



LIFE
Oak Processionary

LIFE Project Number
LIFE19 ENV/BE/000102

E.1 After LIFE plan

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LIFE PROJECT NAME or Acronym
LIFE Oak Processionary

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1. Introduction

1.1. Context & purpose

This report is a result of Action E.1 Project Management. It was added to the list of deliverables on request of LIFE via the Appendix to Annex II of the Grant Agreement.

This report covers the whole project research period (2020 to 2024).

The Exploitation Plan details on how pest-control companies could be involved in continuation activities after the project end.

The After LIFE-plan includes all the objectives and actions mentioned in the chapter's continuation, replication and transfer of the document Part B - technical summary and overall context of the project. It includes the mandatory "Exploitation Plan" for which a draft was already delivered in the Mid-term report.

It also includes the way we propose to follow up the progression of Pine processionary in Flanders and the Netherlands.

2. Exploitation Plan

A **dissemination plan** describes how the project intends to share research results with the scientific community, with commercial players, civil society and policymakers. **The exploitation plan** goes beyond that and describes how the project results can be used to tackle societal problems, in policymaking or for commercial purposes.

In this document we will describe the project results that could be used by policy makers – national, regional or local communities – to adapt their policies regarding the management of OPM. We will also describe how pest-control and other commercial companies could be involved in continuation activities after the project end.

In the first draft of the plan, delivered at the project midterm, we focused on:

- A market analysis
- Identify the project results that could be exploited

In this final report we will also discuss the results obtained so far, present a list of deliverables that could be used to distribute these results, and actions planned to reach our goals in the future.

2.1. Market Analysis

In this exploitation plan we considered four groups of stakeholders that might be interested in the results of our project.

2.1.1. Project team members

The first group of stakeholders that are allowed and encouraged to exploit the project results are the members of the project team and the advisory board. These include:

- Provincial governments (Province of Antwerp, Province of Limburg, Province of Noord-Brabant, Province of Gelderland)



- Municipalities (Sittard-Geleen)
- Knowledge centers (INBO, UA)

Typically, these stakeholders will use the results that are foreseen for their target audience. Of course, they have the advantage of foreknowledge and having been pioneers in using these techniques.

2.1.2. Policy makers

As all current and future measurements in the control of the OPM will be taken by public authorities on all levels of government, policy makers were our priority target audience to reach our goals.

The levels of policy makers involved and will continue to involve:

- National and Regional Governments, both in Flanders and the Netherlands
- Provincial Governments
- Local municipalities
- Intermunicipal companies (Flanders)
- City regions (Netherlands)
- Water Boards (Netherlands)
- Government agencies (e.g. VMM)
- ...

This group will typically use the results that are giving them advice, instructions and best practices on how to better and more efficiently manage OPM outbreaks, and how to inform their inhabitants.

2.1.3. Commercial companies

Even when policy makers are our priority target group to be able to reach our objectives, we also need to involve commercial firms that provide the services and products that policymakers need in their management.

The types of commercial firms we need to involve:

- Roadside management contractors
- Plant and seed suppliers
- Pest management companies
- Nest box suppliers
- ...

This group will typically use the results that will give them a competitive advantage when servicing local and higher-level governments that will request their support.

2.1.4. Scientific Community

The last group considered as target audience.

- Universities and colleges
- Research & Knowledge Centers
- Knowledge sharing websites
- Citizen science projects



- ...

This group will probably incorporate our results into their own research or knowledge, or to set up continued research into topics that have not yet been fully developed.

2.1.5. General public

Although this project was not specifically aimed at the broader public in general, a lot of the activities we planned and deliverables we produced are available and could be useful to this group.

Typically, members of this group will benefit from the other stakeholders implementation of our recommendations. Directly they could benefit from some of the media products we created in this project.

2.2. Results and further actions

2.2.1. Policy makers

2.2.1.1. *Project activities targeted at policy makers*

Policy makers on all levels of government were involved in the project through various channels:

- Our newsletters and articles on the website were primarily aimed at them; during the project lifetime we sent 16 newsletters to more than 570 subscribers;
- Our demonstrations in the field and in the lab were tailor-made for local authorities and people involved in oak processionary caterpillar management in the field;
- For the start, midterm and final symposia these stakeholders where invited individually. For the final symposia in June 2025, we invited more than 1000 potentially interested parties all over the Netherlands and Belgium;
- Most of our deliverables – the new Guideline, the Management plan, the communication kit etc. are specifically tailored for local authorities, and they were promoted via all available channels.

A special class of local policy makers was our Ambassador community, more than twenty municipalities selected from the project area, at least 4 per province. These included the initially largest users of biocides in their provinces, but in the end, they served as ambassadors and examples of our proposed alternative approach.

Unfortunately, the decline in pest pressure of oak processionary during the project also meant that attention to this problem rapidly declined after 2022. So, the demo-moments, that initially had a lot of success, were less appreciated from 2023 onwards, and our midterm congress in October 2023 had much less success than expected.

2.2.1.2. *Project deliverables aimed at policy makers*

Project deliverables aimed at policy makers:

	Published by	Primary target group	Distributed via
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Belgische Leidraad Beheersing eikenprocessierups*	Province of Antwerp	Policy makers and green space managers in Flemish provinces and municipalities	Website, provincial consultation, VMM
Template Beheerplan eikenprocessierups*	Province of Antwerp	Policy makers and green space managers in Flemish provinces and municipalities	Website, provincial consultation
Communication guideline	Province of Antwerp	Policy makers in provinces & municipalities	Website, provincial consultation
Guideline for building and hanging best boxes	Province of Antwerp	Green space managers	Website
Movie 'Een Gemeenschap van leven'	Province of Noord-Brabant	Policy makers in provinces & municipalities, nature associations, wider public	Local movie theatres, events, website, ...
Process package (to be used with the movie)	Province of Noord-Brabant	Policy makers in provinces & municipalities, nature associations, wider public	Events, website, ...
Publieksrapport (Layperson's Report)	Province of Antwerp	Policy makers in provinces & municipalities, nature associations, wider public	Website, newsletter, ...
Monitoring the use of biocides	Province of Antwerp	Policy makers, Ambassador community	Website, provincial consultation
Monitoring Health Effects caused by Oak Processionary	Province of Antwerp	Policy makers, Ambassador community	Website
Monitoring the socio-economic impact	Province of Antwerp	Policy makers, Ambassador community	Website, provincial consultation

*: Based on the existing Dutch 'Leidraad Beheersing eikenprocessierups', and the 'Beheerplan eikenprocessierups' published by the Kennisplatform Eikenprocessierups

2.2.1.3. Future actions targeted at policy makers

In the future, the project partners will continue to promote the tested and proven alternative methods in their own region, and to discourage the use of harmful biocides. Good examples of how we want to do this is the "Samenwerkingsverband Zuid-Limburg", a joint approach to manage oak processionary caterpillars led by Sittard-Geleen, described in our B.4. "Replication and Transferability Plan", or the way the province of Noord-Brabant uses our movie "Een Gemeenschap van Leven" to promote alternative management methods to their municipalities.

2.2.2. Commercial companies

2.2.2.1. Project activities targeted at pest management companies

Due to the uncertainty of the results of the experiments on roadside management and on the breeding and raising the forest caterpillar hunter until this year, we were not really focused on commercial companies until mid-2025.

In 2025 we invited known companies to our final symposia, but as with local authorities, interest from pest management parties was also very limited.



The one company that accepted our invitation, a Dutch company that specialises in tree- and landscape management, was however very interested in the results of our roadside management experiment.

Our breeding experiment with the forest caterpillar was not finalised as planned, but we did succeed in breeding the beetle for two successful years in lab conditions. However, the constraints we identified during the experiment are important and need to be addressed before a commercial breeding program at a larger scale can be started. More details about these constraints can be found in the B.4. “Replication and Transferability Plan” and in the detailed monitoring reports.

2.2.2.2. Project deliverables aimed at pest management companies

In this project, we did not create deliverables specifically aimed at pest management companies. However, the following reports could be useful:

	Published by	Primary target group	Distributed via
Predation by birds - Final analysis	INBO & Province of Antwerp	Scientist, policy makers, green space managers, pest management companies	Website
Monitoring report Nectar Index and Parasitizing	INBO, Province of Antwerp, Province of Limburg, Province of Gelderland	Scientist, policy makers, green space managers, pest management companies	Website
Monitoring report CS Breeding	INBO, Province of Limburg	Scientist, pest management companies,	Website
Final report on the effectiveness of non-chemical OPC control techniques	Province of Antwerp, Province of Limburg, Province of Gelderland, INBO	Scientist, policy makers, green space managers, pest management companies	Website

2.2.2.3. Pest management companies involvement after the project end

Since the final symposia, there have been further contacts with the one company that showed interest in our findings and we are exploring the possibilities for further joint research. This contact will continue in the future.

The partners are open to requests from pest management companies that are willing to use our methods and recommendations. A LIFE OPC newsletter will be addressing them in Q1 2026.

2.2.3. Scientific community

2.2.3.1. Project activities targeted at the scientific community

The initiatives we undertook to reach the scientific community are described in the report D.1. “Report on Networking Activities with other LIFE projects”. It includes initiating an international “Expert group on Oak- and Pine Processionary” with scientists from several European countries in June 2025.

Additionally, we started periodic consultation with the members of the Dutch “Kennisplatform Eikenprocessierups” to exchange information on trends and new management methods.



2.2.3.2. Project deliverables aimed at the scientific community

Currently the detailed and overview reports created in this project are available for the scientific community. Using the data available from our experiments, we plan to publish several scientific articles, starting with the experiment on parasitizing to be presented at the European Congress of Entomology 2026 in Tours (France).

Project deliverables aimed at the scientific community:

	Published by	Primary target group	Distributed via
Predation by birds - Final analysis	INBO & Province of Antwerp	Scientist, policy makers, green space managers, pest management companies	Website
Monitoring report Nectar Index and Parasitizing	INBO, Province of Antwerp, Province of Limburg, Province of Gelderland	Scientist, policy makers, green space managers, pest management companies	Website
Monitoring report CS Breeding	INBO, Province of Limburg	Scientist, pest management companies	Website
Final report on the effectiveness of non-chemical OPC control techniques	Province of Antwerp, Province of Limburg, Province of Gelderland, INBO	Scientist, policy makers, green space managers, pest management companies	Website
Scientific articles on each of the experiments	INBO, ...	Scientists	To be planned

2.2.3.3. Future actions targeted at the scientific community

We plan to continue organizing workshops and digital meetings with these stakeholders and if possibly enlarge the group with other countries. The next meeting for the expert group is to be planned in May 2026. In this meeting we will also invite members of the Dutch “Kennisplatform Eikenprocessierups”, and of the University of Copenhagen, who are also starting a project on Oak Processionary.

Additionally, the project team and some members of the Expert Group will attend the European Congress of Entomology 2026 in Tours, France. We will take this opportunity to visit the INRAE laboratory (National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment) in Orleans at their invitation.

2.2.4. General public

2.2.4.1. Project activities targeted at the public

Initially, no project activities or deliverables were aimed specifically at the broader public. We were aware that individuals not included in the previous categories, were subscribing to our newsletter, visiting our website or even attending our demo moments and congresses, but they were certainly the minority.



Already the start of the project and at some key moments in the project, we attracted a lot of attention in the spoken and written press, such that our sphere of influence in the public was at the end many times higher than initially thought. So, we soon realised we also could appeal to this audience to achieve the desired shift in the way of thinking from combating to managing and coexisting with the caterpillar.

So, while we were discussing the contents of our planned movie 'Een Gemeenschap van Leven' with the filmmaker, the idea quickly arose to also use this film to support a change in attitude among the broader public. We hoped that this would provide local authorities with a means of informing and raising awareness among their residents in the event of a subsequent nuisance peak.

2.2.4.2. *Project deliverables aimed at the public*

Currently all the reports created in this project are available for the public via the website.

Project deliverables that are most useful to appeal to the broader public:

	Published by	Primary target group	Distributed via
Movie 'Een Gemeenschap van Leven'	Province of Noord-Brabant	Policy makers in provinces & municipalities, nature associations, wider public	Local movie theatres, events, website, ...
Process package (to be used with the movie)	Province of Noord-Brabant	Policy makers in provinces & municipalities, nature associations, wider public	Events, website, ...
Publieksrapport (Layperson's Report)	Province of Antwerp	Policy makers in provinces & municipalities, nature associations, wider public	Website, newsletter, ...

2.2.4.3. *Future actions targeted at the public*

We are currently planning additional screenings of our movie 'Een Gemeenschap van Leven' in The Netherlands and Flanders. We are focusing primarily on local events aimed at nature lovers, cultural centers and smaller cinemas, and then regional and national TV channels.

If applicable, project members will support and attend the screenings and set up discussion moments with the audience, aided by our process package that accompanies the film.

After that, the movie will be made available to local authorities as a tool in the communication with their residents.

3. After LIFE-plan

This section includes all the activities and objectives mentioned in the other plans and reports, to be started or continued after the project's end.

This is a living document that will be managed by the Province of Antwerp and discussed with the partners on a regular basis.



No.	Activity	Description	Impact / importance	Task number	Action type	Responsible partner	Other involved partners	Other involved parties	Results targeted at	Planning	Status
1	Follow-up results DNA analysis on parasitoids	Follow-up of results of the DNA-analysis on the plant material found on the mouth parts of the parasitoid flies by the Meise Botanical Garden	Could lead to adjusted advice regarding management of roadsides -> changes in the Guideline	B2	Implementation	Limburg	Antwerpen, INBO	Meise Botanical Garden	. Policy makers . Municipalities . Commercial companies	2026	Ongoing
2	Follow-up results DNA analysis CS	Follow-up of results of the DNA-analysis on European CS specimens	Could lead to adjusted advice regarding the selection of breeding material and/or the (re)introduction of CS in the wild	B3	Implementation	Limburg	Antwerpen, INBO	KBIN	. Policy makers . Municipalities . Commercial companies	2026	Ongoing
3	Continuation CS experiment	Continuation of the CS breeding experiment and monitoring of the reintroduction in the wild	Could lead to commercialisation of the CS breeding and conditions/protocol for reintroduction and adjusted advice for OPC management	B3	Implementation	Limburg	Antwerpen, INBO	UK Forest Research	. Commercial companies	2026-	To do
4	Pest management companies' involvement after the project end	Continuing and expand contacts with pest management companies to explore the possibilities for further joint research into OPC monitoring and management methods	Could lead to commercialisation of the findings of our parasitisation and/or CS breeding experiment	B2/B3	Implementation	Antwerp	Limburg		. Commercial companies	2026-	Ongoing
5	Continue monitoring biocide use	Continue monitoring the use of biocides in the project area based on: . Use by the partners . Use in Flanders (VMM) . Use by the Ambassador community (questionnaire)	. Main project target . Convincing municipalities in BE and NL to reduce biocides and switch to less harmful methods	C1	Monitoring	Antwerp	All partners	. VMM . Ambassador community	. LIFE . Ambassador community . Policy makers . Municipalities in BE and NL	2025-2030, yearly	Ongoing
6	Maintain website	Maintain and update the LIFE EPR website regularly	Informing policy makers and the wider public of news regarding the ongoing activities	D1	Dissemination	Antwerp	All partners		. Policy makers . Wider public	2026-2030	Ongoing
7	Send newsletters	Distribute new LIFE EPR newsletters regularly	Informing policy makers and the wider public of news regarding the ongoing activities	D1	Dissemination	Antwerp	All partners		. Policy makers . Wider public	2026-2030	Ongoing
8	Publication of scientific articles on our research	Publication of scientific articles on the research areas of the project: . Predation by birds . Parasitisation . Common ivy	Informing experts all over Europe about the findings of our experiments	D1	Dissemination	INBO	Antwerp, Limburg, Gelderland	. Expert Group OPC & PPC . Kennisplatform Eikenprocessierups	Scientific community	2026	To do



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9	Organize screenings of 'Een Gemeenschap van Leven'	Facilitate, promote or organize screenings of our documentary movie 'Een Gemeenschap van Leven' in the Netherlands and Belgium, eventually followed by a workshop	Contribute to a better understanding of OPC and achieve the desired shift in the way of thinking from combating to managing and coexisting with the caterpillar	D1	Dissemination	All partners		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Cultural centers . Nature- and environment centred events . Cinemas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Policy makers . Wider public 	2026-	Ongoing
10	Networking activities with LIFE projects & other	Support networking activities with other LIFE projects and other (scientific) organisations and platforms	Disseminate findings, recommendations and best practices of the project	D1	Dissemination	Antwerp	All partners	LIFE projects, ECE, ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Scientific community 	2026-	Ongoing
11	Publish, maintain & disseminate the Guideline, decision matrix & management plan	Publishing, periodically update and further disseminate the 'Guideline controlling OPC' including the decision matrix and the OPC management plan in a form that is which is best suited for use by the target group	Fixing best practices for managing OPC in Flanders	D2	Training and Policy support	Antwerp		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecopedia, OWSF, other provinces and municipalities, ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Provinces & municipalities . Policy makers . Green Management Teams . Commercial companies 	2026-	Ongoing
12	Commitment to our recommendations in Flanders	Promote our findings, conclusions and recommendations and integrate them in the advice, standards, conditions and regulations regarding biocide use for OPC in Flanders via the VMM	Assuring our recommendations and best practices are fixed for the future	D2	Training and Policy support	Antwerp	Limburg, INBO	VMM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Policy makers in Flanders 	2026	To do
13	Consultation with the Kennisplatform Eikenprocessierups	Continue periodical consultations with the Dutch Kennisplatform Eikenprocessierups	Could lead to the adoption of our conclusions, recommendations and best practices in the Netherlands	D2	Training and Policy support	Sittard-Geleen	Antwerp, Limburg, INBO	Kennisplatform Eikenprocessierups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Scientific community . Policy Makers 	2026-	Ongoing
14	Promote our recommendations in the Netherlands	Promote our findings, conclusions and recommendations and integrate them in the conditions and regulations regarding biocide use for OPC in the Netherlands via the Kennisplatform Eikenprocessierups	Assuring our recommendations and best practices are fixed for the future	D2	Training and Policy support	Sittard-Geleen	Limburg, Antwerpen, INBO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Kennisplatform Eikenprocessierups . RIVM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Policy makers in the Netherlands 	2026 Q2	To do



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15	Expert Group OPC & PPC	Continue yearly consultations and workshops with the International Expert Group Oak processionary & Pine processionary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Exchanging information regarding topics related to Oak & Pine Processionary, help formulate policy and initiate new research . Evaluate the effectivity of the methods tested for OPC in the control of PPC . Could lead to the adoption of our conclusions, recommendations and best practices in other European countries 	D2	Training and Policy support	Antwerp	Limburg, INBO	Other European research institutes and organisations	. Scientific community	2026-	Ongoing
16	Promote our methods and recommendations in the EU	Organise and attend information sessions, exchange of expertise, demonstrations and trainings regarding the use of our methods to other European stakeholders	Assuring our recommendations and best practices are disseminated into other European countries	D2	Training and Policy support	Antwerp	All partners	Other European municipalities	. Policy makers and Green Management Teams	2026-	To do
17	Promote the joint approach to OPC in the EU	Explain and promote the 'Samenwerkingsverband Zuid-Limburg' to other interested municipalities in the project area and outside	Creating solid networks that bundles knowledge, deploys resources efficiently and provides unambiguous communication to residents, administrators and social partners	D2	Training and Policy support	Sittard-Geleen		Other European municipalities	. Policy makers and Green Management Teams at municipal level	2026-	To do
18	Demo moments, info moments & training courses for Dutch & Flemish provinces & municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Demo moments, information moments and training courses in Belgium and in the Netherlands for provinces and local municipalities regarding the Guideline or our alternative methods . To be planned on request and when OPC/PPC is becoming an issue again 	Assuring our recommendations and best practices are fixed for the future.	D2	Training and Policy support	All partners		Dutch & Flemish provinces & municipalities . Focus on the additional provinces Oost-Vlaanderen, Vlaams-Brabant, Nederlands Limburg	. Policy makers and Green Management Teams at provincial & municipal level	?	To do

