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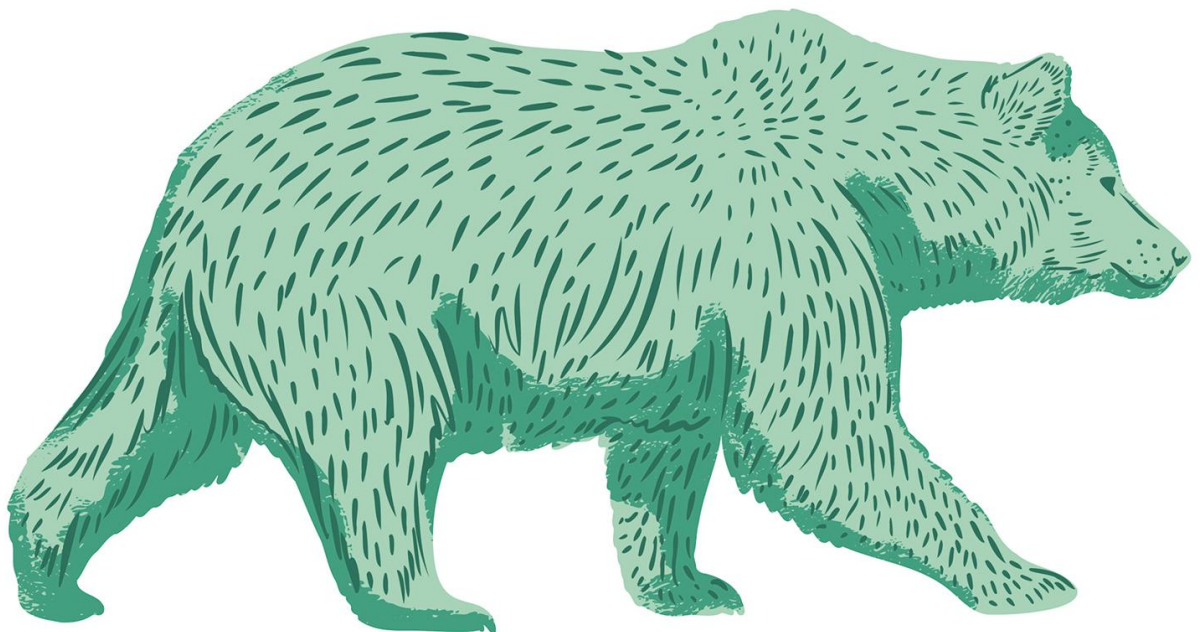
ΑΡΚΟΥΔΑ
ORSO
BEAR



LIFE18 NAT/GR/000768

Improving human-bear coexistence in 4
National Parks of South Europe

After-LIFE Plan



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1. Summary – Περίληψη - Riassunto

Summary of the After-LIFE Plan

The present Plan outlines the strategy of the LIFE ARCPROM project beneficiaries for ensuring the continuation of the actions, initiatives, and solutions implemented beyond the project's completion. It describes both how the beneficiaries intend to sustain and further apply the project's actions and results themselves, and how they will facilitate, encourage, and secure their wider adoption by other stakeholders interested in improving the conditions for human–bear coexistence in Southern Europe.

The Plan provides an overview of the project's objectives and outcomes, followed by a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis. It also presents a general assessment of the situation in the project's implementation areas after the end of the project, together with a more detailed evaluation of the means and requirements for the continuation and replication of the project's Actions.

Finally, Chapter 7 of the Plan sets out its objectives and proposes specific interventions and measures for their achievement, along with an estimation of their financial needs and potential funding sources.

The overall cost of the proposed interventions, covering the four National Parks of the Rhodope Mountain Range, Prespa and Northern Pindos (Greece), and Maiella (Italy), has been estimated at €2,350,000 over the next five years.

Περίληψη του Σχεδίου After-LIFE

Το παρόν Σχέδιο περιγράφει τη στρατηγική των δικαιούχων του έργου LIFE ARCPROM για τη διασφάλιση της συνέχισης των δράσεων, πρωτοβουλιών και λύσεων που εφάρμοσαν και μετά την ολοκλήρωση του έργου. Περιγράφει τόσο τον τρόπο με τον οποίο οι δικαιούχοι προτίθενται να διατηρήσουν και να συνεχίσουν οι ίδιοι την εφαρμογή των δράσεων και των αποτελεσμάτων του έργου, όσο και τον τρόπο με τον οποίο θα διευκολύνουν, θα ενθαρρύνουν και θα διασφαλίσουν την ευρύτερη υιοθέτησή τους από άλλους φορείς που ενδιαφέρονται για τη βελτίωση των συνθηκών συνύπαρξης ανθρώπου και αρκούδας στη Νότια Ευρώπη.

Το Σχέδιο παρέχει μια επισκόπηση των στόχων και των αποτελεσμάτων του έργου, ακολουθούμενη από ανάλυση των Δυνατών Σημείων, των Αδυναμιών, των Ευκαιριών και των Απειλών (Ανάλυση SWOT). Περιλαμβάνει επίσης μια γενική αξιολόγηση της κατάστασης στις περιοχές εφαρμογής του έργου μετά τη λήξη του, καθώς και μια πιο αναλυτική εκτίμηση των μέσων και των αναγκών για τη συνέχιση και την αναπαραγωγή των Δράσεων του έργου.

Τέλος, στο Κεφάλαιο 7 του Σχεδίου παρουσιάζονται οι στόχοι του και προτείνονται συγκεκριμένες παρεμβάσεις και μέτρα για την επίτευξή τους, μαζί με την εκτίμηση των χρηματοδοτικών τους αναγκών και των πιθανών πηγών χρηματοδότησης.

Το συνολικό κόστος των προτεινόμενων παρεμβάσεων, που καλύπτουν τα τέσσερα Εθνικά Πάρκα της Οροσειράς Ροδόπης, των Πρεσπών και της Βόρειας Πίνδου (Ελλάδα) και της Μαγιέλλας (Ιταλία), έχει εκτιμηθεί σε 2.350.000 ευρώ για την επόμενη πενταετία.

Riassunto del Piano After-LIFE

Il presente Piano illustra la strategia dei beneficiari del progetto LIFE ARCPROM per garantire la continuità delle azioni, iniziative e soluzioni implementate dopo il completamento del progetto. Descrive sia come i beneficiari intendono mantenere e proseguire essi stessi l'applicazione delle azioni e dei risultati del progetto, sia come faciliteranno, incoraggeranno e assicureranno la loro più ampia adozione da parte di altri soggetti interessati a migliorare le condizioni di convivenza tra uomo e orso nell'Europa meridionale.

Il Piano fornisce una panoramica degli obiettivi e dei risultati del progetto, seguita da un'analisi dei punti di forza, debolezze, opportunità e minacce (Analisi SWOT). Il piano include inoltre una valutazione generale della situazione nelle aree di attuazione del progetto dopo la sua conclusione, nonché una valutazione più dettagliata dei mezzi e delle necessità per la continuazione e la replicazione delle Azioni del progetto.

Infine, il Capitolo 7 del Piano presenta i suoi obiettivi e riporta gli interventi e le misure specifiche per il loro raggiungimento, insieme a una stima dei relativi fabbisogni finanziari e delle possibili fonti di finanziamento.

Il costo complessivo degli interventi proposti, che riguardano i tre Parchi Nazionali greci di Rodopi, Prespa e Pindo Settentrionale e il Parco Nazionale della Maiella in Italia, è stato stimato in 2.350.000 euro per i prossimi cinque anni.

2. Introduction

The Greek project area encompassed 3 of the most important National Parks (NPs) of Greece for the target species. These three project sub-areas comprise 20 N2K sites, which encompass large parts of the core habitat for the target species, covering a large portion of its range (~63% total average) within all three sub-areas. All areas with the N2K sites included play an extremely important role for the target species, in terms of habitat/population connectivity both at a country & at a trans-border scale, with the connection to the Dinara-Pindos & the East Balkan *Ursus arctos** biological populations, respectively.

In Italy, Maiella NP is actually the most relevant expansion area for the rare Apennine brown bear subspecies due to its connectivity with the source population & the high-quality habitat available. The survival of this endemic & critically endangered subspecies is strictly connected to the recolonisation of more territories & the growth of its population: The MNP has a crucial role in that dynamic process.

The specific project objectives were:

- Improvement of *Ursus arctos** conservation status in terms of population levels and trends by achieving a sustainable human-bear co-existence status through minimisation of bear-human interference and subsequent conflicts detrimental to the species targeted by the project.
- Minimise the intrinsic risk associated with small populations of the Apennine brown bear through actions in newly recolonized areas, where an increasingly stable presence has been observed in recent years. Concrete conservation measures are required to guarantee the survival of the currently living individuals and to favour future expansion.
- Maintain human-caused mortality at a sustainable level: in Greece, not exceeding 4% of the minimum estimated population in the project area; in MNP, preventing human-caused mortality of bears living in the project area (<10% of the estimated population).
- Maintain the number of the yearly reproductive females no less than 10-12% of the minimum estimated bear population in the targeted areas in Greece; in Italy, maintain the number of reproductive events no less than 1 event/2-3 years for females present in MNP.
- Improvement of the tolerance level of specific target groups regarding their coexistence with the targeted species.
- Stakeholder consultation and involvement, establishment and operation of Local Platforms on Coexistence between People and Bears in all four project areas.
- Adoption of specific and concrete monitoring and management techniques dealing with the conservation and management of the brown bear by the four National Parks.
- Capacity building - sound acquisition of know-how by personnel of the four National Parks on specific and concrete monitoring and management techniques dealing with the conservation and management of the targeted species.
- Efficient operation of units supporting a long-term basis for a certain category of preventive measures (i.e., anti-poison baits, dogs, guarding dogs, Bear Emergency Teams).
- Improvement of awareness about the added values of the targeted species in relation to the areas targeted by the project.
- Promotion of the added values from the presence of the brown bear in the areas targeted by the project, in local agricultural products and tourism services labelling.
- Strengthening transboundary cooperation in the project areas.
- Promotion of the values of volunteerism in favour of nature conservation goals.

3. Overview of the project results

The project ultimately achieved its objective of improving the conservation status of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), a priority species of Community interest, across four National Parks in South Europe: three in Greece and one in Italy. The project aimed to enhance the capacity of the Parks' Management Bodies and improve the conditions for human-bear coexistence in Southeastern Europe. Systematic cooperation between National Park Management Authorities, NGOs, and Universities was a key component of the strategy. Despite the delays and difficulties, the concerted efforts of the beneficiaries allowed the project to achieve several important goals.

[Giving Voice to Local Communities – Operation of Local Coexistence Platforms](#)

A key to the project's success was the involvement of stakeholders in designing the actions: Local Coexistence Platforms were established in each of the four National Parks, involving representatives from local communities, environmental organizations, local authorities, and key professional groups such as livestock breeders, farmers, beekeepers, and hunters. Participants recognized the importance of these participatory processes in facilitating human-bear coexistence, laying a strong foundation for future actions that should further strengthen community participation.

[Training of National Park Staff and Other Stakeholders](#)

The project made a significant contribution to enhancing the skills of staff from the participating National Parks and other relevant authorities. A series of training seminars covered key topics such as bear population monitoring methods, operational responses to poisoned bait incidents, first aid for poisoned animals, damage assessment, communication techniques for stakeholder engagement, and conflict resolution processes. Exchange visits were also organised with European countries experienced in managing human–bear conflicts. This training provided valuable knowledge that continues to strengthen conservation efforts well beyond the project's duration.

[Operation of Specialized Poison Bait Detection Units and Distribution of First Aid Kits](#)

The illegal use of poisoned baits poses a serious threat to biodiversity and working animals, such as Livestock Guarding Dogs. Specialized Anti-Poison Dog Units (ADUs), consisting of specially trained dogs and their handlers, operated in all 3 Greek National Parks.

The three ADUs responded to 34 suspected poisoning incidents, 18 of which were within the National Parks. NECCA has recognized the value of these units and will continue their operation after the conclusion of LIFE ARCPROM. Over 500 anti-poison first aid kits were produced by the project, and almost 1000 were distributed free of charge to livestock breeders and authorities within the project areas. Each kit contains pharmaceuticals, equipment, and step-by-step instructions for immediate LGD poisoning response.

A major success was also the official designation of February 22 as the “National Anti-Poison Bait Action Day” by the Greek Ministries of Environment and Rural Development, aiming to raise public awareness and coordinate actions against poisoned baits.

[Operation of Bear Emergency Teams \(BETs\) and Installation of Deterrent Measures](#)

BETs operated in all four National Parks to manage bear-human interactions, especially in residential areas. The project refined and formally adopted the Human-Bear Interaction Management Protocol, which was originally established in Greece in 2014. More than 355 interventions were carried out across the four parks (183 in Greece and 173 in Italy); 14 bear-proof waste bins were installed at selected points in the three Greek NPs. In Italy's Maiella NP, 15 metal structures were installed to protect village chicken coops, while a total of 45 electric fences

were used in both Greece and Italy to address agricultural damage and bear intrusions into settlements. Specialized deterrent devices, such as sound/light deterrents (Critter Gitter), pepper spray bait stations, and ultrasound air horns (Falcon Super-sound Signal Horn), were installed to modify the behaviour of habituated bears in all four project areas.

Operation and Demonstration of a Karelian Bear Dog (KBD) Unit

An innovative action was the establishment of a KBD Unit for bear detection and deterrence, leveraging international experience with this breed. The Unit, consisting of two trained dogs and their handlers, is operating on a pilot basis in PINDNP: The dogs track bear movements to investigate conflict cases and identify bear corridors, detect bears before humans do, and actively deter bears from conflict-prone zones. Initial results suggest that the Unit fosters a sense of safety and establishes trust with local communities. The Unit will continue under the PINDNP MU, with NECCA planning to establish similar units elsewhere in Greece.

Support to Farmers for the Exchange of Livestock Guarding Dogs (LGDs)

The project supported the use of appropriate LGD breeds, such as the Molossus of Epirus, the Greek Shepherd Dog, and the White Greek Sheepdog, as an effective preventive measure for coexistence with large carnivores. Building on previous LIFE projects, LIFE ARCPROM expanded a network of LGD owners, resulting in the donation or grant of a total of 62 dogs. The dogs were regularly monitored by veterinarians from the UTH, receiving clinical exams, vaccinations, parasite treatment, and microchips to ensure their welfare and effectiveness.

Labelling of Bear-Friendly Products and Services

To promote long-term coexistence, the project supported the use of "bear-friendly" labels for agricultural products and tourism services. In Greece, the UTH created the "RESPECT" label: 21 producers were awarded this label. In Italy, MNP and WWF Italy developed the "Bear-Friendly" label, which 27 producers received. The strong interest from both producers and consumers demonstrates that this scheme is a viable platform for coexistence, certification, and ecological responsibility, with potential for continuation and expansion.

Dissemination, Awareness-Raising, and Networking Activities

A wide array of activities promoted the project's goals and messages to residents, visitors, and the general public: Three TV and Radio spots were created and broadcast more than 1,500 times through national and regional media in Greece. Six "Pillows of Coexistence" were developed in Italy and shared on MNP's social media channels through both short reels and longer videos. A 32-minute documentary detailing the project was produced and made available online. Local events were organised in all four Parks: Seven events in Greece with over 100 residents and three events in Italy with over 100 participants. The project website attracted 52,242 unique visitors, far exceeding the initial target of 4-6 thousand visitors. Regular communication and exchange of information with other LIFE projects addressing brown bears in Europe was initiated, and numerous networking activities were organized, co-organized, or attended. The LIFE ARCPROM International Conference took place in February 2025 in Larissa, attracting 185 participants from Greece, Italy, and other European countries.

Environmental Education and Volunteerism

Environmental education involved the delineation of four "Coexistence Trails" with bears. Two trails are in RMNP, and one each is in PRESPNP and MNP. These accessible routes were selected through participatory consultations with local stakeholders. Educational materials were developed and made available to teachers of all levels. Volunteer training and mobilization programs engaged a total of 34 volunteers in Greece and 65 volunteers in Italy to support project actions.

4. SWOT Analysis

	HELPFUL STRENGTHS	HARMFUL WEAKNESSES
INTERNAL ORIGIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operation of Coexistence Platforms provided a safe space for stakeholders to convene and discuss human-bear conflict, increasing the odds for implementing on the ground common solutions. ▪ Significant improvement in the know-how and skills of Parks staff, due to systematic training, acquisition of practical experience, and exchange of knowledge. ▪ Improved relations, collaboration, and trust between Parks, Universities, environmental NGOs, competent authorities, and local stakeholders ▪ Improved operational capacity of the four National Parks through Bear Emergency Teams (BETs), Anti-Poison Dog Units (ADUs), and the first Karelian Bear Dogs (KBD) Unit in Greece for addressing adverse human-bear interactions. ▪ Installation in or near human settlements of bear-proof refuse containers, e-fences, iron protections, deterrent devices, and damage prevention measures improved the operational capacity of the four Parks and other project partners in addressing adverse human-bear interactions. ▪ Improved awareness about conservation issues, tolerance towards bears, involvement in bear conservation and management, and readiness to adopt innovation by local actors and authorities ▪ Recognition of the brown bear by local farmers, manufacturers, and tourist holdings as a species that has not only environmental but also economic value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In some cases, the operation of Coexistence Platforms lacks facilitation/mediation services provided by certified mediators. However, facilitation of participatory processes may involve mediation of human-bear conflict at some stage. ▪ Sufficient operational capacity of BETs has not yet reached its maximum level for institutional, financial, and political reasons, such as outdated legislative frameworks, bureaucratic structures, lack of systematic and continuous staff training, as well as a lack of political will and of necessary financial resources. ▪ Crucial prevention or other measures supporting Human-Bear Coexistence are still not integrated adequately into the Strategic Plans for the implementation of CAP in both Greece and Italy. ▪ Bear-proof containers are not yet effectively integrated in waste management systems and fully endorsed by local communities. They are also still too expensive. ▪ Bear conservation and management measures are implemented separately by individual users without any further coordination; an integrated plan at the landscape level is missing. ▪ Lack of a satisfactory certification system for labelling wildlife-friendly products is not in place in Greece.
EXTERNAL ORIGIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholder involvement and consultation can feed successful operation of other Local and Regional Platforms, Bear Smart Communities, and of the newly established National Platform for Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores. ▪ Stakeholder networking may capitalise on the “Network of organisations and experts working on the Conservation of Large Carnivores in Southern Europe”, created after the special workshop organised in the context of the LIFE ARCPOM International Conference, 25-27/2/2025. ▪ Public bodies having integrated the project’s know-how may serve as a basis for further institutionalising its results. ▪ Improved direct relations and trust between Parks, NGOs, and the Universities that participated in the project increases the odds of continued training, know-how transfer, and experience exchange. ▪ Other Parks in both Greece and Italy can adopt good practices and solutions applied, build on lessons learnt, and secure the long-term sustainability of several project actions (BETs, ADUs, KBDs, LGDs, bear-proof containers, e-fences, iron protections, deterrent devices, etc.). ▪ Local actors and communities endorsed developmental opportunities based on bear presence; these can be exploited for enriching the tourist services and increasing the added value of local agricultural products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participatory processes are time-consuming and financially demanding efforts to reach even minimal constructive stakeholder interaction and collaboration outcomes, on the one hand, and on the other, one negative incident can be enough to spoil all progress. ▪ Any shortage of human and financial resources due to socio-economic and political reasons may decrease tolerance levels again and refuel human-bear and human-human conflicts. ▪ The inadequate staffing of the Forest Service and the lack of financial support for the uninterrupted, continuous, and effective operation of the BETs undermine the trust of local communities in coexistence efforts. ▪ Persistent incompatibilities and a lack of common ground among different authorities and stakeholders may increase institutional and stakeholder conflicts. ▪ Operation of ADUs and an almost unanimous rejection of poisoned baits coexist with latent social norms still tolerating that practice, which jeopardizes the local network for Livestock Guarding Dogs.

5. Assessment of the situation at the end of the project

The most significant achievement of the LIFE ARCPROM project was the strengthening of the operational capacity of the competent management authorities within the four National Parks where its actions were implemented. Among other things:

- The staff of the four National Parks enhanced their knowledge and gained significant experience in specialized monitoring and management techniques for the conservation of the brown bear
- Specialized equipment was acquired, and structures and self-sustaining units were reinforced to provide long-term support for specific deterrent measures in areas of intense human–bear interaction and for damage prevention measures (such as Anti-Poison Dog Units, Bear Detection Dog Unit, Bear Emergency Teams, and Livestock Guarding Dogs)
- The management of human-related food resources was improved in areas where bears have become habituated to humans and exhibit problematic behaviour
- Consultation and stakeholder participation processes were strengthened through the operation of Local Platforms for Human–Bear Coexistence
- The added value of the brown bear’s presence in the project areas was highlighted through the labelling of local agricultural products and tourism services
- Informational, technical, and educational materials were designed and produced, and thematic trails were created to support—and continue to support—efforts toward human–bear coexistence
- The value of volunteering for achieving nature conservation goals was promoted.

At the end of the project, the bear subpopulations appear to be steadily increasing in all implementation areas, and the conservation status of the species is improving—creating new prospects but also significant management challenges for the competent management units of the four National Parks.

The efforts of the Parks, as well as the other project partners, have already focused on ensuring the long-term sustainability and replication of the solutions developed to mitigate conflicts, as well as the actions and initiatives proven effective in improving the conditions for coexistence between bears and humans.

6. Sustainability, continuation & replication of the project actions

Action A1: Identification - delineation of sectors with high risk of human-bear conflicts

The maps produced within this Action will be a basis for the development of technical and awareness-raising activities after the end of the project. Especially on the side of awareness raising (through both communication and environmental education), it is crucial to know where conflicts could be higher to prepare the population for coexistence with bears.

Action A2: Assessment of the distribution and numbers of bears in the project areas

In Greece, the original "National Action Plan for Brown Bear" (NAPBB), developed by CALLISTO within the framework of Action A1 of the "LIFE IP4Natura" project, included the continued genetic monitoring of bear populations. This national-scale measure (code 6.3.2) is titled "Update-use of the 'National Bear Register': Genetic monitoring and analysis of the total population with an emphasis on metapopulations" and has an estimated annual budget of €45,000.

In the modified version of the NAPBB, which was established by the Joint Ministerial Decision "ΥΠΕΝ/ΔΔΦΠΒ/139436/3380" and published in the Government Gazette, Sheet Number 6991/B/20.10.2024, the same measure was named "Information-utilization of the 'National Bear Registry.' Preparation of a study for the genetic monitoring and analysis of the total population with emphasis on metapopulations (recolonization areas), as well as the most isolated population nuclei, and in the cross-border distribution areas of the species" (code 3.2). The cost for this measure was estimated at €120,000 (total cost).

In Italy, after the end of the project, the bear presence monitoring will continue in MNP in order to keep collecting data on bear distribution and numbers. The main focus will always be on the presence of females and females with cubs, which are important indicators of the population status and range expansion. The whole activity will be an essential part of the Bear Monitoring Network established to monitor bear range expansion and will concretely contribute to planning and implementing studies on the bear population dynamics.

Action C1: Stakeholder consultation and involvement

In Greece, CALLISTO has worked closely with employees of NECCA and several stakeholder groups in the three National Parks to initiate and operate participatory processes in the form of Platforms. The experience and lessons learned within the frame of LIFE ARCPROM provide a solid resource for launching new initiatives for participatory processes, whenever needed, by protected area authorities as well as local/regional authorities, using the toolkit of methods and processes employed and optimized during the project. CALLISTO will be able to provide support and expertise, based on available resources, to facilitate these forthcoming initiatives. What is more, the current configuration of protected area administration in Greece foresees the establishment and operation of Local Councils composed of local stakeholder groups, which will convene regularly to provide stakeholder feedback to NECCA and local Management Units on a series of issues, including bear conservation and management. These councils are perfectly alignable with the Platforms that operated during LIFE ARCPROM.

The Greek National Platform for Large Carnivores, which has been established and operates under "Support for Coexistence with Large Carnivores" (Contract number: N° 09.0201 / 2023 / 907799 / SER / ENV.D.3), has already benefited from all the experience gained in platforms operating in the frame of LIFE ARCPROM in the three Greek National Parks.

In MNP, during the last platform meeting, the future of the platform was discussed together with the stakeholders attending the meeting. A specific plan was thus drafted, balancing the need to

stay in touch and keep working on human-bear coexistence, and the need to optimise the organisation of the meetings. Beyond the implementation of regular platform meetings in the future (1 platform meeting/year under the coordination of MNP), stakeholders offered to organize additional “team building” meetings in the territory, also including events in the villages, in collaboration with Bear Friendly producers. This initiative by the stakeholders reflects their appreciation for the platform's work, both in addressing key themes and fostering team spirit among stakeholders.

Finally, participatory processes (platforms) in Action C1 of LIFE ARCPROM inspired the establishment and operation of analogous participatory schemes in two other LIFE projects, namely, LIFE Bear-Smart Corridors and LIFE WILD WOLF.

Action C2: Training for staff of the National Parks and other conservation actors in the project areas

During the exchange trip developed in Spain (Asturias) in May 2023, the Italian, Greek, and Spanish staff proposed to establish a platform to promote human-bear coexistence in the Mediterranean area, where the issues faced by conservationists are similar due to the similarities of the social context. The official establishment of this platform was held as a side-event/workshop during the Final Conference of the LIFE ARCPROM, February 2025.

It is expected that this will generate, in the future, a continuous and permanent exchange of information/expertise between the three countries involved.

Action C3: Operation of Anti-Poison Dog Units (ADUs) & dissemination of Anti-Poison First Aid Kits

The successful establishment of three ADUs, the development of a management protocol for poisoning incidents, and the ongoing collaboration with relevant authorities, such as Forestry Services and Veterinary Clinics, provide a solid foundation for continued operation. The units are equipped with the necessary tools for field work, including GPS, cameras, and kits for collecting samples for toxicological analysis. The ongoing threat of illegal poisoning, as consistently mentioned in the reports, underscores the need for these units to continue their work to protect wildlife and domestic animals and reduce human-wildlife conflict.

Moreover, the operation of Anti-poison Dog Units (ADUs) has been recognised in the Greek legislation and specifically their operation is referred to in the Joint Ministerial Decision on the drafting of Local Action Plans to combat poisoned baits, while the dogs that staff them are recognized as working dogs in Law 4830/2021, which defines the framework for the well-being of companion animals.

NECCA, recognising the necessity, usefulness, and effectiveness of the specific Units, proceeded in 2022 to acquire five (5) such dogs (six, if the ADU of PINDNP is also taken into account), setting up corresponding ADUs, which have been named “Special Units of Detecting Poison Baits” by NECCA. Areas of implementation: Management Unit of Protected Areas of Central Macedonia, Management Unit of Olympus National Park (the Anti-Poison dog has died in 2024 of *Leishmania* sp.-to be replaced), Management Unit of Protected Areas of Thessaly, Management Unit of Messolonghi National Park and Protected Areas of Western Central Greece and Management Unit of The Southern Peloponnese Protected Areas.

The creation and operational needs of the ADUs were financed from the Organization's own resources, as well as with the contribution of the Operational Program for Environment 2014-2020 & the LIFE ARCPROM project. Thus, for the first time in the country, working dogs in the service of biodiversity protection are joining the staff of an Agency of the wider public sector.

The continuation of the operation of NECCA's ADUs, after September 2024, has already been secured by NECCA's financing. The action has already been adapted and replicated by NECCA, resulting in the creation of five (5) ADUs under the framework of the OpTIESD 2014-2020 and another three (3) under the framework of the Programme for Environment and Climate Change Adaptation (PECCA) 2021-2027.

Action C4: Operation and demonstration of a Karelian Bear-Dog (KBD) Unit

The continuation of the KBDs team after the end of the C4 action has already been secured.

The report "Technical report on the KBD's operation in cases of bear-human conflict situations and demonstration sessions" (Deliverable C4) outlines a clear path for the continuation of the KBDU after the project's end. It emphasizes the need to resolve remaining problems, such as the handlers' heavy workload, and to secure a flexible working regime to ensure the team's effective operation. The dogs need constant involvement and training to meet the needs of the breed. The report also suggests that the dogs can be used for the management of other wild animals in the future. The project's success demonstrates that a governmental organization like NECCA can and should be in charge of these operations to protect both humans and wildlife.

NECCA is planning to expand this initiative by creating and operating two or three more KBD (Karelian Bear Dog) teams, to be placed in other hot spot areas of conflicts (Rhodope, Western Macedonia, Tzoumerka Mt Range). The acquisition of the new culvert trap—the first of its kind in Greece—alongside other appropriate equipment, is expected to facilitate hard releases in future operations.

Furthermore, during the revision (October 2024) of the Common Ministerial Decision in force since 2014 for the operation of the National BETs, NECCA, and the KBDU were proposed to be officially included.

Overall, this pilot action has laid a solid foundation for bear conflict management, proving the value of dog teams and identifying areas for legislative improvement to support more effective and responsive bear management practices.

Actions C5: Operation, equipment, and capacity building of Bear Emergency Teams (BETs), and C9: Installation of special aversive means in hot-spots of bear-human interference

The BET team established, and the operating protocol are two essential tools for the future conservation of the Apennine brown bear in the Maiella NP. BET interventions will be necessary in the future, given the presence of bears in the territory, which implies a degree of interaction with humans that will always require interventions by specialized teams. The experience gained during this project, the expertise built, and the equipment achieved will represent a huge added value for the future implementation of BET interventions.

In Greece, the BET will continue operating under the nationally institutionalized BET umbrella. Discussions have already started with the General Directorate of Forests at the Ministry of Environment in order to incorporate in the BETs the operational frame of the KBDs unit, either through an amendment of the current Common Ministerial Decision on the national BETs or through a Ministerial circular.

Each Forestry Service/district has its own Bear Emergency Team (BET), composed of representatives from all relevant local authorities (including NECCA), in accordance with the Common Ministerial Decision defining BETs since 2014. These local/regional BETs receive advisory and operational support from the trained staff of the two specialized NGOs active in bear conservation, Callisto and Arcturos. The entire mechanism operates under the responsibility of the

Ministry of Environment and Energy – General Secretariat of Forests – Game and Wildlife Management Department.

In addition to the three new ADUs teams to be created under PECCA 2021–2027, and through a separate procurement financed by the Recovery and Resilience Fund (SUB3) (covering items such as pyrotechnics, bear-collars, thermal cameras, etc.), NECCA will acquire specialized equipment for immediate BET interventions. NECCA already participates in most Local Bear Emergency Teams and Coordination Committees established by local Forestry Services at the regional level. Drawing upon the expertise gained through LIFE ARCPROM BET operations and the new equipment procured, NECCA will play a significant role in managing problem bears. In the context of replicating Action C9, NECCA will also procure additional deterrent devices (Criticter-gitters, Fox lights, and electric fences) for distribution and use.

The equipment bought in the frame of this Action will be used after the end of the project to manage all the situations coping with problematic bear management.

Action C6: Mobilisation of volunteers

Greece: The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project focus on sustaining volunteer mobilization efforts, strengthening local engagement, and securing resources to ensure the long-term success of the initiatives.

In Italy, the MNP distributed sixteen (16) additional electronic fences for the protection of beehives, in addition to the 20 e-fences and 15 metal protective structures provided during the project implementation period. The delivery of these protective measures is essential to maintaining a high level of tolerance among local communities, as bear-related damage represents the most direct form of human–bear interaction in the Central Apennines, where no attacks on humans have ever been recorded.

The actions implemented before and during LIFE ARCPROM have contributed to achieving a satisfactory level of protection for both beehives and chicken coops—the two main sources of conflict identified under Action A1. Nevertheless, the distribution of protective equipment will continue in the MNP area, adapting to the evolving dynamics of human activities in the territory. New beehive sites and chicken coops may be established, while others may be abandoned, requiring ongoing efforts to prevent damage.

Furthermore, new villages might be affected by the presence of bears attracted to chicken coops, thus necessitating timely intervention by the Park Authority. MNP will therefore continue implementing this action in the future, making use of alternative financial instruments to ensure its sustainability.

Action C7: Installation of bear-proof constructions and of electric fences into/near human settlements

This Action will continue through the monitoring of the use and functionality of electric fences via regular field inspections, monitoring by trail cameras, and questionnaires. NECCA has already established a bureaucratic system of distributing e-fences for the Management Units to use. Some MUs have already adopted the measure and have distributed e/fences. In PRESPNP, already by the end of the project, reallocations of previously distributed fences had occurred, reflecting the adaptive nature of the loaning system. In RMNP, 82 e-fences have been distributed through the National Park from 2012 to 2025.

Regarding new material supplies, NECCA maintains the capacity for annual procurement of small numbers of electric fences and replacement parts. Under the Operational Programme “Environment and Sustainable Development (OPTIESD) 2014–2020,” NECCA had already acquired

72 electric fences, of which 44 were dedicated exclusively to bear-related damage prevention, while the remainder provided potential protection against bears in addition to other species (e.g., wolves). Areas of implementation: MU of the National Parks of Nestos – Vistonida and Rhodope (in areas where there is no overlap with the implementation areas of the LIFE ARCPROM project), Management Unit of the Protected Areas of Epirus, and MU of the National Parks of Parnassos, Oiti, and the Protected Areas of Eastern Central Greece. In 2025, an additional seven bear-specific electric fences were procured for emergency cases in the MU of the National Parks of Nestos – Vistonida and Rhodope (in areas not overlapping with the LIFE ARCPROM implementation areas) and the Management Unit of Protected Areas of Central Macedonia.

Under the PECCA 2021–2027, a procurement of 600 electric fences for wolf protection is foreseen, which will also indirectly protect from bear-related incidents. The area of implementation for the latter is the following Management Units (MU) of NECCA:

- MU of the National Parks of Evros Delta and Dadia,
- MU of the National Parks of Nestos – Vistonida and Rhodope,
- MU of the Protected Areas of Central Macedonia,
- MU of the Prespa National Park and the Protected Areas of Western Macedonia,
- MU of Mount Olympus National Park,
- MU of the Northern Pindos National Park,
- MU of the Protected Areas of Epirus,
- MU of the Protected Areas of Thessaly,
- MU of the Protected Areas of Acheloos Valley and Amvrakikos Gulf,
- MU of the Messolonghi National Park and the Protected Areas of Western Central Greece,
- MU of the National Parks of Parnassos, Oiti, and the Protected Areas of Eastern Central Greece.

As for bear-proof waste bin covers, the measure has already been adopted by RMNP, with four covers installed through OPTIESD 2014–2020 at two sites within the NP, while further installations are ongoing through the LIFE Bear Smart Corridors project.

In Italy, MNP, in addition to the 20 e-fences and 15 metal protective structures distributed during the project implementation period, sixteen (16) additional electronic fences for the protection of beehives were distributed, which demonstrates that MNP will continue to implement the action in the future, by leveraging other financial tools.

[Action C8: Support to livestock farmers for exchanging Livestock Guarding Dogs](#)

Regarding Action C8, the network has already demonstrated functionality and effectiveness, as new requests for Greek shepherd dog puppies are now being met through members participating in the established network.

Actually, the action implemented under LIFE ARCPROM was itself the continuation of a similar measure completed in the LIFE AMYBEAR project. Its continuation has been incorporated into the National Action Plan for the Brown Bear.

[Action C10: Bear-friendly labelling in products and services](#)

Action C10 was completed in both countries, having achieved its stated objectives, delivered all planned activities, and secured substantial engagement from local communities.

In Greece, the adoption of the name “RESPECT” proved decisive in strengthening the label’s communicative efficacy and enabling its projection as a tool of national relevance. The “RESPECT” Label will be led and coordinated by the UTH, which is firmly committed to ensuring the label’s long-term continuity, institutional consolidation, and operational development. The plan focuses

on expanding the label's presence across new regions and sectors and achieving financial self-sufficiency—establishing RESPECT as a widely recognized certification for sustainable and responsible entrepreneurship.

The producers and participating businesses have already expressed a strong commitment to actively supporting the Label's further maintenance and growth until it achieves complete independence. A comprehensive, year-by-year strategic plan detailing the implementation steps has been submitted and is included in Deliverable D3: "Final Monitoring and Evaluation Report regarding Action C.10."

In Italy, the localized integration of the Bear-Friendly scheme and the active involvement of producers ensured the label's functionality and social legitimacy. The increased level of interest demonstrated by producers and consumers alike in both countries underscores the fact that the label is not merely a tool for marketing visibility, but a sustainable certification platform rooted in ecological responsibility, stakeholder participation, and human–wildlife coexistence. The outcomes of Action suggest strong potential for long-term continuity and upscaling of both labels beyond the duration of the LIFE ARCPROM project.

Based on the analysis performed in Action A3, where different target stakeholders were identified, MNP and WWF Italy will enlarge the Bear Friendly project during the after-LIFE period, including additional categories. The choice of the categories to be included will follow the same cost/benefit evaluation followed in Action C10, pursuing the objective to include meaningful stakeholder categories in terms of role in bear conservation, abundance in the territory, and marketing potential. The collaboration between MNP and WWF for the implementation of this task is being officially formalized in the MoU to be signed by the end of 2025.

[Actions E1: Dissemination and awareness-raising activities, and E2: Development of Dissemination Material](#)

In Greece, implementation in the project areas of the Measure foreseen in the National Action Plan for Brown Bear: "5.1 Information and Awareness Campaigns", including activities "5.1.1 General information and awareness campaign on the coexistence of humans and bears (events, conferences, publications, audiovisual material, electronic applications, media and social media postings, etc.)", "5.1.2 Actions to inform farmers, livestock breeders, beekeepers and related professions about measures of the Rural Development Program that support coexistence with bears", and "5.1.3 Awareness-raising activities on the proper management of bear-human interaction incidents in residential areas".

In Italy, the tools created during the LIFE ARCPROM, such as the coexistence leaflet, the "pillows of coexistence", the paper mats, the "Why bears" video in Italian, etc., will be used during the after-LIFE period to implement the needed awareness-raising activity aimed at improving the knowledge of bears and their role in the ecosystem. All these tools will bolster and improve the quality of the activity ordinarily developed by the Park and will thus help implement an effective information campaign.

[Action E4: Networking and International Conference](#)

A special workshop during the conference led to the decision to establish a new Network of Large Carnivore Conservation in Europe. The 32 participants of the workshop found it helpful to establish a "Network of organisations and experts working on the Conservation of Large Carnivores in Southern Europe". They agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) where they clarify that the Network will operate as a forum for exchanging knowledge and experience, transferring good practices, and engaging in dialogue on issues concerning its

participants. It will also function as an informal body of cooperation, without being a legal entity, which encourages the development of collaborations among its members/nodes.

Action E5: Environmental education activities

The continuation of the Action will benefit from the fact that the educational materials have already been shared with schools, with approval from the Ministry of Education. Educators will continue to use these resources in their teaching, ensuring that students remain engaged with wildlife conservation topics, particularly those related to coexistence with bears.

In Italy, as for Action E1, all the tools created will be used during the After-LIFE period. The most important ones are the Bear Trail and the Bear game. In order to maintain the Bear Trail, MNP has already hired a local cooperative to check and maintain the 6 totems and the signs until 2028. The use of the Bear Trail, as well as of the bear game, will be bolstered thanks to the recent establishment of the official Park Guides (n.33) that are trained and coordinated by the Park itself. The person responsible for the Environmental Education of MNP will also care for the promotion of the use of the game in schools and all the other places where environmental education activities will take place. Thanks to the collaboration between WWF and MNP (the MoU will be defined in the next week and signed by the end of 2025), the Bear Trail will continue to be promoted through the organisation of annual training events (guided tours, training sessions for teachers and journalists, etc.).

Finally, thanks to the network created between Environmental Educators and Bear Friendly producers, also Bear Friendly activities and productions will be object of the EA activities carried out in the years to come in MNP.

In Greece, CALLISTO and NECCA continue to support the use and dissemination of the educational material, providing guidance and updates as needed to maintain their relevance. This ongoing support, combined with the active use of guides, leaflets, and portable activity boxes in environmental education programs, helps sustain the project's impact and fosters long-term awareness and conservation efforts among students.

It is also important to note that the material, after receiving approval from the Institute of Educational Policy, was promoted to all primary and secondary education teachers throughout Greece. It is estimated that there are 14,455 schools of all levels in Greece (Source: Panhellenic School Network), and the specialized website "Alfavita" estimates that there are over 173,000 teachers. The specialised website "Alfavita" publishes news and information for teachers and the education community in Greece.

7. After-LIFE Plan

Structure of the table summarising the After-LIFE Plan

Taking into consideration the project results, the SWOT analysis presented in the 3rd Chapter of this document, and the assessment of the situation at the end of the project, the project beneficiaries estimated the future needs for improving conditions on the coexistence of people with bears in the project areas, namely the National Parks of N. Pindos, Prespes and Rhodope Mountain Range in Greece, and the Maiella National Park in Italy.

Sustainability, continuation & replication potential of the project actions in the four Parks have also been taken into consideration to estimate the objectives and proposed interventions of the After-LIFE Plan.

In the following table, the After-LIFE objectives, proposed interventions, funding needs, and sources of funding are summarised.

The **objectives** of the Plan have been included in the **first column** of the table, including:

- (A) Stakeholders' Involvement,
- (B) Capacity Building,
- (C) Fight Against the Use of Poison-Baits,
- (D) Mitigate bear-human conflict,
- (E) Remove bear attractants from settlements,
- (F) Prevent bears from approaching settlements,
- (G) Minimise bear damage to agriculture,
- (H) Add economic value to the presence of bears,
- (I) Increase citizen participation in the coexistence efforts, and
- (J) Improve attitudes and opinions of the public and special target groups.

Main interventions to achieve the objectives listed above are presented in the **second column** of the table. In some cases, objectives are associated with more than one intervention.

All proposed interventions are directly linked to **specific project actions** implemented during the LIFE ARCPROM project. In relation to the objectives of the After-LIFE Plan, certain proposed interventions correspond to more than one action of the LIFE ARCPROM project (see the **third column** of the table).

Responsibility for promoting and monitoring the implementation of the proposed interventions was agreed to be assigned to the beneficiaries of the LIFE ARCPROM project, as indicated in the **fourth column** of the table.

The **estimated costs (in euros)** of the proposed interventions are presented in the **fifth column** of the table. These estimates are linked to the financial requirements and calculations reported either in Deliverable E3.1 of the LIFE ARCPROM project, titled "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1.", or Table VI-2: "Estimated Costing of Proposed Actions" of the NAPBB (National Action Plan for Brown Bear) of Greece (pages 186-196). In certain cases, additional cost elements are also indicated.

In Greece, the proposed interventions were further associated with specific measures/actions proposed within the National Action Plan for Brown Bear (NAPBB), which CALLISTO, the Coordinating Beneficiary of the LIFE ARCPROM project, developed. The knowledge and experience gained through the project's implementation substantially contributed to the preparation of the Action Plan, which, in turn, will support the achievement of the objectives set out in the LIFE ARCPROM After-LIFE Plan.

Finally, in the **sixth column** of the table, the **potential funding sources** are listed.

Please note that the potential funding sources have been grouped according to the categorization followed by the LIFE Project Indicators (LPIs) Guide:

- EU Structural Funds: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), including INTERREG, European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), Cohesion Fund (CF), including PECCA in Greece (Programme for Environment and Climate Change Adaptation), and Regional Operational Programmes (ROPs) in Italy, which support nature and biodiversity conservation.
- Project Finance: Other EU financial instruments (outside Structural Funds), such as the LIFE Programme, Erasmus +, HORIZON Europe, European Solidarity Corps (ESC), or the Recovery & Resilience Facility (RRF), which finances the PNRR (Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza) of Italy.
- Grants, subsidies: State budget managed by Ministries such as the Greek Ministry for Environment and Energy (MEEN), the Ministry of Ecological Transition (MET) of Italy, the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food (MRDF), or the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests (MAFSF). Grants and subsidies could also be provided by national funds (such as the Green Fund in Greece).
- Beneficiaries' own contribution: Income from other sources (royalties, fines, commercial activities, sponsorships, donations, etc.).

Table: After-LIFE objectives, proposed interventions, funding needs, and sources of funding

Objectives	Proposed main Interventions	Project Actions	Implementing Responsible	Estimated Costs (in euros)	Potential Funding Sources
Stakeholders' Involvement	Local Platforms on Coexistence between People and Bears (Greece)	C1, D5	NECCA, CALLISTO	35.000 per Platform ¹ (105.000 for the three Parks in the next 5 years)	Structural Funds (PECCA, ROPs); Grants, subsidies (MEEN, MET); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution
Stakeholders' Involvement	Local Platforms on Coexistence between People and Bears in Maiella	C1, D5	MNP	6.500/year ² (32.500 for 5 years)	Grants, subsidies
Capacity Building	Training of National Park Staff & other Stakeholders	C2, C5	NECCA, MNP, CALLISTO, UTH	80.000 (estimated cost for one training course ³ in the next 5 years)	Structural Funds (PECCA); Project Finance (Erasmus+); Grants, subsidies (MEEN, or Green Fund).
Capacity Building	Training of Park Guides & Park Forestry Service (Carabinieri Forestale)	C2, C5	MNP	3.500 (estimated cost for two training courses in the next 5 years)	Grants, subsidies
Capacity Building	Networking and exchange of experience	E4	NECCA, MNP, CALLISTO, UTH	3.000 per year and Park ⁴ (60.000 for all Parks in the next 5 years)	Structural Funds; Project Finance; Grants, subsidies; Beneficiaries' Own Contribution.
Fight Against Poison-Baits	Operation of Anti-Poison Dog Units - GR	C3	NECCA	125.000 per ADU for 5 years (375.000 for three ADUs) ⁵	Structural Funds (PECCA); Grants, subsidies (MEEN, MET); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution.

¹ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM project's Deliverable: "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1", page 37. The estimated cost there was weighted by taking into account the actual final cost of the actions C1 & D5, as reported in the LIFE ARCPROM Project's Final Financial Report. This intervention is also proposed by the original NAPBB, as measure 5.5.2

² Cost of hiring an HD expert to implement 1 meeting/year, and to pay for MNP personnel employed.

³ Refer to the NAPBB (National Action Plan for Brown Bear) of Greece, page 195. The cost estimation is based on the actual cost of training activities in the framework of actions C2 & C5, as reported in the LIFE ARCPROM Project's Final Financial Report. The cost estimation is based on the actual cost of networking activities in the framework of action E4, as reported in the LIFE ARCPROM Project's Final Financial Report. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as action 6.2.1

⁴ Refer to the NAPBB (National Action Plan for Brown Bear) of Greece, page 195. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as action 6.2.2

⁵ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM project's Deliverable: "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1", page 8. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as action 1.5.2

Objectives	Proposed main Interventions	Project Actions	Implementing Responsible	Estimated Costs (in euros)	Potential Funding Sources
Fight Against Use of Poison-Baits	Dissemination of Anti-Poison First Aid Kits (GR)	C3	NECCA, UTH	20.000 for 1.500 Anti-Poison First Aid Kits ⁶	Structural Funds; Project Finance; Grants, subsidies; Beneficiaries' Own Contribution.
Fight Against Use of Poison-Baits	National Day Against the Use of Poison-Baits (GR)	E4	NECCA, CALLISTO, UTH, UOWM	2.000 per year (10.000 in the next 5 years) ⁷	Grants, subsidies (MEEN, MET, GF, MRDF, MAFF); Own Contribution.
Mitigate bear-human conflict	Operation of Bear Emergency Teams	C5	NECCA, MNP	10.000 per year and Park (200.000 for all Parks, for 5 years) ⁸	Project Finance (PNRR); Grants, subsidies (MEEN, MET); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution
Mitigate bear-human conflict	Operation of Karelian Bear Dog (KBD) units in Greece	C4	NECCA	100.000 per Unit (300.000 for 3 new KBD Units in Greece) ⁹	Structural Funds (PECCA); Grants, subsidies (MEEN); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution
Mitigate bear-human conflict	Operation of a Karelian Bear Dog (KBD) unit in MNP	C4	MNP	1.000 Euros per year (5.000 Euros) ¹⁰	Grants, subsidies (MET); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution
Remove bear attractants from settlements	Installation of bear-proof refuse containers	C7	NECCA	2.200 euros per bear-proof container (220.000 for 100 containers in 5 years) ¹¹	Structural Funds; Project Finance; Grants, subsidies; Beneficiaries' Own Contribution.
Prevent bears from approaching settlements	Installation of e-fences into or near human settlements	C7	NECCA, MNP	40.000 per year for the Greek NPs and 7.000 per	Structural Funds (PECCA, ROPs); Project Finance (LIFE, PNRR); Grants, subsidies (MEEN, MET); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution.

⁶ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM project's Deliverable: "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1", page 9. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as action 1.5.4

⁷ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM project's Deliverable: "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1", page 11.

⁸ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM project's Deliverable: "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1", page 14. The estimated cost was adjusted by weighting it against the actual final cost of the action, as reported in the LIFE ARCPROM Project's Final Financial Report. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as action 1.4.1

⁹ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM project's Deliverable: "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1", page 19. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as action 1.4.7

¹⁰ 1,000 euros/year for staff working on the preparation of a possible KBD in the MNP (i.e., preparation of protocols, administrative issues, etc.)

¹¹ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM project's Deliverable: "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1", page 26. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as action 1.4.5

Objectives	Proposed main Interventions	Project Actions	Implementing Responsible	Estimated Costs (in euros)	Potential Funding Sources
				year for the MNP (totally 235.000 for 5 years) ¹²	
Prevent bears from approaching settlements	Use of special aversive means in hot-spots of bear-human interference	C9	NECCA, MNP, CALLISTO	35.000 for Critter Gitters, 32.000 for fox lights, 3.000 for supersonic horns ¹³ (70.000 for 5 years) ¹⁴	Structural Funds (PECCA), Project Finance (PNRR); Grants, subsidies (MEEN, MET, Green Fund); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution
Minimise bear damage to agriculture	Supporting the use of LGDs by livestock breeders-shepherds	C8	NECCA, UTH, CALLISTO	~1.750 per year, per dog (~175.000 for 100 LGDs in 5 years) ¹⁵	Structural Funds (EAFRD); Project Finance; Grants, subsidies (Green Fund); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution.
Add economic value to the presence of bears	Labelling of bear-friendly agricultural products & tourist holdings	C10	UTH, MNP, NECCA, CALLISTO, WWF	21.600 per year (~108.000 - 4 Parks/5 years) ¹⁶ , according to the final cost of the Action C10 ¹⁷	Project Finance (HORIZON, PNRR); Structural Funds (EAFRD, ERDF, PECCA, ROPs); Grants, subsidies (MRDF, MAFSF)
Increase citizen participation in the coexistence efforts	Mobilisation of Volunteers	C6	CALLISTO, WWF	14.800 per year (74.000 – 5 years) ¹⁸ , according to the final cost of the Action C6.	Project Finance (ESC); Grants, subsidies (Green Fund); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution.

¹² Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM project's Deliverable: "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1", page 27. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as action 1.4.4

¹³ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM project's Deliverable: "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1", page 30. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as action 1.4.6

¹⁴ MNP committed for 2.000 Euros/year for Critter Gitters and 1.000 Euros for personnel, meaning 15.000 Euros for the next 5 years.

¹⁵ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM project's Deliverable: "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1", page 32. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as action 1.1.4

¹⁶ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM project's Deliverable: "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1", page 41, and to the LIFE ARCPROM Project's Final Financial Report. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as action 5.4.2

¹⁷ MNP foresees mainly personnel costs for this Action in the next five years. Based on costs sustained during the project, 2.000 Euros/year are the costs foreseen for MNP personnel, plus 2.000 Euros/year for cash, meaning 4.000 Euros/year (20.000 in the next 5 years).

¹⁸ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM project's Deliverable: "Replicability Plan: Sub-action E3.1", page 44, and to the LIFE ARCPROM Project's Final Financial Report. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as action 5.3.1

Objectives	Proposed main Interventions	Project Actions	Implementing Responsible	Estimated Costs (in euros)	Potential Funding Sources
Improve public support for the bear conservation efforts	Information dissemination and awareness-raising activities in Greece	E1, E2	NECCA, CALLISTO, UOWM	~30.000 per year (~150.000 for 5 years) in Greece ¹⁹	Structural Funds (PECCA); Grants, subsidies (MEEN); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution.
Improve public support for the bear conservation efforts	Information dissemination and awareness-raising activities in MNP	E1, E2	MNP	~2.000 per year (~10.000 – 5 years) in MNP ²⁰	Structural Funds (ROPs); Grants, subsidies (MET); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution.
Improve public support for the bear conservation efforts	Environmental education activities implemented in Thematic Coexistence Trails in Greece	E5	CALLISTO, NECCA	~67.000 for 5 years, according to the final cost of personnel and travel in Action E5, in Greece ²¹ .	Project Finance (ERASMUS); Grants, subsidies (MEEN, Green Fund); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution.
Improve public support for the bear conservation efforts	Environmental education activities implemented in the Thematic Coexistence Trail in MNP	E5	WWF, MNP	~10.000 per year (50.000 for 5 years) ²²	Project Finance (ERASMUS, PNRR); Grants, subsidies (MET); Beneficiaries' Own Contribution.

¹⁹ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM Project's Final Financial Report for the total personnel cost of Actions E1 & E2 in Greece during the project implementation period. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as a combination of actions 5.1.1, 5.1.2, and 5.1.3

²⁰ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM Project's Final Financial Report for the total personnel cost of Actions E1 & E2 in MNP.

²¹ Refer to the LIFE ARCPROM Project's Final Financial Report. This intervention is also recommended by the NAPBB, as a combination of actions 5.1.1, 5.1.2, and 5.1.3

²² WWF commits for 6.000 Euros/year for (1) printing additional copies of the bear trail leaflet, to distribute them at awareness-raising events and in MNP information centres; (2) the possible replacement of damaged totems along the trail; (3) organise 1-2 days per year (if possible during the annual human-bear coexistence tour) dedicated to activities along the trail (free guided tours with volunteers, training for teachers or journalists, etc.). MNP commits to 2.000 Euros/year of maintenance costs and 2.000 Euros/year of personnel. WWF-MNP commitment is thus 10,000 Euros/year.

