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LIFE Bear-Smart Corridors

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2. SUMMARY

The present document briefly sets out the activities and target involved persons/organization planned for the networking activities and potential replication activities of the LBSC project. The networking activities, provide an added value to the project development in terms of experience and knowledge exchange as well as cooperation on specific issues. But besides this they are also important in order to further disseminate the information on project activities and developed best practices, and to identify other parties who could potentially be interested in implementation of parts of the activities developed in the project. Therefore the following document is divided into two sections: networking and replication. The "networking " section lists the already identified projects or entities with which some case of cooperation will be developed, and how this will happen. The "replication" sections describes all those components of the project that could in some way be replicated in other areas or projects. In total nine different components have been identified, and for each a brief technical description is provided, as long as information on the replication potential, potentially interested stakeholders, resources needed, problems and challenges, involved costs and what will be done to encourage replication. In the annex a list of other projects/persons/entities is listed that could in some way be interested in receiving information about the project.

3. INTRODUCTION

The LIFE Bear Smart Corridors Project aims to boost populations of Europe's iconic brown bear in Central Italy and Greece through the development of "coexistence corridors". Withing these corridors local communities will learn to live alongside the iconic brown bear. Here, the Bear Smart Community model will be adopted, which encourages cooperation between local communities, businesses, and individuals to prevent conflict between bears and humans and achieve coexistence.

By removing any potential source that could attract bears to urban areas, and by developing ways for communities to benefit from this iconic species in their region, people living there will become ambassadors for the area's wild nature. At the same time, we are supporting nature-based enterprises in and around corridor areas, and raising awareness amongst local communities and people visiting the area.

The project includes a large set of activities, some of which are common best practices and others are innovative approaches. The main sets of activities that have a replication potential are:

1) Development of Bear Smart Communities as new local governance models for coexistence
2) Use of innovative chicken coops for damage prevention
3) Closure of water pits to prevent bears from drowning
4) Habitat improvement activities to keep bears away from people
5) Placement of bear-proof garbage bins
6) Anti-poison first aid kits for livestock guarding dogs
7) Bear Intervention Units
8) Development of the Bear Fund Network
9) Participatory techniques to involve stakeholders

The present document briefly lays down the main activities that will foster the replication of as many activities as possible elsewhere in Europe.

Beyond successful completion, a basic requisite of LIFE funding is that the experience and knowledge arising from a project's implementation should be disseminated more widely, and that the tools trialled and implemented should have the potential to be replicated, adopted and transferred to other areas or countries in the European Union. To that end, this Networking and Replication Plan was created for project partners to highlight the way in which they will make their results known to a broader audience within and beyond the implementation area, both during implementation and after completion. With this, we aim to improve coexistence with bears and other species, encourage the creation of coexistence corridors and contribute to successful wildlife comeback in Europe.

In drawing up this Networking and Replication Plan, we wanted to make the knowledge and experience acquired during the implementation of the LIFE grant on Bear Smart Corridors accessible and useful to those involved in coexistence, including public administrations and environmental authorities, public agencies and NGOs involved in monitoring and technical and financial support towards coexistence, at the sub-national, national and EU level.

This document is divided into two main sections: In the first part (networking) it briefly summarizes the networking activities with other projects and entities to stimulate cooperation and knowledge exchange. The second section (replication) analyses the activities that have the potential to be replicated, along with the potentially interested stakeholders, the required resources and what activities will be implemented to encourage the application of these tools on a wider scale. We have also included a non-exhaustive list of organizations, entities, projects etc. that, at various level, might be interested in the networking and replication activities of the LIFE Bear Smart Corridors Project.

4. NETWORKING

Table 1. List of projects/initiatives with which networking is foreseen

Name (acronym)	**Website, Contact**	**Topic**	**Foreseen activities (workshops/seminars, visits, cooperation on specific activities etc.)**

IUCN Human – Bear Conflicts Specialist Group	https://www.bearbiology.org/bear-specialist-group/ Lana Ciarniello (aklak@telus.net)		Information and experience exchange Participation in LBSC final conference
Fundación Oso Pardo	https://fundacionosopardo.org/ Fernando Ballesteros (coordinacion@fundacionosopardo.org)	Development of BSCs and adoption technical tools	Information and experience exchange Participation in LBSC final conference
LIFE ARCPROM	https://lifearcprom.uowm.gr/it/ Giovanna Di Domenico (info@parcomajella.it)	Stakeholder involvement Conflict management	Information and experience exchange Participation in LBSC final conference
Majella National Park (Italy)	https://www.parcomajella.it/ Giovanna Di Domenico (info@parcomajella.it)	Development of BSCs and adoption of technical tools	Information and experience exchange Participation in LBSC final conference
Rewilding Romania	https://rewildingeurope.com/landscapes/southern-carpathians/ Marina Druga (marina.druga@rewilding-romania.com)	Development of Bison-Smart Communities	Information and experience exchange Study visit
Io non ho paura del lupo	https://www.iononhopauradellupo.it/ Francesco Romito (francesco@iononhopauradellupo.it)	Wolf-smart communities for human-wolf coexistence	Organisation of a workshop on coexistence with wolves in central Italy
LIFE SAFE-CROSSING	https://life.safe-crossing.eu/ Annette Mertens (mertens.annette@gmail.com)	Mitigation of road mortality and habitat fragmentation by roads	LIFE SAFE-CROSSING final conference Cooperation in construction of bear-proof fence Cooperation in road-cleaning activities

LIFE LYNX	https://www.lifelynx.eu/ Maja Sever	Intervention units in the context of human – lynx coexistence	Information and experience exchange
International Association for Bear Research and Management	https://www.bearbiology.org/ Jennapher Teunissen van Manen	Bear Smart Communities and best practices implementation	Information and experience exchange Participation in LBSC final conference Possible evaluation of the project's outcomes
Rewilding Velebit	https://rewildingeurope.com/landscapes/velebit-mountains/ Marija Krnjajić (marija.krnjajic@rewilding-velebit.com)	Stakeholders' involvement on human-lynx coexistence	Information and experience exchange Co-organization of a workshop / study visit Participation in LBSC final conference
Rewilding Europe Travel	https://www.rewildingeuropetravel.com/ Neil Rogers (neil.rogers@rewildingeuropetravel.com)	Development of tourism itineraries across BSC	Workshop with local providers to define targets and logistics for bear-viewing and tourism development
Bear management in France	https://www.occitanie.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/ours-brun-r6949.html Julien Steinmetz (julien.steinmetz@ofb.gouv.fr)	Bear Smart Communities and best practices implementation Potential LIFE proposal in the Pyrenees	Information and experience exchange Participation in LBSC final conference
LIFE PROGNOSES	Website: https://lifeprognoses.eu/ Carmelo Gentile (carmelo.gentile@parcoabruzzo.it)	Forest habitat protection for brown	Information and experience

	Claudia Alessandrelli (alessandrelliclaudia@gmail.com)	bear conservation, Forestry stakeholder's engagement	Co-organization of a workshop
Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe	Carmelo Gentile (carmelo.gentile@parcoabruzzo.it) Claudia Alessandrelli (alessandrelliclaudia@gmail.com) Website: https://www.europeanbeechforests.org/	Forest habitat protection for brown bear conservation, Forestry stakeholder's engagement	Information and experience Co-organization of a workshop

5. REPLICATION

The following section lists the components that have a replication potential because they are innovative activities or have a clear best practice value that could be interesting for projects in other areas or targeting other species or conservation themes.

For each component the following aspects were analysed and described:

- Technical specifications/methods
- Problems and opportunities, if applicable: stakeholder support and permits
- Replication potential
- Requirements: staff, technical capacities, funding,
- Costs
- Socio-economic potential
- Potentially interested organizations/authorities
- Activities foreseen to encourage replication

1) Development of Bear Smart Communities

- Technical specifications/methods

The development of Bear Smart Communities starts from key principles and guidelines which are designed to fit the local conditions of human-bear interactions and coexistence. These guidelines must be defined in accordance with national and regional laws and aim at improving the coexistence between humans and bears through the involvement of local communities, clear roles and responsibilities, and a long-term financing plan. Templates for the agreements that formalize these arrangements will be developed. Principles, guidelines and templates can be replicated by other communities and adapted to suit their needs, including coexistence with other species than bears.

- Problems and opportunities, if applicable: stakeholder support and permits

The approach is suitable for communities in which people recognise the importance of living at peace with bears which means that a minimum level of acceptance of the species is necessary. This

can be a significant obstacle to replication but the sensitivity towards nature and iconic species such as the bear is growing across Europe and even stakeholder who readily perceive the presence of bears as a limitation to their activities (e.g. farmers, hunters, etc.) increasingly recognize that coexistence is a practical way forward for them , especially in a context like in central Italy, where the Marsican brown bear is critically endangered and strictly protected. This protection also means that permits may be required for some interventions (e.g. bear intervention units) which may even require the active involvement of environmental authorities. This can be an additional challenge to replication the BSC model. .

- Replication potential

Overall, the population trends of brown bears across Europe are positive, with recent reintroduction and restocking efforts (Eastern Alps, Pyrenees) and more individuals dispersing from existing populations and exploring and possibly settling in areas where the species was eradicated decades ago. This triggers a need to extend best practices for coexistence to these areas, within but also beyond central Italy and Greece.

- Requirements: staff, technical capacities, funding,

The staff required for the management of one to a few neighbouring BSCs ideally consists of a project manager or coordinator to establish agreements with the municipalities and key stakeholders, a communications officer to disseminate the BSC's best practices, challenges and achievements, at least two field officers to act as "ambassadors" and carry out practical interventions to avoid and mitigate potential conflicts, an enterprise officer to identify financial and business opportunities to make BSCs sustainable over time. Trained staff that can operate a BSC information centre in each community could be made available by municipalities, while training would also be needed for other stakeholders including waste management firms, farmers, hunters, foresters and tourism operators (including guides, guesthouses and hotels, transport services, etc.). Except for the project manager, the communications officer and the enterprise officer, the staff should be locally based and knowledgeable enough of key coexistence issues. Funding to operate the BSC can come from grants but will ideally be based on contributions by those who benefit from improved coexistence (e.g. tourism operators, municipalities, etc.).

- Costs

The LIFE Bear-Smart Corridors funds will cover the start-up costs of establishing BSC initiatives in several municipalities in central Italy and Greece. The longterm costs to run BSCs every year after this initial investment has been estimated at around 10,000-20,000 €/year in each community. In Italy, a dedicated Bear Fund will be created to support these costs at the end of the LIFE project. This model could also be replicated elsewhere.

- Socio-economic potential

Bears are animals which attract a lot of interest from a wide audience. The BSC model of coexistence can be very attractive and can boost socio-economic dynamics in small mountain villages. Usually, the presence of bears is recognised as a tourist asset with a high potential of replication in areas where the presence of bears is becoming more evident. Ensuring that the benefits of the bears' presence is shared with those that suffer from damages is key to achieving equitable outcomes.

- Potentially interested organizations/authorities

Other municipalities in the Central Apennines and abroad (Spain, Romania, Croatia, France) may be interested in experimenting the BSC approach, with support from other NGOs and public agencies such as National Parks and other protected area managers. It could also be of interest to

improve coexistence with other species: wolves (e.g. France, Germany), lynx (Croatia, Poland), bison (Romania, Poland), beavers (Germany), and others.

- Activities foreseen to encourage replication

BSC principles, guidelines and templates will be made available (website) and shared widely with potentially interested organisations, through social media, conferences and dedicated events, seminars and exchange visits.

2) Use of innovative chicken coops for damage prevention

- Technical specifications/methods

This special chicken coop, made of galvanized steel, has been specifically designed to resist any attacks by Apennine brown bears. The chicken coop has been tested with excellent results.

- Problems and opportunities, if applicable: Permits needed

No permits needed for the installation of the chicken coops for bear damage prevention. The main problems are related to the willingness of farmers to use properly those instruments. Once the coop is installed farmers have actually use it by letting all the chickens stay inside the structure during the night and checking the coop is secured in the right way. By using this system farmers will have the opportunity to reduce bear predations on chickens to zero.

- Replication potential

Those chicken coops are an innovative and technological solution to prevent bear damage and to mitigate conflicts. Their high efficiency makes this solution very likely to be adopted in order to mitigate conflicts all along the central Apennines. The need to extend best practices of coexistence on a larger landscape but possibly at a municipal level to evaluate reduction of negative interactions and consequent increasing of coexistence make the replication potential of the chicken coops very high.

- Requirements: staff, funding, technical capacities

It takes two people to install a bear-proof chicken coop. The chicken coop must be transported to private land and then fixed to the ground to prevent the bear from overturning it.

- Costs

Bear proof chicken coops cost 1200€ each.

- Socio-economic potential

In Central Apennines amateur chicken farming is very common. This practice, which is often conducted near or inside the villages, is obviously a risk for human-bear conflict. By using this innovative solution it's possible to avoid and mitigate conflicts with bear and enhancing people responsibility and awareness about damage prevention.

- Potentially interested organizations/authorities

Municipality, NGOs and protected areas that are interested by bear presence (in Italy as abroad), they are all subjects potentially interested in using this prevention tool in other projects or similar initiatives

3) Closure of water pits to prevent bears from drowning

- Technical specifications/methods

Guidelines offering solutions to make water wells safe have been produced and will be made public for replication.

- Problems and opportunities, if applicable: Permits needed

The works to make water wells safe must be authorised by the landowners (public or private). However, due to the risk that such structures may pose to humans and wildlife, in general landowners are keen to authorise the interventions if a work project is available, with fuding, and is well-adapted to the situation.

- Replication potential

There are many instances of wildlife drowned in or rescued from water wells. There is a worldwide need for systems to make water wells safe. Replication is highly likely and will be strongly recommended through a strong communication campaign.

- Requirements: staff, funding, technical capacities

The staff, funding and the technical capacities depend on the technical characteristics of the well or water reservoirs to make safe. In some cases, the interventions can be carried out by general staff and volunteers (like in the case of a small blowhole to be closed by a metal grid), in other cases construction companies with proper equipment and even helicopters to bring them to inaccessible mountain areas are needed.

- Costs

On average the costs go from few hundreds of euros to around 8-10,000 € for each intervention. These costs are affordable by public institutions and replication potential should be high.

- Socio-economic potential

In a regime of climate change, water supplies become more and more necessary and preventing incidents of drowning is essential. Water wells and reservoirs are widespread across Europe especially in those karstic mountains where retaining water is difficult.

- Potentially interested organizations/authorities

Municipalities, water authorities and NGOs can replicate this tool where water wells are recognised as a threat to wildlife. In Italy, WWF and others are already doing so.

- Activities foreseen to encourage replication

Public meetings and workshops, strong communication campaign to sensitive the public opinion about this issue.

4) Habitat improvement activities

- Technical specifications/methods

The LIFE Bear-Smart Corridors offers some solutions for non-invasive pruning of unused fruit trees in the mountains with the aim to prevent encroachment from plants of scarce interest for wildlife feeding, maintain these food resources over time and enhance their production. This also provides food sources for bears away from villages and property, thereby decreasing the potential for conflict. To ensure the restored food sources are accessible, connectivity must be enhanced e.g. through the removal of unused fences. These actions will be showcased for replication and many

organisations like WWF, Montagna Grande and the Italian Touring Club (Italy), Fundación Oso Pardo (Spain) and others are taking it up as best practice.

- Problems and opportunities, if applicable: Permits needed

These activities are low risk for the health and safety of the staff (both paid and unpaid) involved. However, the use of chainsaws and cutting tools need some trainings, proper insurance coverage and supervision. Some permits are needed from the (public or private) landowners of the fruit orchards. Barbed wire removal is generally strongly encouraged by local authorities for the threat it may pose to animals and people but also needs authorization from landowners and holders of grazing rights.

- Replication potential

The replication potential is very high as shown by others (see above) who have already adopted barbed wire removal based on the experience of Salviamo l'Orso and Rewilding Apennines.

- Requirements: staff, funding, technical capacities

These initiatives are cheap. Pruning-cutting equipment is usually durable. The involvement of trained staff and volunteers is needed to scale up outcomes.

- Costs

Relatively cheap. About 5,000 € for cutting equipment and fuel a year depending on the extent and accessibility of the area in which pruning is conducted.

- Socio-economic potential

The socio-economic potential is very high because habitat improvements also benefit the attractiveness of the natural landscapes with positive effects over eco-tourism and recreational activities. Moreover, many tourist initiatives are focused on involving visitors (as volunteers) in experiential activities such as habitat improvement.

- Potentially interested organizations/authorities

Forestry Departments, Management Bodies of Protected Areas, local NGOs, tourism enterprises.

- Activities foreseen to encourage replication

Communication campaigns, public events and workshops.

5) Placement of bear-proof garbage bins

- Technical specifications/methods

The experience from North America and other LIFE projects (AMYBEAR, DINALP, ARCTOS) inspired the production of some bear-proof bin prototypes which must withstand repeated bear attacks and remain easy to use for the public. In general, a metal case containing an ordinary plastic bin is the best option.

- Problems and opportunities, if applicable: Permits needed and effective sensitization on bin use by citizens and waste management entities.

The adoption of bear-proof bins requires a willingness to change citizen habits, amend contracts with waste management companies, and to cover the extra cost of the bins. To be effective, the metal bear-proof cases or cans must be riveted on a concrete foundation or platform. This foundation requires a permit from the landowners (usually public bodies) plus the consent of the waste collection company on their use. Metal cases are locked by a lock with a key (or equivalent).

So, the operators must bring with them the key to open the case, pull the bin out, empty it, push it back into the shell and lock again. Agreements with municipality (in charge of waste management), waste collection companies and private users (to make the bear-proof containers really effective complying with the rules for their correct use) are needed. These obstacles are best overcome through the development of a BSC.

- Replication potential

The issues of waste attracting wildlife into urban settlement is very widespread and doesn't concern only bears but also other wildlife species, such as wild boars, feral dogs and even wolves. This phenomenon is caused by the population growth of some species and the urbanization of the human society. For this reason, the replication potential of these measures is very high.

- Requirements: staff, funding, technical capacities

Experts in bear ethology and in mitigation of human-bear conflicts can help a professional metal carpentry factory to produce these bear-proof bins. The technical capacity is then covered by this expertise. Municipalities should have resources to envisage a bear-proof adaptation of the current waste collection system. This transition can be impeded by higher costs of the bins and a lack of culture of human-wildlife coexistence. Establishing a BSC can help make such investments a priority.

- Costs

The costs are estimated at about 1,000 € for each container, which should decrease to 800-900 € depending on the quantity ordered. Municipal operators can make the concrete platform, with the help of local NGOs staff and volunteers. The cost of this work, sand and concrete is about 200 €.

- Socio-economic potential

This action has a strong socio-economic benefit as it enhances the quality of urban decorum, reduces conflicts with wildlife and is a positive showcase for the whole community, which can be brought together to reconsider its waste production and management in a broader sense as well.

- Potentially interested organizations/authorities

All municipalities dealing with wildlife eating garbage in towns and villages, NGOs, protected areas authorities (and even private users who are already using bear-proof bins if municipalities are too slow to supply them).

- Activities foreseen to encourage replication

Strong communication campaigns, meetings with the populations, visit trips, workshops.

6) Anti-poison first aid kits for livestock guarding dogs

- Technical specifications/methods

Anti-Poison First Aid Kits are light and resistant boxes that can be easily carried by herders in the field and contain the required veterinary medicines (emetics, poison-absorbing agents, and muscarinic antagonists in a dose sufficient to stabilize a 50 kg dog), consumables, and biosecurity equipment. Illustrated instructions will also be included in the kit. Contact details of local veterinarians and project partners will also be included. A total of 400 Anti-Poison First Aid Kits will be produced and disseminated by UTH veterinarians to farmers in the municipalities of Trikala, and Meteora (Greece). Their specifications can be made available for replication.

- Problems and opportunities, if applicable: sensitization of users

A major problem already identified is the improper or suboptimal use of the kit by farmers. To counter this, the instructions are written in a comprehensive and simplified manner. In addition, explanatory photos are provided for each necessary step.
Giving the kits to farmers is a good opportunity to inform all stakeholders about the devastating consequences of poison baits for domestic and wild animals. It will also hopefully build an information network about poison baits. No special permits are required.

- Replication potential

Anti-Poison First Aid Kits have been already disseminated to farmers in Greece under the LIFE AMYBEAR project (2019) and the LIFE ARCPROM project (2020). Moreover, local Management Bodies have already produced and disseminated similar Kits to residents. Further, the Anti Poison First Aid Kits dissemination practice has been spotted as of major importance and has been highly prioritized by the Greek Ministry of Environment in order to be implemented in all Greek protected areas.

- Requirements: staff, funding, technical capacities

To proceed in the action's replication, expertized scientific assistance will be needed for the Anti-Poison First Aid Kits formation, in order to contain effective yet safe doses of medicines. Adequate funding should also be provided to train beneficiaries on how best to use the kits.

- Costs

The main costs of the action are the purchase of veterinary medicines and the light container. The cost of the experts' travel to demonstrate and distribute the kits should also be taken into account.

- Socio-economic potential

The action will also have a remarkable social impact on the regions where the action is carried out. The beneficial use of the kit, the relevant training, and the veterinary support provided will have a positive impact on the prevailing attitude toward the main objectives of the project. In terms of purely economic aspects, the anti-poison first aid kits will reduce the mortality rate of guard dogs and reduce the cost of raising and training new dogs on individual farms.

- Potentially interested organizations/authorities

In addition to public institutions, local farmers and hunters' associations might also be interested in repeating the action.

- Activities foreseen to encourage replication

The use and effectiveness of the first aid kits for poisoning will be promoted through the project website. Special workshops will also be held to demonstrate the usefulness of the Kit.

7) Bear Intervention Units

- Technical specifications/methods

Bear Intervention Units in each country need to define specific guidelines/protocols on when and how to operate. These guidelines need to be in accordance with the national policies/guidelines for the management and conservation of the brown bear. In Greece the guidelines for BIUs have been established within the framework of the relevant Common Ministerial Degree for the mitigation of human – bear conflicts. In Italy, there is a protocol – created under the LIFE Arctos – introducing "squadre di pronto intervento" (Bear Intervention Units) for the management of problematic and confident bears.

- Problems and opportunities, if applicable: Permits needed

In the case of Greece operation of the BIU should be covered by the afore-mentioned Decree, but also the regular research permit that the partners of the project have already attained.

In Italy, the above-mentioned protocol enables only staff from Carabinieri Forestali and National Parks to manage bears. Outside of protected areas, a new and specific protocol should enable trained NGO's staff and volunteers to operate for sensitization and damage prevention actions, while captures and aversive conditioning should be implemented by competent authorities.

Other countries and other species will likely have distinct regulatory environments in which intervention units can be established and operated. A thorough legal analysis will be needed each time.

- Replication potential

In Greece and Italy, the guidelines/protocols of the BIU can be replicated on a local level by other management authorities (e.g., Management bodies of Protected areas, Forestry Departments (depending on the national context), but also on in international level by countries that have not established yet BIUs. Elsewhere, different legal (and political) contexts will determine the replication potential but the concept of specialized intervention teams that can, in particular, remove problem individuals of different species is being rapidly adopted (e.g., through LIFE WOLFALPS on wolves in Italy and France).

- Requirements: staff, funding, technical capacities

The minimum requirements for the operation of a BIU are an experienced (i.e., wildlife) veterinarian, a wildlife biologist and a field technician. All these personnel need to have the technical and scientific background of dealing with human – bear conflicts. This requires a specialised training. In Italy, BIUs are currently composed of 4 individuals (2 operators in charge of telemetry, information and management of people and 2 operators in charge of aversive conditioning) plus 1 veterinary and 2 other operators in case of captures.

These units can operate only in protected areas and exceptionally outside prior to a specific authorisation from the competent authorities.

- Costs

Depends on experience, type of employment.

- Socio-economic potential

The socio-economic potential of BIU is very important as the members of the BIU are the ones qualified and should act as potential mitigators between the local human communities and bears.

- Potentially interested organizations/authorities

In Greece: Forestry Departments, Management Bodies of Protected Areas

In Italy: Forestry Departments, Management Bodies of Protected Areas, local NGOs.

Similar organisations in other countries with coexistence challenges.

- Activities foreseen to encourage replication

Dissemination through the project website of the effectiveness of this management tool in dealing with human – bear conflicts. Special attention should be given in the production and publication of short videos highlighting the activities of the BIUs, because of their high impact potential.

Dedicated workshops to show benefits of having BIUs operating across the landscape.

8) Development of the Bear Fund Network

- Technical specifications/methods

Supporting local businesses and create a network of tourism providers is one of the goals of the LIFE BSC. This will be achieved through a landscape business plan (actions A5) which will map out existing and potential businesses and with a capacity enhancement programme (Action E5), which will support local enterprises through a variety of actions. Creating ad-hoc and concrete engagement strategies to align local businesses to conservation and coexistence goals, going beyond the simple commodification of the bear, which is used too often as an economic tool without taking into consideration what it takes to preserve the species and the damages that other stakeholders may suffer.

- Problems and opportunities, if applicable:
- This tool requires that business owners and entrepreneurs recognise the importance of living at peace with bears, which means that a minimum level of acceptance of the species is necessary. It can also be difficult to determine who should contribute to covering the costs of coexistence, and in what proportion. These obstacles are best overcome by involving businesses in the development of a BSC and considering how improved coexistence can benefit them. Replication potential

Could be replicated based on the landscape and the conservation challenges of the local context.

- Requirements: staff, funding, technical capacities

A local and trustworthy tourism agency is key to map out tourism providers and potential itineraries, especially across rural areas. Furthermore, technical knowledge is required to design and execute the capacity enhancement programme for the local businesses, where notions of ecology, finance, communication and marketing will be disseminated.

- Costs

Based on the country and the region they may vary a lot in case you have to outsource the skills to complete these actions. Major costs relate to technical assistance – for the landscape business plan and the technical workshops – as well as for the organisation of promotional events and team building sessions, among others.

- Socio-economic potential

Involving local businesses in the development of nature-based products and embedding them in the management of coexistence can contribute to rural economic development, particularly where bears are only recently establishing themselves and no associated tourism is in place yet. Overall, it gives more visibility to lesser-known destinations outside more conventional routes and align local business to ecological challenges.

- Potentially interested organizations/authorities

Local businesses, entrepreneurs, and investors, as well as municipalities, regional authorities and others which aim to develop new tourism products.

- Activities foreseen to encourage replication

Dissemination through social media channels and online platforms which can partner up with local businesses to promote their products (such as Broozy and the Bear-smart Box).

9) *Participatory techniques to involve stakeholders*

- Technical specifications/methods

Capacity-building seminars will be conducted in order to involve in a participatory manner different stakeholders previously identified as crucial for human-bear coexistence. In these seminars, the knowledge and experiences of experts in the field are shared with LBSC residents in a simple and understandable way. In addition, experts in primary production will provide theoretical and practical support to residents as compensation for the potential losses of livestock and damage to agriculture. Finally, educational meetings will create a useful network where information and opinions are exchanged.

- Problems and opportunities, if applicable: Permits needed

An obvious opportunity that presents itself is the potential collaboration with the stakeholders who participated in the above-mentioned seminars on the establishment and maintenance of the LBSC. On the other hand, the main problem of the action that needs to be overcome is the unwillingness of stakeholders to participate in the meetings and the mistrust of new practices and attitudes regarding the coexistence of people and bears.

- Replication potential

Capacity-building seminars and workshops for stakeholders are likely to be replicated in communities where there is a permanent presence of bears under the management of public institutions (e.g., protected area management agencies, forestry offices, etc.) or local professional associations.

- Requirements: staff, funding, technical capacities

Recognised and widely accepted experts in the field of primary production such as veterinarians, agronomists and agricultural economists should be involved in conducting the capacity building workshops. A local facilitator should also be involved in each geographical district to activate local people, maintain their interest in the issue and guide the conversation appropriately when needed. The action could be funded by public institutions (e.g., protected area management units, forestry offices, etc.), NGOs or local professional associations. No special technical requirements are needed, except a laptop and a projector, if possible.

- Costs

The travel and accommodation costs of the experts should be taken into account. In addition, the fee of the mediator should be estimated. Further, there are the costs for catering for the participants and possibly for renting a hall.

- Socio-economic potential

Capacity-building activities will have an important economic impact if the stakeholders are able to actually use the knowledge that has been imparted. The main objective of the action is to significantly reduce the costs of livestock losses or damage to farms caused by bears. Secondarily, the action aims to increase local primary production in order to promote and establish the approach of sustainable development and human-wildlife coexistence.

- Potentially interested organizations/authorities

Organizations and authorities who might be interested to replicate these activities can definitely be Public Organizations (e.g., protected area management units, forestry offices, etc.), NGOs or local professional associations.

- Activities foreseen to encourage replication

Good networking printed educational material, and communication and dissemination of project results will encourage replication. In addition, all the project's beneficiaries are committed to promoting the actions of the project at every opportunity, e.g., at conferences and congresses, other scientific events, community fairs etc.

ANNEX

List of potential parties and entities potentially interested in the project activities

Project/initiative/entity	**Contacts**
LIFE Wolf Alps	Laura Scillitani (laura.scillitani@areeprotettealpimarittime.it)
LIFE Primed	Vito Cambria (coordinator@lifeprimed.eu)
American Embassy in Rome	Alexis M. Layman (MaymanAM@state.dog)
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