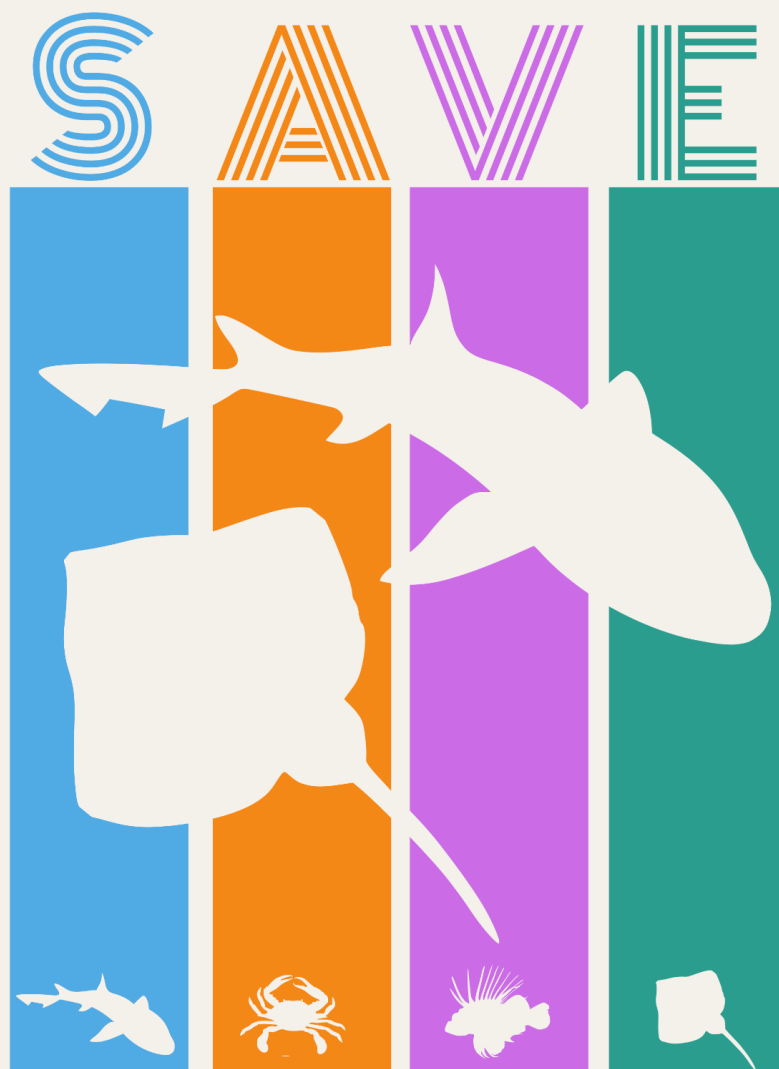




endangered sharks and rays



**DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN AND KNOWLEDGE AND INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) PLAN**



LIFE PROMETHEUS

PROMoting Elasmobranchs conservation THrough by-catch reduction, Ecotourism and alternative sUSTainable fisheries

DELIVERABLE 1.1

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN AND KNOWLEDGE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) PLAN

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D1.1: LIFE PROMETHEUS Data management plan and knowledge and intellectual property rights (IPR) plan	Security: public
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PART A – DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

The present **Data Management Plan (DMP)** is a key element of good data management. This document describes the data management life cycle for the data to be collected, processed and/or generated in the framework of the LIFE PROMETHEUS Project, including: i) data acquisition or production during the project; ii) how to manage, describe and store LIFE PROMETHEUS data and which standards to use, and iii) how to handle and protect LIFE PROMETHEUS data during and after the completion of the project.

As part of making scientific research data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR)¹, a DMP should include information on:

- the handling of research data during and after the end of the project;
- which data will be collected, processed and/or generated;
- which methodology and standards will be applied;
- whether data will be shared/made open access;
- how data will be curated and preserved (including after the end of the project).

DMP intends to be a living document, agreed among the partners, where information can be made available on a finer level of granularity through updates as the implementation of the project progresses and when significant changes occur. *This document represents the first release of the LIFE PROMETHEUS DMP due to month 18, expected to be constantly updated during the lifespan of the Project.*

¹ LIFE PROMETHEUS DMP follows the Horizon 2020 FAIR Data Management Plan Template (H2020 Programme Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020, Version 3.0, 26 July 2016).

2. Data summary

2.1 Purpose of data collection and relation to project objectives

The LIFE PROMETHEUS project generates and processes environmental, biological, socio-economic, spatial and multimedia data to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of conservation, mitigation and socio-economic transition actions aimed at:

- reducing elasmobranch bycatch;
- promoting sustainable alternative fisheries (including IAS fisheries);
- developing ecotourism models;
- supporting policy recommendations and replicability in Mediterranean coastal areas.

Data collection is directly linked to the technical actions foreseen in WP3, WP4, WP5, WP6, and WP7 and supports impact evaluation, conservation planning, stakeholder engagement and dissemination activities.

Data category	Examples	Formats
Biological & ecological	Species occurrence, tagging data, sequence and genotype data, reproductive status, eDNA results, landing data, catches data, biometry data	.csv, .xlsx, .txt, .fasta
Spatial & GIS	Habitat maps, EFH maps, fishing effort layers, protected area zonation	.shp, .shx, .geojson, .kml, .kmz, .tif
Socio-economic	Interviews, questionnaires, cost–benefit analysis	.xlsx, .csv, .pdf, txt, .docx
Multimedia	Underwater videos, photos, outreach material	.mp4, .jpg, .png, .avi
Project & dissemination	Deliverables, reports, dissemination logbook with participants number	.pdf, .docx, .xlsx

2.2 Re-use of existing data

LIFE PROMETHEUS will reuse:

- Historical fisheries, biodiversity, and bathymetric datasets from EMODnet, GBIF, Copernicus Marine Services, and national monitoring programmes (e.g., MEDLEM, MEDITS);
- Background spatial layers (bathymetry, protected areas, fishing zones);

- Background information provided by each single partner, as stated in the Attachment 1 of the Consortium agreement;
- Previous LIFE and international project outputs, where legally reusable.

Reused datasets are integrated under the access conditions and licenses defined by the original data providers.

Source	Description
Field monitoring	Tagging, video surveys, sampling
Laboratories	eDNA and genetic analyses
Stakeholder engagement	Interviews and questionnaires
Modelling & GIS	Spatial modelling and mapping
Desk studies	Compilation of existing datasets

2.3 Expected data volume

Total estimated data volume across the consortium: **approximately 20 TB** over the project lifetime, mainly due to multimedia, spatial and genomic raw data.

2.4 Data utility

LIFE PROMETHEUS data support:

- conservation planning and monitoring;
- fisheries management;
- Natura 2000 and protected area management, including Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs);
- policy recommendations;
- scientific research;
- public awareness and dissemination activities.

Class	Description
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Open Data	Aggregated, non-sensitive datasets released for dissemination
Restricted Data	Data containing sensitive ecological or socio-economic information
Confidential Data	Personal data, precise locations of endangered species, exploitation-sensitive information

Access conditions are governed by the Grant Agreement and Consortium Agreement.



3. FAIR DATA

3.1 Findable

All LIFE PROMETHEUS datasets will be described using structured metadata and catalogued in recognised EU and institutional repositories.

Metadata will include:

- dataset title, description, creator, date, geographic coverage;
- data category (open or restricted or confidential);
- access conditions;
- applicable licences;
- versioning information.

Persistent identifiers (DOI) will be assigned to open datasets through Zenodo (EU-supported repository).

Restricted and confidential datasets will be indexed but not publicly downloadable.

3.2 Accessible

Open datasets will be made accessible through Zenodo and, where relevant, domain-specific repositories (e.g. EMODnet, GBIF, SEANOE...).

Restricted and confidential datasets will be accessible only upon formal request and under Data Use Agreements approved by the data owner and in compliance with:

- Grant Agreement Article 16 (Results & Access Rights);
- Consortium Agreement Sections 8–10 (Results, Access Rights, Confidentiality);
- GDPR and conservation obligations.



3.3 Interoperable

Data will be stored in non-proprietary formats where possible.

Standards applied:

- Dublin Core metadata;
- ISO 19115 for spatial datasets;
- WoRMS taxonomy for species;
- WGS84 coordinate reference system.

3.4 Reusable

Reusable datasets and dissemination and educational materials will be released under:

CC BY-NC-ND This license is the most restrictive: it only allows you to download and share the original works, provided that they are not modified or used for commercial purposes, always attributing the authorship of the work

Reuse will be permitted only where it does not conflict with:

- species protection obligations;
- personal data protection;
- legitimate exploitation interests of beneficiaries.

4. ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Governance of data management

The overall responsibility for data management within LIFE PROMETHEUS lies with the Coordinator (UNIVPM), acting through WP1 (Project Management and Coordination).

UNIVPM is responsible for:

- coordination of data management procedures;
- definition of common data templates and standards;
- supervision of compliance with the present DMP;
- liaison with CINEA in case of data-related audits or reviews.

4.2 Data ownership and responsibilities

Each Beneficiary remains the owner of the data it generates, in accordance with Article 16 of the Grant Agreement and Section 8 of the Consortium Agreement.

Data providers are responsible for:

- correctness and quality of the data;
- classification of data (open or restricted or confidential);
- compliance with GDPR and ethical obligations;
- approval of any access or reuse.

Examples of data that could be provided and partners responsible for their collection and storage, are listed on the table, below:

Data type	Responsible partners
Biological & ecological	All partners
Genetic & eDNA	UNIBO, UIB, SZN
Spatial & modelling	UNIPD, UNIVPM, COISPA, UNIGE, MER
Socio-economic	UNIBO
Multimedia & outreach	All partners
Central coordination & repository	UNIVPM



4.3 Resources

Data management activities are financed through WP1 (coordination) and the technical work packages (WP3, WP4, WP5, WP6, WP7).

Costs covered, include:

- personnel time for data curation;
- preparation of metadata and documentation;
- repository submission and long-term archiving.

Secure storage and backup services are provided by UNIVPM via Microsoft OneDrive, which is used as the consortium's cloud-based platform for storing, managing, and backing up digital data, in a secure and reliable environment.

5. DATA SECURITY AND STORAGE

5.1 Storage during the project

LIFE PROMETHEUS data are stored on secure institutional servers of the Beneficiaries and on controlled-access shared environments coordinated by UNIVPM.

Minimum security measures include:

- user authentication and role-based access control: access to the institutional Microsoft OneDrive / Teams environment is limited to verified institutional email addresses, with Teams group membership granted exclusively to authorized personnel based on their assigned roles;
- encrypted data transfer (HTTPS / SFTP);
- regular automated backups;
- logging of access to restricted and confidential datasets.



Sensitive and personal data are stored exclusively on secured institutional infrastructures compliant with GDPR.

Financial and administrative data provided by project partners are stored in a dedicated restricted-access folder within the institutional Microsoft OneDrive / Teams environment coordinated by UNIVPM. Access to this folder is granted exclusively to the Financial Assistant and the Project Coordination Team, based on role-based authorization and to guarantee privacy (reference to the relative law) between beneficiaries. This environment complies with the minimum-security measures described above, including authenticated access, encrypted data transfer, regular backups, and access logging.

5.2 Backup and recovery

All partners should guarantee that a backup copy of collected data and project files are double saved. Below, there are general rules to be followed by each partner:

- Daily backup of all data collected on partners' cloud services or local computers;
- Periodic off-site backups (e.g., hard disks or project's cloud).
- Disaster recovery procedures to ensure data integrity.

Backup policies are subject to internal audit by the Coordinator, if required.

5.3 Post-project archiving

In accordance with the Grant Agreement, LIFE PROMETHEUS data will be preserved for **a minimum of five (5) years after the final payment**.

Open datasets will be archived in EU-supported or institutional repositories (e.g. Zenodo, SEANOE, EMODnet, GBIF).

Restricted and confidential datasets will be archived on secure institutional servers under controlled access.

6. ETHICAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

6.1 Personal data protection

All processing of personal data within LIFE PROMETHEUS complies with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and will follow the internal rule of the partner's institution.

Personal data may arise from:

- interviews and questionnaires with fishers and stakeholders;
- participation in workshops, trainings and dissemination events.

Measures adopted:

- collection of informed consents prior to pictures/video/audio recordings by the partner that is conducting the activity with stakeholders;
- collection of informed consents prior to collection of sensitive data (e.g. email, names, etc.), by the partner that is conducting the activity;
- anonymisation or pseudonymisation of datasets before dissemination;
- storage of personal data on secured institutional servers;
- limitation of access to authorised personnel only.

6.2 Protection of endangered species

Spatial and biological data concerning threatened and protected elasmobranch species are classified as restricted or confidential where their dissemination could increase conservation risks (e.g. illegal fishing, disturbance of aggregation areas).

Exact locations and sensitive ecological parameters will not be released as open data, for species protection.

Regarding spatial data and mapping, LIFE PROMETHEUS will apply additional safeguards, including:

- anonymization through large-scale spatial mesh aggregation;



- prohibition of mapping that allows identification of individual fishing vessels or operators;
- prior validation of spatial outputs and maps by involved fishing partners before dissemination.

6.3 Animal welfare

All field activities involving animals comply with:

- Directive 2010/63/EU;
- national animal welfare legislation;
- approved ethical authorisations of participating institutions.

6.4 Genetic resources

Genetic material and derived data (including eDNA) are managed in compliance with:

- applicable national ABS legislation.

6.5 Confidentiality and legitimate interests

Confidentiality obligations follow:

- Article 13 of the Grant Agreement;
- Section 10 of the Consortium Agreement.

Data dissemination must not prejudice legitimate exploitation interests of Beneficiaries.



7. OTHER ISSUES

7.1 Intellectual Property Rights and Access Rights

Ownership of LIFE PROMETHEUS results and data follows Article 16 of the Grant Agreement and Sections 8–9 of the Consortium Agreement.

Access Rights for implementation and exploitation are granted only as defined by the Consortium Agreement.

No data may be disseminated or transferred to third parties without the prior consent of the data owner.

7.2 Data transfer to third parties

Transfers of data to third parties (including researchers, public authorities, NGOs or private operators) are subject to:

- Approval of the data owner as already stated in the Consortium Agreement;
- Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding and/or a Non-Disclosure Agreement (attached to the Consortium Agreement);
- Where data is intended for use by management authorities, no Memorandum of Understanding or Disclosure Agreement is required. The coordinating partner (UNIVPM) will be informed of such transfers for transparency and reporting purposes. Data owners retain responsibility for sharing their data with competent authorities, provided that appropriate acknowledgment of the project and consortium is ensured, and that such sharing complies with Article 16 of the Grant Agreement and Section 8 of the Consortium Agreement, including prior authorization by the data owner.;
- Compliance with confidentiality, GDPR and conservation obligations.



8. DMP REVIEW AND UPDATES

This DMP will be:

- reviewed bi-annually under WP1 coordination;
- updated if needed;
- formally revised before project closure and submitted to CINEA as final version.



PART B - KNOWLEDGE & IPR MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. PURPOSE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Management Plan defines the rules governing the ownership, protection, access, exploitation and dissemination of knowledge and results generated within the LIFE23-NAT-IT-LIFE-PROMETHEUS project.

This Plan is binding for all Beneficiaries and Associated Partners and is governed by:

- the Grant Agreement (Articles 13–17, 16 in particular);
- the LIFE PROMETHEUS Consortium Agreement based on DESCA HE 2.0 (Sections 8–10);
- applicable EU and national intellectual property laws.

This Plan regulates all “Results” and “Background” as defined in the Grant Agreement.

2. BACKGROUND

Each Beneficiary retains ownership of its Background that is shared under the conditions stated in the ATTACHMENT 1 of the Consortium Agreement.

Background includes:

- pre-existing datasets;
- models;
- software tools;
- mapping layers;
- ecolabel schemes;
- methodologies and know-how.

Only Background explicitly listed in Attachment 1 of the Consortium Agreement is considered included in the Project.

No transfer of ownership of Background occurs by virtue of participation in LIFE PROMETHEUS.



Access Rights to Background are granted solely for Project implementation and exploitation as defined in Section 9 of the Consortium Agreement.

3. RESULTS AND OWNERSHIP

3.1 Definition of Results

Within the LIFE PROMETHEUS project, “Results” include, but are not limited to:

- decision-support models and tools;
- spatial planning maps and zoning schemes;
- conservation protocols and guidelines;
- socio-economic assessment models;
- databases and curated datasets;
- multimedia products and dissemination materials;
- reports, policy briefs and recommendations.

3.2 Ownership

Ownership of Results follows Article 16 of the Grant Agreement and Section 8 of the Consortium Agreement.

Each Beneficiary owns the Results it generates.

Where Results are generated jointly, joint ownership applies unless otherwise agreed in writing, in accordance with the Consortium Agreement.

3.3 Protection of Results

Each Beneficiary shall assess whether its Results require protection (copyright, database rights, trade secrets).

Where appropriate, protection should be sought before dissemination.

Sensitive decision-support models, zoning schemes and spatial layers with conservation implications may be classified as restricted or confidential.



4. ACCESS RIGHTS

4.1 Access Rights for implementation

All Beneficiaries are granted royalty-free Access Rights to Background and Results of other Beneficiaries **only if needed for the implementation of their tasks**, as defined in the Consortium Agreement.

No Access Rights beyond those strictly needed are automatically granted.

4.2 Access Rights for exploitation

For exploitation of own Results, Beneficiaries may request Access Rights to Background and Results of other Beneficiaries, under fair and reasonable conditions, in accordance with the Consortium Agreement.

Associated Partners have Access Rights only as explicitly agreed in the Consortium Agreement and only when they signed it.



5. EXPLOITATION STRATEGY

LIFE PROMETHEUS results are designed for long-term exploitation in conservation planning, fisheries management, ecotourism development and policy support.

Exploitation pathways include:

- application of decision-support models by public authorities;
- integration of zoning maps into management plans;
- adoption of conservation guidelines by MPAs and Natura 2000 sites;
- use of socio-economic tools by fisheries and tourism operators;
- uptake of the existing ecolabel scheme by stakeholders.

Exploitation must respect Access Rights, confidentiality obligations and conservation objectives.



6. DISSEMINATION RULES

Dissemination of Results shall comply with:

- Article 17 of the Grant Agreement;
- Sections 8–10 of the Consortium Agreement.

Before any dissemination (including publications, reports, online materials), the Result owner shall:

- notify the other Beneficiaries in writing as stated in the Consortium Agreement;
- ensure that dissemination does not prejudice protection or exploitation;
- remove or aggregate sensitive spatial and decision-support data where necessary.
- ensure fair attribution and full visibility of the work carried out within the project and acknowledge all contributors to the relevant task, as well as the project coordination team, in any publication, report or dissemination output derived from project data or results. This practice supports transparency, recognises collaborative effort, and aligns with the project's intellectual property and data-sharing principles

Open dissemination applies only to non-sensitive and non-exploitable Results.



6. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA TRANSFER TO THIRD PARTIES

7.1 Confidentiality

All confidential information exchanged within LIFE PROMETHEUS is subject to the confidentiality obligations defined in:

- Article 13 of the Grant Agreement;
- Section 10 of the Consortium Agreement.

Confidentiality obligations apply for **five (5) years after the final payment**.

7.2 Transfer to third parties

Any transfer of Results or data to third parties requires:

- prior written approval of the Result owner as stated in the Consortium Agreement;
- signature of a Memorandum of Understanding and/or a Non-Disclosure Agreement (attached to the Consortium Agreement);
- compliance with conservation, GDPR and Access Rights obligations.



8. POST-PROJECT RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABILITY

All Access Rights, confidentiality obligations and exploitation rights shall remain in force after the end of the Project in accordance with the Grant Agreement and the Consortium Agreement.

Results intended for long-term use (decision-support models, spatial planning tools, guidelines) shall remain accessible to the competent authorities and relevant stakeholders under the conditions defined by the Result owners.



9. GOVERNANCE

The governance of IPR matters is coordinated by UNIVPM within WP1.

Any dispute related to ownership, access or exploitation shall be addressed in accordance with the governance bodies and procedures defined in the Consortium Agreement.



10. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Disputes concerning IPR and knowledge management shall be settled in accordance with the applicable law and dispute resolution clauses of the Grant Agreement and the Consortium Agreement.



11. FINAL PROVISIONS

This Knowledge & IPR Management Plan is binding for all Beneficiaries and Associated Partners and should be reviewed and updated in line with the DMP revision cycle.



ANNEX 1 - LIFE PROMETHEUS – Mini Guide on Data, Publications and IPR

1. Who owns what

Each partner owns the Results it generates. Results do **not become automatically open or public** because the project is LIFE-funded.

LIFE PROMETHEUS results include:

- decision-support models
- maps and zoning schemes
- guidelines and protocols
- datasets
- communication and outreach materials

2. What is NOT open by default

The following are **restricted or confidential** and **must not be published openly**:

- precise locations of protected species
- management zoning maps
- decision-support models
- data with management or commercial value
- data containing personal information

3. Before publishing anything

Before publishing:

- scientific papers
- reports or web content
- presentations
- maps
- datasets

you must, as stated in the Consortium Agreement:

1. Inform the consortium and the coordination team, at least 60 days before the publication according to the art. 8.4.2.1 of the Consortium Agreement
2. Inform the partners involved
3. Verify that the content does not harm:
 - species protection
 - future exploitation of results

- GDPR and confidentiality obligations
4. If any changes occur to the publication after the first approval, in terms of authorship/contents, inform the consortium and the coordination team again.

4. Sharing data with external parties

Sharing data with:

- public authorities
- external researchers
- NGOs
- private companies

is allowed **only with the approval of the data owner** and with a **Memorandum of Understanding and/or a Non-Disclosure Agreement (attached to the Consortium Agreement)**.

5. Personal data

- Personal data must be anonymised before any dissemination.
- Never publish:
 - names of fishers
 - coordinates linked to individual operators
 - personal contacts

6. After the project

- Results remain owned by the partners.
- Third-party use is always regulated.
- LIFE PROMETHEUS does **not become public domain** after project closure.