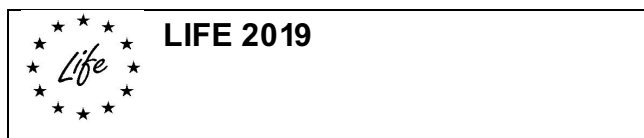




LIFE Integrated projects 2019

Stage 1 - Concept Note (CN) forms



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LIFE19IPE

PROJECT

Project title (*max. 120 characters*):

LIFE IP PAF Biodiversity recovery approach for N2000 sites and surroundings, in cooperation with agricultural and other land users

Project acronym (*max. 25 characters*):

LIFE IP All4Biodiversity

The project will be implemented in the following Country(ies) and/or Administrative region(s):

The Netherlands

Expected start date: 1 October 2020

Expected end date: 30 September 2026

PROJECT POLICY AREA

You can only tick one of the following options:

LIFE Integrated Project Nature: Integrated project implementing prioritised action frameworks pursuant to Article 8 of the Habitats Directive which may include Green Infrastructure actions that contribute to the coherence of the Natura 2000 network in a cross-border context

LIFE Integrated Project Environment: Integrated project implementing:

- waste management plans pursuant to Article 28 of the Waste Framework Directive
- river basin management plans pursuant to Annex VII to the Water Framework Directive
- air quality plans pursuant to the Air Quality Directive or national air pollution control programmes pursuant to the National Emission Ceilings Directive.

The project aims at implementing the following plan/strategy (**full copy is to be provided in attachment**):

The project aims at implementing the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for N2000 in the Netherlands. The PAF is currently being revised, the finalised and adopted new version is expected to be available by the end of 2019. The current PAF (covering the period 2014-2020) is attached with this Concept Note.

BENEFICIARIES

- Name of the **coordinating** beneficiary (1): Provincie Zuid-Holland - Province of South Holland (PZH)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (2): Provincie Limburg – Province of Limburg (PL)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (3): Provincie Gelderland – Province of Gelderland (PG)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (4): Provincie Friesland – Province of Friesland (PF)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (5): Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (6): Stichting Deltaplan Biodiversiteitsherstel – Foundation for Biodiversity Recovery (DB)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (7): Wereld Natuur Fonds - World Wide Fund for Nature Netherlands (WWF NL)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (8): Land- en Tuinbouw Organisatie - Dutch Organisation for Agriculture and Horticulture (LTO)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (9): BoerenNatuur - Farmers & Nature (BenN)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (10): Natuurmonumenten - Dutch Society for Nature Conservation (NM)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (11): Natuur en Milieufederaties - Nature and Environment Federations (NMF)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (12): Vogelbescherming Nederland - Birdlife Netherlands (VBN)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (13): Landschappen NL, Landscapes NL (LNL)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (14): Louis Bolk Institute for sustainable agriculture (LBI)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (15): Netherlands Institute for Ecological Research (NIOO-KNAW)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (16): Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (17): University Utrecht (UU)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (18): Radboud University Nijmegen (RUN)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (19): University of Groningen (RUG)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (20): Naturalis Biodiversity Center (Naturalis)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (21): Royal Agrifirm Group (RAG)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (22): Rabobank (Rabo)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (23): Duurzame Zuivelketen – Sustainable Dairy Chain (DZ)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (24): Staatsbosbeheer – State Forestry Service (SBB)
- Name of the associated beneficiary (25): Vlinderstichting – Dutch Butterfly Conservation (VS)

PROJECT BUDGET AND REQUESTED EU FUNDING

Total integrated project budget:	17.500.000 €
Total eligible project budget:	17.500.000 €
EU LIFE financial contribution requested:	10.500.000 € (= 60% of total eligible budget)

Coordinating Beneficiary Profile Information				
Short Name	PZH		Beneficiary n°	1
Legal information on the Coordinating Beneficiary				
Legal Name	Provincie Zuid-Holland		Legal Status	
VAT No	NL.0023.06.608.B.02		Public body	X
Legal Registration No	27375169		Private commercial	
Registration Date	18-03-2010		Private non- commercial	
Coordinating Beneficiary contact person information				
Function	Programme Manager Biodiversity			
Surname	Weijdema	First Name	Ed	
E-mail address	ef.weijdema@pzh.nl			
Department / Service	Department of Water and Nature			
Street Name and No	Provinciehuis Zuid-Holland, Zuid-Hollandplein 1		PO Box	90602
Post Code	2509 LP	Town/City	The Hague	
Country Code	NL	Country Name	The Netherlands	
Coordinating Beneficiary details				
Website	https://www.zuid-holland.nl/			
Brief description of the Coordinating Beneficiary's activities and experience in the area of the proposal				
<p>The Province of Zuid Holland is the governmental organisation directly responsible for nature conservation (including N2000), water quality (including WFD) and a healthy environment in the Zuid Holland region. This region has approximately 3,7 million inhabitants and encompasses a range of nature reserves (e.g. dunes, meadow bird grasslands, wetlands, rivers), surrounded by dairy and arable farming, and the large cities of Rotterdam and the Hague. In the new vision for a healthy living environment, the province recognizes that all elements in the landscape need to include natural and biodiversity-friendly elements and management to meet the N2000 and associated nature conservation goals. To this end, a combination of action will be implemented over the coming years, including the completion of the Netherlands Nature Network, support of transition towards nature-inclusive farming, infrastructure management, circular economy as well as green blue urbanization. The province is frontrunner in the development and facilitation of integrated regional initiatives in which nature, economy and society thrive together (e.g. Green Circles, Food Families, Regional development). Together, these (and other) activities greatly increase the likelihood to meet N2000, WFD and associated (inter)national goals for biodiversity conservation. The budget foreseen for nature and environment associated activities is approximately € 205 million euro for the next 8 years. Furthermore has the province of Zuid-Holland an wide experience in managing international project such as LIFE Clinch, Clean Inland Shipping.</p>				



COORDINATING BENEFICIARY DECLARATION

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

My organisation Provincie Zuid-Holland has not been served with bankruptcy orders, nor has it received a formal summons from creditors. My organisation is not in any of the situations listed in Articles 106(1) and 107 of Council Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L298 of 26.10.2012).

1. My organisation is legally registered in the European Union.

I am legally authorised to sign this statement on behalf of my organisation.

I have read in full the LIFE Model Grant Agreement and the Financial and Administrative Guidelines provided with the LIFE application files.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the statements made in this concept note are true and the information provided is correct.

At The Hague on 09-09-2019

Signature of the Coordinating Beneficiary:

Name(s) and status of signatory: F. Vermeulen, gedeputeerde provincie Zuid-Holland

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Overall context/background/geographical scope

This LIFE IP aims to implement the Netherlands' PAF by restoring and optimizing habitat specific biodiversity in N2000 areas through relieving current threats and pressure factors related to land use of surrounding areas (such as eutrophication, aridification, acidification, pollution and fragmentation, see also PAF pp.17-18), in cooperation with all land users and other relevant stakeholders. To achieve this, an integrated approach will be developed for cooperation between managers of N2000 areas and the users of surroundings such as the agricultural sector, public bodies responsible for infrastructure and other relevant land users.

Why: The Netherlands' N2000 sites areas are heavily influenced by activity in adjacent areas. Biodiversity is still in decline in N2000 sites, particularly because of threats related to the management of surrounding areas such as atmospheric nitrogen deposition, desiccation and acidification (PAF p.18) and despite many actions of groups of farmers and active nature conservation programmes. Consequently, reaching biodiversity targets in the Netherlands critically depends on the integration of management within and around N2000 sites (PAF p.47).

How: A common approach will be developed and implemented for management of N2000 sites and the surrounding land uses affecting these sites, focusing on restoring biodiversity. For instance, hydrological changes, reductions of use of agrochemicals and nitrogen emissions are required, which requires close cooperation with users of adjacent areas, predominantly (but not exclusively) the agricultural sector. The integrated approach is centred on the recognition that nature conservation must be based on the creation of mutual benefits and new business models, ensuring that enhancing biodiversity becomes a leading principle in developing management plans for rural areas.

The IP builds further upon an already existing cooperation between a broad societal coalition of nature, agricultural, science and business organisations initiated in 2018 to restore biodiversity in the Netherlands ('Delta Plan Biodiversity Recovery'). In this IP the Netherlands' government will implement the PAF in close cooperation with the partners of the Delta Plan Biodiversity Recovery. The approach is based on the five success factors defined for the [Delta Plan Biodiversity Recovery](#) (pp.10-11), see also sections 2 and 3 below. Monitoring (see section 3, D-actions) of results and learning by doing will be an intrinsic part of the approach.

What: The actions proposed in this IP focus on improving overall ecosystem health by creating favourable circumstances for targeted indicator species such as soil communities and invertebrates, including soil dwelling detritivores (e.g. earthworms), pollinators (e.g. wild bees and hoverflies) and natural predators (e.g. ground beetles and lacewings).

Improving conditions for these soil communities and invertebrates will have positive impacts on (other) target species of the Birds and Habitats directive, including meadow birds for which the Netherlands has an important position (PAF p.30), such as A156 *Limosa limosa*, A142 *Vanellus vanellus*, A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*, A056 *Anas clypeata* and A153 *Gallinago gallinago*. In addition, other target bird species (including A084 *Circus pygargus*, A276 *Saxicola torquata*, A338 *Lanius collurio*, A222 *Asio flammeus*), and amphibians (H1166 *Triturus cristatus*, H1193 *Bombina variegata*) will benefit.

Key habitat types targeted are the following:

H3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains

H3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea
H3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche- Batrachion vegetation
H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix
H4030 European dry heaths
H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)
H6230 Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas
Please refer to table 4 on p.17 for an overview of all targeted habitat types.

As a result, climate resilience will significantly be improved: as stressed inter alia in the EU Biodiversity strategy, only robust nature reserves will be able to cope with the added pressures posed by climate change. The recent documentary 'The biggest little farm' provides an interesting insight in the relation between biodiversity and climate resilience.

Where: The impacts of adapting the management of these areas are expected to reach far beyond the targeted N2000 sites and positively affect biodiversity in the Netherlands as a whole (PAF p.30). The integrated approach is aimed to be self-sustaining and replicable to other sites in the Netherlands and in other EU countries.

The geographic areas selected for this LIFE IP (see also below under C.1) are linked to the Interbestuurlijk Programma (IBP) that has recently been launched in the Netherlands, in particular the pilot areas 'Vitaal Platteland'. The IBP aims to improve coordination between different governmental bodies (national government, provinces, municipalities and water boards) and involves cooperation with the agricultural sector and other rural land users, which are key success factors for the proposed LIFE IP. The geographic areas selected for this LIFE IP (see also action C.1) are therefore linked to IBP pilot areas. As part of the complementary actions, replication of the approach in other areas will be achieved.

Complementary actions

This LIFE IP is linked to:

- The initiative '[Groene Cirkels](#)' in which the Province Zuid-Holland cooperates with the Water Board Rijnland, knowledge partners and the private sector to implement sustainable land use (Province Zuid-Holland, budget € 222.000,- (2019)).
- The [Interbestuurlijk Programma IBP](#) (Intergovernmental Programme) of the national government, provinces, municipalities and water boards to improve cooperation on large societal challenges such as climate adaptation (in particular the pilot areas '[Vitaal Platteland](#)' / 'Vital rural areas'). National government, budget: 40 M€).
- [Uitvoeringsagenda Kringlooplandbouw](#) (Circular Agriculture). (Ministry of LNV, 135 M€).
- [Living Labs for Biodiversity](#), in which land users in 5 regions will cooperate to restore biodiversity and in which progress will be monitored by a scientific monitoring protocol (Dutch Research Council NWO and LNV, 4.5 M€).
- [Regio Deal Natuurinclusieve Landbouw](#) (financing from the national government to improve the balance between agriculture, nature and environment in the northern provinces Drenthe, Groningen and Friesland). (LNV, 10 M€)
- [Klimaatakkoord](#) (National Climate Agreement): concerning the budget allocations to 'Peatland meadows' and 'Extensification of dairy farming near N2000 areas' (national government, budget 200 M€ in total for these 2 budget allocations).

In addition, the European Rural Development Fund and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development are highly relevant to this LIFE IP, the most relevant initiatives financed with these funds will be included with the full proposal.

2. Project objectives:

IP itself

To achieve the goals of N2000 by implementing an integrated approach for the management of terrestrial Natura 2000 sites, taking into account the management of the sites themselves as well as the surrounding land uses affecting these sites, in close cooperation with the users of these areas.

The specific objectives of the project are based on the five success factors of the Deltaplan Biodiversity Recovery and are to:

1. Create **shared values** among all stakeholders with regard to biodiversity recovery;
2. Optimise **collaboration on the regional landscape level** with a view to aligning management practices of N2000 sites and adjacent areas;
3. Develop **business models** that turn protection and recovery of biodiversity from a cost item into a source of income for all land users involved;
4. Ensure that relevant **laws and regulations are consistent** and in support of contributing to biodiversity;
5. Successfully address **gaps in knowledge** of biodiversity, how it functions and how to restore and strengthen it.

Main objectives of the complementary actions:

- Groene Cirkels: establishing cooperation in the food value chain aimed at enhancing nature values in general and biodiversity in particular.
- Interbestuurlijk Programma: improved cooperation, alignment and knowledge exchange between governmental bodies in the field of nature management, replication in other areas when the pilots 'Vital rural areas' are successfully finalised.
- Uitvoeringsagenda Kringlooplandbouw (Circular Agriculture): ensuring biodiversity is an integral part of decision-making when fostering circularity in agriculture.
- RDF (POP) funded activities:
- Living Labs for Biodiversity: development of a monitoring protocol to measure biodiversity
- Regio Deal Natuurinclusieve Landbouw: replication of the approach in other areas
- Klimaatakkoord: 'peatland meadows': preventing further desiccation of peatland, which causes methane emissions. 'Extensification of dairy farming N2000 areas': reducing pressure on N2000 areas caused by nitrogen deposits of dairy farms. At a more general level: ensuring that enhancing biodiversity is integrated in the aims of climate funding.

3. Actions and means involved:

Actions financed by LIFE:

A. Preparatory actions (management plans, obtaining licences and permits, etc.),

A.1 Developing and conducting a stress and opportunities test for N2000 areas in the focal areas to assess pressures, involved stakeholders and actions needed to improve the realization of N2000 goals

- Development of a 'stress and opportunities test' for N2000 areas, aimed to gain insight in stress factors, opportunities to relieve these factors and stakeholders to be involved in this process. The test will focus on pressures on the ecosystem and the extent to which land use of adjacent areas has an impact on achieving management objectives (this is likely to be different depending on the impact, e.g. water management is locally organised, whereas other impacts may be a result of activities in a larger geographical area). This will be a coordinated action for various nature conservation, governmental and scientific organisations.
- The test will subsequently be conducted in the selected N2000 sites (see table 4) and will include an assessment of regulatory barriers. A 'quick-scan' approach will be applied, allowing the test to be applied in 2-3 expert working days for each N2000-site in the focal areas. As a result, opportunities to improve the conditions in each site are identified, which will provide input for the overall governance structure (A.2) and the area specific implementation activities (C.1).

- Aligning and ensuring knowledge exchange with relevant national and regional policy initiatives such as the 'Natuurwinstplan' ('Nature gain plan'), the project 'Hoger Doelbereik' and the provincial nature policies.

A.2 Developing an integrated governance model for the coordinated management of nature areas and surrounding land use to achieve the N2000 objectives

- Building an appropriate governance model for enhanced cooperation between land users, governments, farmers' organisations, NGO's and market actors at landscape level, including KPI's to measure success and based on learning by doing. The model will closely connect to the IBP initiative aimed to align governance levels and will serve as a template aimed to be made area-specific for each site on basis of local specificities.
- Enhancing nature management within N2000 areas by developing a governance structure for joint management plans focused on shared, area specific biodiversity goals, thereby improving cooperation between site management organisations.
- Development of a national and provincial governance structure to identify good practices of cooperation and knowledge exchange between stakeholders around N2000 areas.

A.3 Assessing the knowledge base, defining the research agenda and setting education priorities

- Inventory of existing initiatives and identification of knowledge gaps in integrated (governance) approaches of N2000 sites and surrounding areas.
- Defining research needs in terms of measuring and assessing biodiversity impacts of measures taken in view of the management of N2000 and surrounding areas.
- Based on the above: definition and implementation of research agenda (scientific partners)
- Assessment of knowledge and innovation investments and funds at national and EU-level focusing on the extent to which they could support integrated landscape approaches (ecological, economic, social) to realise N2000 goals, and identify funding gaps.
- Assess to what extent the Spatial Adaptation for Climate initiative (entailing measures to counter flooding, drought and heat stress) can be aligned with biodiversity goals, in close cooperation with the proposed LIFE IP focusing on the national climate adaptation strategy, if both projects are funded.
- Explore options to develop a public private fund and long-term governance structure to support actions of land users that contribute to an enhanced realization of N2000 goals.

C. Concrete (conservation/implementation) actions

The concrete implementation actions envisaged to be financed by the LIFE IP are divided in accordance with the main themes on basis of the success factors defined for the Delta plan Biodiversity Recovery (see also under section 2). The success factor 'Shared values and broad support' is included below under the dissemination actions (E.1).

C.1 Collaboration on the regional landscape level

Biodiversity benefits most if all land users in a region collaborate and align their management practices. By focusing on cohesion within a landscape, fragmentation of efforts is prevented. As a result, biodiversity will successfully increase on a regional level, while efforts will gradually be scaled up to a national level.

- Developing site specific approaches and governance models to enhance cooperation between land users and other relevant stakeholders in selected prototype landscapes for targeted species and dissemination of lessons learned to scale up.

For the first phase of the project (the project is subdivided into three phases of two years), the approach will be piloted in eight N2000-sites (one in each IBP-area) and surrounding areas. In phase 2 and 3 of the project, the approach will be further developed and applied to other terrestrial N2000-sites, finally covering all terrestrial sites in the focus areas within the duration of the LIFE IP.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	After project
A-actions, C-actions pilot in 8 N2000-sites	Refinement A-actions, replication in 24 other N2000-sites (see overview table 3)		Replication to all other N2000-sites

Table 1 Global phasing of LIFE IP A- and C-actions

C.2 Developing business models supporting biodiversity

Creating proper incentives for land users will accelerate the increase of biodiversity. This can be achieved by developing innovative earning models, e.g. through result-based payments or rebates for strengthening biodiversity, thus transforming the protection and recovery of biodiversity from a cost item to a source of income. In addition, public funds available for agriculture and rural development need to be geared towards contributing (also) to nature development. The administrative burden related to these funds needs to be reduced, thereby increasing accessibility of finance by farmers and other land users.

Concrete implementation actions include:

- Assess the availability of funding options for measures that can contribute to biodiversity in the selected areas.
- Joint development of new business models for farmers in selected areas to accelerate actions that decrease pressure on N2000 sites and enhance biodiversity outside N2000 sites. The stress and opportunities test of action A.1 will identify sites in which the development of new business models provides an opportunity to achieve this.

C.3 Optimising the regulatory framework

Optimising the regulatory framework requires a shift from specific measures to overarching goals. The framework needs to be fully coherent and integrated across governing bodies and governance levels in full width of the framework. Thus creating a regulatory framework that rewards innovators and closes loopholes for those who seek not to comply.

Concrete implementation actions include:

- Development of proposals in a multi-stakeholder process to improve policy coherency regarding the realisation of N2000 goals, based on regulatory barriers identified in the selected areas (as part of action A.1).
- Assessment of the applicability of the proposals to other areas: to what extent are these area-specific and compliant with (inter-) national objectives of the regulatory framework.

C.4 Knowledge, innovation and education

By fully integrating existing knowledge and through continuous learning, the 'learning by doing' principle is embodied. The LIFE IP will make full use of available expertise gathered in numerous ongoing and previous initiatives and developing living labs, knowledge is actively gathered and shared. Thus gaps in current knowledge are gradually filled, whilst continuing to restore and strengthen biodiversity.

Concrete implementation actions include:

- As part of the site-specific measures and tools, the development and execution of experiments in which farmers apply Integrated Crop Management that enhances functional biodiversity with a potential positive effect on surrounding N2000 sites.
- Development of a curriculum on biodiversity for education institutes (in relevant fields such as agriculture, green infrastructure and spatial planning) to enhance understanding of the positive relation between biodiversity, agriculture and other forms of land use.
- Training for agricultural service and product suppliers (including contractors) to provide practical guidelines to enhance biodiversity on agricultural lands surrounding N2000 sites.
- Conduct an inventory of radically different agricultural systems (e.g. saline agriculture, pixel farming, agroforestry / food forests) that support the realisation of N2000 goals and that can serve as an inspiration catalogue and example for scaling up.

- Testing in the selected landscapes how an integrated set of Key Performance Indicators on biodiversity, climate, environment can support the realization of N2000 goals by farmers (dairy and arable), infrastructure and building companies, local governments and other landowners/users. This will include dissemination of the learnings and the scaling up of local initiatives.
- Assessing the effects of climate change - and vice versa, effect of increased biodiversity on effects of climate change - on biodiversity in road margins and dissemination of results to other public authorities that manage public space.

D. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions

Monitoring of results and learning by doing will be an intrinsic part of the approach. Monitoring efforts will focus on progress made in implementing management measures (including quantitative indicators, e.g. number of sites and surface area included in the LIFE IP cooperation model) as well as on the impacts of these measures on indicator species. Measurable effects on insect populations are expected within three years after the start of the project. Close cooperation between responsible governmental organisations, nature organisations, farmers organisations, businesses, scientific institutes and other relevant stakeholders is a pre-requisite for the success of the project.

D.1 Setting up a system to monitor the results of the integrated approach

- Developing a framework for the assessment of biodiversity impacts in N2000 areas of integrated project actions in and around these areas.
- Defining indicators, monitoring protocols, evaluation and feedback procedures, reporting formats to be used in the monitoring framework (in alignment with the monitoring system developed in the 'Living labs for biodiversity' project, see also Complementary Actions).
- Combining framework, indicators and protocols in a monitoring plan, in which responsible organisations / persons and schedule are outlined.

D.2 Monitoring

- Monitoring of impact of the project actions on N2000 target species, habitats and supporting biodiversity at large (baseline and impact measurements)
- Feedback, on the basis of the monitoring, for improvement of IP activities and Complementary Actions.
- Annual consultation meeting with all organisations that have monitoring (/reporting) responsibilities in relation to N2000 / nature areas.

E. Public awareness and dissemination actions

E.1 Shared values and broad support:

The partners participating in the LIFE IP have initiated their cooperation based on shared values and function as a core group. Acting as ambassadors for the Delta Plan philosophy to actively mobilise other stakeholders around the common vision. Thus creating a broadening momentum amongst stakeholders to participate and take action on improving biodiversity.

Concrete implementation actions include:

- Developing an awareness campaign for regional government officials in charge of N2000 areas across the Netherlands on how to achieve N2000 goals through collaboration with land-users of surrounding areas and other stakeholders.
- Developing an awareness campaign for farmers, their suppliers and advisors on the value of biodiversity to enhance the support for the realization of N2000 goals.
- Developing an awareness campaign for public and private land users on the value of biodiversity to enhance the support for the realization of N2000 goals.

E.2 Replication and scaling-up of results and lessons learned

- Provide insight in the results of the implementation actions conducted in the selected areas, and ensure that these are communicated to relevant target audiences in an

appealing manner (e.g. development of a toolbox), ensuring further scaling up and replication of results in other areas.

- This will be done at three levels: (1) exchange of knowledge and lessons learned between the selected areas, (2) knowledge transfer to areas that are comparable in terms of nature values and economic activity and (3) broad dissemination to stakeholders / decision makers at national and EU-level.

E.3 Dissemination actions

- Annual LIFE IP conference including 'result workshops' and progress updates;
- Monthly newsletter for a broad audience;
- Communication multimedia campaign to engage large audiences on the value of biodiversity and the important role of land users in biodiversity restoration;
- Setting up local stakeholder platforms: bringing together stakeholder groups to foster an integrated approach at landscape scale. Important elements of these stakeholder platforms are to create awareness and understanding for each other's objectives, finding synergies and learning from previous experiences.
- Setting up a national stakeholder platform to ensure knowledge exchange between the local platforms, and consolidation of lessons learned – used as input for actions A.2/A.3.

E.4 Networking and knowledge exchange with other projects

- This action will include intensive cooperation and knowledge exchange with the ongoing LIFE15 IPE NL016 Delta Nature, which focuses on wet N2000 areas;
- Cooperation with relevant LIFE IP's that are currently under development, including an IP on the topic 'Sustainable conservation of the Black-tailed Godwit in meadow bird core areas' (Niedersachsen, Germany), and two IP's that are developed by the Netherlands Ministry of I&W (on the topics of circular economy and climate adaptation);
- Cooperation with relevant 'traditional' LIFE projects, including LIFE17 CCA/NL/093 Farming the Future – Building Rural Networks for Climate-Adaptive Agriculture;
- Identifying other projects in the EU working on similar topics, establishing contacts and setting up a knowledge exchange programme.

F. Project management and monitoring of project progress

F.1 Overall coordination and knowledge exchange

- A management structure will be set up including an overall project management team and dedicated project teams, responsible for the implementation of specific actions of the LIFE IP, composed of representatives of the relevant project partners. Activities will include the organisation of regular project meetings to discuss progress, ensure coordination between the aforementioned actions and to take corrective measures where necessary in case actions are not leading to the expected results. This action also includes evaluating overall progress at the end of each phase of the project and using the outcome as input to plan the activities for the next phase in detail.
- Connecting with and supporting project management of individual regional action programmes.

F.2 Monitoring progress of the project actions and reporting to the EU

- A management structure will be set up allowing the monitoring of progress, facilitating the above coordination process and providing input at a broader level for reporting to the EU. Detailed progress updates for these reports will be provided by the person in charge of the respective action.
- Annual evaluation of regional and local initiatives, living labs and projects of research institutes.

Expected complementary actions

Groene Cirkels: development of new business models fostering biodiversity.

Interbestuurlijk Programma: development of area-specific approaches concerning vital rural areas in close cooperation between all governmental bodies involved.

Uitvoeringsagenda Kringlooplandbouw: broad range of measures to close nutrients, material, energy and water cycles, to improve soil quality and prevent emissions from agriculture

Living Labs for Biodiversity: development of a monitoring protocol to measure biodiversity.

Regio Deal Natuurinclusieve Landbouw: replication of the approach in other areas.

Klimaatakkoord: 'peatland meadows': adaptation of water management; 'Extensification of dairy farming N2000 areas': restructuring of agricultural activity around N2000 area.

4. Expected results (main outputs and achievements, qualitative and quantitative):

Linked to Actions financed by LIFE:

- A self-sustaining approach has been developed for the integrated management of N2000 sites and surrounding areas, which is broadly supported and jointly implemented by all land-users and relevant other stakeholders.
- This approach has successfully been demonstrated in a number of concrete implementation actions, applying an area specific approach based on a stress and opportunities test in each N2000 site.
- As a result of the above: crucial contributions to the implementation of the Netherlands' PAF with regard to restoring biodiversity in terrestrial N2000 sites (see also section 6 below).

Linked to expected complementary actions:

Groene Cirkels: replicable business models with a positive impact on nature and biodiversity.
Interbestuurlijk Programma: model for area-specific governmental cooperation will enhance actions to restore biodiversity.

Uitvoeringsagenda Kringlooplandbouw: improvement of water and soil quality.

Living Labs for Biodiversity: improved monitoring of biodiversity and hence improved, more targeted action to improve biodiversity at the level of landscapes, habitats and species.

Regio Deal Natuurinclusieve Landbouw: replicable approach for 'nature-inclusive farming'.

Klimaatakkoord: 'peatland meadows': improved water management preventing methane emissions and fostering biodiversity; 'Extensification of dairy farming N2000 areas': drastically reduced nitrogen deposits in N2000 areas.

5. Expected contribution to the implementation of the target plan/strategy

IP itself

PAF priority	Expected contribution LIFE IP
I. More robust and resilient N2000 areas	High – the LIFE IP aims at restoring biodiversity and will as a consequence result in more robust, climate resilient nature
II. Strengthen N2000 species within and outside of N2000 areas	Very high – the LIFE IP focuses on developing an integrated approach for the management of N2000 sites and surrounding areas.
III. Agricultural nature management in and around N2000 areas	Very high – the LIFE IP is targeted at intensive cooperation with agricultural- and other land users in order alleviate current pressures on N2000 areas
IV. Natural entrepreneurship	Very high – development of business models aimed at improving biodiversity is a key element of the LIFE IP
V. Conducting studies / stakeholder processes management plan marine areas	Medium – the LIFE IP focuses on terrestrial N2000 sites, however a positive impact and replication possibilities are expected on other areas
VI. Implementing N2000 in conjunction with water safety / quality, freshwater provision and climate resilience	Medium – hydrology and water quality are key aspects that are to be addressed in the area specific actions of the LIFE IP, there is a strong link between increased biodiversity and climate resilience.

Table 2 PAF priorities and expected contribution to the LIFE IP

The revised PAF for the period 2021-2026 is expected to have similar priorities, with an increased focus on external pressures on N2000 areas.

Complementary actions

Groene Cirkels: contributes mainly to priority IV; *Interbestuurlijk Programma*: expected positive impacts on all priorities through better alignment; *Uitvoeringsagenda Kringlooplandbouw* contributes mainly to II, III and VI; *Living Labs for Biodiversity*: contributes mainly to priority I, II and III; *Regio Deal Natuurinclusieve Landbouw*: contributes mainly to priority III, *Klimaataakkoord*: contributes mainly to priority VI.

6. Main stakeholders involved in the project:

Involving all stakeholders with an interest in the management of N2000 sites and adjacent areas is of vital importance to achieving the objectives of this Integrated Project. Adaptations to the management of both the terrestrial N2000 sites and surrounding areas are required and need to be well coordinated. Stakeholders to be involved may vary for each site, depending on the organisation managing the site and the current land use of the surroundings – as far as they affect the site. In most cases however, cooperation with (local) farmers organisations is likely to be of importance, in addition cooperation with representatives of other economic interests (e.g. recreation) may be required.

Main stakeholders include:

- Provinces: the governmental bodies with the overall responsibility for N2000 implementation (represented in the IP by the Provinces of Zuid-Holland, Limburg, Friesland and Gelderland, other provinces are contacted and will likely be added at a later stage);
- Ministry of LNV: responsible for the PAF / national nature policy;
- Agriculture sector: individual companies, cooperatives and associations are vital cooperation partners to implement management measures with a positive impact on biodiversity (represented in the IP by Royal Agrifirm, Sustainable Dairy Chain, Farmers & Nature, Rabobank and LTO (which represents almost 50.000 agricultural entrepreneurs);
- Nature conservation organisations: responsible for implementation of management measures in N2000 areas and adjacent areas in cooperation with other relevant land users (all main organisations are represented in the IP: World Wide Fund for Nature, Nature and Environment Federations, Society for Nature Conservation, Birdlife NL, Landscapes NL and State Forestry Service);
- Knowledge institutes: capable of generating the ecological, economic and social sciences knowledge needed to support and implement the LIFE IP, and to monitor and evaluate the project (represented in the IP are the universities of Wageningen, Groningen, Nijmegen and Utrecht, Louis Bolk Institute, Netherlands Institute for Ecological Research, Naturalis);
- Rijkswaterstaat (RWS): responsible for developing water related N2000 management plans (thereby providing a strong connection to the ongoing LIFE15 IPE NL016 Delta Nature), and is in addition responsible for the management of embankments, road-, canal- and riversides which form important connections as part of the Netherlands' National Nature Network (NNN).

7. Long term sustainability (including capacity building):

The project is aimed to lead to a self-sustaining system in which improved coordination and cooperation between actors active in and around N2000 sites, including nature conservation organisations, agriculture and other sectors forms an integrated part of the approach of the management of these areas. The main driver for long-term sustainability is the creation of business models that are beneficial for all stakeholders with an interest in a certain area. By creating earning models that promote improved biodiversity, stakeholders will be able to structurally combine their economic interests with management measures that are fostering N2000 implementation.

8. Expected major constraints and risks of the IP and CA:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation measure
<i>IP itself</i>			
Alignment of relevant governmental bodies/levels takes more time than foreseen.	Medium	Medium-high	As part of developing the LIFE IP, a clear commitment and task/responsibility alignment between relevant governmental organisations is developed, resulting in a solid basis for cooperation and decision-making.
The concrete implementation measures do not (all) lead to the intended biodiversity improvements	Medium	High	The approach based on indicator species provides an 'early warning system' that enables refining/redirecting activities within the timeframe of the LIFE IP, with a view to enhancing biodiversity impacts.
The management structure is not actively supported by all land-users and other relevant stakeholders.	Low	Medium-high	A solid basis for cooperation has been established as part of the Deltaplan Biodiversity recovery. This cooperation is further strengthened during the process of developing (and implementing) the LIFE IP)
The management structure is not in all cases structurally applied	Low - medium	Medium	The approach includes development of new earning models for all land-users involved, thereby creating incentives for durable and structural implementation.
<i>Complementary actions</i>			
Implementation is delayed because it takes time for land-users with an economic interest to make the transition to more sustainable business models, supporting N2000.	Medium	Medium-high	Intermediate targets will be set in consultation with land-users, gradually making the transfer to earning models based on activities supporting biodiversity impacts.

Table 3 Anticipated risks and related mitigation measures

9. a) Is your project significantly climate related? Yes No

b) Is your project significantly biodiversity-related? Yes No

If you consider your project to be significantly climate or biodiversity-related (you marked 'yes'), please explain why:

There are important interrelations between biodiversity and climate related issues: as an example, vegetation with a high biodiversity is more climate resilient than areas with a low biodiversity, which tend to be more vulnerable to climate change related impacts such as drought and extreme temperatures / temperature changes. In addition, measures aimed at improving biodiversity generally have a positive impact on CO₂ capture. Another specific example is the improvement of water management in bog areas in cooperation with the agricultural sector, this can prevent significant emissions of methane, which has a much larger climate change impact than carbon dioxide.

MAP OF THE GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROJECT AREA(S) IN THE COUNTRY/REGION

N2000 sites in the Netherlands and priority areas for the Intergovernmental Programme IBP:

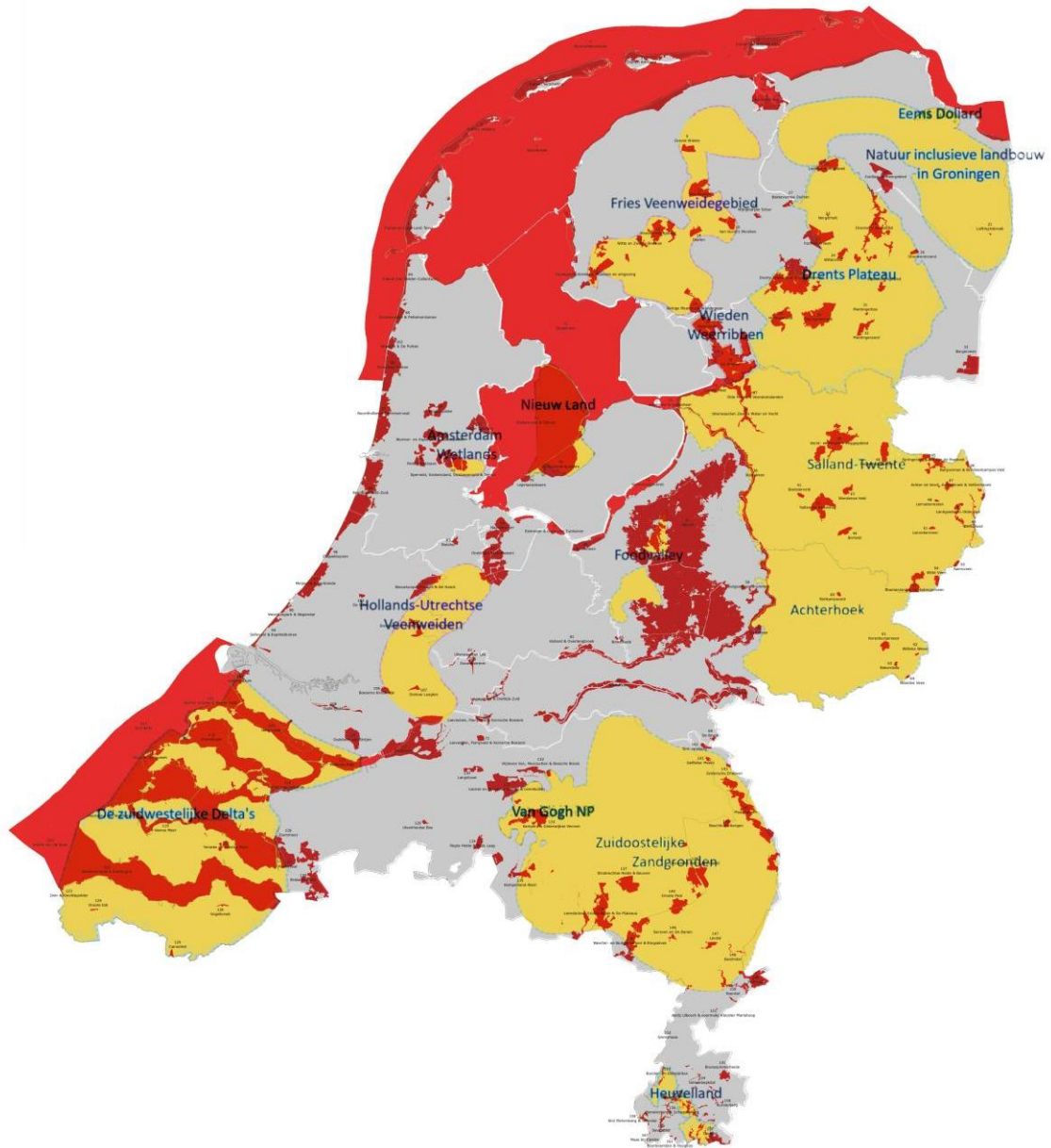


Figure 1 N2000-sites (red) and IBP-areas (yellow) in The Netherlands

The LIFE IP initially focuses on the N2000 areas that are located in an IBP-area, an overview is provided in the table below.

IBP-area	Province(s)	N2000 sites	Habitats
Hollands-Utrechtse Veenweiden	Zuid-Holland, Utrecht	104 Broekvelden, Vetterbroek en Polder Stein (ZH) 107 Donkse Laagten (ZH)	H6430, H6510
Zuidwestelijke Delta	Zuid-Holland, Zeeland	110 Oudeland van Strijen (ZH)	
Van Gogh National Park	Noord-Brabant	133 Kampina en Oisterwijkse Vennen	H2310, H3110, H3130, H3140, H4010, H4030, H6410, H7120, H91E0,
Zuidoostelijke Zandgronden	Noord-Brabant, Limburg	135 Kempenland-West 136 Leenderbos, Groote Heide en De Plateaux 137 Strabrechtse Heide en Beuven 138 Weerter- en Budelerbergen en Ringselven 139 Deurnsche Peel & Mariapeel 140 Groote Peel 141 Oeffelter Meent 142 Sint-Jansberg 143 Zeldersche Driessen 144 Boschhuizerbergen 145 Maasduinen 146 Sarsven en De Banen 147 Leudal 148 Swalmdal	H2310, H3110, H3130
Heuvelland	Limburg	153 Bunder- en Elsoërbos 157 Geuldal	H6110, H6130, H6210, H6220, H7220, H7230, H9110, H9115, H9160, H91E0
Achterhoek	Gelderland	60 Stelkampsveld 61 Korenburgerveen 62 Willinks Weust 63 Bekendelle 64 Wooldse Veen	H3130, H4010, H5130, H6220, H6410, H7120, H7210, H9115, H9160, H91D0, H91E0
Food Valley	Gelderland	57 Veluwe	H2310, H2330, H3130, H3140, H3260, H4010, H4030, H5120, H6230, H6410, H7110, H7115, H7150, H7210, H7230, H9115, H9190, H91E0
Fries Veenweidegebied	Friesland	9 Groote Wielen 10 Oudegaasterbrekken, Fluessen en omgeving 11 Witte en Zwarte Brekken en Oudhof 12 Sneekermeergebied 13 Alde Feanen 14 De Deelen 15 Van Oordt's Mersken 18 Rottige Meenthe en Brandemeer	H3130, H3150, H4010, H6410, H7140, H7210, H91D0

Table 4 IBP-areas, N2000 sites and habitats that are part of the IP

Maps can be provided in an A4 or A3 format

LIFE Integrated Projects 2019 – CNF

Financial Plan				
Sources of financing	Actions/ measures to be financed	Amount of funding (EUR)	Status/date of Funding granted/ to be granted/ not yet requested	Authority/ entity managing the fund
LIFE PROJECT:				
EU contribution	NA	10.500.000	NA	NA
Contribution by beneficiaries	NA	7.000.000	NA	NA
Contribution by cofinancers		-		
TOTAL LIFE IP		17.500.000		
EU FUNDS:				
<i>Overview of linked actions financed with ERDF / EARDF funding will be provided with full application</i>				
Subtotal EU:				
OTHER FUNDS				
Groene Cirkels	Value chain cooperation, business model development	€ 220.000.-	Granted 2019	Province Zuid-Holland
Uitvoeringsprogramma Zuid-Holland	Implementation Nature Network Netherlands	€ 205.000.000	Granted 2019	Province Zuid-Holland
Interbestuurlijk Programma	Cooperation programmes in rural areas	40.000.000	Granted, February 2018	NL national government
Uitvoeringsagenda Kringlooplandbouw	Measures fostering circular agriculture	135.000.000	Granted, June 2019	Ministry of LNV
Regio Deal Natuurinclusieve landbouw	Developing 'nature inclusive' agricultural practices	10.000.000	Granted, July 2019	Ministry of LNV
Living Labs for biodiversity	Development of biodiversity monitoring system	4.500.000	Granted, July 2019	Ministry of LNV, NWO
Klimaatakkoord: Peatland meadows / Extensification dairy farming N2000 sites	Measures reducing desiccation and nitrogen deposits in N2000-sites	100.000.000	Granted, June 2019	NL national government
		100.000.000		
Subtotal public:		594.720.000		
Postcode Loterij	Operational and communication support Deltaplan Biodiversity Recovery	1.500.000	To be granted, requested August 2019	Nationale Postcode Loterij
Subtotal private:		1.500.000		

Total complementary:		596.220.000		

Notes (if applicable):