



UNIVERSITÀ DI PARMA

DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE
CHIMICHE, DELLA VITA E DELLA
SOSTENIBILITÀ AMBIENTALE

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Object: LIFE13 NAT/IT/001129 BARBIE %*Conservation and management of Barbus meridionalis and Barbus plebejus in the Emilian tributaries of Po River*+ - second request for amendment to the project.

Please find herein enclosed the second request for amendment to the LIFE13 NAT/IT/001129 BARBIE regarding the extension of the project duration to September 2020. The entire LIFE BARBIE partnership agrees with this request (letters signed by the Representatives of all project beneficiaries are attached).

It must be remarked that this specific request for a second amendment to the Grant Agreement is mainly connected to unexpected delays in the river defragmentation activities (Action C2), most of which originated by administrative problems. For this reason, the documentation related to the public call for assignment of defragmentation works is attached.

At the same time, we also attach documents concerning the variation of banking details of the coordinating beneficiary, UNIPR. The variation has taken effect from July 2nd, 2018. Finally, it is underlined that Prof. Paolo Andrei has been elected as new Dean of the University of Parma starting since November 1st, 2017.

As foreseen by the LIFE Programme Regulation, these modifications to the project have been included in E-proposal.

Thank you very much for your kind collaboration. We are available for any further necessary information.

Best regards

Prof. Francesco Nonnis Marzano
Project Leader BARBIE



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LIFE13 NAT/IT/001129 BARBIE Í *Conservation and management of *Barbus meridionalis* and *Barbus plebejus* in the Emilian tributaries of Po River* **-second request for amendment to the project.**

A second substantial change to the "Grant Agreement" of the LIFE13 NAT/IT/001129 project (signed on 24/6/2014) is necessary due to unforeseeable circumstances, in accordance with the LIFE Programme Common Provisions. In particular, a change to the project timeline is required with an extension of the project deadline of twenty-one months (from December 2018 to September 2020).

This required extension is necessary to guarantee the expected project results. In fact, some delays have been accumulated particularly in some key conservation actions (actions C2, C3, C4, C5 and C7). The extension of the duration of the project will also guarantee the fundamental monitoring and verification of the expected results (actions D1, D2 and D3).

The reasons for these delays were detailed in the last Progress Report sent to the EC in February 2018. These critical issues were also previously discussed during the 4th monitoring visit to the project with Dr. Iva Rossi and the financial desk officer Dr. Paivi Rauma.

About the critical unsolved issues, the expected results regarding the ex situ conservation activities (Action C4) have not completely been achieved (restocking of 10.000 fry/year for both species - 40,000 fry in total). More precisely, about 2.500 eggs and 500 juveniles of Common Barbel were produced during breeding season 2016-2017, far from expected goal. The improvements made in the Monchio and Corniglio hatcheries (Action C1), as well as the gained experience by the Life BARBIE staff, have subsequently allowed us to achieve the expected results in the next breeding season 2017-2018. In fact, about 50.000 eggs (15.000 and 35.000 of Southern Barbel and Common Barbel respectively) and 34.000 fries (9.000 and 25.000 of Southern Barbel and Common Barbel respectively) were produced ex-situ. About 25.000 juveniles (6.000 and 19.000 individuals of Southern Barbel and Common Barbel respectively) were released into LIFE BARBIE study area in July 2018, according with the Recovery Plan (Attached to the Progress Report). However, additional problems were experienced with the Southern Barbel population of Rio Cerezzola (Enza basin), as the small size of the population did not allow the recovery of breeding specimens for this Management Unit.

Limitations to breeding activities were caused at the very beginning by two factors. First, a low number of Common Barbel breeders were found in the natural environment during 2016-2017, compared to previous breeding seasons, despite an increase in the catching effort. This reduction was probably connected to water deprivation in the rivers and the consequent increase in temperatures. In particular, no mature females were found despite the activities were anticipated in May 2017 (the general breeding period of the species is June-July) and the research activities involved more extensive area of the river basin than the previous year. Secondly, a high mortality of Southern Barbel eggs during development was recorded probably as a consequence of fertilization problems. No specific protocols on the breeding of the two target species is available in literature.

Although limited results during year 2016-2017, the gained experiences represented an important starting point in the subsequent project years. Further ichthyogenic activities will be carried out in the 2019 spring-summer with the main objective of increasing Southern Barbel releases in the Enza basin.



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Not all project SICs will be affected by restocking interventions, according with the Recovery Plan. Please note that the specific actions for the various project SICs have been defined in the Recovery Plan in accordance with the results of the preliminary studies (Actions A2 and A3).

Artificial substrates were placed in the riverbed (Action C3) at the same time as the restocking activities. In particular, in the summer 2018, artificial substrates were placed on the sites: 20020.PR.2 - 20021.NA.1 - 30023.EN.1 and 20003.ST.1. Furthermore, the state of the artificial substrates positioned in previous years in the sites 20017.LO.1 - 10008.AR.1 - 30013.EN.1. has been assessed. Further substrates will be placed in the Enza river basin next year.

Various interventions for the control of the exotic species European Barbel have been carried out in the pilot site of Giarola, on the Taro river, and good results have been achieved (Action C7); some interventions in the other sites covered by the Recovery Plan will be necessary during the next spring-summer.

It must be remarked that this specific request for a second amendment to the Grant Agreement is mainly connected to unexpected delays in the river defragmentation activities (Action C2), most of which originated by administrative problems. In particular, the authorities responsible for environmental and hydraulic authorizations have requested several rearrangements to the executive project of defragmentation works in the Enza river. The bureaucratic aspects and delays of the competent authorities besides the complexity of the administrative procedure have postponed the release of authorizations. The necessary environmental and hydraulic authorizations were obtained by PL of UNIPR on March 2018. At that point, the procedure for the attribution of the work was immediately started by competent offices of UNIPR. The public call (market investigation notice) was published by UNIPR on May 15, 2018. 15 companies have been selected by UNIPR through a blind procedure among 127 that had applied. Subsequently, a letter of invitation to submit offers was sent to the 15 selected companies, on 7 August 2018¹. The best company will be chosen no later than October 2019, according to the evaluation of technical and economic proposals. Specific criteria have been chosen to promote the technical quality of the applications and their improvements in environmental benefits. Further administrative procedures and a period of "Stand Still" (35 days long) must be carried out in accordance with the Code of Contracts required by Italian legislation. Therefore, it is expected to have the full operation of the selected company in January 2019. The works will be realized in the spring-summer 2019 in relation to proper weather conditions.

The concrete conservation actions C2, C3, C4, C5 and C7 will be executed within summer 2019 so that the monitoring and validation of expected results (actions D) will be carried out during the following year (summer 2020).

With reference to the extension of the project duration, the following actions will be postponed as planned until the end of the project: E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, F1, F2, F3 and F4. In particular, the E1 action will be postponed because it also includes the creation of panels with the project results.

Finally, it is important to highlight that the LIFE BARBIE partnership agrees with this request for extension of the duration of the project. Furthermore, it is emphasized that the project budget will not undergo any substantial change and all the beneficiaries will continue the activities without modifications to the budget.

¹ <https://www.unipr.it/bandigara/lavori> (see "gare in corso");
http://old.unipr.it/arpa/appalti/2018/LAVORI/Life_Barbie/Integrazioni/documentazione_gara.zip/



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The modified forms A1, C1 and C3, in accordance with the LIFE Programme General guidelines for the presentation of an amendment to the grant agreement . October 2016+, are attached below.



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MODIFIED FORMS A1 È C1 AND C3

Administrative forms / A1 - General project information

Project title: *Conservation and management of Barbus meridionalis and Barbus plebejus in the Emilian tributaries of Po River*

Project acronym: BARBIE

Program strand: Nature

Expected start date: 01/07/2014

Expected end date: ~~31/12/2018~~ 30/09/2020

Language of the proposal: italiano

The project will be implemented in the following Member State and Region: Italy; Emilia-Romagna

Technical Forms / C2 - Deliverable products and milestones; reporting schedule

Deliverable products of the project:

Name of the deliverable	Number of the associated action	Deadline
Documento attestante la nomina del PL e dei referenti tecnico e/o amministrativo di ogni partner	A1	31/07/2014
Versione completa del sito web	E2	30/09/2014
DB di networking	F2	31/12/2014
Relazione tecnica riportante lo studio ambientale	A3	28/02/2015
Relazione tecnica riportante lo studio delle popolazioni di barbo	A2	28/02/2015
Piano di recupero delle specie target	A4	30/04/2015
Piano di adeguamento degli impianti ittiogenici	A5	30/06/2015
Dépliant	E4	31/08/2015
Documentario scientifico-didattico	E4	31/08/2015 30/06/2020
Progetto di educazione ambientale	A6	30/09/2015
Accordo antibraconaggio	C6	31/12/2015
Interventi di riqualificazione fluviale	C2	31/05/2016 30/10/2019
Substrati artificiali in alveo	C3	31/05/2016 30/09/2019
Verbal di intervento e documentazione fotografica	C7	31/05/2016 30/09/2019
Relazione tecnica monitoraggio azione C4	D2	31/01/2018 30/09/2020



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Relazione tecnica monitoraggio azione C5	D3	31/01/2018 30/09/2020
Relazione tecnica monitoraggio azione C2-3-7	D1	31/01/2018 30/09/2020
Verbali di intervento e documentazione fotografica	C5	31/01/2018 30/09/2019
Linee guida	E6	30/04/2018 30/09/2020
Pannelli (8x2tipologie)	E1	15/06/2018 30/06/2020
Layman's report	E3	20/06/2018 30/08/2020
Accordo gestione sostenibile risorsa idrica	C6	30/06/2018 30/09/2020
Documento di valutazione, verbali, schede presenze e documentazione fotografica di tutti gli incontri di partenariato	F1	30/06/2018 30/09/2020
Lavori scientifici	E5	30/06/2018 30/09/2020
Mostra finale	E4	30/06/2018 30/09/2020
After Conservation Plan	F4	30/06/2018 30/09/2020

milestones of the project:

Name of the deliverable	Number of the associated action	Deadline
Costituzione del gruppo di lavoro ed avvio formale del progetto	A1	20/07/2014
Messa in rete della versione completa del sito web	E2	30/09/2014
Definizione e condivisione del Piano di recupero delle specie target	A4	30/04/2015
Redazione del Piano di adeguamento degli impianti ittiogenici	A5	30/06/2015
Predisposizione del Progetto di educazione ambientale	A6	30/09/2015
Attivazione dei centri ittiogenici	C1	31/12/2015
Posizionamento dei substrati artificiali in alveo	C3	31/05/2016 30/09/2019
Realizzazione degli interventi di riqualificazione fluviale	C2	31/05/2016 30/10/2019
Messa in posa dei Pannelli (8x2tipologie)	E1	15/06/2017 30/06/2020
Immissione in natura degli esemplari prodotti ex situ nelle due stagioni riproduttive previste dal progetto	C5	31/01/2018 30/09/2019

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Redazione delle Linee guida	E6	30/04/2018 30/09/2020
Stampa del Layman's report	E3	20/06/2018 30/08/2020
Audit indipendente	F3	30/06/2018 30/09/2020
Convegno finale	E5	30/06/2018 30/09/2020
Redazione dell'After Conservation Plan	F4	30/06/2018 30/09/2020

Activity reports foreseen:

Type of report	Deadline
Inception report	31/03/2015
Mid-term Report	30/06/2016
Progress report	29/12/2017
Il Progress report	15/05/2019
Final Report	31/12/2018 30/09/2020



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Technical Forms / C3 È Project timetable

Action		2014				2015				2016				2017				2018				2019				2020			
Action number	Action title	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV				
A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or of action plans																													
A.1	Creazione del gruppo di lavoro			X																									
A.2	Analisi della densità e della distribuzione geografica, storica ed attuale, delle popolazioni di barbo; censimento delle specie esotiche e caratterizzazione genetica			X	X	X																							
A.3	Caratterizzazione ambientale dell'area di studio			X	X	X																							
A.4	Redazione del piano di recupero delle specie target in virtù dei risultati degli studi preliminari			X	X	X	X																						
A.5	Redazione del piano di adeguamento degli impianti ittiogenici di Monchio delle Corti (PR), di Corniglio (PR) e di Selvanizza (PR)			X	X	X	X																						
A.6	Redazione del progetto di educazione-formazione ambientale				X	X	X	X																					

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