



## Life NatuReef

*A nature-based solution for coastal protection and the enhancement of marine biodiversity*

EU Programme: LIFE

LIFE-2022-SAP-NAT – Nature & Biodiversity – Standard Action

LIFE22-NAT-IT-LIFE-NatuReef/101113742

Action: Sustainability, replicability and valorisation of project results

### Call for Interest

This call aims to collect non-binding expressions of interest from public authorities, natural area managers, local administrations, research institutions and organizations active in the field of environmental protection.

The initiative is particularly addressed to stakeholders interested in deepening their knowledge of the results developed by the LIFE NatuReef project, in assessing the possibility of adopting or adapting the proposed solutions to their own territorial context, and in exploring new opportunities for replication and collaboration towards an integrated and sustainable management of coastal areas.

Deadline: 28 November 2025

<https://site.unibo.it/life-natureef/it>



We are looking for possible administrations and agencies dealing with natural coastal sites threatened by the same issues addressed by LIFE NatuReef.

What we offer:

- Providing guidelines and a toolkit to administrations of different sites for effective exploitation of LIFE NatuReef results;
- Supporting/Assisting partners in replicating the project with appropriate adaptations to site characteristics;
- Providing expert advice to potential partners in replicating the project to help them solve problems they may encounter;
- Create a BIOGENICREEF committee among partners willing to adopt these guidelines, sharing different views and experiences.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

The “Call for Interest” is addressed to all agencies and administrations that manage coastal natural areas that have similar natural features with the LIFE NatuReef project area and face shared threats, including: subsidence, coastal erosion, flooding, habitat loss and biodiversity

## HOW TO APPLY?

Fill out the attached APPLICATION FORM and send it by email to [parcodeltapo@cert.parcodeltapo.it](mailto:parcodeltapo@cert.parcodeltapo.it) by the date 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

## CALENDAR

Opening Applications	2 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2024
Application Deadline	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2025



## LIFE NATUREEF PROJECT

LIFE NatuReef is a European project to restore ancient oyster and sabellaria reefs at the mouth of Bevano river. An ambitious initiative aimed at restoring and enhancing marine and coastal habitats.

These reefs are natural “bioconstructions” that provide a range of ecosystem goods and services, including restoration of underwater habitats, enhancement of biodiversity, and protection of coastal habitats from storm surges and erosion processes, with a view to combating and adapting to climate change.

The project is an important initiative for environmental conservation and sustainable development and represents a laboratory of “best practices” applied for the first time in the Adriatic Sea.

“LIFE NatuReef: restoring oyster and sabellariid reefs to protect coasts and boost biodiversity. It restores, cleans, protects.”

### OBJECTIVES:

#### 1. Creating an oyster reef

LIFE NatuReef will create a submerged native oyster reef of about 4,000 square meters near and parallel to the beach. Oyster reefs provide elective habitats for various marine species, contribute to improved water quality and shoreline protection.

#### 2. Stimulating the development of sabellariids worms

Sabellaria are small worms that can create submerged reefs by aggregating sand. With small transplants, their growth will be stimulated at the base of oyster reefs, thus playing a crucial role in consolidating structures and increasing biodiversity.

#### 3. Enhancing marine biodiversity

The goal is to increase the number of marine species, including algae, invertebrates and fish, providing an ideal place for the reproduction and protection of juveniles and repopulating the surrounding sea.

#### 4. Protect coastal habitats

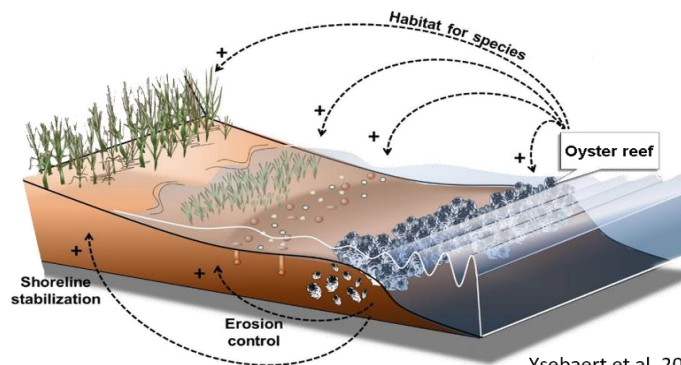
The project proposes a nature-based solution to protect and restore marine and coastal habitats, creating resilient and resistant marine and coastal habitats and communities to climate change.

#### 5. Promote the conservation of protected fauna and flora

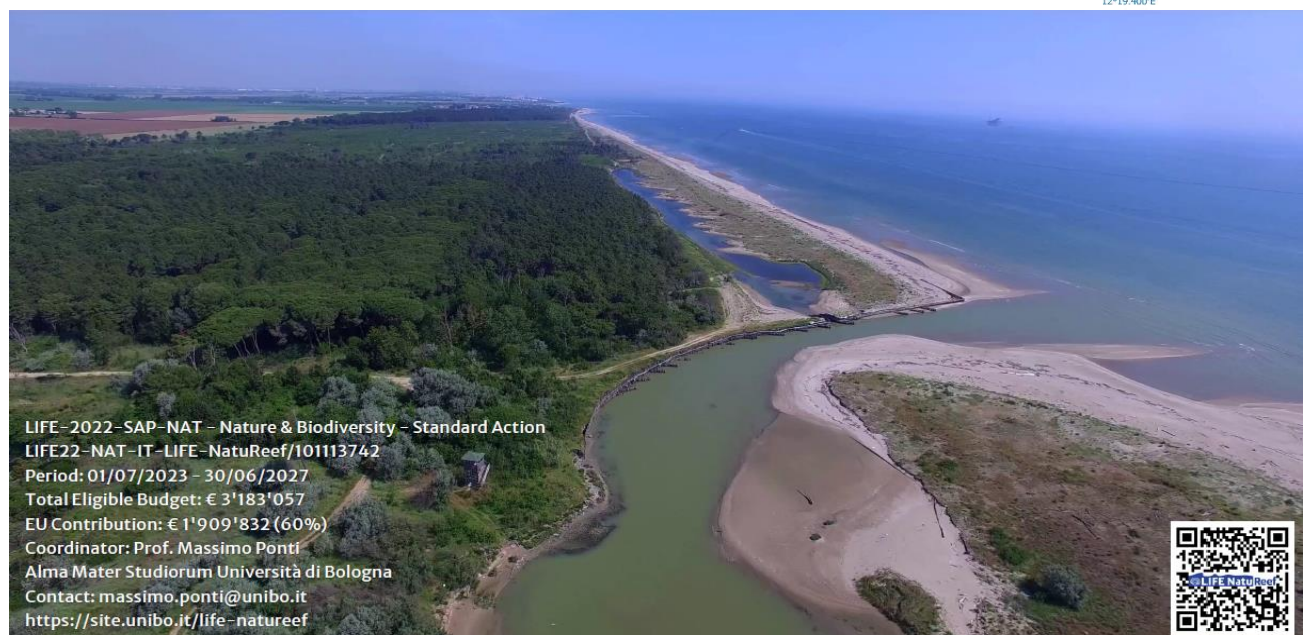
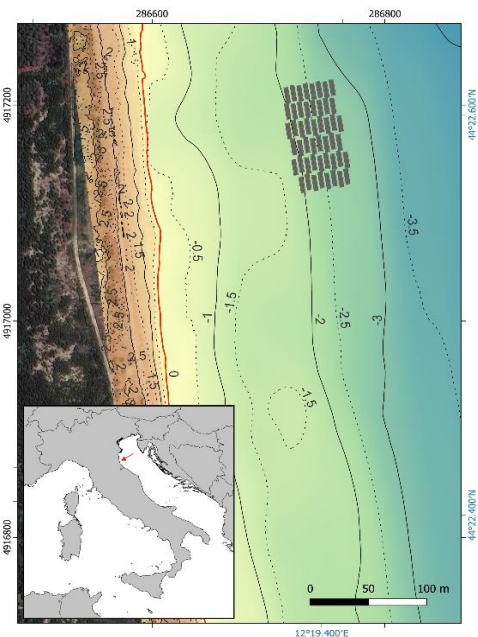
By creating a high-biodiversity habitat and protecting the coast, the marine and coastal protected species found in this oasis will be better protected.

#### 6. Increasing public awareness

Educating and raising public awareness about the importance of restoring biogenic reefs as a nature-based solution for coastal defence and enhancing marine biodiversity is the first step toward a paradigm shift: protecting coasts by restoring natural environments, no longer by creating artificial barriers to the sea.



Ysebaert et al. 2019



LIFE-2022-SAP-NAT - Nature & Biodiversity - Standard Action  
 LIFE22-NAT-IT-LIFE-NatuReef/101113742  
 Period: 01/07/2023 - 30/06/2027  
 Total Eligible Budget: € 3'183'057  
 EU Contribution: € 1'909'832 (60%)  
 Coordinator: Prof. Massimo Ponti  
 Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna  
 Contact: massimo.ponti@unibo.it  
<https://site.unibo.it/life-natureef>



Project cofunded by the European Union  
 Programme EU: LIFE  
 LIFE-2022-SAP-NAT — Nature & Biodiversity - Standard Action  
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website: <https://site.unibo.it/life-natureef>  
 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/LifeNatuReef2023>  
 IG: <https://www.instagram.com/life.natureef.project/>



Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results

## APPLICATION FORM



This form is designed to collect information about coastal sites and organizations interested in replicating our nature-based solutions.  
Please complete the form below to help us understand your site's needs and explore collaboration opportunities.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name of site</li> <li>• Protected area (if any)</li> <li>• Natura 2000 site (if any)</li> <li>• Name of the managing agency</li> </ul>	
<p>What are the main pressures and threats affecting the site and what are the ecological restoration needs?</p>	
<p>What LIFE NatuReef project actions/methods have the most potential to contribute to the needs of the site?</p>	
<p>Contact person data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entity of affiliation</li> <li>• Role within the institution</li> <li>• Email contacts</li> <li>• Phone contacts</li> </ul>	



Your contact details will be used solely for communication related to this Call for Interest and will not be shared with third parties.



IF POSSIBLE, INCLUDE A MAP OR SATELLITE IMAGE



(e.g., Google Maps or Google Earth)

SHOWING THE LOCATION OF YOUR SITE AND ITS KEY FEATURES