



GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA



FONDI.eu

GUIDANCE NOTES

Off-farm Non-Productive Investments (Afforestation) Intervention 73.2

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY – STRATEGIC PLAN
(MALTA) 2023-2027

27th January 2025

Version 1.0

MANAGING AUTHORITY (CAP-SP)

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The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

Disclaimer

The Managing Authority reserves the right, in particular on the basis of approval or direction by the European Commission, to amend from time-to-time certain provisions established by this guidance document.

In case of any conflicts between these guidelines and the text of the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan (CAP SP) 2023 - 2027 and other legislative text, the interpretation given by the CAP SP and relevant legislation will be given priority.

The English version will be the legally binding text.

The Managing Authority also reserves the right to request additional information not included in this Guidance Document, in order to proceed with checks and evaluation of the application throughout the process.

This document supersedes any previous guidance notes, website notifications or other media notification issued on this Intervention prior to the launch of this call. Other notifications can be issued on such platforms following the issue of this call.

Further details on the application process may be published in due course on the website of the Managing Authority <https://fondi.eu/> For more information, the Managing Authority can be contacted by email at fondi.eu@gov.mt or (+)356 2555 2555 during office hours.

Notices

HISTORY OF CHANGES (where applicable)		
Version	Publication Date	Change
1.0	27 th January 2025	Publication of first Version of calls

FIRST TIME APPLICANTS

First time applicants should visit our customer portal [website](#) to sign up for a profile. Applicants may do so, before or after their submission of the application. Through this portal, applicants can view updates on their submissions. The Managing Authority may communicate directly with applicants and request additional information regarding their submission through the customer portal.

To this effect, first time applicants are required to register with (MAFA) ARPA Front Office in order to create an account and gain access to the online system. Contact details as follows:

Malta Front Office – Telephone: 22 92 61 48

Front Office
Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA)
Pitkali Markets, TA' QALI L/O ATTARD
Malta

Front Office Opening Hours (Malta):

1st October – 15th June: Monday – Friday 07:30 – 15:00
16th June – 30th September: Monday – Friday 07:30 – 12:30

Gozo Front Office – Telephone: 22 15 69 79

Gozo Office
Government Experimental Farm, Mgarr Road, XEWKIJA
Gozo

Gozo Office Opening Hours:

Monday – Friday: 07:00 – 12:30

APPLICANTS BEING ASSISTED BY A THRID PARTY

It is possible for a 3rd party to assist an applicant with their application. Applicants who make use of such assistance are required to complete a form authorising third parties to access and manage their application. Such form needs to be signed by both parties (applicant and 3rd party or consultant) and a hard copy needs to be provided to ARPA Front Office. A copy of the form may be obtained from the ARPA Front Office or by sending an email on arpa.mafa@gov.mt

DEADLINES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Applications are to be sent by email on rds submissions.opm-ees@gov.mt

If Application and supporting documentation exceeds 20MB, please split the files in separate zipped folders and send in separate emails (e.g. Application M2.1 Joe Borg - Part 2 of 3)

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is submitted prior to the set deadline.

Upon receipt of applications, the Managing Authority will acknowledge the application via email however it will not be in a position to validate with applicants whether their submission satisfies the admissibility check to be considered for evaluation. It is the applicant's sole responsibility to ensure the application has been submitted in its entirety.

THE SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTATION

Applications in hard copy, whether submitted by mail, by hand or any other means, will not be accepted and in this case, the application will not be deemed admissible and hence will not be considered during the evaluation process. Pen-drives and CDs etc are not required and will not be accepted. This applies to submissions at both the Front Offices in Malta and Gozo as well as the Managing Authority Offices in Hamrun.

All documentation will be submitted via email, together with the application, including but not limited to, quotations, estimate bills of quantities, qualifications, tax, etc. All documentation is to specifically state the name of the applicant and not of any other individual/company. This also applies in terms of partnerships, where all the documents must be in the partnership's name.

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Definitions

CAP SP Regulation: REGULATION (EU) 2021/2115 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 and REGULATION (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013.

CAP SP: Common Agricultural Policy – Strategic Plan is a plan drawn up by each Member State to contribute towards reaching the aims of the Common Agricultural Policy. CAP Strategic Plans encourage the transition towards a smart, sustainable, competitive, resilient, and diversified agricultural sector, while ensuring long-term food security.

CAP: Common Agricultural Policy is a commitment that the EU is promoting amongst its Member States to ensure a stable supply of food, safeguards farmers' income and protects the environment, while keeping rural areas vibrant.

Checks and controls: Provide a means of verification that the investment operation complies with, and is in conformity to, the relevant rules and regulations.

Contact Person: A person that is authorised by the applicant and can be contacted directly for matters in connection with the application and eventually the project.

CPR: (where applicable) Common Provision Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy.

CRRB: Change Request Review Board

EAFRD: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Evaluation: A periodic collection and analysis of evidence to form conclusions on the effectiveness and efficiency of interventions.

Forest Definition¹: A land of 0.5 ha or more which has (or will have following afforestation actions) a minimum tree cover of 10%;

Grant Agreement (GA): An agreement signed between the MA and the selected applicant (beneficiary) containing provisions and conditions related to the particular support being given.

Grant Award Letter: A letter sent by the MA to selected applicants upon the completion of the selection process in order to inform applicants of its outcome. The award letter can include certain conditions and actions expected on the part of the applicant.

Intervention: There are two types of interventions - those related to land (e.g. practices on agricultural land) or through investments (e.g. investing in the infrastructure of a farm, or buying equipment for the processing of agricultural products).

Management Plan: A plan as per Regulation 2115/2021 Article 73. (2) as defined in the General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe, adopted at the Second Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe held in Helsinki on 16-17 June 1993

Managing Authority: A national or regional body designated by a Member State to manage and implement the CAP Strategic Plan.

Monitoring: Regular examination of the resources, outputs, and results of interventions.

Natura 2000: A network of sites selected to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

Paying Agency: The Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA) within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights (MAFA).

Project Leader: Is a person who is authorised by the applicant to ensure a project is carried through and in line with commitments. The Project Leader can be contacted directly for matters relative to an on-going project and is expected to have responsibility for the execution of a project.

Project Selection Appeals Board (PSAB): An independent Committee that assesses appeal submissions.

Project Selection Committee (PSC): An independent Committee that assesses and ranks project proposals (applications).

Public amenity: A public amenity is a feature belonging to a structure which enhances the area or community it is located in.

¹ Where the planning proposal is deemed that it is more oriented towards a productive type of investment, the proposal shall be deemed ineligible for support.

1.0 Introduction

These Guidance Notes are intended to assist Applicants understand the requirements for requesting and receiving funding support under **Off-farm Non-Productive Investments (Afforestation)** of the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with these Guidance Notes prior to completing an application. The Guidance Notes, Application Form and all Annexes and other documentation are available at www.fondi.eu during the application period.

1.1 Authorities

The Funds and Programmes Division (FPD) within the Ministry responsible for EU Funds is the Managing Authority (MA) responsible for managing the interventions of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development Fund (EAFRD) in accordance with the Common Agricultural Policy – Strategic Plan for the 2023-2027 programming period.

The Paying Agency (PA) is the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA) within the Ministry responsible for Agriculture.

Other national authorities may be involved and referred to in the assessment of an application, or during project implementation.

1.2 Scope & Objectives

This intervention aims to fund non-productive investments linked to the creation and development of off-farm non-productive activities and support to improve the resilience and environmental value of ecosystems, across the Maltese territory.

1.3 Regulatory Framework

The following is a list of the applicable Plan and main Regulations:

- a. The Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan that provides support from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
- b. Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013
- c. Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013
- d. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1475 of 6 September 2022 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the evaluation of the CAP Strategic Plans and the provision of information for monitoring and evaluation;
- e. Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012;
- f. EU Habitats and Birds Directives and the Prioritized Action Framework (PAF).
- g. REGULATION (EU) 2021/2115 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013.
- h. Environment Protection Act (CAP 549 of the Laws of Malta);

The above list is not exhaustive and may be amended. It is up to the application to ensure that all national and EU rules are being followed at all time.

1.4 Contribution towards the CSP Objectives

The most relevant Specific Objectives to which Off-farm Non-Productive Investments and Afforestation contributes are:

SO05: Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency

SO06: Contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes

Needs addressed by the intervention:

Code	Description
5.4	Increase efficient use of water and soil by restoring geographical and landscape features
6.1	Promote measures that protect and enhance biodiversity on agricultural holdings & wider rural areas
6.3	Promote the removal of invasive alien species and the planting of native and archaeophytic species
6.4	Improve and conserve the status of existing habitats protected under HBD & rural landscape features

Result Indicators addressed by the intervention:

R.17 Area supported for afforestation, agroforestry restoration, including breakdowns
R.27 Number of operations contributing to environmental sustainability and the achievement of climate mitigation and adaptation goals in rural areas

1.5 Duration

This Batch of applications shall close on the 28th March 2025, at noon (12:00hrs Central European Time) subject to availability of funds and/or notifications by the MA informing otherwise. The total maximum duration of the project should be up to 24 months.

Subject to availability of funds and/or notifications by the MA informing otherwise, subsequent batches will also be notified following the closure of this batch.

1.6 Budget

The overall/indicative budget available for this intervention is €8.75 million in total (public expenditure). The MA reserves the right to amend the budget allocated.

In case of a demand for funds under this intervention that exceed the allocated budget, the MA may cap the allocation under the intervention at award stage.

1.7 Maximum Grant Value & Aid Intensity

No particular limit is being applied to the maximum grant value that may be requested by the applicant.

This intervention will finance 80% of the eligible costs. There is no capping applicable under this call.

The MA reserves the right to reject an application, including but not limited to cases where funds are not available under the respective intervention. In such instances the MA may consider the creation of a Reserve list of project proposals that are positively considered by the PSC.

2.0 Standard Eligibility Conditions

2.1 General Eligibility Criteria

The following are the general eligibility criteria to which the application must conform:

- (a) Submitted application is fully completed/filled-in
- (b) Applicant demonstrates that the applicant forms part of (or is the legal representative) the beneficiary/applicant organisation.
- (c) The proposed project will be implemented within the eligible territory.
- (d) Evidence of sufficient financial capacity required to cover the private financial component (where applicable) is provided.
- (e) The proposed project contributes to the targets and objectives of the relevant intervention.
- (f) The proposed project contributes to the specific objectives, needs and results of the programme.

2.2 Eligible Actions

Interventions under this type of operation will support both the creation of new woodland as well as the amelioration of existing woodland in Malta. Creation of woodland will seek to provide additional green spaces for recreational purposes. This is deemed as very important taking into consideration the limited amount of woodland in Malta. Support can also be considered for water holes/reservoirs with the scope of both prevention of fire as well as ensuring basic water supply to targeted forested areas.

- a) Support for planting of trees, ancillary works, and improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems*

Under this intervention, support will be provided for tree planting and ancillary works for purposes of agri-environmental and climate objectives, including tree planting for soil management and erosion control action. Removal of invasive alien tree species is also an eligible action; the planting of new trees (not necessarily on the same areas/parcels where trees are removed) to replace the invasive alien tree species need to be in accordance with ERA Guidelines. Removal of alien species should not be carried out by chemical means.

Off-farm afforestation and non-productive investments: Support may include social benefits such as public access and recreation, basic management to ensure woodland sustainability, operations that maintain or enhance environmental and social value such as pest management, coppicing, and uneconomic thinning as well as carbon sequestration.

b) Rehabilitation of Valleys around the Maltese Islands

Funding can be allocated towards the rehabilitation of valleys around the Maltese Islands that throughout the years have accumulated silt and debris and can therefore no longer act as channels through which water can flow. This causes flooding in surrounding rural areas, leading to soil erosion, loss of crops and destruction of rural structures. This intervention can therefore support investments to maximise the water retention capacity of these valleys, including through the cleaning of debris and the restoration of existing valley infrastructure with highest potential for aquifer recharge. Such investments will reduce flooding and losses through surface runoff, while also collecting rainwater that can then be used for irrigation purposes, again providing an alternative source of water for irrigation, reducing the amount of water extracted from the aquifer. It will be ensured that infrastructural projects in valleys are undertaken in a manner which does not negatively affect valley hydrology and biodiversity.

Other complementary investments will include conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of biodiversity and ecosystems as well as areas of natural heritage. The protection of natural surface water environments with a particular focus on the protection of key water-dependent habitats and species will continue to be enhanced, including through frameworks for the regulation of water abstraction from water catchments that host sensitive habitats and species. Synergies with biodiversity policy implementation will continue to be strengthened, ensuring that water-dependent habitats and species are conserved holistically. These actions shall be oriented towards those with a public interest and do not incorporate a commercial purpose.

2.3 Ineligible Actions

Any actions that are not in conformity to the applicable environment, planning and agricultural legislation and/or policy and not in line with the scope of this intervention as outlined in Malta's CAP SP, shall be considered as ineligible for funding.

- a. Restoration or rebuilding of Rubble Walls
- b. Tree planting for purposes not in line with this sub-measure.
- c. Machinery/Equipment
- d. The planting of trees and other species of plants that are not in conformity to applicable legislation and guidelines on permissible tree planting in the Maltese environment or that are not adequate for the specific habitat.
- e. Any actions that are not in conformity to applicable environment and planning legislation and policy.
- f. Investments directly or indirectly linked to private dwellings/accommodation/hotels/etc.
- g. Annual premiums to cover costs such as agricultural income foregone.
- h. Replanting of trees already financed by the project.
- i. Operations shall not be eligible for support where they have been physically completed or fully implemented before the application for funding under the CAP Strategic Plan is submitted to the Managing Authority, irrespective of whether all related payments have been made.
- j. Contingencies for non-infrastructure works and/or losses made by the Applicant;
- k. Statutory fines and penalties;
- l. Public amenities not within the scope of this sub – measure
- m. Simple replacement investments
- n. Double funding (the same line – items shall not be aided through National and EU Funds)

2.4 Eligible applicants

Support under this intervention is available to:

- Public Authorities and Entities²

² Public authorities may designate, or may have designated prior to the project application, NGOs, or Local Councils for the management and maintenance of such sites.

2.5 Eligible Expenditure

The following type of expenditure is considered eligible for the purpose of support:

- a) The costs of forest propagation material (seeds, seedlings, saplings, etc) used for structural changes, planting, under-planting, forest edge etc., and the related plant prevention, (e.g. poles, irrigation equipment, and any individual plant protection requirements as appropriate). The costs of materials and/or services, labour used for the above-mentioned investments for improving the environmental or public amenity value of forests.
- b) Removing (cutting) of trees, thinning and pruning may be eligible if the main purpose of the investment is to improve the ecological value of forests, such as improving the species composition for environmental interests (removing of non-indigenous or not habitat specific tree or shrub species).
- c) General costs such as architects, engineers and consultation fees, feasibility studies, the acquisition of patent rights and licenses up to a maximum 15% of the total eligible project cost.
- d) Specific actions that have been recommended as part of the management, conservation or rehabilitation plans.
- e) Visitors' management and provision of public access to sites.
- f) The actual restoration, in situ reproductions, including but not limited to the restoration and installation of walkways and installation of security measures, the setting up of interpretation aids and visitors' centres.
- g) The construction and/or restoration of recreational infrastructure, information and interpretation facilities, public amenities, afforestation activities and regeneration of degraded areas to be converted for recreational purposes.
- h) Only species included in the list established by the MA and the respective competent authorities and published as part of the Guidance Notes shall be eligible for funding.
- i) Costs related to the rehabilitation of Valleys
- j) Publicity costs that go over and above the mandatory obligations listed in the Visual Identity Guidelines; and
- k) A 7% flat rate of the total direct eligible costs will be added to the budget, in line with Article 83(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 and Article 54(a) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The budget allocation covered by this automatic flat rate is specifically for overhead costs incurred by any Beneficiary who carries out an EU-funded project. No documentation needs to be provided by applicants in order to be awarded this flat rate.

Applicants are to refer to National Eligibility Rules Version 1 which is accessible from the fondi.eu website³.

The MA reserves the right to utilise the simplified cost option applying standard prices for all actions under this Intervention.

As per regulation (EU) 2021/2116, Article 44, Payments to Beneficiaries, beneficiaries may request an advance payment of up to 50% of the public aid related to the investment.

Expenditure is considered to be eligible expenditure and therefore eligible for reimbursement **only** if it has been incurred **after Friday 27th October 2023**, in line with the CSP 2023-2027 and the pertinent Eligibility Rules.

2.6 Ineligible Expenditure

The following costs shall be considered ineligible for the purpose of this investment:

- a) General maintenance costs are not supported under this sub-measure.
- b) The purchase of agricultural production rights, payment entitlements, livestock, annual plants, and their planting.
- c) Other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, and insurance charges.
- d) Publicity and Dissemination which is obligatory by the programme
- e) Project Management Costs
- f) Machinery and/or equipment.
- g) Expenditure/costs linked to interventions that are, at the time of application, directly (i.e. the specific investment) served by a breach notice by respective responsible authorities including the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) and the Planning Authority (PA).
- h) Contingencies for non-infrastructure works and/or losses made by the Applicant.
- i) Statutory fines and penalties.
- j) In kind contributions.
- k) Ordinary maintenance operations.
- l) Transaction costs.
- m) Costs related to extension of warranty, preventive maintenance, commissioning of works, planning application fees, and insurance charges.

VAT expenses incurred by beneficiaries of EU Funds shall not be eligible for reimbursement or contribution from the EU Funds, except in specific circumstances as outlined in Article 64(1) (c) of the Common Provision Regulation.

The list above is not to be considered as non-exhaustive and the MA may update this list from time-to-time. Where in doubt, it is advised to speak to the Managing Authority.

³ https://fondi.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2021_2027_National-Eligibility-Rules.pdf

2.7 Specific Provisions

- a. The project, both as proposed and executed, must align with the priorities and spirit of the CAP SP. The MA may share project proposal as well as any presented changes with any other local authority, including but not limited to ERA, that may provide feedback and observations. Without prejudice to national guidelines and legislations, the MA reserves the right to restrict funding if the project deviates from the priorities and spirit of the CAP SP
- b. A Management Plan that includes the following:
 - I.General Information:
 - i. Location of the site with coordinates
 - ii.Site Plan endorsed by an architect as to current status of site including;
 - ii.Total Area in SQM
 - iii.Percentage of tree cover
 - iv.Trees marked on Site Plan with a clear legend
 - II.Forest Description:
 - i.Site Plan endorsed by an architect as how site is envisaged to be after project implementation including;
 - ii.Total Area in SQM
 - iii.Percentage of tree cover
 - iii.Trees marked on Site Plan with a clear legend⁴
 - iv.In case of removal of invasive alien tree species, a list of trees accompanied by a Site Plan endorsed by an architect indicating location of the trees. A clear legend is to be available for the Site Plan. This should be supported by photographic evidence. ⁵
 - III.Management Objectives:
 - i.Objectives for the woodland/forest creation (Approximately 100 words)
 - IV.Implementation Plan
 - i.Method Statement Clearly **indicating** how works will be conducted.
 - ii.Site Plan clearly indicating, if any, infrastructural works, the site plan should clearly include;
 1. Infrastructural works covered with a clear legend
 2. Photographic evidence clearly identifying the location and area where infrastructural works will be conducted

All of the above is without prejudice to any other clearances or approvals that shall be formally sought from respective planning and environmental authorities.

⁴ Trees planted must be according to the measure guidelines in Annex I. At payment stage the list of submitted trees will be checked with the measure guidelines to ensure eligibility.

⁵ Trees removed must be according to the measure guidelines in Annex II. At payment stage the list of submitted trees will be checked with the measure guidelines to ensure eligibility.

3.0 The Project Proposal as shall be presented during the application process.

Kindly follow the instructions given in section Deadlines and Acknowledgments (on page 3) and also the Section The Submission of Documentation.

First time applicants should visit our customer portal website to sign up for a profile. Through this portal, applicants can view updates on their submissions. The Managing Authority may communicate directly with applicants and request additional information regarding their submission through the customer portal.

3.1 Project Details

- **Project Title:** Name your project in a way that it can be easily understood and captures the gist of your project (max 100 characters)
- **Project Duration:** Insert the number of months required to complete the proposed project. The maximum project duration is 24 months and thus applicants are advised to be realistic in their project in view of the timing constraints. The project duration in months will be calculated from the date of the grant award letter.
- **The Applicant:** Tick the box as applicable showing the type of applicant.
- **Nature of Activity/Business:** Tick if you are applying as an individual farmer, in partnership or as a legal entity.
- **Applicant's Information:** To include details of applicant – address, mobile number, email address and website (if applicable).
- **Project Leader:** To include details of project leader – address, mobile number, email address and position within the entity.
- **Details of Partnership:** To include details of partnership, if applicable.
- **Details of the contact person for the application/project implementation:** To be filled in if contact person is different than applicant and to choose if this is valid for application stage or project implementation stage. If ticked yes, information of contract person is to be filled in.

3.2 Budget

In this section the applicant needs to insert the budget which will support the proposed project.

The amount of each component is to be included under the year in which the investment is expected to be procured. The expected Beneficiaries under this Call for project proposals are expected to practice the principles of good governance and sound financial management not only during implementation but also at application stage when drafting the proposed budget. The Project Selection Committee reserves the right to request clarifications on the budget presented by each applicant should it be deemed necessary to do so.

3.3 Technical Description

Planning and Environmental Permits: Here one should list the activities envisaged within the operation that requires a planning or an environmental permit, identify whether the permit application has already been submitted and if yes list down the PA or Tracking number.

Risks: Explain the risks associated with the project and provide the mitigation and/or preventive measures as well as the actions to be taken in case an adverse event occurs. Give an explanation on risks associated with financial, implementation, capacity, legal, logistical and procurement.

3.4 Supporting Documents

A checklist of documents to be submitted with the Application is included with the Application Form. The applicants will be advised further, during the evaluation process, with regards to the submission of any necessary clarifications/documents required.

Disclaimer: The submission of an application form and its subsequent acknowledgement does not imply that the application is being automatically accepted and/or rejected. The outcome of the evaluation of any individual application will be communicated to each applicant following an assessment carried out by the Project Selection Committee (PSC).

3.5 Declarations

The Applicant is requested to read through the statements in the declaration section and confirm that the Applicant will abide with the stipulated declarations. If the information is found to be false or deliberately or otherwise misleading, any EU funds awarded may be withdrawn and any funds paid may be recovered by the Paying Agency from the Applicant completing the application form. These obligations shall be considered binding upon signing of the Grant Agreement if the application is approved for co-financing. If the applicant does not accept all these declarations, the applicant will not be allowed to submit the application form. If submitted, such application would be considered null and void.

3.6 Contact Details of Competent Authorities

Environment & Resources Authority
Tel: 2292 3500

Environment and Resources Authority
Hexagon House
Spencer Hill
Marsa, MRS 1441

4.0 Assessment and Selection

4.1 Validation of applications

The Project Selection Committee will undertake a validity check of all applications that are received. Should any documentation that is required be missing from the Application Form, the Project Selection Committee shall notify the Applicant through a notification letter. Any required documents that were missing from the Application Form are to be submitted within the specified period (usually within 5 working days) from the date of the notification letter.

Only complete applications will be considered by the Project Selection Committee. Applications that remain incomplete after the specified notice period has elapsed will be rejected.

Should the applicant wish to re-submit an application, the process is considered a new one. In such cases, the effective application date would be that of the new submission.

4.2 Assessment and Selection of Applications

Applications for support that pass the validity check will proceed to the next step.

In line with Article 79 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2115/2021, there shall be no selection criteria where investments are clearly targeting environmental purposes or carried out in connection with restoration activities.

In cases where applications need to be prioritised in view of budgetary limitations, priority will be given to:

- a) operations within a Natura 2000 area.
- b) If further prioritisation would be required, then the next criterion would be proximity to Natura 2000 areas.

4.3 Unsuccessful Applicants

The MA will inform all applicants about the outcome of the selection process. This notification can be made via email notification.

4.4 Appeals

Applicants who feel aggrieved by the outcome of the procedure have the right of appeal with the Project Selection Appeals Board (PSAB) within five (5) working days (unless otherwise specified) from the date of the letter of rejection by the Project Selection Committee.

The same application (i.e. applications broadly having the same scope) cannot be considered as being under PSAB and PSC consideration concurrently. In such cases, only the application undergoing a PSAB procedure will be under consideration (by the PSAB).

4.5 Notification of Acceptance

The Managing Authority will inform all successful applicants of the decision of acceptance of their project. Letters of acceptance may include conditions which have been raised by the Project Selection Committee which conditions need to be adhered to.

4.6 Grant Agreement

Applicants who have been selected in accordance with the procedure described above, in terms of being eligible and having obtained the necessary scoring for selection, and furthermore, could be allocated the requisite budget for funding, shall be invited to enter into an agreement with the MA by signing the Grant Agreement. Selected applicants that do not come forward to sign the grant agreement within stipulated timeframes will have the award withdrawn.

4.7 Changes

The beneficiary shall undertake every effort to ensure that the project is implemented within the stipulated timelines as defined in the broad project actions, and in line with the relevant EU and National Regulations and administrative procedures.

The Beneficiary shall not strategically change or alter the overall and broad project scope and actions of his/her/their own volition. Significant and strategic changes that alter the scope of the project must be agreed to by the Managing Authority in the Change Request procedure published by the MA. Strategic changes applied to the project that do not bear the MA approval would be done at the applicant's own risk and will be assessed at the payment stage of the project.

In case the beneficiary fails to follow the timelines defined in the Grant Agreement, this may lead to recoveries of funds by the Paying Agency or termination by the MA unless an extension is either requested and granted by the MA or granted as an administrative extension by the MA.

Projects with a grant value of equal or less than EUR100,000 shall be limited to two (2) change request submissions, including extension requests, whereas projects with a grant value of more than EUR100,000 but less than or equal to EUR200,000 shall be limited to three (3) change request submissions. The limit of change request submissions applies for the entire duration of the project. For the avoidance of doubt, the limitation is subject to the number of submissions and not the amount of changes requested per submission. Furthermore, the limitation still applies in case the MA rejects the request in part or in its entirety.

In the case where an investment included in the project requires a planning permit and the necessary permit approvals are not obtained in due time as deemed necessary by the MA, the project proposal will be subject to a withdrawal assessment by the MA. This is without prejudice to any other withdrawals that the MA or ARPA may seek in view of project progress impacting timeframes and scope.

The Change Request Form can be downloaded from the Managing Authority website from the following link: http://fondi.eu/important_documentat/earfd-templates/

5.0 Contractual Obligations

Upon receiving the award letter, the Beneficiary becomes legally bound by certain provisions. The following sections provide information on some aspects of the contractual obligations of the Beneficiary.

5.1 Procurement

Beneficiaries should note that grants awarded for actions under this Intervention are public funds. In this regard, all beneficiaries should ensure that any procurement undertaken for works/services/supplies to be financed through this intervention is carried out in line with the principles of sound financial management, good governance, transparency, and equality together with the provisions of the Manual of Procedures issued by the relevant authorities.

In cases of non-compliances with the rules of public procurement, the financial corrections towards the beneficiary will be determined by the Paying Agency on the basis of the Commission Decision of 14.5.2019 laying down the guidelines for determining financial corrections C(2019)3452 final.

5.2 Administrative checks on payments claims by the Paying Agency (ARPA)

Following the signature of the Grant Agreement and subject to the eligibility rules of the specific intervention, a Beneficiary may start to submit payment claims to the Paying Agency for processing, verification and ultimately payment authorisation.

Administrative checks on applications for support shall ensure the compliance of the operation with applicable obligations established by Union or national law or by the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan. Kindly note that the ARPA Payment Guidelines can be accessed through the ARPA website: <https://arpa.gov.mt/>

The Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA) may, from time to time, issue further information and guidance.

5.3 Payment Triggers and Management Verifications

In case of the Overheads component, Beneficiaries do not need to provide any documents to trigger this payment. This will be calculated on the allocated amount on the Claim for Reimbursement. Should the Beneficiary fail to carry out a part of the investment that was approved in the Grant Agreement, the Overheads component will be recalculated and paid at 7% of the eligible investment that was found to be in place and operational.

Management Verifications are an essential component in all EU-funded projects in order to ensure compliance with applicable regulations, to promote accountability and transparency, manage risks, monitor performance, maintain sound financial management, meet legal requirements, facilitate accurate reporting, and enhance the overall quality of the project. These verifications are an essential

component of the EU funding process, helping to safeguard the proper use of EU funds and the achievement of project objectives.

5.4 Controls and Penalties

Maltese Authority reserve the right to suspend the disbursement of grant fund or to recover any funds disbursed to the Beneficiary in any of the following circumstances:

- a) Non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement, including but not limited to failure to achieve operation's objectives, milestones, or financial reporting requirements;
- b) Mismanagement or financial irregularities, including but not limited to unauthorized use of funds, false declarations, or fraudulent activities;
- c) Breach of EU regulations, applicable laws, or any other relevant legal requirements governing the use of EU funds, including the National Eligibility rules, the Manual of procedures, and any specific guidelines issued by national authorities;
- d) Unauthorized expenditure or ineligible costs not in line with the approved operation/budget or outside the scope of the project;
- e) Suspicion of Fraud, Corruption, Conflict of Interest, Double Funding, or any other misconduct that puts at risk the EU financial interest, the fulfilment of the conditions triggering the payment of lump sums, unit costs, or flat rates, including, where required, the achievement of outputs and/or results.
- f) Actual, potential, or perceived reputational harm and/or unwarranted or unfavourable publicity to the Managing Authority, the Government of Malta, national and/or EU institutions, and/or EU funds.
- g) Any other justifiable reason deemed by the Managing Authority to warrant suspension or recovery of funds provided that such actions are consistent with EU regulations and principles.

5.5 Documentation

Without prejudice to national legislation or practices that require a longer period for the retention of documents, all supporting documents related to a project supported by the Funds are to be kept by the Paying Agency for at least a 5-year period from 31 December of the year following the submission of the accounts in which the final expenditure of the completed operation is included. This documentation will also be available in the IT system managed by the national funding Authorities and made available as required by the relevant stakeholders including the Programme auditors, the European Commission, and the Court of Auditors, etc. unless otherwise decided by the Managing Authority.

Without prejudice to national legislation or practices that require a longer period for the retention of documents, the beneficiary shall retain the pertinent documentation in either digital or printed format linked to this project for funding purposes.

A signed inventory, listing any items bought in connection with the project, should be compiled and maintained by the beneficiary and this should be made available to the Paying Agency, or any other

legitimate authority whenever requested. An inventory template can be found on the www.fondi.eu website under the Templates section.

5.6 Durability of Investment⁶

Beneficiaries are obliged to maintain the project in operation after the final payment to the beneficiary, as follows:

- For investments with a grant value of up to €15,000 the durability period obligations will extend to one (1) year from the final payment to the beneficiary.
- For investments with a grant value of between €15,000 and €200,000 the durability period obligations will extend to three (3) years from the final payment to the beneficiary.
- For investments with a grant value of over €200,000 the durability period obligations will extend to five (5) years from the final payment to the beneficiary.⁴

This obligation is tied to investments in infrastructure and/or to productive investments and is applied regardless of the size of the beneficiary. Beneficiaries must ensure that such investments are not subject to any of the following situations within this identified period:

- Cessation or transfer of a productive activity outside the NUTS level 2 region in which support was received.
- Change in ownership of an item of infrastructure which gives to a firm or body an undue advantage.
- Substantial change affecting the nature, objectives or implementation conditions which would result in undermining the original objectives of the concerned investments.

Investments will be subject to ex-post on-the-spot checks. Failure to comply with the obligation for the durability of investments may result in recoveries.

All project activities must be in place, operational and functional at the time payments are presented for processing.

⁶ It is being clarified that in line with the obligations under the CAP-SP, a change in ownership of an item of infrastructure is **not possible**. This means that the beneficiary has to maintain ownership of the assets purchased by EU funds and the beneficiary has to ensure that the acquired assets are kept in good condition during and after the implementation of the project. Breach of such obligation will lead to a full recovery of any support paid.

5.7 Responsible Entities

Checks and controls can be done by any of the following authorities:

- a. The Managing Authority (MA) – Funds and Programme Division (FPD), within the Ministry responsible for EU funds
- b. The Paying Agency (PA) – Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA), Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights (MAFA),
- c. The Certifying Body (CB) – Internal Audit and Investigations Department (IAID), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM),
- d. The National Audit Office (NAO) in view of the fact that public funds are being utilised for the implementation of the investment,
- e. The Audit Services of the European Commission (EC) and the European Court of Auditors (ECA) in view of the fact the investment is benefitting from European Union (EU) funds,
- f. The VAT Department to ensure that VAT Regulations are respected,
- g. And any other national or EU entity which has a legal right to carry out verifications on public funds awarded.

6.0 Compliance with Community Policy

Each Grant Agreement will endeavour to preserve the **Horizontal Principles** and respect the fundamental **Human rights** that underpin all EU-funded projects. These principles promote impartiality, openness, and accessibility for individuals with disabilities, fostering inclusiveness and equal opportunities for all participants involved in the projects.

Gender equality is a fundamental aspect of these principles recognizing the importance of empowering all genders to contribute meaningfully to the development and execution of each project.

To foster a **harmonious and sustainable environment** for all, EU-funded projects must abide by the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union**, ensuring that the rights and freedom of all EU citizens are respected. Project activities, decisions, and actions must not violate or infringe upon the rights and dignity of individuals or groups, as defined by Maltese and international law, and wherever possible, promote the creation of an equal and just society.

The principle of **sustainable development** is of paramount importance, reflecting our commitment to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Malta firmly believes in upholding the Union policy on the environment, as stipulated in Article 11 and Article 191 (1) Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. All projects are required to comply with environmental regulations. This includes fully respecting the Union environmental acquis and national legislation pertaining to environmental protection. Projects should aim to avoid or minimize adverse environmental, social, and economic impacts, striving to prevent significant harm to ecosystems, natural resources, cultural heritage, and human health.

In recognition of the crucial role played by **innovation** in driving economic growth and societal progress, this guiding principle is critical and incorporated into Malta's funding framework. By emphasizing and promoting this principle, the aim is to encourage and nurture innovative initiatives that showcase exceptional promise and potential. EU funded projects should aspire to support and promote innovative initiatives that exhibit exceptional potential, thereby ensuring the efficient and effective allocation of EU funds to projects that can truly make a difference in shaping Europe's future.

7.0 Overarching Commitments

7.1 Data Protection

By submitting the application, the applicant is giving his/her consent to have personal and project details published in line with the obligations in the relevant EU Regulations and other requests by relevant bodies.

Whilst abiding to the provisions set in the Data Protection Act regarding the handling of personal data, the Managing Authority and/or Paying Agency will retain the right to disclose, exchange or request information about any applicant, application, and agreement to or with other organisations or consultants which the Managing Authority and/or Paying Agency consider appropriate for administration, statistical, monitoring, evaluation and dissemination purposes.

7.2 Transparency

Because projects implemented under this Intervention involve expenditure of public money, there is public interest in how the money is spent. In this respect the Managing Authority will ensure that the principle of transparency is fully respected in the implementation of operations under Common Agricultural Policy – Strategic Plan 2023-2027. A list of Beneficiaries who are awarded a grant and separately, those who receive payment are published to ensure maximum transparency.

7.3 Monitoring, Evaluation and Dissemination

From time to time, the Managing Authority and/or the Paying Agency, as well as other National and/or EU entities as may be identified by the Managing Authority, may conduct economic, environmental, or other evaluation of the intervention which may involve the beneficiary in surveys/interviews of various types. Managing Authority officials or consultants/evaluators engaged by the Managing Authority may contact beneficiaries as necessary. In applying for support under this intervention the beneficiary is deemed automatically as agreeing to cooperate with or take part in such studies, which are important for reviewing the effectiveness of the intervention as well as evidencing implementation of projects. The MA may also request cooperation from beneficiaries vis-à-vis promotion of the CAP SP, including use of pictures/videos taken from projects supported through this intervention.

7.4 Conflict of Interest

Checks and balances to ensure that situations that may give rise to actual and/or perceived conflict(s) of interest are vital in order to safeguard the ethical and transparent use of EU funds, fosters fair competition, builds trust, and ensures compliance with legal requirements, ultimately contributing to the success and legitimacy of EU-funded projects.

In line with Article 61 of the Financial Regulation (EU, Eurotom) 2018/1046 of 18th July 2018⁷, the Ministry responsible for EU Funds, together with ARPA, carry out the necessary verifications to ensure that no conflict of interest arises at any stage of a project's lifecycle. Should a conflict of interest be detected, the applicant/beneficiary will be notified to ensure that such instances do not prejudice the EU budget at large. The relevant authorities reserve the right to take any remedial actions that may be deemed necessary in such situations.

7.5 Force Majeure

If a beneficiary was unable to comply with the obligations as a result of Force Majeure or exceptional circumstances as provided for in article 3 of (EU) 2116/2021 s/he shall retain her/his right to eligible aid up till when the case of Force Majeure or the exceptional circumstance occurred. Cases of Force Majeure and exceptional circumstances shall be notified in writing to the competent authority (ARPA), with relevant evidence to the satisfaction of the competent authority, within fifteen (15) working days from the date on which the beneficiary or the person entitled through him, is in a position to do so. After consultation with the Force Majeure Board, ARPA will decide whether there is a case of force majeure or otherwise according to the parameters of the applicable EU Regulations. Should ARPA deem a case to be affected by a Force Majeure event, the beneficiary may be justified or excused, totally or partially, with respect to some default that there may be. But if the Force Majeure application is rejected, the Maltese Authorities may seek to recover or withdraw all funds related to this scheme.

Official documentation needs to be submitted together with the Force Majeure application. In case of illness a medical certificate is required and in case of mandatory quarantine, the official notification issued by the Ministry for Health is required, in cases of plant diseases and/or death of trees in the case of vineyards a report must be presented by the Agriculture Directorate or the Plant Protection Directorate (depending on the case).

Further information on Force Majeure requests may be accessed from ARPA's website on <https://arpa.gov.mt/en/>

⁷ Financial Regulation (EU, Eurotom) 2018/1046 of 18th July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.

8.0 Contact Details

For more information regarding this intervention, kindly contact the Managing Authority through the following contact information and by referring specifically to this Intervention.

Telephone Number: (+)356 2555 2555

E-mail: fondi.eu@gov.mt

Website: www.fondi.eu

Annex I - List of Eligible trees that can be planted

Scientific Name	Maltese Name	English Name
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	l-agġru; l-aċer	Montpellier Maple
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	l-alnu	Black Alder; European Alder; Common Alder
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	il-fula tal-klieb	Bean Trefoil Tree; Mediterranean Stinkwood
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	l-imbragla	Strawberry Tree; Cane Apple
<i>Atriplex halimus</i>	il-bjanka	Salt Bush; Shrubby Orache
<i>Betula pendula</i>	il-betula	Silver Birch; Warty Birch; European White Birch
<i>Calicotome villosa</i> s.l.	il-ġenista tax-xewk	Spiny Broom
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	il-karpin	Oriental Hornbeam
<i>Celtis australis</i>	il-buglar; iċ-ċeltis	Nettle Tree
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	il-ħarruba	Carob
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	is-siġra ta' Ġuda; il-ħarrub ta' Ġuda	Judas Tree; Mediterranean Redbud
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	il-ġummara	Dwarf Fan Palm
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	is-siġra tal-ġellewż	Common Hazel
<i>Crataegus azarolus</i>	l-ġħanzalor	Azarole; Crete Hawthorn
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	iż-żagħrun	Whithorn; Common Hawthorn
<i>Crataegus x ruscinonensis</i>	l-ġħanzalor is-selvaġġ	Hybird Hawthorn
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	iċ-ċipress	Italian Cypress
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	l-isfargel	Quince
<i>Darniella melitensis</i> (= <i>Salsola melitensis</i>)	ix-xebb; is-siġra tal-irmied	Maltese Salt Tree
<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	l-efedra	Shrubby Horsetail; Joint Pine
<i>Erica multiflora</i>	l-erika; is-saġħtar l-aħmar; is-savina; leħjet ix-xiħ	Mediterranean Heath
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	il-fużanja; l-evonimu	European Spindle; Common Spindle
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	it-tengħud tas-siġra	Tree Spurge
<i>Euphorbia melitensis</i>	it-tengħud tax-xagħri	Maltese Spurge
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	is-siġra tal-fagu	European Beech
<i>Ficus carica</i> s.l.	It-iina (includes: il-bajtar ta' San Ġwann; il-bżengul; id-dukkar; il-farkizzan; il-parsott)	Fig Tree
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	il-fraxnu; is-siġar tal-paċenzja	Narrow-Leaved Ash
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Is-siġra tal-ġewż	Common Walnut
<i>Juniperus macrocarpa</i>	Il-ġniepru x-xewwieki	Mediterranean Prickly Juniper

<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	il-ġniepru x-xewwieki	Prickly Juniper; Prickly Cedar; Cade Juniper
<i>Juniperus turbinata</i>	il-ġnibrū; il-ġniepru; l-ġħargħar	Southern Phoenician Juniper
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	ir-randa	Bay Laurel; Sweet Bay
<i>Lycium europaeum</i>	l-ġħawseġ	European Tea-Tree; European Boxthorn
<i>Lycium intricatum</i>	l-ġħawseġ selvaġġ	Mediterranean Tea-Tree; Mediterranean Boxthorn
<i>Lycium schweinfurthii</i>	l-ġħawseġ selvaġġ	Southern Tea-Tree; Southern Boxthorn
<i>Malus domestica</i> s.l.	it-tuffieħ tal-billudja	Apple
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	it-tuffieħ selvaġġ	Wild Apple; European Crab Apple
<i>Mespilus germanica</i>	fomm il-lipp; omm il-epp; in-naspli t-tedeski	Medlar; Mediterranean Medlar
<i>Morus alba</i>	is-siġar taċ-ċawwli	White Mulberry
<i>Morus nigra</i>	is-siġar tat-tut	Black Mulberry
<i>Myrtus communis</i> subsp. <i>communis</i>	ir-riħan	Myrtle
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	id-difla; siġret il-ġarab; siġret il-bass; is-siġar tal-wirdien; l-oleandru	Oleander
<i>Olea europaea</i> s.l.	iż-żebbuġa; iż-żajtuna	Olive
<i>Olea oleaster</i>	iż-żebbuġ selvaġġ	Wild Olive
<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	il-karpin falz; l-ostrijà	Hop Hornbeam
<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	ix-xewk tal-kuruna; ix-xewk ta' kristu	Christ's Thorn Tree; Jerusalem Thorn
<i>Periploca angustifolia</i> (= <i>Periploca laevigata</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i>)	siġret il-ħarir	African Wolfsbane
<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	il-fillirja	Narrow-Leaved Mock Privet
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	l-olivastru; il-fillirja l-kbira	Mock Privet; Jasmine Box
<i>Phillyrea media</i>	l-olivastru; il-fillirja ż-żgħira	Lesser Mock Privet
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	il-palm tat-tamar; in-naħla; Is-siġar tat-tamar	Date Palm
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	iż-żnuber; is-siġra tal-prinjol; si-siġra tal-arżnu	Aleppo Pine; Jerusalem Pine
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	iż-żnuber tal-baħar; iż-żnuber tax-xatt; il-prinjol tal-ġwienaħ	Maritime Pine; Cluster Pine
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	iż-żnuber tal-ikel; iż-żnuber tal-umbrella; is-siġra tal-prinjol	Stone Pine; Umbrella Pine; Parasol Pine
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	id-deru; Id-delu	Lentisk; Mastic Tree

<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	il-botna; l-iskornabekk; is-siġar tat-turpentina; it-trementina; is-siġar tal-fosdoq; it-terebintu	Terebinth; Turpentine Tree
<i>Pistacia x saportae</i>	id-deru l-bagħal	Hybird Mastic Tree
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	id-dolf; id-dorf; id-dolb	Oriental Plane Tree
<i>Populus alba</i>	il-luqa; is-siġar taċ-ċopp	White Poplar
<i>Prunus armeniaca</i>	is-siġra tal-berquq	Apricot; Armenian Plum
<i>Prunus avium</i>	iċ-ċirasa; l-amarena	Wil Cherry; Sweet Cherry; Gean
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	iċ-ċuplamm; l-għanbaqar il-kbir	Cherry Plum; Myrobalan Plum
<i>Prunus cerasus</i>	iċ-ċirasa s-selvaġġa	Sour Cherry; Dwarf Cherry; Tart Cherry
<i>Prunus cocomilia</i>	il-pruna tal-Italja	Italian Plum
<i>Prunus domestica</i> s.l.	il-prajn; l-għanbaqar	Plum (including Bullace; Damascene; Damson; Greengage; Prune)
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	is-siġar tal-lewż	Almond*
<i>Prunus institia</i>	l-għanbaqar	Bullace; Wild Damson; European Plum
<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	iċ-ċirasa bagħlija; iċ-ċirasa s-selvaġġa	Mahaleb Cherry; St Lucie Cherry
<i>Prunus persica</i>	il-ħawħa	Peach Tree
<i>Prunus persica</i> var. <i>nucipersica</i>	in-nuċiprisk; l-anciiprisk; iċ-ċiprisk	Nectarine
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	il-prajn tax-xewk	Sloe; Blackthorn
<i>Prunus webbii</i>	il-lewż morr	Eastern Almond; Webb's Almond
<i>Prunus x dasycarpa</i>	iż-żabrikott	Black Apricot
<i>Punica granatum</i>	is-siġar tar-rummien; is-siġar tal-bullar	Pomegranate*
<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>	il-langas selvaġġ	Almond-Leaved Pear
<i>Pyrus communis</i> s.l.	il-langas; l-anġas	Cultivated Pear
<i>Pyrus pyraeaster</i>	il-langas bagħal; il-langas selvaġġ	Wild Pear
<i>Pyrus syriaca</i>	il-langas selvaġġ	Syrian Pear
<i>Quercus calliprinos</i>	il-balluta x-xewwikija	Palestine Oak; Eastern Kermes Oak
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	ir-ruvlu; il-balluta l-ħorfija	Turkey Oak; Austrian Oak
<i>Quercus coccifera</i> s.l.	il-balluta x-xewwikija	Kermes Oak
<i>Quercus gussonei</i>	ir-ruvlu; il-balluta l-ħorfija	Gussone's Oak
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	il-balluta; is-siġar tal-ġandar	Holm Oak; Evergreen Oak
<i>Quercus petraea</i> s.l.	ir-ruvlu; il-balluta l-ħorfija	Sessile Oak; Cornish Oak; Durmast Oak

<i>Quercus pubescens</i> s.l.	il-balluta l-muswafa ; ir-ruvlu	Downy Oak; Pubescent Oak
<i>Quercus robur</i>	il-balluta ingliza; is-sigra tar-ruvlu	Pedunculate Oak; English Oak
<i>Quercus suber</i>	is-sigra tas-sufra; il-ballut tas-sufra	Cork Oak
<i>Retama raetam</i> s.l.	il-ġenista l-bajda; il-ġenista tar-ramel; ir-retama	Bridal Broom; White Weeping Broom
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	l-alaternu	Mediterranean Buckthorn
<i>Rhamnus oleoides</i> (= <i>Rhamnus lycioides</i> subsp. <i>oleoides</i>)	iż-żiju	Lesser Buckthorn; Olive-Leaved Buckthorn
<i>Rhus coriaria</i>	ix-xumakk tal-konz	Common Sumach
<i>Salix alba</i> s.l.	iż-żafżafa; iż-żafżafa l-kbira; iż-żafżafa l-bajda	White Willow
<i>Salix pedicellata</i>	iż-żafżafa ż-żgħira	Mediterranean Willow
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	in-nittiena; is-sebuqa s-selvaġġa; is-sambuka s-selvaġġa	Dwarf Elder
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	is-sambuka; is-sebuqa l-kbira	Common Elder
<i>Searsia pentaphylla</i> (= <i>Rhus pentaphylla</i>)	It-tizra; il-kunzatura; ix-xumakk tal-konz	Tizra Tree
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	iż-żorba s-selvaġġa	Rowan; Mountain Ash
<i>Sorbus domestica</i>	iż-żorba	Service Tree
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	il-ġenista s-safra	Spanish Broom
<i>Tamarix africana</i>	il-bruka; it-tarfa	Tamarisks
<i>Tetraclinis articulata</i>	l-għargħar	Arar tree; Sandarac Gum Tree; Mediterranean Alerce; Barbary Arbor-Vitae
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	It-tilja	Lime Tree
<i>Ulmus canescens</i> (= <i>Ulmus minor</i> subsp. <i>canescens</i>)	in-nemmiesa; is-siġar tan-nemus; l-ulmu; l-ulmu ta' Malta	Hoary Elm; Grey-Leaved Elm
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	il-meruna; il-viburnu	Laurustinus
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	l-għadiba; il-virgi; il-bżar tal-patrijiet; l-għadbiera; is-siġar tal-virgi	Chaste Tree; Virgin Bush
<i>Ziziphus lotus</i>	is-siedra	Spiny Jujube; Sicilian Jujube
<i>Ziziphus zizyphus</i> (= <i>Ziziphus jujuba</i>)	iż-żinzel	Jujube

Annex II: Indicative List of Alien Species that shall not be planted in Rural Areas

Scientific Name	Maltese Name	English Name
<i>Acacia cyclops</i>	l-akaċja tal-għajn	Coastal Wattle
<i>Acacia koa</i>	l-akaċja tal-Hawaii	Hawaiian Wattle; Koa
<i>Acacia saligna</i> (= <i>Acacia cyanophylla</i>)	l-akaċja	Golden-Wreath Wattle
<i>Aeonium</i> spp. (all species)	il-kalluwa; siġret il-kalli	Tree Houseleeks
<i>Agave</i> spp. (all species)	l-agave; is-sabbara; is-sisal; is-siżlana	Century Plant; American Aloe; Maguey; Sisal; Sisal Hemp
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> (= <i>Ailanthus glandulosa</i>)	ix-xumakk; ix-xumakk falz	Tree-of-Heaven
<i>Aloe</i> spp. (all species) - see note	l-aloe; is-sabbar	Aloes
<i>Anredera cordifolia</i> (= <i>Boussingaultia cordifolia</i>)	il-fatata; il-ħobbejza l-falza	Madeira Vine
<i>Aptenia</i> spp. (all species)	l-apternja; widnet il-gurdien	Baby Sun Roses
<i>Arundo donax</i> - see note	il-qasba; il-qasba l-kbira; il-ħasrija; il-ħażrun	Great Reed
<i>Asclepias</i> spp. (all species)	it-tuffieħ tal-fodsqa; qarn il-ħarir	Milkweeds
<i>Asparagus</i> spp. (all species) - see note	l-ispraġġ; l-asparagus	Asparagus
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>		Eastern Baccharis
<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>	il-bambù	Common Bamboo; Feathery Bamboo
<i>Bougainvillea</i> spp. (all species)	il-buganvilli	Bougainvillea Vines; Bouougenville; Drillingsblume
<i>Bryophyllum</i> spp. (all species)	il-maġħrfa; denb il-wiżgħa	Devil's Backbone; Mother-of-Millions; Chandelier Plants
Cactaceae (all species) - see note	il-kaktus	Cactus Family
<i>Cardiospermum</i> spp. (all species)	tuffieħ ir-riħ; l-isfineġ	Balloon Vine; Heart Pea; Heart Seed; Upland Cotton

<i>Carpobrotus</i> spp. (all species)	is-swaba' tal-Madonna; dliel il-Madonna; dwiefer ix-xitan; xuxet San Ġwann	Kaffir Figs; Hottentot Figs
<i>Casuarina</i> spp. (all species)	il-każwarina	Australian Pine Tree; She-Oak
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> (= <i>Vinca rosea</i>)	il-pervinka r-roża	Madagascar Periwinkle; Cape Periwinkle; Rose Periwinkle
<i>Cenchrus</i> spp. (all species)	il-pjumi	Buffelgrasses; Sandburs; Sand Spurs
<i>Chamaecyparis</i> spp. (all species)	iċ-ċipress falz; il-kameċiparis	False Cypress
<i>Chasmanthe</i> spp. (all species)	il-bifri	South African Cornflags; Cobra Lilies; Pennants
<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i> (= <i>Anthericum comosum</i> ; <i>Hartwegia comosa</i>)	ir-rampila	Spider Plant; Spider Ivy; Ribbon Plant
<i>Cortaderia</i> spp. (all species)	il-pjuma l-kbira	Pampas Grasses
<i>Cupressus atlantica</i>	iċ-ċipress tal-Magħreb	Moroccon Cypress
<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	iċ-ċipress l-kaħla; iċ-ċipressa tal-Arizona	Arizona Cypress
<i>Cupressus × leylandii</i> (= <i>×Cupressocyparis leylandii</i> ; <i>×Cuprocyparis leylandii</i>)	iċ-ċipressa l-baġħla	Leyland Cypress
<i>Delairea odorata</i> (= <i>Senecio mikanioides</i>)	il-liedna s-safra	German Ivy; Cape Ivy
<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i> (= <i>Bignonia unguis-cati</i> ; <i>Doxantha unguis-cati</i> ; <i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>)	dwiefer il-qattus; sieq il-qattus	Cat-Claw Ivy; Catsclaw Trumpet
<i>Drosanthemum hispidum</i> (= <i>Mesembryanthemum hispidum</i>)	id-drożantema; il-kristallina l-vjola	Hairy Dewflower; Miniature Pigs Face
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> (= <i>Pontederia crassipes</i>)	wardet in-Nil	Common Water Hyacinth
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. (all species) - see note	l-ewkalipus; is-siġra tal-gamiem	Gums; River Gums; Eucalypts; Tuarts
<i>Ficus</i> spp. (excluding <i>Ficus carica</i>) - see note	is-siġar tal-fikus	Indian Figs; Ficus Trees
<i>Freesia</i> spp. (all species)	il-friżja; il-freżja	Freesias

<i>Gomphocarpus</i> spp. (all species)	it-tuffieħ tal-fodsqa	Milkweeds
<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>		Giant Rhubarb; Chilean Rhubarb
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>		Giant Hogweed
<i>Heracleum persicum</i>		Persian Hogweed; Hogweed
<i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i>		Sosnowskyi's Hogweed
<i>Humulus scandens</i> s.l. (including <i>Humulus japonicus</i>)		Japanese Hop
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>		Himalayan Balsam
<i>Ipomoea</i> spp. (all species)	il-kampanelli	Morning Glories
<i>Lantana camara</i>	il-lantana	Shrub Verbena; Yellow Sage
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> (= <i>Acacia leucocephala</i>)	l-albizzja; il-gaġżija l-bajda	Lead Tree; White Popinac; Cow Tamarind; Wild Tamarind
<i>Lycium barbarum</i>	l-għawseġ taz-xarq; il-goxi s-selvaġġ	Red Medlar; Himalayan Goji; Ghost Thorn
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>		Japanese Climbing Fern
<i>Malephora</i> spp. (all species)	il-kristallini l-ħomor; il-kristallini l-oranġo; il-kristallini s-sofor	Mesembs; Red Ice Plants
<i>Melia azederach</i>	is-siġra tat-tosku	Indian Bead Tree; Cinaberry Tree
<i>Mirabilis</i> spp. (all species)	il-ħummejr	Marvels-of-Peru; Four o'clock Flowers
<i>Monstera deliciosa</i>	il-mostera; sieq l-iljun	Swiss Cheese Plant; Mexican Breadfruit
<i>Myrtus communis</i> subsp. <i>tarentina</i> - see note	ir-riħan tal-weraq żgħir	Tarentum Myrtle; Small-Leaved Myrtle
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	it-tabakk tas-swar; is-siġra tat-tabakk; it-tabakk l-isfar	Tree Tobacco; Mustard Tree
<i>Nothoscordum borbonicum</i>	it-tewm tal-qsari; it-tewm tal-fwieħa	Honeybells; Fragrant False Garlic, Onion Weed
<i>Opuntia</i> spp. (all species) - see note	il-bajtar tax-xewk; il-bajtar tal-Indi; il-bajtar tal-linka; iċ-ċuplajs	Prickly Pears
<i>Oxalis</i> spp. (all species)	il-ħaxixa Inġliża; il-qarsu; l-Inġliża r-roża	Cape Sorrel; Wood Sorrels; Pink Sorrels; False Shamrocks; Oxalises
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>		Santa Maria Feverfew; Famine Weed; Whitetop Weed

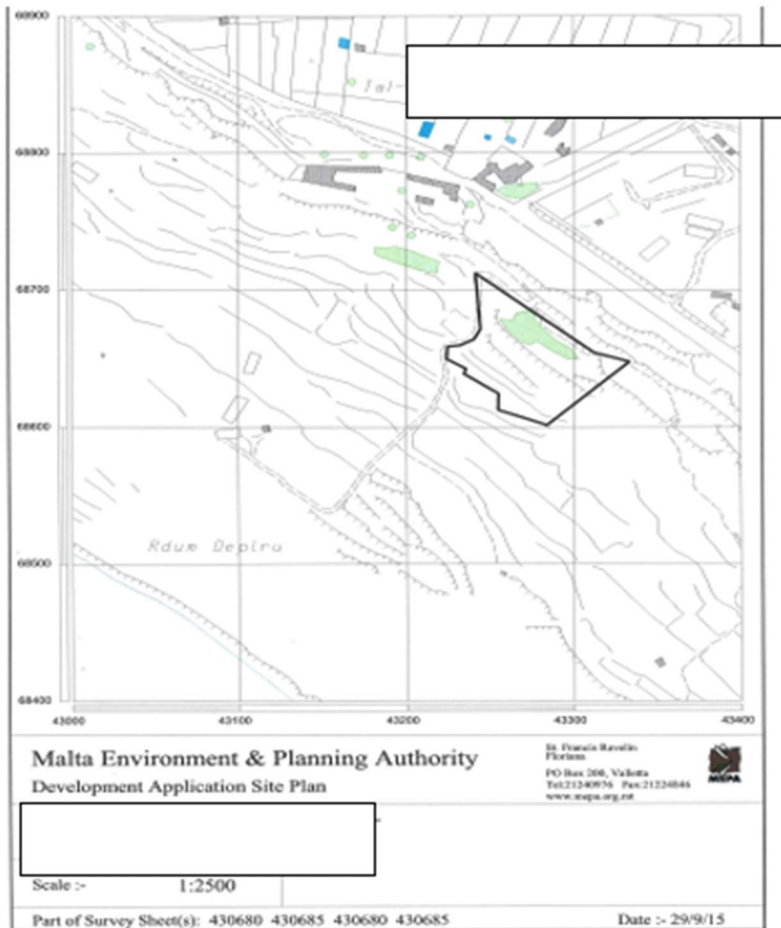
<i>Passiflora caerulea</i>	il-warda tal-passjoni	Passion Flower
<i>Pelargonium</i> spp. (all species)	is-sardinell	Geraniums
<i>Pennisetum</i> spp. (all species)	il-pjuma; il-pjuma ż-żgħira; il-penniżetum; ir-rixa	Crimson Fountaingrasses; Feathertops
<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	denb l-għafrit; denb ix-xitan	Mile-a-Minute Weed
<i>Phytolacca dioica</i>	is-siġra tal-qlalet; l-ombu	Elephant Tree; Tree Pokeweed; Ombu Tree
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	lż-żnuber il-ħamra; lż-żnuber tal-Lvant	Brutia Pine; Calabrian Pine; Turkish Pine
<i>Pistacia atlantica</i>	il-pistaċċa l-bagħla	Mount Atlas mastic; Persian turpentine
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	il-pittosporum	Shrubby Putterlick; Japanese Mock Orange; Tobira
<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>		Mesquite
<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	il-kuzzu	Kudzu; Asian Arrowroot
<i>Quercus rotundifolia</i> (= <i>Quercus ballota</i> ; <i>Quercus ilex</i> subsp. <i>rotundifolia</i>)	il-ballut Iberiku	Iberian Oak; Ballota Oak
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	ir-robinja	False Acacia; Black Locust
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	ir-riġnu; il-ħaruwija	Castor Oil Plant
<i>Sansevieria</i> spp. (all species)	Isien in-nisa	African Snake Plants; Devil's Tongue
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	is-siġra tal-bżar; il-bżar falz	Brazilian Pepper
<i>Searsia lancea</i> (= <i>Rhus lancea</i>)	ix-xumakk tal-Afrika	Willow Sumach; African Sumach; Karee Tree
<i>Senecio angulatus</i>	il-liedna s-safra	Cape Ivy; Creeping Groundsel
<i>Symphoyotrichum squamatus</i> (= <i>Aster squamatus</i>)	is-settembrina salvagġa; l-aster	Narrow-Leaved Aster
<i>Tamarix</i> spp. (excluding <i>Tamarix africana</i>) - see note	il-bruk ta' barra	Tamarisk Trees
<i>Thuja</i> spp. (all species)	it-tuja; iċ-ċipress falz	Arbor-Vitae; Thuya Trees
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>		Small-Leaved Spiderwort; Inch Plant; Wandering Jew
<i>Trapaeolum majus</i>	il-kabuċċinella	Garden Nasturtium; Tall Nasturtium; Indian Cress
<i>Triadica sebifera</i>		Chinese Tallow
<i>Ulmus</i> spp. (excluding <i>Ulmus canescens</i>) - see note	l-ulmi ta' barra	Elm Trees
<i>Vachellia karroo</i> (= <i>Acacia karroo</i>)	il-gażżija tax-xewk; ix-xewk ta' kristu; l-akaċja tax-xewk	Karoo Thorn; Sweet Thorn
<i>Vinca major</i>	il-pervinka	Greater Periwinkle

<i>Vitis</i> spp. (all species) - see note	id-dielja	Grape Vines
<i>Yucca</i> spp. (all species)	il-jukki	Adam's Needles-and-Thread; Lord's Candlesticks; Needle Palms; Spanish Bayonets; Spanish Daggers; Tree Lilies; Yuccas
<i>Zantedischia</i> spp. (all species)	il-buqari	Arum Lilies; Calla Lilies

Annex III: Guidance for the submission of documents for interventions that include trees.⁸

The below examples are to be used as guidance by architects preparing supporting documentation for RDP Measures.

A) **General:** A zoomed out site plan of site⁹ on official PA Sheet as in the example below:

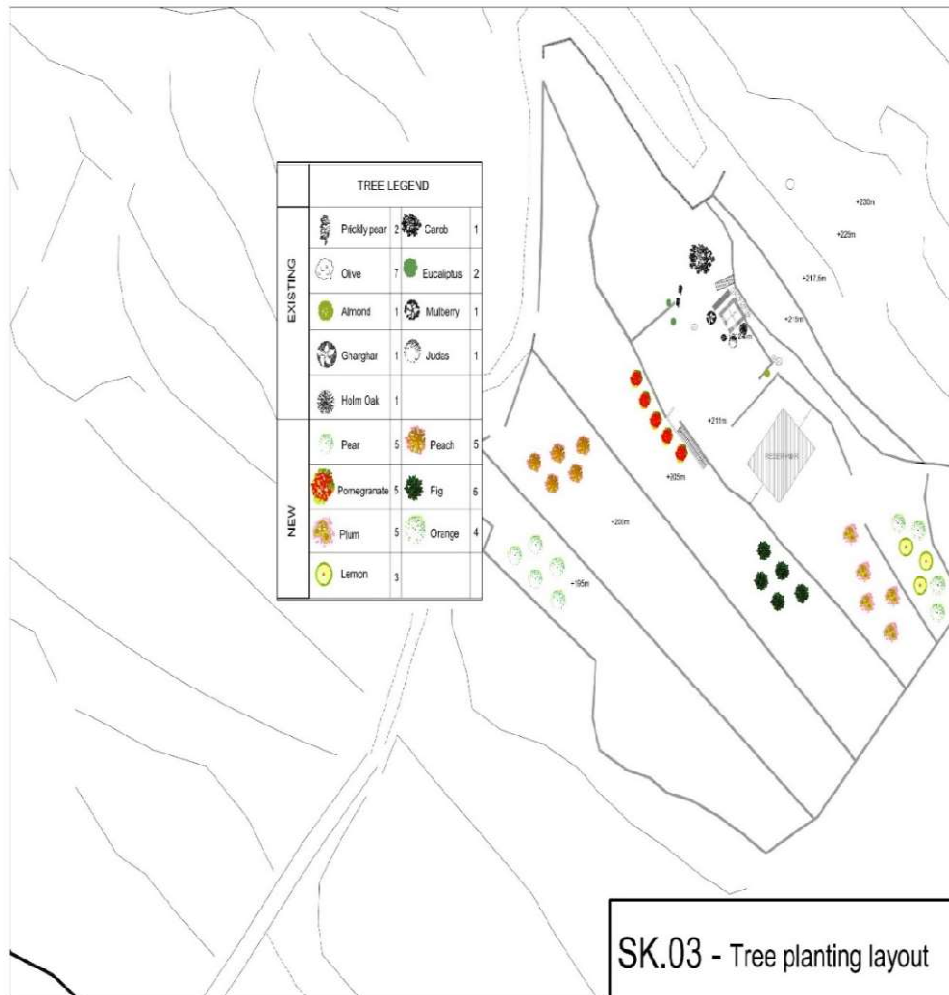


⁸ These are generic guidelines for CSP sub-measures. Reference to guidelines to identify if a line-item is eligible or not should be made.

⁹ The most recent orthophoto from the Planning Authority (PA) or similar imagery should be used. Interventions are to be clearly indicated with an adequate legend.

B) In case of removal and planting of trees¹⁰;

- i) Each tree to be removed is to be clearly marked
- ii) Each tree to be planted is to be clearly marked
- iii) Clear indication of the registered parcel number



¹⁰ Interventions are to be clearly indicated with an adequate legend.

¹¹ Interventions are to be clearly indicated with an adequate legend.

Name and Surname

(Block Capitals)

Signature of Professional

Date: _____