



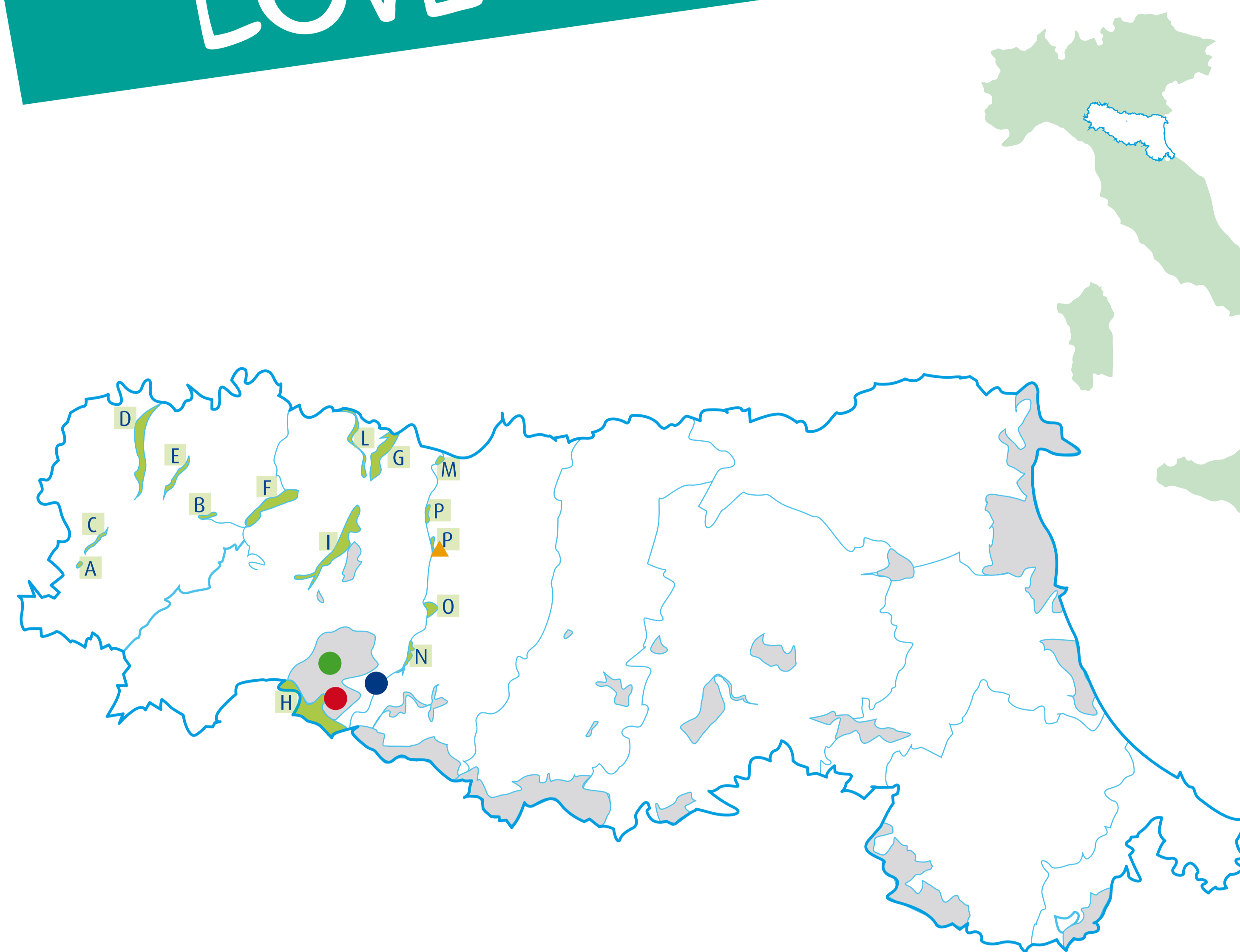
Save the BARBO!

LOVE THE NATURE!

THE PROJECT

The project LIFE13 NAT/IT/001129 BARBIE "Conservation and management of *Barbus meridionalis* and *Barbus plebejus* in the Emilian tributaries of Po River", has its primary objective the conservation and recovery of native populations of barbels in Emilia Romagna, as a means of protecting the natural condition of rivers under Directives 1992/43/EC and 2000/60/EC.

The project started in July 2014 and will last four years, with a total budget of € 2,189,378, in the framework of the European Union's financial program LIFE+. The project is composed by 26 specific actions, coordinated by the University of Parma.



- ▲ Actions for river defragmentation
- Aquaculture plant of Corniglio
- Aquaculture plant of Monchio delle Corti
- Aquaculture plant of Selvanizza
- Parks and Natural areas
- Natura 2000 sites

- A - Meandri di San Salvatore
- B - Castell'Arquato, Lugagnano Val D'Arda
- C - Fiume Trebbia da Perino a Bobbio
- D - Basso Trebbia
- E - Conca del Nure e Bosco di Fornace vecchia
- F - Torrente Strone
- G - Area delle risorgive di Viarolo, Bacini di Torriale
- H - Fascia golenale del Po
- I - Cinalone dell'Appennino parmense
- L - Medio Taro
- M - Basso Taro
- N - Parma Morta
- O - Fiume Enza da la Mora a Compiano
- P - Rupo di Campoltra, Rossena
- P - Fontanili di Gattatico e Fiume Enza

Several Emilian tributaries (such as the Parma, Enza, Taro, Trebbia, Nure and Arda rivers) of the Po river, flowing through 14 Natura 2000 sites in the provinces of Parma, Piacenza e Reggio Emilia are being studied.

THE STUDY AREA

THE SPECIES



COMMON BARBEL
Barbus Plebejus



CANINE BARBEL
Barbus Meridionalis

Barbels are freshwater fishes found in Emilia Romagna with two native species: the common barbel (*Barbus plebejus*) found in the strip of plains and hills, and the canine barbel (*Barbus meridionalis*) on the Apennines.

The common barbel is a fish of distinct ecological value capable of occupying various stretches of a river, while the canine is a typical species of medium-high stretches of water and small tributaries, which seeks well-oxygenated waters, lively currents, as well as gravelly and stony river beds. Both species are excellent swimmers, with benthic habits, feeding on insect larvae, small crustaceans and annelids.

Breeding takes place between mid-April and July. During the breeding season common barbels migrate upstream rivers and small water beds occupying small streams. Both species are becoming rare: the updated **IUCN Red List** suggests that the risk status of both species has increased, respectively, to "vulnerable" and "endangered"; among the main threats to the barbel survival are the **alteration/fragmentation of its habitat, and water pollution, and depletion.**

In Emilia-Romagna the steady qualitative/quantitative worsening of both species requires strict actions set out in the BARBIE project.



THE OBJECTIVES

Beginning with the detailed study of the density and distribution of populations, as well as an analysis of threats, the specific objectives of the proposal are as follows:

- To **create** new populations and/or **reinforce** existing populations, in connection with environmental suitability and the composition of the fish community, through **specific in situ interventions** (reduction of biodiversity loss / river defragmentation) and **ex-situ** ichthyogenic practices;
- To **identify** the threats to the survival of the species, and **open up** discussion between stakeholders and policy makers for lasting governance for the **protection** of river environments;
- To **eradicate/control** the spread of invasive alien species under the new European Regulation 1143/2014/EC;
- To **establish** guidelines for the **conservation** and **sustainable management** of species, mutable to a European model; to transfer best practices.

Concrete conservation actions

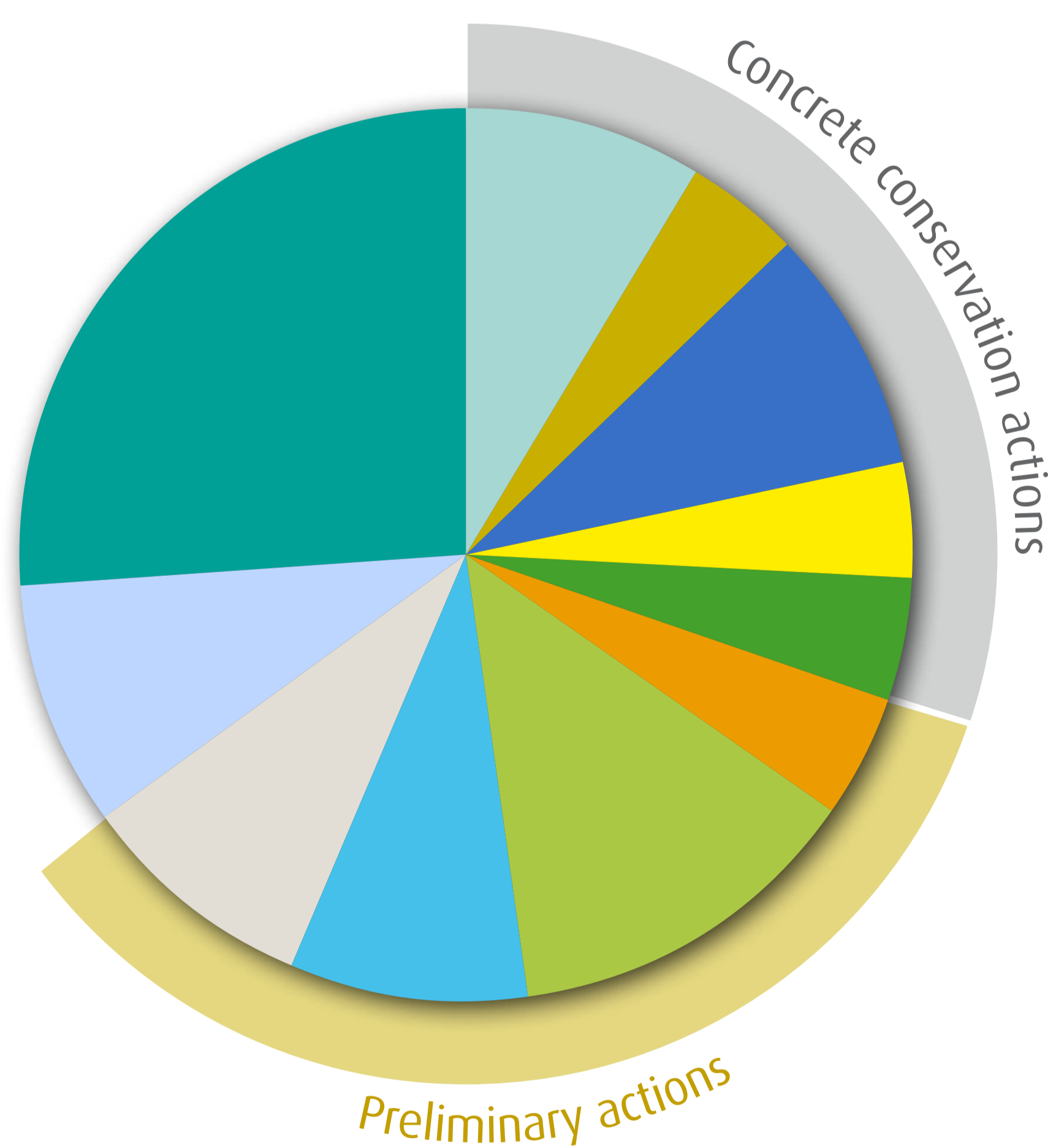
- Natura 2000 site restoration/improvement (C2 - C3)
- Reintroduction (C5)
- Ex situ conservation (C1, C4)
- Removal of alien species (C7)
- "Round table" with stakeholders for the sustainable management of water resource (C6)

Preliminary actions

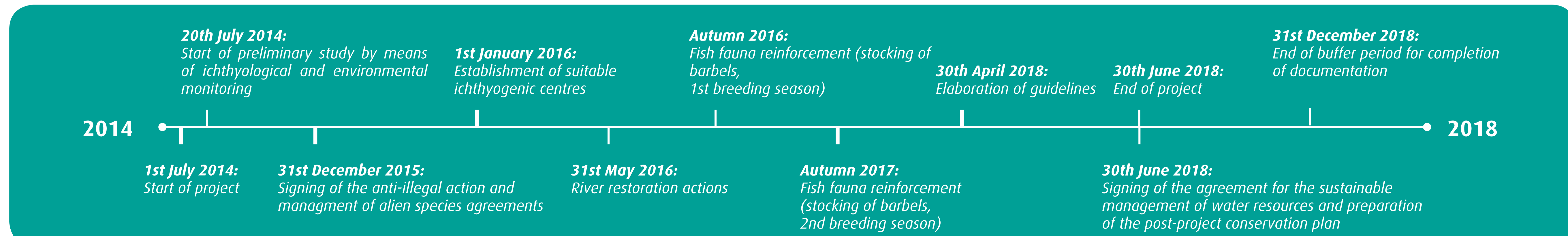
- Plans of project measures (A1)
- Action plans (A4, A5, A6)
- Ex ante monitoring (A2, A3)
- Permit procedures (included in A2 and A4 free)

Other actions

- Ex post monitoring (D1, D3)
- Public awareness and dissemination of results (E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6)



THE PROJECT TIMELINE



Coordinators



Associated partners



Co-financed by the European Union's financial program LIFE

