



LIFE11 NAT/MT/1070

MIDTERM Report
Covering the project activities from 01/10/2012 to 30/11/2014

Reporting Date
15/01/2015 (first midterm report) & 13/05/2015 (amended midterm report)

LIFE+ MIGRATE
Conservation status and potential sites of community interest for *Tursiops truncatus* and *Caretta caretta* in Malta

Project Data

Project location	Malta
Project start date:	01/10/2012
Project end date:	29/04/2016
Total Project duration (in months):	43 months
Total budget	€ 964,006.00
Total eligible budget	€ 952,006.00
EU contribution:	€ 476,003.00
(%) of total costs	49.38 %
(%) of eligible costs	47.51 %

Beneficiary Data

Name Beneficiary	Malta Environment and Planning Authority
Contact persons	Mr. Darrin Stevens; Ms Carmen Mifsud Mr. Nikolas Cassar
Postal address	St. Francis Ravelin, Floriana, Malta
Visit address	St. Francis Ravelin, Floriana, Malta
Telephone	+356 2290 7103 / 7237
Fax:	+356 2122 8438
E-mail	life.migrate@mepa.org.mt carmen.mifsud@mepa.org.mt nikolas.cassar@mepa.org.mt
Project Website	www.lifeprojectmigrate.com

1. List of contents

1. List of contents	2
2. Executive Summary.....	4
3. Introduction	9
4. Administrative part.....	11
4.1. Description of the management system	11
4.2. Evaluation of the management system	15
5. Technical part.....	18
5.1. Technical progress, per task	18
5.1.1. Action A1 – Gathering of relevant biotic and abiotic oceanographic data available.....	18
5.1.2. Action A2 - Create multilayer GIS maps with available data and model potential hot spots.....	19
5.1.3. Action A3 – Boat-based observations.....	20
5.1.4. Action A4 - Map proposed pSCI's and propose to the Government of Malta.....	25
5.1.5 Action D1 – Monitoring of Action E13 and E14	25
5.1.6. Action F1 - Project Management.....	26
5.1.7. Action F2 – Networking with other projects	26
5.1.8. Action F3 - Audit.....	28
5.1.9. Action F4 – After Life Conservation Plan	29
5.2 Dissemination actions	30
5.2.1. Objectives	30
5.2.2. Dissemination: overview per activity	30
5.2.2.1. Action E1 – Develop project brand.....	30
5.2.2.2. Action E2 – Notice-board.....	31
5.2.2.3. Action E3 - Website	33
5.2.2.4. Action E4 – Project launch	35
5.2.2.5. Action E5 – E-Newsletter.....	36
5.2.2.6. Action E6 – Short Video	37
5.2.2.7. Action E7 - Brochures.....	38
5.2.2.8. Action E8 – Layman’s report	40
5.2.2.9. Action E9 – Feature on local popular media	41
Children attend MEPA Gnejna Bay activity (Annex 7.3.5.17.).....	44
5.2.2.10. Action E10 – Advertising on local beaches.....	45
5.2.2.11. Action E11 – Involvement of volunteer participants in boat-based observations.....	46
5.2.2.12. Action E12 – Project closure	49
5.2.2.13. Action E13 – NATURA 2000 Capacity development of relevant stakeholders (institutions, fishermen and NGOs).....	50
5.2.2.14. Action E14 – Guidelines and good practice codes for NATURA 2000	51
5.3 Evaluation of Project Implementation	53
5.3.1. Evaluation of Methodology	53
5.3.2. Comparison of results achieved against objectives	55
5.3.3. Effectiveness of the dissemination.....	63
5.3.4. Minor modifications in the grant agreement	63
5.4 Analysis of long-term benefits	68
5.4.1. Environmental benefits	68
5.4.2. Long-term benefits and sustainability.....	70
5.4.3. Best Practice Lessons.....	71
5.4.4. Innovation and demonstration values.....	71

5.4.5. Long-term indicators.....	72
6. Comments on the financial report	74
6.1. Summary of Costs Incurred.....	74
6.1.1. Comparison of costs incurred and original budget in the Grant Agreement.....	74
6.1.2. KAI's LIFE contract changes	75
6.1.3. Other amendments	75
6.1.4. Funding.....	75
6.2. Accounting system.....	76
6.3. Partnership arrangements (if relevant).....	76
6.4. Auditor's report/declaration.....	76
6.5. Summary of costs per action	77
7. Annexes.....	78
7.1. Administrative annexes.....	78
7.2. Technical annexes.....	78
7.3. Dissemination annexes.....	79
8. Financial report and annexes.....	82

2. Executive Summary

The main targets of LIFE+MIGRATE Project is to understand the status of the populations of the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and of the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursoips truncatus*) in Malta and to identify important areas for them. These species are protected by the EC Habitats Directive- 92/43/EEC, as well as numerous other multilateral agreements (regional and international conventions) to which Malta is a party. To adequately protect and conserve these species their population status needs to be known and habitats which may prove to be crucial for their life and reproduction needs to be identified. Such habitats, if present around the Maltese waters, should also be protected. The project, thus aims to try to close these knowledge gaps by establishing the conservation status of these populations and any important areas for them which may include potential feeding grounds and/or important migratory routes.

Before the project began (through desk top efforts) and throughout the implementation of the LIFE+MIGRATE project, on-going measures were carried out to gather relevant biotic¹ and abiotic² data. This data was collected and collated from information presented in peer reviewed papers and other documents, submitted by various experts, organisations, volunteers and others. Volunteers who have become part of this project (please refer to Action E11 further below) and officials from the Maritime Squadron of the AFM and of the CPD keep notifying us with cetacean and turtle sightings. A large amount of A1 biotic data was also obtained through collaborations with BLM through a similar previous project they carried out on sea-birds but which collected cetaceans and turtle data and through a definite methodology. This data proved to be very accurate and scientifically sound. With regards to the abiotic data, A1-abiotic, MEPA has issued a direct order with the Physical Oceanographic Unit at the University of Malta to provide MEPA directly with this data. MEPA is also in liaison and currently drafting another direct order with the local fishing cooperatives to collect further biotic data related to cetaceans and marine turtles, following a steering committee decision in April 2014 whereby it was decided to get this information directly from these fisheries cooperatives. These cooperatives would be obtaining the necessary biotic data directly from the fishermen as members of their cooperatives.

A2 Biotic maps (refer to inception report Annex 7.3.6) were already produced for a number of sightings received from other projects (including the BLM data also refer to database in Annex 7.2.4) and sightings data received from NGOs and volunteers. The same applies for marine spatial planning and marine uses maps (refer to inception report Annex 7.3.7). Physical oceanographic maps, to be produced for all the sightings data of the project, through the above-mentioned direct order will be produced and available for KAI and MEPA by the first quarter of 2015 such that it can be included in the analysis of the survey data collected by KAI.

This project includes the direct boat-based observation surveys as described further in Action A3 further below, which action is under the remit of KAI Marine Services, one of the associated beneficiaries in this project. Surveying at sea on board the research vessel *Aurora*

¹ Biotic data: is biological data for these species ,including historic one and of associated/prey species, which may affect the population of the loggerhead turtles and the bottlenose dolphin;

² Abiotic data: non-living data but which may affect the living components in this case data mainly related to physical oceanography and marine spatial planning issues including marine uses of the sea .

Boreal, to collect the relevant data on these species was done in six months spread over two years. The first survey from August to October 2013 and the second from July to September 2014 had more 1.000 hours of effort and covering 5.796 km. A series of line transect grids, using visual and acoustic surveying techniques were used to ensure maximum coverage and cetacean and marine turtle species encountered were all included, not only the focus species of this project. Sea-birds and other important species like sharks were also studied as well as other important human activities. Photo identification and other methodologies were used to collect complementary data on habitat use. In addition, a series of underwater noise sampling stations (which is the first underwater noise baseline of the Maltese waters) were also done. During the survey, training to some volunteers of E11, some shots for the E6 video, and the development of a series of micro plastic debris sampling in addition to macro plastic sampling was also carried out. Following the conclusion of the data analysis of the 2 year surveying by KAI, the abundance data and the conservation status of these species will be worked out and high resolution maps will be created. If potential habitats of important areas for the populations of the loggerhead turtle and bottlenose dolphin prove to be present, these will be indicated in the maps.

The project also includes a number of Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) actions, most of which have been successfully achieved with some others in progress. The project brand, Action E1 and the roll-up banners, Action E2, replacing the stated notice boards specified in the grant agreement, were produced within the first 3 months of the project.

The LIFE+ MIGRATE's official website (www.lifeprojectmigrate.com) as per the Grant Agreement Action E3 is to provide information about the project and the species under study. The website is regularly updated with different documents and news which are uploaded frequently (such as newsletters, press releases, events and many other issues) with related pictures of such events to give also a snapshot for the people who could not attend. The official website became fully functional in May 2013, but previous to that, a temporary page on the MEPA's website had been set up, still functional to date. Although not specified in the Grant Agreement, a Facebook page was also set-up for the general public. Additionally, a blog of the survey coordinated by KAI Marine Services was operative during the A3 survey period at <http://kaimarineservices.com/lifemigratesurveys> providing a day by day window of the research activities at sea.

E-newsletters produced, as part of Action E5, are a cost-effective and an environmentally friendly solution to further publicize the project, whilst ensure a continued interest in the project through sending the newsletter's site to all volunteers and the entire mailing list. In these newsletters the most recent news about the project is published including snapshots and articles by volunteers who wished to recount an interesting sighting episode and their personal experience with these flagship species. To date, six e-newsletters have been successfully published. The seventh issue, envisaged to be issued for December 2014, has already been drafted and includes two articles written by two volunteers recounting their experience in the boat-based observation surveys. Newsletters will continue to give an insight on the updates of the project until the conclusion of the project.

Another action promoting visibility of the project and awareness is the short video (Action E6). The video is currently being concluded by Mediacoop; the company awarded this tender (see action E6, further below). The video approximately ten to fifteen minutes long is eye-catching, effective and includes footages of:

- the research work done during the boat-based surveys and highlights from the Action E13 workshops;
- cetaceans and marine turtles sighted during the said boat-based surveys; and
- interviews with the officials involved in the project explaining the work done, the importance of the project and of studying these species.

The brochure of action E7, designed by MEPA, was published in June 2014 with the printing done through an amalgamated tender including other publicity material for actions E10 and E11. The brochures were distributed not only during all the LIFE+ MIGRATE events that followed, but also in many other general MEPA events which focused on environmental issues. Brochures produced both in English and Maltese languages are also available electronically on the website. Until the brochures were officially available, an A4 brochure issued with the help of BOV, the co-financier, helped to attract volunteers to assist the project and also fulfilled the functions of the brochure which due to the tendering process took some time to be finished.

The layman's report, Action E8, is currently being planned and the initial parts of the report are already being drafted based on the information we have to date. As soon as further direct results and analysis from Action A3 are available they will be included to be communicated to the public. The conclusions, proceedings and the guidelines from Action E13 and E14 will also be included in layman's terms, as soon as such data and information is available. The terms of reference for issuing a tender to print and publish this report, are currently being drafted to be issued soon.

As part of Action E9 the project is regularly featured on various media, frequently more often than stipulated in the Grant Agreement (please refer to Action E9, further below). To date the project has been regularly publicised and this will continue until the end of the project.

The project also included the production of promotional items, such as:

- Polo shirts (Action E11);
- Caps (Action E11);
- LED torch key chains (Action E 10);
- Beach umbrellas (Action E10); and
- Stickers (Action E10).

These items display the logos of the project, N2K, LIFE and of all the beneficiaries. The polo shirts, caps and key chains are currently being disseminated to the volunteers who participated in the Action A3 surveys and to the sea-users, who attended the training seminars for E11. The umbrellas, key chains and stickers were disseminated in summer 2014 and will continue to be distributed to the general public on the beaches in summer 2015. The stickers and the LED key chains replaced the adhesive grommets with the former being attached to bins on the beaches, as detailed in the Grant Agreement to remind the public that every bit of litter may pose a threat to the marine ecosystem and particularly to turtles.

In 2014, numerous training workshops of Action E11, on the identification of marine turtles and cetaceans were held to specifically address divers and other members of the public, apart from the maritime squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta and the marine section of the Civil Protection Department. By December 2014, MEPA will have conducted 19 training workshops. Out of which, 10 training sessions will have been done to AFM and CPD officials; whereas another eight training sessions to volunteers, NGOs and different diving

clubs around Malta. Certificate-giving ceremonies are envisaged to take place in the coming future, whereby certificates will be provided to all the officials who participated in the training between 2013 and 2014, the first of which will be held in December for all the trained AFM officials.

Apart from these workshops, other awareness raising events included participation in the boat show (organized by BOV), in 2013, where MEPA & KAI, the latter also present with their boat and equipment as a show case of the project gave further information on the said project, also through a looped video on the project and through promotion in the MEPA stand. In addition, three successful umbrella-dissemination events were held in summer of 2014 in three popular local sandy beaches, in collaboration with the respective local councils where other promotional materials like the stickers and brochures were also disseminated. Such events further increased the visibility of the project and gave further information to the public.

Within the context of Actions E13 and E14, KAI with MEPA's assistance organised a series of sectorial workshops between the 26th of September and the 3rd of October 2014. The workshops held at the Malta National Aquarium and Nature Trust's premises, had a very positive outcome with both national and international participation including from regional organisations. These workshops were addressed to stakeholders from the transport, energy, national security, fisheries, tourism, education and research sectors. A number of speakers gave speeches and presentations which included conservation aspects of the two species under study and their habitats, also in relation with the above-mentioned sectors. These workshops together with two fishery committee meetings held previously in Gozo and Marsaxlokk, were the outcome of a stakeholders communication process which included one to one meetings initiated in 2013 followed by mini sectorial meetings with the aim of actively involving stakeholders in the development of the NATURA 2000 Guidelines (E 14). This process was steered by the E13 and E14 feed-back monitoring action D1 in order to adjust the stakeholder communication strategy as necessary. The draft *Natura 2000 Guidelines for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in Malta* (E14), was used as basic working document for the final sectorial workshops, the objective of which is to provide guidance for the establishment of conservation measures on the bottlenose dolphins and the loggerhead turtles in Malta; and to guide stakeholders in their actions in order to reduce risks for such species and their habitats. The final draft of the NATURA 2000 Guidelines document, incorporating all inputs from stakeholders, together with the proceedings of the workshop and a sectorial service website is expected to be provided to MEPA by the end of December 2014, beginning of 2015,.

The project is being monitored, and all concerned are being update on what is being done, through the provision of a summary of the project's progress, done by MEPA and the associated beneficiaries every one to two months. These summaries are also provided to the Monitor and all partners to inform about the latest news in the project. Additionally, meetings are also held with the Monitor, the last of which was held on the 30th May 2014 (refer to Annex 7.1.4.4). In these meetings, the monitor is further briefed and updated with the status of the project. Apart from the progress summaries mentioned above, three technical reports are to be done; for which the inception report has already been submitted previously and the final report is to be submitted three months after the end date of the project.

MEPA also needs to report about the financial situation of the project at specific timeframes;, also an on-going process and for this MEPA has regular meetings with RSM, a financial company appointed to take care of the accounting and to provide financial advice for this

project. They were also involved in relation to the further government subvention needed for the continuation of project following KAI's termination notice of the 7th May 2013 and for the Maltese Government had to make good for KAI's inability to fully fund their part in the project. Though this subvention was approved in August 2013, due to further changes in the Government administration and in the Ministries concerned MEPA had to negotiate this further with the Ministry of Finance and MSDEC to get the balance requested approved and envisaged to be concluded by end November-December 2014.

Another important aspect of the project is networking with other projects, which is crucial to maximize information exchanges and experience-sharing between local and foreign similar projects. This is explained in more detail in Section 5.1.7, further below.

Through Action F3 an independent auditor has been chosen to audit the whole project, after a Call for quotation was issued. Following an evaluation of four bidders who submitted their proposal, the independent auditor, PKF Malta, was awarded this call and notified accordingly. A contract with this company was drafted, to be finalised by December, details of which will be discussed in the upcoming meetings.

With regards to the Afterlife Conservation Plan (Action F4), an internal (to decide the material to disseminate to this committee and other such issues) and an external committee (the actual stakeholders) were set up. This committee is regularly informed about recent scientific updates of the project until the final results of the survey and the significant areas can be communicated. It is an ongoing process until the whole project is finalised and concluded.

Paragraph summarizing each chapter of the main report

Chapter three provides an introduction about the population status of the two Mediterranean marine species under study in this project, in relation with their behavioral patterns. This chapter also gives an insight on how this project will also be contributing towards other international projects with the same context. Finally, this section concludes by giving an overview about the socio-economic context of the project in the Maltese Islands. The next chapter gives an account on the administrative structure by describing the entities involved and the management systems and structures within, hence stipulating how the said project is managed. All the actions of this project are described in detail in chapter 5, along with the status of such actions, status of completion and if not yet finalized, how each action is envisaged to be continued. This chapter also includes an analysis of the resultant long-term benefits. This report concludes by giving an account of the current financial situation of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project.

3. Introduction

This project's main aim is to address information gaps with regards to the population status of the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)³, the species targeted, by obtaining data on these, their migratory routes, feeding grounds and aggregation areas (if these are found to be present), so as to establish their conservation status and contribute towards the identification of areas⁴ essential to their life and reproduction. These areas will be proposed as pSCIs to Government for their eventual inclusion in the NATURA 2000 network, if they are found to be present. Thus, the pSCI and the conservation status of these species are the overall objectives.

The specific objectives of this project are:

- assessing the Conservation Status of both the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle and creating baselines for the assessment of trends which may lead to identification/consideration of potential hotspots;
- to verify such potential hotspots, through the use of boat-based observations;
- to promote the project and increase its visibility as well as carry out awareness-raising campaigns and education efforts through the use of the information material including brochures, roll-up banners and a short video developed for the project.

Apart from the EU NATURA 2000 Framework, this project will also contribute towards meeting Malta's obligation under other multilateral environmental agreements.

In the Mediterranean Sea, the bottlenose dolphin population, being mostly a coastal one, is exposed to several harmful human activities in such coastal waters. At present, the threats include low prey availability due to over-fishing, incidental mortality in fishing gear and environmental degradation. Additional potential threats may include direct disturbance or collision from boating and shipping, underwater noise, toxic effect of xenobiotic chemicals, epizootic outbreaks, and climate change. On the other hand, loggerhead turtles in the Mediterranean face threats mostly in the marine environment, since Malta does not really have any nesting beaches. One of the most important causes of population decline of this species is probably incidental capture in fishing gear, in the case of Malta mostly in long-line fishing. Other causes of decline may include coastal development that may cause harm to nearby marine habitats, human exploitation by direct take, which is probably not an issue any longer in Malta. Intentional killing is, however, still relatively widespread in the Mediterranean, especially in Egypt and Greece and since these are migratory species, the whole population could be affected by such threats.

In Maltese waters the major risks & threats, identified during the survey may be linked with fisheries interactions (depredation caused by Fishing Aggregation Devices⁵ (FADs), long-lines and fish farms, and harassment by coastal shipping (fast yachts). Other risks may be due to ship strikes, entanglement in debris and ghost fishing gear.

³ Additionally, the project will cover other cetacean and marine turtle species

⁴ any areas situated within the 25 nautical mile boundary of the Maltese Fisheries Management Zone established in the European Council Regulation 813/2004.

⁵ Particularly for common dolphinfish (*lampuki*) fishing

Malta's socio-economy depends partially on the marine sectors such as the fishing industry and international and domestic tourism and recreation. A number of merchant vessels are registered in Malta making it the second largest register in Europe. There are over 100 shipping agents and brokers in Malta that provide services to shipping companies. The fishing industry is relatively small and artisan with a low contribution towards the national GDP. The fishing industry supports the livelihood of at some 1,400 people through the fishing, marketing and fleet related activities. However the social importance of this industry far outweighs its economic importance. Furthermore fisheries are seen as adding value to the tourism sector through the availability of fresh fish and the 'preservation' of traditional fishing methods.

Expected long-term results

Following submission of further results from A3, some initial comparisons can be done with some basic baseline data to check the conservation status of these species, however in the longer term following implementation of the guidelines (Action E14) it is expected that the individuals will be in a favourable conservation status.

4. Administrative part

4.1 Description of the management system

Activities and tasks per phase and planning

Most of the initial phases in 2012 were taken up with planning of a number of issues in connection with setting up the logos, creating the networking, doing the roll-up banners and creating databases of the interested volunteers to be later invited for the project launch which was done in February 2013. Later calls were issued for the website and for the publishing of the brochure and since the latter was time consuming (in view of the tendering procedures), another brochure was issued (see further down in Action E7).

A lot of planning was undertaken for this project since a number of activities had to be done over the summer period or in particular periods of the year and to be carried out these required extensive pre-planning. Such activities included the summer A3 activities under the responsibility of KAI and for which KAI had to pre-plan not only the survey methodology (which begun in November 2012), but also had to plan and issue all the related tenders for employing the people to be on-board during the survey, for the vessel itself and for the buying of all the necessary equipment in time for the survey. Likewise, the E11 training workshops had to be pre-planned with avoidance of the peak summer months for AFM and for the divers in view of their intense activities during these months. The dissemination of the umbrellas campaigns had to be carried out in summer when the people are present on the sandy beaches. The planning of Actions E13 & E14 and other actions are described in detail in the relevant sections describing them with their phases outlined in the Gantt Chart 1.

	Action	2012	2013				2014				2015				2016	
Action number	Name of the Action	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of Management plans and/or action plans:																
A1	Gather all relevant biotic and abiotic oceanographic data															
A2	Create multilayer GIS maps with data and model p. hotspots															
A3	Boat-Based Observations - Closing the Knowledge Gaps															
A4	Map proposed pSCIs and propose to Government of Malta															
D. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions:																
D1	Monitoring of Actions E13 and E14															
E. Public awareness and dissemination of results :																
E1	Develop Project Brand															
E2	Notice-Board															
E3	Website															
E4	Project Launch															

E5	E-newsletter																			
E6	Short Video																			
E7	Brochures																			
E8	Layman's report																			
E9	Feature on local popular media																			
E10	Advertising on local beaches																			
E11	Involvement of volunteer participants in boat-based observations																			
E12	Project Closure																			
E13	N2K Capacity development of relevant stakeholders																			
E14	Guidelines and good practice codes for Natura 2000																			
F. Overall Project operation and Monitoring																				
F1	Project Management																			
F2	Networking with other projects																			
F3	Audit																			
F4	After-LIFE Conservation Plan																			

Gantt chart 1: Timeframe of the project, as per inception report

Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) is the coordinating beneficiary of this project, responsible for coordinating all the actions of this project. KAI Marine Services (KAI) and the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC)⁶, are the associated beneficiaries of this project. Bank of Valletta p.l.c. (BOV) is the official co-financier of this project.

The following individuals from MEPA are contributing in the project: Mr Darrin T. Stevens as the Project Leader and Manager of the Ecosystems Management Unit; Ms Carmen Mifsud as the Project Manager, Mr Nikolas Cassar the official (recruited by the project) Project Management Assistant, Ms Marlene Attard, the Director of Corporate Services and Mr Kevin Portelli as the Financial Controller, Ms Joanna Tabone of the International/Funding Projects Team replaced by Mr. Alan Borg on the 2nd of January 2014, Ms Claire Cordina Borg, Mr. Martin Psaila and Mr. Marie Louise Bajada as part of the National Affairs team and Ms Maria Mallia and Mr Peter Gingell as the Public Relations and Communications team. From KAI, Ms Ana Tejedor as Director of KAI Services, Mr Ricardo Sagarminaga as Principal Investigator of the boat survey (please also refer to A3, E13 & E14 for the entire list). On the

⁶ MSDEC is the new associated beneficiary collaborating in the LIFE+MIGRATE, replacing the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment (MTCE), after the 2013 general elections. MSDEC has signed the partnership agreement as the “new” associated beneficiary in November 2013. There are no consequences for the project and possible effects that such change may have, both on the technical and financial/administrative sides, since MSDEC’s role and competence are still on the environment. Hence, this change is not considered as substantial in the meaning of Article 15.2 of the Common Provisions.

other hand, the representatives from MSDEC are Ms Claire Pettila Vella and Mr Vincent James Tabone.

The above individuals are involved in the core project team, meeting up to discuss the implementation of the project. Mr Vincent James Tabone and Mr Nikolas Cassar started contributing to the project in 2014, with the latter selected as the project management assistant officer following an interview for the said position. This call was initially issued internally at MEPA on the 29th January 2014, closing on the 12th February 2014 and issued as per Collective Agreement procedure governing the professional officers at MEPA. Since no one applied internally, the call proceeded through the ETC process, as per all calls within the Maltese Government (Annex 7.1.1).

The project team also depends on data incoming from volunteers, relevant stakeholders and subcontractors. Such contributions are also communicated in meetings, training workshops and other associated events, apart from the website, emails and incoming data by phone.

The diagram below shows an organigramme, visualising the structure of all the individuals and organisations involved in this project.

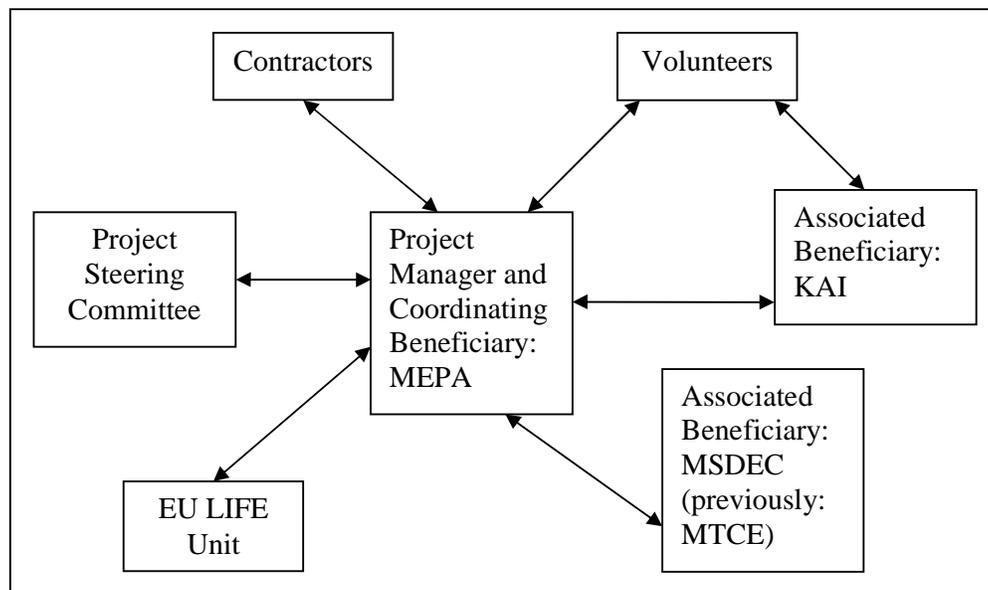


Figure 1: Organigramme showing the structure of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project

The coordinating beneficiary and the associated beneficiaries are responsible for carrying out specific actions under their remit, as per Table 1

Action	Name of Action	Responsible Beneficiary
A1	Gather all relevant biotic and abiotic oceanographic data	MEPA
A2	Create multilayer GIS maps with data and model potential hotspots	MEPA
A3	Boat-Based Observations - Closing the Knowledge Gaps	KAI
A4	Map proposed pSCIs and propose to Government of Malta	MEPA-following conclusion and analysis of above action
D1	Monitoring of Actions E13 and E14	KAI
E1	Develop Project Brand	MEPA
E2	Notice-Board	MEPA
E3	Website	MEPA
E4	Project Launch	MSDEC (previously: MTCE)
E5	E-newsletter	MEPA
E6	Short Video	MEPA
E7	Brochures	MEPA
E8	Layman's report	MEPA
E9	Feature on local popular media	MEPA
E10	Advertising on local beaches	MEPA
E11	Involvement of volunteer participants in boat-based observations	MEPA
E12	Project Closure	MSDEC (previously: MTCE)
E13	N2K Capacity development of relevant stakeholders	KAI
E14	Guidelines and good practice codes for Natura 2000	KAI
F1	Project Management	MEPA
F2	Networking with other projects	MEPA
F3	Audit	MEPA
F4	After-LIFE Conservation Plan	MEPA

Table 1: LIFE+ MIGRATE actions vis-a-vis their responsible beneficiaries

Partnership agreements (PAs) were drafted by MEPA, following all the necessary internal approvals, with the project partners as per the Grant Agreement & the common provisions (Annex 7.1.2.), ensuring that the duties and responsibilities of all beneficiaries are outlined. These agreements were already described (see Annex 7.1 of the Inception report and with detailed description in section 4.3 of this previous report) in the inception report in 2013, with a hard copy of each submitted with said report to the European Commission.

4.2 Evaluation of the management system

As detailed in Action F1, a project management system is necessary to ensure coordination and management of all parties involved in the project and to ensure the timely and effective delivery of the project's deliverables. Thus, good communication amongst the project partners and with other third parties, such as the volunteers and stakeholders, had to be ensured for an effective project management.

This communication was mostly done through emails and through direct contact with numerous third parties and the project partners. Some communication was also done through telephone and/or video conferencing sessions. At times according to necessity ad-hoc meetings were also done with some of the partners to ensure smooth continuation of different part of the project a case in point being ad-hoc meetings done with KAI held on the 22nd of August 2014⁷ (Annex 7.1.4.1) and another ad-hoc meeting done on the 25th September 2014 (Annex 7.1.4.2) to discuss the smooth running of the Action E13 sectorial workshops and Action E14. Similarly with MSDEC, a number of ad-hoc meetings were carried out to discuss the government subvention needed for all the beneficiaries between July and November 2014.

The coordinating beneficiary is also responsible to organise successive steering committee meetings. Excluding the meeting held in the first phase (and reported in the inception report), a steering committee meeting was held on the 23rd of April 2014 with the associate beneficiaries to discuss particular project aspects and the most urgent immediate ones like A3, E13 & E14 & the mid-term report (see agenda and minutes-Annex 7.1.4.3). A number of power point presentations including deliverables and outstanding issues were presented by MEPA. (Presentation can be found in Annex 7.1.5.1). Other steering committee meetings were planned in 2014, but could not be held due to unforeseen events and hence following a number of ad-hoc meetings with KAI, as previously mentioned, communication was mostly done via emails and/or phone with the final steering committee meeting for 2014 postponed to the 17th of December 2014.

On the 30th May 2014, a meeting was set up with the Monitor, Ms Teresa Catelani to discuss the progress of the project. This meeting was adjourned and continued with KAI on the 2nd of June 2014. More information about these two meetings can be found in the minutes marked as Annex 7.1.4.4 and the presentations which were shown in this meeting can also be found in Annex 7.1.5.2, which is just a slightly modified version of the previously mentioned steering committee presentations (which took place on the 23rd of April 2014).

⁷ In this meeting, members from UOM were also present.

With regards to reporting to the European Commission, as described above, it is done through the three technical reports: the inception, midterm and final reports, with timeframes as specified in Table 2 below.

Report	Submission date	Status
Inception Report	26-11-2013	Concluded
Midterm Report	16-01-2014	Current report
Final Report	Envisaged for 29 th July 2016	

Table 2: Table showing the submission dates and status of each technical report

Gantt chart 2 depicts modification in the timeframes of certain actions within the project.

Action number	Action Name of the Action	2012	2013				2014				2015				2016	
		IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of Management plans and/or action plans:																
A1	Gather all relevant biotic and abiotic oceanographic data															
A2	Create multilayer GIS maps with data and model p. hotspots															
A3	Boat-Based Observations - Closing the Knowledge Gaps															
A4	Map proposed pSCIs and propose to Government of Malta															
D. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions:																
D1	Monitoring of Actions E13 and E14															
E. Public awareness and dissemination of results :																
E1	Develop Project Brand															
E2	Notice-Board															
E3	Website															
E4	Project Launch															
E5	E-newsletter															
E6	Short Video															

5. Technical part

5.1. Technical progress, per task

A detailed description of the technical progress of the actions is provided in below.

5.1.1 Action A1 – Gathering of relevant biotic and abiotic oceanographic data available

Planning and preparation for this action started in October 2012 which included gathering of biotic related to marine turtles and cetaceans and other species which may interact or on which these species depend, abiotic oceanographic data and other spatial data.

The biotic data is continuously being collected from the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM), volunteers and other NGOs. MEPA and KAI have in fact, provided a number of training workshops to such officials from the mentioned organisations on the identification of cetaceans and turtle species, which will be discussed further below (Action E11), such that incoming data is provided as accurate as possible.

As detailed above, MEPA through the excellent networking established with BLM, has managed to gather data in relation to cetaceans and turtles sightings gathered during their surveying for sea-birds in their project: LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project.

Other biotic data is also needed for this project, which data was decided to be gathered from specialised organisations or entities. A direct order and justification for issuing a direct order and to collect such data was drafted in the beginning of the project (Annex 7.2.2.1). Once finalised, it was discussed internally to determine the specific expert who could provide the necessary data. Dr Adriana Vella, form UOM, was contacted and it was agreed that she would provide us with the data. Following the necessary approvals, a contract with Dr Vella was drafted as per MEPA's normal templates and procedures. Nevertheless, the process was halted since Dr Vella kept notifying of her unavailability. Furthermore she did not agree with the standard contract which, normally issued by MEPA in for such Direct Orders. Following the internal approvals of the Direct Order, it was sent for higher approval and the Attorney General (AG) did not approve that public funds are given to University employees (Annex 7.2.2.5). This led to the cancellation of the direct order.

Following the steering committee of the 23rd of April 2014 (Annex 7.1.4.3), it was decided that data would be gathered directly from fishermen and other stakeholders through a process of consultation to be lead by an expert in the field. Initially, this was chosen to be the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA). However, following various months of waiting for the meetings, having initiated this process back in February 2014, and continued till September 2014, the coordinating beneficiary together with the endorsements of the associated beneficiaries, decided to instead contact the fisheries cooperatives directly. The first meeting with these representatives was done on the 4th September 2014 to discuss the logistics of the gathering of biotic oceanographic data. The fishing cooperatives agreed that they are interested to collaborate and they would gladly collect the necessary remaining data from the fishermen who are members of their respective cooperatives. Thus, it was decided that a new DO to collect this biotic data was to be drafted between MEPA and the fishing cooperatives. The terms of reference for this DO are in the process of being drafted and

currently are under discussion for internal approval. A new simpler sighting form and a species identification key chart will be produced and provided to the fishing cooperatives for forwarding to the fishermen to collect the necessary information. All sightings will thus be incorporated in this 'new' sighting form, which will also include the species identification keys.

With regards to the collection of abiotic data, a Direct Order (DO) and justification was drafted by the coordinating beneficiary to collect such data from Dr Aldo Drago (Annex 7.2.2.2.). The DO for physical oceanography was eventually sent for higher endorsement following discussions by the Procurement Team of the coordinating beneficiary with the AG. However, as mentioned before, the AG did not approve any public funds to individual University employees through a direct order (Annex 7.2.2.5). As a result, this direct order was cancelled and another direct order was re-drafted directly with UOM instead of with the expert as per guidance from the same AG. A meeting was held between MEPA, KAI and UOM on the 22nd of August 2014 (Annex 7.1.4.1), whereby these entities discussed and agreed on the remaining data needed for the project in connection with relevant abiotic oceanographic data. Following this meeting, and various negotiations and discussions in September 2014, a final meeting was held between MEPA officials and officials from UOM (24th September 2014) to finalise the administrative details of the new draft of the direct order DO (Annex 7.2.2.3). The direct order and related justification for such a direct order were approved by the UOM, higher MEPA officials and eventually by the Ministry of Finance on the 5th of November 2014 (Annex 7.2.2.4) and a contract was drafted and sent to the relevant parties to be signed.

5.1.2 Action A2 - Create multilayer GIS maps with available data and model potential hot spots

Planning and preparatory work started in November 2012. Through KAI (who provided knowledge from their area) the main prey species for the bottlenose dolphin and the common dolphin were identified. Although prey species might vary slightly in different sub-regions in the Mediterranean, this was quite good groundwork. The Fisheries Department was consulted with regards to important spawning or nursery areas for such fish species and which might overlap with hotspots for cetaceans. The Department provided us with a review of data from the 2003-2008 Medits Survey data which indicates that there is an important area for hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), this being an important prey species for the bottlenose dolphin, in the South-East region (and to a lesser extent in the North-East region) of Malta within the 25 nautical mile. The hydrographic data of the Sicilian straits, which were attached in the inception report shows which is contributing to possible potential 'prey' hot spots which might point out to hot spots of interest to this project.

Maps have already been produced for a number of sightings reported by volunteers, others sea-users & NGOs, which maps were provided in the inception report. A further map (Annex 7.2.3.8) showing preferred sites (like hotspots) for cetaceans from the BLM data (database in Annex 7.2.4) is also appended with this report.

As already indicated marine spatial planning data maps have been collected with data related to marine protected areas, bunkering sites, fish farms, marine harbours and other relevant information. This data will be used in conjunction with the maps above to identify potential

hot spots relevant to these areas. A sample of these maps was provided in the LIFE+MIGRATE Inception Report in Annex 7.3.7.

In addition, KAI have produced maps of encounter rate of *Caretta caretta* and *Tursiops truncatus* which are based on the first projections of preliminary data from the 2013 boat based surveys. These will be discussed further below in Action A3 (Annex 7.2.3.1 and Annex 7.2.3.2.).

Further maps will be produced and elaborated following further information provided through A1 DOs and through provision of data from A3. These actions will provide sufficient data for comparison which would be eventually mapped. Therefore, once these data become available further GIS experts will help out with the inputting, structuring, analysis and output of such maps. These maps should ideally provide an idea of potential hotspots for these marine species under study and eventually lead to Action A4.

5.1.3 Action A3 – Boat-based observations

This action was under KAI Marine Service's responsibility involving collection of data through boat-based observations. These surveys took place over 6 months in 2013 and 2014 (with a total of 1.000 hours on effort) covering the entire project area (over 5.500 nautical miles). The methodology for data collection and analysis has been based on previous LIFE projects, such as LIFE 07/NAT/E/000732 INDEMARES, SCANS II and LIFE 02 NAT/E/8610 Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in Murcia and Andalusia, in order to allow comparative analysis and enhance NATURA 2000 networking.

An assessment of the Conservation Status of the bottlenose dolphin and loggerhead turtle is being assessed by KAI as well as identification of relevant foraging, migration and reproduction habitats in Maltese waters. This assessment includes a study of abundance, distribution, level of residence and home range in the different areas, and use of the habitat in relation with the oceanographic and anthropogenic parameters. Results of action A3 are currently being analysed to provide a baseline for the management of risk and for the future monitoring as specified in the NATURA 2000 Guidelines of Action E14.

The survey of 2013 covered some 2,000 nautical miles under acoustic and visual survey effort, and the survey of 2014 which was concluded in September 2014 provide a similar data set. The analysis should not only provide a very clear picture of the abundance and distribution of cetaceans and sea turtles in Malta, but also should allow for comparisons with other NATURA 2000 sites as for instance the Alboran Island (ES 6110015), which has also been identified and monitored by the KAI Marine Services team.

The survey was designed and adjusted to the requirements of statistical analysis. The main goal of the survey design is to ensure a homogenous coverage adapted to a research vessel travelling at a speed of 6.5 knots. With observer platforms with a height of eye of 2.5 and 12 meters. The survey area selected was slightly larger than the Maltese fisheries conservation zone and was covered by grids totalling 12 nautical miles of transects (marked in blue in Annex 7.2.3.3). For the visual survey, the research area was divided into quadrats of 1km and 10kms resolutions. Total cetacean species encounter rate, and *Caretta caretta* encounter rate will be calculated for each quadrat, in both resolutions. The encounter rate will be calculated

as: $(n/\text{Eff}) \times 100$, where n/Eff is the number of sightings per effort (km) for every 100 kms covered.

In order to accomplish the action goals, KAI Marine Services made the following activities:

- Staff calls and selections;
- Survey vessel call and selection;
- Coordination with actions A1, A2 and other bibliographic Revisions for the execution of the scientific survey ;
- Equipment selection and acquisition (RHIB, cameras, binoculars, hydrophones, liquid Nitrogen flask, biopsy sampling equipment, computers and IT equipment, turtle pitt tags and remote tracking tags);
- Survey design and preparation of equipment and software;
- Coordination with oceanographic remote sensing platforms (e.g. MYOCEAN and SOCIB);
- Preparation of training materials;
- Preparation of survey books and tables;
- Development of databases;
- Analysis of available data;
- Dissemination of work (blog and newsletter publications, scientific poster and articles); and
- Reporting.

Nature permits (Annexes 7.2.11.1 and 7.2.11.2) for research on protected species were processed and granted in time for both 2013 and 2014 boat-based survey by MEPA. Meetings were also held with the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Department in connection with the animal welfare permits (Annexes 7.2.11.3 and 7.2.11.4), with KAI also attending these meetings to facilitate the explanations for the handling and the methodology to be employed on these animals. MSDEC also had to intervene to facilitate the obtaining of these permits.

The call for the research ship in 2013 was drafted by KAI with MEPA's assistance to ensure that it abides with the common provisions and to adapt it to a formal and official style as per other MEPA calls. The call was issued on the 22nd April with submissions of calls being accepted until the end of 10th May. A number of quotes were submitted, however, due to the fact that the vessel had to be kept on hold following the termination issues and since MEPA needed time to procure the additional funding needed for KAI's inability to fund their initial total share in the project. KAI informed through an email that most of the boats which quoted did not remain available for chartering for this survey which then had to be postponed to a later date. The final contract was signed with the Catamaran Menorca and the survey of 2013 was conducted with the catamaran *Aurora Boreal* and a rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) (Annex 7.2.5), which was the tender to the main vessel. KAI informed that both vessels proved to be adequate for the work to be conducted, equipped with solar panels and a recycling system, which proved also to be a cost-efficient vessel for the survey with a very low consumption in fuel.

The call for the crew personnel were issued by KAI on the 12th December 2012 and were closed by the 26th December 2012 following review of the proposals by KAI. The selection was then approved by the KAI Team and the following persons were appointed:

- Ana Tejedor
- Pilar Zorzo
- Ricardo Sagarminaga
- Natacha Aguilar
- Jose Antonio Fayos
- Hanna Khufus
- Bruno Claro

In addition, the following KAI Assistances were part of the survey:

- Marga Roldan
- Nacho Rodriguez
- Efrain Morales
- Cristel Reyes

The invited crew and volunteer programme was modified in the 2013 survey as a result of delays in the start of the survey. A total of 8 volunteers participated in the 2013 surveys and one official from MEDPAN was invited to participate as a crew member in a 7-day expedition.

In 2014 in addition to the invited crew of OCEANCARE, MEDPAN and IUCN, the survey vessel provided a platform for the film crew, as part of Action E6 and also a series of training expeditions⁸ for volunteers of Action E11.

The technical equipment necessary for the survey was purchased on time.

In 2013, the visual survey effort (Annex 7.2.3.4.) covered a total of 1721.4 kms (929.48 nautical miles) with sea state of less than 3 (Douglas scale). There was a high number of sightings of marine turtles (n=102), all of them of loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*. Interactions of fisheries with turtles are apparently high, as several animals were found entangled with hooks. Cetacean sightings (n=35) were identified as *Tursiops truncatus* (34.3%), *Stenella coeruleoalba* (31.4%), *Delphinus delphis* (11.4%) and *Physeter macrocephalus* (14.3%), with three sightings not identified to species level.

This data is also in line with the analysis (done by MEPA) of the previously mentioned BLM data which gave a very similar picture to this with 31.74 % bottlenose dolphin, 25.19 % common dolphin and with 43.07 % striped dolphins. Sightings data collected in 2012 by BLM may provide an indication of 'relative abundance' on a 'snapshot' basis (See annex 7.2.3.8). Based on this data set, *Stenella coeruleoalba* is the most abundant species, followed by *Tursiops truncatus* and *Delphinus delphis*. Whilst noting that longer term data would be necessary to confirm this ranking, the higher abundance of *S. coeruleoalba* in relation to *T. truncatus* reflects reported relative abundances in other central Mediterranean areas. At this stage it was not possible to compare the relative abundance of *Delphinus delphis* with its relative abundance in other Mediterranean areas. Nevertheless, the relative abundances of *S. coeruleoalba* and *T. truncatus* are deemed to be in line with natural physiographic, geographic and climatic conditions of the Mediterranean region.

⁸ Each training expeditions was over a time span of seven days.

A preliminary analysis using Kernel density function models shows that cetaceans are more likely to occur along the deepest areas of the western/north-western part of the survey area. When incorporating environmental variables in the analysis (depth and slope in 10x10 km grid), the distribution of bottlenose dolphins suggests a preference of this species for areas with a depth between 200m to 600m. Further data are required to confirm this hypothesis (Annex 7.2.3.1; Annex 7.2.3.2 and Annex 7.2.3.5).

The acoustic survey performed in 2013 occurred during 22 days, summing 236 hours of continuous sound recording. Acoustic data were collected using a 200 m long towed hydrophone array with two HP-03 broadband frequency hydrophone elements. Sound was amplified with a 2 kHz high pass filter and digitized with an analogue to digital converter at a sampling rate of 96 kHz, resulting on an approximate flat response from 2 to 45 kHz. Sound was recorded continuously as WAV files using Pam Guard software. A sampling protocol of dedicated listening stations every 30 min was carried out during the acoustic survey. Dolphin clicks and whistles were detected in 15% and 23% of these stations, respectively. Dolphins were identified visually as bottlenose dolphin, common dolphin and striped dolphin. Acoustic encounters included an unusual detection of a group of sperm whales, producing echolocation clicks and communicative codas. While shipping noise may have influenced the acoustic effective strip width of the survey, the results of the visual survey coincided with the acoustic data, showing that cetaceans were more abundant towards the west of Malta. The segregation in the number of dolphin encounters with clicks and whistles in the north and south of Malta suggests that different species of dolphins may have different areas of preference. Further analysis is required to discriminate the vocalizations of the different dolphin species (Annex 7.2.3.6 and Annex 7.2.3.7).

The first year of the LIFE-MIGRATE project strongly suggest that the abundance of *delphinids* is higher towards the west coasts of Malta and Gozo. The remarkable abundance of loggerhead turtle sightings in days with optimum sighting conditions confirms that Malta might be a critical area of the eastern Mediterranean population of this species. Further research is required to assess if the deep waters south of Malta are of importance for deep-water species such as sperm whales, or if the acoustic encounter of this species was just indicative of an occasional presence of the species in Maltese waters. Also, to assess the potential migratory passage of fin whales in winter. For full report, check Annex 7.2.6)

Concerning the 2014 scientific survey, the following points can be highlighted since the data is still being analyzed:

- The boat-based observation surveys started in July 2014 and run till the pen-ultimate week of September. An official launch of the of the 2014 boat survey was organized by MEPA together with the RMYC held on the 4th of July, whereby the Minister of the environment and the parliamentary secretary of MEPA, together with MEPA's chairman inaugurate this event. MSDEC and MEPA officials and some of KAI's team were also present. The speeches of this event can be found in Annex 7.2.7.
- The call for tenders "Vessel for LIFE+ MIGRATE Survey 2014 – Action A3" was edited in coordination with the MEPA and posted on KAI Marine Services website (as well as on the project's website) on the 21st of April 2014 of 2014 with a deadline for receiving offers till the 15th of May 2014. KAI also mailed this call to international sailing charter companies and specialised distribution lists (LISTSERV@LISTSERV.REDIRIS.ES and

marmam-bounces@lists.uvic.ca). KAI informed that a total of 6 offers were received and they carried out the evaluation themselves and on the 16th of May chose the vessel “Lady Lauren” an offer made by an Italian company SEAPROJECT. On the 11th of June 2014, KAI Marine was informed by this company that they would not conduct the work. On the 16th of June KAI Marine contacted the second most advantageous bidder according to procurement procedures (also following advise from Monitor), this is Catamaran Menorca with the vessel *Aurora Boreal* as per the previous year. The company informed positively about the availability of the vessel. More information is provided in Annex 7.2.8.

The call for the crew personnel was issued by KAI on the 22nd April 2014 which closed on the 15th May 2014 following review and evaluation of the proposals by KAI. The selection was then also approved by the KAI Team and the following persons were appointed:

- Ricardo Sagarminaga (Skipper and PI of the survey vessel)
- Joaquin Fayos (Sailor of the survey vessel)
- Ana Tejedor (survey technician)
- Bruno Claro (survey technician)

In addition, KAI has counted also on the help of several KAI Technicians, as follows :

- Natacha Aguilar;
- Salvador Sanchez;
- Pilar Zorzo;
- Loreto Villa;
- Raquel Tejedor;
- Oscar Pérez; and
- Sandra Verdugo.

The equipment required for the survey was also purchased in time following the contract modifications sent in November 2013 (Annex 7.2.9.).

The survey blog has been fully operative during both survey periods: <http://kaimarineservices.com/lifemigratesurveys/day-28-finishing-an-expedition-with-volunteers/>.

Action A3 has been developed as planned maintaining its schedule and outputs. The 30-day delay in the start of the 2013 survey was compensated with an extension of 30 days in October 2013.

Indicators for testing the performance of the action can be divided with regards to the phase of data collection and data analysis. With regards to data collection indicators are mainly in relation to survey effort:

- days of survey and mileage of transects;
- equipment used; and
- data collected.

With regards to data analysis the indicators are in relation to sample size which will affect the output of the action in terms of its use as scientific foundation for management and future monitoring of trends in the conservation status of the target species; abundance / relative abundance, distribution, photo-id catalogue, acoustic survey modelling, etc.

The action was not modified. Slight changes in the acquisition of equipment, and data collection and storage devices were made. These changes and the rationale behind them were presented in the report presented at the end of the first survey in November 2013 (Annex 7.2.9.).

Apart from the training of volunteers of E11, filming of the video of E6, invitation of key networking stakeholders and participation in the 2013 BOV Malta Boat Show, through collaboration with the NGOs OCEANCARE and FIVE GYRES, the survey conducted a series of micro plastic debris sampling in addition to macro plastic sampling.

Also increasing the scientific networking, KAI registered data on key bird species observations, and with the collaboration of University of La Laguna conducted a series of ocean noise pollution samplings and underwater noise levels in the Maltese waters. These underwater noise levels are being recorder with the SoundTrap (Ocean Instruments New Zealand), a broadband miniaturised autonomous recorder with a sampling frequency up to 288 KHz provided by the University of La Laguna (Canary Islands, Spain). This hydrophone has been deployed in strategic sampling points around the islands, with the objective of develop a marine underwater noise map and comparing natural acoustic levels around Malta with different kinds of human activities, such as marine traffic. Underwater noise, affects not only marine wildlife but also fisheries and aquaculture.

The training of E11 volunteers and work with diverse research and conservation institutions in the context of the survey should constitute a positive step towards ensuring the follow-up of a coherent monitoring of cetacean and sea turtle populations. The action moreover feeds into action E13 (NATURA 2000 Guidelines) defining the basic monitoring plan according to the process of the Scientific Committee of LIFE02NAT/E/8610. The combination of both should serve as a guide for a cost efficient monitoring plan to ensure the continuity of monitoring using as baseline the outcome of Action A3.

5.1.4 Action A4 - Map proposed pSCI's and propose to the Government of Malta

This will be finalised after the above three actions and the data analysis involved would be concluded. Thus, no work is currently being undertaken directly on this action.

5.1.5 Action D1 – Monitoring of Action E13 and E14

Action D1 is related to the monitoring of actions E13 and E14, the sectorial workshop and the NATURA 2000 Guidelines. Continuous monitoring and evaluation is critical in the process of the stakeholder communication strategy which the team of KAI takes from the LIFE02NAT/E/8610 project and the OSPAR “stakeholder communication strategy task” developed by Spain in 2008.

The Action D1 monitoring provided the feedback that readjusted the chronogram of action E14, changing from 2, 5-day workshops in 2013 and 2014, to a more gradual move from one to one meetings with stakeholders to small workshops and finally the final sectorial workshop In Autumn of 2014 which has the ultimate goal of providing a series of NATURA 2000 Guidelines that are fully understood and accepted by all stakeholders.

In April 2014, as part of this process, KAI provided MEPA with a roadmap, documents and a questionnaire for stakeholders to be disseminated under action F4. However initially no feedback was received from stakeholders and such initial lack of feedback on the roadmap could have led to a potential risk for actions E13 and E14. Eventually following further enhancement and further details in this roadmap, some feedback was received.

Action D1 terminates with the closing of the stakeholder involvement process in actions E13 and E14, and with the delivery to MEPA of the final drafts expected to be ready by the end of 2014.

The final report of Action D1 will analyse the stakeholder map and problems encountered in the stakeholder communication strategy, providing action F4 with a series of recommendations for the “after LIFE” Management Plan development.

Furthermore, it is important to highlight the following:

- Action D1’s schedule and output are on track. The key milestone of actions E13 and E14 was the sectorial workshop held from September 26 to October 4. Action D1 provided the feedback for the development of this workshop and the consultation process following up from this.
- The main indicators for this action are the stakeholder map and the stakeholder communication strategy road map.
- no significant problems have been encountered; and
- Action F4 should ensure the follow-up of management and monitoring of this Action.

5.1.6 Action F1 - Project Management

The project management has been described in detail in Chapter 4, i.e. the administrative section.

5.1.7 Action F2 – Networking with other projects

KAI and MEPA are in contact via email and phone with ACCOBAMS discussing the research plan and methodologies.

MEPA is also in contact with researchers globally and other similar past and present projects. The Project Manager is also part of the MTSG (Marine Turtle Specialist Group) and is the national focal point for ACCOBAMS, hence facilitating communication with such institutes. Most recent and updated research and methodologies are thus readily available.

KAI, as part of the LIFE+MIGRATE, has set the ground for an optimal networking, representation and outreach of the project in the relevant sectors. In fact, KAI has taken part in the following (Annex 7.2.12):

- the Scientific Committee meeting of ACCOBAMS of 2012 held in Monaco from the 13th to the 15th of November.;

- the meeting of the International working group for the loggerhead turtle in January 2013 (Madrid);
- the International Sea Turtle Symposium in February 2013 (Baltimore); whereby they presented project goals, the work conducted in the Western Mediterranean and a brief introduction to the survey work of Action A3;
- the FAO GFCM – ACCOBAMS meeting of April 2013 (Tangiers); whereby KAI presented a collaboration proposal with France and Italy in relation to cetacean and turtle interactions with fisheries;
- ACCOBAMS/GFCM agreement: A presentation for the development of a ToR on bycatch in the context of the Fisheries Sectorial workshop of action E13 was made in conjunction with France (GTMF) at the meeting of this agreement held in Tangiers (Morocco) in April 2013;
- Regional sea turtle conservation meeting with *Groupe Tortues Marines de France* in June of 2013 (Camargue); and
- the IMPAC 3 on 21-23 October 2013 in Marseille, whereby the LIFE+ Project MIGRATE was presented during the workshop on stakeholder involvement.

KAI has also done a presentation of project at workshop on spatial planning in the framework of the European Cetacean Society (Setubal 7-15 April 2013) and established communication with other relevant networking organizations.

There were also meetings relevant to LIFE+ Project MIGRATE were held with different parties at this last conference with regards to preparations of Actions E13 and E14:

- With regards to the fisheries sector a coordination meeting was held on 24/10 with representatives of MEDPAN, ACCOBAMS, FAO – GFCM, GTMF and IFREMER in order to work on the road map proposal to be presented at the Artisan Fisheries conference to the Maltese Fisheries Authority and MEPA at the end of November.
- KAI participated in the workshop on stakeholder involvement which addressed several key issues of relevance for the development of Actions E13 and E14.
- A meeting was held also with J. Levenson of the US IT company CONSERVE.IO with regards to the possibility of developing APPs as “Spotter” and “Alert” for action E11 of LIFE+ MIGRATE

The E13 workshops organized by KAI, counted with the participation of international organizations such as ACCOBAMS, RAC-SPA, REMPEC, IMO, MEDPAN, etc.

The project details were also sent to the 9th scientific committee of ACCOBAMS which met in April 2014 and wherein all the work and details of the project were outlined so as to maximise cooperation between researchers in the Mediterranean area working on these species.

The coordinating beneficiary have also established further links with the Italian Tunisian Cetacean Research project (<http://itucre.blogspot.it/>), with whom we met in a Regional Mediterranean Meeting for the MSFD. MEPA is currently discussing issues of any helping each other in any training and exchange of data, as necessary.

Recently, an invitation was sent to MEPA by ACCOBAMS to attend the Third Biennial Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries (CSMC3) in

Lebanon between the 21st and 23rd October 2014. However, MEPA could not attend this event due to dangerous political issues within the said country.

A lot of communication happened between MEPA and BirdLife Malta (BLM). Initially a MoU was drafted but later MEPA decided to write a letter of intent in view of synergies of the projects for provision of data and other resources which may be beneficial to both, in view of BLM's work on the LIFE + Seabirds Project. . Through this letter of intent, BLM has provided MEPA with data on cetaceans and turtles gathered during their sea-bird surveying projects. In return, through this project MEPA will provide sea-bird data and has provided space on the research vessel during the summer surveying MEPA also provided training on identification of cetaceans and turtles to officials from BLM.

In September 2014, MEPA had a meeting with Mr. Roberto Crosti from the *Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale* (ISPRA) to discuss networking possibilities. Another letter of intent will be drafted to cover this networking so that data gathered on cetacean and turtles by ISPRA through their platform of opportunities- ferries that they use will be exchange with data obtained from the LIFE+ MIGRATE project.

In addition, MEPA and KAI started drafting a number of peer reviewed papers, which will be presented at the European Cetacean Society (ECS) conference in Malta in March 2015 and also at the turtle conference which will be held in April 2015 in Istanbul. To date only abstracts have been drafted but full papers will eventually be written.

5.1.8 Action F3 - Audit

This project requires audit since it needs to verify that national legislation and accounting rules have been respected, as well as, certify that all costs involved respect the common provisions of LIFE+.

Terms of reference (TORs) for this independent financial auditor were compiled in accordance with the Grant Agreement, the Common Provisions, and the Guidance for Financial Management and Reporting provided by the Commission. Also, the TORs were sent to RSM Malta for further reviewing. Following internal approvals by DCS and CEO the call for quotation was drafted and issued by MEPA.

The internal reviewing of the Call for Quotations for the Provision of Independent Financial Auditing Services was eventually finalised. On the 26th of September 2014, the said Call was published as QT17/2014 on the MEPA website: <http://www.mepa.org.mt/info-quotes>, which closed on 22nd of October 2014. Apart from being published on the MEPA website, the Call was published on the following:

- the Government Gazette on the same day it was originally published (i.e. on the 26th of September 2014); and
- the Malta Independent (a local newspaper) on the 2nd October 2014.

During the Call's publishing phase, there was a clarification period between the 7th and the 10th of October. During this period, MEPA received to a number of queries, which were answered and published.

As a result, four bidders have shown their interest and submitted their proposal and bids. Table 3 shows a summary of the bidders and their financial offers.

Bidder	Financial Offer (including VAT)
PKF (Malta) & Co	€ 2,500.00
3a Certified Public Accountants	€ 3,481.00
Grant Thornton	€ 3,540.00
PricewaterhouseCoopers	€ 5,841.00

Table 3: Quotations received for auditing of the project

All bidders resulted to be technically competent with the TORs of the Call. In this respect, PKF (Malta) & Co (address: 35, Mannarino Road, Birkirkara, BKR 9080, Malta) with official firm registration number: AB/26/84/40 was selected to be the independent audit firm to start auditing the project as from the first quarter of 2015. MEPA awarded this Call of Quotations on the basis of the lowest price which was compliant with specifications.

In addition, a contract was drafted and sent to the awarded firm for signature. The contract was signed on the 24th of November 2014, and a meeting between MEPA and PKF Malta will be held in December 2014 to start the implementation of this contract.

5.1.9 Action F4 – After Life Conservation Plan

Work for this Action F4 started in January 2014 and an after-LIFE conservation plan committee was set up (Annex 7.2.10). There were various internal and an external meetings which were held to decide upon the adequate stakeholders to be chosen, which were eventually identified. These main stakeholders were chosen to sit on this committee consist mainly on institutional stakeholders who may carry out the necessary consultations with the sectors they represent. The members of the committee are the:

- Malta Tourism Authority (MTA);
- Armed Forces of Malta (AFM);
- Continental Shelf Department (CSD);
- Civil Protection Department (CPD);
- Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC);
- Ministry for Gozo (MGOZ);
- Transport Malta (TM);
- Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA); and
- Malta Environmental and Planning Authority (MEPA).

The committee is chaired by MEPA and information disseminated to stakeholders is discussed between the project partners so that there is an agreement on this issue. The main objective of this committee is to elaborate an after-LIFE conservation plan which will set out

a strategy for the continuation and development of the actions being undertaken in the project once the project has ended, to ensure that the efforts of the project continue to be effective. The Plan will explain the procedures to be followed in order for the proposed pSCIs to be designated as SACs, and the appropriate management measures required for each site in order to ensure the long-term management of the site/s and species concerned.

After the first meeting, held in January 2014 (Annex 7.2.10), it was agreed that rather than disseminating the information through face-to-face meeting, it was felt to be efficient to communicate through emails. Further information on the implementation of this action is provided in section 5.3.4 in view of the changes done in the Grant Agreement

Minor modifications in the technical actions

Technical actions which have experienced minor changes from the original Grant Agreement have been grouped together and presented in Section 5.3.4.

5.2 Dissemination actions

5.2.1. Objectives

It is important that this project be advertised so that its visibility and awareness increases with the general public. Thus, this project consists of dissemination actions which produce deliverables that are awareness-raising and educative such as the brochures, roll-up banners and the short video.

5.2.2. Dissemination: overview per activity

Each action involving dissemination processes are going to be described here under.

5.2.2.1. Action E1 – Develop project brand

The development of the project logo was outsourced by requesting three quotations, as per Government procurement rules, since the amount falls under the €2,500 threshold stipulated for getting quotes. Quotes requested from branding and marketing companies, as per details in the Table 4 below, on the 20th November 2013 and replies were received up to the 24th November 2013.

The logo created is quite attractive and eye-catching with two instantly recognizable images of these animals, hence directly linking these species, the main focus of this project and helping the public to familiarize with the project's aims, as well as learn to associate the brand with the project's aims and actions. The Conservation concept and the concrete actions that will be carried out are then transmitted via the wording used "A Wave of Hope for Marine Life".

Hence, this logo incorporates the project and what this project aims to do in apposite artwork that people will see, memorize and instantly recognize. People are more likely to remember a

company, business or project by its logo, as it is easier to remember a name through association with a picture.

This Action was expected to be developed by the end of June 2013 (as specified in the grant agreement); however, due to the importance of the use of this logo in all promotional material on this project, it was developed and concluded much earlier, in November 2012. This logo is being used on all publicity and awareness-raising tools including the website, posters, roll-up banners and all publications.

Bidder	Financial Offer (including VAT)
Steve and Co	€325.00
RightBrain	€413.00
Content House	€826.00

Table 4: Quotations received for design of project brand

Steve & Co. were selected as they were the cheapest technically compliant bidders (€325) offering a product as per specifications requested.

This logo has been used on all publicity and awareness-raising tools including the brochures, stickers, website, roll up banners and other related LIFE+MIGRATE project publications.

5.2.2.2. Action E2 – Notice-board

There was a slight modification to this action from what was written in the Grant agreement, as it was determined that roll-up banners (850 x 2000mm) would be more practical rather than fixed notice boards, since the former are more convenient, manageable and easily transportable to be displayed anywhere as necessary. These banners were initially displayed during the official Project launch and the stakeholders event (*vide* Action E4), and since then they have been used in official talks, training sessions, seminars and the boat show event which were done as per details below. Another modification was with regards to the language and the numbers: the grant agreement specified that three identical banners would be made (which was an oversight as in the description of this action, only two were mentioned); in practice the project produced two in English and one in Maltese. A banner in the Maltese language was seen particularly important for use during stakeholders' meetings, where particular categories like fishermen, who more versed with the Maltese language, would find the banner in the Maltese language more effective.

The planning and design work for these roll-up banners started in November 2012. Three roll-up banners were finalized and produced on the 10th February 2013, following a call for quotations in November & December 2012 sent to companies specified in Table 4 below. The cheapest offer of E-motion Signwork was taken up as it was technically compliant with our requirements (as per details of the call). The roll-up banners are now prominently displayed

at the premises of the Coordinating Beneficiary (one at Hexagon House, Marsa and one at St. Francis Ravelin, Floriana) and one to be displayed at the Ministry responsible for the environment (MSDEC- Marsa). All three were used for the official launch of the project held on 12th February 2013 as well as for the official talk done to the Royal Malta Yacht Club (refer to Action E11) and for the training and seminars.

One of the roll-up banners, previously displayed at Hexagon House (MEPA) was also ‘loaned’ to BOV from August to September for promotion of this project. The ‘promotion’ of this project also made use of a dummy turtle (created previous to this project but which was utilized for the present project) displayed in the foyer of the main BOV branch at St. Venera before, during and after the training seminar of the 8th August 2013, done at BOV’s premises. The dummy turtle helped to further create awareness which together with the dissemination of information on the project helped elucidate the project to a wider audience

For the boat show (26-28th September 2013) one was displayed on the boat and one in the gazebo promoting the project to boat owners present at this annual show.

These banners clearly display the project logo (Action E1), the Natura 2000 logo, the LIFE+ logo and the associate beneficiaries’ logos and the co-financier’s logos and all publicity requirements as specified in the common provisions and as stipulated by Maltese policy governing such EU funding. The banners were attractively designed and provided provide basic information about the project's aims and objectives, and the measures being taken to achieve these objectives. They draw attention to the project website, and invite interested parties to visit the website for more information and to participate as volunteers in the boat-based observations.

In 2014, it was ensured that at least one roll-up banner would be present during all events related to the LIFE+MIGRATE project. In fact, such 2014 LIFE+MIGRATE included the following:

- the number of training workshops with the volunteers, diving clubs and various organisations;
- the Action E13 sectorial workshops which were held at the Malta National Aquarium and NTM premises;
- the three LIFE+MIGRATE umbrella-dissemination events at Gnejna Bay, St. Thomas Bay and Pretty Bay; and
- the boat-based surveys inauguration day of the 4th of July 2014.

While the design and layout of these banners were carried out in-house by the Coordinating Beneficiary, they were printed and produced through external assistance following the call for quotations mentioned previously.

The call for quotation was awarded to E-motion signworks for offer the cheapest and technical compliant offer, as per Table 5.

Bidder	Financial Offer (including VAT)
Impression ltd	€435
Big Exhibits	€495

E-motion signworks	€400
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Table 5: Summary of quotations received

5.2.2.3. Action E3 - Website

A call for quotation (approved by the government) for the designing, setting up, hosting and maintaining the website for the project (Action E3) was published in January 2013 and a number of submissions were received. The chosen subcontractor was Weebie.Malta, as it offered the most technically compliant offer out of all the bidders who participated, as shown in the Table 6.

Bidder	Financial Offer (including VAT)
Key Software (CCG Software)	€900.00
Crimsonwing	€49.00 per hour (excl VAT) OR Bronze Package - €8,832 (excl VAT) OR Silver Package - €14,448 (excl VAT) OR Gold Package - €23,616 (excl VAT)
Alert Communication Ltd	€1,062.00
Media Consulta Malta Ltd	€2,080.00 per year
Weebie.Malta	€805.00
Pure Design	€1,080.00
Luke Vella	€2,680.00
M7Alpha Design Studios	€2,600.00 (total for 10 years)
Adverteyes	€53.10
Hive Info System	€120.00 per year
Cyberspace Solutions Ltd	€15.00 per hour

Table 6: Quotations received for hosting and maintaining the LIFE+ MIGRATE website

Eventually, in March 2013, a meeting was held between MEPA and the chosen subcontractor for further discussions and the new website was up and running by April 2013. A contract was eventually signed between both parties, which also included maintenance of the website for five years after the ending of the project. With regards to the payment of the website, Weebie.Malta has to be paid on a yearly basis between 2013 and 2016.

Since its initialisation, the website has been regularly maintained and updated to ensure that interested parties are kept abreast of the developments of the project. It is constantly updated by inputting new information about the project and posting publications, such as the

electronic-version brochures and e-newsletters. In addition, it is important to point out that after an internal meeting held in August 2014, there were discussions for a potential updates for the website, however this issue is still in discussion.

The last inception report reported that the total number of unique visitors since the website became active is 889, whereas the total number of hits is 83,505. From the 2013 analytics, it can be observed that between July and September 2013; the number of unique visits for the website was of about 515 and the number of hits was 39,551. This outcome can be due to fact that during these months there was the conduction of the 2013 boat-based surveys which requested volunteers.

In 2014, it seems that there was a remarkable upsurge in both the number of unique visits and hits, as can be shown in Annex 7.3.2. The number of unique visits of the website between January and November 2014 was 6,052, whereas the number of hits between the same period was 228,215. Furthermore, it can be observed that the highest number of unique visits and hits was in July 2014, with a number of 1,010 and 39,808 respectively. The reason for the result could be the same as before, i.e. due to the recruitment of the 2014 boat-based surveys.

A dedicated webpage was placed on MEPA's website to promote the said project until the official website was launched. However, this webpage is still functional as to further increase the visibility of the project. It includes some basic information about the said project for the viewers who accesses from the MEPA website directly. In this respect, this webpage was updated with adverts for volunteer recruitments whilst the boat-based observation surveys were being conducted.

Since it is believed that young people are believed to be best reached via social media, MEPA also developed a Facebook page for this project and which was not specified in the grant agreement:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Project-Migrate/358545617589181?ref=hl>.

Moreover, BOV and KAI (as well as other stakeholders like the AFM) are also providing updates on this project through their websites and social media channels:

- <https://www.bov.com/page.asp?n=newsdetails&i=10436>;
- www.kaimarineservices.com
- <https://www.facebook.com/KAI.Expeditions?ref=hl>; and
- <http://kaimarineservices.com/lifemigratesurveys>

KAI, furthermore hung up two short videos of its Actions A3 and E13;

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIDB6wH7IJ0>; and
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_MHai7ak_Q

AFM through their website and Facebook page:

- www.afm.gov.mt; and
- www.facebook.com/ArmedForcesOfMaltaafm

5.2.2.4. Action E4 – Project launch

The project launch was held on the 12th February 2013, as an earlier date was not possible due to other Ministerial commitments. The launch was expected to be held within 4 months of project start being 1st October 2012, as per excerpt from the Grant Agreement. The event was held at 15:00 at a high profile venue, the Grand Hotel Excelsior in Floriana. The event started with a welcome note by Dr Ian Stafrace, MEPA's former CEO, followed by an opening speech delivered Hon Dr Mario De Marco, former Minister for Tourism, Culture and the Environment who congratulated MEPA and its partners for securing funding for this project, while Hon. Dr De Marco highlighted the importance of this project, particularly for the conservation of biodiversity. The project details were then introduced by Ms Carmen Mifsud, Project Manager, within MEPA, who gave an overview of what the project entails. This was followed by a short speech by Ms Vanessa Macdonald, Head Media and Community Relations at BOV, who are acting as a co-financier in this project.

A session for questions from the panel and the media present followed with the media showing a lot of interest in this project. After a short break, the event resumed with a presentation entitled 'Stakeholders Role in the project: Queries and Discussions', where stakeholders had the opportunity to get a better understanding of this project, their role in it and how they can be of contribution.

The stakeholders session event was attended by over 15 people from an audience of 20 people who attended the launch (from over 133 who were invited, in total) by the Ministry for Tourism, the Environment and Culture as the responsible partner for this action, included representatives of public & government entities, NGOs as well as the private sector and other relevant stakeholders. The details of the list of attendees and stakeholders were already displayed in the Inception report. Low turn out was mainly because this event coincided with an electoral campaign held in March, but nonetheless this event was still covered by media as listed in Table 7.

Date	Media	Title
13-Feb-13	Newspaper	The Times of Malta
13-Feb-12	TV	Net TV

Table 7: Media coverage for Action E4

Such coverage resulted in information shots which provide a start for both attendees as well as the general public to create interest in this project so as to seek more information. This resulted in an audience which was clearly more aware about these species and the need for Natura 2000 sites to protect them and what kind of work was planned to be undertaken through this EU Funded project so as to protect our environment.

Information about the project was also disseminated through an information press release & flash news issued by MEPA and other information on marine issues and the marine species in question (marine turtles and cetaceans) which were displayed at the entrance and distributed to the attendees during this event. The project information was printed on 3 roll-up banners, produced through Action E2 and which were placed at the entrance of the hall and inside the conference room.

A previous launch had been held on the 25th July 2012, when MEPA received official notification that the project was chosen by the EU Commission for LIFE+ funding and this was extensively covered by the Media.

5.2.2.5. Action E5 – E-Newsletter

The e-newsletter is necessary to ensure a continued interest in the project. It will serve as a reminder to visit the website, providing brief updates about the progress of the project, helping the project to keep in touch with interested parties and volunteers. Preparations for this action started in March 2013 and it was ensured that every e-newsletter which was issued was sent to all the invitees and stakeholders of the project launch. Later on, all the volunteers who registered to date and all the environment and planning stakeholders of MEPA were subscribed to receive the LIFE+ MIGRATE e-newsletter. Thus, at present, the list of the subscribers for the newsletters amount to a total of 1,599 (Annex 7.3.3.1.) and they are categorized into three specific categories which are as follows:

Stakeholders;

volunteers who applied through website (both MEPA and project website); and

volunteers who applied through the boat fair (mentioned further below in Section 5.2.2.11).

Till the end of November 2014, six newsletters have been issued publicly as follows:

- Newsletter Issue 1 (2nd quarter 2013): This first newsletter gave an introductory overview of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project, along with its aims and additional information with regards to the partners collaborating in the project. It also provided scientific details about the primary marine species under study in this project: the loggerhead turtles and the bottlenose dolphin (Annex 7.3.3.2.). Link: <http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/life-migrate-newsletter-no-1/>.
- Newsletter Issue 2 (3rd Quarter 2013): This issue gave a detailed description about KAI Marine Services and their role as partners in this project. It also gave a detailed description about the methodology employed in this survey as well as the oasis experiment which KAI were also conducting in parallel with this project (Annex 7.3.3.3.). Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/life-migrate-newsletter_no2/.
- Newsletter Issue 3 (4th Quarter 2013): the third issue of the newsletter was published. This issue gave an account of the boat-based survey since this had just been concluded and hence we wished to update the subscribers with the events on-board and any exciting encounters KAI had made. It also provided some basic information about the striped dolphin and sperm whale, in view of the encounters that KAI had with these mentioned marine species (Annex 7.3.3.4.). Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/life-migrate-newsletter_no3/.
- Newsletter Issue 4 (4th Quarter 2013): The forth issue provided further updates on the 2013 boat surveys and general information about other deliverables of the project which were finalized such as the logo and the roll-up banners. There was also a description of the boat show event which happened in September 2013 enabled by BOV and which gave an

added exposure of the project and of the survey boat to the people interested in boats and/or attending this event with the intention of buying a boat. A detailed description on the common dolphin, the fin whale and the green turtle were also included in this issue (Annex 7.3.3.5.). Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/life-migrate-newsletter_no4/.

- Newsletter Issue 5 (1st quarter 2014): Newsletter Issue 5 was published in 1st quarter 2014. This newsletter gave an overview of the on-going actions of the project. It also gave an overview of the production of a number of promotional items like polo shirts and caps. As part of the updates on species encountered and general knowledge provided, the 5th issue gave a description of the Risso's dolphin and the long finned pilot whale, also because the former species had been sighted a number of times by some volunteers. This issue also gave a description of the role of BOV, as the co-financiers in the project (Annex 7.3.3.6.). Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/life-migrate-newsletter_no5/.
- Newsletter Issue 6 (3rd quarter 2014): This sixth issue gave a brief overview of the implementation of various actions following from the latest newsletter publication. This included the production of polo-shirts, caps, brochures and stickers as promotional items developed through this project and the second official Ministerial launch of the 2014 boat-based observation surveys. This issue also provided information about the Cuvier's beaked whale and the leatherback turtle, two species which have had not been previously discussed in preceding newsletters, but which merited some attention since they have been recorded in Maltese waters (Annex 7.3.3.7.). Link: http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/life-migrate-newsletter_no6-2/.

5.2.2.6. Action E6 – Short Video

Action E6 was initially intended to start in the last quarter of 2012 to be finalised by the second quarter of 2013. It was decided to issue the video towards the end of the project, in 2015, beginning of 2016, to assist in the dissemination of the results of this project.

In the mean time, other video footages were produced during the year (2013 & 2014) also for E9 and which had the intention of gathering more volunteers and introducing the project to the public. In these videos the website as well as the call for volunteers, were referred to, these being the primary aims of the video described in E6. Thus the aims of action E6 with regards to volunteers were already attained through such video footages. They were done for the 'Malta u lil hinn Minnha' award-winning TV series, a program aired on TVM (Public Broadcasting Services) on Sunday morning and repeated thereafter at different time of the day on different channels (TVM, TVM2). They were included as an E9 Action (feature on local popular media), however, as stated fulfilled the primary aims of the E6 Video. These video features were aired on the 18th December 2013 and on the 9th June 2013 and one of them featured the Project Manager, filmed on the 21st May 2013, giving the training presentation to AFM, hence instigating further the interest from volunteers. In both instances, together with the video footage about the training and details on the project, we also informed about the need for volunteers and the project's website for those who wished to subscribe. Thus, MEPA felt that it provided good publicity for the project through such media already and the need to revert the focus to disseminate the results through a video footage rather than repeating another video footage with such issues, since the aims for volunteers had already been

reached. Following this notification to the Commission, they replied that the video should be finalised by autumn 2014.

A tender was issued so that the selected subcontractor could join in the 2014 boat-based observation surveys and record footage of species in question, the survey methods and potential areas found such that good promotion of the project and its results can happen at the end of the project. This tender was issued as T02/2014 on the MEPA website and the Government Gazette on the 14th of March 2014 and closed on the 9th of April 2014. It was also publicized on local newspapers (the Malta Independent on Sunday) on the 16th March. Throughout the publishing phase of the said tender, there was a clarification period between the 26th and the 28th of March 2014, whereby all queries in relation to the subject of the tender was answered.

On the 8th of May 2014, Mediacoop was chosen and following his acceptance [price-€7,994.50 (including VAT)] a contract between them and MEPA was signed on the 6th June 2014.

On the 18th of June 2014, a meeting was done with Mediacoop to discuss on how to proceed with the production of the short video and in what issues MEPA could help with regards to interview needed and other material to finalise this video. In this meeting, Mediacoop described briefly how they intended to progress and as per requirements of the tender sent a rough idea of the storyboard by the 2nd week of July. The storyboard was reviewed by MEPA, however it was not up to what was being expected and a decision was taken to await further updates and information.

MEPA introduced Mediacoop to KAI to enable cooperation with regards to the filming of the boat-based surveys. Mediacoop joined KAI's expeditions in September 2014 following various failed attempts which were cancelled either due to bad weather or unavailability of personnel.

The contractor contacted MEPA with a list of tentative dates for filming the interviews with the project management team and the text of the script for this video.

The filming of the video involved:

- video footages of the boat-based surveys being conducted;
- interviewing the members who took part in the LIFE+MIGRATE surveys ; and
- a number of footages showing marine turtles and cetaceans which were encountered during the said boat-based surveys.

5.2.2.7. Action E7 - Brochures

Planning and design of the official LIFE+MIGRATE project brochures started in January 2013 and finalized from the textual & design point of view. In view of large amounts of brochures to be produced, the printing had to be outsourced through a tender, to follow procurement regulations, and hence the printing and production of the brochures for this Action had to be done through a tender amalgamated with other deliverables for Actions E10

and E11, to avoid further procurement delays with single tenders, increasing the efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

The tender T12/2013 was published on the 29th November 2013 on the MEPA website and the Government Gazette on the same day after approval by the Chairman and subsequently by Principle Permanent Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister (PPS at OPM). This tender eventually closed on the 20th December 2013 and it had a clarification period between the 6th and 12th December 2014. The budget available for this contract was € 43,000 and 2 bids were received, as per Table 8.

Bidder	Financial Offer (including VAT)
Gutenberg Press Ltd.	€65,978.00
Mompalao Trading Ltd.	€18,205.50

Table 8: Quotations received for printing of brochures and purchasing of the promotional items

The bid from Gutenberg Press Ltd. was rejected at the financial evaluation stage on the grounds that the offer presented was way over the maximum budget stipulated for this call for tender and even though, the other tenderer's offer was within the threshold, it was administratively non-compliant since only the first page of the Tender Form was submitted. On 30th January 2014, this tender thus had to be declared cancelled following the internal approval systems.

Following the cancellation of this tender procedure, and the closure of the appeals period, MEPA re-checked the technical offer presented by Mompalao Trading Ltd., which would have otherwise been technically compliant as requested in the issued tender document.

A decision was taken by the DCS, approved by Chairman and later CEO to issue a direct order with Mompalao on the basis that it was technically compliant and since re-issuing another tender would have implied in further delays of the project. Following the internal approvals this direct order was then approved by the PPS at OPM.

The English version brochures were sent for printing in April 2014 and 50,000 copies of this version were ready by May 2014. In parallel, the text of the brochures was translated to Maltese, which brochures were eventually sent for printing and another 25,000 copies were available by June 2014. A copy of both English and Maltese versions of the brochures can be found in Annex 7.3.4.1 and Annex 7.3.4.2 respectively.

In the meantime, whilst MEPA was awaiting the above mentioned procedure for issuing a tender to produce these brochures, it has cooperated with BOV, the project's co-financier, to create an attractive volunteer appealing brochure (depicting dolphins) to invite volunteers to this project. This brochure was disseminated throughout all BOV branches in Malta as well as through MEPA's reception offices after April 2013. This leaflet still achieved the aims of the brochures (before they were produced) and helped to attract and generate interest amongst the public for this project. It also contained reference to the project's website and hence motivated the people to sign up as volunteers. These brochures were and are still being disseminated, along with the official project brochures.

A number of brochures were observed to contain some print magenta stains, which rendered the brochure visibly inappropriate. A statistically valid number of random samples of these

brochures had been examined from each box to check the extent of the problem. This took quite some time, but fortunately, it resulted that only very few brochures were actually printed with damages and hence in September 2014, MEPA verified that this tender was completed.

The brochures were disseminated in a number of LIFE+MIGRATE related event, such as:

- the Action A3 boat based surveys inauguration day;
- the numerous Action E11 training workshops;
- the Action E10 project awareness events; and
- the Action E13 sectorial workshops.

They were even disseminated in various turtle-release events hosted by Nature Trust Malta (NTM), and in which MEPA had collaborated.

In addition, a number of these brochures were also provided to a number of entities in order to be distributed within their premises; which entities are the following:

- Malta Tourism Authority;
- Armed Forces of Malta;
- Bank of Valletta;
- Birzebbuga local council;
- Marsaskala local council; and
- Mgarr local council.

The electronic versions of both the Maltese and the English version of the brochures were produced and uploaded on the project website (Annex 7.3.4.3. and Annex 7.3.4.4.). One can easily access these electronic brochures in the following link: <http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/life-project-migrate-identification-brochure/>.

According to the grant agreement, a Spanish electronic version of this brochure is expected to be produced along with the other languages. It was agreed that quotes for the Spanish translation would be sent by public relations office of the coordinating beneficiary to three specific and relevant service providers. It is envisaged that the Spanish version of this brochure would be ready by the second quarter of 2015.

5.2.2.8 Action E8 – Layman’s report

The Terms of reference for issuing a tender for the publishing of the Layman's report are being discussed with the PR office and with Management. Some ideas for what is to be included in this report are already being discussed and an initial structure has already been made. The project’s aims and main actions are already included however MEPA is currently awaiting material on the actual results of the surveys carried out by KAI for actions A3 and the seminars proceedings for E13. Lessons learnt from this project as well as from the project LIFE02NAT/E/8610 which Action A3, E13 and E14 have followed closely will also be included. The design and layout is also being discussed internally with the PR office of MEPA.

5.2.2.9 Action E9 – Feature on local popular media

From its beginning in the last quarter of 2012 (October 2012) and the submission of this mid-term report, the project featured in many local as well as regional popular media including television, radio, and various articles in local newspapers and local and regional magazines. The features were done on a more frequent basis than the required quarterly basis stipulated in the grant agreement.

Table 9 summarises the features on local media from the project’s initiation until the publication of the inception report.

Date	Media	Title	Quarter
4th December 2012 (footage) 18th December 2012 (aired) & 17th February 2013	TV	‘Malta u l’hinn Minnha’ - Sunday program	IV (2012)
12th February 2013	Newspaper and Press releases	Newsflash re project (see E4)	I (2013)
12th February 2013	TV	NET TV: Launch of project – interview with Project Manager (see E4)	I (2013)
13th February 2013	Newspaper- The Times of Malta	‘Major study of Dolphins and Turtles’	I (2013)
March 13	Article in Magazine- ‘Growing up’	‘ <i>Growing up in Malta</i> ’ by Ms. Vanessa MacDonald	I (2013)
March-April 2013	Magazine	Growing up Magazine	I (2013)
1-Mar-13	Talk at Life_ Information Session	The EU Life+ Migrate Project	I (2013)
17th Apr 2013	Talk at RMYB for annual boat race	‘Round the Islands- Malta Race’	II (2013)
18th Apr 2013	Press release by BOV	‘16 boats for BOV Round the Islands 2013’	II (2013)
22nd Apr 2013	Radio	‘ <i>Familja waħda</i> ’ (one family) Radju Malta (93.7MHZ-FM)	II (2013)
21th May 2013 (aired on 9th June & 23rd June 13)	TV	‘ <i>Malta u l’hinn Minnha</i> ’ - Sunday program – Filming training to AFM	II (2013)
30th May 2013	Newspaper Article	Outlook (Journal) - included with Times Newspaper – following training session of AFM- – ‘ <i>Maritime Squadron Personnel receive intensive training in marine species recognition</i> ’	II (2013)
29th July 2013	Radio	Radio program (Radju Malta-	III (2013)

		'Familja Wahda'), wherein we gave further information and updates on the project and alerted the public about the potential for joining this project as volunteers	
August 2013	Article in Magazine	'Engineering Today', issue number 46 which is published three to four times a year- <i>'All hands on Deck to safeguard our Marine Heritage'</i>	III (2013)
8 th August 2013	Press release by BOV	'Sea Users briefed on the Life+ Migrate project and get training on the identification of dolphin and turtle species'	III (2013)
18 th August 2013	Newspaper article- Sunday Times	'Dolphin and Turtle Identification Project Launched'	III (2013)
18 th August 2013	Newspaper article- Malta Today	'BOV Support MEPA Project for Dolphins and Turtles'	III (2013)
18 th August 2013	Newspaper article- Malta Independent	'Sea Users briefed on the Life+ Migrate project'	III (2013)

Table 9: LIFE+ MIGRATE media coverage between initiation of the project till the third quarter of 2013

From the inception report until this midterm report, the Project has been featured on other various media as per Table 9.

Date	Media	Title	Quarter
2 nd Sept 2013	PBS – interview by Ms. Sylvana Debono	1 Million to study migratory species on the news of TVM (Annex 7.3.5.1). This video was not saved on a DVD since PBS did not have a back up of this footage.	III 2013
10 th December 2013	Newspaper article	Project MIGRATE (Annex 7.3.5.2).	IV (2013)
16 th December 2013	Radio	Radju Malta – Familja Wahda - LIFE+MIGRATE Project (Annex 7.3.5.3).	IV (2013)
11 th February 2014	MedPan article: regional dissemination to all Marine protected areas managers and	The EU LIFE+MIGRATE Project (Annex 7.3.5.4).	I (2014)

	interested officials in MPAs		
13 th March 2014	TV & Script	Script & CD for <i>Malta u l'hinn minnha</i> which was aired in April 2014 (Annex 7.3.5.5.). This was aired in 29th June 2014.	I (2014)
April 2014	Article in Magazine	Article in AZURE – Diving and Water sports in Malta and Gozo Issue 5 “Journey of Life” (Annex 7.3.5.6.).	II (2014)
30 th April 2014	Presentation – Event hosted by MTA	The presentation was about the project, but mainly focusing on cetaceans (the presentations annexed as 7.3.2.3a and 7.3.2.3b in the inception report were the ones which were shown in this event). (Annex 7.3.5.7.)	II 2014
4 th July 2014	Newspaper article – The Times of Malta (online)	Study on bottlenose dolphin and loggerhead turtle needs volunteers (Annex 7.3.5.8.)	III (2014)
4 th July 2014	TV	TVM News – The launch of the boat-based observation surveys (Annex 7.3.5.9.).	III (2014)
5 th July 2014	TV	Smash - The launch of boat-based observation surveys (Annex 7.3.5.9.)	III (2014)
5 th July 2014	Newspaper article-The Times of Malta	Malta is unique for migratory species (Annex 7.3.5.10.)	III (2014)
7 th July 2014	Press Release by MEPA	LIFE + Project Migrate (Annex 7.3.5.11.)	III (2014)
7 th July 2014	Newspaper article-Orizzont	<i>Proġett għall-konservazzjoni tad-denfil ta' geddumu qasir u l-fekruna tal-baħar</i> (A project for the conservation of the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle) (Annex 7.3.5.12.).	III (2014)

14 th July 2014	Radio	Radju Malta2 - LIFE+MIGRATE Project (Annex 7.3.5.13).	III (2014)
15 th July 2014	Press Release by BOV	Marine information sessions on cetaceans and turtles (Annex 7.3.5.14.).	III (2014)
20 th July 2014	Newspaper article-Sunday Times of Malta	Learning to help dolphins and turtles (Annex 7.3.5.15.).	III (2014)
16 th September, 2014	Press release by MEPA	Young Children attend at Gnejna Bay Activity (Annex 7.3.5.16.).	III (2014)
16 th September, 2014	Newspaper article – The Malta Independent (online)	Children attend MEPA Gnejna Bay activity (Annex 7.3.5.17.).	III (2004)
26 th September, 2014	Facebook Status by Malta National Aquarium	Action E13 Sectorial Workshops (26/9/2014) Link: https://www.facebook.com/maltanationalaquarium/posts/708344235913779 (Annex 7.3.5.18.)	III (2014)
8 th October 2014	Radio session	Radju Maria – Minn Lenti Differenti - interview (LIFE+MIGRATE and marine ecosystem) which eventually aired on the 6 th of November (Annex 7.3.5.19.)	IV (2014)
31 st October 2014	Newsletter Article – ACCOBAMS Newsletter	The LIFE+ MIGRATE Project (LIFE11 NAT/MT/1070) – An article in relation to the tasks being conducted in the LIFE+ MIGRATE project was submitted to ACCOBAMS on the 31 st of October 2014, which was suppose to be published in mid-November 2014. However, due to unforeseen events from ACCOBAMS' end, this article is envisaged to be published in December 2014 or 2015.	IV (2014)
6 th November,	Press Release by	Two loggerhead turtles get freed (The LIFE+ MIGRATE	IV (2014)

2014	NTM	project was mentioned in this press release by NTM) (Annex 7.3.5.20.).	
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Table 9: LIFE+ MIGRATE media coverage between the fourth quarter of 2013 till 30th November 2014

The LIFE+MIGRATE project is envisaged to be featured on other local and regional media in the months that follow till the end of the project.

5.2.2.10 Action E10 – Advertising on local beaches

As detailed above in actions E7 and further down E11a tender was drafted and issued in November 2013 for the provision of the beach umbrellas, the stickers and LED torch key chains (Annex 7.3.6.1)⁹ which was amalgamated with the deliverables of Actions E7 and E11. All these deliverables were ensured to carry the EU co-financing statement and the logos of the Natura 2000, LIFE+, the project and the partners involved¹⁰. There was a slight delay in this Action in view of procurement procedures, as described above but these items were produced and available by May 2014.

Twenty four umbrellas and 100 stickers were given to Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) in June 2014 to display them during a beach event in Ghajn Tuffieha. The intention of this event was to raise awareness about the importance of taking care of the sea.

MEPA disseminated the rest of the umbrellas and other promotional items to the public, whilst advertising the project on a number of local beaches together with the help of the local councils in question. Email and phone call were done to set up a meeting with the following local councils:

- Mellieha (Mellieha Bay and Ghajn Tuffieha)
- Mgarr (Gnejna)
- Xaghra (Ramla Bay)
- Marsaskala (St Thomas Bay)
- Birzebbuga (Pretty Bay)

Each of the above-mentioned local councils has a bay under its jurisdiction, but only representatives from Mgarr, Marsaskala and Birzebbuga showed interest by attending the meetings which was held on the 7th of August 2014. Following this meeting a number of ideas for the dissemination of these items were discussed and each representative needed to discuss such issues with their respective local council colleagues and majors before commitment (Annex 7.3.6.2).

In view of such need of internal approvals by the councils, this issue also took some time. The Mgarr local council came up with an idea to help organise and collaborate with MEPA in an

⁹ Stickers and LED torch key chains have been made instead of adhesive grommets, as per Grant Agreement which will be described in more detail hereunder.

¹⁰ With the exception of the key chains, which only contain the logos of Natura 2000 and LIFE+.

activity at Gnejna Bay aimed for six-to-seven year old children attending the Mgarr summer school. This activity took place on the 15th September 2014 and MEPA took the opportunity to inform and update these children on marine turtles and cetaceans and on the project and they also took part in an ad-hoc small quiz to check how much information was grasped by these children. Each student was also given an umbrella, a brochure, cap, a key chain and a sticker, which were left with the school staff for later dissemination in view of safety reasons (mainly because of the umbrellas). MEPA has successfully disseminated 103 umbrellas to the said children, the summer school staff and the local council (Annex 7.3.6.3).

The local councils of Marsaskala and Birzebbuga agreed to help out in dissemination of umbrellas to the general public present at St Thomas Bay and Pretty Bay respectively, which beaches are both situated in the south of Malta. On the 20th of September 2014 two LIFE+MIGRATE events were done in which the umbrellas and other promotional materials were disseminated. One event was held at St. Thomas Bay at nine o'clock in the morning, whereby 82 umbrellas were disseminated, including 18 members of the Malta Netball Association, who happen to be present at this beach during our event (Annex 7.3.6.4). The other event at Pretty Bay occurred slightly later at noon, in which 96 umbrellas were disseminated (Annex 7.3.6.5.). There was a quite good feedback from the majority of public who were present as they showed an interest about the two migratory marine species in question.

In all beach events, MEPA also stuck a number of stickers on the bins present on these beaches. These stickers carried a message reminding the public that every bit of litter may pose a threat to the marine ecosystem, particularly to turtles which were depicted in these stickers (Annex 7.3.6.6.). In order to be attractive to the public a cartoon figure of a turtle was illustrated on the sticker stating the following quote:

*“Plastic that ends up in the sea might kill me...
be responsible of your waste.”*

5.2.2.11 Action E11 – Involvement of volunteer participants in boat-based observations

Action E11 under MEPA's remit focuses mainly on the involvement of stakeholders, such as leisure-craft owners, fishermen and other sea-farers on a voluntary basis to participate in gathering data about the two species in topic from boat-based observations.

As part of this action, adverts need to publish for the recruitment of the volunteers to take part in voluntary boat-based observations. The call for quotations for adverts for the 2013 volunteer recruitment (QT 05/2013) was issued on MEPA website and government gazette on the 21st June 2013 and closed on 8th July 2013. Likewise, the call for quotations for issuing the 2014 newspaper adverts (QT 05/2014) was published on the same two media of the 28th February 2014 and eventually closed on the 26th March 2014. In both instances, both calls underwent a higher approval procedure by the unit management, public relations team, Chairman, CEO and subsequently by PPS at OPM. As a result of this approval system and due to some public procurement issues, the call for the 2013 adverts had to be issued late.

Two bidders participated and the cheapest technically compliant offer (which is still slightly over the stipulated €6,000 earmarked for this call, at 6384.30 Euros), was submitted by

Communique Creative Ltd., and thus this contractor was chosen. Communique Creative Ltd. was awarded this call following a contract. For the 2013 the design was made by the company and for 2014 took the liberty to make the design of the adverts.

New Maltese procurement regulations entered into force on the 1st July 2013 and all bidders now need to sign the new Statements on Conditions of employment and provide MEPA with the requested documents as stipulated in the form. Hence this continued to delay this Action. The contract agreement with the company in question – Communiqué Creative Ltd. was consequently signed on the 13th August and hence the adverts appeared on 4 Consecutive Sundays between:

- the 25th of August and the 15th of September in 2013 (These are already attached in the Inception report and marked as Annexes 7.2.8.a – 7.2.8.b) ; and
- the 11th of May and the 1st of June in 2014 (Annex 7.3.7.1)

These adverts appeared to be effective since a number of people showed their interest and applied to attend workshops.

Apart from the call for volunteer recruitment advertisement, this action also included a call for tender for the polo-shirts and caps (Annex 7.3.7.2). As stated before, this call for these deliverables was amalgamated in a single tender with other deliverables for Action E7 and E10 to avoid further procurement delays. Both polo shirts and caps were available in summer and were being distributed to volunteers during the activities and also in the above-mentioned certificate-giving ceremony.

It is important to point out that most of the individuals who applied for volunteers did not have sufficient knowledge to distinguish from one species to another. These workshops were coordinated by MEPA and their intention was to provide volunteers with sufficient information about the different species of cetaceans and marine turtles in the Mediterranean when providing sightings data. These training workshops consisted of some four to five hours which were split into identification of cetaceans, identification of marine turtles, species present in the Mediterranean and around the Maltese waters as well as general biological information and threats and pressures issues of relevance to such species.

KAI Marine Services also collaborated in this Action, by supporting MEPA and providing a series of documents and also by attending a few of these workshops, as can be observed in Tables 10 and 11. In fact, during one of their visits in Malta in April 2014, KAI also attended one of the training sessions and provided parts of the talks/presentations along with MEPA. Furthermore, it is important to point out that during the 2014 shipboard survey; approximately 50 volunteers of Action E11 had the opportunity to participate in a seven day survey expeditions thereby having an opportunity to gain experience and learn directly. It is important to point out that BOV and other organisations such as AFM and CPD have kindly assisted to host some training workshops at their premises, as per Tables 10 and 11.

Workshops were also addressed for specific organizations, such as the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM), the Civil Protection Department, NGOs and diving clubs in Malta These organizations are frequently out at sea at thus, they encounter a number of times with such species. It is envisaged that by the end of 2014, MEPA will have trained all the officials within the maritime squadron and the air-wing officials of the Armed Forces of Malta; as well as all the officials within the marine section of the Civil Protection Department. It can be noted from Tables 10 and 11 that until November 2014, there were 9 training workshops for

AFM & CPD and 12 training session to volunteers, NGOs and different diving clubs around Malta.

The Tables 10 and 11 below displays a summary of all the workshops done until the end of November 2014.

2013				
Date	Participants	Host Organisation(s)	Venue	No of people attending
26th April	AFM / Volunteers / BLM	MEPA	AFM	19
21st May	AFM / Volunteers / BLM	MEPA	AFM	12
8th August	Volunteers	MEPA and BOV	BOV	19
30th August	AFM / Volunteers / BLM	MEPA and KAI	AFM	26

Table 10: List of training workshops in 2013

2014				
Date	Participants	Host Organisation(s)	Venue	No of people attending
20th March	AFM	MEPA	AFM	23
27th March	CPD	MEPA	CPD	4
1st April	PDSA / Water colours diving club	MEPA	MEPA	2
7th April	CPD	MEPA	CPD	5
17th April	AFM	MEPA	AFM	10
22th April	NGOs + Diving clubs (water colours + PDSA)	MEPA and KAI	MEPA	13
24th April	ATLAM diving club	MEPA	MEPA	??
29th April	Calypso diving club	MEPA	MEPA	5
2nd June	CPD	MEPA	CPD	4
18th June	Amphibians	MEPA	BOV	8

	diving club			
11th July	Volunteer Training Workshop	MEPA and KAI	BOV	50
1st August	Volunteer Training Workshop	MEPA and KAI	MEPA	28
18th September	AFM	MEPA	AFM	14

Table 11: List of training workshops in 2014

The attendance sheets of all the volunteers who attended for the 2013 workshops are already attached as annexes in the inception report. On the other hand, the attendance sheets of the volunteer who attended the workshops in 2014 can be found in Annex 7.3.7.3. Also, Annex 7.3.7.4 displays some pictures of the training workshops.

As a token for participating and attending the training workshops, the volunteers and the other participants will be given certificate. The design of the certificate (Annex 7.3.7.5) started in 2013 and was finalised in 2014 and after a number of internal MEPA approval processes and following external approvals from the project partners. They were printed in October 2014, following a call for quotation for such printing, sent to three suppliers to print 500 certificates on golden parchment papers, as indicated in Table 12.

Supplier	Financial Bid (including VAT)
Salesian Press	€330.40
Copy Club	€200.00
Agius Printing Press	€224.20

Table 12: Quotations received for printing of certificates

Copy Club was awarded the call for quotation since it offered the cheapest bid and was technically compliant. These certificates will be distributed in two certificate-giving ceremonies. One ceremony addressed to the Maritime Squadron of the AFM officials (and also the air wing) at their premises which was done on the 15th December 2014. The date was initially set for the 6th of November 2014, however, due to an emergency situation which the AFM had, this ceremony has been postponed to the 15th of December, 2014. The other certificate-giving ceremony had to be postponed to winter as the diving clubs are normally too busy in summer with diving expeditions whilst winter is more opportune for them to hold such an event.

5.2.2.12 Action E12 – Project closure

Action E12 is expected to commence at the end of the project, i.e. in the second quarter of 2016. It will be under the remit of MSDEC, which now is the associated beneficiary which

replaced MTCE following the general elections in 2013. This action's target is to present the project and its results while promoting the conservation of the species and the co-operation between member states and the EU's prioritization on these protected species.

Action E12 is important for public relation. It will help to disseminate and publicize the results of the project and continues to seek interest in designated protected areas. It also acts as a token of appreciation of the participation and cooperation from the public and other relevant stakeholders. Thus, No action is thus required at this stage.

5.2.2.13 Action E13 – NATURA 2000 Capacity development of relevant stakeholders (institutions, fishermen and NGOs)

During the first survey of 2013, in coordination with MEPA, a series of one to one meetings were held in the context of action E13 in preparation for the 2014 sectorial workshops targeted for key stakeholders. These meetings and workshop were to target and include the main human activities which can potentially have an impact and/or influence Maltese waters (and hence on the species in question):

- Security and Safety;
- Science and Education;
- Fisheries;
- Tourism;
- Energy Development; and
- Transport.

Following the same process designed and set by the Scientific Committee of LIFE02NAT/E/8610 with regards to stakeholder involvement in NATURA 2000 management plans, an initial stakeholder map and stakeholder communication strategy were developed.

Preliminary results following analysis by KAI of the 2013 survey (action A3) were used to identify potential risks and to help in the design of the structure and the related text of the “NATURA 2000 Guidelines” document.

In 2014, KAI initiated the compilation of material and documents for the development of sectorial capacity development workshops. Additionally, tenders for external assistances services needed for the development of the workshops were also published and awarded (Annex 7.3.8.1). The external assistance tender for carrying out the technical organisation of the sectorial workshop, was awarded to Mundo Gobius, a Portuguese company with a long experience in communications projects related to nature conservation. The travel expenses of the number of speakers as well as a number of other participants was done through a travel agent appointed by KAI through a tender who took care of all the logistics of such travel.

The workshops were held between the 26th of September and the 3rd of October 2014 (excluding the weekend) in the Malta National Aquarium (with the exception of the last workshop done at NTM) with a very positive outcome by both national and international participants. These included officials from universities, e-NGOs, research organisations as well as Regional Organisations like ACCOBAMS, RAC-SPA, REMPEC, IMO, MEDPAN. Fixing the date for the fisheries sector presented a challenge (since on good days fishermen would be out at sea) and hence two fishermen committee meetings were held prior to the

formal workshops in Mgarr and Marsaxlokk by KAI. In parallel, KAI also organised a technical meeting in Mgarr after the fisheries workshop (on the 1st of October 2014) to discuss issues of concern for fishermen.

The workshops had an average number of 28 participants per day, which also included participants from KAI and MEPA. The opening session of the workshops and the sectorial workshop on Fisheries recorded the highest number of participants (35 and 34, respectively). Over the 6-day workshops, a total of 55 presentations and speeches were completed. The agenda of the workshops is attached in Annex 7.3.8.2 and the proceedings of the workshop as well as a sectorial service website (www.marinenatura2000malta.com) are expected to be completed by the end of December 2014.

Action D1 was adjusted by changing the schedule of workshops, and focusing these into “one to one” meetings in 2013 and following the initial road map of April 2014 to carry out a 6-day sectorial workshop at the end of the survey.

The main indicators for this action are:

- the stakeholder map;
- the draft N2K Guideline documents;
- the adjustment to the roadmap of April 2014, which was available at a later stage;
- the number of meetings; and
- the level of participation in the sectorial workshops.

This action is crucial for enhancing the follow-up of LIFE+ MIGRATE. Through stakeholders involvement, this also facilitates the implementation and is lined with F4 the “after LIFE Conservation plan” and will also ensure that stakeholders understand the proposed N2K sites and any measures to protect and conserve resulting from the project.

Photos of the Action E13 workshops can be found in Annex 7.3.8.4.

5.2.2.14 Action E14 – Guidelines and good practice codes for NATURA 2000

Action E14 was initiated in April of 2013 by KAI with drafts of the roadmap and initiation of management plans, guidelines, codes of conduct, best practice and recommendations of relevant frameworks. The first draft version of the guidelines was sent to fisheries section and other stakeholders including MEPA on the 21st September 2014. These guidelines, as actions D1 and E13, followed the same lines and principles as set out and as designed by the Scientific Committee of LIFE02NAT/E/8610.

Following input from the preliminary results of the 2013 survey (Action A3), as well as the outcomes from the one to one meetings of action E13, conducted during the survey period, between November 2013 and April 2014 a first draft was developed in collaboration with a team of experts of KAI, OCEANCARE, NOAA, REMPEC, and ULL. The first draft of the guidelines was produced in September 2014.

This first draft and a revised roadmap for actions E13, E14 and D1 were included in the mailing shots for Action F4 coordinated by MEPA. These drafts as soon as available were being sent and in fact in April- June 2014, the first draft road-map of Action E13 was sent.

During the survey period of 2014, KAI conducted further discussions and revised their draft versions of the document and subsequently of the Action E14 sectorial workshop. This draft working document was discussed at these meetings, initiating a stakeholders' consultation period of one month. This consultation period closed on the 6th of November 2014, with comments from MEPA, DG Fisheries, MSDEC and RAC-SPA.

Sectorial posters were produced as part of Action E14 by KAI following review and amendments suggested by MEPA and MSDEC and which were subsequently distributed during the workshops. These posters focused on a positive message to sectors inviting them to take a more active role in NATURA 2000. MEPA, MSDEC and BOV, as partners in this project were provided with packages of these posters for further distribution. A set of these posters are included in Annex 7.3.8.3.

The final draft (from KAI's end) of the NATURA 2000 Guidelines documents, the sectorial brochures and a sectorial service website (www.marinenatura2000malta.com) should be ready to provide to MEPA (for feedback) by the end of December 2014. Following comments from partners for such brochures, they will be then be finalised by KAI.

Action E14 follows the same principles as Action E13, which are as follows:

Action D1 was adjusted by changing the schedule of workshops, and focusing these into "one to one" meetings in 2013 and following the initial road map of April 2014 to carry out a 6-day sectorial workshop at the end of the survey.

The main indicators for this action are:

- the stakeholder map;
- the draft N2K Guideline documents;
- the adjustment to the roadmap of April 2014, which was available at a later stage;
- the number of meetings; and
- the level of participation in the sectorial workshops.

This action is crucial for enhancing the follow-up of LIFE+ MIGRATE. Through stakeholders involvement, this also facilitates the implementation and is lined with F4 the "after LIFE Conservation plan" and will also ensure that stakeholders understand the proposed N2K sites and any measures to protect and conserve resulting from the project.

Minor modifications in the dissemination actions

Similar to the technical actions, dissemination actions have experienced a number of slight changes from the original Grant Agreement and they have been grouped together and presented in Section 5.3.4.

5.3 Evaluation of Project Implementation

5.3.1. Evaluation of Methodology

This section will give a detailed description about the evaluation of methodological procedures which were involved this project. It can be noted that most of the actions in this project had similar methodologies.

Almost all the actions of the said project had communication, educational and public awareness (CEPA) procedures. Most of these procedures were amongst all the beneficiaries. However, there were also CEPA methods between the beneficiaries and other third parties, such as the following:

- the Monitor
- contractors;
- volunteers;
- stakeholders;
- NGOs; and
- other organisations.

As described earlier, most of the communication occurred by means of emails and telephony. The advantages of these modes of communication are that it allows a quicker communication and thus, information and updates in relation with the project could be easily sent in a lesser time. Emailing and telephony are also beneficial since they allow a cost reduction in terms of travelling and postage. However, the disadvantage about these types of communication in this the LIFE+ project seemed to be misunderstanding and misinterpretation of information, which occasionally lead to a number of problems. Thus, it is for this reason that a number of face-to-face meetings, such as steering committee and ad-hoc meetings are held as to discuss the issues and get clarifications on how to proceed.

Before any beneficiary publishes any information and documents in connection with the project, it needs to be sent to the coordinating beneficiary, it needs to undergo specific internal approval procedures. These procedures mainly involve the approval of the project and the unit manager, the chief executive officer, the public relations officers, the directorate of corporate services and the principle permanent secretary at OPM (external form Malta Environment and Planning Authority). Some examples of publications which would need all these approvals would generally include the following:

- e-newsletters;
- press releases;
- certificates;
- posters; and
- Scientific papers.

In the mean time, it is ensured that the publications shall entail all the logos of the beneficiaries and the co-financier, as well as, the logos of LIFE+, Natura 2000¹¹ and the

¹¹ As described earlier on, it needs to be ensured that the logos of LIFE+ and Natura are relatively larger than the other logos to gain more prominence.

project itself. Following the above procedures, the document or information intended for publication would be sent to the project partners for their feedback and endorsement. Once the coordinating beneficiary obtains all the necessary endorsements, the publication would be officially published.

Moreover, it is important to point out that a number of tasks in this project involved the utility of tenders or call for quotations, for external provision of services. Each tender or call for quotation generally contain a maximum quotation price with which the service provider must bid for a lower quotation price. It is important to point out that, if the maximum quotation price is:

- less than €2,500 (excluding VAT), three quotations are sent to three random service providers;
- between €2,500 and €6,000 (excluding VAT), a call for quotation or departmental tender would be needed; and
- between €6,000 and €42,000 (excluding VAT), a departmental tender only would be sufficient.

The process for issuing all the above involves similar methodologies. After they are constructed, they undergo the same internal reviewing and approval system, as discussed before. However, they would also need to go through the procurement office. Once the necessary approvals are achieved, the call or tender would be made available to the public for a time frame of three to four weeks. Within the publishing phase of the call or tender, there is a clarification period, whereby potential bidders have the opportunity to ask questions. As soon as the publishing phase ends, there is an evaluation phase to select the cheapest and most technical compliant bidder, which is followed by another internal approval system. When the bidder is selected, a contract would be drafted, reviewed, sent and signed; followed by a meeting with the selected bidder to discuss the contract in depth.

In some cases, direct orders were issued instead of issuing call for quotation or tender and this follows a similar procedure. However, a specific service provider would be contacted directly. A meeting would be set up with the service provider to negotiate a price for the type of service being provided. After the direct order is constructed, it is reviewed and approved both internally and by the service provider. Once the necessary approvals are obtained, a contract is drafted, reviewed and again, internally approved, followed by another meeting with the service provider for the signature of the contract.

This project also entails technical, financial and auditing reporting, which follow similar methodologies. They must be in accordance with the common provision of this LIFE+ project and the official template of each respective report, which is available in the 'toolkit' on the LIFE web page. Once each report is constructed, it needs to follow the same approval procedure, both internally and from all the project partners, before it is officially published.

As can be noted in the above, any type of publication needs to be reviewed and approval by all the beneficiaries involved in the project. This is an effective procedure to remove any potential oversights in the publication before being officially published. However, despite its effectiveness, this procedure can cause delays, mainly due to:

- the time taken for the reviewing; and
- temporary unavailability of certain officials collaborating in the project.

5.3.2. Comparison of results achieved against objectives

The table below gives a summary of the status of the tasks (deliverables and milestones) of the project in comparison with the actual objective proposed in the grant agreement.

Action	Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
A1	Collection of biotic and abiotic oceanographic data	<p>As per Section 5.1.1., biotic data had to be collected from Dr. Vella, which due to various reasons they failed to provide throughout the DO. Following the steering committee in April 2014, it was decided that such data had to be collected through DFA but this was also unsuccessful. Thus, it was decided that five fishing cooperatives, who accepted are to continue to gather data from the fishermen.</p> <p>According to the original timeframe (as shown in Gantt chart 1). This action had to be finalised by the second quarter of 2014. It is envisaged that action will be finished by the second quarter of 2015 (as shown in Gantt chart 2).</p>	Achieved but currently being continued to gather other necessary data	<p>MEPA has already collected data from BLM, as mentioned in Section 5.2.2.1.</p> <p>MEPA has also successfully drafted and published a contract (following a direct order) with the IOI physical oceanography at the University of Malta. Data is to be at MEPA's & KAI's end by December 2014.</p> <p>With regards to the further bioitic data, that might be needed MEPA is currently drafting a set of TORs for a direct order with five local fishing cooperatives.</p>
A2	Three draft maps	This action was foreseen to be ready by the second quarter of 2014, as per Gantt chart 1) and the deadline was extended to the second quarter of 2015.	Achieved but currently being continued to gather other necessary data	<p>MEPA has already constructed draft maps from the data provided by BLM, as per section 5.2.2.2.</p> <p>In addition, two maps showing encounter rate of <i>Caretta caretta</i> and</p>

				<p><i>Tursiops truncatus</i> which are based on the first projections of preliminary data from the 2013 boat based surveys, as per sections 5.2.2.2 and 5.2.2.3.</p> <p>Further maps will be provided in the near future with regards to other biotic and abiotic data</p>
A3	Analysis of distribution and abundance of target species	Six months of shipboard survey and analysis	Achieved but data is currently being analysed	The surveys were conducted successfully. The analyses are currently being done by KAI.
A4	Map of proposed pSCIs sent to Government and designation of Natura 2000 sites (by Government)	This action will take place between the first quarter of 2015 till the end of the project (as per gantt charts 1 and 2).	Not yet	These tasks will be done towards the end of the project and will depend on the data above to be provided by KAI following the analysis of the data of the surveys. The preparatory works for this action had to begin in the October 2014. No direct work as yet started as currently awaiting data from Action A3 and potentially further data and analysis of A1. Once data is at the coordinating beneficiary's end, this action will proceed.
D1	Monitoring of E13 and E14	Analyse sectorial context, map stakeholders, evaluate participation and provide feed back for adjusting E13 and E14	Achieved	Achieved and action closed successfully.
E1	Project brand	It is envisaged that in the near future, there will be an increase in the visibility of the project. Thus, increasing the visual exposure of the project brand.	Yes	The project logo and slogan had been successfully achieved and it is ensured that they are visible on any publication and event related to the LIFE+MIGRATE.

E2	Roll-up banners	More roll-up banners are expected to be produced as per minor modification described below. This is envisaged to take place between the 1 st and the 3 rd quarter of 2015, as per Gantt chart 2.	Yes	<p>Three rollup banners had been successfully produced and displayed and included the project's logo (Action E1), the Natura 2000 logo, the LIFE+ logo, the associate beneficiaries' logos, the co-financier's logos and all publicity requirements as specified in the common provisions and as stipulated by Maltese policy governing such EU funded projects. They also contain a description and target of the said project.</p> <p>The banners drew a large attention to the project website, and invite interested parties to visit the website for more information and to participate as volunteers in the boat-based observations.</p> <p>It has been suggested to produce more banners in relation to the After-LIFE conservation plan, with identifications keys for cetaceans and marine turtles respectively such that the dissemination and training can be more focused. This idea is currently still in discussion and will be further discussed in the next steering committee meeting.</p>
E3	Website Up and Running	It is envisaged that there will be an upgrade of the website to be more user-friendly, as per minor	On-going	<p>The website was visited regularly by people, as per Section 5.2.2.3.</p> <p>The website contains</p>

		modification described below.		<p>sufficient information on cetaceans and turtles and their habitats. It also regularly updated with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informative videos of the said species; • e-newsletters; • press releases; • a log book to report a sighting; related publications and papers; and • Photos related to the project; • Any related activity done at that time • Training sessions
E5	E-newsletters	This is an on-going process and will be finalised until the end of the project.	On-going	<p>As per Section 5.2.2.5., six e-newsletters has been successfully published and the 7th issue will be issued in December with the 8th to be issued in the beginning of January 2015.</p> <p>A large proportion of the public have subscribed to the e-newsletters, as per section 5.2.2.3, which was mainly linked with the timing of the advertisements featured on the newspapers which encouraged them to log on the project website and subscribe. It is important to point out that the most affected target group were obviously people who are computer literate. However, other groups were also targeted in view of the radio and TV media we also targeted as part of the project (refer to action E9).</p>

E6	Short Video	It is envisaged that by the end of the 1 st quarter of 2015, the video production would be ready and ready to be shown to the public to raise awareness about the two marine species in subject and their habitats.	To be finalised by January 2015	<p>During the boat-based observation surveys, several video footages had been filmed by KAI marine. These video footages include footages of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the boat vessel itself; • encounters with cetaceans and marine turtles during the conduction the surveys; and • all the related equipment in use. <p>The filming of the video also involves the interviews with a number of officials who are collaborating in the project (from KAI and MEPA) and have thus been made available on the website</p> <p>The video is currently being finalised, and it is expected to be published by the end of 2014.</p>
E7	Brochures	The English and Maltese brochures were finalised by the second quarter of 2014, as per Gantt chart 1. The Spanish brochures are envisaged to be ready by the third quarter of 2015 or earlier (as per Gantt chart 2).	Achieved , ES translation in process	<p>The brochures have been produced in English and Maltese and they provide sufficient information about the project and additional information about the different types of cetacean and marine turtle species in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>Electronic versions of the Maltese and English brochures were made and are available on the project website.</p> <p>The brochures were made available throughout a number of events and workshops related to</p>

				<p>LIFE+MIGRATE. They were also provided to BOV branches and three specific local councils (Mgarr, Birzebbuga and Marsaskala) to disseminate them to the public within their premises.</p> <p>Quotes will be sent to three specific service providers to translate from English version of the brochure to Spanish, as specified in Section 5.2.2.7.</p>
E8	Layman's report	The layman's report is envisaged to be ready and published by the end of the project.	Not yet	<p>The TORs for issuing a tender for this action have already been drafted. The general structure of this report as been formulated and MEPA has gathered and collated the relevant information and started writing initial parts for this document.</p> <p>MEPA is also currently checking the kind of information that other Maltese Life + Projects have included on such a document.</p> <p>Malta Environment and Planning Authority is currently awaiting the results of action A3 and E13 and E14 to include in this report</p>
E10	Stickers, LED torch key chains and beach umbrellas	Stickers and LED torch key chains were produced instead of adhesive grommets, as per section 5.2.2.12.	Achieved	<p>The beach umbrellas, stickers and key chains were finalised and were at MEPA's end in Summer 2014.</p> <p>As per above, the said promotional items were disseminated to the Malta</p>

				<p>Tourism Authority (MTA), local councils, volunteers, AFM officials and to the public..</p> <p>Most of these items were disseminated during training workshops and other LIFE+MIGRATE-related events.</p>
E11	Polo shirts and caps for Volunteers	The polo shirts and caps have been distributed and will continue to be distributed to the volunteers in the certificate-giving ceremonies as an additional token for attending the workshops	Achieved	<p>The deliverables are: Polo shirts, baseball caps were available as from May/June 2014.</p> <p>Till now, these items have been partially disseminated to the volunteers. However, they will continue to be disseminated during the certificate-giving ceremonies envisaged for the winter of 2015.</p>
	Certificates for Participation		Achieved	<p>The certificates have been printed.</p> <p>They have been disseminating to the AFM in December 2014 and will continue to be disseminated (to those who attended the training workshops for identification of cetacean and marine turtle species) in winter of 2015.</p>
	Recruitment and Training of Volunteers Participants (2013 and 2014)	Training workshops were also done to AFM, CPD, diving clubs and other organisations. More workshops will be done in 2015 to increase more visibility of the project and continue to update the public by refreshing the memory	On-going	<p>As per above, a total number of 18 training workshops has been until the submission of this report. More workshops are envisaged to be done in the following months.</p> <p>The training workshops have been beneficial to volunteers who participated in the boat-</p>

		of these officials trained in 2013. These workshops are envisaged to be carried out until the end of the project.		based surveys since they provide sufficient data on how to distinguish marine turtle and cetacean species from one another.
E13	Capacity development of NATURA 2000 stakeholders	On to one meetings and two 5-day sectorial workshops	Achieved	The action fulfilled its objectives, taking into consideration feedback and adjustments directed by its monitoring action D1.
E14	NATURA 2000 Guidelines + good practice codes	The sectorial posters are already finalised. The N2K guidelines, website and brochures should be ready by the end of the first quarter of 2015.	Partially Achieved	N2K Guidelines document, sectorial posters, website and brochures are the deliverables of this action.
F1	Sign of grant agreement and cooperation agreement	It is envisaged that there will be a modification in the grant agreement	Achieved	Grant agreement had been signed in 2012 Three cooperation agreements exist between the coordinating beneficiary and KAI, MSDEC and BOV respectively. These agreements were described in more detail in Section 4.
	Appoint Assistant Officer (Project management)		Achieved	There was a change in the nomenclature in view of MEPA structure and related calls. Thus, a call for Assistant Officer (Project management) was appointed. in June 2014.
F4	After-LIFE conservation plan	According to Gantt chart 1, this was envisaged to be ready by second quarter of 2015. It is now envisaged to be ready by the end of the project.	Partially Achieved	An after-LIFE conservation plan committee has been set up by MEPA, in which they are regularly updated with any publications, updates and results produced from this LIFE+ project. We are currently awaiting further analysis of results of the

				A3 surveys, the action E13 workshops and the Action E14 guidelines for further information dissemination.
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Table 13: Summary of results

5.3.3. Effectiveness of the dissemination

As observed from above, the project has a number of dissemination actions which involves tasks such as:

- organising activities and events for the dissemination of promotional material;
- giving and passing out brochures;
- providing presentations during the Action E11 and Action E13 workshops;
- featuring the project on various media; and
- Issuing e-newsletters and press releases.

All of the above carry very sufficient information and knowledge about the project and the two specific marine species under study. Thus, raising more awareness and increasing the visibility of the project.

The effectiveness of these dissemination processes was mainly visible by the positive feedback of the people after a particular workshop and/or other related event. This can also be seen from the number of hits of the project website, as described above in Section 5.2.2.3 and per Annex 7.3.2.

5.3.4. Minor modifications in the grant agreement

There have been some slight modifications in certain actions of the LIFE+MIGRATE project, which are as follows:

Technical Actions

- **Action A3**

There have been no major problems encountered required to conduct the survey adequately neither in 2013 neither in 2014. Under the category of expendable goods we must note a series of expenses related mainly to data gathering and storing (e.g. liquid Nitrogen, hard disks, computer coolers) that had not been specified in the LIFE contract (Annex 7.2.9.). However, these fall under the same category as consumables, which have seen a significant reduction due to the low consumption levels of the catamaran. Communications were also different of what initially expected and therefore a change on the partnership agreement has been issued (Annex 7.2.9.).

- **Action F4**

It was discussed that information to be disseminated was targeted to be sent at the end of each month copying all stakeholders mentioned above. The following will give a brief summary about the information disseminated, following:

- January 2014: This was the first steering committee meeting of the After-LIFE conservation plan, as discussed above. The information disseminated to the stakeholders consisted of PowerPoint presentations done by:
 - the Project Manager about the LIFE+MIGRATE project; and
 - Mr Christopher Cousin (MEPA) with regards to the importance of having a conservation plan and the need to have assistance from other third parties.
- February 2014: For the month of February 2014, the following documents were disseminated to the committee:
 - the agenda of the first steering committee meeting of the After-LIFE conservation plan;
 - a report compiled by KAI with regards to the Action A3 surveys;
 - a summary of all the actions for the website;
 - the A4 brochure produced by MEPA with the collaboration of BOV; and
 - Updates of the project which were present at that time.
- March 2014: There was no information which could be passed forward to the said committee.
- April 2014: The stakeholder communication plan produced by KAI was sent to the committee.
- May 2014: For the month of May, the committee received a provisional agenda for the Action E13 sectorial workshops which were to be held in the following September and October.
- June 2014: MEPA has distributed a document to the member of the After-LIFE committee, which document consisted of another draft of the Action E13 mentioned sectorial workshops and a roadmap for the Action E14 Natura 2000 Guidelines.
- July 2014: Two draft maps produced by KAI which displays the first projections of preliminary data of encounter rate of *Caretta caretta* and *Tursoips truncatus* from the 2013 surveys.
- August 2014: A summary about the preparations for the Action E13 sectorial workshops.
- September 2014: A summary about the continuation of the preparations for the Action E13 sectorial workshops.
- October 2014: Still waiting for the necessary data. When the data will be at the coordinating beneficiary's hand, it will be distributed to the After-LIFE committee.

- November 2014: Still waiting for the necessary data. When the data will be at the coordinating beneficiary's hand, it will be distributed to the After-LIFE committee.

It is essential to point out that KAI Marine Services has supplied MEPA with documents through actions E13 and E14 for monthly mailings to the project stakeholders, starting in April 2014 after the 1st steering committee meeting of the project.

During the summer season, work was focusing on the organisation for the sectorial workshops (Action E13) and other urgent issues. Consequently, there was a slight set back in keeping the target date, even because there was a lack of information to be communicated to the stakeholders as the results of Action A3 were not yet in hand i.e. which at the end of each month the information is distributed to committee members. However, in order to make up for this delay, communication was sent following the month of September of the progress made during the months proceeding September.

As specified in the Grant Agreement, the After Life Conservation Plan is envisaged to be produced by June 2015 and will be presented as a separate chapter in the final report, which is to be submitted in 2016.

- **Action E2**

The roll-up banners are currently in a bad state due to frequent usage and transportation and they will not fit for use until the end of the project (Annex 7.3.1.). Thus, it is being planned to produce four other banners to replace the current three banners, whereby two would be in Maltese and the other two would be in English.

The two banners in Maltese versions would be displayed at:
 the MEPA Gozo premises, to promote and increase the visibility of the project in the sister island of Gozo; and
 MSDEC premises since a large number of the Maltese public visit their premises very often and therefore, giving more visibility to the project.

On the other hand, the English versions would be given to:
 KAI, to continue to promote the project during another related events outside the Maltese Islands; and
 BOV, so that they can display it for the public in their head office and thus, creating more awareness.

In addition, the coordinating beneficiary is planning to produce four other roll-up banners which would be used during the time period of the compilation for the After-LIFE conservation plan and for the additional training workshops that are envisaged. Two of these banners would display an identification key for cetacean species and the other two, would display an identification key for marine turtles, all of which species are found around the Maltese waters.

Dissemination Actions

- **Action E3**

It has been suggested that there would be an upgrade for the website following an internal meeting. This intention for this upgrade is to make the website more user-friendly, so that it can provide the following:

- provide more visibility of the project;
- improves communication; and
- educate more the viewers about the project and the marine migratory species under study and their habitats.

- **Action E5**

Due to the numerous activities we had to do in summer 2014, in connection with the promotion of the project on the beaches, implementation of the direct order for the production of the promotional items and the logistics for the artwork of these items, organization of the launch of the boat event, the discussion and logistics of action E13, and numerous other activities, we registered some delays with regards to the publication of the sixth issue of the newsletter. MEPA is however, doing its utmost to overcome this delay and is currently working on the seventh edition of the newsletter and has already contacted two volunteers who participated in the 2014 boat-based surveys to write their experience in this survey. The seventh issues will also give a detailed description of the other events, including the promotion of the project on the beaches which included umbrella disseminations and the sticker-on-bin campaigns. As per previous newsletter, we would need the approvals from all the partners and internal approvals from MEPA's PR office and Unit Manager. The seventh newsletter is envisaged to be issued in December 2014, with the intention of issuing the eighth issue in January 2015; as per the grant agreement e-newsletters are envisaged to be published every quarter until the end of the project.

- **Action E6**

As explained above delays have been registered due to unforeseen circumstances as per above. However, we intend to finalise this video by the end of January and to this effect have also written and included an addendum to the tender document extending the delivery date from the previously set date of 4th November 2014 to beginning of February 2015.

In the meantime, a video of the boat-based surveys over the 2014 summer period produced by KAI has been uploaded on the project website. This video also served as a mean to raise public awareness about turtles and cetaceans; and at the same time increasing the level of visibility of the project until the actual LIFE+MIGRATE video is produced and published. The video can be found in the following link:

<http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/lifemigrate-kai-expeditions-malta-2014/>.

It is envisaged that once the video is finalised, it will be shown and featured on national television. The cost for this action is estimated to be approximately €15,000 which will depend on the airing time and the frequency.

Way forward: The video is expected to be finalised at most by end of January 2015 and the new time frames are as follows:

- The script is envisaged to be delivered by Mediacoop by the 15th of December 2014.
- A draft of the video is expected to be ready by the 8th of January 2015, with fine tuning to be done a bit later.
- The final version of the video should be available by the 15th of January 2015 in line and slightly before the end date recorded in the 'new' addendum for the contract.

- **Action E7**

As explained in Section 5.2.2.7, three quotes will be sent for to three particular service providers for the Spanish translation of the brochures.

In the English, hard-copy version of the brochures, the logos of Natura 2000 and LIFE+ were placed on the back side of the brochures. After the visit of the Monitor on the 30th of May 2014, it was suggested that these logos would be placed on the front cover of all version of the brochures in order to gain more prominence. As a result, it was decided that a small sticker containing these logos would be produced, printed and placed on the front side of the English versions. This seems as the best alternative to avoid waste of paper (for the production of the brochures) and additional expenses.

The English version of the brochures can be also made available on the Natura 2000 project website (which is one of the deliverables of the LIFE+ MIGRATE Action E14). English language is a universal language can be understood by many people. Thus, awareness about the project can be targeted to international citizens.

Way Forward: More brochures are expected to be disseminated to the public in the following months to continue to increase the project's visibility and simultaneously generating interest amongst the general public and sea-users.

- **Action E10**

Stickers and LED key chains were produced instead of adhesive grommets which were indicated in the grant agreement. The exact meaning of what was understood by grommets at that time could not be followed up and hence to be safe both stickers for bins and key chains were produced.

A call for polo shirts instead of t-shirts was included in the tender document since the difference in price in marginal and they are more hard-wearing.

In the coming future, MEPA intends to organise to more events in relation to LIFE+ MIGRATE, whereby umbrellas, stickers and key chains will be further disseminated. Through the dissemination of these promotional materials, MEPA intends to raise awareness about the two migratory marine species under study and their habitats.

- **Action E11**

It is felt necessary that more training workshops are done in the near future until the end of the project. This is because both the public, AFM, CPD and other sea-users continue to provide sightings data and the need was felt to continue to train these people to continue to get accurate information. Moreover the officials trained in the first year in the beginning of 2013 needs to be re-trained or a brush up needs to be provided.

5.4 Analysis of long-term benefits

5.4.1. Environmental benefits

Following the surveys conducted by KAI in 2013 and 2014 which took place over 6 months assessment is being currently made by them on the relevant foraging, migration and reproduction habitats in Maltese waters for the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle. This assessment includes a study of abundance, distribution, level of residence and home range in the different areas, and use of the habitat in relation to oceanographic and anthropogenic parameters. Through these results a baseline for the management of risks and for the future monitoring as required for the NATURA 2000 sites, will be done, part of which is already outlined in the Guidelines produced through Action E14 (please refer to Section 5.2.2.14).

From the available data to date KAI concluded that there are a high number of sightings of the loggerhead turtles (n=102) and cetacean (n=35), identified as bottlenose dolphins (34.3%), Striped dolphin (31.4%), and Common dolphin (11.4%) and Sperm whale (14.3%)

The direct conservation benefits will be if such important areas for foraging, migration and reproduction habitats (for the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle) can be directly identified and hence the process for nomination of such sites as pSCI and later as SACs and hence Natura 2000, can begin. From a first preliminary analysis done by KAI (using Kernel density function models) it has been shown that cetaceans are more likely to occur along the deepest areas of the western/north-western part of the survey area. However, it still needs to be confirmed if such areas are actually crucial for the life and reproduction of these animals as specified in article 4 of the EC Habitats Directive (and for which pSCI can be designated). As identified by KAI, when environmental variables are incorporated in the analysis, the distribution of bottlenose dolphins suggests a preference of this species for areas with a depth between 200m to 600m, however further data are required to confirm this hypothesis (Annex 7.2.3.1; Annex 7.2.3.2 and Annex 7.2.3.5).

The remarkable abundance of loggerhead turtle sightings confirms the previous indications we had that Malta might be a critical area of the eastern Mediterranean population of this species. KAI have also highlighted that further research is required to assess if the deep waters south of Malta are of importance for deep-water species such as sperm whales, or if the species encountered indicate simply an occurrence of an occasional presence of this species in Malta. Another issue is the assessment of the potential migratory passage of fin whales in winter, which has already been proven for the nearby island of Lampedusa and given the fact that Malta already has a number of records of this whale in winter and in spring (mostly in December and in April) this hypothesis is quite plausible.

Issues which are already emerging from the work done by KAI include a number of important policy implications and management measures that need to be set in place in order to conserve these species and their habitats adequately. Many of these are already specified in the guidelines currently being finalized by KAI (Action E14). One of the most important issue is the fact that many marine turtles are incidentally caught through long-line fishing and hence suggested management techniques will be having a great conservation benefit for such marine turtles. Other risks and issues identified for example underwater noise and its impact on these animals and plastic and its effect on these animals are also being addressed and will also be tackled through suggested management measures in the guidelines (action E14). Since KAI through Action A3 have also carried out an assessment of some basic noise 'baselines' levels in certain areas, this will also contribute further to the initial assessment, GES and targets (<http://www.mepa.org.mt/water-msfd-refer> to marine litter and underwater noise) for Malta since such data was not yet available for Malta previously and in order to check the favorable conservation status of cetaceans –Habitats directive (in view of noise) such baselines are also necessary.

From the acoustic results which coincided with the visual surveys, it was shown that cetaceans were more abundant towards the west of Malta. The segregation in the numbers of dolphins in the north and south of Malta suggests that different species of dolphins may have different areas of preferences, although further analysis is required to discriminate the vocalizations of the different dolphin species (Annex 7.2.3.6 and Annex 7.2.3.7).

With regards to incentives if certain areas are found to be important for cetaceans and/or turtles there can be forms of strictly managed dolphin/turtle watching events and other jobs in connection with management of such sites and/or a wardening system can also be developed further.

The training of E11 volunteers, different sea-users, conservation institutions and /or environment NGOs and the training of all the maritime squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta and of Civil Protection Department will also help set-up further good positive conservation steps and will ensure further monitoring of cetacean and sea turtle populations by these different groups. In these training workshops MEPA and KAI gave an in-depth training on species identification and also on the correct handling procedures should they encounter stranded or beached animals and hence the conservation implications of such training is direct and the long term benefits are that species which might otherwise end up dying if in difficulty at sea, will now be more prone to be appropriately saved and then their recovery will depend on the effectiveness of the rehabilitation centre.

Most of these issues have already been tackled above together with the direct environmental benefits as it is very difficult to separate the 2 issues.

As per the 7th EU Environmental Action Programme, our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience.

This Project will help built on particularly one of the three key objectives of this action Programme notably that to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital. It will also strive to deliver on the overall goal of better implementing the legislation and providing better information by improving the knowledge base as well as integrating fully the environmental requirements and considerations into other policies.

5.4.2. Long-term benefits and sustainability

As described above, the after-LIFE conservation plan is necessary for the project to have a long-term effect on the conservation of the two mentioned marine species migrating through Maltese territorial waters. The identification and proposal of sites for protection is only the first step of many for effective conservation. Once the areas have been inventoried, mapped and proposed for inclusion in the Nature 2000 network, they will need to be included in national legislation as SACs and eventually managed using the most appropriate management measures for each site. The After-LIFE conservation plan will help to identify these management measures, and plan out the necessary strategy, obtaining the 'necessary commitment' from the relevant stakeholder groups and entities.

The Plan will explain the procedures to be followed in order for the proposed pSCIs to be designated as SACs, and the appropriate management measures required for each site in order to ensure the long-term management of the sites and species concerned. The After-LIFE conservation plan will also give details regarding what actions will be carried out, when, and by whom, and will identify potential sources of finance. The plan will be drafted in consultation with the core group which is the After-LIFE conservation plan committee, as describe in Section 5. As already mentioned, the core group sends emails to ensure the smooth flow and development of discussions in relation with this action. The final agreed plan will be presented as a separate chapter of the Final report, in paper and electronic format. In addition, it will be made available to the public on the project website.

There are no direct economic benefits which are envisaged which emerge after the completion of this project. However, as a result of the identification of pSCIs for the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle, there are indirect economic benefits which cannot be underestimated. The creation of marine protected areas, and the effective management of activities within such sites often results in the provision of a safe refuge for other non-target species, including species of economic importance. An increase in the stocks of such species is a direct economic benefit to the fishing industry. There are also potential indirect benefits to the recreational industry. Such examples would be eco-tourism activities such as cetacean and turtle watching.

Furthermore, one of the LIFE+ MIGRATE project's objective is to create awareness about the population of the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle and their habitats vis-à-vis sustainability. It is important to point out that sustainability considers planning to raise and provide long-term awareness in terms of environmental and socio-economic factors. As a result, this awareness will serve as an asset for the future generation. Dissemination actions are beneficial provide important information about these two marine species, which can contribute significantly for long-term awareness. This will be discussed in more detail further below.

5.4.3. Best Practice Lessons

This project helped a number of individuals, volunteers and organisations to identify different various types of marine turtles and cetacean species. As a result of the training workshops, a number of people can easily distinguish different species from one another and thus, is beneficial as accurate and sufficient data could be collected from third parties. This is also backed up by the aid of the brochures, newsletters and the website they also contain sufficient information about the identification of the mentioned marine species.

LIFE+MIGRATE promotional events, such as the beach activities organised with the local councils, have the potential to increase awareness of the said migratory species. Upon submission of the promotional items, people might generate more interest to go and continue researching about the project and the species involved. Hence, people can become more informed in such a way that they can alter their behaviours and their way of thinking to reduce the impacts on these species. Such examples behaviour alteration could be the following:

- using fabric shopping bags instead of plastic bags; and
- avoiding throwing rubbish in the sea.

In addition, promoting this project to children is also important, as was the case in organising the beach activity in Gnejna with the summer school pupils. This is considered as an asset since children have the affinity to learn faster than adults. This would therefore increase further long-term awareness about the species under study and their habitats.

The project is also expected to contribute to an increased awareness about Natura 2000 and the Habitats Directive in general, and these species in particular, among the Maltese general public and interested parties. This increase in awareness and the generation of interest are added value. Increased awareness is expected to result into further positive behavioural change or, which will serve to further involve the public in conservation efforts towards such species.

Actions E13, E14 and D1 followed the best practice developed in LIFE02/NAT/E/8610 later used by the OSPAR Convention. In LIFE+MIGRATE, this formula proved also successful in establishing the best possible stakeholder communication and involvement in the development of NATURA 2000 Guidelines.

Action A3, the use of standardised survey and analysis methodology, together with networking at the international level, allowed to adjust activities making use of state of the art protocols going beyond the objectives established originally for the Action. Examples are the use of new hydrophones systems and micro plastics pollution sampling.

5.4.4. Innovation and demonstration values

One major innovation value in this project is the promotion for reducing its carbon footprint.

The reliance on electronic correspondence and the use of digital media is favourable in this project rather than the printed media. The newsletters are always published electronically, and

they are sent via email to the subscribers not by post. Hence, not only it is an environmentally friendly solution, but it is also a cost-effective solution since there are no costs¹² are involved.

On the other, there are other tasks in the project such as reports and brochures, where printed media cannot be avoided. As a result of this, it is ensured that:

- there are restrictions for paper usage of such tasks; and
- the papers used will be chlorine-free and FCS certified (or equivalent) where possible.

It is essential to point out that this project entails an effort to reduce the carbon foot print and be cost effective by diminishing the use of transportation. That is why that most of communication is done by means of emails and telephony. In addition, there is also a big effort to keep air travel to the barest minimum.

The sailing vessels adapted for the research work offer a guarantee of energy efficiency.

Apart from the training of volunteers of E11, filming of the video of E6, invitation of key networking stakeholders and participation in the 2013 BOV Malta Boat Show, through collaboration with the NGOs OCEANCARE and FIVE GYRES the survey conducted a series of micro plastic debris sampling in addition to macro plastic sampling.

Also KAI conducted a series of ocean noise pollution samplings and underwater noise levels in the Maltese waters. This is the first such study done in the Maltese Islands. These underwater noise levels are being recorded with the SoundTrap (Ocean Instruments New Zealand), a broadband miniaturised autonomous recorder with a sampling frequency up to 288 KHz provided by the University of La Laguna (Canary Islands, Spain).

The project also contains EU added demonstration values. There is a demonstration value derived from the translational cooperation between Malta and Spain on this project. This partnership exploits the strengths of both partners to ensure efficient and effective use of resources and expertise in order to successfully achieve the goals of the proposal. KAI has extensive experience and expertise in carrying out similar research work, and this cooperation therefore was purposely set up to exploit this experience and expertise, so as to ensure that the project is efficient and effective, and the results are comparable with results obtained for other areas, since the methodology to be employed is the same.

5.4.5. Long-term indicators

There are a number of actions which will serve as long-term indicators. These actions which will need to be continued after the end of the project include:

- Action F4 – After-LIFE conservation plan: As discussed earlier on, this action will continue to monitor the population of *Tursiops truncatus* and *Caretta caretta* in the areas designated; and
- the dissemination actions (such as the newsletters and training workshops): Which as discussed above, will contribute to raise long-term awareness about the two mentioned species and reinforce the change in attitude and behaviour.

¹² Such costs are mainly related to printing and postage.

The conservation status of the bottlenose dolphin and the loggerhead turtle (and including their habitat types) will be assessed based on the results of the population studies from Action A3 boat-based surveys. As per the habitats directive obligations and according to Article 17 reporting, these assessments will be done every six years and the favourable conservation status will be assessed following the conservation plan set out by this project (i.e. Action F4).

6 Comments on the financial report

6.1. Summary of Costs Incurred

6.1.1. Comparison of costs incurred and original budget in the Grant Agreement

Table 14 shows a summary of incurred costs in the project from the beginning of the project till the end of November 2014 in comparison with the original budget stipulated in the Grant Agreement. It is important to point out that only the non-depreciated costs are being considered in relation to the financial category of equipment.

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED			
Cost category	Budget according to the grant agreement (€)	Costs incurred within the project duration (€)	%
1. Personnel	288,646.00	225,567.81	78.15
2. Travel and subsistence	65,924.00	40,564.67	61.53
3. External assistance	410,000.00	231,229.51	56.40
4. Durables: total <u>non-depreciated</u> cost <i>Equipment sub-tot</i>	24,000.00	7,304.00	30.43
5. Consumables	101,600.00	51,427.74	50.62
6. Other direct costs	15,000.00	10,424.92	69.50
7. Overheads	58,836.00	33,134.98	56.32
Total	964,006.00	600,081.00	62.25

Table 14: Project costs incurred

Analysis per cost category:

Personnel: The 78.15 % is already spent on personnel is a good reflection of this stage of the project in views that:

- Actions A3 and E13 are concluded; and
- Action E14 being nearly finished.

The above 3 are some actions which had relatively high costs in this category. The other major cost is of MEPA following the appointment of the project management assistant officer.

Travel & subsistence: The 61.53% for the travel costs at this stage is again a good reflection of the stage at which the project is. This is because, as stated previously, Action A3 and E13 are now concluded and they are two which had the highest costs in this category.

External assistance: €231,229.51 has already been spent for this category, as per Table 14. This cost was mainly due to the following:

- €204,338.60 (see Table 15) spent as part of the boat based surveys of Action A3; and
- €23,500.00 (see Table 15) spent as part of the Action E13.

All of the above are actions under the remit of KAI, which as stated, will have most of their actions finalised.

Equipment: The cost allocated for equipment has been all spent for the Action A3 surveys

Consumables: Approximately 51% of the costs incurred were spent on the consumables category. Compared with other actions for the same category, Action A3 had the most costs incurred with a sum of € 33,187.59 (see Table 15). The other major costs for MEPA are in relation to tenders for issuing the brochures and other promotional items (Actions E7, E10 and E11) which were amalgamated, as described further above.

Other Direct Costs: Some of costs incurred in this category were due to the 2013 and 2014 adverts for Action E11 (please refer to Section 5.2.2.11). Payment for the 2013 adverts were already made to the service provide, which accounts for the € 10,424.92 of the cost incurred in this category

Overheads: About 56 % have already been spent, mainly in relation to Action A3.

6.1.2. KAI's LIFE contract changes

In 2014, a number of budgets modifications were made by KAI in the actions under their remit, which modifications are better described in Annex 7.2.9. Such an example includes that an 'Other Direct Costs' category has been added to Action A3.

In this regard, there have been slight alterations in the project's budget following these modifications, whereby the said budget of the project now amounts to € 958,506 (Annex 8.7). It can be noted that there were no substantial changes in respect to Article 15 of the Common provisions since the change was -0.57% and hence, it did not increase more than 10%.

6.1.3. Other amendments

There have other amendments in to the financial section of the LIFE+MIGRATE by MEPA and KAI Marine services. These amendments are better described in Annexes 8.8 and 8.9.

6.1.4. Funding

EU Contribution: The European Commission contributed to €190,401.20 in the project in 2012. Other EU contributions of €190,401.20 and €95200.60 are expected to be given in 2015 and 2016 respectively. In addition, KAI were already given a sum of €207,990.80 as part of their first payment (40%) of the partnership agreement. A second payment of €207,990.80 is expected to be given to KAI in 2015.

Other sources of funding: There were two co-financing payments by BOV, both of which occurred in 2014.

Direct Income: There were no direct incomes generated in the LIFE+ MIGRATE project. In addition, it important to point out that the bank account of the LIFE+ MIGRTAE project is a current account and there no interest is credited to it.

6.2. Accounting system

Each beneficiary was responsible to keep a record of their expenditure, by means of timesheets and invoices. Eventually, these were inserted in a statement of expenditure report¹³. Each beneficiary is to send a soft copy of the said report, along with other copies of their invoices and timesheets¹⁴ to the coordinating beneficiary, upon request. The invoices were classified according to the appropriate cost category, as per Table 14.

The timesheets are filled up by each staff working on the Project and it is an effective method which ensures all the personnel's time devoted to the project. It also records the personnel's hours spent on other project and activities, if applicable. All timesheets are signed within the following month and it is important that the coordinating beneficiary ensures all partners' timesheets are received and checked.

All the invoices received and belonging to the coordinating beneficiary need to contain the reference of the project, and also, if possible, the reference to the specific action, as per common provisions of the grant agreement. To ensure this, the supplier is notified beforehand. Alternatively, a stamp has been used indicating the reference number of the project. In addition, the invoices also need to be adequately detailed¹⁵ as to allow recognition of single items covered by the service delivered. Furthermore, it important to highlight that each invoice is to be signed and stamped by the responsible beneficiary.

The invoices and timesheets received by the coordinating beneficiary are stored and kept accordingly and inserted in an accounting system. This accounting system was chosen to be Sage which is kept at the coordinating beneficiary's premises. The accounting system will be further updated in the coming future until the end of the project.

6.3. Partnership arrangements (if relevant)

Partnership and co-financing agreements exists between the coordinating beneficiaries and the other beneficiaries and co-financier respectively. These were already described in detail in the inception report in Section 4.3 and Annex 7.1 .

6.4. Auditor's report/declaration

As per section 5.1.8., the auditor was chosen to be PKF Malta and it will be the independent firm to audit the whole project and construct the audit report, as per template report in the 'toolkit' on the LIFE web page. The audit is envisaged to start in the first quarter of 2015 and will run till the end of the project. Thus, no audit has been done so far.

¹³ This is a financial reporting spreadsheet template which is available in the 'toolkit' on the LIFE web page.

¹⁴ The copies of the invoices and timesheets are sent to the coordinating beneficiaries are both hard and soft copies.

¹⁵ The invoices should be detailed by having a clear description and cost of each item purchased.

6.5 Summary of costs per action

Table 15 shows a relationship of between the costs incurred for each action and the cost incurred according to the category, which is based on the consolidated statement report (Annex 8.3).

Action no.	Personnel	Travel and subsistence	External assistance	Equipment	Consumables	Other costs	TOTAL
A1	133.61	-	-	-	-	-	133.61
A2	133.61	-	-	-	-	-	133.61
A3	152,590.00	12,596.15	204,338.60	7,304.00	33,187.59	4,040.62	414,056.96
E1	-	-	324.50	-	-	-	324.50
E2	885.77	-	400.00	-	-	-	1,285.77
E3	-	-	1,307.25	-	-	-	1,307.25
E4	536.07	-	-	-	638.15	-	1,174.22
E5	2,344.96	-	-	-	-	-	2,344.96
E7	2,929.70	-	-	-	2,835.00	-	5,764.70
E10	-	-	-	-	4,130.00	-	4,130.00
E11	-	-	117.16	-	9,027.00	6,384.30	15,528.46
E13	3,600.00	27,968.52	23,500.00	-	-	-	55,068.52
E14	15,876.00	-	1,242.00	-	1,610.00	-	18,728.00
F1	46,538.09	-	-	-	-	-	46,538.09
F2	-	396.12	-	-	-	-	396.12
TOTAL	225,567.81	40,960.79	231,229.51	7,304.00	51,427.74	10,424.92	566,946.02

Table 15: Relationship of the project actions and categories vis-à-vis the cost incurred

7. Annexes

7.1 Administrative annexes

- 7.1.1. Call for Assistant Officer (Project Management)
- 7.1.2. Partnership agreements were attached in Annex 7.1 of the inception report on the 26th November 2013.
- 7.1.3. Replies to the European Commission's queries
- 7.1.4. Administrative minutes of Meetings
 - 7.1.4.1. Minutes of ad-hoc meeting with KAI and UOM (22nd August 2014)
 - 7.1.4.2. Agenda and Minutes of ad-hoc meeting with KAI (25th September 2014)
 - 7.1.4.3. Agenda and Minutes of steering committee meeting (23rd April 2014)
 - 7.1.4.4. Agenda and Minutes of Monitor's visit meeting and its adjourned meeting (30th May and 2nd June 2014)
- 7.1.5. Presentations
 - 7.1.5.1. Presentations shown during the steering committee of 23rd April 2014
 - 7.1.5.2. Presentations shown during the Monitor's visit of 30th May 2014 (these include the same presentations as Annex 7.1.5.1. and other presentations on letters from Cion and lessons learnt)

7.2 Technical annexes

- 7.2.1. List of abbreviations
- 7.2.2. Action A1 Direct Orders
 - 7.2.2.1. Direct order with Dr A. Vella for provision of biotic data (Cancelled)
 - 7.2.2.2. Direct order with Dr A. Drago for provision of oceanographic data (Cancelled)
 - 7.2.2.3. Direct Order with UOM for provision of oceanographic data
 - 7.2.2.4. Acceptance letter from Ministry of Finance in relation to provision of data and expertise on physical oceanography as part of implementation of LIFE+MIGRATE Action A1.
 - 7.2.2.5. Clarification from Attorney General
- 7.2.3. Maps
 - 7.2.3.1. First draft map produced by KAI showing encounter rate of *Cetaceans* based on the first projections of preliminary data from the 2013 boat based surveys
 - 7.2.3.2. First draft map produced by KAI showing encounter rate of *Caretta caretta* based on the first projections of preliminary data from the 2013 boat-based surveys

- 7.2.3.3. Map displaying boundaries of Maltese Territorial waters and the Fisheries Management Zone
- 7.2.3.4. Maps produced by KAI showing visual survey efforts
- 7.2.3.5. Map produced by KAI showing the spatial distribution of the encounter rate for cetaceans, in the survey area, for the 10km resolution grid
- 7.2.3.6. Map produced by KAI showing acoustic detections of dolphin whistles (red circles) and clicks (green circles) during the LIFE-MIGRATE 2013 acoustic survey in Malta. Detections in shallow water were limited by a higher background noise due to biological sounds
- 7.2.3.7. Real-time acoustic tracking of clicks of striped dolphins (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) in PamGuard
- 7.2.3.8. Map showing overall distribution of dolphins within the assessment area based 2012 sightings data collected by BLM
- 7.2.4. Database of 2012 cetacean and marine turtle sightings provided by BLM
- 7.2.5. Research Vessel: *Aurora Boreal*
- 7.2.6. Sea Campaign Report by KAI
- 7.2.7. Speeches for the inauguration day of the 2014 boat based observation surveys (4th July 2014)
- 7.2.8. Vessel Contract by KAI
- 7.2.9. LIFE contract changes by KAI
- 7.2.10. Minutes of the first After-LIFE conservation plan committee meeting (31st January 2014)
- 7.2.11. Permits
 - 7.2.11.1. Nature permit (2013)
 - 7.2.11.2. Nature permit (2014)
 - 7.2.11.3. Animal welfare permit (2013)
 - 7.2.11.4. Animal welfare permit (2014)
- 7.2.12. Networking table

7.3 Dissemination annexes

- 7.3.1. Picture showing bad state of the banner
- 7.3.2. Website hits and visits (2014)

- 7.3.3. E-newsletters
 - 7.3.3.1. Updated list of e-newsletter subscribers
 - 7.3.3.2. E-newsletter issue 1
 - 7.3.3.3. E-newsletter issue 2
 - 7.3.3.4. E-newsletter issue 3
 - 7.3.3.5. E-newsletter issue 4
 - 7.3.3.6. E-newsletter issue 5
 - 7.3.3.7. E-newsletter issue 6

- 7.3.4. Brochures
 - 7.3.4.1. English version brochure (hard copy)
 - 7.3.4.2. Maltese version brochure (hard copy)
 - 7.3.4.3. English version brochure (as seen in electronic version)
 - 7.3.4.4. Maltese version brochure (as seen in electronic version)

- 7.3.5. Media Coverage
 - 7.3.5.1. 1 Million to study migratory species on the news of TVM
 - 7.3.5.2. Project MIGRATE
 - 7.3.5.3. Radju Malta – Familja Wahda - LIFE+MIGRATE Project
 - 7.3.5.4. The EU LIFE + MIGRATE Project
 - 7.3.5.5. Script and DVD for *Malta u l'hinn minnha*
 - 7.3.5.6. Journey of Life (Azure Issue 5)
 - 7.3.5.7. Presentation about cetaceans and turtles
 - 7.3.5.8. Study on bottlenose dolphin and loggerhead turtle needs volunteers – Times of Malta (4th July 2014)
 - 7.3.5.9. TVM News (4th July 2014) and Smash News (5th July 2014) – The launch of 2014 boat-based observation surveys (DVD)
 - 7.3.5.10. Malta is unique for migratory species – Times of Malta (5th July 2014)
 - 7.3.5.11. LIFE + Project Migrate – Press release by MEPA (7th July 2014)
 - 7.3.5.12. *Proġett għall-konservazzjoni tad-denfil ta' geddumu qasir u l-fekruna tal-baħar* – L-Orizzont (7th July 2014)
 - 7.3.5.13. Radju Malta2 - LIFE+MIGRATE Project (DVD)
 - 7.3.5.14. Marine information sessions on cetaceans and turtles – Press release by BOV (15th July 2014)
 - 7.3.5.15. Learning to help dolphins and turtles – The Sunday Times of Malta (20th July 2014)
 - 7.3.5.16. Young Children attend at Gnejna Bay Activity – Press release by MEPA (16th September 2014)
 - 7.3.5.17. Children attend MEPA Gnejna Bay activity – The Malta Independent: online (16th September 2014)
 - 7.3.5.18. Facebook Status by Aquarium - Action E13 introductory sectorial workshop (26/9/2014)
 - 7.3.5.19. Radju Maria – interview (LIFE+MIGRATE and marine ecosystem) (DVD)
 - 7.3.5.20. Two loggerhead turtles get freed – Press release by NTM (6th November 2014)

- 7.3.6. Advertisement on local beaches

- 7.3.6.1. Beach umbrellas, stickers and LED torch key chains
- 7.3.6.2. Minutes with local council representatives (7th August 2014)
- 7.3.6.3. Gnejna Bay project awareness activity (15th September 2014)
- 7.3.6.4. St Thomas Bay project awareness activity (20th September 2014)
- 7.3.6.5. Pretty Bay project awareness activity (20th September 2014)
- 7.3.6.6. Sticker on bin campaign

- 7.3.7. Action E11 Training workshops
 - 7.3.7.1. Adverts for volunteers issued between 11th May and 1st June 2014
 - 7.3.7.2. Polo shirts and caps
 - 7.3.7.3. Attendance sheets of all volunteers who attended the 2014 training workshops
 - 7.3.7.4. Photos of training workshops
 - 7.3.7.5. Layout of certificate

- 7.3.8. Action E13 Sectorial workshops
 - 7.3.8.1. Call for quotation for External Assistance (DVD)
 - 7.3.8.2. Agenda of sectorial workshops
 - 7.3.8.3. Posters
 - 7.3.8.4. Photos of Sectorial Workshops

8. Financial report and annexes

- 8.1. Standard Payment Request and Beneficiary's Certificate
- 8.2. Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects
- 8.3. Consolidated Cost Statement for the Project
- 8.4. Financial Statement of the Individual Beneficiary
 - 8.4.1. MEPA
 - 8.4.2. KAI Marine Services
 - 8.4.3. MTCE/MSDEC
- 8.5. VAT certificates
 - 8.5.1. MEPA
 - 8.5.2. KAI Marine Services
 - 8.5.3. MSDEC
- 8.6. Form 'Funding'
- 8.7. Comparison between the budgets stipulated in the grant agreement and following KAI's LIFE contract changes.
- 8.8. Justifications and explanations in relation to amendments done by MEPA
- 8.9. Justifications and explanations in relation to amendments done by KAI
 - 8.9.1. KAI's Administrator declaration
 - 8.9.2. Declaration that some of KAI's personnel has stopped contributing in the LIFE+ Migrate project
 - 8.9.3. Justification: Why some of KAI's invoices were initially submitted without an invoice number by the supplier/service provider
 - 8.9.4. Contracts and roles of KAI's personnel