to be filled in by each PP

questions	Local	Regional	National	Sectoral (e.g. tourism, forestry, land consumption, industry ...) description
Q1: What is the initial situation -the main demand / need for agroecosystems protection & improved management for the involved regions/countries?	The Apennines territory has a residual and being abandoned agricultural ecosystem, with the loss of open areas, orchards and depletion of associated species, such as moths (Euphydrias aurinia) and birds (Lullula arborea, Anthus campestris). The maintenance and recovery of prairie and meadow pasture areas alternating with wooded areas, is a priority for the acquisition of the necessary scientific knowledge, as well as the selection and analysis of ancient varieties of fruit trees that keep strains and vital interest for small local economy. Likewise, the mosaic of agricultural circles and semi-natural areas must include a survey of chestnut groves residues, in order to devise appropriate recovery measures for local varieties. The chestnut has been an historical important source of livelihood for local people. The identification of ecological relationships and dynamics in this mosaic of habitats may allow the adoption of effective forms of protection and improvement, both in terms of conservation and biodiversity, both for the economy and tourism at the local level (local products, resistant varieties, farming and grazing of sheep and cattle breeds indigenous endangered).	The conservation and restoration of the habitats of community interest and the agricultural recovery and landscape restoration are two fundamental aspects of environmental policies at the regional level. The Regional Landscape Plan has among its objectives, in line with European Landscape Convention (ELC), the integration of environmental, historical, cultural and landscape heritage and related activities, as well as the territorial improvement, protection and enhancement of the landscape.	The National Biodiversity Strategy prepared by the Ministry of Environment outlines, starting from the commitments undertaken by Italy with the ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, Rio de Janeiro 1992), priorities and objectives of the improvements and the recovery of agro-environments, in order to integrate the protection of habitats and species, the management of Natura 2000 sites and the maintenance of the economic, environmental and landscape values. In particular, among the instruments of intervention are highlighted: 1) conservation of animal and plant species, plant associations or forestry, of unusual geological, paleontological formations, biological communities, biotopes, of values and scenic sights, processes natural balance of hydraulic hydrological, ecological balances; 2) application of management methods or environmental suitable to realize an integration between man and natural environment, including through the preservation of anthropological, archaeological, historical and architectural values and of agro-forestry-pastoral and traditional heritage.	Rural communities of Apennines, custodian of a great heritage of biodiversity, tourism and local production have been witnessing a progressive abandonment of territories and traditional farming practices. Sectors such as tourism, farming and small-scale agriculture require a resumption of active area management for the recovery of the correlation between natural the habitats and agricultural environment, the perspective and of conservation and environmental improvement and enhancement of the local varieties of fruit, as the of abandoned chestnut and races traditionally farmed, especially cattle and work and goat meat. A planning program based on action plans that can establish a and local community a medium term planning and the of access to EU funding for agriculture and environment, restoration to slow abandonment and restore the ecological and geological structure of the area.
Q2: What already exists - good / best practices? How can they be linked to each other and how can they serve for others? The synergies with past or current EU and other projects	Two regional protected areas and six Natura 2000 sites are inserted into the Piedmont Apennines. The Natural Park of Capanne di Marcarolo implemented, as part of European funding for the Rural Development Plan 2007/2013, Measure 323, rehabilitation and improvement of habitats of community interest and the management and conservation of plant and animal species. In particular, one of the actions implemented concerns the preparation of Conservation Measures for prairie grass and pastures, with the drafting of an agronomic plan integrated with the issues of conservation of habitats and species and ecosystem function. The actions taken in Marcarolo are transposed into other areas of Piedmont Apennines with an high environmental and landscape interest, especially Natura 2000 sites, with similar characteristics and agri-environmental issues.	The project is part of the Natura 2000 network of the Piedmont Region and the Regional Ecological Network (DGR no. 52-1979/2015). The Apennines of Piedmont is an important connection corridor with the Alps; there are also important "hot spots" for the migration of birds. Capanne of Marcarolo is the most popular site for spring migration in Piedmont. The good practices in protected areas and Natura 2000 sites in the neighboring areas are essential for the connection through wildlife corridors, consisting of river valleys. In particular, the restoration and improvement of habitats increase the stability of biological exchanges between the Apennines, the Alps and the Po Valley.	The results of the Project LIFE 10 INF IT/000272 "Farenait" "Making Network for Natura 2000 in Italy" is an example of good practice in terms of biological spreading knowledge and awareness of environmental issues related to agriculture. In particular, Farenait intends to offer a clear picture of project opportunities related to Natura 2000. The involvement of local communities in the activities of the project on issues of conservation and enhancement of agro-environments Apennines, helps to integrate capitalize on the results achieved at the national level. In particular, the White Paper "Protection of biodiversity and agricultural development in Natura 2000 areas: problems and proposals" made with the LIFE "Farenait", shall constitute grounds and methodological knowledge to identify management strategies of agriculture (pasture, hay and orchards) in Natura 2000 sites and protected areas of Piedmont Apennines.	In the Apennines there are agricultural realities, such as cooperatives and small businesses, who practice biologic agriculture, recovery of animal breeds and varieties of local fruits typical of mountain areas and foothills. The project, through the awareness and involvement of local stakeholders in the research activities and results, can contribute to the connection of organizations working within the framework of issues related to biodiversity conservation and enhancement of traditional and quality.
Q3: WHAT are the lacks of implementation? And HOW could the project improve agroecosystem protection / management for the involved regions/countries? What will be new solutions that will be developed within the project	At present, from the environmental point of view the Apennines are presented as the legacy and evolution of the old agri-environment structure, now in many cases been abandoned. There are currently no coordinated programs for management and conservation of the habitats of large areas. The project involves the construction of coordinated monitoring aimed at identifying management methods that enable the conservation of habitats and traditional agri-environment mosaic, which contributes to the maintenance of a high biodiversity. Within this, the Natura 2000 sites represent areas of greater distribution of species and habitats of high conservation value, in which to study and implement the ecological relationships between environments agro-pastoral and fauna, combining the maintenance of agricultural practices of the mountain, benefit the local economy, with the need for conservation of species and habitats of Community and national level. The integrated and coordinated approach adopted in the project, aimed at identifying business models able to preserve and improve the ecological relationships and biological complexity of the agri-environmental mosaic of large areas (orchards, natural habitats, species and natural), this is a fundamental contribution to Community policies for the conservation of biodiversity, through the effective integration of agriculture and ecosystem for the maintenance of biodiversity (see. Mid-term review of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 - assessment of progress towards EU the targets and actions, 2015).	Marginal areas at regional level present a progressive depopulation and abandonment of agro-pastoral, with the gradual reduction of open areas and loss of biodiversity. There is also a lack of a project for the integration of agricultural policies in mountain areas and biodiversity conservation. The project, through the preparation of models that provide integrated monitoring of natural and semi-natural environments, can provide guidance and support for the preparation of methodologies and best practices applicable to marginal areas and Natura 2000 sites, also for the preparation of conservation measures with a high degree of integration with the needs of economic development and tourism based on traditional agricultural production and quality and on the use and natural landscape.	The preparation of an Action Plan and management of guidelines for the recovery of the agro-ecosystem in the northern Apennines, contributes to achieving the objectives of the Natura 2000 network at the national level, and the consolidation of good practices and the gaps present in terms of territorial planning and direction. The combination of research, advocacy, planning and pilot projects in the context of the Apennines is an innovative response to the problems of mountain and marginal areas.	The availability of guidelines and specific Action plans in on the recovery of significant agro-ecosystem portions provides to local institutions, professionals and technicians working tool for planning action based on a solid knowledge base, useful for the access to support programs to the rural economy of the EU European Union, allowing to identify critical issues, and objectives and expected results both inside and outside Natura 2000 Sites.
Q4: Precise and describe the project's contribution to relevant strategies and policies (local, regional, national or "macro regional" and maritime); in particular, those concerning the project or programme area.	Locally, the project provides the fundamental tools of knowledge and management for the implementation of initiatives for environmental, tourism and landscape restoration of the Apennines, as well as a fundamental support to the policies of protection of biodiversity and habitats, enabling greater consistency and effectiveness of European ecological network, improving the integration of activities of agri-environmental improvement and management of the Piedmont side and Ligurian Apennines.	The study and monitoring, the production of and recovery of grasslands, meadows and orchards in a mosaic with forests, with the aim to preserve high levels of biodiversity ecosystem services represent one essential aspect for the preparation of policy documents, planning and conservation measures for Natura 2000 sites at regional level, including the planning of the operations pertaining to the Rural Development Plans and plans regarding industry environment and economic development.	In the context of the National Strategy for Biodiversity, the preparation of an Action Plan and management guidelines for the recovery of the agro-ecosystem contributes to achieving the objectives of the Natura 2000 network at the national level, and consolidation of best practices and the development of ecological networks at regional and national level. The combination of research, advocacy, planning and pilot projects is an innovative response to the problems of mountain marginal areas.	Promotion, implementation and enhancement of the traditional local agriculture, through the creation of tools and knowledge that facilitate the implementation of measures for the recovery of the orchards and the local varieties and the conservation of biodiversity in the EU principles of protection and integration of agricultural and environmental policies.
Q5: describe your pilot activity - which problem it tackles, which findings you expect from it, how it can be replicated and how the experience coming from it will be used for the benefit of the	Pilot activities are: 1) The recovery of portions of habitat of prairie and meadow pasture of Community interest, in particular habitats 6210 (Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia* important orchid sites), including actions aimed to promote the reduction of heavy mechanization in favor of animal traction, practiced with existing tools and methods; 2) The restoration of portions of chestnut wood through the revitalization and selection of the best individuals for the purpose of propagation and future recovery of significant surfaces from economically and landscape point of view. The techniques and methods of implementation of the pilot interventions can be exported throughout Northern Apennines, helping the maintenance of important elements of culture, economy and local landscape (chestnut) and the management and conservation of biodiversity (habitat recovery Community interest). The issues linked to the absence of a sufficient number of farms run by young farmers and entrepreneurs with capacity integrated. The fragmentation of natural habitats, the current stage of spontaneous afforestation, sometimes advanced, and, in some cases, overgrazing, unregulated, are many issues of importance. The fruit chestnut trees are in most cases in the progressive state of abandon and in areas of difficult accessibilty.	Regionally the natural habitats of grassland and pasture grass have, both in the Apennine alpine and spontaneous afforestation and in some cases over-exploitation due to excessive load of cattle). Through the preparation of "Action plans" and the export of best management practices, you can contribute to regional dissemination of the correct management actions for the recovery and conservation of species and habitats of strengthening relations on ecosystemic services for the benefit of the local economy in marginal areas.	The promotion of activities aimed at the establishment of models and strategies for environmental recovery agro-pastoral traditional tissue, with similar problems (abandonment and restoration and improvement of ecosystem services, is a key objective of the national strategy for biodiversity, and in line with environmental policies, agricultural and soil conservation of the European Union.	The pilot project can actively contribute to stimulating the recovery of chestnut groves, important habitats in the terms of nature, landscape, economy and cultur, as well as restoration of natural habitats, including the 6210*, including through the use, in the areas most sensitive and where possible, the animal traction for mowing and removal of woody material in order to facilitate the recovery of breeds threatened with extinction, and of encouraging the use of controlled grazing cattle breeds and sheep and goat adapted to the mountain environment. This will complement the activities of breeding, agriculture, forest management and conservation and habitats of Community interest, in favor of the mosaic of typical environments of the Apennines, able to promote a high degree of biodiversity.

WP structure - 1th draft **01/10/2015** **Explanation area - not for the EOI**

	WP list	Description / Purpose	Outputs	Concrete results	Partner's contribution	Partner's results	Comments
WP0:	**Preparation costs**	**WP lead: AIS confirmed**					
A10							
WP1:	**Project Management (mandatory)**	**WP lead: AIS confirmed**					
A12		Trans-national project management					
A13		Project Management at partner level and WP/activity leadship					
A14		Financial controlling and project progress monitoring					
A15							
WP2	**Project Communication (mandatory)**	**WP lead: SARGA confirmed**					
Overall description and main aim of WP2:		*see programme manual page 30,31*					
A21	Delivering informations	Dissemination is an important part in BioADVISE. Specifically, two brochures will be produced on the main habitat/activities targeted by the project: orchards (chestnuts) and open habitats (parries and pastures).	2 Brochure	The brochures will be widely distributed during the project and made available in web sites as a pdf.			
A22	Partecipation to external events	The project staff will participate at targeted external events to presents the project and its development and lean form other projects/experiences.	Meetings	Disseminating information and learning from other experiences			
	Exchanging informations	Involvements of stakeholders and politicians in fundamental for a good the results of the project, for maintaining and improve the results in the long-term, and for transferring results to a wide scale.	Public political events (forum/Conference Report)	A better knowledge of the project, the direct involvement of stakeholders and politicians.			
A23							
A24	Delivering informations	Delivering information on the project to technical and general public	Final booklet	A better knowledge of the project, its aims, methods and best practices implemented, results obtained, perspective for the future.			
A25							
WP3	**WP 'STUDYING'**	**WP lead: WWF Adria confirmed**					
Overall description and main aim of WP3:		*see programme manual page 31,32*					
A31	Studying field 1: agrobiodiversity of orchards in the area	Surveys on the local orchards agrobiodiversity, with particular reference to chestnut (Castanea sativa, grafted trees), a multifunctional fruit tree	Reports/Comparative analysis/local germplasm DNA database/VTA report	this action will prepare the following testing actions. The best local varieties, sites and strategies for the pilot action will be identified.			
A32	Studying field 2: habitat characterization of prairies and pastures	In the Apennine open habitats are important for the maintenance of a high level of biodiversity. In the Park most areas are a mosaic of Natura 2000 habitats, e.g. 6210 Semi-natural dry grassland, 7210 calcareous fens, 6410 Molinia meadows, 6510 Lowland hay meadows, 6520 Mountain hay meadows) and host important endagered species (e.g. Chiroptera: *Barbastella barbastellus, Rhinolophus hipposideros, Myotis myotis, Myotis oxygnathus*; Aves: *Lullula arborea, Anthus campestris*). The Mountain Mediterranean landscape is subject to transformation processes which lead open environments to be colonized by arboreal vegetation up to a final evolution in forest; this will lead in the long term to the loss of priority habitats. Surveys will be conducted in grasslands (e.g. prairies, pastures) at different stages of evolution from open habitat to forest, with a characterization of their present situation and the possibility to reverse the trend (i.e. recover functional open habitats) removing trees and shrubs.	Reports/Comparative analysis	The comparative analysis will provide the information necessary to select the best area for Testing 2, evaluating for each habitat the stage of evolution, the possibility to reverse the trend obtaining functional ecosystems in a cost/effective way; the possibility to maintain the open habitat in the long term with the extension of traditional activities, e.g. cattle grazing			
A33	Studying field 3: Biodiversity associated to natural and human-made habitats	Explore the relationships between animal biodiversity (both invertebrates and vertebrates) and land use at different spatial scales. Monitoring activities will be carried out to provide data on taxa selected as bio-indicators. In particular, monitoring stations will be established in representative natural (woodlands, grasslands) and in human-made habitats interested, e.g. open habitats (prairies and pastures) and orchards (chestnuts).This information will be used to evaluate the biodiversity associatedto to habitats at climax or at different stages of evolution (e.g. changes in biodiversity related to the natural processes of evolution from grasslands to forests and to the management activities established to reverse the trend in some localized areas).	Report / Comparative analysis	The comparative analysis will form the basic knowledge on the biodiversity associated to natural and human-made habitats in Mediterranean mountains and a valuable tool to evaluate the synergistic effects of the natural evolution of habitats (e.g. from open habitats to woodlands) and the management actions aimed to allow the persistence of a local agriculture (maintenance and recover of pasture and orchards). The comparison of habitats at different stages of evolution will be used to produce management models, e.g. for the maintenance and recovery of grasslands and meadows in a mosaic with forests, with the aim to preserve high levels of biodiversity and ecosystem services.			
A34							
A35							
WP4	**WP 'TESTING'**	**WP lead: AIS confirmed**					
Overall description and main aim of WP4:		*see programme manual page 32,33*					
A41	Preparing (case 1)	Chestnut orchards recovery and renovation. The aim of case 1 will be to	preliminary study, technical planning, maps	An executive plan for the pilot action will be produced.			
A42	Testing (case 1)	Testing will include 3 actions: 1. in situ agrobiodiversity preservation: suitable chestnut orchards, individuated in A31, will be restored using tree climbing techniques, in order to provide a full recovery of their productive potentialities. 2 on farm (ex situ) agrobiodiversity preservation: new pantations will be realized, combining traditional and innovative agrotechniques, and maximizing the overall culture sustainability. 3. local chesnitut germplasm propagation: in order to realize new plantations, the propagation of the local cultivars will be pivotal, with the collaboration of specialized nurseries. The activities 1 to 3 will involve private actors.	technical services	1. recovered chestnut orchards, 2. new orchards, managed with innovative agrotechniques 3. local germplasm will be propagated in specialized nurseries			
A43	Evaluating (case 1)	The environmental performances of the proposed practices (innovative vs traditional agrotechniques), will be deeply evaluated through a Life cycle assessment approach, with the quantification of environmental indicators (Carbon footprint, ecological footprint, water footprint). Pilot activities effectiveness will be evaluated through monitoring the agronomic performances of restored orchards and new plantations too. Chestnuts plant health will be reassessed using the same procedure as for the phase of studying	environmental assessment report	Individuation of good environmental practices and quantification of environmental burdens			
A44	Preparing (case 2)	Testing case 2 is the restoration of open habitats that are important for the maintenance of biodiversity. During this phase the restoration will be planned in areas chosen after the comparative analysis in Studying field 2. The management plan will be produced by evaluating alternative methods. For instance, in sensitive areas, cattle grazing will be planned as an alternative instead of tractors to reduce the production of CO_2 and not to shrink excessively the soil.	Preliminary study	An executive plan for the pilot action will be produced.			
A45	Testing (case 2)	Testing will include of removal of trees and shrubs by mechanical	Service	An executive plan for the pilot action will be produced.			
A46	Evaluating (case 2)	The survey conducted in Studying field 2 will be repeated with a new habitat characterization after the implementation of the management plan, with the evaluation of the stage of evolution reached with the restoration activities and the effectiveness of the method used, also in respect to their long-term sustainability.	Evaluating report	The comparative analysis of this final evaluation will allow evaluating the cost/effectiveness of the methods employed in respect to the purposes of the restoration project. This case study will be used to develop best practices for the restoration of open habitats in mountain Mediterranean areas that will be used by the Park for its future restoration activities and could be a reference model for other similar situations.			
A47	Evaluating (case 3)	The monitor conducted in Studying field 3 will be repeated in selected areas to evauate changes in the fauna associated pastures and chestnuts areas after the management ations foreseen in Testing (cases 1 and 2)	Evaluation report	This will be the first application of the tool developed in Studying field 3. The repetition of the monitoring will allow to evaluate the effects on biodiversity of the management actions aimed to allow the persistence of a local agriculture (maintenance and recover of pasture and orchards).			
A48							
WP5	**WP 'TRANSFERRING'**	**WP lead: ?**					
Overall description and main aim of WP5:		*see programme manual page 33*					
A51	Coordinating workshops	Involvement of local stakeholders in the project, bearing and raising awareness about good practices for habitat management. Dissemination of the principles and guidelines for planning agricultural activities insites Natura 2000, in connection with the conservation of habitats and spacies of Community interest.	Workshop reports	Immediate and effective involvement of stakeholders. A greater awareness of the need to combine sustainable agricultural practices with the need in protected areas to preserve species and habitat in a good conservation status			
A52	Transferring tested processes, techniques, model	Studying field 3 (evaluating biodiversity associated to natural and human-made habitats) and Testing cases 1 (recovering chestnuts) and case 2 (recovering open habitats) will be used as case study to develop models and management best practices. Aim of this action is to transfer tested processes, techniques, model to stakeholders and a wide range technician and practitioners.	Writing an Action Plan, comprehensive with "to do, what and when" in conservation and recovery of N2000 habitats integrated with agriculture practices, implementing the national and regionale experiences of and functional to the coherence of N2000 regional network; and a white book about methodological guidelines and the model using to develop monitoring activities,	Technical reports that will be widely distributed and made available in web sites as a pdf; participation to technical workshop and conference to present projects, methods and results obtained			
A53	Transferring knowledge through operational guidelines	The results of the study and testing phases for orchard systems will be used to write a general guideline for sustainable orchard management in mountain region. This guideline will be very practical, including agricultural techniques, environmental criterias and best practices for the whole production and supply chain. The guideline volume will be dedicated to the area of the study, nevertheless, because it general scope, it can also be used as reference for other simiar cases in mountain areas across Europe.	Operational guideline report	The operational guideline volume will be a useful tool for orchard growers in the area close to the Park, in order to assure them a technical support to properly manage their field and avoid the risk of abandoment of the territory.			
A54	Exchanging informations	Aim of this action is to transfer tested processes, techniques, model to the other partners of BioADVISE.	Technical events	A wide exchange of results and experience at a local, national and international levels			
A55	Transferring knowledge	To better disseminate the results of the project, specific training courses will be organized	Training course	An immediate transfer of knowledge on methods, models and best practices developed			
A56							