



LIFE14 NAT/SI/000005

Progress Report

Covering the project activities from 01/11/2017 to 15/12/2018

Reporting Date
20/12/2018

LIFE TO GRASSLANDS



ZAVOD REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE
ZA VARSTVO NARAVE



DRUŠTVO GORJANSKE KOŠENICE





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Data Project

Project location:	Slovenia (4 project sub-areas)
Project start date:	01/11/2015
Project end date:	31/10/2020 Extension date: /
Total budget:	€3.898.582
EU contribution:	€2.923.936
(%) of eligible costs:	75%

Data Beneficiary

Name Beneficiary:	Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation
Contact person:	Dr. Nika Debeljak Šabec
Postal address:	Tobačna ulica 5, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Telephone:	+386 1 230 9500
E-mail:	zrsvn.oe@zrsvn.si nika.debeljak@zrsvn.si
Project Website:	www.lifetograsslands.si



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2 List of key-words and abbreviations

AB - Associated beneficiary

CB - Coordinating beneficiary

EC - European Commission

EU - European Union

CB ZRSVN - Zavod Republike Slovenije za varstvo narave (Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation)

AB KGZ Ptuj - Kmetijsko gozdarski zavod Ptuj (Agriculture and Forestry Institute Ptuj)

AB PRJ Halo - Podeželsko razvojno jedro (Rural development centre AB PRJ Halo)

AB KS Dobovec - Krajevna skupnost Dobovec (Local community Dobovec)

AB Društvo GK - Društvo Gorjanske košenice (Society Gorjanske košenice)

MOP - Ministrstvo za okolje in prostor (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning)

MKGP - Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food)

SIDG - Slovenski državni gozdovi d.o.o. (Slovenia State forest ltd)

SKZG RS - Sklad kmetijskih zemljišč in gozdov Republike Slovenije (Farmland and Forest Fund of the Republic of Slovenia)

PSA - project sub-area



3 Executive summary (max 2 pages)

3.1. General progress

The project **“LIFE conservation and management of dry grasslands in Eastern Slovenia”** (LIFE 14 NAT/SI/000005) with the acronym LIFE TO GRASSLANDS was launched on the 1st of November 2015. Until now, two reports (Progress and Mid-term) were prepared and approved. This report covers project activities from 1st of November 2017 to 15th of December 2018.

The main objective of the project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS is improvement of the conservation status of dry grasslands at four project sub-areas (Haloze, Pohorje, Gorjanci, and Kum) through overgrowth removal and establishment of appropriate long-term multifunctional use of dry grassland. Two project targeted habitats are priority habitat types Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco- Brometalia) ((* important orchid sites) (EU_6210(*)) and Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe) (EU_6230(*)).

General progress of the project is good. Majority of Action are successfully on the way with Preparatory actions A.3 and A.4 finishing in December 2018. There is a delay in Action C.1 Removal of overgrowth, due to several factor described in Chapter 3.2. We are carrying out additional activities to assure successful completion of the project in time.

3.1 Assessment as to whether the project objectives and work plan are still viable

All Deliverables and Milestones that were due to be completed by this reporting date are completed (Deliverables 8.1). We plan to successfully finish project activities by the planed end date of the project.

3.2 Identified deviations, problems and corrective actions taken in the period

As described already in Mid-term report, there was a delay in Preparatory actions A.3 and A.4, which are interconnected. These actions were prolonged in the Mid-term Report and are finishing successfully in December 2018. Consequently, there was a delay in action C1 - Removal of overgrowth.

At the beginning of the project, we were faced with factors that were beyond our control and could not have been foreseen.

There was an institutional change in management responsibilities of state-owned land and consequently unforeseen problems in acquiring the consents from managers of the state-owned land assigned for the implementation of the relevant C-actions.



Consents for state-owned land were successfully obtained in September 2017 from Farmland and Forest Fund of the Republic of Slovenia (SKGZ RS – manager of stat farmland) and in May 2018 from Slovene state forests (SiDG – manager of stat-owned forest).

After initial unwillingness of farmers to sign the “Agreements with farmers for joining the project's activities” and after considerable effort from the project staff, we are happy to report that we managed **to exceed the planned goal** of total area, for which we will assure long-term management of grassland through signed Agreements with farmers and manager to enter the project activities.

The delay in institutional change in management responsibilities of state-owned land and in signing Agreements affected the implementation of actions C.1 Removal of overgrowth.

In addition, our fieldwork under Action C.1 - Removal of overgrowth, was further hindered by another external factor – several severe weather conditions. In December 2017, there was a severe windfall which effected north-eastern and western Slovenia. Subsequently there was an outbreak of bark beetles in 2017. In November 2018 there was additional windfall especially badly affecting north-eastern Slovenia with 125.000m³ of damaged trees. According to Slovenia law, Slovenia forest service consequently issued Decisions for sanitary felling of 1.113.660 m³ of trees in 2018 (Annex 7.1 Report from Slovenia Forest service). Tree felling has to be primarily carried out on these areas. This caused an extreme situation in the Slovenian market of tree felling, where there was a lack of external contractors for the amount of trees that needed to be cut according to Decisions for sanitary felling. Consequently, our external subcontractors for tree felling were redirected to sanitary felling areas, which caused a delay in our project action C.1 (Removal of overgrowth) and in addition rise of market price for tree felling.

We are carrying out additional activities (see Action C.1) to assure successful completion of all project activities in time.

4 Administrative part

The project partnership consists of a:

- Coordinating beneficiary (CB): Zavod Republike Slovenije za varstvo narave (Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation; from now on CB ZRSVN)
- Four Associated beneficiaries (AB) namely:
 - Kmetijsko gozdarski zavod Ptuj (Agriculture and Forestry Institute Ptuj; from now on AB KGZ Ptuj),
 - Podeželsko razvojno jedro Haloze (Rural development center AB PRJ Halo; from now on AB PRJ Halo),
 - Krajevna skupnost Dobovec (Local community Dobovec; from now on AB KS Dobovec),
 - Društvo Gorjanske košenice (Society Gorjanske košenice; from now on AB Društvo GK).

All associated beneficiaries have a unique important role and each brings added value to the project partnership. CB ZRSVN being a state professional institution in the field of nature conservation; AB KGZ Ptuj, being a regional institution responsible to provide public services



of agricultural advising, professional tasks of rural development; ABs: PRJ Halo, KS Dobovec and Društvo GK both important project sub-area stakeholders and opinion makers with good connections to local associations and farmers, which is crucial for the project to be successful in the field.

Currently the project team is consisted of 9 full time and 25 part time members. Altogether the partnership is amounting to 15,35 full time personnel. The project team of 34 members are working together and/or independently on their assigned activities. The partnership is well defined, balanced and working together well.

The project management is organized as shown in the attached organigram (Annex 7.2). Nika Debeljak (CB ZRSVN) is a full-time project manager. For easier coordination between partners, each of the associated beneficiaries nominated a project coordinator employee, who regularly communicates with the project manager namely: Mr. Peter Pribožič for AB KGZ Ptuj, Mr. Jernej Golc for AB PRJ Halo, Mr. Franci Bratkovič for AB Društvo KG and Mr. Marjan Jamšek for AB Dobovec. For easier coordination of work in each PSA, CB ZRSVN nominated four project sub-area coordinators.

The Supervisory board committee assures the quality of project results. The Supervisory board committee was formed at the Kick off meeting 20th - 21st of February 2016. The Supervisory board committee met 3 times in this reporting period: 4th of October 2017, 21st of March 2018, 5th of November 2018 (Annex 7.3 Table of events).

The project manager regularly organizes meetings with project sub-area coordinators and partnership coordination meetings. One 2 day field meeting is organized yearly by CB ZRSVN for the whole partnership (PSA Kum 21st -22nd of September 2017, PSA Pohorje 21st -22nd of September).

All partners prepare written monthly reports on progress of their activities to the CB ZRSVN. A monthly joint partnership written report on progress of the project is submitted by the CB ZRSVN to the external monitor (Mr. Nikolaj Pečenko, NEEMO). The project manager is also in regular contact with the external project monitor and the representative of the co-financer (Ministry Environment and Spatial Planning, also a LIFE focal point for Slovenia, Ms. Julijana Lebez Lozej).

ABs also prepare financial reports to the CB ZRSVN every 3 months (time sheets, expenditure reports and copies of all receipts/invoices that are all labelled with the project number). The reports are being joint together by the CB ZRSVN to revise the project expenditure.

The coordinating beneficiary - Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (CB ZRSVN) has appointed a new director, Teo Hrvoje Oršanič, for the period from 22nd January 2018 to 21st January 2022. The legal representative of the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation until 21st January 2018 was Darij Krajčič, PhD (Annex 7.4). There were no other changes in management structure of the partnership.



5 Technical part

5.1 Progress per action

5.1.1 Action A.1: Analysis of the initial situation of the agricultural use of dry grasslands

Foreseen start date: IV/2015

Actual start date: November 2015

Foreseen end date: III/2016

Actual end date: September 2016

Status: completed

This action was reported as finished in November 2015 in the Mid-term Report. All expected indicators were achieved.

5.1.2 Action A.2: Elaboration of the Conservation guidelines for sustainable management of HT 6210(*) / 6230(*) in the project sub-areas

Foreseen start date: IV/2015

Actual start date: November 2015

Foreseen end date: IV/2017

Actual end date: December 2017

Status: completed / updated

Majority of the work in Action A.2 was finished in previous reporting period. Conservation guidelines for sustainable management of HT and four Draft Action plan were reported in the Mid-term Report. Action plans include description of the initial situation (baseline assessment) and identification of areas for the implementation of concrete actions, where Agreements with farmers/landowners were already signed. Action plans are being constantly updated with new areas of activities, according to newly signed Agreement with farmers. Updated version of Action plans are attached in (Deliverables 8.2 Draft Action plans).

We are assuring integration of Conservation guidelines for sustainable management into relevant sectoral management plans continued. Updated version of the excel table with relevant plans is in Annex 7.5.

5.1.3 Action A.3: Involvement of landowners in the project and identification of areas for action implementation

Foreseen start date: I/2016

Actual start date: December 2015

Foreseen end date: IV/2017

Actual (or anticipated) end date: December 2018

Status: in progress, in the final stage

This action was crucial for the successful completion of the project. The Public invitation for the inclusion into the project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS was prepared separately for each PSA in April 2017.



It took a long time (and repetitive farm visits by project staff) to establish trustful relations with farmers. In addition, large fragmentation of land, with the average farm size for PSA Haloze being 4,81 ha, demanded greater efforts to ensure the targeted indicator value for long-term management. We therefore extended the Action A.3 and A.4 until December 2018 in the Mid-term Report.

With the considerable effort from the project staff, we are happy to report that until now we received in total 187 Applications from farmers for potential inclusion in the project activities (122 Haloze, 33 Kum, 14 Pohorje, 18 Gorjanci).

In Action A.3 we **carried out 557 farm visits** (311 Haloze, 117 Kum, 20 Pohorje, 109 Gorjanci; indicator is 400) to get farmer interested and actively involved in project activities and assess the suitability of the potential area to be included into project activities (Annex 7.6 List of farm visits).

Based on the results of application processing, which among others includes also field assessment of the area, 157 farms were included in the project (93 Haloze, 31 Kum, 15 Pohorje, 18 Gorjanci). For these farms Agreements were prepared and signed (Action A.4). 16 of them were not suitable for the project (were outside Natura 2000, did not have suitable habitat).

5.1.4 Action A.4: Permit procedures

Foreseen start date: I/2016

Actual start date: February 2016

Foreseen end date: IV/2017

Actual (or anticipated) end date: December 2018

Status: In progress, in the final stage

12 permits according to Act on Forests (Article 21, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 30/1993) were obtained for PSA Pohorje 1 permit for PSA Haloze (Deliverables 8.3 Obtained legal permits). On other PSA's the permits are not needed according to Act on Forests.

1 nature conservation consent According to the Article 105 of the Nature Conservation Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 96/2004) were obtained (Deliverables 8.3 Obtained legal permits). Nature conservation approvals for implementations of all other C actions planned are not needed (described in detail in Mid-term Report).

In the process of Application processing, we obtained, in total for all four PSA's, 351 owner permits (separately: 184 for PSA Haloze, 70 for PSA Kum, 58 for PSA Gorjanci, 39 for PSA Pohorje (Deliverables 8.4 Owners permits).

In the process of E.4 action (Information and interpretation tools) we obtained additional 11 owner permits (separately: for PSA Haloze 5, for PSA Kum 1, for PSA Gorjanci 1, for PSA Pohorje 4) (Deliverables 8.4 Owners permits). In Action C. 3 (The restoration and maintenance of traditional orchards) we obtained 9 owner permits for construction of insect hotels (Deliverables 8.4 Owners permits)

Altogether, for the implementation of C actions we obtained 371 owners permits (indicator 180).



Until now, we signed 157 Agreements for joining the project's activities with landowners/farmers (for PSA Haloze 93, for PSA Kum 31, for PSA Gorjanci 18, for PSA Pohorje 15) (Annex 7.7 Signed Agreements).

When a landowner/farmer signs an Agreement for joining the project's activities, CB ZRSVN prepares a personalized Management manual for extensive dry grassland use for each specific farm plot (Annex 7.8 Management manuals).

There was a delay in obtaining consensuses from Farmland and Forest Fund of the Republic of Slovenia (as a manager of the agricultural state owned land) and Slovenian state forests, ptd. (as a manager of the state owned forest land). It took much longer time to obtain consensuses from both new state institutions, than anticipated according to our previous experience. We handed in a joint Application for consent to both managers of state owned land, at the same time (as agreed with both directors) on the 8th of March 2017. We managed to obtain consensus from Farmland and Forest Fund of the Republic of Slovenia on the 15th of September 2017 (Annexed in Mid-term Report) and additional Annex to consensus on the 23rd of October 2017 (Annex 7.9 Action A.4 Consensus from SKZG RS). Later, on after several meeting (and a change of a director of SIDG), we obtained a consensus from Slovenia state forests, Ltd. on the 18th of May 2018 (Annex 7.9 Action A.4 Consensus from SIDG).

5.1.5 Action B.1: Purchase and lease of land in the Haloze project sub-area

Foreseen start date: III/2016

Actual start date: June 2016

Foreseen end date: II/2018

Actual (or anticipated) end date: March 2019

Status: In progress

From October 2017 until September 2018 various landowners were contacted to sell or lease the land to AB PRJ Halo who would free-lease the land to land managers. The activities were focused to area called Čerinovo (cca. 27 ha). Detailed situation of Čerinovo area is described in Annex 7.10 (Čerinovo).

In the first phase, AB PRJ Halo managed to purchase 7,40 ha of private owned. The land was co-owned by 7 private owners. The new ownership of AB PRJ Halo is already officially registered in Land state register (Annex 7.11 Action B.1 Legal contract for purchasing private land, extract from land register).

In the phase II, additional 6,24 ha (Annex 7.12 Action B1 Notice on the board of the administrative unit) of land plots is currently in the buying process, with legal agreements and transference of funds are expected to be concluded in December 2018.

In the same area, Čerinovo, 4,57 ha of land is state owned and is currently not managed at all. We are discussing with SKZGRS to lease the land. Formulation of contracts between the leaser (SKZGRS) and lessee (AB PRJ Halo) is currently being discussed.

In the same Čerinovo area additional 8,42 ha of state owned land was leased directly by a local farmer Drevenšek, who included the leased lands in project actions C.1 and C.2 (Annex 7.13 Action B1 Leasing contract between SKZGRS and of Drevenšek).



Altogether, we will purchase of 13,98 ha (of planned 15 ha) and leased 13 ha of land (of planned 15 ha). The indicator is not reached in total, due to lack of additional willingness to sell or lease the land (according to the value specified in the project proposal). This will not affect the main goal of the project – being long-term management of dry grasslands in total of 517 ha. This goal is already reached (Action C.2), since we managed to assure long-term management of 544ha through signed Agreements with farmers and through signed Farm management plans. We managed to get enough farmers interested in project activities that we nevertheless reached the indicator 517 ha.

As stated above, farmer Drevenšek was happy to lease the land on his own cost if the project assures initial removal of extensive overgrowth and if he can get and use the grazing equipment thought the project, free of charge. This way, we saved some money in the category cost Long-term lease of land. There is additional interest of farmers to manage the land by mowing. We would like to propose to transfer some of the unspent money from the action B1 (cost category Long-term lease of land) for the purchase of an additional grass mover by AB PRJ Halo, which will be given to farmer to be used free of charge. For the other part of unspent money in the cost category Long-term lease of land, we would like to propose to be transferred to category cost Direct Personnel costs (AB PRJ Halo personnel), since we anticipate that we will use more working hours to assure the long-term management of dry grasslands giving grazing and mowing equipment to farmer free of charge.

5.1.6 Action B.2: Purchase of land in Gorjanci-Radoha project sub-area

Foreseen start date: III/2016

Actual start date: June 2016

Foreseen end date: II/2018

Actual (or anticipated) end date: December 2018

Status: In progress

In the Mid-term Report, we proposed the transfer funds for this action (because of administrative mistake) from AB PRJ Halo to AB Društvo GK, since Društvo GK was the foreseen responsible beneficiary for this action.

In May 2018, AB Društvo GK purchased 2,36 ha of privately owned land over three plots. The new ownership of AB Društvo GK is already officially registered in Land state register (Annex 7.14 Legal contract for purchasing private land, extract from land register). AB Društvo GK will manage the land in future.

Due to lack of additional willingness to sell the land (according to the value specified in the project proposal) indicated goal of 3 ha of purchased land will not be reached in total.

5.1.7 Action C.1: Removal of overgrowth

Foreseen start date: III/2016

Actual start date: May 2016

Foreseen end date: II/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: June 2020

Status: In progress



On state owned land, CB ZRSVN collaborated with managers of state owned land (namely, SiDG - manager of state owned forests and SKZGRS - manager of state owned agriculture land). After many meetings, we are happy to report that state managers agreed to remove extensive overgrowth on their own cost, if the project assures long-term management of grasslands. CB ZRSVN prepared all needed professional documentation and carried out (by external subcontractor) marking of trees, according to the national legislation. On Pohorje PSA, state managers will carry out **removal of overgrowth, on their own cost, on 41,66 ha** (18,45 ha SiDG in forests and 23,21 ha SKGZRS on agriculture land). Managers of state owned land prepared three public tenders for the removal of overgrowth. SKZGRS subcontracted Borovnik Drago s.p. in October 2018 (Annex 7.15 Overgrowth removal contract Borovnik Drago s.p.) and SiDG selected the subcontractor Tiama d.o.o. in September 2018 (Annex 7.16 Action C.1 Overgrowth removal contract between SiDG and Tiama d.o.o.).

In addition to state owned land, we managed to include overgrowth removal activities through signed Agreements with farmers and on purchased land by AB PRJ (Action B.1) in total on **137,48 ha of land (indicator 133 ha)**.

As reported in Mid-term Report, CB ZRSVN prepared a public tender for »Removal of overgrowth in project sub-areas Pohorje, Haloze, Kum and Gorjanci« in August 2017 and contracted four external subcontractors (one for each PSA, reported in Mid-term Report).

In December 2017, CB ZRSVN published a public tender for supervision over removal of overgrowth and signed a contract with Slovenia Forest Service (ZGS), (Annex 7.17 public tender and contract). In addition, employees of the CB ZRSVN are regularly monitoring the progress of overgrowth removal on the field.

As described before, the progress of overgrowth removal in the field is slower than anticipated and the progress indicator for removal of overgrowth on project sub-areas "up to November 2018 completed 70 % of planned surface overgrowth removed" will be delayed.

PSA	Haloze	Kum	Pohorje	Gorjanci	total
Overgrowth removal / in the proposal	45,00	26,00	52,00	10,00	133,00
Overgrowth removal / in Agreements + state (ha)	49,71	19,30	53,42	15,05	137,48
Overgrowth removal / in Agreements + state (%)	110%	74%	103%	151%	103%
Overgrowth removal / in progress (ha)	Haloze	Kum	Pohorje	Gorjanci	total
Overgrowth removal / completed (ha)	2,97	1,00	9,12	5,45	18,54
Overgrowth removal / In progress (ha)	11,77	0	8,78	2,59	23,14
Voluntary action (ha)	2,18	0,82	0*	0,40	3,40
Overgrowth removal / finished and in progress – total (ha)	16,92	1,82	17,90	8,44	45,08
Overgrowth removal / finished and in progress – total (%)	37,60%	7,00%	34,42%	84,40%	33,89%

Table 1: removal of overgrowth per PSA.

* volunteer actions (hand removal of braches and smaller tree felling residues) were carried out in the same area as overgrowth removal activities.



Detailed description of activities for each PSA together with pictures is enclosed in Annex 7.18.

As described in Chapter 3.2, the delay of the signing the Agreements with land owners and managers of state owned land affected the implementation of actions C.1 (Removal of overgrowth). In addition, removal of overgrowth was further hindered by another external factor beyond our control – several severe weather conditions.

In December 2017, there was a severe windfall which effected north-eastern and western Slovenia. Subsequently there was an outbreak of bark beetles in 2017. In November 2018 there was additional windfall especially badly effecting north-eastern Slovenia with 125.000m³ of damaged trees. According to Slovenia law the Slovenia forest service consequently issued Decisions for sanitary felling of 1.113.660 m³ of trees in 2018 (Annex 7.1 Report from Slovenia Forest service). Tree felling has to be primarily carried out on these areas. This caused an extreme situation in the Slovenian market of tree felling, where there was a lack of external contractors for the amount of trees that needed to be cut according to Decisions for sanitary felling. This caused that our external subcontractors tree felling were redirected to sanitary felling areas, which caused a delay in our project action C.1 (Removal of overgrowth) and in addition, the market price for tree felling has exponentially risen. This caused that the external subcontractor for removal of overgrowth on Kum PSA resigned from the project contract.

We are preparing a new public tender for removal of overgrowth for PSA Kum and in addition, we are actively searching for additional external subcontractors to assure faster progression and completion of work. We are positive that we will finish the overgrowth removal action in time.

In June 2018 CB ZRSVN published a public tender for the revitalization of grasslands by mulching / pulling of tree hives and contracted Kristjan Rutnik s.p.. Until October 2018, work was completed on 5.34 ha of land (Annex 7.19 public tender, contract; Annex 7.18).

Volunteer actions: Until now we **organized 15 voluntary actions** (PSA Pohorje (3): 24th of September 2016, 23rd of September 2017, 22nd of September 2018; PSA Haloze (3): 18th of February and 4th of November 2017, 19th of October 2018; PSA Gorjanci (8): 15th of April and 21st of October 2017, 13th of January, 28th of March, 31st of March, 6th of April, 7th of April and 26th of May 2018; PSA Kum (1): 20th of October 2018). The progress indicator is - up to November 2019 completed 15 of 16 (Annex 7.3 Table of events).

5.1.8 Action C.2: Ensuring the appropriate long-term use of dry grasslands

Foreseen start date: IV/2016

Actual start date: August 2016

Foreseen end date: III/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: September 2020

Status: In progress

Action C.2 aims at ensuring appropriate long-term use of dry grasslands. Project partners therefore purchased the necessary equipment (grazing /mowing equipment) which will enable local farmers (to whom we will lend it free of charge) to re-establish use of grasslands or in some cases to improve existing use (details reported in Mid-term Report).



With signed Agreements with farmers and Farm management plans (Action C.5), we are currently assuring appropriate management of **544,18 ha of dry grasslands** (targeted goal is 517 ha). We are very happy to report that we exceeded the planned indicator.

PSA	Haloze	Kum	Pohorje	Gorjanci	total
Appropriate management (ha) – in indicator in the proposal	180,00	50,00	257,00	30,00	517,00
Appropriate management (ha) - In signed agreements	236,13	85,47	188,08	34,5	544,18
%	131,18	170,94	73,18	115,00	105,23%

Table 2: Appropriate long-term management of grasslands per PSA.

Mowing equipment was purchased by ABs as reported in Midterm report: 1 modern mountain mower for steep terrain and 1 brush cutter by AB KS Dobovec; 2 mountain mowers for steep terrain by AB PRJ Halo and one mower by AB Društvo GK.

In the project proposal, we planned to construct 94 km of grazing fence. Until now, we managed to include, in signed Agreements with farmers, construction of **110,83 km of grazing fence** (PSA Haloze 89,98 km, PSA Kum 16,3 km, PSA Pohorje 4,55 km) (details in Annex 7.20).

Until now, 104,62 km grazing fence (in total) was already purchased and distributed to farmers (73,39 km for cattle and 31,39 km for sheep, of planned 94km; details in Annex 7.20).

PSA	Haloze	Kum	Pohorje	Gorjanci	total
Wire fence (sheep + cattle) (km)– indicator in the proposal	80,00	10,00	4,00	/	94,00
Wire fence (sheep + cattle) (km) – In signed agreements	89,98	16,30	4,55	/	110,83
%	112,48%	147,40%	113,75%	/	117,90%

Table 3: Purchased and distributed wire fence per PSA. The material was purchased for € as planned in the proposal.

8 demonstration workshops about proper usage of project grass mowing equipment (modern mountain mower for steep terrain, mulcher and backpack movers) and new system for installation of a wire grazing fence were carried out (Annex 7.20).

CB ZRSVN purchased one cattle trailer from chosen external supplier TPV AVTO d.o.o. and land it free of charge to Pasture community Rogla (PSA Pohorje) (Annex 7.20).

AB KS Dobovec purchased additional 2 backpack movers from external subcontractor and supplier, Kmetijstvo Polanec d.o.o.

5.1.9 Action C.3: The restoration and maintenance of traditional orchards

Foreseen start date: I/2016, IV/2016

Actual start date: November 2015

Foreseen end date: I/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: March 2020

Status: In progress, according to planed time table



In the proposal, we planned to restore/replant 45,5 ha of tall traditional orchards. Until now, we managed to assure **restoration/replanting of 80.85 ha of orchards** through signed Agreements with farmers (Annex 7.21). We are happy to report we exceeded the planned goal.

Until now farmers from PSAs Haloze, Kum and Gorjanci already received, from CB ZRSVN, in total **2.201 saplings with the protective equipment**. The rest of the saplings will be delivered to the farmers in spring and autumn 2019.

CB ZRSVN prepared a public tender for the rejuvenation pruning of mature tall orchard fruit trees and subcontracted Zavod Jabolko (Annex 7.22), who until now carried out pruning of 195 trees (Annex 7.21).

CB ZRSVN, AB KGZ Ptuj, AB KS Dobovec and AB PRJ Halo jointly organized demonstration workshops for proper planting of saplings.

AB KGZ Ptuj carried five (6) demonstration workshops of proper and rejuvenation pruning of traditional fruit trees.

AB KGZ Ptuj, CB ZRSVN, AB KS Dobovec and AB PRJ Halo jointly organized eight (8) volunteer actions of restoring and replanting the orchards (Annex 7.21).

To ensure the successful pollination of orchards and increase the biodiversity of dry grasslands as well as the awareness of the locals, insect hotels AB PRJ Halo prepared public tender for construction of insect hotels in September 2017 (Annex 7.23). External subcontractor LIMPAK d.o.o. until now installed 8 insect hotels in the vicinity of orchards (Annex 7.21).

5.1.10 Action C.4: Networking of owners and users of dry grassland plots in the Haloze project sub-area

Foreseen start date: IV/2017

Actual start date: January 2017

Foreseen end date: III/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: September 2020

Status: started in advance

The web portal is functional since end of April 2017. It is available on web page: <http://www.travisca.haloze.org/>. Links to this web portal are available on web pages of LIFE TO GRASSLANDS project, AB PRJ Halo, CB ZRSVN and AB KGZ Ptuj. The web portal is upgraded regularly. The template forms for land, animals, hay purchase/sell are filled by farmers, land owners and sent to AB PRJ Halo, who will publish information on the web portal (Annex 7.24).

4 training workshops for stakeholders for the web portal use were organized (Annex 7.3 Table of events).

News are regularly published LIFE TO GRASSLANDS Facebook account.

AB PRJ Halo prepared annual information event for promotion of networking between farmers in Haloze PSA on the 7th July 2018. In addition, four workshops for landowners were prepared in the reporting period.



5.1.11 Action C.5: Preparation of farm management plans for improving dry grasslands management

Foreseen start date: IV/2017

Actual start date: October 2017

Foreseen end date: III/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: October 2020

Status: started, according to planed time table

In 2018, a Project working group (consisting of representatives CB ZRSVN, AB KGZ Ptuj and AB PRJ Halo) was established and prepared a draft text of the Farm management plan for the project.

Until now 10 Farm management plans for PSA Haloze and 2 Farm management plans for PSA Pohorje were prepared in close cooperation with the owners or the manager of the land (Deliverables 8.5). Farm management plans for PSA Kum and PSA Gorjanci will be prepared in year 2019 (detailed description Annex 7.25).

A field trip to Austria for landowners, land managers and project representatives was carried out on the 9th of October 2018. 50 people attended the field trip. Bus was rented and translation/ guidance organized by CB ZRSVN (Annex 7.25).



5.1.12 Action C.6: Preparation of an Expert Proposal of AEP measures related to the preservation of the HT 6210(*) and 6230(*) for integration into the 2021–2027 Rural development programme of the Republic of Slovenia

Foreseen start date: IV/2017

Actual start date: June 2016

Foreseen end date: II/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: June 2020

Status: started in advance

In January 2018, a project working group was established to prepare an Expert proposal of AEP measures (The Agri-Environment Programme) related to the conservation of the targeted habitats types 6210 (*) and 6230(*). We first analysed the suitability of the existing AEP measures in detail (content, finance) and define the key shortcomings of the existing system of AEP measures (content, administration, finance) in relation to the issue of preserving dry grasslands. Two workshops involving different stakeholders were organized on the 14th of February 2018 and 8th of March 2018. On the 22nd of May 2018 a result based expert proposal for the AEP measures related to the conservation of the targeted dry grasslands was prepared and presented to representatives of the Ministry of Spatial planning and the Environment; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia, Agency for agricultural markets and rural development. On the special request of the Agency for agricultural markets and rural development additional workshop was organized specifically for its employees on the 11th of September 2018.



Final text of the result based expert proposal for the AEP measures related to the conservation of the targeted dry grasslands is being prepared to be officially set to the Ministry in charge of The Agri-Environment Programme (Deliverables 8.6 Draft AEP measures).

5.1.13 Action C.7: Development and Economics study of Dry Grasslands Preservation in the Haloze project sub-area

Foreseen start date: II/2018

Actual start date: July 2018

Foreseen end date: IV/2019

Actual (or anticipated) end date: December 2019

Status: in progress, according to planed time table

A project-working group was established in 2018. In July 2018, CB ZRSVN prepared a public tender for the Development and economics study of dry grasslands preservation in the Haloze project sub-area. External subcontractor ProVITAL, družba za raziskave, izobraževanje, turizem, gostinstvo, najemi in druge storitve d.o.o was contracted (Annex 7.26 Pubic tender, contract).

Until now, we organized three partnership workshops. External subcontractor carried out structured interviews (Annex 7.27) with agricultural consultants and with 13 identified stakeholders - producers, processors and providers of milk, fruit and meat. In order to motivate farmers living on PSA Haloze to process basic raw materials produced by the animals grazing on dry grasslands, **3 short 8-hour training** workshops for processing meat, milk and fruit were conducted in January 2018. In November 2018, AB KGZ Ptuj organized intensive **30-hour training** for the processing of milk into dairy products for landowners/farmers from PSA Haloze (Annex 7.27).



5.1.14 Action D.1: Monitoring of the impact of project actions success

Foreseen start and end dates: II/2017 - III/2017 and II/2018 – III/2018 and II/2019 – III/2019 and II/2020 – III/2020

Actual start date: January 2016

Actual (or anticipated) end date: September 2020

Status: in progress, according to planed timetable

External subcontractor Univ. Mb. FNM evaluated conservation status of habitats, according to the prepared monitoring protocol with monitoring indicators of additional areas of Pohorje and Gorjanci. In addition, representatives of CB ZRSVN and AB KGZ Ptuj continued to carry out assessments of conservation status of areas included in the Agreements for joining project activities (Annex 7.28 Yearly report Univ. Mb. FNM).



5.1.15 Action D.2: Assessment of the socio-economic impact of the project actions on local economy and population

Foreseen start and end dates: I/2016 – IV/2016 and I/2020 – III/2020

Actual start date: January 2016 Actual (or anticipated) end date: Phase I September 2016

Phase II September 2020

Status: Phase 1 completed, according to planned time table

According to planned timetable, no activities were foreseen for this period.

5.1.16 Action D.3: Assessment of the project's impact on the ecosystem functions

Foreseen start and end dates: I/2016 – IV/2016 and I/2020 – III/2020

Actual start date: January 2016 Actual (or anticipated) end date: Phase I September 2016

Phase II September 2020

Status: Phase 1 completed, according to planned time table

According to planned timetable, no activities were foreseen for this period.

5.1.17 Action E.1: National and local authority education and information project

Foreseen start date: IV/2015

Actual start date: November 2015

Foreseen end date: IV/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: October 2020

Status: in progress according to planned timetable

The project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS, LIFE mechanism and Natura 2000 network were presented at 41 project events – lectures and presentations (Annex 7.3 Table of events):

- 6 workshops;
- 11 meetings with mayors and municipalities councils were organized;
- 24 lectures and project presentations were organized for different local associations hunting associations, pasture communities and mountain associations.

5.1.18 Action E.2: General public and local community awareness campaign

Foreseen start date: IV/2015

Actual start date: November 2015

Foreseen end date: IV/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: October 2020

Status: in progress according to planned time table

On the 26th of October 2018 LIFE TO GRASSLANDS was presented at the LIFE information day. The event was organized by Ministry for Environmental and Spatial Planning. At the venue, networking of 12 Slovenia LIFE projects took place. The event was covered with the media.

The project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS, LIFE mechanism and Natura 2000 network as well as dry grasslands, important species and habitats, protection requirements and appropriate



conservation measures was presented at **49 events for general public** and local community (Annex 7.3 Table of events). Among them:

- 13 workshops for land owners/users, local farmers and local communities were organized,
- 10 lectures were given at different events for land owners/users, local farmers and local communities,
- 14 traditional events at project sub-areas,
- 8 open days,
- 4 fairs.

The project and its activities were presented at **Slovenian agriculture fair AGRA** (2018 – 117.000 visitors).

From the beginning of the project until now **72 articles** were published at national and local newspapers (49 written by independent journalists, 23 of them written by project staff), 61 internet articles (9 of them written by project staff), **14 radio** and **6 TV broadcasts** (Annex 7.29).

5.1.19 Action E.3: Promotion material

Foreseen start date: I/2016

Actual start date: January 2016

Foreseen end date: IV/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: October 2020

Status: In progress according to planed timetable

CB ZRSVN employee designed and CB ZRSVN external subcontractor Birografika Bori printed following material (Deliverables 8.7):

- 4 different promotional posters (500 copies each),
- one project diary (500 copies),
- 8 different postcards (PSAs Gorjanci and Kum 2000 each, PSA Haloze and Pohorje 1000 each, Orchards, butterflies, 2 plant indicator species 1000 each),
- one thematic exhibition on 6 transportable promotional banners (one for each project sub-area and one for dry grasslands and one for traditional orchards) was produced to support project promotion

All project publications are available in .pdf format on the project web page.

34 Illustrations prepared through the project (Deliverables 8.7).

Project publications helped to increase the knowledge about project, project sub-areas, dry grasslands and target species as well as Natura 2000 and LIFE mechanism.

5.1.20 Action E.4: Information and interpretation tools

Foreseen start date: III/2017

Actual start date: March 2016

Foreseen end date: IV/2019

Actual (or anticipated) end date: December 2019

Status: in progress, according to the time plan



The concepts of the information and interpretational tools has been prepared for three PSA (Haloze, Pohorje and Gorjanci). The public tender will be published shortly. 11 owners permits were obtained for the purpose of construction of interpretational and interpretation points in nature, to allow unlimited excess of visitor to the points as well as to assure long-term maintain the points (Deliverables 8.4 Action A.4 Owner permits).

5.1.21 Action E.5: The project's web page and project graphic identity

Foreseen start date: IV/2015

Actual start date: December 2015

Foreseen end date: II/2016

Actual (or anticipated) end date: June 2020

Status: in progress

CB ZRSVN is updating the project internet pages (<http://www.lifetograsslands.si/>; www.travisca.si) regularly. Project goals, its activities, progress and results are presented together with LIFE financial mechanism and Natura 2000 network.

Up to date 150.623 visitors visited the project webpage since it was launched.

5.1.22 Action E.6: Grassland classroom

Foreseen start date: IV/2015 Actual start date: December 2015

Foreseen end date: II/2020 Actual (or anticipated) end date: October 2020

Status: in progress, according to the time plan

In the reporting period, following events were organized (Annex 7.3):

- 4 educational seminars/workshops for teachers were organized (70 teachers involved),
- Educational programs for schools were presented at the Annual conference of Society of teachers of affiliated primary schools in Podblica (Kranj),
- 13 events (presentations, workshops or field days) for children and teachers were organized by CB ZRSVN.

Altogether more than **600 children and teachers** attended project events.

An Educational program for teachers "Dry grasslands as a model for learning about environment and biology" was prepared by CB ZRSVN. It was successfully accepted into the national "**Catalogue of additional teaching programs and trainings for educational professionals**" (KATIS) for professional teachers under the Ministry of Education Science and Sport (Annex 7.30 KATIS 2018).

Project web has a separate tag with all the materials for education produced in the project accessible to public <http://www.lifetograsslands.si/o-projektu/projekt/za-ucence-ucitelje/> . In addition didactic game "Play with Arnika and Primožek" was upgraded into an **internet game** accessible on: <https://www.lifetograsslands.si/spoznaj-travisca-z-arniko-primozkom/> .

Didactic Booklet for schools and teachers was printed in (300pcs) (Deliverables 8.7)



A school art competition is currently opened for school of PSA Gorjanci and Kum (Annex 7.31 Action E.6: School art competition).

We have established a connection with the local Centre for school and Outdoor Education in Ptuj (financed by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport). We have prepared one new program about traditional orchards and upgraded two of their existing programs on the topic of grasslands and protected area Šturmovci (Annex 7.32). In the next year, on the basis of these 3 prepared programs, we will prepare two trainings, one for teachers from Center and one for selected school. Centre for school and Outdoor Education will carry out nature camps for schools and other interested organization using this 3 new programs. With this activity, we will cover the planned 3-day children nature conservation camp (Annex 7.32).

5.1.23 Action E.7: Equipment for setting up project info rooms in Haloze, Pohorje, Gorjanci- Radoha and Kum project sub-areas

Foreseen start date: I/2016	Actual start date: February 2016
Foreseen end date: I/2019	Actual (or anticipated) end date: March 2019
Status: in progress, according to the time plan	

Two info-room and one classroom at PSAs Haloze, Kum and Pohorje are in regular use (description Annex 7.33).

In October 2018, CB ZRSVN prepared a public tender and contracted Urban Design Group d.o.o., so.p. for the equipment of the info-room on Miklavž (PSA Gorjanci). Room will be equipped until the end of the year 2018 (Annex 7.34 public tender, Contract).

5.1.24 Action E.8: Layman's report

Foreseen start date: I/2020	Actual start date: January 2020
Foreseen end date: IV/2020	Actual (or anticipated) end date: October 2020
Status: not due yet.	

5.1.25 Action F.1: Project co-ordination and management

Foreseen start date: IV/2015	Actual start date: November 2015
Foreseen end date: IV/2020	Actual (or anticipated) end date: October 2020
Status: in progress	

Currently the project team consists of 9 full time and 25 part time members. Altogether the partnership is amounting to 15,35 full time personnel. The project team of 34 members are working together and/or independently on their assigned activities. The partnership is well defined, balanced and working together well. Management organigrams are in Annex 7.2.

Ph.D. Nika Debeljak Šabec (CB ZRSVN) is a full-time project manager. For easier coordination of work of four PSAs CB ZRSVN nominated project sub-area coordinators. In addition, for



easier coordination between partners, each of the associated beneficiaries nominated an AB project coordinator employee, who regularly communicate with the project manager namely:

Mr. Peter Pribožič for AB KGZ Ptuj, Mr. Jernej Golc for AB PRJ Halo, Mr. Franci Bratkovič for AB Društvo KG and Mr. Marjan Jamšek for AB Dobovec.

Project manager regularly organises internal meetings of project sub-area coordinators, and partnership coordination meetings. One 2 day partnership field meeting is organised yearly (PSA Gorjanci 8th-9th of September, PSA Kum 21st -22nd of September 2017, 21st -22nd of September to PSA Pohorje).

All partners prepare written monthly reports on progress of the activities to the CB ZRSVN. A monthly joint partnership written report on progress of the project is submitted by the CB ZRSVN to the external monitor (Mr. Nikolaj Pečenko, NEEMO). The project manager is also in regular contact with the external project monitor and the representative of the co-financer (Ministry Environment and Spatial Planning), also a LIFE focal point for Slovenia, Ms. Julijana Lebez Lozej.

The Supervisory board committee assures the successful management of the project and quality of its results. The Supervisory board met 3 times in this reporting period: 4th of October 2017, 21st of March 2018, 5th of November 2018 (Annex 7.3 Table of events).

ABs also prepare financial reports to the CB ZRSVN every 3 months (time sheets, expenditure reports and copies of all receipts/invoices that are all labelled with the project number). The reports are being a joint together by the CB ZRSVN to revise the project expenditure.

5.1.26 Action F.2: Networking with other projects

Foreseen start date: I/2016

Actual start date: February 2016

Foreseen end date: I/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: March 2020

Status: in progress

Following networking were events took place in the reporting period (Annex 7.3 Table of events):

- 25th of June 2017: CB ZRSVN, DG Košenice and Park prirode Žumberak organised a transnational (Slovenia - Croatia) hike on Gorjanci peak-area where they gave a lecture to the hikers about the project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS
- 28th of September 2017: Networking with LIFE Kočevsko. CB ZRSVN representatives from LIFE TO GRASSLANDS project met with the representatives of LIFE Kočevsko. The aim of the networking was to transfer good practices and methods for managing biodiversity from one area to another.
- 9th of May 2018: Project manager presented the project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS at the international LIFE Conference on Networking 2018, which was organized by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning within the LIFE Capacity Building Project (LIFE14 CAP / SI / 000012). The conference focused on the exchange of good practices examples for the agricultural sector.



- 26th of October 2018: CB ZRSVN representatives attended the LIFE Information day, where project manager presented project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS. The aim of the event was to share good practices of managing LIFE projects and how to prepare a proposal for LIFE project. The event was organised by Ministry for Environmental and Spatial planning. At the venue, networking of 13 Slovenian LIFE projects took place.
- 24th of May 2018 and 13th of November 2018: Representatives of the project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS attended two workshops of the INTERREG Alpine Space Project titled AlpES: Kartiranje, ohranjanje in upravljanje ekosistemskih storitev v alpskem prostoru.
- 26th of November 2018: CB ZRSVN representatives presented developed indicators and prepared result base proposal for AEP measures to the CRP Project (Analitične podpore za večjo učinkovitost in ciljnost kmetijske politike do okolja in narave v Sloveniji (V4-1814); representative (University of Ljubljana).

Project representatives started to organize the three-day **international conference** titled **Challenges and opportunities in multifunctional management of grasslands**, which will take place Ptuj, Slovenia from 15th – 17th May 2019 (Annex 7.35 first call for international conference). Announcement was already published on <http://www.lifetograsslands.si/en/international-conference/>.

5.1.27 Action F.3: Audit

Foreseen start date: I/2018
 Foreseen end date: III/2020
 Status: started in advance

Actual start date: June 2017
 Actual (or anticipated) end date: October 2020

In November 2018, CB ZRSVN had an independent internal financial auditor for auditing the invoices and public tenders from year 2017 and 2018. Among other invoices and public tenders, the auditor revised and audited three highest public tenders and invoices from the project. Namely, public tender for removal of overgrowth, public tender for purchase of traditional meadow orchard fruit tree varieties and public tender for the protective equipment for seedlings. We are happy to report that no procedural or financial incompatibility were found.

No activities for project took place in this period.

5.1.28 Action F.4: After-life conservation plan

Foreseen start date: I/2020
 Foreseen end date: IV/2020
 Status: not due yet.

Actual start date: /
 Actual (or anticipated) end date: October 2020



5.2 Envisaged progress until next report

The main project activities, for the next reporting period are to assure the long-term management of dry grasslands in the field by putting up grazing fences, planting of sapling and mowing, to develop economic study for Haloze and to accuse successful completion of overgrowth removal activities.

See Envisaged progress in excel table in Annex 7.36.



Action	Status	2015				2016				2017				2018				2019				2020			
		I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
		Reports				Progress report				Mid-term report				Progress report				Progress report				Fin			
A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or action plans :																									
Action A.1 " Analysis of the initial situation of the agricultural use of dry grasslands"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x														
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓														
Action A.2 " Elaboration of the Conservation guidelines for sustainable management of HT 6210(*) / 6230(*) in the	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x												
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												
Action A.3 " Involvement of landowners in the project and identification of areas for action implementation"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Action A.4 " Permit procedures"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
B. Purchase/lease of land and/or rights :																									
Action B.1 " Purchase and lease of land in the Haloze project sub-area"	Proposed						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
	Actual						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Action B.2 " Purchase of land in Gorjanci-Radoha project sub-area"	Proposed						x	x	x	x	x	x	x												
	Actual						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												
C. Concrete conservation actions :																									
Action C.1 " Removal of overgrowth"	Proposed							x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Actual							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action C.2 " Ensuring the appropriate long-term use of dry grasslands"	Proposed							x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Actual							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action C.3 " The restoration and maintenance of traditional orchards"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action C.4 " Networking of owners and users of dry grassland plots in the Haloze project sub-area"	Proposed												x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Actual												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action C.5 " Preparation of farm management plans for improving dry grasslands management"	Proposed												x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Actual												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action C.6 " Preparation of an Expert Proposal of AEP measures related to the preservation of the HT 6210(*) and	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action C.7 " Development and Economics study of Dry Grasslands Preservation in the Haloze project sub-area"	Proposed													x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
	Actual													✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
D. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions (obligatory) :																									
Action D.1 " Monitoring of the impact of project actions success"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x	
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			*	*			*	*	
Action D.2 " Assessment of the socio-economic impact of the project actions on local economy and population"	Proposed					x	x	x	x													x	x	x	
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓													*	*	*	
Action D.3 " Assessment of the project's impact on the ecosystem functions"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x										x	x	x	
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										*	*	*	
E. Public awareness and dissemination of results (obligatory) :																									
Action E.1 " National and local authority education and information project"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action E.2 " General public and local community awareness campaign"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action E.3 " Promotion material"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action E.4 " Information and interpretation tools"	Proposed					x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
	Actual					✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*				
Action E.5 " The project's web page and project graphic identity"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action E.6 " Grassland classroom"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action E.7 " Equipment for setting up project info rooms in Haloze, Pohorje, Gorjanci-Radoha and Kum project sub-	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*							
Action E.8 " Layman's report"	Proposed																					x	x	x	
	Actual																					*	*	*	
F. Project management and monitoring of the project progress (obligatory) :																									
Action F.1 " Project co-ordination and management"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action F.2 " Networking with other projects"	Proposed					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Actual					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Action F.3 " Audit"	Proposed											x	x											x	
	Actual											✓	✓											*	
Action F.4 " After-life conservation plan"	Proposed																					x	x	x	
	Actual																					*	*	*	

As purpose in the grant Agreement x
change in duration x
actual ✓
not due yet - *



5.3 Impact

– Nature & Biodiversity:

We can acknowledge that the project has significantly contributed to improving the protection of the target habitats in the project areas. All the specific conservation measures are result-oriented, so their implementation leads to the direct and sustainable improvement of the ecological conditions and conservation status of targeted habitats.

Field surveys of the distribution and habitat conditions of target habitat types (action A.1), development of Conservation guidelines for sustainable management of dry grassland (Action A.2) and their corporation into the sectoral plans implemented (Action A.2) have upgraded management measures, management zones and management system for target habitat type set in Natura 2000 Management Programme for Slovenia (2015-2020). This will ensure long sustainable management of targeted habitats on 4 project sub areas (7 Natura 2000 sites), even after the end of the project. Knowledge gained from the project will contribute to implementation, updating and development of several sectoral policies and legislation, in particular nature conservation, agriculture, environment, forestry and game management.

The impact of project so far on the species/habitats targeted are follows:

Targeted priority habitat types i) Dry grasslands - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco- Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) (EU_6210(*)) and ii) Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe) (EU_6230(*)). This project is focusing on improving the conservation status and assure long-term management of two priority habitat types of Community and national importance namely HT 6210(*) and HT 6230(*)

The project activities have also benefit effect onto the status of other species listed below.

Site	Species/habitats targeted	Other species/habitats present on site(s)
PSA Haloze	HT 6210(*) Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites).	Plants: <i>Mesobromion</i> - <i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> , <i>Arabis hirsuta</i> , <i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i> , <i>Bromus inermis</i> , <i>Campanula glomerata</i> , <i>Carex caryophylla</i> , <i>Carlina vulgaris</i> , <i>Centaurea scabiosa</i> , <i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i> , <i>Eryngium campestre</i> , <i>Koeleria pyramidata</i> , <i>Leontodon hispidus</i> , <i>Medicago sativa ssp. falcata</i> , <i>Ophrys apifera</i> , <i>O. insectifera</i> , <i>Orchis mascula</i> , <i>O. militaris</i> , <i>O. morio</i> , <i>O. purpurea</i> , <i>O. ustulata</i> , <i>O. mascula</i> , <i>Polygala comosa</i> , <i>Primula veris</i> , <i>Sanguisorba minor</i> , <i>Scabiosa columbaria</i> , <i>Veronica prostrata</i> , <i>V. teucrium</i> . <i>Xerobromion</i> - <i>Bromus erectus</i> , <i>Fumana procumbens</i> , <i>Globularia elongata</i> , <i>Hippocrepis comosa</i> . <i>Festucetalia valesiacae</i> : <i>Adonis vernalis</i> , <i>Euphorbia seguierana</i> , <i>Festuca valesiaca</i> , <i>Silene otites</i> , <i>Stipa capillata</i> , <i>S. joannis</i> .
PSA Kum		
PSA Gorjanci		Animals: <i>Papilio machaon</i> , <i>Iphiclydes podalirius</i> ; <i>Libelloides spp.</i> , <i>Mantis religiosa</i> .
PSA Pohorje	HT 6230(*) Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on silicious	Plants: <i>Agrostis tenuis</i> , <i>Antennaria dioica</i> , <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> , <i>Arnica montana</i> , <i>Campanula barbata</i> , <i>Carex pallescens</i> , <i>Danthonia decumbens</i> , <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> , <i>Festuca filiformis</i> , <i>F. rubra</i> ,



	substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe).	<i>Gentiana pannonica</i> , <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i> , <i>Homogyne alpina</i> , <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i> , <i>H. uniflora</i> , <i>Jasione montana</i> , <i>Leontodon helveticus</i> , <i>Nardus stricta</i> , <i>Polygala. amara</i> , <i>P. amarella</i> , <i>P. vulgaris</i> , <i>Potentilla aurea</i> , <i>Pseudorchis albida</i> , <i>Scorzonera rosea</i> . Animals: <i>Tetrao tetrix</i> , <i>T. urogallus</i> , <i>Miramella alpina</i> .
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For long-term effect of the project, After-LIFE conservation plan will be elaborated at the end of the project. It is expected that several activities will be continued after the end of the project. The After-LIFE conservation plan will explain 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 all project partners and key stakeholders.

– **Environment & Resource Efficiency:**

Based on the established socio-economic conditions in the initial state, we anticipate that the project actions will have a positive impact on the local economy and the local population. Throughout this project, every effort is made to involve landowners in conducting the main works to be undertaken as part of this project. This will ensure that the money spent will support the local rural economy at all four project sub-areas.

Project offices and project staff (AB PRJ Halo, AB GK Gorjanci, AB KS Dobovec) are based in project sub-areas and preferential qualified project staff is employed from these areas also supporting the local economy.

Aside from agriculture, the other main land use of all four project sub-areas regions could be recreation and sustainable green tourism for which the regions have an excellent potential. Despite the high potential of the region with walking, cycling and wine routes passing through the two SACs, many important nature features and cultural heritage, small villages in the areas, the touristic offer is either very poor and disconnected or it deals with unsustainable visitors' management. Tourism is in turn to be reliant on the quality of the natural and cultural landscape, a quality that is upheld through the farming traditions practiced by these rural dwellers. Organic farming has been frequently suggested as the ideal alternative for farmers at the project sub-areas, but it does not have a strong presence in the areas yet. By involving the local tourism associations in nature conservation, it would be a good chance to persuade them of the benefits of modern nature protection (the extra benefits, improved environment, alternative economic opportunities) and to raise their social and environmental awareness.

We encourage local residents to seek new business and employment opportunities – farm self-employment in production of products from grassland (hay milk, cheese, beef meet product, products from fruit and in tourist sector and complementary activities (e.g. tourist farmhouses). This will support local economy, help farm economics, and thus positively affect the socio-economic conditions of the sub-areas.

Univ. Mb FNM prepared standardised field methodology for determining the conservation status of targeted habitats using indicator species and their reference values. Indicator species for assessing the conservation status of targeted habitat types and their reference values are also included into the personalized a Management manual for extensive dry grassland use. They are prepared specifically for each plot, included into project activities. This personalized approach has not been used yet in Slovenia. A better understanding of the importance of grasslands



conservation and possible self-assessment of undertaken management activities by farmers and landowners is very important for long-term sustainable management of dry grasslands.

The Project could serve as good example for active involvement of farmers and landowners into management of Natura 2000 sites, therefore we expect that other protected site administrations will be interested to visit the project sites and learn about the conservation measures implemented and involvement of farmers into the project.

– ***Climate Action:***

Grasslands store approximately 34% of the global stock of carbon in terrestrial ecosystems. With the revitalisation of the grassland through these project actions, the grassland vegetation coverage will increase on the grassland areas. This will cause an increase in the vegetation primary production, resulting in a reduction of atmosphere CO₂. By promoting local self-sufficiency and small business in connection with dry grassland HT 6210(*), HT 6230(*) conservation, we shall contribute to the reduction of emissions owing to the reduced migration to workplaces outside the area.

Reintroduction of traditional orchards with high-stemmed trees in the areas under landslide threat, will reduce the impacts of frequent incidence of extreme weather phenomena (precipitation extremes) as a result of climate change.

– ***Environmental Governance & Information:***

Development of Conservation guidelines for sustainable management of dry grassland (Action A.2) and their corporation into the sectoral plans implemented (Action A.2) will upgrade management measures, management zones and management system for target habitat type currently set in Natura 2000 Management Programme for Slovenia (2015-2020). The knowledge can be replicated in the field of active management of other Natura 2000 sites in Slovenia as well as elsewhere in central European region or can be transferred to other habitat types.

The knowledge gained from the prepared Nature conservation measures for sustainable management of targeted habitat types of dry grasslands from the project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS – Action A.2) will be transferred to and replicated to other Natura 2000 sites in Slovenia, with the similar habitat types, in the project CRP titled “Analitične podpore za večjo učinkovitost in ciljnost kmetijske politike do okolja in narave v Sloveniji (V4-1814)”. They could also be transferred also other types of dry grassland habitat types since this document contains of concrete measures for farmers for sustainable management of dry grasslands.

Unintended impact of intensive project presentation in early months of the project to local farmer communities is also the inspiration and encouragement of local farmer associations in Haloze project sub-area, which prepared a proposal of changes of AEP measures in the existing Rural development program and sent it to the government. Changes are being prepared of AEP measures that are more suited for farming in project sub-areas (Action C.6).

– ***Indirect impacts:***

In PSA Haloze Municipality of Žetale was inspired by the project to upgrade their plans for restoration of traditional touristic farm Pušnikova domačija. Originally the plan of the municipality was to restore the farm as traditional vine-growing farm. Inspired by the project



they upgraded their plans to restore it also as dry grasslands farm. Part of the upgrades is being realised by joining the LIFE TO GRASSLANDS project, the rest will be done and financed by themselves.

Near PSA Haloze local society Društvo za ohranjanje gradu Borl was inspired by the project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS to organise voluntary action to clear valuable dry grasslands in near the castle Borl in May 2018. The area is outside PSA Haloze but inside the Natura 2000 network.

Near PSA Kum local Mountaineering society Sevnica was inspired by the project to plan voluntary action to clear valuable dry grasslands on the Lisca mountain. The voluntary action is planned for the winter 2018/19. The action is planned within the Natura 2000 network.

– **Key Project-level Indicators (KPIs):**

When reporting we were not able to access the internet portal for KPI. We notified the helpdesk and project monitor Mr. Pečenko. Indicators table in excel attached in Annex 7.37.

– **Policy implications:**

Within Action C.6 we prepared an expert proposal of AEP measures related to the preservation of the HT 6210* and HT 6230*. The proposal proposes a new approach in AEP measures for Slovenia, namely result based AEP measures. The expert proposal was presented to competent authorities responsible for preparation of AEP measures in Slovenia. The new approach was very well accepted by them and it will be used within the process of preparation of new AEP measures within the RDP for the next EU financial period.

State owned farm land in Slovenia is managed by the Farmland and Forest Fund of the Republic of Slovenia. In line with Slovenian legislation, state owned farmland is leased to interested farmers for period of 10 years by a contract. Within the activities in Action A.2 and A.3 in Haloze PSA we were able persuade Farmland and Forest Fund of the Republic of Slovenia the for the first time to include also nature conservation guidelines for preservation of dry grasslands into the contract. The land was leased to a farmer that is included in project activities.

Currently we are looking for solutions to solve the issue of legal notice in the Land Registry for land purchased within B.1 and B.2 actions. Slovenian legislation currently does not foresee a legal notice in the Land Registry that land is in long term intended for nature conservation purposes. Such a legal notice is a requirement of LIFE Programme in cases of land purchase.

5.4 Outside LIFE

As described in Action C.1 managers of state owned land agreed to remove extensive overgrowth on their own cost, if the project assures long-term management of grasslands. On PSA Pohorje, state managers will carry out removal of overgrowth, on their own cost, on 41,66 ha (18,45h SiDG in forests and 23,21ha SKGZRS on agriculture land).

Through networking between projects, results and knowledge from the project LIFE TO GRASSLANDS will be used and transferred to another Natura 2000 site Slovenia by in CRP Project (Analitične podpore za večjo učinkovitost in ciljnost kmetijske politike do okolja in narave v Sloveniji (V4-1814); representative (University of Ljubljana).



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Annex 7.4 Appointment of a new director CB ZRSVN

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Annex 7.18 Action C.1 Description of work on the field per PSA

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Annex 7.20 Action C.2 Ensuring the appropriate long-term use of dry grasslands

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Annex 7.26 Action C.7 Development and Economics study (Public tender, Contact, Annex)

Annex 7.27 Action C.7 Development and Economics study of Dry Grasslands Preservation in the Haloze project sub-area

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