



C1 - Action Report on Plants Produced vs Targets

Action C1 refers to the enlargement and operation of native flora nursery for target species propagation. This action is of extreme importance in order to achieve the project's targets, since the plants produced within aforementioned nursery constitute the main input for LIFE VIDALIA's intervention areas.

To achieve the conservation targets of actions C2 to C4, within the scope of LIFE VIDALIA project, the existing nursery was enlarged and its productive capacity improved, allowing for plant production with no constraints of note.

During LIFE VIDALIA implementation, the following plants have been produced for the project's works:

Table 1 – Nursery production –actual production vs foreseen production

Species	Planned Nursery Production	Actual Nursery Production				
		Total	2019	2020	2021	2022
<i>Azorina vidalii</i>	15 350	16 410	360	3 194	13 314	33 278
<i>Lotus azoricus</i>	5 600	231	3 619	3 003	5 159	12 012
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<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	2 975	1 200	234	1 001	1 892	4 327
<i>Erica azorica</i>	5 000	3 000	6 000	7 120		16 120
<i>Euphorbia azorica</i>	2 225	730	77	227	770	1 804
<i>Festuca petrae</i>	47 100	26 439	231	7 894	600	35 164
<i>Morella faya</i>	2 250	350	1000	580		1 930
<i>Solidago azorica</i>	4 750	1 000	-	1 500		2 500
<i>Daucus carota</i>	750			4720		4 720
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	4 750		231	9 483	1 232	10 946
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	-		154			154
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	-		77			77
<i>Gaudinia coarctata</i>	-		77			77
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	-			1 155		1 155
<i>Myosotis maritima</i>	-		154	2048		2 202
<i>Picconia azorica</i>	-			129		129
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	-		154	13 103		13 257
<i>Tolpis succulenta</i>	-			418		418
Produced Target Species	20 950	16 641	3 979	6 197	18 473	45 290
Produced Companion Species	66 950	32 719	8 389	49 378	4 494	94 980

Regarding the target species, the nursery production goals were surpassed during 2019 for *Azorina vidalii* and during 2021 for *Lotus azoricus*. As of now, the total production numbers are almost 2,5 times higher than foreseen regarding *Azorina vidalii*. As for *Lotus azoricus*, the number of produced plants is nearly 4 times higher than what initially expected. These numbers were achieved thanks to a combination of factors, including the improved nursery



infrastructure, but also the new propagation protocols developed within the scope of LIFE VIDALIA for both target species.

During the project implementation, it has been understood that *Azorina vidalii* productions work better early in spring, but this presents a limitation, as the plants will be ready for the field during summer and the hot sun and the dryness can pose a threat for a recently planted plant. Seeding during the first days of march can be a good alternative, as this will allow for the plant to be put on its definite spot before the warmest days of the year, which adds to its survival chances.

Regarding companion species, some plants offered unexpected difficulties in production, such as *Euphorbia Azorica*, which has an extremely fast life cycle while in the nursery, and tends to go from seed to bloom in few weeks. We suspect now that for this and other species, such as *Daucus carota* subsp. *azoricus*, direct seeding in the intervention areas is probably the option that presents the better chances of success.

As the project took its course, some other species were added to the companion species list and were produced in order to complement the habitat recovery works in the intervention areas. Those species are the last 8 listed above, and some of them were instrumental in the restoration of the habitats where *Azorina vidalii* and *Lotus azoricus* occur.

In total, the number of plants produced is considerably higher than expected, showing the efforts undertaken by the project team, supported on new methodologies and enhanced infrastructures that, as the project implementation ends, will play an important part in future actions regarding conservation efforts of Azorean species and habitats.