹. Therefore, it is imperative to develop and/or trial mitigation measures for

¹ Austad et al. (2026). Monitoring Report for the Conservation Actions. Action D.1.

fisheries for which no satisfactory and trialled measures currently exist, adapted to the local context. Common databases and protocols developed in LIFE PanPuffinus! for data collection should be used.

Actions:

- Identify and select the most suitable and promising mitigation measures to implement in the gear types and fleets responsible for higher levels of seabird bycatch
- Conduct pilot trials to assess effectiveness and feasibility of selected mitigation measures
- Conduct analysis of data collected through mitigation trials to determine efficacy of the mitigation measures
- Conduct pilot study of the use of Remote Electronic Monitoring to assess seabird bycatch mitigation measures
- Conduct socioeconomic impact assessment on the adoption of new mitigation measures
- Develop and/or update mitigation measure factsheets using the Mitigation Measure Toolkit developed during LIFE PanPuffinus! as a template

Objective 5: Upscale implementation of mitigation measures in target fleets

Description: During LIFE PanPuffinus! efforts were primarily focused on trialing mitigation measures. Following the results of the analysis of the mitigation measure trials and identification of effective mitigation measures, efforts should be upscaled and focused on implementing effective mitigation measures to the target fleets. Notwithstanding the results of the trials, vessels implementing mitigation measures should continue to be monitored.

Actions:

- Implement mitigation measures to target fleets - the aim should be 100% of the fleets identified as high-risk and in high-risk areas
- Provide education and training to fishers on how to install mitigation measures and how to use them effectively
- Monitor a sub-sample of the vessels using the mitigation measures (through on-board observations and/or self-reporting logbooks). This should include those that participated in LIFE PanPuffinus!, to assess how well the mitigation measures are working in practice and whether further adjustments are needed. Long-term monitoring is required to check for habituation of seabirds towards the measure.
- Mandate the use of mitigation measures for seabirds in medium and high-risk areas through policy frameworks

Objective 6: Present and publish outputs of LIFE PanPuffinus! work on finding solutions to reduce seabird bycatch

Description: Throughout the 5-year implementation period of LIFE PanPuffinus!, best practices and methodologies for bycatch monitoring, have been refined and adapted to local contexts. In addition, data collection efforts have filled in previously existing data gaps in seabird bycatch and available mitigation measures. The outputs of these efforts should be shared with the scientific community through the publishing of peer-reviewed scientific articles, to ensure their long-term uptake.

Actions:

- Present outputs of LIFE PanPuffinus! work on finding solutions to reduce seabird bycatch at the Spanish Ornithology Congress
- Publish scientific article on the best practices and methodologies of bycatch monitoring
- Publish scientific article/s on scale and characteristics of seabird bycatch at a national level and/or across a gear type

3.2. Country-specific strategic objectives and actions for reduction of seabird bycatch in fisheries

The activities detailed in this section vary in scope, encompassing site-specific actions at project sites (project sites detailed in Annex 6.1) as well as extending beyond these areas at national and regional levels.

**Each action delineates a budget which is represented in the following way: € - up to 5,000 euro needed, €€ - between 5000 and 10,000 euro needed, €€€ - between 10,000 and 100,000 euro needed, €€€€ - more than 100,000 euro needed.*

***Priority is represented in the following way: High - Action is crucial for achieving objectives, Medium - Action would increase the scope and effectiveness of the project, Low - Action may be implemented if there are free financial means.*

Malta

Objective 1: Maintain and upscale data collection on the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target species in target fleets

Action: Continue engaging and collecting further data with fishers who participated in LIFE PanPuffinus! through logbooks and/or onboard observation

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required*	Indicator	**Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	BLM; ARM	Until 2028	Local funds; EU funds	€€€	N° of on-boards and logbooks completed	High

Action: Engage with new fishers of the same target fleets to collect data on the scale and characteristics of bycatch through questionnaires, on-board observations, and/or self-reporting logbooks

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale and all MT marine sites	BLM; ARM	Until 2028	Local funds; EU funds	€€€	N° of questionnaires, on-boards and/or logbooks completed	High

Action: Further dissemination of fisher guides to target fleets for accurate reporting in e-logbooks

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	BLM; DFA	Until 2027; then every 3 years	Local funds; EU funds	€	N° of fisher guides disseminated	Medium

Objective 2: Review the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target species in fleets not targeted as part of the LIFE PanPuffinus! Project

Action: Conduct questionnaires as a first step to collect general information on bycatch characterisation

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	BLM; ARM	Until 2029	Local funds; EU funds	€	N° of questionnaires compiled	Medium

Action: Expand monitoring by on-board observations and/or self-reporting logbooks for fleets that show evidence of bycatch and seabird interactions

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
All MT marine sites	ARM	Until 2029	Local funds; EU funds	€€€	N° on-boards and/or logbooks completed	Medium

Action: Further dissemination of fisher guides to target fleets for accurate reporting in e-logbooks

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	BLM; DFA	Until 2029	Local funds; EU funds	€	N° of fisher guides disseminated	Medium

Action: Fishers training for correct use of electronic logbook for improved reporting of bycatch

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/ Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	ARM, DFA	Every 3 years	Local funds; EU funds	€ for each round of training	N° of fishers attending the trainings	High

Objective 3: Update seabird bycatch risk maps with new data

Actions:

- Update risk maps with new questionnaire and fisheries effort data
- Integrate seabird bycatch location data from target fleets into bycatch risk maps to validate previous and further identify bycatch hotspots

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
All MT marine sites	BLM	Until 2029; then every 5 years	Local funds; EU funds	€ for each update	Updated risk maps	Low

Objective 4: Develop and/or trial mitigation measures for fisheries for which no satisfactory measures currently exist, adapted to the local context

Actions:

- Identify and select the most suitable and promising mitigation measures to implement in the gear types and fleets responsible for higher levels of seabird bycatch
- Conduct pilot trials to assess effectiveness and feasibility of selected mitigation measures
- Conduct analysis of data collected through mitigation trials to determine efficacy of the mitigation measures

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
All MT marine sites	BLM; ARM	Until 2029	Local funds; EU funds	€€€	Completed database; analysis of data collected	High

Action: Conduct pilot study of the use of Remote Electronic Monitoring to assess seabird bycatch mitigation measures

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
All MT marine sites	BLM; ARM	Until 2030	Local funds; EU funds	€€€	Report presenting results of pilot study	Medium

Action: Conduct socioeconomic impact assessment on the adoption of new mitigation measures

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National	ARM, DFA	Until 2029	Local funds; EU funds	€	Report of the socio-economic impact assessment	Medium

Action: Develop and/or update mitigation measure factsheets using the Mitigation Measure Toolkit developed during LIFE PanPuffinus! as a template

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National	BLM	Until 2029	Local funds; EU funds	€	Updated Mitigation Measure Toolkit	High

Objective 5: Upscale implementation of mitigation measures in target fleets

Actions:

- Roll-out mitigation measures to target fleets - the aim should be 100% of the fleets identified as high-risk and in high-risk areas
- Provide education and training to fishers on how to install mitigation measures and how to use them effectively

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National	BLM; DFA; ERA	Until 2030	Local funds; EU funds (E.g. EMFAF)	€€€€	N° of vessels implementing mitigation measures	High

Action: Monitor a sub-sample of the vessels using the mitigation measures (through on-board observations and/or self-reporting logbooks)

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National	BLM, ARM	Until 2030	Local funds; EU funds	€€€	Report presenting results of monitoring	High

Action: Mandate the use of mitigation measures for seabirds in medium and high-risk areas through policy frameworks						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National	ERA; DFA	By 2031	Local funds; EU funds (E.g. EMFAF)	€€ every year thereafter for enforcement	All vessels implement mitigation measures in medium and high-risk areas	High
Objective 6: Publish outputs of LIFE PanPuffinus! work on finding solutions to reduce seabird bycatch						
Action: Publish scientific article/s on scale and characteristics of seabird bycatch at a national level and/or across a gear type						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National	BLM	2028	Own funds	€	Published article	Medium

Greece

Objective 1: Maintain and upscale data collection on the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target species in target fleets						
Action: Continue engaging and collecting further data with fishers who participated in LIFE PanPuffinus! through logbooks and onboard observation						
Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
ni Gulf, Paros, Syros, Rafina, Fourni	HOS; NECCA	Until 2028	Local funds; EU funds	€€€	N° of on-boards and logbooks completed	Hig.h
Action: Engage with new fishers of the same target fleets to collect data on the scale and characteristics of bycatch through questionnaires, on-board observations, and/or self-reporting logbooks						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	HOS; NECCA; IFR; HCMR	Until 2028	Local funds; EU funds	€€€	N° of questionnaires, on-boards and/or logbooks completed	High
Action: Further dissemination of fisher guides to target fleets for accurate reporting in e-logbooks						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	HOS; NECCA	Until 2028	Local funds; EU funds	€	N° of fisher guides disseminated	Medium

Objective 2: Review the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target species in fleets not targeted as part of the LIFE PanPuffinus! Project

Action: Conduct questionnaires as a first step to collect general information on bycatch characterisation

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	HOS; NECCA; IFR; HCMR	Until 2029	Local funds; EU funds	€	N° of questionnaires compiled	Medium

Action: Expand monitoring by on-board observations and/or self-reporting logbooks for fleets that show evidence of bycatch and seabird interactions

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
Aegean Sea region	HOS; NECCA	Until 2029	Local funds; EU funds	€€€	N° on-boards and/or logbooks completed	Medium

Action: Further dissemination of fisher guides to target fleets for accurate reporting in e-logbooks

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
Aegean Sea region	HOS; NECCA	Until 2029	Local funds; EU funds	€	N° of fisher guides disseminated	Medium

Action: Fishers training for correct use of electronic logbook for improved reporting of bycatch

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/ Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	HOS; NECCA; IFR; HCMR	Every 3 years	Local funds; EU funds	€ for each round of training	N° of fishers attending the trainings	High

Objective 3: Update seabird bycatch risk maps with new data

Actions:

- Update risk maps with new questionnaire and fisheries effort data
- Integrate seabird bycatch location data from target fleets into bycatch risk maps to validate previous and further identify bycatch hotspots

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	HOS	Until 2029; then every 5 years	Local funds; EU funds	€ for each update	Updated risk maps	Low

Objective 4: Develop and/or trial new mitigation measures for fisheries for which no satisfactory measures currently exist, adapted to the local context

Actions:

- Identify and select the most suitable and promising mitigation measures to implement in the gear types and fleets responsible for higher levels of seabird bycatch
- Conduct pilot trials to assess effectiveness and feasibility of selected mitigation measures
- Conduct analysis of data collected through mitigation trials to determine efficacy of the mitigation measures

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
Aegean Sea region	HOS	Until 2029	Local funds; EU funds	€€€	N° of trials of selected mitigation measures Completed database; analysis of data collected	High

Action: Conduct pilot study of the use of Remote Electronic Monitoring to assess seabird bycatch mitigation measures

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
Aegean Sea region	HOS	Until 2030	Local funds; EU funds (E.g. EMFAF)	€€€	Report presenting results of pilot study	Medium

Action: Conduct socioeconomic impact assessment on the adoption of new mitigation measures

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
Aegean Sea region	HOS; NECCA	Until 2029	Local funds; EU funds	€	Report of the socio-economic impact assessment	Medium

Action: Develop and/or update mitigation measure factsheets using the Mitigation Measure Toolkit developed during LIFE PanPuffinus! as a template

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	HOS	Until 2029	Local funds; EU funds	€	Updated Mitigation Measure Toolkit	High

Objective 5: Upscale implementation of mitigation measures in target fleets

Actions:

- Roll-out mitigation measures to target fleets - the aim should be 100% of the fleets identified as high-risk and in high-risk areas
- Conduct on-board demonstrations showing how to install mitigation measures on the vessel and how to use them effectively

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National	HOS; NECCA	Until 2030	Local funds; EU funds (E.g. EMFAF)	€€€	N° of vessels implementing mitigation measures	High

Action: Monitor a sub-sample of the vessels using the mitigation measures (through on-board observations and/or self-reporting logbooks)

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National	HOS; NECCA	Until 2030	Local funds; EU funds	€€€	N° of logbooks filled by fishers or/and on-boards	High

Action: Mandate the use of mitigation measures for seabirds in medium and high-risk areas through policy frameworks

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National	NECCA; Directorate General for Fisheries	By 2031	Local funds; EU funds (E.g. EMFAF)	€€ every year thereafter for enforcement	All vessels implement mitigation measures in medium and high-risk areas	High

Objective 6: Publish outputs of LIFE PanPuffinus! work on finding solutions to reduce seabird bycatch

Action: Publish scientific article/s on scale and characteristics of seabird bycatch at a national level and/or across a gear type

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National	HOS	2028	Own funds	€	Published article	Medium

Portugal

Objective 1: Maintain and upscale data collection on the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target species in target fleets

Action: Continue engaging and collecting further data with fishers who participated in LIFE PanPuffinus! through logbooks and/or onboard observation

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required*	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
Aveiro-Nazaré SPA	SPEA	2026-2027	Offshore Energy	€€€	Nº of fishing trips with on-board observation	High
Aveiro-Nazaré SPA	SPEA	2026-2027	Offshore Energy	€€	Nº of logbooks filled by fishers	High

Action: Further dissemination of fisher guides to target fleets for accurate reporting in e-logbooks

Aveiro-Nazaré SPA	SPEA	2026-2027	Offshore energy	€	Nº of fisher guides distributed	Medium
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Objective 2: Review the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target species in fleets not targeted as part of the LIFE PanPuffinus! Project

Action: Expand monitoring by on-board observations and/or self-reporting logbooks for fleets that show evidence of bycatch and seabird interactions

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
Ilhas Berlengas SPA	SPEA	2026-2028	EMFAF	€€€	Nº of fishing trips with on-board observation	Medium
Costa Sudoeste SPA	SPEA	2026-2028	EMFAF	€€€	Nº of fishing trips with on-board observation	Medium

Action: Further dissemination of fisher guides to target fleets for accurate reporting in e-logbooks

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
Ilhas Berlengas SPA	SPEA	2026-2028	EMFAF	€	Nº of fisher guides distributed	Medium
Costa Sudoeste SPA	SPEA	2026-2028	EMFAF	€	Nº of fisher guides distributed	Medium

Objective 4: Develop and/or trial new mitigation measures for fisheries for which no satisfactory measures currently exist, adapted to the local context						
Action: Conduct pilot trials to assess effectiveness and feasibility of selected mitigation measures						
Aveiro-Nazaré SPA, Ilhas Berlengas SPA, Costa Sudoeste SPA	SPEA	2026-2028	Offshore Energy and EMFAF	€€€€	Nº of trials of selected mitigation measures	High
Action: Conduct analysis of data collected through mitigation trials to determine efficacy of the mitigation measures						
Aveiro-Nazaré SPA, Ilhas Berlengas SPA, Costa Sudoeste SPA	SPEA	2026-2028	Offshore Energy and EMFAF	€€€	Nº of reports about efficacy of the trialed mitigation measures	Medium
Action: Conduct socioeconomic impact assessment on the adoption of new mitigation measure						
Aveiro-Nazaré SPA, Ilhas Berlengas SPA, Costa Sudoeste SPA	SPEA	2026-2028	EMFAF	€€	Nº of reports about socio-economic impact assessment of selected mitigation measures	Medium
Objective 5: Upscale implementation of mitigation measures in target fleets						
Action: Roll-out mitigation measures to target fleets - the aim should be 100% of the fleets identified as high-risk and in high-risk areas						
Ilhas Berlengas SPA	SPEA	2026-2028	EMFAF	€€	Percentage of the target fleet using mitigation measure	Medium
Action: Conduct on-board demonstrations showing how to install mitigation measures on the vessel and how to use them effectively						
Ilhas Berlengas SPA	SPEA	2026-2028	EMFAF	€	Nº of fishers who received training on the use of mitigation measure	Medium
Action: Monitor a sub-sample of the vessels using the mitigation measures (through on-board observations and/or self-reporting logbooks)						
Ilhas Berlengas SPA	SPEA	2026-2028	EMFAF	€€€	Nº of logbooks filled by fishers	Medium

Objective 6: Present and publish outputs of LIFE PanPuffinus! work on finding solutions to reduce seabird bycatch

Action: Publish scientific article on the best practices and methodologies of bycatch monitoring

National	SPEA	2027-2028	Own funds	€	Paper published on scientific journal about bycatch monitoring	Low
National	Master student/SPEA	2026-2027	Own funds	€	Paper published on scientific journal about gillnets depth profile	Medium

France

Objective 1: Maintain and upscale data collection on the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target species in target fleets						
Action: Continue engaging and collecting further data with fishers who participated in LIFE PanPuffinus! through logbooks and/or onboard observation						
Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required*	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
PACA region	LPO	2024-2030	EU fund – LIFE Marine Mobile Species project	€€€	To involve 3 longliners from LIFE PanPuffinus! project into the LIFE Marine Mobile Species project	High
Action: Engage with new fishers of the same target fleets to collect data on the scale and characteristics of bycatch through questionnaires, on-board observations, and/or self-reporting logbooks						
Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
PACA region	LPO	2024-2030	EU fund – LIFE Marine Mobile Species project	€€€	To involve 4 new longliners in the LIFE Marine Mobile Species project	High
Objective 2: Review the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target species in fleets not targeted as part of the LIFE PanPuffinus! Project						
Action: Conduct questionnaires as a first step to collect general information on bycatch characterisation						
Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	OFB	2025	EMFAF – French Ministry - OFB	€€€€	All fisheries-species interactions have been assessed	High

Action: Expand monitoring by on-board observations and/or self-reporting logbooks for fleets that show evidence of bycatch and seabird interactions

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
PACA and Corsica region	LPO	2024-2030	EU fund – LIFE Marine Mobile Species project	€€€	To involve 5 gillnetters in PACA region and 5 longliners in Corsica into the project	High
National scale	OFB	2025-2026	EMFAF – French Ministry - OFB	€€€€	All fisheries-species interactions have been assessed	High

Objective 3: Update seabird bycatch risk maps with new data

Action: Update risk maps with new questionnaire and fisheries effort data

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	OFB	2026	EMFAF – French Ministry - OFB	€€€€	Risk of bycatch maps per gear and species have been updated at national scale	High
European Scale	In France: OFB; La Rochelle University; Ifremer' France State	2025	EU fund - CIBBRiNA LIFE project	€€€€	Guidelines to develop the best monitoring programme on sensitive species bycatch	High
European Scale	In France: La Rochelle University; Ifremer	2024-2028	EU fund – Marine beacon project	€€€€	Improve ecological assessment for sensitive species (distribution, abundance, rate of interactions, post-release mortality rate, impacts on population abundance and sustainability)	High

Action: Integrate seabird bycatch location data from target fleets into bycatch risk maps to validate previous and further identify bycatch hotspots.						
Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	OFB	2026	EMFAF – French Ministry - OFB	€€€€	Indication of all seabirds bycatch observations on the risk maps at national level	High
Objective 4: Develop and/or trial new mitigation measures for fisheries for which no satisfactory measures currently exist, adapted to the local context						
Action: Identify and select the most suitable and promising mitigation measures to implement in the gear types and fleets responsible for higher levels of seabird bycatch						
Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	OFB	2025-2026	EMFAF – French Ministry - OFB	€€€€	Bibliographic analysis of all previous project	High
National scale	OFB	2024-2030	EU fund - Marine Mobile Species LIFE project	€€€	Bibliographic analysis of all previous project	High
European Scale	In France: OFB; La Rochelle University; Ifremer; France State	2025	EU fund - CIBBRiNA LIFE project	€€€€	To produce a European and worldwide review of bycatch mitigation measures	High
European Scale	La Rochelle University Ifremer	2024-2028	EU fund – Marine beacon project	€€€€	To develop a state of the art of mitigation solutions	High

Action: Conduct pilot trials to assess effectiveness and feasibility of selected mitigation measures

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	OFB	2025-2026	EMFAF – French Ministry - OFB	€€€€	Mitigation measures trials by REM data collection	High
National scale	OFB	2024-2028	EU fund – LIFE Marine Mobile Species project	€€€	More than 20 mitigation measures tested on >2% of the active French fleet (gillnetters, longliners and trawlers)	High

Action: Conduct analysis of data collected through mitigation trials to determine efficacy of the mitigation measures

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	OFB	2025-2026	EMFAF – French Ministry - OFB	€€€€	Efficiency of each mitigation measure tested is assessed	High
National scale	OFB	2028	EU fund – LIFE Marine Mobile Species project	€€€	Efficiency of each mitigation measure tested is assessed	High

Action: Conduct pilot study of the use of Remote Electronic Monitoring to assess seabird bycatch mitigation measures						
Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	OFB	2027	EMFAF – French Ministry - OFB	€€€€	Use a REM on each voluntary vessel testing mitigation measures	High
Action: Conduct socioeconomic impact assessment on the adoption of new mitigation measures						
Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	OFB	2026	EMFAF – French Ministry - OFB	€€€€	To have a representative socio-economic impact assessment for each tested mitigation measures	High
National scale	OFB	2027-2028	EU fund – LIFE Marine Mobile Species project	€€€	To have a representative socio-economic impact assessment for each tested mitigation measures	High
European Scale	In France: La Rochelle University; Ifremer	2024-2028	EU fund – Marine Beacon project	€€€€	To have a representative socio-economic impact assessment for each tested mitigation measures	High
European Scale	In France: OFB; La Rochelle University; Ifremer; France State	2025	EU fund - CIBBRiNA LIFE project	€€€€	To have a representative socio-economic impact assessment for each tested mitigation measures	High

Objective 5: Upscale implementation of mitigation measures in target fleets

Action: Roll-out mitigation measures to target fleets - the aim should be 100% of the fleets identified as high-risk and in high-risk areas

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	OFB	2027	EMFAF – French Ministry - OFB	€€€€	Efficient mitigation measures are implemented on 100% of the medium and high-risk fleets of sensitive species bycatch	High
National scale	OFB	2028-2030	EU fund - Marine Mobile Species LIFE project	€€€	Mitigation measures are distributed to >13% of the at- risk fleets	High

Action: Monitor a sub-sample of the vessels using the mitigation measures (through on-board observations and/or self-reporting logbooks)

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	OFB	After 2027	EMFAF – French Ministry - OFB	€€€€	All implemented mitigation measures are monitored using a representative sample	High

Action: Mandate the use of mitigation measures for seabirds in medium and high-risk areas through policy frameworks

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National scale	OFB	2027	EMFAF – French Ministry - OFB	€€€€	Efficient mitigation measures are implemented on 100% of the medium and high-risk areas of sensitive species bycatch	High

Objective 6: Publish outputs of LIFE PanPuffinus! work on finding solutions to reduce seabird bycatch

Action: Publish scientific article on the best practices and methodologies of bycatch monitoring

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
European Scale	In France: OFB; La Rochelle University; Ifremer; France State	2023-2025	EU fund - CIBBRiNA LIFE project	€	Disseminate results and outputs to all stakeholders	Medium
European Scale	In France: La Rochelle University; Ifremer	2024-2028	EU fund – Marine beacon project	€	Disseminate results and outputs to all stakeholders	Medium

Spain

Objective 1: Maintain and upscale data collection on the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target species in target fleets

Actions:

- Continue engaging and collecting further data with fishers who participated in LIFE PanPuffinus! through logbooks and/or onboard observation
- Engage with new fishers of the same target fleets to collect data on the scale and characteristics of bycatch through questionnaires, on-board observations, and/or self-reporting logbooks

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required*	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
ESZZ16016 ES0000514 ES0000513 ES0000512	SEO	2026-2030	MARAVES II (EMFAF) LIFE Medwings	€€€	Nº of fishing trips monitored	High

Objective 2: Review the scale and characteristics of bycatch of target species in fleets not targeted as part of the LIFE PanPuffinus! Project

Action: Conduct questionnaires as a first step to collect general information on bycatch characterisation

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
Spanish Mediterranean waters	SEO	2026-2030	LIFE Medwings	€€	Nº of surveys to recreational fishers	Medium

Action: Expand monitoring by on-board observations and/or self-reporting logbooks for fleets that show evidence of bycatch and seabird interactions

ES0000521 ES0000506	SEO	2026-2027	MARAVES II (EMFAF)	€€	Nº of fishing trips monitored	Medium
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Objective 3: Update seabird bycatch risk maps with new data

Actions:

- Update risk maps with new questionnaire and fisheries effort data
- Integrate seabird bycatch location data from target fleets into bycatch risk maps to validate previous and further identify bycatch hotspots

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
All ES marine sites	SEO	2026-2027	SENAVES (EMFAF)	€€€	Spanish risk maps produced	Medium

Objective 4: Develop and/or trial new mitigation measures for fisheries for which no satisfactory measures currently exist, adapted to the local context

Action: Conduct pilot trials to assess effectiveness and feasibility of selected mitigation measures

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
ESZZ16016	SEO	2026-2030	MARAVES II (EMFAF) LIFE Medwings	€€€	Nº of trials of selected mitigation measures	High

Action: Conduct analysis of data collected through mitigation trials to determine efficacy of the mitigation measures

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
ESZZ16016	SEO	2026-2030	MARAVES II (EMFAF) LIFE Medwings	€€€	Nº of reports about efficacy of the trialed mitigation measures	High

Action: Conduct socioeconomic impact assessment on the adoption of new mitigation measure

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
ESZZ16016	SEO	2026-2030	MARAVES II (EMFAF) LIFE Medwings	€	Nº of reports about socio-economic impact assessment of selected mitigation measures	Medium

Action: Develop and/or update mitigation measure factsheets using the Mitigation Measure Toolkit developed during LIFE PanPuffinus! as a template						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
Spanish Mediterranean waters	SEO	2026-2027	MARAVES II (EMFAF)	€€	Toolkit adapted to Spanish Mediterranean demersal longline fleet published	Medium
Objective 5: Upscale implementation of mitigation measures in target fleets						
Action: Monitor a sub-sample of the vessels using the mitigation measures (through on-board observations and/or self-reporting logbooks)						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
ESZZ16016	SEO	2026-2030	MARAVES II (EMFAF) LIFE Medwings	€€	Nº of logbooks filled by fishers	Medium
Objective 6: Present and publish outputs of LIFE PanPuffinus! work on finding solutions to reduce seabird bycatch						
Action: Present outputs of LIFE PanPuffinus! work on finding solutions to reduce seabird bycatch at the Spanish Ornithology Congress						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National	SEO	2026	Own funds	€	Submit a poster about the mitigation trials summarising the main results of the D1 Monitoring report	Medium
Action: Publish scientific article/s on scale and characteristics of seabird bycatch at a national level and/or across a gear type						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
National	SEO	2027-2028	Own funds	€€	Paper published on scientific journal about bycatch in Spanish longlines	High

3.3. Strategic objectives for long-term management of biosecurity and rodent control

To ensure that predator management measures implemented during the project - including monitoring and control of rat populations at key breeding colony sites - are maintained and continue to deliver positive outcomes for the target species, six key objectives have been identified. As the context varies across participating countries, the actions needed to achieve each objective will also differ. Below we present a description of each objective and the actions that can be taken to achieve them, followed by the specific actions that will be undertaken by each partner country.

Objective 1: Maintain and upscale the Invasive Species Management Database

Description: During LIFE PanPuffinus!, an Invasive Species Management Database (ISM Database) was created by collating data on past invasive non-native predator eradication and control efforts in the Mediterranean. This database needs to be updated periodically to facilitate research and knowledge sharing within the scientific community. One update is already planned as part of LIFE Tetide project, before it's completion in 2028. Updates could include an improvement of the Search Engine Optimisation. Changes and updates shall be communicated with DIISE, a global invasive species portal.

Action/s:

- Carry out periodic updates of the ISM database with new data on the control and eradication efforts in the Mediterranean

Objective 2: Continuation of rodent biosecurity in project sites

During LIFE PanPuffinus!, biosecurity actions aimed at rodent surveillance were carried out at project sites in Greece, Malta and Spain. In Greece, rat eradication was successfully achieved at one of the project sites, on the islets of Agreloussa, Stroggyli and Spolato, where biosecurity should continue to ensure that the achieved rodent free status is maintained. Predator biosecurity plans were also put in place to describe all actions and means necessary to keep selected islands with Balearic or Yelkouan Shearwaters colonies predator-free. Biosecurity Assessment Visits

(BAV) were carried out to assess and confirm rodent absence on several islets in GR and ES. These actions must be continued to ensure rodent-free status and safeguard breeding colonies. Regular and maintained biosecurity actions will ensure that any incursions are dealt with swiftly before having a negative conservation impact.

Action/s:

- Maintain annual Biosecurity Assessment Visits to rat free sites Update biosecurity plans by 2030 to make sure they are in line with current legislation and situation on the ground

Objective 3: Maintain seasonal rodent control measures at project sites

In selected *Puffinus yelkouan* colonies in Malta, seasonal rodent control measures were refined and improved during the project lifetime, as were the tools to monitor rat presence and density at control sites.

Action/s:

- Repeat annual seasonal rodent control covering the *Puffinus yelkouan* shearwater nesting season (February-July) using rodenticide baiting, complemented with other tools such as mechanical GoodNature traps
- Maintain monitoring tools such as trail cameras and non-toxic wax blocks both during and outside of the nesting period, to monitor the rodent population
- Update the predator control operational plans by 2030 to make sure they are in line with the current legislation and situation on the ground

Objective 4: Create and implement plans for non-native species eradication/control, operational and/or biosecurity plans for new sites and/or threats

Description: LIFE PanPuffinus! has focused on non-native species eradication/control, operational and/or biosecurity measures in priority sites identified at the time of project application. This does not imply that other sites do not require such plans and their subsequent implementation. Moreover, some threats have emerged/have been identified after the project commencement. For example, on the island of Gyros, Greece, feral pigs were illegally introduced in 2021. Due to the presence of feral pigs, it was decided to postpone the planned rat control for 2022, as feral pigs would destroy any bait stations placed in the vicinity of the colony. Following this, in spring 2022,

during the systematic monitoring visits to the colony, the first signs of feral pig predation on adult Yelkouan Shearwater was recorded².

Action/s:

- Create eradication/control, operational and/or biosecurity plans for new sites and/or threats
- Update and/or maintain control, operational and/or biosecurity plans for new sites and/or threats
- Implement eradication/control, operational and/or biosecurity plans for new sites and/or threats

Objective 5: Continuation of engagement with stakeholders on biosecurity awareness and implementation of measures

Throughout the 5-year implementation period of LIFE PanPuffinus!, efforts were made to increase awareness on the importance of biosecurity amongst regional and local authorities, as well as local stakeholders and site users. This was achieved through biosecurity workshops, dissemination of communication materials, improving waste management at key colony sites and deployment of biosecurity measures with key stakeholders including tourist boat operators and waste management entities.

Action/s:

- Conduct biosecurity training refreshers to key stakeholders
- Ensure waste management is maintained, with regular waste collection and rodent proof bins. In case of larger visitor pressure, the waste management facilities need to be upscaled as well.
- Continue engagement with key stakeholders (e.g. HOS with local restaurants)
- Continue awareness raising on the importance of biosecurity through social media and dissemination of communication materials created during LIFE PanPuffinus!

² Visalli, F. et al. (2025). Report on Rat Eradication/Control Operations and Biosecurity Plan Implementation in Malta, Greece and Spain. C2 and C3 Report.

Objective 6: Maintain annual breeding success monitoring

Annual breeding success monitoring was conducted in parallel to rodent control and biosecurity visits to determine success of biosecurity measures.

Action/s:

- Maintain annual breeding success monitoring for a representative sample of *Puffinus yelkouan* nests
- Maintain annual breeding success monitoring for a representative sample of *Puffinus mauretanicus* nests
- Identify and tackle other threats affecting breeding success such as decline in marine foraging quality for shearwaters

3.4. Country-specific strategic objectives for long-term management of biosecurity and rodent control

The activities detailed in this section vary in scope, encompassing site-specific actions at project sites (project sites detailed in Annex 6.1) as well as extending beyond these areas at national and regional levels.

**Each activity delineates an estimated budget, which is represented in the following way: € - up to 5,000 euro needed, €€ - between 5,000 and 10,000 euro needed, €€€ - between 10,000 and 100,000 euro needed, €€€€ - more than 100,000 euro needed.*

***Priority is represented in the following way: High - Action is crucial for achieving objectives, Medium - Action would increase the scope and effectiveness of the project, Low - Action may be implemented if there are free financial means.*

Malta

Objective 1: Maintain and upscale the Invasive Species Management Database						
Action: Carry out periodic updates of the ISM database with new data on the control and eradication efforts in the Mediterranean						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required*	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
All MT project sites	BLM	2028; then every 5 years	LIFE Tetide	€	Update of Database	Low
Objective 2: Continuation of rodent biosecurity in project sites						
Action: Update biosecurity plans by 2030 to make sure they are in line with current legislation and situation on the ground						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
MT0000009,MT0000017, MT0000022,MT0000024.	BLM	2030		€	Updated plans	Medium
Objective 3: Maintain seasonal rodent control measures at project sites						
Action: Seasonal rodent control using carefully monitored rodenticide baiting, complimented with mechanical GoodNature traps and rodent monitoring tools (camera traps and non-toxic wax blocks)						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
MT0000009,MT0000017, MT0000022,MT0000024.	BLM; Ambjent Malta; ERA	Annual	EU and National	€€€ annually	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> breeding success	High

Objective 5: Continuation of engagement with stakeholders on biosecurity awareness and implementation of measures						
Action: Conduct biosecurity training refreshers to key stakeholders						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
MT0000009,MT0000017, MT0000022,MT0000024.	BLM; Ambjent Malta; ERA	Every 3-5 years	EU and National	€	Stakeholder event held	Medium
Action: Ensure waste management is maintained, with regular waste collection and rodent proof bins. Upscaled to meet increasing visitor numbers.						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
MT0000009,MT0000017, MT0000022,MT0000024, and surrounding areas	Ambjent Malta; ERA; MTA; local councils	Annual	National and EU regional funds	€€€€ annually	No litter available to rats	High
Objective 6: Maintain annual breeding success monitoring						
Action: Maintain annual breeding success monitoring for a representative sample of <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> nests						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
MT0000009,MT0000017, MT0000022,MT0000024.	BLM	Annual	National and MSFD	€€ annually	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> breeding success at or close to 75%	High
Action: Identify and tackle other threats affecting breeding success such as decline in marine foraging quality for shearwaters						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
MT0000009.MT0000017, MT0000022,MT0000024.	ERA; DFA; ARM; TM; BLM	2030	National and MSFD	€€€€	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> breeding success at or close to 75%	High

Greece

Objective 1: Maintain and upscale the Invasive Species Management Database

Action: Carry out periodic updates of the ISM database with new data on the control and eradication efforts in the Mediterranean

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required*	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
All GR project sites	HOS	2028; then every 5 years	Own funds	€	Update of Database	Low

Objective 2: Continuation of rodent biosecurity in project sites

Action: Maintain annual Biosecurity Assessment Visits to 5 rat free sites at a frequency of 1 visit per year

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
GR4120006, GR4210034, GR4220021, GR4220025, GR2420009	HOS	2030	EU and National funds	€€ annually	N° of BAV/year	High

Action: Update biosecurity plans by 2030 to make sure they are in line with current legislation and situation on the ground

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
GR4210034, GR4220021, GR4220025	HOS	2030	EU and National funds	€	Updated plans	Medium

Objective 4: Create and implement plans for non-native species eradication operation and/or biosecurity plans for new sites

Action:						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
GR4220033	NECCA	2030	National funds	€€€€	Feral pig population eradicated	High
GR1150001 GR4120006 GR4210021 GR4210025 GR4210026	NECCA	2029	EU and National funds	€€€€	Rat population eradicated	Medium

Objective 5: Continuation of engagement with stakeholders on biosecurity awareness and implementation of measures

Action: Continue engagement with key stakeholders (e.g. with local boat-owners)						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
GR4210034, GR4220021, GR4220025	HOS	Annual	Own funds	€ annually	N° of meetings	Low
Action: Conduct biosecurity training refreshers to key stakeholders						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
GR4120006, GR4210034, GR4220021, GR4220025, GR2420009	HOS	Every 3-5 years	EU and National funds	€	Stakeholder event held	Medium

Objective 6: Maintain annual breeding success monitoring

Action: Maintain annual breeding success monitoring for a representative sample of *Puffinus yelkouan* nests

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
GR4120006, GR4210034, GR4220033	HOS	Annual	National and MSFD	€€ annually	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> breeding success at or close to 75%	High

Action: Identify and tackle other threats affecting breeding success such as decline in marine foraging quality for shearwaters

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
GR4120006, GR4210034, GR4220033	HOS; HCMR; IFR	Annual	National and MSFD	€€ annually	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> breeding success at or close to 75%	High

France

Objective 4: Create and implement plans for non-native species eradication operation and/or biosecurity plans for new sites

Action: Update and/or maintain biosecurity plans in other sites

Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
"Sept-Iles" National natural reserve – Brittany	LPO	2024-2030	EU fund – LIFE Marine Mobile Species	€€	Reduction of American mink presence	High
French Overseas	LPO	2026-2031	EU fund – LIFE Overseas	€€€€	Elimination of rodents on >3 773ha Increase of the targeted birds population	High
PACA and Corsica regions	PIM initiatives	2024-2025	EU fund – LIFE marine mobile species	€€	Breeding success of the shearwaters	High

Spain

Objective 1: Maintain and upscale the Invasive Species Management Database						
Action: Carry out periodic updates of the ISM database with new data on the control and eradication efforts in the Mediterranean						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
ES5310023	SEO	2028	Own funds	€	Update of Database	Low
Objective 2: Continuation of rodent biosecurity in project sites						
Action: Maintain annual Biosecurity Assessment Visits to rat free sites						
Project Site/ Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
ES5310023	Nature Reserve	Annual	Nature reserve/ own funds	€ annually	N° of BAV/year	High
Objective 5: Continuation of engagement with stakeholders on biosecurity awareness and implementation of measures						
Action: Continue engagement with key stakeholders (e.g. with local restaurants)						
Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
ES5310023	SEO Nature Reserve	Annual	Own funds/Nature reserve own funds	€ annually	N° of meetings	Low

Objective 6: Maintain annual breeding success monitoring

Action: Maintain annual breeding success monitoring for a representative sample of *Puffinus mauretanicus* nests

Project Site/Location	Responsible entity	Timeframe	Funding source/Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator	Priority (Low, Medium, High)
ES5310023	SEO; IRBI	Annual	Own funds/ EU and National	€ annually	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> breeding success data collected	High

4. After-LIFE Communication and Dissemination Plan

4.1. Rationale

The goal of the After-LIFE communication and dissemination activities is to ensure the long-term visibility, uptake, and impact of the project's results beyond the funded implementation period. This includes maintaining awareness among key stakeholder groups, supporting the continued application of tested conservation measures, facilitating knowledge transfer to institutional contexts, and strengthening policy engagement at national and regional levels.

This section will highlight the target audience for communication and dissemination, and those tangible outputs produced by the project that can be used as a tool for awareness raising and knowledge transfer as part of the After-LIFE plan.

4.2. Target Audience

Multiple stakeholder groups will be targeted for the After-LIFE activities, including but not limited to;

- Members of the public in project countries, and across the Mediterranean
- Site users for terrestrial sites, including visitors, managers, campers, temporary residents, climbers and climbing clubs, hikers/trekkers
- Environmental Authorities, policy makers and government entities
- Other NGOs
- Sea users including private boat users, maritime operators, boat trip operators
- Fishermen, fishing cooperatives and organisations
- Educational institutions including schools, universities, and higher education
- Specialised training schools
- Tourism sector operators
- European Commission and relevant associated institutions at EU level
- Regional authorities such as the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

4.3. Materials used for the After-LIFE activities

The LIFE PanPuffinus! Project generated numerous materials, targeting different stakeholders and age groups, for use as an engagement tool.

Material Name	Target Audience/ Age groups	Languages	Source
Comic Book	Public, Children aged 8 and up	English, Greek and Portuguese	Digital version available on the project website*
Board Game	Public, Children aged 5 years and up	Portuguese and Greek	Digital version available on the project website*
Seabird fact file for kids	Public, Children aged 5 years and up	English	Digital version available on the project website*
Closing video	Public, all ages	English	Digital version available on the project website*
Educational Activities	Public, Children aged 8 years and up	Greek	Digital version available on the project website*
Fisher Mitigation Measure Toolkit	Tailored to professional fishers	English, Maltese, French, Spanish, Greek and Portuguese	Digital version in all languages available on the project website*
Fisher guides	Tailored to professional fishers	English, Greek, Maltese, Portuguese	Digital versions in all languages available on project website*
Electronic logbook use training materials	Tailored to professional fishers, and trainers	English, Portuguese	Digital version available on project website
Fisher calendar	Tailored to professional fishers	Greek, Portuguese	Digital versions in all languages available on project website*

Material Name	Target Audience/ Age groups	Languages	Source
National Policy Recommendations Report	Tailored to policy and decision makers	English	Digital version available on the project website*
Transfer and Replication Handbook	All stakeholders	English	Digital version available on the project website*
Policy videos	Tailored to policy and decisions makers	English	Digital version available on the project website*
Photography mobile exhibition	Fishers and other elements of fishing community	Portuguese	The physical exhibition will travel between different locations within the project's target areas and even beyond.
Layman's report		English, Maltese, French, Spanish, Greek and Portuguese	

*Project website can be found at www.lifepanpuffinus.org

4.4. Dissemination and Communication Actions

The dissemination and communication actions fall under two main objectives. These are detailed below, along with the specific After-LIFE actions and the attributes needed for their implementation. The actions detailed in this section vary in scope, encompassing site-specific actions at project sites (Project sites detailed in Annex 6.1) as well as extending beyond these areas at national and regional levels. Each activity delineates an estimated budget, which is represented in the following way: € - up to 5,000 euro needed, €€ - between 5,000 and 10,000 euro needed, €€€ - between 10,000 and 100,000 euro needed, €€€€ - more than 100,000 euro needed.

Action	Project Site/ Country	Who?	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator
Dissemination of comic book, seabird factfile for kids and board game to schools to improve awareness on seabird conservation	Malta	BLM	National funding tailored towards educational initiatives	€	5 schools have received the comic book, board game and seabird factfile
Fisher Mitigation Toolkit disseminated to all professional fishers with longline licenses	Malta	BLM, ARM	Own Funds	€	775 mitigation booklets disseminated to all longline fishers by post
Engagement with fishers on the topic of bycatch through fisher exchanges and workshops	Malta	ERA	'Marine Conservation – an inclusive approach to Managing Marine Resources' Project cofinanced by the EMFAF Operational Programme	€€	BLM supports the project as an advisor and keeps up to date on the progress of fisher engagement activities through direct contact with ERA.
Provision of mitigation measure toolkit, seabird ID guide for fishers, safe seabird handling, and electronic logbook training material to educational institution	Malta	BLM, Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology	Own Funds	€	BLM provides materials to MCAST for inclusion into the fisher training diploma and undergraduate courses

Action	Project Site/ Country	Who?	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator
that provides fisher trainings					
Maintenance of project website for 5 years after project closure to be used in dissemination of all LIFE PanPuffinus! Outputs and information	Malta	BLM	Own funds	€	Website domain is renewed for 5 years (2026 – 2031) and maintained by BLM IT and administrative staff.
Dissemination of 'Biosecurity on Board' poster and leaflet to leisure crafts going to Comino island	Malta	BLM with the support of Transport Malta	Own funds	€	50 copies printed and disseminated to Day Cruise boats and ferry services. Transport Malta staff to support dissemination through their official channels. BLM to remain the contact point to boat owners for information.
Dissemination of the D1 report to relevant experts, national authorities and research institutes	Malta	BLM	Own Funds	€	
Maintain and Update the Permanent Seabirds Exhibit at Majjistral Park	Malta	BLM	Own Funds	€	Exhibit updated after 3 years
Comic book and Board Game Distribution to schools upon request	Greece	HOS	Own funds	€	

Action	Project Site/ Country	Who?	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator
Project educational activities (in Greek) available on HOS Website	Greece	HOS	Own funds	0	
Dissemination of project educational material on a yearly basis through HOS channels related to the Greek educational community	Greece	HOS	Own funds	0	
Support of schools willing to apply the project educational material through web sessions	Greece	HOS	Own funds	0	
Dissemination of comic book, educational activity book and board game to schools to improve awareness on seabird conservation	Greece	HOS	Own funds	€	At least 100 students engaged
Fisher Mitigation Toolkit disseminated to professional fishers	Greece	HOS, NECCA	Own Funds	€	N° of Toolkits handed
Training sessions for fishers on the use of the seabird guide and for safe seabird release.	Greece	HOS, NECCA	Own Funds	€	N° of fishers trained
Oionos magazine edition on Puffinus yelkouan and seabirds	Greece	HOS	Own Funds	€	N° of copies
Dissemination of comic book, seabird fact file for	Portugal	SPEA	Own funds	€	At least 100 students engaged

Action	Project Site/ Country	Who?	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator
kids and board game to schools to improve awareness on seabird conservation					
Training sessions for fishers on the use of the seabird guide for more accurate reporting on electronic logbooks and for safe seabird release. This will be tailored towards professional fishers.	Portugal	SPEA	EMFAF	€	Nº of fishers trained
Fisher Mitigation Toolkit disseminated to all professional fishers with longline licenses	Portugal	SPEA	Own Funds	€	Nº of Toolkits handed
Mobile Photography exhibition moved to different locations within Portugal to raise awareness on seabird conservation	Portugal	SPEA	Own Funds	€	Nº of locations
Mobile Photography exhibition moved to different locations within France to raise awareness on seabird conservation and voluntary fishers from the project	France	LPO	Life PanPuffinus!	€	

Action	Project Site/ Country	Who?	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget Required	Indicator
Dissemination of all public Life Panpuffinus! Materials on LPO website	France	LPO	Own funds	0	N° of visitors
Scientific article on Mitigation measures trials in the "Ornithos" Magazine	France	LPO	Own funds	0	N° of followers
Fisher Mitigation Toolkit disseminated to longline professional fishers in Catalonia	Catalonia (Spain)	SEO	Own Funds	€	N° of Toolkits handed
Engagement with fishers on the topic of bycatch through fisher exchanges and workshops	Andalucía (Spain)	SEO	MARAVES II (EMFAF)	€	1 fisher exchange organized

Objective 2: Continue advocacy and dissemination of project outcomes with policy decision-makers (both at a national and regional level)

Action	Project Site/Location (include country code)	Who?	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget Required
Continued communication with GFCM following the sharing of project data sheets and reports, to encourage information is taken into account for the Scientific Advisory Committee on fisheries and presented at the subregional committees	Mediterranean wide	BLM, HOS, SEO with support of BirdLife International	BLM: Own funds SEO: MARAVES II and SENAVES (EMFAF)	€
Continued engagement with the relevant local councils (Mellieha, St Paul's Bay, Ghajnsielem) and the Environmental Resources Authority to ensure waste management measures (rat proof bins, patrols) are maintained in project sites	Malta	BLM	Own funds	€
Dissemination of National Policy Recommendations for Seabird Bycatch to policy actors within project countries, such as competent fisheries authorities, and environmental ministries. The uptake of this	All partner countries	BLM, LPO, HOS	Own funds	€

Action	Project Site/Location (include country code)	Who?	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget Required
information will be supported by NECCA and ARM.				
Participation in public consultations for developments and activities impacting seabird colonies	Malta	BLM	Own funds	€
Participate in the monitoring committee for the implementation of the Nation Plan to minimise bycatch of sensitive species in fishing	Portugal- National Level	SPEA	Own Funds	€
Report seabird bycatch data recorded in Portuguese waters to the relevant authorities and organizations (ICES, DGRM, IPMA).	Portugal- National Level	SPEA	Own Funds	
Further disseminate the Policy Videos with policy makers in relevant social media channels and TV channels	Malta	BLM	Own Funds	€
Monitor and advocate for the implementation of the Nation Plan and the Catalanian Regional Plan to minimise bycatch of sensitive species in fishing	Spain- National Level	SEO	MARAVES II and SENAVES (EMFAF) Own funds	€€

Action	Project Site/Location (include country code)	Who?	Funding Source/ Opportunity	Budget Required
Report seabird bycatch data recorded in Spanish waters to the relevant authorities and organizations (GFCM, ICES, ACAP, Secretaría General de Pesca).	Spain- National Level	SEO	MARAVES II and SENAVES (EMFAF)	€€
Report seabird bycatch data recorded in Greek waters to the relevant authorities and organizations (Directorate General for Fisheries, Ministry of Rural Development and Food, IFR, HCMR, NECCA)	Greece - National Level	HOS	Own Funds	€

5. Annex

LIFE PanPuffinus! Project sites

Project Site Name	Project Site Code	Marine	Terrestrial
Malta			
L-Inhawi tar-Ramla tat-Torri u tal-Irdum tal-Madonna	MT0000009		X
Kemmuna and Kemmunett	MT0000017		X
Il-Gzejjer ta' San Pawl (Selmunett)	MT0000022		X
Qammiegh to Ras il-Pellegrin (incl. Majjistral NHP)	MT0000024		X
Żona fil-Baħar fit-Tramuntana	MT0000106	X	
Żona fil-Baħar tal-Grigal	MT0000107	X	
Żona fil-Baħar fil-Lvant	MT0000108	X	
Żona fil-Baħar fix-Xlokk	MT0000109	X	
Żona fil-Baħar fin-Nofsinhar	MT0000110	X	
Żona fil-Baħar fil-Lbiċ	MT0000111	X	
Il-Baħar ta' Madwar Ghawdex	MT0000112	X	
Żona fil-Baħar fil-Majjistral	MT0000114	X	
Portugal			
Aveiro-Nazaré	PTZPE0060	X	
Spain			
Ebro Delta-Columbres shelf marine area	ES0000512	X	
Llobregat Delta marine area	ES0000513	X	
Empordà marine area	ES0000514	X	
W Ibiza islets marine area	ES5310023	X	X
France			
Camargue	FR9310019	X	X
Iles d'Hyères	FR9310020	X	X
Iles Marseillaises - Cassidaigne	FR9312007	X	X
Greece			
Thassos island, Kavala Gulf and islets	GR1150012	X	X
Skyros island and islets	GR2420009	X	X
Fournoi island and islets	GR4120006	X	X

Project Site Name	Project Site Code	Marine	Terrestrial
Northern Dodecanese islands and islets	GR4210034	X	X
Mikres Cyclades islands and islets	GR4220021	X	X
Paros island and islets	GR4220025	X	X
Syros island and islets	GR4220032		X
Gyaros island and islets	GR4220033	X	X

New sites in After-LIFE plan

Project Site Name	Project Site Code	Marine	Terrestrial
Spain			
Central Catalan Coast marine area	ESZZ16016	X	
N & W Menorca marine area	ES0000521	X	
Almería Bay marine area	ES0000506	X	
Greece			
Lesvos coastal wetlands and Kalloni Gulf	GR4110007	X	X
South Evoikos Gulf Marine area	GR2420016	X	