



Deliverable C1.1 "Report on critical review on the constraints"

Project ref. number	LIFE20 PRE/IT/000007
Project title	Remote sensing oriented nature based solutions towards a NEW LIFE FOR DRYLANDS
Project Acronym	NewLife4Drylands

Deliverable title	Report on critical review on the constraints
Deliverable number	C1.1
Deliverable version	1.0
Contractual date of delivery	30 June 2024
Actual date of delivery	30 June 2024
Online access	-
Diffusion	Public
Nature of deliverable	Document
Action	C1
Partner responsible	CNR-IIA
Author(s)	Paolo Mazzetti (CNR-IIA), Laura Tomassetti (CNR-IIA), Fabrizio Ungaro (CNR-IBE), Francesca Assennato (ISPRA)
Editor	Paolo Mazzetti (CNR-IIA), Laura Tomassetti (CNR-IIA)



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Review of the encountered constraints.....	4
3. GANTT.....	7



1. Introduction

The present document is a review of the constraints encountered during the execution of the NewLife4Drylands project and the related countermeasures that the Consortium put in place to overcome them. The deliverable aims at documenting the process of identification and resolution of such problems, issues and challenges for information and for knowledge transfer about the measure of success of the implemented countermeasures. Constraints are classified in the usual five types: Time, Scope, Risk, Resources, Cost. The document also includes Gantt sheet on actions timely envisaged in the project and the effective time consumed for each action.

2. Review of the encountered constraints

Identifier	COVID Pandemic
Type	Risk
Description	<p>The proposal for the NewLife4Drylands project was elaborated during summer 2020, a few months after the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in Europe. The uncertainty about the pandemic evolution was expressed in the proposal text in general ("The main constraint is the risk of Covid-19 that is taken in account by the project team") and with specific reference to the associated risks of travel limitation ("All travel can be cancelled for COVID emergency."). The project started in January 2021 when the COVID-19 pandemic was still a major concern.</p>
Impact	<p>The COVID pandemic impacted on the project especially during the first 18 months of the project, from January 2021 to June 2022. This situation had an impact on the project due to a limitation of travel, which made it impossible to organize in-person meetings, field trips to the case study areas, and participate in scientific and networking events.</p> <p>It also had an indirect impact, especially in the first months of the project, for the slowdown of administrative procedures because of the work restructuring necessary for remote work adaptation by the beneficiary organizations.</p>
Countermeasures	<p>The impact of COVID pandemic was anticipated in the proposal making it possible to prepare adequate countermeasures. Instead of major meetings held in-person, the NewLife4Drylands project management organized frequent (monthly) online meetings. Field trips were postponed to the last 18 months of the project allowing visits to Alta Murgia (June 2023), El Bruc (November 2023) and Palo Laziale (June 2024). Many project beneficiaries had also the possibility to visit other NewLife4Drylands sites – e.g., Asterousia and Nestos – in the context of other projects of the NewLife4Drylands network (e.g., LIFE Primed).</p> <p>Project beneficiaries participated and contributed to online conferences. NewLife4Drylands organized networking meetings inviting LIFE and non-LIFE projects and initiatives for presentation and discussions, and potential collaborations as a follow-on.</p> <p>The slowdown of administrative procedures was quickly recovered by the beneficiary organizations without the need for specific countermeasures.</p>
Result	<p>As a result of the implemented countermeasures, the NewLife4Drylands project was able to fully reach its objectives.</p>

Identifier	Project limited duration
Type	Time
Description	<p>The NewLife4Drylands project duration was initially planned to 30 months, thus covering the period from January 2021 to June 2023. However, due to the impact of seasonality on the assessment of land degradation and NBS effectiveness, and the start of the project in January 2021, it resulted too short.</p> <p>Also, having more time than planned to interact with stakeholders for the NewLife4Drylands Protocol for decision-makers was considered beneficial.</p>
Impact	<p>The short duration of the project had two potential drawbacks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) short time for monitoring of NBS effectiveness. In particular, for the case study area in Alta Murgia, restoration activities were planned on autumn 2022, leaving the possibility to measure the effect on a single spring season (2023), making impossible to highlight any positive or negative effect of the restoration actions. b) Short time for the interaction with stakeholders could be a barrier to the consolidation of the NewLife4Drylands Protocol which is the final and most important outcome of the project collecting the results of the other project actions.
Countermeasures	As soon as the potential drawbacks were identified, the project management asked for a project extension of 12 months. The proposed amendment to the Grant Agreement was approved moving the end of the project to June 2024.
Result	As a result of the accepted amendment, the project was able to complete the assessment of the effectiveness of restoration actions in Alta Murgia covering two full spring seasons. It was also able to organize dedicated meetings with local stakeholders in the three member states represented in the project (Greece, Italy, Spain) resulting in a consolidated NewLife4Drylands project and in the preparation of a Summary Report of the Protocol based on the suggestions received.

Identifier	Temporary personnel units' recruitment
Type	Resources
Description	<p>CNR-IBE initially planned to recruit temporary staff to support research activities in actions A1 and A4 for 36 months (about 3 years), but the appointed researcher quit the position at the end of March 2023 for a permanent position elsewhere.</p> <p>ISPRA Initially planned to recruit temporary staff to support research activities in actions A3, and a Contract was signed for Chiara Giuliani for 18 months. Following the recruitment under a different selection Giuliani quit the position after 9 months.</p>
Impact	<p>Due to time constraints linked to the length of the internal procedure to open again a temporary position for 12 months CNR-IBE decided to carry on with the activities foreseen by the project proposal without the support of additional research staff</p> <p>Also, due to internal rules of ISPRA that require a minimum of 12 months for recruitment, it was not possible to select another researcher as additional personnel.</p>
Countermeasures	The lack of support from temporary research staff was compensated by additional efforts from the permanent research staff involved in the project
Result	All the actions foreseen by the project proposal were accomplished in due time meeting the deadline set for the delivery of all project reports under the responsibility of CNR IBE and ISPRA

3. GANTT

In Figure 1 the final GANTT of NewLife4Drylands actions is shown along with the time duration of each action.

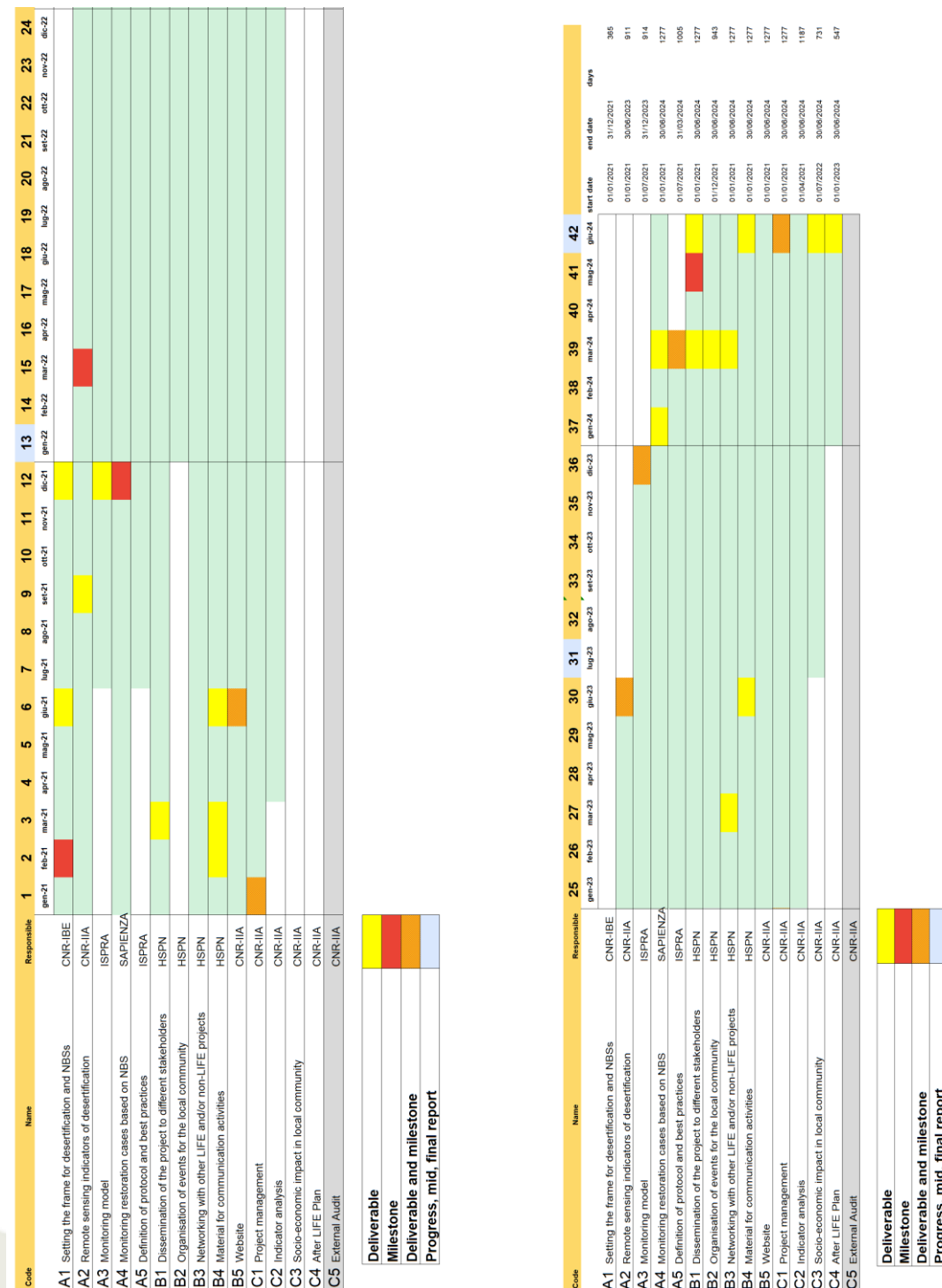


Figure 1 GANTT and duration of action (left: months 1-24; right: months 25-42)