



ADASEA DU GERS

PLAN AFTER LIFE

LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS

LIFE 19 NAT/FR/00828

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INTRODUCTION – SUMMARY

The LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS project aimed to restore the ecological connectivity of agro-pastoral habitats in the Gers department.

This was achieved through the implementation, from late 2020 to early 2026, of more than 51 complementary actions, the main ones being:

- ✓ Practical restoration of open agro-pastoral habitats (MOAPs) through clearing work, the re-establishment of grasslands and the installation of facilities to enable grazing; as a result, 1,600 hectares of MOAPs were restored
- ✓ Re-mobilisation and land transfer of 525 hectares of agro-pastoral environments subject to an environmental clause
- ✓ Support for the sustainable management of 7,900 hectares of agro-pastoral land, working with more than 194 livestock farmers
- ✓ Raising awareness amongst more than 2,000 local residents and elected representatives of the importance of agro-pastoral landscapes

Whilst these results are significant, and have helped to restore some of this ecological continuity and halt its decline, the LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS project was unable, due to its timeframe and budget, to meet all needs. However, it has highlighted the need to preserve this continuity for all the ecosystem services it provides, demonstrated that this was possible despite adverse conditions for the livestock farming sector that underpins it, and mobilised numerous new partners across the region.

Indeed, as the project progressed, we forged new partnerships and opened up new avenues; the realisation of these in the coming years will enable us to continue and scale up actions in support of open agro-pastoral landscapes, in the Gers and beyond.

It is these prospects and initiatives – some of which have already been launched – that we set out in detail in this document.

It is structured around three key areas:

- 1- Ensuring the long-term sustainability of the sites restored under the LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS project
- 2- Continuing and scaling up actions to promote the ecological connectivity of open agro-pastoral landscapes
- 3- Continuing to promote open agro-pastoral landscapes through communication and networking

For each planned action, the content, lead organisations, timetable, earmarked funding and performance indicators are set out in detail. A summary table provides the reader with an overview.

AXIS 1: ENSURING THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF SITES RESTORED UNDER THE LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS PROJECT

This section describes all the actions planned or already underway to ensure the long-term sustainability of the habitats restored through the LIFE programme and to maintain their good conservation status and biodiversity.

1.A : THE COMMITMENT OF MANAGERS AND LANDOWNERS

Several provisions of the LIFE programme require the commitment of managers of restored habitats to their conservation and management; furthermore, other programmes enable them to be bound by contractual obligations regarding management measures that go beyond conservation.

1.A.1 LIFE AGREEMENTS

a. Description of the initiative

Landowners and farmers whose plots have received LIFE funding for restoration measures (opening up land, creating grasslands, agro-pastoral infrastructure) have committed, for a period of 10 years, to preserving open agro-pastoral habitats and following the agro-pastoral management plan proposed by ADASEA du Gers, by signing a management agreement. A total of 90 have signed it.

b. Project leaders

- Landowners and farmers
- ADASEA 32

c. Timeline

These agreements were signed between 2022 and 2026, so they remain in force until 2032 to 2036.

d. Planned funding

None; the agreements were signed during the LIFE project.

e. Performance indicators

- Number of landowners and farmers committed for 10 years: 90

1.A.2 LAND-RELATED COMMITMENTS

a. Description of the action

SAFER Occitanie and ADASEA supported the transfer of MOAP plots by proposing, during sales, leases and arrangements for the provision of land, environmental clauses ensuring the preservation of habitats. These clauses are thus 'attached' to the plots, for an indefinite period in the case of sales and for the duration of the leases in the case of the latter, thereby ensuring the preservation of the MOAPs restored by the LIFE programme.

A total of 25 environmental clauses and 3 BREs have been put in place.

b. Project leaders

- Landowners
- SAFER Occitanie, ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

For environmental clauses relating to sales: indefinite duration

For Environmental Clauses relating to Provision of Land: 6 years, renewable for a further 6 years

For environmental clauses relating to rural leases: 9 years

d. Planned funding

Already funded as part of the LIFE project.

e. Performance indicators

- Areas of MOAP land sold with environmental clauses
- Areas of MOAP that have benefited from BRE

1.A.3 AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

a. Description of the action

ADASEA implemented an Agri-Environmental and Climate Programme during the LIFE project, known as 'Coteaux Gascons Astarac', with the aim of engaging farmers in the sustainable management of agro-pastoral environments in the eastern part of the LIFE project area. In the western part, another agri-environmental and climate programme, known as 'Armagnac', led by the Pays d'Armagnac and also coordinated by ADASEA, enabled farmers to commit to the same measures.

These measures fell into two categories:

- 'Biodiversity' measures at plot level: management specifications for grasslands, heathland, grazing land and associated habitats, with a specific management plan
- 'Grassland system' measure: maintaining areas of natural grassland and their flora

This contractual framework ensures 'precise' and tailored management of the MOAP sites restored under the LIFE programme over a five-year period, whilst also complementing the LIFE programme's actions on other contiguous plots (see Axis 2).

A total of 143 farmers within the LIFE project area have signed up to the Coteaux Gascons Astarac and Armagnac PAECs, covering a total MOAP area of 3,192 hectares.

b. Project leaders

- Farmers
- ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

The MAEC commitments were entered into between 2023 and 2026 and last for five years: they will therefore remain in force until 2028 to 2030.

d. Planned funding

Already funded under the Agri-environmental Measures: European Union (EAFRD), French government for farmers; French government or regional authorities for support with contract negotiations carried out by ADASEA and the PETR Armagnac.

e. Performance indicators

- MOAP areas that have benefited from LIFE and are committed to MAEC: 1,842 hectares
- Total MOAP areas within the LIFE territory committed to MAEC: 3,192 hectares

1.A.4 COMMITMENTS UNDER THE PSE (PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) SCHEME

a. Description of the action

The Adour Garonne Water Agency, a co-funding body for the LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS project from 2023 onwards, launched a Payments for Environmental Services (PES) programme at the end of 2025, designed to fund farms practising extensive grassland farming with wet meadows for the services they provide in terms of water protection. Farmers commit to maintaining sustainable grassland management for five years. This programme is partly implemented within the LIFE project area. Eleven farmers managing plots covered by the LIFE project have signed up to the PES scheme, thereby committing to the sustainable management of their MOAPs.

b. Project leaders

- Farmers
- Adour Garonne Water Agency

c. Timeline

The PSE commitments were entered into at the end of 2025 and last for five years: they will therefore remain in force until 2030.

d. Planned funding

Funded by the Adour-Garonne Water Agency as part of the PSE programme.

e. Performance indicators

- Number of farms participating in the LIFE programme and in a PSE (11 by early 2026)

1.B MONITORING OF SITE MANAGERS AND RESTORED SITES

Two schemes implemented at different scales (within NATURA 2000 sites and across the whole of the Gers) will enable the monitoring of site managers and sites restored by the LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS project after its completion.

1.B.1 NATURA 2000 COORDINATION

a. Description of the action

A total of 37 managers of NATURA 2000 sites within the region received support under the LIFE project, covering a total of 1,486 hectares of MOAP. Monitoring of these managers and the relevant plots can be carried out by the NATURA 2000 coordination scheme.

This coordination is currently carried out by ADASEA in the GERS department, on behalf of the Occitanie region for the Coteaux de l'Osse and du Lizet and Vallée et coteaux de la Lauze sites, and on behalf of the PETR Armagnac for the Etangs de l'Armagnac and Midou-Ludon river network sites.

The coordination work includes, in particular, monitoring habitats of Community interest and the organisations responsible for their management. This will provide an opportunity to monitor the plots that have been reopened and the plot-level infrastructure funded by the LIFE programme.

b. Project partners

- ADASEA 32
- Occitanie Region
- PETR Armagnac

c. Timetable

Coordination activities at NATURA 2000 sites are scheduled to run for 1 to 3 years, depending on the site. The operational coordinator (ADASEA 32 for 2026) may change, as they are appointed through public procurement procedures. The programme is drawn up by the lead organisations: the Occitanie Region and PETR Armagnac. However, the task of monitoring habitats of Community interest and the work of site managers forms part of the core remit of the coordination programme and should be renewed in all cases, for as long as the NATURA 2000 scheme remains in place in France.

d. Planned funding

Funding for the NATURA 2000 coordination programme is provided in full by the European Union and the Regions, via the regional EAFRD funds, until 2027. New arrangements are expected to come into effect in 2028.

e. Performance indicators

The aim is to carry out at least one follow-up visit to all restored sites within NATURA 2000 sites by 2030.

1.B.2 THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNIT FOR AGRO-PASTORAL COMMUNITIES

a. Description of the initiative

Modelled on the Technical Assistance Units for Wetlands that exist throughout the Adour-Garonne basin, the Gers ADASEA will launch a Technical Assistance Unit for Agro-Pastoral Environments from April 2026. This is a management support programme based on site visits and individual advice, supplemented by land-use facilitation, group events (technical days and experience-sharing sessions), information sharing and coordination with local stakeholders, particularly local authorities.

The project officers and the ADASEA coordinator for the LIFE COTEAUX Gascons programme will provide this technical assistance.

The initial aim is to focus on the managers of the areas that have benefited from the LIFE programme, in order to monitor progress and adjust management advice in the coming years. This will provide an opportunity to monitor the re-opened plots and the plot-level infrastructure funded by the LIFE programme. Depending on available resources, the support may be extended to all MOAP managers in the Gers.

b. Project lead

ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

The funding secured covers the period from April 2026 to December 2027. ADASEA will seek additional funding for the subsequent period.

d. Planned funding

At present, this technical assistance is funded solely by the Occitanie FEDER, under the sub-basin management programme, covering 40 per cent of the costs, with the remaining 60 per cent self-financed by ADASEA. Additional funding will be sought from the Water Agency in particular, as well as from the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Ecology.

e. Performance indicators

The aim is to carry out at least one visit to all restored sites by 2030, excluding NATURA 2000 sites.

1.C QUALITATIVE MONITORING OF RESTORATION

In addition to monitoring site managers and sites restored by the LIFE programme to ensure the sustainability of the resources committed to the LIFE programme, more qualitative monitoring of restoration actions will be implemented through several mechanisms.

1.C.1 ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AN OPEN-HABITAT RESTORATION MEASURE ON A NATURA 2000 SITE

a. Description of the initiative

Signed in 2024 by the OFB and ADASEA du Gers, this research and development contract concerns a parcel restored as part of the LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS project at the NATURA 2000 site FR7300897. It aims to assess and quantify the impact of open habitat restoration measures and, as far as possible, to identify the parameters that enhance the effectiveness of these measures. This contract therefore provides an opportunity for detailed scientific monitoring at one of the LIFE project sites, using the following indicators: flora and vegetation structure, Rhopalocera and Zygeneae, and Orthoptera.

This assessment is being carried out at eight NATURA 2000 sites in France, and the results should help to refine recommendations for the restoration of open habitats.

b. Project lead

- ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

Monitoring is scheduled to take place from 2024 (pre-restoration status) to 2029.

d. Planned funding

Funding is provided by the OFB under a research and development contract.

e. Performance indicators

Monitoring report, including an analysis of trends in the monitored indicators (flora and vegetation, Rhopalocera and Zygeneae, Orthoptera).

1.C.2 THE NATURAL GRASSLANDS OBSERVATORY

a. Description of the initiative

The Natural Grasslands Observatory is a 'new' tool developed by the CBN-INRAE-(OFB) and deployed across the CBN's area of operation. Aim: To document changes in permanent grasslands in terms of quality and area, particularly in light of climate change.

The CBNPMP will set up this observatory in the Gers, in the Astarac area (included in the LIFE project), from 2026 onwards. It will comprise two monitoring strands:

- Monitoring of a sample of randomly selected natural grasslands
- Monitoring of grasslands sown as part of Action C3 of the LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS project

This monitoring will focus on flora and will be combined with the monitoring of management practices. ADASEA will help to engage with farmers via the Technical Assistance Unit (see Focus Area B2)

b. Project lead

Botanical Conservatory of the Pyrenees and Midi-Pyrénées (CBNPMP)

c. Timetable

From 2026, for an indefinite period, depending on the availability of funding.

d. Planned funding

Planned funding for the CBNPMP, source: OFB + Occitanie Region

e. Performance indicators

Number and trends in the number of grasslands re-created by the LIFE project and monitored by the observatory.

1.C.3 THE ‘WILD POLLINATORS’ MONITORING COMPONENT OF THE RESTPOLL RESEARCH PROJECT

a. Description of the initiative

As part of the European RESTPOLL research project ‘Restoration of pollinator habitats in European agricultural landscapes’ (restpoll.eu), INRAE and INP Toulouse have undertaken to assess the impact of grasslands re-created through the LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS project (Action C3) on wild pollinators. The LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS area is thus becoming a LIVING LAB, in collaboration with ADASEA 32 and the CBNPMP.

Researchers have therefore been carrying out annual monitoring of pollinators in the grasslands re-created by the LIFE project since 2024. As RESTPOLL is due to end in 2027, the monitoring is expected to continue through a second French research programme, SOLUBIOD (<https://www.pepr-solubiod.fr/>), until 2030. As part of this, several end-of-study placements

The impacts of Action C3 of the LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS programme on pollination services will therefore be assessed.

b. Project leader

INRAE Toulouse

c. Timetable

Monitoring is planned from 2024 to 2030, through the RESTPOLL and SOLUBIOD research programmes.

d. Planned funding

Funding is provided by the European Union for RESTPOLL and by the French government for SOLUBIOD.

e. Performance indicators

Study reports relating to the monitoring of pollinators at the LIVING LAB Gascogne.

1.C.4 THE RESPIR RESEARCH PROJECT ‘ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF GRASSLAND SYSTEMS AND SOIL-PLANT INTERACTIONS’

a. Description of the initiative

INRAE, the PURPAN School of Engineering and the OFB have undertaken research to explore the key factors for the successful re-creation of 'permanent' grasslands (C3 action of the LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS project, as well as COUVER06 under the Agri-environmental Measures scheme). The RESPIR project covers various areas of research:

- What is the role of soil-plant interactions?
- What is the role of the landscape context?
- What is the effect of the type of seed used?

This four-year project will involve several interns and a PhD student. It is expected to result in a practical information and decision-support tool for managers.

b. Project leader

INRAE Toulouse + Purpan School of Engineering + OFB

c. Timeline

2025–2029

d. Planned funding

Research funding

e. Performance indicators

- Decision-making tool for the restoration of grasslands

AXIS 2: CONTINUE AND EXPAND ACTIONS TO PROMOTE THE ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY OF OPEN AGRO-PASTORAL HABITATS

2.A PROTECTION OF THE ECOLOGICAL NETWORK

2.A.1 INCLUSION IN THE ASTARAC REGIONAL NATURE PARK CHARTER

a. Description of the action

The cartographic characterisation of the agro-pastoral open landscape network carried out as part of the LIFE project (action A1a) was extended in 2025 to cover the entire territory of the proposed Astarac Regional Nature Park (PNR), at the request of the project's lead organisation, the Syndicat Mixte, using its own funding. The aim was to supplement the baseline assessment of the PNR project, but above all to incorporate the preservation of the ecological continuity of agro-pastoral habitats into the PNR Charter, which is reflected in several ways:

- Taking continuity into account in planning documents. In particular, the PNR Charter takes precedence over Territorial Coherence Schemes ([SCoT](#)) and town planning documents
- Preservation of certain MOAPs through the Protected Areas Strategy
- A commitment to implementing actions to restore the ecological network
- Support for extensive grassland livestock farming, which underpins the ecological network

Thus, once approved, the Astarac Regional Nature Park should ensure a degree of continuity with the LIFE programme within its territory.

b. Project lead

Joint Association for the Preparation of the Astarac Regional Nature Park

c. Timetable

The Astarac Regional Nature Park is expected to be approved in 2027, for a period of 15 years.

d. Planned funding

The Regional Nature Park will receive funding from the Region, the Department, the Public Establishments for Intermunicipal Cooperation (EPCI), the local authorities and the State, as well as from revenue generated by specific operations.

e. Performance indicators

Accreditation of the Astarac Regional Nature Park and its charter.

2.A.2 INTEGRATION OF NEW MOAP RESERVOIRS AND CORRIDORS INTO TOWN PLANNING SCHEMES

a. Description of the action

During the characterisation of the MOAP network in the LIFE project (Action A1a), new biodiversity hotspots and corridors were identified, supplementing the Regional Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan, which serves as a reference for the drafting of town planning documents. These new elements of the network have been brought to the attention of the relevant authorities (DDT, SCOT de Gascogne, PETR Armagnac), so that they may include them in their reference materials, and have also been communicated to local authorities that are drawing up or revising their town planning documents.

b. Project leaders

SCOT de Gascogne and planning authorities Urban planning documents

c. Timetable

As and when town planning documents are drawn up or renewed.

d. Planned funding

No specific funding is required

e. Performance indicators

Inclusion of new reservoirs and corridors in the relevant town planning documents.

2.A.3 DESIGNATION OF MOAP RESERVOIRS AS NEW 'SENSITIVE NATURAL AREAS'

a. Description of the action

During the characterisation of the MOAP network in the LIFE project (action A1a), new biodiversity reservoirs were identified; those containing MOAPs of ecological interest, particularly of Community interest, and species of conservation concern, were identified and proposed to the Gers Departmental Council as new Sensitive Natural Areas. They will thus benefit from greater visibility and recognition as sites of natural interest and, where appropriate,

funding from the Departmental Council for their management and restoration, land acquisition and development to accommodate the public.

b. Project leaders

Gers Departmental Council

c. Timetable

Inclusion in the ENS scheme in 2026

d. Planned funding

No specific funding is required

e. Performance indicators

Number of MOAP reservoirs integrated into the Gers ENS scheme

2.B SUPPORTING THE TRANSFER AND TAKEOVER OF MOAPS

2.B.1 LAND MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES DEDICATED TO THE TRANSFER AND TAKEOVER OF MOAPS

a. Description of the initiative

ADASEA will set up a land management service dedicated to the transfer and takeover of MOAPs, as part of its Technical Assistance Unit (see Axis 1 B2). The aim is to continue the actions implemented in the LIFE project in partnership with SAFER Occitanie: Monitoring land transactions relating to MOAPs via the VIGIE FONCIER and VIGIE FRICHES tools; coordinating efforts with SAFER to implement environmental clauses associated with rural leases or sales; connecting sellers and buyers of MOAPs; formalising ORE agreements, etc. A partnership agreement is to be drawn up between SAFER Occitanie and ADASEA 32.

b. Project lead

ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

ADASEA 32 / SAFER agreement in 2026

Implementation to begin in 2026, building on the LIFE programme

d. Planned funding

100% NATURA 2000 funding for NATURA 2000 sites

Water Agency / FEDER funding for wetlands: 100%

Occitanie FEDER funding for areas outside NATURA 2000 sites and wetlands: 40%; additional funding sought

e. Performance indicators

SAFER/ADASEA 32 agreement signed

Number of cases monitored: 10 to 20 per year

Number of environmental clauses, BRE and ORE clauses included in project briefs

2.B.2 ASEME PROJECT IN ESTANG

a. Description of the initiative

During the LIFE project, ADASEA 32 worked to facilitate the takeover by a farmer of MOAP land situated within the Estang drinking water catchment area. Following the partnership established with the Drinking Water Authority, and in view of the significant challenges posed by farmers retiring in this area and the need to protect water resources through grass cover, ADASEA responded to a call for proposals from the OFB entitled 'Convergence of Natura 2000 Sites and Drinking Water Catchment Areas'. The aim is to reconcile the protection of the water catchment with that of the natural habitats within the Natura 2000 site, by supporting farmers in changing their practices and in the handover and takeover of their farms, whilst prioritising the conservation and re-establishment of grassland. This project, submitted to the OFB in March 2026, is called ASEME: 'Agriculture in the Service of Water and the Environment in Estang'.

b. Project lead

ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

End of 2026/end of 2029

d. Planned funding

OFB funding 70%

Adour Garonne Water Agency funding: 30%

e. Performance indicators

Number of land transfer cases supported, land management tools put in place, area of MOAPs conserved and recreated.

2.C RESTORING AND EQUIPPING MOAPS

2.C.1 CONTINUE SOWING GRASSLAND WITH NATIVE FLORA

a. Description of the action

FDCUMA 32 has been involved, as a service provider, in the implementation of Action C3 of the LIFE project 'Sowing of grasslands with native flora': research and advice on equipment and labour, technical monitoring, and support for project management. FDCUMA 32 wishes to expand this initiative, make it more accessible to farmers and support local CUMA organisations in acquiring brush-cleaning and sorting equipment. ADASEA 32 and FDCUMA have agreed to continue their partnership with this aim in mind.

b. Project leader

FDCUMA 32 and ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

From 2027

d. Planned funding

Several options: 'Agriculture and Biodiversity' calls for projects from the DRAAF Occitanie, the Green Fund or the Restoration Fund from the DREAL Occitanie, etc.

e. Performance indicators

Number of native grassland areas re-established post-Life

Number of CUMA cooperatives equipped to harvest and/or sow grasslands with native flora

2.C.2 CONTINUE ACTIONS TO REOPEN AND EQUIP MOAPS ()

a. Description of the action

ADASEA wishes to continue the restoration and equipping of MOAPs, and extend these efforts beyond the LIFE project area, as there are still many needs to be met. Specific funding must be sought, in connection with ecological restoration.

b. Project lead

ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

From 2027

d. Planned funding

Several options: the Green Fund or the Nature Restoration Fund of the DREAL Occitanie, the national 'Agri for Nature Restoration' plan, the ENS Fund, the Region, LEADER, ongoing calls for projects, etc.

e. Performance indicators

Areas reopened and refitted, covered by a management and restoration plan.

2.C.3 WETLAND RESTORATION

a. Description of the initiative

The Adour Garonne Water Agency funds the restoration of wetlands, ponds, wet meadows and floodplains, supported by the Wetlands Technical Assistance Unit (CATZH). During the LIFE project, certain interventions relating to pond restoration were thus funded through this channel rather than directly from LIFE grants. Following the LIFE programme, this initiative continues; the CATZH, led by ADASEA 32, is continuing these restoration activities, which benefit 'wetland' MOAPs.

b. Project lead

ADASEA 32, acting as the Wetlands Technical Assistance Unit

c. Timetable

The^{12th} programme of the Adour-Garonne Water Agency, which covers this measure, runs from 2025 to 2030.

d. Planned funding

Adour Garonne Water Agency: 80% for farmers, 50% for private individuals.

e. Performance indicators

Number of ponds and areas of wet or flood-prone grassland restored

2.D SUPPORTING LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF MOAP

2.D.1 THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNIT FOR AGRO-PASTORAL COMMUNITIES

See Priority 1 B2

a. Description of the initiative

Modelled on the Technical Assistance Units for Wetlands that exist throughout the Adour-Garonne basin, ADASEA in the Gers will launch a Technical Assistance Unit for Agro-Pastoral Areas from April 2026. This is a management support programme based on site visits and individual advice, supplemented by land-use facilitation, group events (technical days and experience-sharing sessions), information sharing and coordination with local stakeholders, particularly local authorities.

The project officers and the ADASEA coordinator for LIFE COTEAUX Gascons will provide this technical assistance.

b. Project lead

ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

The funding secured covers the period from April 2026 to December 2027. ADASEA will seek additional funding for the subsequent phase.

d. Planned funding

At present, this technical assistance is funded solely by the Occitanie FEDER, under the sub-basin management programme, covering 40 per cent of the costs, with the remaining 60 per cent self-financed by ADASEA. Additional funding will be sought from the Water Agency in particular, as well as from the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Ecology.

e. Performance indicators

- Number of technical days or exchange sessions organised for MOAP managers: planned at 2 per year
- Number of advisory visits: 10 per year
- Number of follow-up visits: 10 per year
- Number of land management support sessions: 5 per year

2.D.2 TECHNICAL ADVICE FOR GRASSLAND LIVESTOCK FARMS IN THE ASTARAC ARROS EN GASCOGNE COMMUNITY OF COMMUNES

a. Description of the initiative

This area was only very marginally affected by the LIFE project, as the ecological connectivity of the MOAPs there is very patchy. A study carried out by the Community of Communes shows that grassland farming is one of the best solutions to the problems of soil erosion, deteriorating water quality and biodiversity loss. The Community of Communes is therefore proposing to ADASEA that it implement a programme of outreach and technical advice on MOAP management for livestock farmers within the Community of Communes. This constitutes a small 'spatial' extension of the LIFE project.

b. Project lead

Astarac Arros en Gascogne Community of Communes. Outreach activities entrusted to ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

September 2026 – December 2027

d. Planned funding

Occitanie EAFRD – secured for the Community of Communes

e. Performance indicators

- Number of technical workshops or exchange events held: 2 planned
- Number of participants
- Number of farms receiving technical advice: 12 planned

2.D.3 THE OPTIMAP GIEE ‘OPTIMISATION OF AGRO-PASTORAL ENVIRONMENTS ON HILLSIDE FARMS IN THE GERS’

a. Description of the initiative

This project forms part of a national scheme (<https://agriculture.gouv.fr/quest-ce-quun-groupement-dinteret-economique-et-environnemental-giee>), the aim of which is to create a group of farmers who exchange ideas and experiment with agro-ecological practices. The OPTIMAP GIEE (Groupement d’Intérêt Ecologique et Economique) was launched at the end of the LIFE project, when new technical needs emerged on the target farms, along with a need for discussion, best practice and experimentation to further optimise natural grasslands and develop more grazing-based systems. Indeed, whilst agro-pastoral systems may not offer high forage yields, they can, on the other hand, ensure a better economic margin (low maintenance, few inputs, no annual reseeding), offer benefits for animal health and reduced labour requirements, open up new market opportunities more in line with societal expectations (respect for the environment and animal welfare), and be more resilient to climate change, provided that practices, land use and herd management are optimised. The GIEE will bring farmers together to share their experiences, carry out an assessment and identify areas for improvement on each farm, enhance knowledge of the forage potential of agro-pastoral environments (through analyses and literature reviews), experiment with and study new technical solutions, and draw inspiration from external case studies.

b. Project leader

ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

Start-up phase: 2026–2027; development phase: 2028–2031; dissemination phase: 2032

d. Planned funding

DRAAF Occitanie (Ministry of Agriculture) – funding secured for the start-up phase.

e. Performance indicators

- Number of livestock farmers who are members of the group: 10 planned
- Number of meetings and technical days: 9, including one study trip

2.D.4 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE CONTRACTS

a. Description of the initiative

This project forms part of a regional scheme aimed at farmers, designed to support farms in their agroecological transition <https://www.laregion.fr/Contrat-Agriculture-Durable-Public-Agriculteurs>. ADASEA 32 is accredited by the Region to support farmers in drawing up this multi-year farm development plan; it has focused this support on farms wishing to set up or develop a grass-fed livestock operation in conjunction with MOAPs.

b. Project leader

ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

From 2025, 3 to 4 applications per year.

d. Planned funding

Occitanie region

e. Performance indicators

- Number of livestock farmers supported by a CAD. Targets: 3 to 5 per year (1 in 2025, 3 in 2026)

2.D.5 MAEC TRAINING COURSES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF MOAPS

a. Description of the initiative

As part of the Agri-Environmental Programmes, the DRAAF Occitanie has funded training courses for farmers who have signed up to Agri-Environmental Measures. ADASEA is offering several such courses until 2027, focusing on the management of MOAPs.

Beyond that, ADASEA will seek ways to continue this support for improving livestock farmers' skills in MOAP management, through the CAT MOAP or other initiatives.

b. Project leader

ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

2026 and 2027

d. Planned funding

DRAAF Occitanie, to be sought beyond 2027

e. Performance indicators

- Number of training courses delivered: 2 per year
- Number of farmers trained: 12 per session

2.E DEVELOPING 'GRASS-FED LIVESTOCK' SUPPLY CHAINS

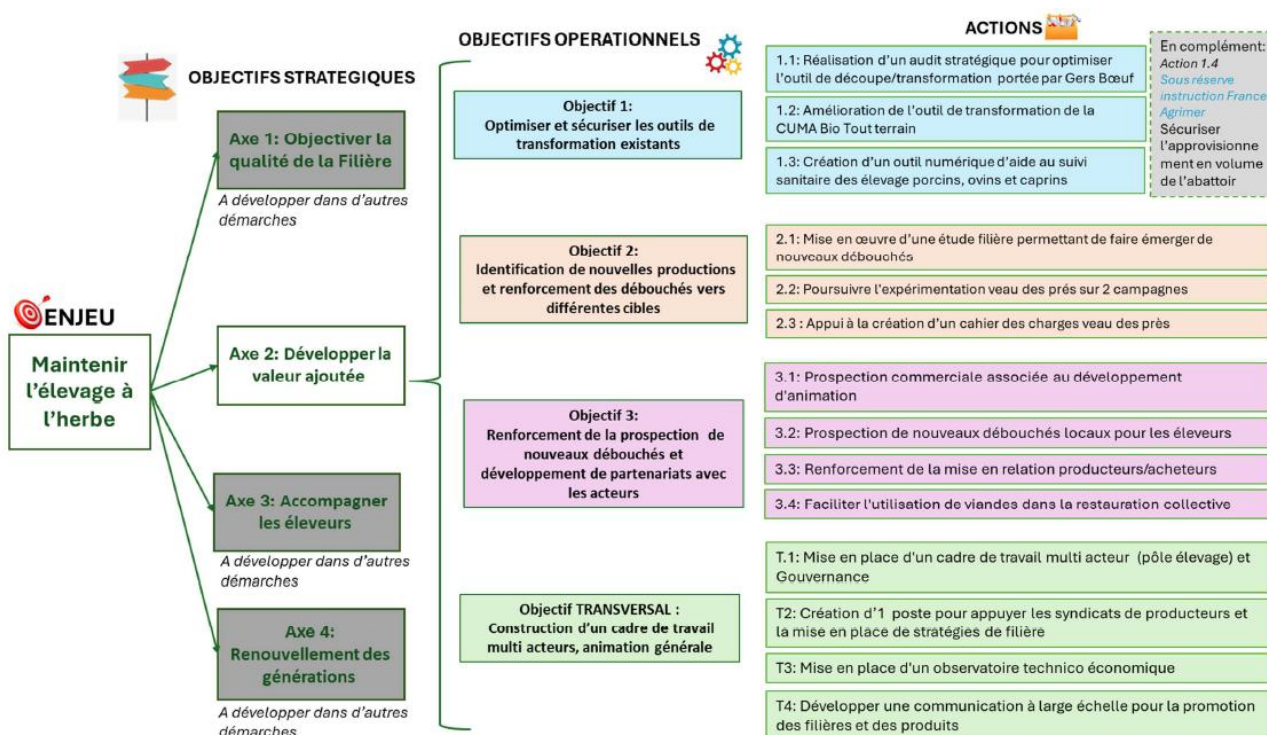
Maintaining the ecological continuity of agro-pastoral environments depends on sustaining grass-fed livestock farming, which in turn depends on the existence and development of marketing sectors compatible with this extensive form of production.

2.E.1 THE DRAFT TERRITORIAL STRATEGY FOR THE SUPPORT AND PRESERVATION OF EXTENSIVE GRASSLAND LIVESTOCK FARMING IN THE GERS

a. Description of the initiative

As part of FranceAgriMer's Plan for the Adaptation of Agricultural Sectors to Climate Change in the Mediterranean Region, a consortium of organisations in the Gers involved in livestock farming has been formed, under the auspices of the ASTARAC Regional Nature Park association, to launch a Territorial Strategy to support and sustain extensive grassland livestock farming in the Gers, particularly in Astarac, with a view to ensuring the region's resilience to climate change and the conservation of water resources.

The operational objectives and actions are summarised in the diagram below.



b. Project leader

ASTARAC Regional Nature Park Preparatory Association

Partners: The 'Grass-fed Livestock' Consortium, comprising the Gers Chamber of Agriculture, adasea 32, ADEL (Association of Livestock Farmers 32), the Mirandaise Federation, sheep, pig and goat producers' unions, the CUMA all-terrain organic group, Gers Bœuf and Gers Distribution.

c. Timetable

2026–2029

d. Planned funding

France AGRIMER, secured, 50%; Adour-Garonne Water Agency, 30–50% depending on the actions; self-funding by the partners.

e. Performance indicators

- Assessment of the strategy and operational follow-up in terms of outcomes achieved

2.F: MAINTAINING MOAPS FOR THEIR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

2.F.1 LIFE PROJECT ‘AGRICULTURE FOR SOIL HEALTH’

a. Description of the initiative

Imagin’Rural, the association of ADASEA organisations in France, is preparing a LIFE application under the ‘Circular Economy and Quality of Life’ sub-programme, the main objective of which is to preserve and improve soil health by marketing Service Provision Contracts delivered by farmers. A catalogue of measures to promote soil health will be proposed, including the maintenance and restoration of MOAPs. It will be tested across six departments in France, including the Gers, via the ADASEA organisations, during the LIFE project. MOAPs already restored under the LIFE Coteaux Gascons project, as well as new ones, may be involved.

b. Project lead

Imagin’Rural, Association of ADASEA organisations in France

Associate partners: ADASEA du Gers, ADASEA de l’Hérault, ADASEA de la Marne, ADASEA d’OC, ADASEA Centre Ouest, SYMBIOSE Marne, SAS Epiterre.

c. Timetable

Applications to be submitted in September 2026, with the project due to start in September 2027 if accepted, for a duration of 6 years.

d. Planned funding

LIFE 60%; Ministry of Ecology 1.5%; other public and private funders to be identified.

e. Performance indicators

- Approval of the LIFE project
- Results of the LIFE project

2.F.2 THE ‘WILD POLLINATORS’ COMPONENT OF THE RESTPOLL RESEARCH PROJECT

a. Description of the initiative

As part of the European research project Restpoll ‘Restoration of pollinator habitats in European agricultural landscapes’ (restpoll.eu), economic researchers have set out to develop a PES (Payment for Environmental Services) scheme designed to fund the restoration of wild pollinators. Specifically, within the LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS area – now designated as a LIVING LAB – the measure under consideration is the re-creation of grasslands (measure C3 of the LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS project). Other measures will emerge from other European Living Labs.

Thus, this LIFE initiative to re-create grasslands may perhaps be continued from the perspective of ecosystem services.

b. Project lead

INRAE Toulouse

c. Timetable

The RESTPOLL research programme runs until 2027

d. Planned funding

Funding for RESTPOLL is provided by the European Union.

e. Performance indicators

- Study report on the CPSE for pollinators
- Follow-up at European level

AXIS 3: CONTINUE TO PROMOTE OPEN AGRO-PASTORAL ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING

3.A PROMOTING OPEN AGRO-PASTORAL HABITATS TO ALL AUDIENCES

3.A.1 MAINTAINING THE LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS WEBSITE

a. Description of the action

The LIFE Coteaux Gascons website (LIFE <https://lifegascon.fr/>) will remain online for five years after the end of the LIFE project.

The maintenance and hosting contracts have been taken out 'in advance'.

b. Action lead

ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

Until 2030

d. Planned funding

Already provided for under LIFE

e. Performance indicators

- Website traffic

3.A.2 UTILISATION OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES CREATED UNDER THE LIFE PROGRAMME

a. Description of the action

The LIFE project has enabled the development of a number of educational tools designed to raise public awareness of the importance of preserving MOAPs, for their biodiversity and the ecosystem services they provide.

These tools are in place on a permanent basis in the form of information boards and the nature trail, and have been produced as posters, an educational booklet, games and exhibition panels.

CPIE Pays Gersois and ADASEA du Gers will continue to use and distribute them as part of their respective work.

The CPIE, in particular, runs awareness-raising programmes for young people, schoolchildren and the general public, and will be able to make extensive use of the educational resources produced. For example, it organises several classroom activities each year as part of the NATURA 2000 programme.

ADASEA du Gers engages with the general public less frequently, but it will use these tools at the fairs and exhibitions in which it participates, and will promote them to the Departmental Tourist Office.

The Departmental Tourist Office will promote the LIFE trail and the locations of the information boards on its website, <https://www.tourisme-gers.com>.

b. Project lead

Mainly the CPIE Pays Gersois

c. Timetable

Ongoing

d. Planned funding

No specific funding; funding is provided through CPIE programmes in particular (Region, NATURA 2000, Department for Education, local authorities, etc.)

e. Performance indicators

- Number of events for the general public or young people focusing on MOAPs

3.A.3 PROMOTING MOAPS TO THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

a. Description of the initiative

ADASEA 32 will continue to promote MOAPs to its agricultural audience:

- through its own communication channels (newsletter, social media, website www.ADASEA32.fr)
- at agricultural events in which it participates (Gascogn'Agri, Foire de la Madeleine)
- during visits to agricultural colleges or higher education institutions offering agricultural courses (future farmers!)

b. Project lead

ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

Ongoing

d. Planned funding

ADASEA 32 own funds + FEDER 40% 2026/2027

e. Performance indicators

- New pages on ADASEA's new website (2026)
- Number of articles on social media and the internet
- Number of trade fairs and events

3.B ENGAGING AND NETWORKING WITH MOAP STAKEHOLDERS

3.B.1 LOCAL MOAP MONITORING COMMITTEE

a. Description of the action

ADASEA 32 plans to set up a MOAP Monitoring Committee in the Gers, the 'core' membership of which will be the LIFE Coteaux Gascons Steering Committee.

It would meet every two to three years to review the actions and progress of the framework.

ADASEA would be involved through the MOAP Technical Advisory Team (CAT).

b. Project leader

ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

First monitoring committee^{meeting} in 2027, then every 2 to 3 years

d. Planned funding

ADASEA 32 own funds + FEDER 40% 2027

e. Performance indicators

- Committee meetings held
- Number of stakeholders present

3.B.2 NETWORKING ON MOAPS

a. Description of the initiative

At departmental level:

- To meet, exchange views and work with local organisations, so that the challenges involved in taking the MOAP framework into account are addressed by all,
- In particular, to contribute to the development of projects relating to the conservation and restoration of MOAPs

At regional and national level:

- Contribute to regional and national discussions and initiatives (LIFE BiodivFrance, LIFE Biodiv'Paysanne, the RMT 'Avenir Prairies' network, the National Action Plan for Grasslands

project, the ' ' Nature Restoration Strategy, etc.) on natural grasslands and agro-pastoralism, to ensure that the local challenges facing MOAPs are better addressed by policy-makers.

b. Project lead

ADASEA 32

c. Timetable

Ongoing

d. Planned funding

ADASEA 32 own funds + FEDER 40% 2027

e. Performance indicators

- Number of meetings at local and national levels

SUMMARY OF AFTER-LIFE ACTIONS

Name of Action After LIFE	Lead organisation	Timetable	Planned funding	Performance indicators	REF LIFE Action
PRIORITY 1: ENSURING THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF SITES RESTORED AS PART OF THE LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS PROJECT					
1.A THE COMMITMENT OF MANAGERS AND OWNERS					
1.A.1 The LIFE Agreements	Landowners and farmers; ADASEA 32	Signed between 2022 and 2026; valid until 2032–2036.	None; agreements signed during the LIFE project.	Number of landowners and farmers committed for 10 years: 90.	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5
1.A.2 Land-related commitments	Landowners; SAFER Occitanie; ADASEA 32	Conditions attached to sales: indefinite term; land made available: 6 years, renewable; rural leases: 9 years.	Already funded as part of the LIFE project.	Areas of MOAP that have benefited from sales with environmental clauses; areas of MOAP that have benefited from BRE.	C1
1.A.3 Agri-environmental and climate commitments	Farmers; ADASEA 32	Commitments entered into from 2023 to 2026 for a period of 5 years; valid until 2028 to 2030.	Agri-environmental measures: European Union (EAFRD), French government; coordination: French government or Region.	Areas within the MOAP LIFE project covered by MAEC: 1,842 ha; total areas within the LIFE territory covered by MAEC: 3,192 ha.	C1
1.A.4 Commitments under the PSE (Payments for Environmental Services) scheme	Farmers; Adour-Garonne Water Agency	Commitments entered into at the end of 2025 for a period of 5 years; valid until 2030.	Adour Garonne Water Agency	Number of farms participating in the LIFE programme and in an PES scheme: 11 at the start of 2026.	C1
1.B MONITORING OF MANAGERS AND RESTORED SITES					
1.B.1 NATURA 2000 coordination	ADASEA 32; Occitanie Region; PETR Armagnac	Coordination scheduled to last 1 to 3 years depending on the sites; the mandate is renewable for as long as the NATURA 2000 scheme remains in place.	Funding until 2027 by the European Union and the Regions via regional EAFRD funds, at 100 per cent.	At least one follow-up visit to all restored sites within NATURA 2000 areas by 2030.	D1
1.B.2 The Technical Assistance Unit for Agro-Pastoral Environments	ADASEA 32	April 2026 to December 2027; additional funding to be sought thereafter.	40% from the Occitanie FEDER; 60% self-financed by ADASEA; additional funding to be sought.	At least one visit to all restored sites by 2030, excluding NATURA 2000 sites.	D1
1.C.1 Assessment of the effectiveness of an open-habitat restoration measure at a Natura 2000 site	ADASEA 32	Monitoring planned from 2024 to 2029.	OFB, as part of a research and development contract.	Monitoring report including analysis of flora, vegetation, butterflies, geometer moths and grasshoppers.	D1
1.C.2 The Natural Grasslands Observatory	Pyrenees and Midi-Pyrénées Botanical Conservatory (CBNPMP)	From 2026, for an indefinite period depending on funding.	OFB and the Occitanie Region.	Number and trends in grasslands restored by the LIFE programme and monitored by the observatory.	D1
1.C.3 The 'Wild Pollinators' monitoring component of the RESTPOLL research project	INRAE Toulouse	From 2024 to 2030, via RESTPOLL and then SOLUBIOD.	Europe for RESTPOLL; the French government for SOLUBIOD.	Study reports relating to pollinator monitoring at the Gascogne Living Lab.	D1
1.C.4 The RESPIR research project: 'Ecological restoration of grassland systems	INRAE – PURPAN Engineering School – OFB	2025–2029	Research funding	Decision-support tool for the restoration of grasslands	D3

and soil-plant interactions'					
PRIORITY AREA 2: CONTINUING AND EXPANDING ACTIONS TO PROMOTE THE ECOLOGICAL CONTINUITY OF OPEN AGRO-PASTORAL ENVIRONMENTS					
2.A PROTECTION OF THE LANDSCAPE FABRIC					
2.A.1 Inclusion in the ASTARAC Regional Nature Park Charter	Joint Association for the Development of the ASTARAC Regional Nature Park	The Astarac Regional Nature Park is expected to be accredited in 2027, for a period of 15 years.	The Regional Nature Park will receive funding from the Region, the Department, the EPCIs, the local authorities and the State, as well as revenue from specific operations.	Accreditation of the Astarac Regional Nature Park and its charter.	A1 A4 D1 E3 E4
2.A.2 Integration of new reservoirs and MOAP corridors into town planning schemes	Gascogne SCOT and planning authorities Planning documents	As and when town planning documents are drawn up or renewed.	No specific funding is required	Inclusion of the new reservoirs and corridors in the relevant town planning documents.	A1 A4 E2
2.A.3 Designation of MOAP reservoirs as new 'Sensitive Natural Areas'	Gers Departmental Council	Inclusion in the ENS plan in 2026	No specific funding is required	Number of MOAP reservoirs included in the Gers ENS plan	A3 C2 C5 E2
2.B SUPPORTING THE TRANSFER OF MOAPS					
2.B.1 Land management initiatives dedicated to the transfer and takeover of MOAPs	ADASEA 32	ADASEA32 / SAFER agreement in 2026 Coordination to be implemented from 2026, building on the LIFE programme	100% NATURA 2000 funding Or 100% funding from the Water Agency / FEDER for wetland areas Or 40% FEDER funding from Occitanie for areas outside NATURA 2000 sites and wetlands; additional funding sought	SAFER / ADASEA 32 agreement signed Number of cases monitored: 10 to 20 per year Number of environmental clauses, BRE and ORE clauses included in project briefs	C1
2.B.2 ASEME project in Estang	ADASEA 32	End of 2026/end of 2029	OFB funding 70% Adour Garonne Water Agency funding: 30%	Number of land transfer cases supported, land management tools implemented, area of MOAP land conserved and recreated.	C1 C3 C4 E2 E3
2.C RESTORING AND EQUIPPING MOAPS					
2.C.1 Continue sowing grassland with native flora	FDCUMA 32 and ADASEA 32	From 2027	Several options: 'Agriculture and Biodiversity' calls for projects from the DRAAF Occitanie, the Green Fund or the Restoration programme from the DREAL Occitanie,	Number of native flora grasslands re-established post-Life Number of CUMAs equipped to harvest and/or sow native flora grasslands	C3
2.C.2 Continue efforts to reopen and equip MOAPs	ADASEA 32	From 2027	Several options: the Green Fund or the Nature Restoration Fund of the DREAL Occitanie, the national 'Agri for Nature Restoration' plan, the ENS Fund, the Region, LEADER, ongoing calls for projects, etc.	Areas reopened and refitted, with a management and restoration plan in place.	C2 C4

2.C.3 Wetland Restoration	ADASEA 32 as the Technical Assistance Unit for Wetlands	The 12th programme of the Adour Garonne Water Agency, which covers this measure, runs from 2025 to 2030.	Adour Garonne Water Agency: 80% for farmers, 50% for private individuals.	Number of ponds and areas of wet or flood-prone grassland restored	C2 C4 C5
2.D SUPPORTING LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF MOAPs					
2.D.1 The Technical Assistance Unit for Agro-Pastoral Communities	ADASEA 32	The funding secured covers the period from April 2026 to December 2027. ADASEA will seek additional funding for the period	2026/2027: Occitanie FEDER 40%, with 60% self-financed by ADASEA. Additional funding to be sought: Water Agency, regional authorities, central government?	Number of technical days: 2 per year Number of advisory visits: 10 per year Number of follow-up visits: 10 per year Number of land support cases: 5 per year	C1 E2
2.D.2 Technical advice for grassland livestock farms in the Astarac Arros en Gascogne Community of Communes	Astarac Arros en Gascogne Community of Communes. Project managed by ADASEA 32	September 2026 – December 2027	EAFRD Occitanie – funding secured for the Community of Communes	Number of technical days: 2 planned Number of farms receiving technical advice: 12 planned	C1 E2
2.D.3 The OPTIMAP GIEE 'Optimisation of Agro-Pastoral Environments on Hillside Farms in the Gers'	ADASEA 32	Start-up phase: 2026–2027; development phase: 2028–2031; dissemination phase: 2032	DRAAF Occitanie (Ministry of Agriculture) – funding secured for the start-up phase.	Number of livestock farmers in the group: 10 planned Number of meetings and technical days: 9, including one study trip	E2
2.D.4 Sustainable Agriculture Contracts	ADASEA 32	From 2025	Occitanie region	Number of livestock farmers supported by a Sustainable Agriculture Contract (CAD). Targets: 3 to 5 per year	E2
2.d.5 MAEC training courses on the management of MOAPs	ADASEA 32	2026 and 2027	DRAAF Occitanie, To be explored beyond 2027	Number of training courses delivered: 2 per year Number of farmers trained: 12 per session	E2
2.E DEVELOPING 'GRASS-BASED LIVESTOCK FARMING' SECTORS					
2.E.1 The draft Territorial Strategy for the support and preservation of extensive grass-fed livestock farming in the Gers	ASTARAC Regional Nature Park Preparatory Association. Partners: 'Grass-fed Livestock Farming' Consortium 32	2026–2029	France AGRIMER, secured, 50%; Adour-Garonne Water Agency 30–50% depending on the actions; self-financing by the partners.	Assessment of the strategy and operational follow-up in terms of market opportunities secured	D3 E2 E3 E4
2.F MAINTAINING MOAPs FOR THEIR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES					
2.F.1 LIFE project 'Agriculture for Soil Health'	Imagin'Rural, Associated partners: ADASEA de France SAS Epiterre	Application submission: September 2026 Start: September 2027 if accepted; duration: 6 years.	LIFE 60%; Ministry of Ecology 1.5%; other public and private funding sources to be secured.	Approval of the LIFE project Results of the LIFE project	C3 C4 D3 E3
2.F.2 The 'Wild Pollinators' PSE component of the RESTPOLL research project	INRAE Toulouse	2024–2027	Europe	Study report on the CPSE on pollinators Follow-up at European level	C3 E4
PRIORITY 3: CONTINUE TO PROMOTE OPEN AGRO-PASTORAL ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING					
3.A PROMOTING OPEN AGRO-PASTORAL ENVIRONMENTS TO ALL AUDIENCES					

3.A.1 Maintaining the 'LIFE Coteaux Gascons' website	ADASEA 32	Until 2030	Already planned in the LIFE project	Website traffic	E1
3.A.2 Making the most of the educational resources created under the LIFE programme	CPIE Pays gersois	Ongoing	No specific funding; support is provided through CPIE programmes in particular (Region, NATURA 2000, Department for Education, local authorities, etc.)	Number of events for the general public or 'young people' focusing on MOAPs	E1
3.A.3 Promotion of MOAPs to the agricultural community	ADASEA 32	Ongoing	ADASEA 32 own funds + FEDER 40% 2026/2027	New pages on ADASEA's new website (2026) Number of articles on social media and the internet Number of trade fairs and presentations	E2
3.B ENGAGING AND NETWORKING MOAP STAKEHOLDERS					
3.B.1 Local MOAP Monitoring Committee	ADASEA 32	First monitoring committee meeting in 2027, then every 2 to 3 years	ADASEA 32 own funds + FEDER 40% 2027	Committee meeting Number of stakeholders present	E2 E4 F
3.B.2 Networking on MOAPs	ADASEA 32	Ongoing	ADASEA 32 own funds + 40% FEDER by the end of 2026 2027	Number of meetings at local and national levels	E4