



UNIVERSIDADE DE ÉVORA

After-LIFE Plan

Maintenance of the Conservations and Communications

Actions for 2023-2027.

April, 2023

LIFE RELICT

Preserving the Continental Laurissilva

Relicts



Beneficiary Coordinator



Associated Beneficiaries



With the financial contribution of LIFE Programme from European Union

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CMMonc – Câmara Municipal de Monchique

CMSeia – Câmara Municipal de Seia

ADRUSE - Associação de Desenvolvimento Rural da Serra da Estrela

CICYTEX - Centro de Investigación Científicas y Tecnológicas de Extremadura

IA -Intervention Area

IAS – Invasive allien species

SAC - Special Areas of Conservation

PROJECT DATA

Project Location: Centre and Algarve, Continental Portugal.

Natura 2000 Sites: SAC's PTCO0014 (Estrela), PTCO0037 (Monchique) and PTCO0051 (Açor Complex).

Project start date: 01/10/2017

Project end date: 30/04/2023

Project duration: 5 years

Total Budget: 1,654,899 Euro

EU Contribution: 1,219,078 Euro

(%) of eligible costs: 73.66%

Name of Beneficiary: University of UÉvora.

Name of the associated beneficiaries: Associação de Desenvolvimento Rural da Serra da Estrela, Centro de Investigación Científicas y Tecnológicas de Extremadura, Câmara Municipal de Monchique, Câmara Municipal de Seia.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The After LIFE Plan of the Life-Relict Project is designed to **ensure the maintenance of conservation and communication actions after Projects' end**, maximizing its demonstrative value.

It describes the methodological approach, the technical means and the tools with which the project beneficiaries intend to **maintain the improving of the conservation status of the habitat 5230* in Portugal** (after the end of the project), as well as **transfer their know-how and experience**, providing guidance to Land Planning and Land Management entities, within the NATURA 2000 sites under the intervention of this project.

Among others, the After-LIFE Plan refers to the resources dedicated to each action, the beneficiaries responsible, the target groups and the timetable according to which the After-LIFE actions will be executed for an indicative period of 5 years after the completion of the project.

1.1. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJETIVES

The **main goal** of Life-Relict project was to substantially improve the conservation status of the rarest Portuguese relict laurel-leaved communities in Natura 2000 network: The Portuguese Laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*) and Pontic Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum* subsp. *baeticum*) communities. These two plant communities, are considered relics from the Tertiary, when climate in the Iberian Peninsula was sub-tropical. They have been included in Annex I of Habitats Directive in the priority Habitat 5230* (*Laurus nobilis* communities), given their rarity and importance at the European level.

Habitat 5230* is underrepresented in the Iberian Peninsula, facing fragmentation and other treats as fire, invasive species and climate change. Currently, the overall assessment on conservation status of this habitat in Portugal, reported on Article 17 Report (2013-2018), is "Inadequate- BAD" for both Portugal and the Mediterranean Region. In order to

reverse its unfavorable situation, concrete management actions were implemented in three Natura 2000 sites: PTCO0014 – Serra da Estrela; PTCO0051 – Complexo do Açor; and PTCO0037- Monchique.

The **specific objectives** of Life-Relict project were:

1. Improve the conservation status of the habitat and its ecological function;
2. Increase the area of occurrence of this habitat by restoring favorable adjacent areas;
3. Reduce the impact of the main threats to their conservation through management measures aimed at controlling invasive alien species and reducing the risk of fire;
4. Test the impact of implemented management practices and demonstrate innovative management methodologies and approaches;
5. Increase the motivation, skills and cooperation of the local population and regional authorities for the preservation of Laurissilva relics;
6. Ensure the dissemination and transfer of knowledge obtained, enabling its replication in other territories;
7. Promote nature tourism and various communication actions;
8. Streamline the local economy through financial support and job creation.

2. RESULTS, CONSTRAINS AND CHALLENGES

PLANT PRODUCTION – ACTION C1

Collect and propagate plant material is crucial for the increment and improvement of the conservation status of habitat areas, thus crucial to support all the project objectives. One particular action (Action C1) was develop in order to achieve the over goal: to substantially improve the conservation status of the Portuguese relict laurel-leaved communities. The action was developed by seed and cuttings collection in each of the intervention areas, germination and rooting in the nursery and finally, the delivery of plants to the associated beneficiaries. The expected results were 35 500 plants produced in Cicytex nursery and delivered.

Action	Territory	Results	Constrains	Challenges
C.1. Collection and propagation of plant material				
Seed Collection	all	97 175 seeds collected	1 – No germination protocols known for some species 2 – Seed germination and seedlings installation 3- COVID made it impossible to travel between countries and maintain plants	Maintenance
Cuttings collection		1 160 cuttings collected		
Plant production	CICYTEX	65 065 plants delivered		
Plants distributed to associated beneficiaries	Seia	35 123 plants delivered		
	Monchique	29 842 plants delivered		

Main achievements

Throughout the propagation of plant material, new germination protocols were developed and disseminated. This is a major achievement due to the lack of these protocols for endemic plants species in the Iberian Peninsula. One of the greatest achievements was the establishment of a protocol for multiplying rhododendron via seed, creating, in a few months, plants with a sufficiently developed root system to be able to survive in nature. This is a crucial tool for the maintenance of species' genetic diversity and Habitat restoration. We were also able to produce two Critical Endangered species, *Quercus canariensis* and *Rosa rubiginosa* that were planted in its native territory.

1º OBJECTIVE

IMPROVE THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF THE HABITAT AND ITS ECOLOGICAL FUNCTION

To achieve this specific 1st objective, several management measures were implemented, through sub-actions that aimed to improve the conservation status of existing Portuguese Laurel (Action C2) and the Pontic Rhododendron (Action C3) communities belonging to habitat 5230*. The management measures focus primarily on selective vegetation control (cut of non-typical species that were able to increase fire risk) and plantations, even though other measures were considered to improve the resilience of the target habitat. The expected results were, at least, 11 ha of habitat 5230* improved, including 8 ha of *Prunus lusitanica* and 3 ha of *R. ponticum* communities.

Action & Sub-actions	Territory	Results	Constrains	Challenges
C.2. Improving the conservation status of <i>Prunus lusitanica</i> areas.				
C2.1 - Recover the feed flows of <i>Prunus lusitanica</i> areas	Estrela	1.2 km of Levada recovered	1 - Availability of specialized companies in mountain forest works; 2 - Adverse weather and terrain in mountain conditions; 2 - Wildlife and cattle grazing	Maintenance
C2.2- Selective vegetation control in 8ha	Estrela	6.2 ha controlled		
	Margaraça	4 ha controlled		
C2.3 - Improvement of habitat structure through plantations in 1 ha	Estrela	6.2 ha planted		
	Margaraça	Extra 2 ha planted		
C.3. Improving the conservation status of <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> areas.				
C3.1 - Selective control of vegetation in 3 ha	Monchique	3 ha controlled	1 - Availability of specialized companies in mountain forest works with adverse weather conditions; 2 - Clearing under power lines 3 – Availability of <i>Rhododendron</i> seedlings; 4 - Wildlife and cattle grazing	Maintenance
C3.2 - Improvement of habitat structure through plantations in 3 ha		3 ha planted		

Main achievements

We were able to improve habitat condition and resilience of two rare plant communities included in habitat 5230: *Prunus lusitanica* in more than 10 ha; and *Rhododendron* communities in 3 ha. This was implemented in three portuguese SAC (Serra da Estrela, Serra do Açor and Serra da Estrela). The results show an increase of habitat's characteristic species and the decrease in the cover of plants that are indicators of decline in habitat quality (heliophilous species). We were also able to recover 1,2 km of the main local cultural feature: the "lavada" (water canal).

- Habitats Directive. These achievements contributed to the full application of Habitats' Directive, especially for two of its main objectives: to favour the maintenance of biodiversity; and to achieve a favourable conservation status of habitats, ensuring that target habitats have sufficient area and quality to ensure their survival into the medium to long term, along with favourable future prospects in the face of pressures and threats. They also contributed to the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, mainly to pillar two - Restore Nature, either by implementing effectively habitat restoration action, contributing to ensuring that habitat 5230 deterioration is halted, and by planting new trees in the EU, in full respect of ecological principles.

2º OBJECTIVE

INCREASE THE AREA OF OCCURRENCE OF THIS HABITAT BY RESTORING FAVORABLE ADJACENT AREAS

To achieve this specific 2nd objective, several management measures were implemented, through sub-actions that aimed to increase the occurrence area of habitat 5230*, specifically by restoring favorable adjacent areas to the Portuguese Laurel communities (Action C4) and to Pontic Rhododendron communities (Action C5).

Action & Sub-actions	Territory	Results	Constrains	Challenges
C4 – Increase of the Portuguese Laurel habitat area in 10,5 ha				
C4.1 - Selective vegetation control	Estrela	11,3 ha	1 - Availability of specialized companies in mountain forest works with adverse weather conditions; 2 - Wildlife and cattle grazing	Maintenance
C4.2 - Improvement of habitat structure through plantations		11,3 ha		
C4.3 - Control of non-invasive alien species (pine trees & eucalyptus sp.)		11.3 ha		No maintenance
C.5. Increase of the <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> area in 10 ha				
C5.1 - Selective control of vegetation	Monchique	10.6 ha	1 - Availability of specialized companies in mountain forest works with adverse weather conditions; 2 – Availability of <i>Rhododendron</i> seedlings; 3 - Wildlife and cattle grazing	Maintenance
C5.2 - Improvement of habitat structure through plantations		10.6 ha		

The management measures focused primarily on selective vegetation control and plantations, even though other measures were considered to improve the main goal. The expected results were to increase that habitat area in 20.5 ha, including 10.5 ha of *Prunus lusitanica* communities and 10 ha of *Rhododendron ponticum*. In addition, it was also expected, in medium and long term, to improve area's ecological function as a result of reforestation, including the increase of carbon sequestration and increase of soil organic matter content.

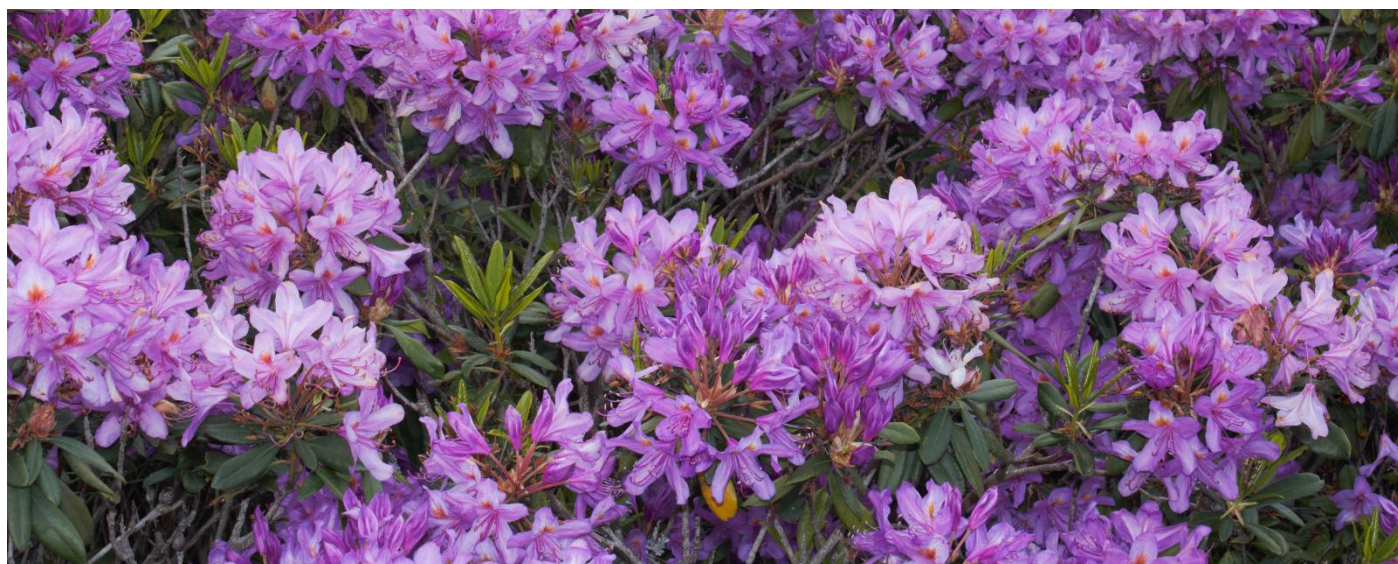
Main achievements

We started the process of increasing habitat 5230 area in more than 20 ha, mainly through the promotion and plantation of Habitats' characteristic species in their native territory. To achieve this goal, more than 18 500 characteristic species were planted in Serra da Estrela and Serra de Monchique. Among other policy impacts, these achievements contributed to the full application EU Restoration law mainly to: Article 1, that is contributing to the continuous, long-term and sustained recovery of a biodiverse and resilient nature across the EU's land and sea areas through the restoration of ecosystems.

3º OBJECTIVE

REDUCE IMPACT OF MAIN THREATS THROUGH MANAGEMENT MEASURES AIMED TO CONTROL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AND REDUCE FIRE RISK

To achieve this specific 3rd objective, several management measures were implemented aiming to reduce the impact of the main threats to habitat 5230*, in particular by controlling invasive alien species (action C6) and reducing the risk of fire (Action C7). The expected results were to reduce invasive alien species occupancy within an intervention area of, at least, 4ha and Decrease risk of fire by increasing the area of adjacent native forests (habitats 9230 and 9240) in 11.4ha. In addition, it is also expected, in medium and long term, the improve area's ecological function as a result of reforestation, including the increase of carbon sequestration and increase of soil organic matter content.



Action & Sub-actions	Territory	Results	Constrains	Challenges
C6 – Control of invasive alien species in 4 ha				
<i>Acacia dealbata</i> Control	Estrela	4 ha	1 – Access to invaded areas 2 – Availability of specialized companies in mountain forest works with adverse weather conditions 3 – Fire as control technique	Maintenance
<i>Hakea sericea</i> Control		2.44 ha		
C.7. Decrease fire risk in 68.5 ha				
C7.1 - Recovery and cleaning of access roads in the intervention area	Estrela	3 km	1 - Availability of specialized companies in mountain forest works with adverse weather conditions; 2 - unauthorized grazing	Maintenance
C7.2 - Selective control of vegetation.	Estrela	10.65 ha		
	Margaraça	9.7 ha		
	Monchique	42 ha		
C7.3 - Plantations	Estrela	10.65 ha		
	Margaraça	2.3 ha		
	Monchique	16.64 ha		
C7.4 - Control of non-invasive alien species	Estrela	10.65 ha		
	Monchique	0.56 ha		
C7.5 - Chestnut forest improvement	Monchique	1.8 ha		

Main achievements

This set of field interventions contributed to reduce the risk of fire and the maintenance of the populations as proven in Action D3: Monitoring project impact on ecosystem function. These results will meet the objectives of EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, as it will contribute to the recovery of native forests, especially the ones from *Quercus canariensis* (Monchique) that are close to extinction in the Iberian Peninsula

4º OBJECTIVE

Test the impact of implemented management practices and demonstrate innovative management methodologies and approaches

To achieve this specific 4th objective, several monitoring actions were implemented aiming to monitor the effectiveness of all management techniques and methods used. Thus, the action included: Monitoring the impact of project management actions in habitat preservation (D1); Monitoring project social-economic impact (D2); Monitoring the project impact on ecosystem function (D3); Monitoring project cost\efficiency (D4); and monitoring project performance indicators (D5).

The expected results were to test the effectiveness of all management techniques and methods used, and ensure its transference and replication in at least 2 Spanish territories. In addition, it is also expected, in medium and long term, the improve area's ecological function as a result of reforestation, including the increase of carbon sequestration and increase of soil organic matter content.

Action & Sub-actions	Result Reports
D.1 – Monitoring and evaluation of project “C” actions	Relatório Final da Ação D1 Monitorização do impacto das ações de gestão implementadas pelo projeto LIFE-RELICT- Secção I e II
D.2 – Monitoring socio-economic impact	Relatório Final da Ação D2 Monitorização do Impacto Socioeconómico
D.3 – Monitoring project impact on ecosystem function	Relatório Final da Ação D3 Monitorização do impacto do projeto na função dos ecossistemas
D.4 – Cost-effectiveness monitoring of project actions	Relatório Final da Ação D4 Avaliação da eficiência das medidas de gestão implementadas
D.5 – Monitoring and evaluation of project performance indicators	Project Indicators

Main achievements

The results acquired will contribute to objective 5 and 6.

5º, 6º, 7º AND 8º OBJECTIVES

To achieve these specific objective: Increase motivation, skills and cooperation between local population and regional authorities for the preservation of Laurissilva relics (Obj.5); Ensure the dissemination and transfer of knowledge obtained, enabling its replication in other territories (Obj. 6); Promote nature tourism and various communication actions (Obj. 7) and Streamline the local economy through financial support and job creation (Obj. 8), several Dissemination Actions (Action E) were implemented, through sub-actions. The focus was primarily on awareness raising, environmental education and communications of results, even though other measures were considered to achieve the specific purpose. The expected results were contact with at least 20 local authorities and 50 national organizations, as well as at least 1 000 students; Increase local economy by financial import and, at least 5 jobs creation, increased local Nature-based tourism with the establishment of one pedestrian pathway in each Municipality involved.

However, the Dissemination Actions (Action E) were affected by the global pandemic caused by Covid-19, but still, it was possible to contact 20 local authorities, 53 national and international projects and 20 replication efforts were developed, as well as 1 337 students (including from higher education) and the involvement of about 4 102

participants in Environmental Awareness activities. Moreover, the Nature-based tourism was improved through the installation of two pedestrian routes in each Municipality involved and its dissemination which reached around 22 thousand people. The local economy was increased by financial inputs of the project such as the investment of 228 573, 95€ in local companies to perform the interventions and the creation of 3 full time jobs during the project (detailed information can be found in Annex D2).

Action & Sub-actions	Results	Constrains	Challenges
E.1. Dissemination to the general public			
E1.1. Production and maintenance of project website and Facebook page	Website with 217 400 views and 72 913 users; Facebook with 1 300 likes, but 1 400 are followers	High competition for attention in the internet	Maintenance
E1.2. Installation of informative panels on the project	4 panels were installed, namely, 2 for Estrela; 1 in Monchique and 1 in Margaraça.	external bureaucratic process related to legal procedures, receiving companies' budgets and due to internal bureaucracies regarding the selective process and purchase proceedings	Maintenance
E1.3. Execution of the Layman's Report	250 prints and online version available	None	Distribution
E.2. Communication and nature tourism			
E2.1. informative flyers	2 flyers in Portuguese Spanish and English	external bureaucratic process related to legal procedures, receiving companies' budgets and due to internal bureaucracies regarding the selective process and purchase proceedings	Maintenance
E2.2. Creation of itinerant exhibitions	2 Itinerary exhibition (Monchique had 11 events reaching 3979 people; Seia 10 events reaching 2616 people)		
E2.3. Implementation of interpretive trails	2 interpretive trails and promotion of nature-based tourism to about 21 736 people)		
E2.4. Implementation of reports	2 Reports made by the project team, 96 media articles, 1 documentary about the project in prime TV time, 3 complementary video reports by project 'partners		
E2.5. Dissemination action during the event "Cabeça, Aldeia Natal"	Participation in 6 events that reached around 15 000 people		
E.3. Awareness and Environmental Education			
E3.1. environmental education activities in schools	894 students involved in the environmental education activities, 35 sessions within the school facilities and 28 field trips	COVID	Continuity
E3.2. School contest	2 different contested were developed, one about the Rhododendron in Monchique and another about the Portuguese Laurel in Seia. It involved around 2146 people because the work submitted to contest was afterwards transformed in another itinerary exhibition and disseminated in all schools and municipally facilities.		

E3.3. informative sessions	It was created seven different events that reached 652 people		
E3.4. Plantations with volunteers	It was developed 12 different events that reached around 410 participants		
E4. Scientific dissemination			
E4.1 - Organization of seminars	3 seminar developed to an about 757 participants	COVID	Continuity
E4.2 - Organization of technical workshops	3 Workshops developed to an about 128 participants		
E4.3 - Representation in national and international seminars and congresses	29 representations in scientific events, national and international, with 40 oral communications and 3 posters to an estimate audience of 2178 people.		
E4.4 - Promotion of talks	27 talks to an estimate audience of 443 undergraduates and graduate students		
E4.5 – field Guide			
E5. Replication efforts and networking with other projects			
E5.1 - Establish a network of contacts with other projects	It was established 53 contacts with other projects, national and international	COVID	Continuity
E5.2 - Replication efforts	20 replications activities, including concrete conservation actions or dissemination and environmental educations activities.		

Main achievements

The results acquired will contribute to objective 5, 6, 7 e 8.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Table 1 - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the project.

		Positive Strengths	Negative Weaknesses
Internal		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Improve the knowledge</u> about habitat 5230 (especially habitats distribution, structure and ecosystem services), as well as about the natural regeneration of <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> subsp. <i>baeticum</i>; 2. The capability to produce plants from a set of rare species, including for the first time, rhododendron plants from seeds, with a well-developed root system; 3. <u>Reverse the deterioration of habitat 5230</u> in the IA, also improving habitat's structure and future perspectives; 4. <u>Promote habitat protection</u> in the IA, decreasing fire risk and invasiveness risk of IAS; 5. Establishment of a <u>long-term monitoring areas</u>, to follow habitat change across space and time; 6. Promotion of oaks forests (habitat 9230, 9240) including the rare ones of <i>Quercus canariensis</i>, a tree evaluated in Portugal as in Critical Risk; 7. Establishment of <u>several replication protocols with stakeholders</u>; 8. <u>Strong commitment of local Municipalities</u> (CMSeia and CMMonc) to protect the IA. 9. <u>Contribute to the execution of Management Plans</u> in IA SAC: Estrela, Complexo do Açor, Monchique (including with instructions on habitat management); 10. Significant contributions regarding the <u>awareness of public</u> on relict species and habitat; 11. <u>Increasing awareness</u> of the importance of conserving the laurisilva relicts among stakeholders, university students and decision makers; 12. Significant training and capacitation of people and institutions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire in Margaraça (October, 2017) forced a reformulation of the intervention areas at an early stage of the project; 2. It will take time until Project main conservation goal will be fully achieved, due to the forest nature of habitat 5230. This will require work means and financing over the next few years; 3. It will take a lot of effort (work and money) until the eradication of IAS; 4. Although the ability to produce rhododendron plants with a well-developed root system is an enormous Project's achievement, it was only possible in the final phase of the project, limiting the capacity to produce new plants and monitor plantation over a few years. 5. Difficulty to follow the work done by hired workers, particularly during COVID; 6. Adverse working conditions were particularly demanding (time and money), due to slope and weather of the IA; 7. COVID limited the awareness and dissemination events; 8. Impact of cattle and wild animals on plantations in Serra da Estrela and Serra de Monchique, despite all efforts done by Partners.
		<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contribute to the Management plans of the SAC's Cambarinho and Costa Vicentina, both with native <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> communities (with instructions on habitat's management); 2. Contribute to the aims of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, particularly in "ensure no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030"; 3. Possibility to maintain and further develop synergies between project partners and stakeholders; 4. Possibility for municipalities to include the territories and knowledge acquired in local planning instruments; 5. Project allowed us to open paths towards a more sustainable forest in the region, particularly with the support of the Municipalities. 6. Possibility to create in the future an Eco-Biological Park in the intervention areas of Monchique 7. Possibility to create a Competence Center for the conservation of Continental Laurissilva Relicts in Mação Municipality, for future replication of the actions carried out by the Project. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Threats</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding to cover nature conservation needs is systematically underestimated in local, regional and national budgets; 2. General low importance attributed by political and social circles to issues related to nature conservation and environment; 3. Difficulties in gathering funding to maintain interventions for a long-term; 4. Difficulties in gathering funding to long-term monitoring; 5. Lack of companies specialized in forestry management, especially those with training in sustainable habitat management.
External			

AFTER-LIFE PLAN

OBJECTIVES

The main long-term objective of LIFE-Relict is to contribute to the preservation of the habitat 5230, ensuring no more deterioration of the shelter areas included in the project and its future expansion, contributing to improve its conservation status in Portugal. To achieve these goals, the following specific future objectives (FO) are established:

- FO1.** Reinforce the scientific knowledge of the habitat 5230 and its main species: Continue to study the habitat to better understand its vulnerabilities;
- FO2.** Ensure the protection of the LIFE-Relict IA and the maintenance of its conservation efforts and goals: Limit the risk of fire, control invasive alien species, and reinforcement of plantations;
- FO3.** Continue to monitor the impact of project interventions in the Habitat areas, both in Monchique, Margarça and Seia territories;
- FO4.** Continue to monitor the survival rate of the species planted, especially *Prunus lusitanica* and *Rhododendron ponticum* subsp. *baeticum*, in the IA;
- FO5.** Continue to publicize the importance and role of this habitat and native forests to the student population;
- FO6.** Continue to disseminate the importance and role of these habitats to the general public and stakeholders;
- FO7.** Expand the transfer of knowledge and management results to other habitat areas (ex. Thought the ICNF action Plans)

METHODOLOGY

To complete the following table, the next options/scales were considered:

ACTIONS	TASKS	PRIORITY	TERRITORY	FINANCING	COST	STAKEHOLDERS	DESCRIPTION
Action number A, C, D and E actions	Specific tasks in the action	<p>Priority of action</p> <p>Could – to be done if future financing is approved</p> <p>Preferable/Must – Should be done</p> <p>Mandatory – Critical for success</p>	<p>Territory to be implemented</p> <p>Seia IA Margarça IA Monchique IA</p> <p>IA National Iberian</p>	Who will/can finance	<p>Cost of the specific task</p> <p>< 5000 €</p> <p>5 000-10 000 €€</p> <p>10 000-50 000 €€€</p> <p>50 000-100 000 €€€€</p>	Entities involved (names)	Description and relation to the After-Life Objectives

ACTIONS	TASKS	PRIORITY	TER RITORY	FINAN CING	COST	STAKHOLDERS	DESCRIPTON
A1	1. Increase knowledge about habitat 5230*	Preferable/Must	Nati onal / Iberi an	Own fundin g (UEVO RA)	< 5000 €	UEVORA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase knowledge about habitats main pollinators: 1 Master thesis will be proposed in this topic. The analysis of habitat functional diversity is starting to be investigated by the UÉvora team: 1 Master thesis will be proposed in this topic. F01
A1	2. Compile and make available information about the habitat	Preferable/Must	Nati onal / Iberi an	Own fundin g (UEVO RA)	< 5000 €	UEVORA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UEvora will maintain the LIFE-RELICT website and Facebook page. The team will also compile the major information about the habitat in a revision paper. F01
A3	3. Increase knowledge about Rhododendron Natural regeneration	Preferable/Must	Nati onal / Iberi an	Own fundin g (UEVO RA)	< 5000 €	UEVORA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of natural regeneration outside the project IA is starting to be investigated by the UÉvora team: 1 Master thesis will be proposed in this topic. F01
C1	4. Collection and Propagation of plant material	Mandatory	Seia IA	Own fundin g	5 000-10 000 €€	CICYTEX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CICYTEX will ensure the delivery of 2 000 plants (<i>Prunus lusitanica</i> and <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>), until 2027, to CMSeia and CMMonc, to be planted in the intervention areas. F02
C2	5. Maintain the “Levada” functioning	Mandatory	Seia IA	Own fundin g	< 5000 €	CMSeia, União das freguesias de Vide e Cabeça	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local parishes will ensure the maintenance of the <i>levada</i> – see Parish council_ Commitment letter. F02
C2	6. Manage herbivory in habitat areas	Preferable/Must	Seia IA	Own fundin g (ICNF)	< 5000 €	UÉVORA, CMSeia, ICNF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project team will continue to negotiate (Shepherds and ICNF) the exclusion of livestock in the IA. This is also a goal defined by the ICNF Management Plant for the SAC (defined with the help of the LIFE team): “exclude the entry of livestock, particularly in forest regeneration areas or where they present a weaker structure (preventing livestock from feeding on juvenile specimens that guarantee that same regeneration)”. ICNF is also working in defining plans and strategies applied to sustainable management and mitigation of potential negative impacts of wild boar, namely agroforestry losses (Wild Boar Strategic and Action Plan in Portugal). All the information about wild boar location and impact in the IA will be shared with ICNF. F02

C2, C4	7. Decrease Fire Risk in the IA through vegetation management	Preferable/Must	Seia IA	Own funding	5 000-10 000 €€	CMSeia, ICNF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is also a goal defined by the ICNF Management Plant for the SAC (defined with the help of the LIFE team): “1. In forest edge areas (or clearings) or riparian galleries, it may be necessary to carry out biomass control, in order to mitigate the threat of fire. These must be carried out using techniques that do not promote soil mobilization and should be directed, preferably, to areas dominated by heliophilous scrub (e.g. <i>Cytisus</i> sp. pl, <i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>); 2. Carry out vegetation management actions to safeguard isolated forests – including isolated trees with heritage value.” <p>F02</p>
C2, C4, C7	8. Control of IAS in the IA	Mandatory	Seia IA	Own funding	50 000-100 000 €€€€	CMSeia, ICNF, UÉVORA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMSeia will ensure IAS control maintenance, with its own staff and directing activities with volunteers. This is also a goal defined by the ICNF Management Plant for the SAC: “Detection and control of invasive species; Plan and program the ecological restoration of forest areas invaded or threatened by invasive exotic species.”. UÉvora will inform the ICNF about the need to include these areas as a priority for invasive control. <p>F02</p>
C2, C4, C7	9. Tree production in CMSeia nurseries	Preferable/Must	Seia IA	Own funding	5 000-10 000€€	CMSeia, UEVORA, CICYTEX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMSeia has revitalized the old municipal nurseries. Under the guidance of CICYTEX and the UÉVORA, new plants will be produced to continue plantations done in Seia IA. This is also an important infrastructure for replication in other areas – See protocol – Seia Municipality <p>F02</p>
C3	10. Ensure the protection of 5230	Mandatory	Monchique IA	Monchique IA	< 5000€	CMMonc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMMonc will ensure the long-term protection of Rhododendron communities in the IA, once is the owner of the land and is interested in improving and increasing this habitat as local heritage. The CMMonc also intends to create an Eco-Biological Park that will include all its properties in Fóia (including IA), a project that is already included in the intentions for the Algarve Regional Operational Program, in Axis 3. This project goals are Dynamization and Enhancement of Territorial Assets and the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity and Natural heritage at municipal level. It will include the maintenance and expansion of the Rhododendron habitat (Replication goals). – See protocol – Monchique Municipality <p>F02</p>
C3, C5	11. Managing plantations	Mandatory	Monchique IA	Monchique IA	< 5000€	CMMonc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMMonc will ensure the maintenance of these areas through its own funds and/or using other potential findings (currently CMMonc is applying for Operation 8.1.5 Improvement of Resilience and Environmental Value of Forests, to PDR 2020) <p>F02</p>
C3, C5, C7	12. Decrease Fire Risk in the IA	Mandatory	Monchique IA	Monchique IA	< 5000€	CMMonc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CMMonc will ensure this maintenance with its own resources and/or applications. <p>F02</p>
C3, C5, C7	13. Exotic species control - Eucalyptus	Mandatory	Monchique	Own funding	5 000€ - 10 000€	CMMonc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CMMonc will ensure this maintenance with its own resources and/or applications. This year (2023) they will apply to the Environmental Fund (national fund) that includes areas where there was conversion from eucalyptus to oak.

			ue IA				F02
C2, C3, C4, C5 E C7	14. Apply for new findings	Preferable/Must	IA/National	Own funding	< 5000€	All partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever possible, partners will apply for financing that will allow to maintain works already done in the IA and the preservation and improvement of the conservation status of habitat 5230. The UÉvora has already applied for an H2020 grant under the Green Deal (H2020-LC-GD-2020-3, not financed).
D1	15. Monitoring the conservation status of the habitat 5230	Mandatory	IA	Own funding	< 5000€	UÉVORA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each two years the UÉVORA team will follow the permanent transects installed during the project in C2 and C5 areas (4 days/year, at least until 2030). The monitoring will be ensured at least until 2028. This will allow us to continue evaluating the impact of the management measures implemented on the conservation status of this priority habitat. F01, F03, F04
D1	16. Monitoring the <i>Prunus lusitanica</i> and <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> survival	Mandatory	Seia IA, Monchique IA	Own funding	< 5000€	UÉVORA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each year the UÉVORA team will follow the survival of plants planted in the IA, monitoring the permanent parcels installed for this propose during project implementation. F01, F03, F04
E1	17. Maintenance of the Website	Mandatory	Nacional	Own funding	< 5000€	UÉVORA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UÉvora will ensure the maintenance of the website at least for the next 5 years F05, F06, F07
E2	18. Itinerary exhibitions	Mandatory	Nacional	Own funding	< 5000€	CMMonc & CMSeia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The municipalities will ensure the itinerancy of the exhibition. Its post-LIFE presentation will also be negotiated in other municipal, regional, and national institutions (cultural spaces, youth spaces, commercial stores, interpretation centers, etc.). The exhibitions will target the school community and the local population of the project implementation areas, and the public who visit the different exhibition points. F05, F06, F07
E2	19. Interpretative trails	Mandatory	Seia IA, Monchique IA	Own funding	< 5000€	CMMonc & CMSeia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The municipalities will ensure the dissemination and promotion of the interpretative trails by its own means and through partnerships with tourism entities. F05
E3	20. Environmental education	Must	Seia IA, Monchique	Own funding	< 5000€	CMMonc & CMSeia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental education actions will be continued using existing resources in CMSeia and CMMonc. In Seia the project "From tree to forest" will carry on through CISE. In the case of CMSeia, CISE (Serra da Estrela Interpretation Center) will be used to continue to publicize the importance of habitat 5230* and RN2000. F05

			ue IA				
E4	21. Scientific dissemination	Must	National & International	Own funding	< 5000€	UÉvora & CICYTEX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The data collected in actions D will be properly disseminated to the scientific community at congresses and in scientific publications, by UÉvora and CICYTEX, continuing the scientific dissemination actions. Professors at the University of Évora will also continue to talk about the project in classes, whenever possible, including in the Conservation Biology master's degree (Biology department). F05, F06
E5	22. Creation of a Competence Center for Continental Laurissilva Relicts	Mandatory	National & International	Own funding	< 5000€	UÉvora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UÉvora established a protocol with the Municipality of Mação (Center Portugal) and other local development institutions, to create a Competence Center for the conservation of Continental Laurissilva Relicts, to replicate in this municipality the actions carried out by the Project – See protocol – Mação Municipality F7
E5	22. Provide support to private owners with habitat areas	Mandatory	National & International	Own funding	< 5000€	All partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All partners will ensure the continuity of the replications 'efforts of the best practices. All partners, will continue to provide support to private owners who have contacted or will contact the Project for habitat restoration. F7