



After LIFE in Common Land Plan

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LIFE in Common Land (LIFE 16 NAT/ES/000707)



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Executive summary

The After-LIFE Plan is the planning document for the actions that will take place after the end of the LIFE in Common Land project.

The objective of the plan is to set out the lines for the continuation of the work on LIFE in Common Land to achieve sustainability, replicability and successful transferability of the project and to multiply the impact of the solutions generated.

In addition to the above, the plan also envisages the dissemination of the project results and the progress of LIFE in Common Land during the After LIFE period of 5 years.

Results and conclusions

The plan sets out how partners and associates will contribute in different aspects:

- In the dissemination and communication of project results.
- In the implementation of the project results
- In fostering the application of the results by other entities.

It also sets out a monitoring scheme for the plan

LIFE in Common Land

LIFE IN COMMON LAND is a demonstration project, whose general objective is to **improve the conservation status of the priority habitats** of peatlands (7110* and 7130*) and wet heaths (4020*) in the Serra do Xistral Special Area of Conservation.

Sustainable management of priority habitats, based on the fulfilment of a **set of indicators**, will facilitate a good **Conservation Status** of these habitats, which will lead at the end of the project to **payments for conservation results**, which in turn will help to maintain a sustainable management of the territory. All this through the implementation of **Conservation Results Based Management Models**.

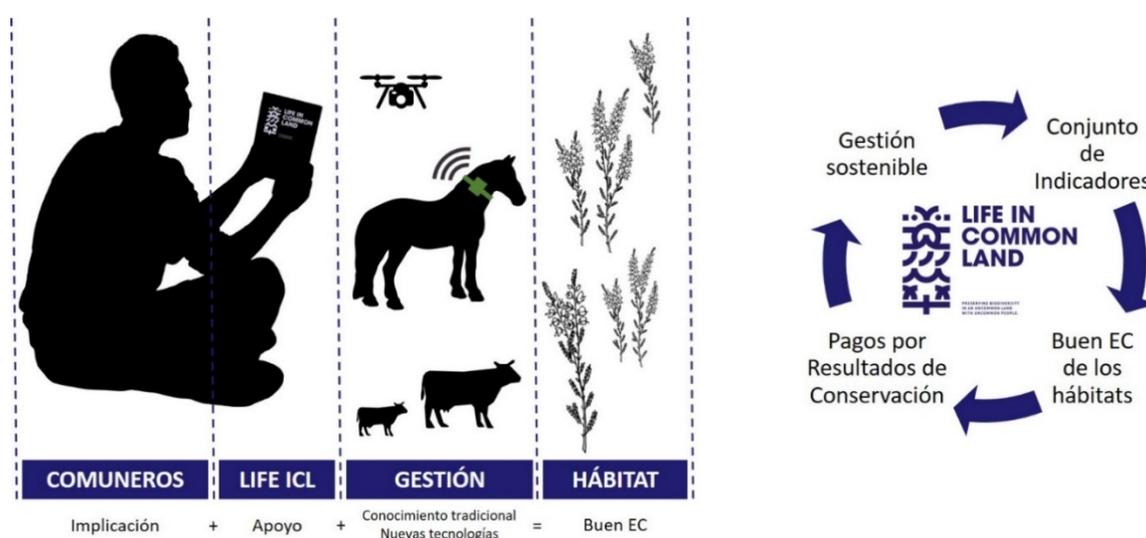


Figure 1. Outline of the main elements of the LIFE in Common Land project

The scope of work of the **LIFE in Common Land** project includes the **land belonging to 11 Neighbourhood Mountains in Common Hand (MVMC) included in the Serra do Xistral Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**.

These territories are considered to be **High Natural Value Agricultural Systems**, i.e. they have a rich biodiversity due to the conservation of traditional, low-intensity agricultural activities.

The protagonists of the project are the Comunidades de Montes Vecinales en Mano Común:

- Testelo, Costa do Sol, Real e Xunto da Igrexa (Communal Mountains (CM) de Montouto, Concello de Abadín)
- Costa de Laxa Moura (CM de San Isidoro do Monte, Concello de Xove)
- Lombo dos Porcos, Lombo do Madeiro e Serra do Xistral (CM de A Balsa, Concello de Muras)
- Cabaleira (CM of Silán, Concello de Muras)
- Tenente e Xistral (CM of Viveiró-lugares, Concello de Muras)

- Pena Luisa, Chao do Curro, Pena da Auga, Pedreizó e Pao do Lamoso (CM de Miñotos, Concello de Oroul)
- Xesto, Campo do Carballido, Porto do Río, Rego da Poltra, Veiga de Lamas, Cadramón e Monte Rubio (CM de Cadramón, Concello do Valadouro)
- Esculca, Barreira Moura, Cabaleiros e Rego do Madeiro (CM de Vilacampa, Concello do Valadouro)
- Xestaca e Grandavella (CM de Santo Tomé de Recaré, Concello do Valadouro)
- Frexulfe (CM of Frexulfe, Concello do Valadouro)
- Buio (CM of Boimente, Concello de Viveiro)

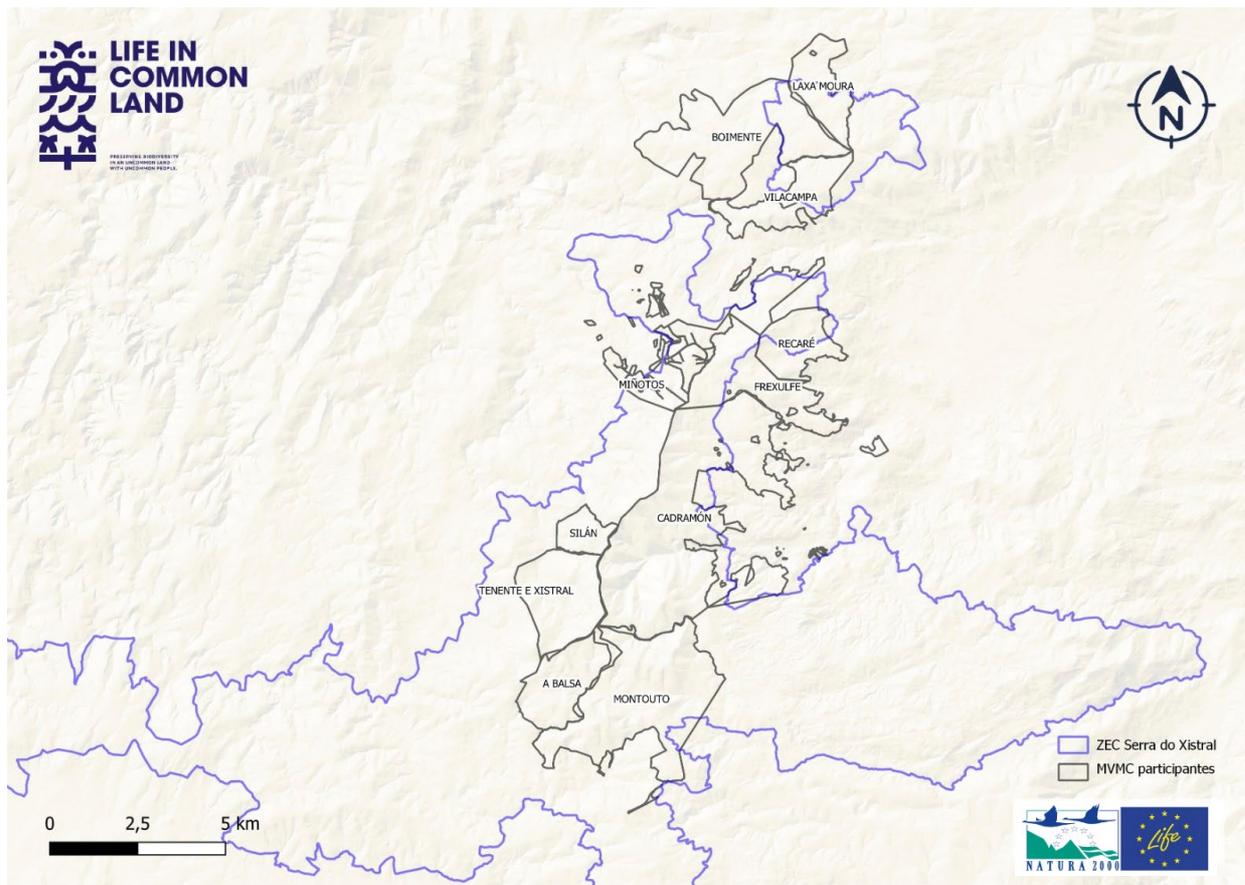


Figure 2. Forest Communities participating in the LIFE in Common project Land

The 11 MVMCs participating in the project cover an area of approximately 10,500ha, of which around 7,000ha belong to the Serra do Xistral SAC.

Of the 7,000 ha of Communal Mountains included in the Natura 2000 Network, over 5,000 ha are identified as priority peatland and wet heathland habitats (4020*, 7110* and 7130*). This is the area to which these Conservation Outcome Based Management Models apply.

Main achievements and results

During the development of LIFE in Common Land, diagnostic work, direct and indirect actions on the territory, communication and support to landowners have been carried out, which have made it possible to conserve and improve the conservation status of the three priority habitats that occupy more than 5,000 ha in the Serra do Xistral SAC. Of the achievements and results of the **LIFE IN COMMON LAND (LIFE ICL)** project, the following can be highlighted :

- **11,500 ha** of habitats mapped in 44 different cover classes in the 11 participating CMVMCs of the Serra do Xistral SAC.
- **5,200 ha** of priority habitats assessed with the following results: 3,752 ha as "favourable", 762 ha as "unfavourable-suitable" and 687 ha as "unfavourable-bad".
- **Report** on wild horses and their role in conservation. **28 mares** monitored with GPS collars.
- **Management Model Based on Conservation Results** for the Serra do Xistral SAC and a **Silvicultural Model** for the Conservation of Atlantic peatland and wet heathland mosaics.
- **10 Forest Management Projects** drafted according to the Management Model, with **more than 6,000 ha managed**.
- A **set of Indicators** for each habitat that allows a simple assessment of its Conservation Status.
- **300,000 €** granted to MCVMCs through the **implementation of an innovative Habitat Conservation Payment for Results Scheme**.
- **35** direct conservation **actions** carried out by 15 companies, mostly local. **400 ha** of priority habitats improved, including **100 ha** of peatland restored through tree removal.
- **1,676 ha** of images acquired **with RPAS** and **36.14 ha with LIDAR** in 4 monitoring campaigns of direct conservation actions.
- **3,800 people** informed during the project in more than **64 events**, with **1 travelling exhibition, visits to schools**, exchanges with other projects, promotional material. **40,000 visits** to the website, **400,000 impressions** on social networks, **17 videos** and **48 publications/reports**.

The involvement of the **11 Neighbourhood Mountains in Common Hand** in the management and conservation of priority habitats is one of the aspects of the LIFE in Common Land project that should be highlighted and highlighted.

Plan After LIFE in Common Land

LIFE projects are conceived as the start of an initiative that goes beyond the duration of the project itself. In the case of LIFE in Common Land, the duration of the project was set at 5 years, from 2017 to 2022, the beginning of a long journey that has only just begun, seeking to extend the conservation of nature and the improvement of the environment.

The After LIFE in Common Land Plan is structured in 3 lines of action oriented to enhance the results of this project in the next 5 years after the official end of the project.

- **Dissemination and communication of the results of LIFE in Common Land**
- **Implementation of LIFE results in Common Land**
- **Promoting the use of the results of LIFE in Common Land by other actors**

Dissemination and communication of the results of LIFE in Common Land

Communication has been a relevant aspect of the LIFE in Common Land project, even with the impact of COVID19 in the central phases of the project, it has been possible to effectively disseminate the LIFE in Common Land project and maintain communication with the agents involved.

Over the next 5 years, these aspects will be continued, maintaining communication with the Communities of Neighbourhood Forests in Common, the public institutions involved, other entities and landowners in order to extend the solutions implemented.

Among the aspects to be pursued, according to the LIFE in Common Land communication plan are:

- **Raising social awareness of the importance of the conservation of priority habitats (wet heathlands and peatlands) and in particular of the Serra do Xistral SAC as a system of high natural value.**
- **Valorisation of the Communal Mountains as a model of sustainable land management and the potential for conservation by the landowners themselves.**
- **Enhancing conservation results-based management models**
- **Enhancement of the production and marketing of products obtained in a sustainable way in the Serra do Xistral SAC.**

Activities to be implemented during the life of this plan.

Designation	Entity	Budget dear
Dissemination of results at events such as congresses, forums, working groups, seminars, etc. <i>Reference events: European Heathland Congress, Terras do Miño Biosphere Reserve meetings, Creative Spain Cup, Eurosite working groups, etc.</i>	DLUGO USC SVP	14.000 €
Using the LIFE in Common Land project exhibition at events	DLUGO USC SVP	1.500 €
Organisation of events such as dissemination days, training courses, talks, seminars, working group meetings, excursions or guided visits to the project's actions, visits to educational centres, other communities of neighbouring mountains in common hand, etc. <i>Reference events: Fourth cycle, Coñece a túa provincia, Terras do Miño Biosphere Reserve meetings, University courses (USC, UDC), etc.</i>	DLUGO USC SVP	20.000 €
Production of articles or related publications and other materials linked to LIFE in Common Land	DLUGO USC SVP	7.500 €
Dissemination through the partners' media, partners' own web networks and the LIFE in Common Land project website and its social networks.	DLUGO USC SVP	6.000 €

The dissemination and communication of the results of the project will be carried out through the own resources of the different partners, providing their own staff, travel costs and registration fees for events, as well as expenses arising from the production of new materials. Likewise, the cost of maintaining the website and updating news will be carried out by the project coordinator during these 5 years.

Implementation of the results of LIFE in Common Land

The application of the results of the LIFE in Common Land project once it has been completed is even more relevant than the communication itself. It is about enhancing and extending the impact of the measures implemented in LIFE in Common Land.

In this sense, and taking into account the different measures implemented in LIFE in Common Land, the following activities have been identified to be carried out during the 5-year period of the After LIFE plan.

Designation	Entity	Budget dear
Support the Neighbourhood Mountains in Common Hand during the implementation of management projects.	DLUGO USC SVP	10.000 €
Involve new Communal Mountains in the Results Based Management Model, by supporting these communities to integrate the model generated in LIFE in Common Land in their management projects. <i>-Support the Montouto MVMC in the integration of the LIFE in Common Land management model in its management project when its situation allows it. -Extend its application to private landowners without being communities of Neighbourhood Mountains in Common Hand.</i>	DLUGO USC SVP	40.000 €
To achieve the integration by the Xunta de Galicia of the System of Payments for Conservation Results in the Strategic Plan of the CAP 2023-2027.	DLUGO USC SVP	1.000 €
Promote and encourage actions to improve and restore priority habitats in the Natura 2000 network and beyond, putting into practice the demonstrative actions of LIFE in Common Land: <i>-Mechanised grazing and vegetation control, -Correction of impacts on priority habitats on communication routes, -Installation of livestock management structures, or topographical and hydrological correction, or exclusion fencing for the regeneration of active raised bogs. -Forest clearance and extraction of exotic species on priority habitats,</i>	DLUGO USC SVP	150.000 €
To monitor the implementation of the Neighbourhood Forestry Management Projects in Common Land involved in the LIFE in Common Land project.	DLUGO USC SVP	18.000 €
Enhancing the value of local products obtained in a sustainable way through respectful management models based on conservation results.	DLUGO USC SVP	19.000 €

In order to develop these activities, part of the LIFE in Common Land consortium has managed to obtain funding from the Next Generation funds of the European Union, through the call of the Biodiversity Foundation for large transformative projects of a scientific-technical nature for the promotion of the bioeconomy and the contribution to the ecological transition in the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, promoted by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. Both partners, the University of Santiago de Compostela and the University of A Coruña, will participate in the successful project: **RURALtXA!, Boosting rural bioeconomy by revaluing extensive mountain livestock farming linked to**

biodiversity conservation, which will give continuity to LIFE in Common Land in more regions of Spain, including the Serra do Xistral. In this case, the County Council of Lugo could not participate in this call, however, as coordinator of LIFE in Common Land it will also participate in the actions of this bioeconomy project, as well as having its own initiatives in line with the proposed activities.

Promoting the use of the results of LIFE in Common Land by other actors

Given the demonstrative nature of LIFE in Common Land, one of the objectives sought during the project has been to actively transmit the demonstrative actions of the project with other entities and projects, to generate networks and synergies to take advantage of other results in this project and to replicate or transfer them in the best possible way.

This activity generates an important added value in the European Union, so it is logical to give it continuity once the success of multiple measures implemented in LIFE in Common Land has been proven. It is also proposed to take advantage of the network of experts and entities woven during this project through the national and international working groups and the dissemination activities of the project.

Replicability and Transferability

Designation	Entity	Budget dear
To raise awareness of the Conservation Results-Based Payment Scheme in other regions of Europe for its extensive application.	DLUGO USC SVP	3.000 €
Extending the network of contacts, experts and entities achieved during the LIFE in Common Land project for effective replicability and transferability, as well as enabling the integration of results from other projects in own initiatives for the conservation of priority habitats (heathlands and peatlands).	DLUGO USC SVP	5.000 €
Extend the developed conservation results-based management model to other neighbourhood commons or other types of properties in the European Union. Active application: Project RURALtXA!	DLUGO USC SVP	Included in the previous action line
Replicate or transfer actions for the improvement and restoration of priority habitats in the Natura 2000 network and beyond, putting into practice the demonstrative actions of LIFE in Common Land: -Mechanised grazing and vegetation control, -Correction of impacts on priority habitats on communication routes, -Installation of livestock management structures, or topographical and hydrological correction, or exclusion fencing for the regeneration of active raised bogs. -Forest clearance and extraction of exotic species on priority habitats, Active application: Project RURALtXA!	DLUGO USC SVP	Included in the previous action line
Apply the methodology for monitoring the conservation status of priority habitats through remote sensing and promote its use in the same or different types of habitats of Community interest.	USC SVP	40.000 €

As in the previous line of action, with the achievement of public funding to continue LIFE in Common Land through the RURALtXA! project, we are in a very favourable position to obtain results of replicability and effective transferability in the next 5 years, a very relevant aspect for this after LIFE plan and the replicability and transferability line of action.

KPI indicators LIFE in Common Land

The review of the KPI indicators of the LIFE in Common Land project is a commitment to be carried out 5 years after the end of the project. In this way it is possible to analyse the achievements obtained with respect to those initially foreseen in the project, and to review the impact of the project in the long term.

For this reason, this plan includes the revision of the LIFE in Common Land KPIs.

The assessment of the indicators will be carried out by all partners, according to their different responsibilities in the project and the thematic of each indicator.

A mid-term evaluation will be carried out to check the evolution of the indicators and a final evolution, according to the monitoring calendar of the After LIFE plan. This mid-term evaluation will coincide with the mid-term monitoring meeting, generating a specific document concerning the results achieved so far.

In the final monitoring meeting, the final evaluation of the KPI indicators will be carried out, obtaining the values that will be included in the online platform of LIFE KPI indicators, in accordance with the commitments acquired in the LIFE project. The County Council of Lugo will be in charge of updating the online platform.

Follow-up to the After LIFE in Common Land Plan

The After-LIFE in Common Land Plan has a duration of 5 years, starting after the end of the project (31/12/2022), and will therefore be completed in 2027 (31/12/2027).

In order to monitor the implementation and development of the project, 3 meetings will be held between the project partners to evaluate the continuation of the different lines of action and the results obtained in each one of them.

Meetings may be face-to-face or online, depending on the availability and situation at any given time. In any case, fluid communication will be maintained throughout this period.

Each partner will compile the necessary documentation to monitor the different actions of the After LIFE in Common Land plan, such as dissemination activities carried out, number of people reached, dedication and expenditure made, replicability achieved, materials produced, monitoring of the corresponding KPIs, etc.

The meetings will be held every 20 months and minutes will be generated from each meeting describing the different results achieved.

Calendar Plan Ater LIFE in Common Land	
Start date	01/01/2023
Completion date	31/12/2027
First meeting	09/2024
Second meeting (KPI mid-term review)	04/2026
Final meeting (final KPI review)	12/2027