This forward-looking three-year project is designed to build practical nature management capacity among Natura 2000 and Protected Area managers. The project aims to equip individuals and their organisations with the competencies they require to meet the challenges and opportunities of nature management in the coming decade.

The primary purpose of the project is to enable all Natura 2000 and Protected Area managers to become more effective, competent and confident nature management professionals. The project will use a blended learning approach to build capacities in core competencies required for effective nature management. Particular attention will be directed towards the management practices required by forest and marine ecosystem managers.

PROJECT'S PARTNERS

The project is led by The EUROPARC Federation with the direct involvement of seven partners:

1. Alfred Toepfer Akademie für Naturschutz
2. E.C.O. Institute of Ecology
3. FUNGOBE, Fundación Interuniversitaria Fernando González Bernáldez para los espacios naturales
4. Metsähallitus, Parks and Wildlife Finland
5. MedPAN Network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas managers
6. Propark Foundation for Protected Areas
7. TESAF, University of Padova, The Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry

The project and all actions are made possible with support from the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community.
HOW THE PROJECT WILL WORK

The project will develop practical ways to enable Natura 2000 and protected area managers to meet the complex and multiple challenges faced by nature in Europe.
A range of actions will be implemented to support practical capacity building for effective nature management, including development of a competence-based training framework, new tools and learning quality standards.

The project will create the new ‘European Nature Academy’, a European training programme for nature managers. The Academy will provide innovative and creative online learning opportunities, combined with safe and carefully selected face-to-face learning when possible.
According to their learning needs and interests, participants will be able to progress through basic, foundation and practitioner level courses covering various subjects and including a ‘train the trainer’ course.

LIFE ENABLE will provide a strong evidence base about what can, could and should be provided for applied nature management capacity building. The project will test blended learning tools and approaches essential to the long-term protection of Europe’s biodiversity and our shared natural heritage.

LIST OF ALL ACTIONS

A. IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

- A1 Establish the European Nature Academy training system framework: the Project Coordination Unit & Expert Groups
- A2 Produce a Gap Analysis of capacity development needs based on a stock-take of current learning provision
- A3 Produce and test an online training needs analysis tool to create capacity building training programmes at organisational, regional and national levels
- A4 Create the European Nature Academy training hub and tools to support the network of European training sites
- A5 Develop competence-based capacity building courses, content and needs-based learning programmes
- A6 Develop a maintenance plan, including a feasibility study and option appraisal, to support sustainable development of the training system at European level post-project
- A7 Develop tools to raise awareness about the European Nature Academy, promote the training system and the learning hub and the participation of Natura 2000 site managers
- A8 Promote a range of actions at local level to create new employment opportunities

B. ACTIONS FOR COMMUNICATION AND FOR DISSEMINATION OF PROJECT LESSONS (OBLIGATORY)

- B1 Create the website and associated social media activities
- B2 Communication & networking activities with other LIFE/ Non-LIFE funded projects
- B3 Guidelines for replicability & recommendations for future capacity building
- B4 International networking to disseminate project results
- B5 Produce the project’s Layman’s Report

C. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF THE PROJECT PROGRESS (OBLIGATORY)

- C1 Project management and reporting
- C2 Audit Review
- C3 After-LIFE Plan
- C4 Qualitative & quantitative Key Project Indicators (KPIs)
- C5 Socio-economic impact assessment

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