



LIFE Project Number
LIFE09 NAT /HU/000384

Final Report
Covering the project activities from 01/10/2010 to 31/12/2014

Reporting Date
31/03/2015

LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym
**Conservation of Falco cherrug in Northeast Bulgaria,
Hungary, Romania and Slovakia**

Data Project

Project location:	Northeast Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia
Project start date:	01/10/2010
Project end date:	31/12/2014
Total budget:	€ 4 032 828
EC contribution:	€ 3 006 470
(%) of eligible costs:	74,55

Data Beneficiary

Name Beneficiary	Bükk National Park Directorate
Contact person	Mr. József Fidlóczy
Postal address	Sánc u. 6., H-3304 Eger
Telephone	+36-36-411581 + direct n°:+36-30-349 5664
Fax:	+36-36-412791
E-mail	fidlojo@gmail.com
Project Website	www.sakerlife.mme.hu

1. List of contents

2. Executive summary.....	4
2.1. Project objective.....	4
2.2. Deliverable and outputs.....	4
2.3. Summary of chapters.....	4
3. Introduction.....	7
3.1. Overall and specific objectives.....	7
3.2. Sites are involved.....	7
3.3. Species are targeted.....	7
3.4. Main conservation issues being targeted (including threats).....	8
3.5. Socio-economic context.....	8
3.6. Expected longer term results.....	8
4. Administrative part.....	9
4.1. Description of the management system.....	9
4.2. Evaluation of the management system.....	11
5. Technical part.....	13
5.1. Technical progress, per task.....	13
5.1.1. Action A: Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or of action plans	13
<i>A1: Assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies and related habitat</i>	13
<i>A2: Elaboration of habitat management guideline for grasslands and proposal for</i>	17
<i>A3: Preparing guideline about the effect of wind farms on F. cherrug population for</i>	18
<i>A4: Identifying of prey assortment using of video camera and photo traps at nests to</i>	21
5.1.2. Action C: Concrete conservation actions.....	28
<i>C1: Implement, promote and enforce the agri-environment scheme for S. citellus</i>	28
<i>C2: Production and installation of nest boxes in Bulgaria and Romania according to</i>	30
<i>C3: Repatriation of S. citellus on Natura 2000 habitats where it is missing in Hungary,</i>	32
<i>C4: Locate and insulate dangerous electric pylons</i>	36
<i>C5: Keeping and breeding of injured birds and repatriation of juveniles</i>	40
<i>C6: Guarding of endangered nests by photo traps and video cameras</i>	42
<i>C7: Marking juveniles with PTT to collect migratory and immigration data</i>	43
5.1.3. Action E: Monitoring.....	45
<i>E1: Monitoring of installed nest boxes in Bulgaria and Romania according to the Hungarian and Slovak experience (incl. collection & analysis of food remains)</i>	45
<i>E2: Monitoring of repatriated S. citellus population using the Hungarian and Slovak experience of former LIFE project</i>	46
<i>E3: Efficiency control of dangerous electric pylon's insulation</i>	49
<i>E8: Baseline survey to monitor project success</i>	50
<i>E9: Collecting migratory and immigration data by satellite telemetry, bird ringing and feather analysis</i>	51
5.2. Dissemination actions.....	52
5.2.1. Objectives.....	52
5.2.2. Dissemination overview per activity.....	52
<i>D1: Lobbying for installation of nest boxes in electric pylons</i>	52
<i>D2: Lobbying for insulation of electric pylons</i>	54
<i>D3: Erecting information signs at project site</i>	55
<i>D4: Design and operate project web site</i>	56
<i>D5: Secure public support for conservation efforts</i>	57
<i>D6: Informing media about project's aims, activities and achievements</i>	61

<i>D7: Layman's report</i>	63
5.3. Evaluation of Project Implementation.....	65
5.3.1. Environmental benefits.....	65
5.3.2. Results achieved.....	66
5.4. Analysis of Long term benefit.....	75
5.4.1. Environmental benefits.....	75
5.4.2. Long-term benefit and sustainability.....	75
5.4.3. Replicability, demonstration, transferability, cooperation.....	76
5.4.4. Best Practice lessons.....	76
5.4.5. Innovation and demonstration value.....	77
5.4.6. Long term indicators of the project success.....	78
6. Comments on the financial report.....	79
6.1. Summary of Costs Incurred.....	79
6.1.1. Comments on the costs categories.....	79
6.2. Accounting system.....	82
6.3. Partnership arrangements.....	82
6.4. Auditor's report/declaration.....	82
6.5. Summary of costs per action.....	83
7. Annexes.....	86
7.1. Administrative annexes.....	86
7.2. Technical annexes.....	86
7.2.1. <i>List of abbreviations</i>	87
7.2.2. <i>Other Technical annexes</i>	89
7.2.3. <i>After-LILE Conservation Plan</i>	89
7.3. Dissemination annexes.....	89
7.3.1. <i>Layman's report</i>	89
7.3.2. <i>Other dissemination annexes</i>	89
7.4. Final table of indicators.....	90
8. Financial report and annexes.....	90

2. Executive Summary

2.1. Project objectives:

It aimed to reinforce the on-going efforts to strengthen the European core populations of *F. cherrug*, to transfer the knowledge and experiences of Hungarian and Slovak partners to Bulgarian and Romanian partners and help them to implement the best practices of *F. cherrug* conservation. The project also aimed to eliminate some endangering threat in the core area and to create favourable conditions for the potential expanding core population in the neighbouring countries, achieving thus stabilisation in the short-term and through this a steady growth of the *F. cherrug* population in Europe after the measures taken in this project take effect.

2.2. Deliverable and outputs:

GIS maps of land use practices, the agri-environmental measure for *F. cherrug* was elaborated and incorporated into the system, 1000 Bulgarian & 2000 Romanian leaflets were produced and distributed, 40+100 farmers contacted & informed (A1, A2); 42 birds tagged by PTT & 4x100 copies of guidelines were published in four languages and distributed among decision makers (A3, C7); articles about prey composition were published (A4); the scheme was included in the final proposal of RDP 2014 – 2020 of Slovakia (C1); 144 nest boxes were installed, four of which were occupied (C2, D1, E1); *S. citellus* populations were re-established in five SPAs (C3, E2); nearly 9000 medium voltage electric pylons were converted to bird safe (C4, D2, E3); 4 cages were built and 12 injured birds were treated (C5); endangered nests were successfully protected by the applied surveillance system in Slovakia (C6); valuable migration data were collected by 5 PTT tagged juveniles (C7, E9); electric companies are convinced to do bird protection on the electric network (D1, D2); 22 information boards were displayed (D3); active web page: there were 302 879 visitors over the project period on the site (D4); 2000 copies of A2 size posters, 1000 copies of A3 size posters, 300 pcs of T-shirts and 500 copies of brochures, 4500 copies of A4 size leaflets, project film in 1000 DVD and the *F. cherrug* breeding in 300 DVD (D5); very active dissemination via the media (D6); 4000 copies of Layman's report (D7); baseline population data of Bulgaria and Romania identified (E8).

2.3. Summary of chapters:

2.3.1.1. Introduction

The overall objective of the project was to reinforce the on-going efforts to strengthen the European core populations of *Falco cherrug*, a globally threatened species on Annex I of the Birds Directive. The project aimed to transfer the knowledge and experiences of Hungarian and Slovak partners gained during the LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project to Bulgarian and Romanian partners to create favourable conditions for the potential expanding core population in the neighbouring countries. At the same time, the project also aimed to eliminate some endangering threats in the core area too. There were 36 Natura 2000 areas involved in the project within four countries. Beside *F. cherrug* another endangered species *Spermophilus citellus* was also target species of the project. Loss and degradation of natural nest sites, unfavourable habitat conditions for *F. cherrug*, electrocution, unknown effect of wind power plants, shooting, poisoning and nest robberies, breeding failure due to public unawareness, lack of adequate information about the *F. cherrug* population in Bulgaria & Romania and its connection to the *F. cherrug* populations in the neighbouring countries are the main threats that were targeted by the project. Government bodies, regional and local governments, land owners, land users, wind power station investors, electric companies, NGOs, educational institutions, hunters

and local peoples are the stakeholders. It is expected that the breeding *F. cherrug* population will increase up to 7 pairs in Dobrudzha in Bulgaria, 210 pairs in Hungary, 15 in Romania and at least 40 pairs in Slovakia in 2020.

2.3.2. Administrative part

The project management was outsourced by tender to Fencon Ltd. A Project Manager and a Project Administrator did the project management. Each of the associated beneficiaries appointed a coordinator as a contact person for the project management. Partnership agreements were signed. An electronic Project Hand Book was prepared and it was introduced to all staff and volunteers participating in the project by training. Annual work plans were prepared by the beneficiaries and approved by the project manager. A Steering Committee was formed to monitor the project implementation. The Project Manager regularly visited the beneficiaries to ensure the smooth implementation of the project and prepared the scheduled reports to EC. The Project Administrator continuously checked the beneficiaries' financial reports and arranged the money transfer for the beneficiaries.

2.3.3. Technical part

A detailed knowledge base was established on the exact effect of specific agricultural practices and subsidy systems on *F. cherrug* habitats and food supply. The results supported the agri-environmental measure for *F. cherrug* that was proposed to and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Bulgaria and in Romania. The knowledge base will help to elaborate the management plans of the SPAs. 1000 copies of Bulgarian leaflets & 2000 copies of Romanian/Hungarian are prepared and distributed. Project staff and specialists are in close contacts annually with an estimated 40 farmers in Bulgaria, and 100 farmers in W-Romania provide information and advice about the habitat management practices (A1). A habitat rehabilitation management method has prepared to protect the *S. citellus* (A2). In Hungary:30, in Romania 4+4, in Slovakia 4 birds tagged with PTT. In Bulgaria two of them were monitored. 400 copies of guideline about the effect of wind farms on *F. cherrug* population for authorities evaluating wind farm's applications in Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages. Guidelines were distributed among national environment institutions (A3). Nearly 3000 data about the prey of *F. cherrug* were collected by video cameras and photo traps in different habitat and evaluated (A4). The agri-environment scheme for *S.citellus* was accepted and included in the final proposal of RDP 2014 – 2020 (C1). In Bulgaria 20 nest boxes, in Romania 127 nest boxes are installed in priority within SPAs. There were successful breeding in four of them (C2-E1). In Hungary 235 *S.citellus*, in Romania 252 *S. citellus* and in Slovakia 450 *S. citellus* were repatriated from different donor areas to some new habitats. Altogether 5 new *S. citellus* habitats were established (C3-E2). In Bulgaria 400 pylons, in Hungary 6547 pylons, in Romania 863 pylons and in Slovakia 1138 pylons were made bird safe (C4-E3). In Romania and in Slovakia 2-2 cages were built for treatment of injured birds where 10 injured *F. cherrug* were treated. There were 4 treated injured *F. cherrug* also in Hungary. Out of them two were recovered and released (C5). Three nests were guarded by photo traps successfully (C6). 5 juveniles were tagged to collect migratory data in Romania. Migratory route and wintering area of Romanian *F. cherrug* was identified. Potential breeding sites were identified. CMS adopted the Global Action Plan with our commitment in 2014 (C7). 22 information signs were erected (D3). An accessible and up-to-date web site was prepared which was visited by 302 879 visitors from 147 countries (D4). 2x1000 copies of A2 size posters in Bulgarian, and Romanian languages, 1000 copies of A3 size posters in Hungarian language, 300 pcs of T-shirts and 500 copies of brochures were produced in Slovakia, 2x1000 Bulgarian & Romanian +2500 Hungarian copies of A4 size leaflets, 1000 DVD

in five languages (Bulgarian, English, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak) and 300 DVD about the *F. cherrug* breeding were published and distributed (D5). The project's activities were well presented in the media. There were more than hundred times different information presented about it. 22 articles were published also (D6).

2.3.4. Financial Part

The target of the project was achieved with about 10% less costs as was planned. The work was based on the annual work plans and budget. The project management follows the work and checked the expenses monthly and quarterly in case of foreign partners. Except Slovakia national currencies were used. Annual exchange rates were used to convert it to Euro. In Hungary the exchange rate has changed very much from 2009 when we planned the project until the end of the project in 2014. Basically this was the main reason for the lower costs. Only the personnel costs was slightly overspent.

3. Introduction

3.1. Overall and specific objectives

3.1.1. **The overall objective** of the project was to reinforce the on-going efforts to strengthen the European core populations of *Falco cherrug*, a globally threatened species on Annex I of the Birds Directive also identified as priority species for LIFE-Nature projects. The total European breeding population was estimated to 450 pairs. Currently, Hungary and Slovakia hold about 47% of the total European population. The juveniles are roaming in very large areas from Spain to Kazakhstan but they spend more time in Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia where there are more, less densely populated suitable habitats. These habitats can be potential expansion areas for the core population, if there would be enough nesting place and the endangering factors would be reduced.

3.1.2. The specific objectives

- The project aimed to transfer the knowledge and experiences of Hungarian and Slovak partners gained during the LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project to Bulgarian and Romanian partners and help them to implement the best practices of *F. cherrug* conservation.
- At the same time, the project also aimed to eliminate some endangering threats in the core area too.
- To create favourable conditions for the potential expanding core population in the neighbouring countries, aiming to achieve stabilisation in the short-term and through this a steady growth of the *F. cherrug* population in Europe after the measures taken in this project take effect.

3.2. Sites are involved

- 3.2.1. **In Bulgaria:** BG0002039 Harsovska Reka, BG0002048 Suha Reka, BG0002049 Shabla Lake Complex, BG0000156 Durankulak Lake, BG0002051 Kaliakra, BG0002082 Batova, BG0002085 Chairya
- 3.2.2. **In Hungary:** HUBN10002 Borsodi-sík, HUBN10004 Hevesi-sík, HUBN10005 Kesznyéten, HUDD10008 Belső-Somogy, HUFH10004 Mosoni sík, HUKN10001 Felső-Kiskunsági szikes puszták és a turjánvidék, HUKN10002 Kiskunsági szikes tavak és az őrzégi turjánvidék, HUKN10007 Alsó-Tisza-völgy, HUKM10002 Kis-Sárrét, HUKM10004 Vásárhelyi és Csanádi puszták, HUKM10005 Cserebökényi-puszták,
- 3.2.3. **In Romania:** ROSPA0011 Blahnița, ROSPA0013/ROSCI0039 Calafat-Ciuperceni-Dunăre, ROSPA0014 Câmpia Cermeiului, ROSPA0015 Câmpia Crișului Alb și Crișului Negru, ROSPA0016 Câmpia Nirului-Valea Ierului, ROSPA0023/ROSCI0045 Confluența Jiu-Dunăre, ROSPA0046 Gruia-Gârla Mare, ROSPA0047 Hunedoara Timișană, ROSPA0067 Lunca Barcăului, ROSPA0069 Lunca Mureșului Inferior, ROSPA0095 Pădurea Macedonia, ROSPA0097 Pescăria Cefa - Pădurea Rădvani, ROSPA0103 Valea Alceului, ROSPA0106/ ROSCI 0166 Valea Oltului Inferior
- 3.2.4. **In Slovakia:** SKCHVU014 Malé Karpaty, SKCHVU016 Záhorské Pomoravie, SKCHVU017 Muránska planina – Stolica, SKCHVU023 Uľanská mokrad' However some activities (for example C4) were carried out outside the Natura 2000 areas.

3.3. Species are targeted

Falco cherrug a globally threatened species on Annex I of the Birds Directive was the main targeted species but *Spermophilus citellus* as a food source was also targeted.

3.4. Main conservation issues being targeted (including threats)

- Loss and degradation of natural nest sites (Actions C2, D1, E1).
- Unfavourable habitat conditions for *F. cherrug* (Actions A1, A2, A4, C1, C3, C7).
- Electrocution (Actions C4, D2, E3).
- Unknown effect of wind power plants (Action A3).
- Shooting, poisoning and nest robberies (Actions C5, C6).
- Breeding failure due to public unawareness (Actions D3-D7).
- Lack of adequate information about the *F. cherrug* population in Bulgaria & Romania and its connection to the *F. cherrug* populations in the neighbouring EU countries (Actions C7, E8, E9).

3.5. Socio-economic context

Stakeholder groups and their likely attitude to the project:

- Governmental bodies:
 - *Nature conservation authorities*: (+) Provided permissions to work with the protected species. (-) Nature conservation and environment experts are replaced by lawyers in Hungary. (+) In Bulgaria the Ministry of Environment and Water has accepted the data gathered during the project to actualize the SDFs of the project target SPAs.
 - *Agricultural and rural development authorities*: (-) In Hungary they are nationalizing NGO's land and leasing to business farmers. (+) Long-term nature conservation ensured.
- Regional and local municipalities: (+/-) eco-tourism/possible restrictions
- Land-owners, land-users: (+/-) possible future funding and/or restrictions on agricultural activities in core areas
- Wind power stations investors: (+) awareness raised on wind farms planning and construction in habitats and potential areas for Sakers.
- Electric companies: (+) increased interest and initiative in securing power lines, which is beneficial both for birds and local people.
- Tourists, travel agencies: (+/-) increase in tourism potential of the area/ possible future restrictions on tourism in nesting areas.
- MME/BirdLife Hungary: (+) promote species and habitat conservation, long-term nature conservation ensured.
- Other nature conservationists: (+) contribute to a long-term, realistic species and habitat conservation and management project.
- Scientific and educational institutes: (+) directly and indirectly share the outcome of the project.
- Local people: (+) increase in tourism potential of the area, increased awareness on the need of conservation of the species and its habitats.
- Hunters: (-/+) increase of raptors, improved habitat

3.6.Expected longer term results

The *F. cherrug* population will increase up to 7 pairs in Dobrudzha in Bulgaria, 210 pairs in Hungary, 15 in Romania and at least 40 pairs in Slovakia in 2020.

4. Administrative part

4.1. Description of the management system

4.1.1. Description and schematic presentation of working method, including overview of project phases, activities and planning

In the preparation phase the project management started the work with work planning. The work was divided by years and the first year by months. The budget was also adjusted to the work plan. In the main time technical, communication and financial guidelines were prepared and an electronic Project Handbook were compiled including the Partnership Agreement, guidelines, work plans, budgets, common provisions etc. Training was organised for all staff involved in the project to standardise the implementation of the work.

Table 1: Proposed work schedule and implementation

Action Number	2010			2011					2012				2013				2014			
	September	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV		
Actual project schedule	X-Start		X-IR		X-MR					X-PR1	X-PR	PR2-X	X-MR					XEndX		
	preparation phase			I M P L E M E N T A T I O N																
A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or action plans :																				
1.					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
2.					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
3.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
C. Concrete conservation actions :																				
1.					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
2.					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3.					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
5.						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
6.					✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓			
7.						✓				✓				✓						
D. Public awareness and dissemination of results :																				
1.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
2.					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
3.					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
4.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
5.							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
6.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
7.																	✓			
E. Overall project operation and monitoring:																				
1.									✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		
2.				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3.					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
5.				✓				✓				✓				✓		✓		
6.				✓																
7.					✓				✓				✓				✓			
8.					✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓		
9.						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
10.																		✓		

X-Start=implemented as planned; X-MR=planned; X-PR=implemented
IR=Inception Report; MR=Mid-term Report; PR=Progress Report

After the training the implementation phase started. The Project Manager tracked the progress by monthly reports provided by the partner coordinators and by visits to the project sites. The project management assisted the beneficiaries by all means through telephone, internet and personal visits. The Steering Committee followed up the work's progress annually.

4.1.2. *Presentation of the beneficiaries*

Co-ordinating beneficiary: Bükk National Park Directorate

Associated beneficiaries:

In Hungary: Kiskunság National Park Directorate, Kőrös-Maros National Park Directorate, EDF-DÉMÁSZ Hálózati Elosztó Kft, ÉMÁSZ Hálózati Kft., MAVÍR Zrt., MME/BirdLife Hungary, Pro Vértés Nonprofit Zrt., Zöld Folyosó Közalapítvány (ZFK).

In Bulgaria: BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria

In Romania: Association MILVUS Group, SOR/BirdLife Románia

In Slovakia: Raptor Protection of Slovakia, Západoslovenská energetika, a.s.

4.1.3. *Changes in the project management structure*

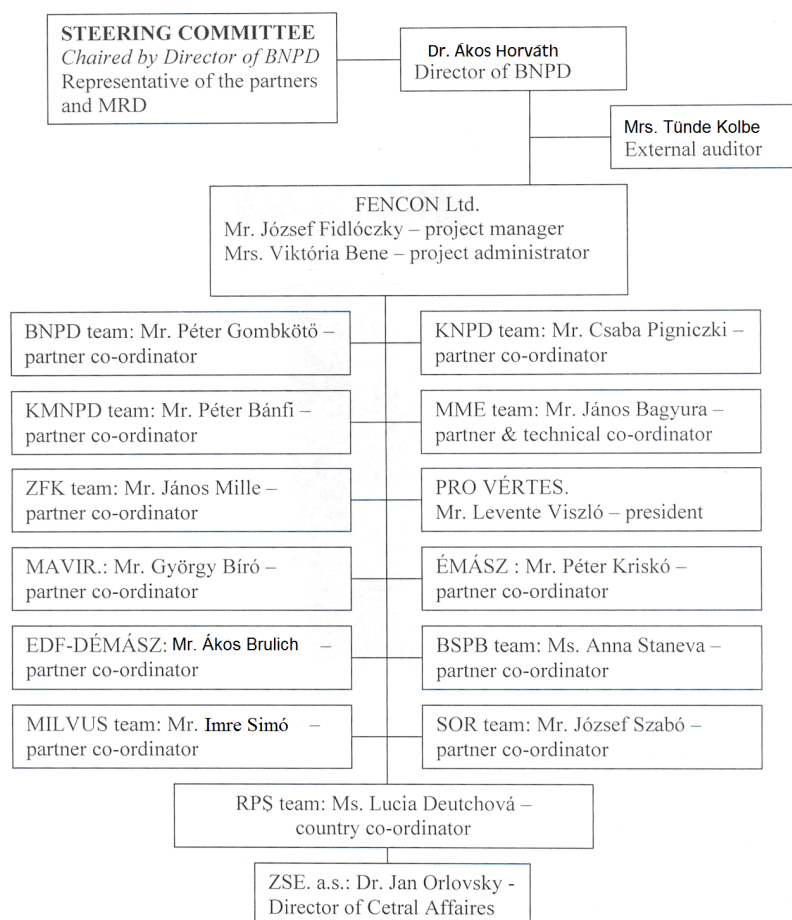
Changes of directors of the Coordinating Beneficiary (BNPD):

Mr. József Duska was replaced by Mr. Szilárd Grédics from 11.10.2011.

Mr. Szilárd Grédics was replaced by Dr. Ákos Horváth from 04.11.2013.

(Mrs. Kálmán Rónai was replaced Dr. Ákos Horváth from 25.03.2015)

4.1.4. *Up to date organigramme of the project team and the project management structure at the end of the project*



4.1.5. *Extension of the project period*

Request for amendment was submitted in August 2014.

The project was extended with three months until the end of 2014 because EDF-DÉMÁSZ could not complete its task due to some unforeseen economic crises what was created by the government.

4.1.6. *Partnership Agreements submitted*

- The Partnership Agreements were submitted with the Inception Report in 2011 (**Refer to Annexes 7.1 of IR**).
- Modification of three Partnership Agreements (MILVUS, MME, ZFK) were submitted with the Progress Report (**Refer to Annexes 7.1 of PR**).
- Modification of nine Partnership Agreements (BSPB, EDF-DÉMÁSZ, ÉMÁSZ, MILVUS, MME, KNPD, KMNPD, RPS, SOR) are submitted with the Final Report (**Annexes 7.1**)

4.2. Evaluation of the management system

4.2.1. *Contracting project management*

The former LIFE project's management began to organise the project's start voluntarily in October 2010. After a successful tender the contract was signed by the selected external assistance (FENCON Consulting Ltd.) on 13 January 2011. FENCON Ltd. was provided the project manager and project administrator and operated the Project Office in the co-ordinating beneficiary's HQ. (Details were given in the Inception Report.)

4.2.2. *Project management activities*

- Partner co-ordinators were appointed by all partner organisations in October 2010. Detailed work plan and budget of all partners were divided by years and by months of the actual target years.
- The acting project manager took part on the Kick-off Meeting in Ljubljana as a volunteer and presented the project on 11-12 January 2011 (**Refer to Annex E4/1 of IR**).
- Travel issue of external Project Manager was solved with the assistance of the Project Monitor and an agreement was signed between the Director of BNPD and the Project Manager about the use of the project car. (**Refer to Annex E4/2 of IR**).
- Project Hand-book (**Refer to Annex E4/3 of IR**) was prepared electronically for each project partner and handed over during the two days project training in Felsőtárkány in Hungary on 21-22 February 2011, where all partners' team took part to learn about the technical, administrative and financial issues of the project implementation (**Refer to Annex E4/4 of IR**).
- Partnership Agreements and Financial Amendment for NGOs were prepared and signed (**Refer to Annex 7.1 of IR**).
- Steering Committee was established and the Steering Committee held annual meetings every March. (**Refer to Annexes E7/1-E7/3 of IR, E7/1-E7/3 of PR, Refer to Annexes E7/1-E7/8 of MTR, and Annexes E7/1-E7/2**).
- The project was managed by FENCON Ltd. on behalf of the co-ordinating beneficiary. The Project Manager had managed the annual work planning and approved the annual work plans and budget. He controlled the work of the

acting Project Administrator. He kept daily contact with the partner co-ordinators by e-mail and telephone. He regularly visited the partners and helped them to solve the incoming problems. He co-ordinated their co-operation by organising and chairing some specific meetings. He was working hard to solve the greatest problem when EDF-DÉMÁSZ refused to fulfil its commitment referring to the government economic policy. He initiated networking with other projects. He was involved in intensive communication with the public. He had several presentations for different audiences. He regularly reported to the Director of the co-ordinated beneficiary. **(Refer to Annexes E4/6 & E4/7 of IR; Refer to Annexes A1/12, A4/7, C4/7, C4/9, D1/1-D1/6, D5/10, D6/4&5, D4/11, E7/1-E7/3 of PR; Refer to Annexes C3/4, C3/5, C4/5, C4/14, C4/18, D1/1, D1/3, E7/1-E7/3, E7/8 of MTR; and Annexes A3/3, A4/4, C4/2, C4/20, D5/5-D5/7, D6/8-D6/11, D7/2-D7/3, E7/1-E7/4, E7/7-E7/8).**

- The Project Administrator and the acting Administrator shared the work until the end of 2012. The Project Administrator kept contact with the foreigner beneficiaries' Financial Managers and/or partner co-ordinators while the acting one kept contact with the Hungarians. They checked the financial reports of the beneficiaries compared to the approved annual work plan and budget. The acting Project Administrator escorted the Project Manager at time to time during his visits of the beneficiaries. They were continuously maintaining the project financial report form with the accepted incurred costs. From the beginning of 2013 the Project Administrator took over the full position after returning from maternity leave. The Project Administrator tried to work closely with the former auditor and worked closely with the replacement.
- Partner Co-ordinators prepared the partner organisations annual work plan and budget and submitted for approval to the Project Manager. They organised and co-ordinated the work of the associated beneficiary and reported the progress and problems to the Project Manager occasionally but at least monthly.
- The project management has a good communication with the Monitoring team and the Commission. The Project Manager has informed the External Monitor about the monthly progress and escorted him and also EC inspection team during their project inspections. The External Monitor and the commission answered all questions promptly and helped to solve all problematic issues.

The applied project management system functioned well. It has established an efficient co-operation and it built a good partnership among state nature conservation organisations, NGOs and corporate even among neighbouring countries.

5. Technical part

5.1. Technical progress, per task

5.1.1. **Action A: Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or of action plans**

Action A1: Assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies and related habitat management practices on *F. cherrug*'s habitat in Bulgaria and Romania applying the Hungarian - Slovak methods January 2011 – June 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
<p>A GIS will be established containing map files of habitats incorporating up to date land cover and prey data.</p> <p>A detailed knowledge base will be established on the exact effect of specific agricultural practices and subsidy systems on <i>F. cherrug</i> habitats and food supply. The results will make it possible to further specify the measures beneficial for <i>F. cherrug</i> and incorporate this into the subsidies. It will help to elaborate the management plans of the SPAs.</p> <p>1000 copies of Bulgarian leaflet & 2000 copies of Romanian/Hungarian leaflets will be prepared.</p> <p>Project staffs and specialists will be in close contacts annually with an estimated 100 farmers in Bulgaria and about 200 farmers in Romania on the sites during this action, provide information and advice.</p>	<p>GIS maps of land use practices are elaborated.</p> <p>A detailed knowledge base was established on the exact effect of specific agricultural practices and subsidy systems on <i>F. cherrug</i> habitats and food supply. The results supported the agri-environmental measure for <i>F. cherrug</i> that was proposed to and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Bulgaria and in Romania. The knowledge base will help to elaborate the management plans of the SPAs.</p> <p>1000 copies of Bulgarian leaflets & 2000 copies of Romanian/Hungarian are prepared and distributed.</p> <p>Project staff and specialists are in close contacts annually with an estimated 40 farmers in Bulgaria, and 100 farmers in W-Romania providing information and advice about the habitat management practices.</p>

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Bulgaria:

The methodology of *F. cherrug* habitat's study developed by the LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project has been translated into Bulgarian and adapted to the existing situation in Bulgaria (Refer to Annex A1/1 of IR). 40 km² pilot areas have been chosen within the two Natura 2000 areas "Batova". (Refer to Annex A1/2 of IR) and "Suha Reka" (Refer Annex A1/3 of IR). Field survey on the potential prey for *F. cherrug* and its habitat, including habitat management data collection was conducted (Refer to Annexes A1/1-A1/2 of PR). The collected field data was statistically analysed (Refer to Annex A1/3 of PR). There were 6 meetings with representatives from municipalities, farmers and land owners from the project area, to collect information on land use practices and EU subsidies, as well as to inform the local people about the existing opportunities for applying for financial support (Refer to Annexes A1/4-A1/5 of PR). Project staff and specialists were in close contacts with an estimated 40 farmers (Refer to Annex A1/6 of PR). An inquiry form was used to collect information from the land owners

(Refer to Annex A1/7 of PR). The survey was conducted within 16 farmers and 10 deputy mayors. A summary of results has been prepared in Bulgarian **(Refer to Annex A1/8 of PR).** The project team has prepared an explanatory text about the importance of pastures and other types of non-irrigated arable land for the presence and abundance of *F. cherrug*'s prey, and the need of land management for the preservation of the potential *F. cherrug*'s habitats in Bulgaria, especially in Dobrudzha (the projects target area) **(Refer to Annex A1/10 of PR).** This text was used as a base for updating the existing agri-environmental measure for the *Aquila heliaca* under measure number 214 – Agri-environmental payments. The final decision of the MoAF was published in the State Gazette in March 2013, as Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance № 11 of 2009 on the terms and conditions for the implementation of Measure 214 "Agri-environmental payments" from the Rural Development Programme for the period 2007 – 2013 **(Refer to Annex A1/2 of MTR).** In 2013 six meetings with farmers from the project area were realized **(Refer to Annexes A1/3-A1/4 of MTR)**, mainly to inform them about the amended measure, the preparation of documents for the 2014 application, and the other options for applying for subsidies as the Natura 2000 measure that can influence the preservation of suitable habitats for *F. cherrug*. During the project period, the Agri-environmental Expert regularly and actively participated in the working groups of MoAF to ensure the integration of the measure in the forthcoming programme period, and the implementation of the other agri-environmental measures. Additionally, 1000 copies of Bulgarian leaflets were prepared and distributed among the local farmers **(Annexes A1/1-A1/2).** The PDF version is also available on BSPB's official web site <http://bspb.org/bg/edition/Prirodosyobraznoto-zemedelir-razumniqt-izbor-za-ptitsite-i-horata.html>. The collected data on prey availability and agricultural practices was analysed and GIS maps were produced and integrated into Habitat management practices report **(Annex A1/3).**

In Romania:

In Macin Niculuțel ROSPA0073 an about 40 sq. km pilot area was selected **(Refer to Annex A1/7 of IR).** Approximately 48 km² most relevant area along ROSPA0069 was selected instead of Campia Crisului Alb si Crisului Negru ROSPA0015 **(Refer to Annex A1/8 of IR).** A basic survey in order to identify crop structure and the applied subsidies, also prey species survey and road kill survey was carried out in these areas **(Refer to Annex A1/9-A1/10 of IR and Annex A1/13 of PR).** The movements of the breeding *F. cherrug* pair were monitored and registered regularly in order to identify the main important hunting areas **(Refer to Annex A1/14 of IR).** We have made regular observation to identify the species captured by the Falcons, carried to the nest to feed the chicks **(Refer to Annex A1/15 of IR).** The male of a breeding pair was successfully tagged, and we obtained important data about the range and movements of the adult male, which partially overlap with our A1 survey area of ROSPA0069 **(Refer to Annex A1/5 of MTR).** The surveys' results are summarised in **Annex A1/4.** The Agri-environmental Working Group of the Ministry of Agriculture was contacted in order to introduce *F. cherrug*-specific measures into the agri-environmental scheme for 2014 already in 2012. We had several meetings with a specialist in agri-environmental schemes (Mr. Răzvan Popa from the Adept Foundation), who is being involved in a working group settled by the MoA and which is responsible for shaping new agri-environmental schemes **(Refer to Annex A1/7 of MTR).** After these discussions we decided to develop an integrated scheme covering not only the *F. cherrug* and *S. citellus*, but also further Annex I. species which are specific for lowland areas from Romania, as *F. vespertinus*, *Coracias garrulous*, and *Lanius minor*. The proposal for integrated scheme was handed over to the MoA in 2014 **(Annex A1/5).** Leaflets have produced and distributed in the main *F. cherrug* areas from both Western Romania and Dobrudzha **(Annexes A1/6-A1/7).**

Hungarian and Slovak partners have assisted the Bulgarian and Romanian partners to initiate this action.

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because *F.cherrug*'s habitat demand was incorporated into the agri-environment schema in Bulgaria and Romania. Farmers were informed about it and how to access to it.

Problems and their impacts:

In Bulgaria:

We could not reach 100 stakeholders, mentioned in the project document, because of the specifics of the management of the arable land in Dobrudzha. The majority of the people contacted by the BSPB's project team are not land owners, but they lease or rent the land they cultivate or graze their animals on. Generally, in Dobrudzha vast areas are being managed under the principle of land consolidation, which means that not the land owners but the leaseholders manage the land. This is the reason why it is most important to contact the leaseholders (which are actually the farmers) instead of the land owners, which are more in numbers but do not decide about the land management.

In Romania:

- Unfortunately there was not any nesting pair in the two project SPA areas in 2011. A new pair was found in outside SPA in a wind farm project area, which was also important for Action A3. We requested EC's approval for the changes of the pilot area for this action from ROSPA0015 to beside ROSPA0069 first time on 26 May 2011.
- The proposed extension of ROSPA0069 finally was not included in the national law (HG971/2011) regarding the modification of SPAs. Therefore MILVUS and ROS have officially protested at the Romanian MoEF for exclusion of the proposed extension of the ROSPA0069 as well as of many other sites (**Refer to Annex A1/17 of PR**). At the same time MILVUS and ROS have informed the DG Environment about the main problems regarded this issue, and have presented reports for many sites including ROSPA0069 among them (**Refer to Annex A1/18 of PR**).
- Unfortunately the old nest was fallen down after the breeding season in 2011 and we could install nest box as a replacement on the electric pylon only after the 2012's breeding season. Therefore no *F. cherrug* bred in the vicinity of ROSPA0069 hence it was not possible to catch an adult bird for being equipped with PTT in 2012.
- We had to wait long for the farmers' data from the land office to be able to contact them but there were some data protection issues what had to be solved.
- We had to wait with the leaflets until the multispecies agri-environmental measures were accepted by the MoA, as the main reason of this leaflet was to push the stakeholders to choose agri-environmental scheme instead of regular Ground-based Payments Scheme. It could not be done until the measures we were going to propose to be included in the Romanian agri-environmental scheme, were not in place.
- Unfortunately large amount of data was lost because of technical problems caused by the PTT in 2013.

Modifications:

In Bulgaria:

- The GIS Expert work was reallocated from Personnel costs to External assistance, at the same time, the Personnel costs of the GIS expert were reallocated to the agri-environmental expert, so the number of working hours of the Agri-environmental Expert was increased. This additional working time was reasonably dedicated to higher effort to inform local farmers and land owners from the project area about the EU subsidies related to different

agri-environmental measures and practices that could positively influence the habitat conditions for *F. cherrug* (**Refer to Annexes A1/3-A1/4 of MTR**).

- The existing agri-environmental measure for the *Aquila heliaca* under measure number 214 – Agri-environmental payments was adjusted to *F. cherrug*'s demand instead of a special one for *F. cherrug* as a successfully working measure in Southern Bulgaria, as well as promoting adequate practices for the preservation of habitats both for the *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug*. The MAF of Bulgaria was more willing to accept the adjustment of the existing measure to the demands of *F. cherrug*, than to implement a separate measure for the *F. cherrug* (**Refer to Annex A1/2 of MTR**). On the other hand, the “hidden” name of *F. cherrug* in the measure's name should be a positive step regarding the sensitive status of the species in Bulgaria and the threat from falconry.

In Romania:

Instead of Campia Crisului Alb si Crisului Negru ROSPA0015 we have selected the most relevant area in ROSPA0069 for the baseline survey, taking into consideration the location of the breeding pair found during the spring 2011, and the daily movements and hunting behaviour of these birds. The selected area was app. 48 km² (**Refer to Annex A1/8 of IR**). This was the only area where *F. cherrug* nest was found in Romania in 2011.

Comments on Commission's requests:

The proposed extension of ROSPA0069 finally was not included in the national law (HG971/2011) regarding the modification of SPAs. Therefore MILVUS and ROS have officially protested at the Romanian MoEF for exclusion of the proposed extension of the ROSPA0069 as well as of many other sites (**Refer to Annex A1/17 of PR**). The two organizations have informed the DG Environment about the omissions of Romania regarding this issue (**Refer to Annex A1/18 of PR**). The ROSPA0069 was one of the main cases what was presented.

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

In Bulgaria:

- Advising farmers how to apply for target programs
- Distribution of the guidelines
- Monitoring of EIA procedures
- Participation in Ministry of Environment and Water and Ministry of Agriculture and Food working groups
- Securing grassland management where *S. citellus* colonies are present

In Romania:

- Advising farmers how to apply for target programs
- Securing grassland management where *S. citellus* colonies are present

Action A2: Elaboration of habitat management guideline for grasslands and proposal for appropriate subsidies to stimulate proper farming on the protected *S. citellus* habitats using the Hungarian - Slovak method as the result of former LIFE project January 2011 – June 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
Habitat rehabilitation and management method developed by LIFE06NAT/H/000096 adapted for grasslands on <i>F. cherrug</i> and <i>S. citellus</i> common habitats of Romania.	A habitat rehabilitation management method has prepared to protect the <i>S. citellus</i> .

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

GPS's coordinates were taken at each site where *S. citellus* was observed, at least 10 new locations for *S. citellus* has been recorded so far (**Refer to Annex A2 of IR**). Several evaluation of *S. citellus* habitat was taken in the three target area (ROSPA0047 Hunedoara Timișană, ROSPA0015 Câmpia Crișului Alb și Crișului Negru, and ROSCI0345 Pajistea Cenad). Different relevant information (management of the pastures, number and species of grazing animals, ecological history of these areas, legal and property issues, etc) were gathered as well (**Refer to Annex A2/2 of PR**). The preliminary results are presented through a report (**Refer to Annex A2/3 of PR**). In 2013 further monitoring activities (abundance surveys etc.) were held in the survey areas (**Refer to Annex A2/1 of MTR**). These data were used also to prepare a preliminary proposal for the Agri-environmental Working Group of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Agri-environmental Working Group of the Ministry of Agriculture was contacted in order to introduce *S. citellus*-specific measures into the agri-environmental scheme for 2014 already in 2012. We had several meetings with a specialist in agri-environmental schemes (Mr. Răzvan Popa from the Adept Foundation), who is being involved in a working group settled by the MoA and which is responsible for shaping new agri-environmental schemes (**Refer to Annex A1/7 of MTR**). After these discussions we decided to develop an integrated scheme covering not only the *F. cherrug* and *S. citellus*, but also further Annex I species which are specific for lowland areas from Romania, as *F. vespertinus*, *Coracias garrulous*, and *Lanius minor*. The proposal for integrated scheme was handed over to the MoA in 2014 (**Annex A1/5**). Leaflets have produced and distributed in the main *F. cherrug* areas from both Western Romania and Dobrugea (**Annexes A1/6-A1/7**). The work is summarised and management guidelines is given in **Annex A2/1**.

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because *F. cherrug*'s habitat demand in grassland management was incorporated into the agri-environment schema in Romania. Farmers were informed about it and how to access to it.

Problems and their impacts:

The proposed extension of ROSPA0069 finally was not included in the national law (HG971/2011) regarding the modification of SPAs. Therefore MILVUS and ROS have officially protested at the Romanian MoEF for exclusion of the proposed extension of the ROSPA0069 (**Refer to Annex A1/17 of PR**).

Modifications:

We intended to extend this activity near to ROSPA0069 too where *F. cherrug* was breeding. Instead of ROSPA0069 extension the work was carried out in ROSCI0345 Pajistea Cenad was

endorsed in December 2011 exactly in the same place which was allocated for *S. citellus* repatriation within the proposed ROSPA0069 extension what was not extended. This SCI was proposed by the MILVUS and it was designated especially for the conservation of *S. citellus* (**Refer to Annex A2/1 of PR**). Unfortunately we found out that one of our survey areas populated with *S. citellus* (Vinga, Arad County) was partially ploughed. As the ploughed grassland lay in a Natura 2000 site designated for *F. cherrug* among other species, it is an illegal activity and a report was sent to the authorities responsible for environment. (**Refer to Annex A2/2 of MTR**).

Comments on Commission's requests:

Please refer to A1.

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

- Advising farmers how to apply for target programs
- Securing grassland management where *S. citellus* colonies are present

Action A3: Preparing guideline about the effect of wind farms on *F. cherrug* population for authorities evaluating wind farm's applications October 2011 – September 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
<p>Birds tagged with PTT:</p> <p>In Bulgaria: monitoring of Hungarian/Slovakian/Romanian tagged birds eventually appeared on Bulgarian territory</p> <p>In Hungary: 24</p> <p>In Romania: 3</p> <p>In Slovakia: 4</p> <p>400 copies of guideline about the effect of wind farms on <i>F. cherrug</i> population for authorities evaluating wind farm's applications in Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages.</p> <p>Guidelines will be distributed among national environment institutions.</p>	<p>Birds tagged with PTT:</p> <p>In Bulgaria: two birds tagged with PTT are monitored within Bulgaria's territory during the project period.</p> <p>In Hungary: 30</p> <p>In Romania: 4+4 juveniles tagged in action C7,</p> <p>In Slovakia: 4</p> <p>400 copies of guideline about the effect of wind farms on <i>F. cherrug</i> population for authorities evaluating wind farm's applications in Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages.</p> <p>Guidelines were distributed among national environment institutions.</p>

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Bulgaria:

Although this activity entirely depended on the appearance of satellite tagged *F. cherrug* from other project countries, BSPB carried out some work on the issue. Detailed maps of some of the wind parks within the project territory were prepared (**Refer to Annex A3/1 of IR**). BSPB's volunteers in the areas of wind parks were instructed to record specific data about the attitude of *F. cherrug* towards wind turbines in case they will have a chance to observe the species close to the wind constructions (**Refer to Annex A3/2 of IR, Annexes A3/1-A3/2 of PR and Annex A3/1 of MTR**). Project information and assistance was provided to enhance the forthcoming government strategic document on the future development of the wind energy sector (**Refer to Annex A3/3 of IR**). All these data has been given to the BSPB's EU Policy Officer for the dialogue with the EC about the implications of wind farm constructions on the migration route Via Pontica in Eastern Bulgaria. A sensitivity map (**Refer to Annex A3/2of**

MTR) of the project area (including data about historical and recent places of observations of *F. cherrug*, the location of existing and planned wind farms, habitat characteristics etc.) was prepared in GIS. Obviously, together with data from satellite tagged birds, these data formed the basis for the Bulgarian version of the guidelines elaborated under this action (**Annex A3/1**). Guidelines were distributed among national environment institutions, national and natural park directorates, private wind energy producer and people involved in the elaboration of EIA (**Annex A3/2**). The PDF version is also available on BSPB's official web site.

In Hungary:

Altogether 21 adults and 9 juveniles were tagged by PTTs along existing and planned wind farms. Out of them 6 adults and 3 juveniles along the largest wind farms in NW-Hungary in the wind farm triangle of Austria-Hungary-Slovakia (**Refer to Annexes A3/4-A3/5 of IR, and Annexes A3/3-A3/5 of PR**). At the beginning we used 3 recovered and repaired transmitters what were used by the former LIFE project. We continuously monitored the movement of the birds and collected information about them (**Refer to Annex A3/6 of PR and Annex A3/4 MTR**). Unfortunately we lost many of them for different reason (collision, poison. etc.) (**Refer to Annex A3/3 of MTR**). Recovered PTTs were reinstalled again. Land use of the existing and potential wind farm areas were checked (**Refer to Annex A3/8 of PR**).

In the main time Janos Bagyura from MME held training for MILVUS team from Romania how to catch adult mail efficiently. An adult female was trapped together ringed and released. Preliminary findings were already presented in the Mid-term Report (**Refer to Annexes A3/5-A3/7 of MTR**). The results of the work of this action were evaluated and presented in the "Útmutató szélerőműparkok telepítésének bírálatához" (Guidelines for evaluation of wind farm plans) (**Annex A3/3**). The results of the action were presented by Mátyás Prommer for the audience of the national zoological meeting and the Guidelines were distributed among the representatives of nature conservation authorities and the national parks participated on the meeting (**Annex A3/4**).

In Romania:

In Western Romania information was collected and evaluated about the planned wind farm along ROSPA0069 exactly where the known breeding pair of *F.cherrug* breeds (**Refer to Annexes A3/6-A3/7 of IR and Annexes A3/9a-b of PR**). In 2013 an adult male named Janos was tagged near the Jimbolia of West Romania where a wind park is planned to be built. Both Janos' and Toro's (the adult male tagged near the A1 area) movements partially overlap with the wind park areas from Jimbolia and Sannicolau Mare respectively. The specific capturing methods used for tagging adult falcons were kindly shared by the MME specialists. The County Environment Office, municipality and investor were informed about the project activities and the potential conflict of wind farm and *F. cherrug* in the area (**Refer to Annex A3/10 of PR**). In Southern Romania study has been carried out concerning the wind-farm project developments in Dobrogea. Milvus Group carried out a 2x10 days camp for monitoring the migrating and local raptor activities in the vicinity of the Macin Mountains, where three wind parks are prepared for construction. The environment authorities were contacted for forthcoming wind farm project implementations as on neighbouring sites of Macin SPA wind measuring pylons were observed (**Refer to Annex A3/8 of IR**). Several observations were made on *F. cherrug* as well (**Refer to Annex A3/11 of PR**). A preliminary report was presented (**Refer to Annex A3/8 of MTR**). Result of the work of this action were evaluated and presented in the "Guidelines for evaluation of wind farm plans" (**Annex A3/5**). Guidelines were distributed among national environment institutions (**Annex A3/6**).

In Slovakia:

4 juveniles in 3 nests in SKCHVU016 in the vicinity of wind power plants in Austria were tagged by PTT (**Refer to Annex A3/9 of IR**). Two birds were electrocuted and one died for

unknown reason in 2011. One of the PTTs was transmitting until November 2012. The bird started to migrate in April 2012 to south-west. The bird spent the winter in Romania and Bulgaria. Bulgarian partners provided regular information based on data from the PTT. In November 2012 signal with the last PTT was lost. The PTT was found by Bulgarian colleagues only with the remains of the bird. The data from all of the PTTs were evaluated and analysed (**Refer to Annexes A3/7 and A3/12 of PR and Annex A3/9 of MTR**). Three main factors were evaluated: distance of the coordinate from the existing wind-power plant, movements and preferences of the tagged *F. cherrug* individuals as well as the barrier effect of the wind-power plants and impact on the studied individuals (**Annex A4/4c**). The results were used to prepare the “Guidelines for evaluation of wind farm plans” (**Annex A3/7**). Guidelines were distributed among national environment institutions (**Annex A3/8**).

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because sufficient number of birds were tagged by PTT and used to identify the effects of wind farms on *F. cherrug*. Guidelines for authorities have been prepared and distributed among the decision makers.

Problems and their impacts:

Trapping attempt in Dobrogea failed.

Tender process in state sector became a very slow and long process in Hungary what delayed the procurement and use of PTTs.

All juveniles tagged in Slovakia in 2011 have died.

The PTT of Janos deployed serious problems and only few data was sent. Manual downloading of the data with a specific antenna did not work out either. Several attempts were made to recapture Janos to change the PTT, but all failed because of the high of the crops and the fact that he is covering a bigger territory after the juveniles left the breeding area.

Modifications:

To speed up the work old PTTs were repaired and used and 4 PTTs were purchased by MME.

BNPD has agreed with MILVUS to buy the PTTs instead what were planned for them and provide PTTs to them in case of need.

Comments on Commission's requests:

Substantial number of birds were tagged despite of the very bad weather in the spring of 2013. We could collect lots of useful information especially along the existing wind farms.

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

Monitoring the wind farm project plans and alerting authorities in case of *F. cherrug*'s habitat would be endangered.

Action A4: Identifying of prey assortment using of video camera and photo traps at nests to convince hunters and pigeon keepers January 2011 – September 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
Collect data about the prey composition of <i>F. cherrug</i> in different habitat in the breeding season what can be used to convince hunters and pigeon keepers in the frame of Action D5.	Nearly 3000 data about the prey of <i>F. cherrug</i> were collected by video cameras and photo traps in different habitat and evaluated.

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Hungary:

By Video captures:

MAVIR in cooperation with MME and PROVÉRTES has installed a video camera in a traditionally occupied nest box on an electric pylon in 2011 (**Refer to Annex A4/1 of IR**). Unfortunately the *F. cherrug* pair had chosen a *Buteo buteo* nest instead of it. The nest box was occupied by a *F. tinnunculus* pair (**Refer to Annex A4/2 of IR**). We decided to continue with them that year and we got lots of new and exciting information. From 2012 MAVIR got to install a sophisticated Video transmission system. Two camera were installed one of them was infrared what enabled to monitor the nest box 24 hours a day (**Refer to Annex A4/1 of PR and Annex A4/1**). The nest box was monitored continuously from the start of the breeding much after the fledging (**Refer to Annex A4/2 of PR**). The video pictures were transmitted by GSM system to the web of the project and MAVIR also to PROVÉRTES. It was also continuously recorded. A standard datasheet was developed to record the preys (**Refer to Annex A4/3 of PR**). PROVÉRTES staffs evaluated the pictures to identify the prey. There were 190 recorded preys on the video in 2012 (**Refer to Annex A4/4 of PR**), 176 recorded preys in 2013 (**Refer to Annex A4/1 of MTR**) and 186 recorded preys in 2014. Data were evaluated together with the photo traps' data. Results are presented in **Table 2**. below.

By photo traps:

14 photo traps were purchased in 2011. In the main time MME borrowed two items and installed one on tree and the other on pylon (**Refer to Annex A4/3 of IR**). From 2012 photo traps were installed on high voltage electric pylons based on the first year's experience (**Refer to Annexes A3/8 and A4/5 of PR, and Annex A4/1**) as it is shown in **Table 1**. The numbers of effective photo traps and the identified preys are shown in **Table 2**. Prey composition is shown in **Diagram 1 & 2**. The photo traps were removed after the fledging of the juveniles. The pictures were downloaded from the memory cards to the computer and were evaluated (**Refer to Annex A4/6 of PR**). The first priority for photo trapping was those breeding pairs where the males are tagged by PTT (**Refer to Annex A4/2 of MTR**) to get information not only about the prey but to be able to identify the habitat from where the prey was taken (**Refer to Annex A4/3 of MTR**). The result of this prey-habitat correlation is given in **Annex A4/2**.

Table 1: Installed photo traps by countries end years

Year	Bulgaria	Hungary	Romania	Slovakia**	Total
2011	0	2	0	0	2
2012	0	11	0	5	16
2013	0	14	1	5	20
2014	0	10	3	5	18

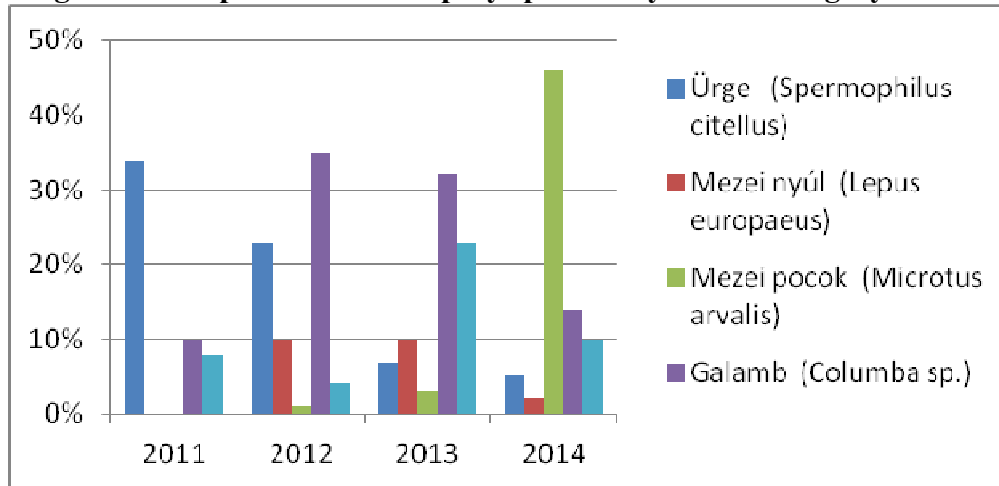
** In Slovakia two photo traps were used for identify the prey assortment and three for guarding to ensure safe breeding.

Table 2: Prey composition identified by webcam and photo traps in Hungary

Years	2011		2012		2013		2014		2011-214	
	2 pcs. photo traps		1 webcam +9pcs. photo traps		1 webcam +11 pcs. photo traps		1 webcam +9 pcs. photo traps		Total in Hungary	
	Number of specimens	%	Number of specimens	%	Number of specimens	%	Number of specimens	%	Number of specimens	%
Mammals										
<i>Cricetus cricetus</i>			10	2	1	0		0	11	0
<i>Crocidura leucodon</i>					1	0			1	0
<i>Lepus europaeus</i> *			61	10	77	10	19	2	157	6
<i>Microtus arvalis</i>			9	1	28	3	412	46	449	18
<i>Rattus sp.</i>			4	1	1	0			5	0
<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>	35	34	146	23	56	7	42	5	279	11
<i>Talpa europaea</i>			1	0					1	0
not specified small mammals	18	17	15	2	13	2	18	2	64	3
mammals cannot be identified*	2	2	14	2	3	0	4	0	23	1
Birds										
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			4	1	15	2	3	0	22	1
<i>Carduelis chloris</i>			1	0					1	0
<i>Columba oenas</i>			1	0					1	0
<i>Columba palumbus</i>			1	0					1	0
<i>Columba sp.*</i>	10	10	221	35	253	32	125	14	609	25
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>			1	0	2	0			3	0
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>					2	0			2	0
<i>Lanius collurio</i>					1	0			1	0
<i>Lanius minor</i>					2	0			2	0
<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>							1	0	1	0
<i>Motacilla flava</i>							1	0	1	0
<i>Passer montanus</i>			1	0					1	0
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			12	2	2	0	4	0	18	1
<i>Pica pica</i>					1	0			1	0
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			1	0	1	0			2	0
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			1	0	3	0			4	0
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	8	8	26	4	187	23	86	10	307	13
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			0	0	1	0			1	0
<i>Upupa epops</i>							1	0	1	0
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	2	2	2	0	40	5	23	3	67	3
unidentified small birds	3	3	26	4	37	5	59	7	125	5
birds cannot be identified*	1	1	14	2	17	2	13	1	45	2
Reptiles										
<i>Bufo bufo</i>					1	0			1	0
<i>Lacerta agilis</i>					1	0			1	0
<i>Lacerta viridis</i>			2	0	3	0	1	0	6	0
<i>Sauria sp.</i>			1	0	1	0			2	0
Cannot be identified										
Cannot be identified *	24	23	54	9	52	6	86	10	216	9
Total:	103	100	630	100	803	100	899	100	2435	100

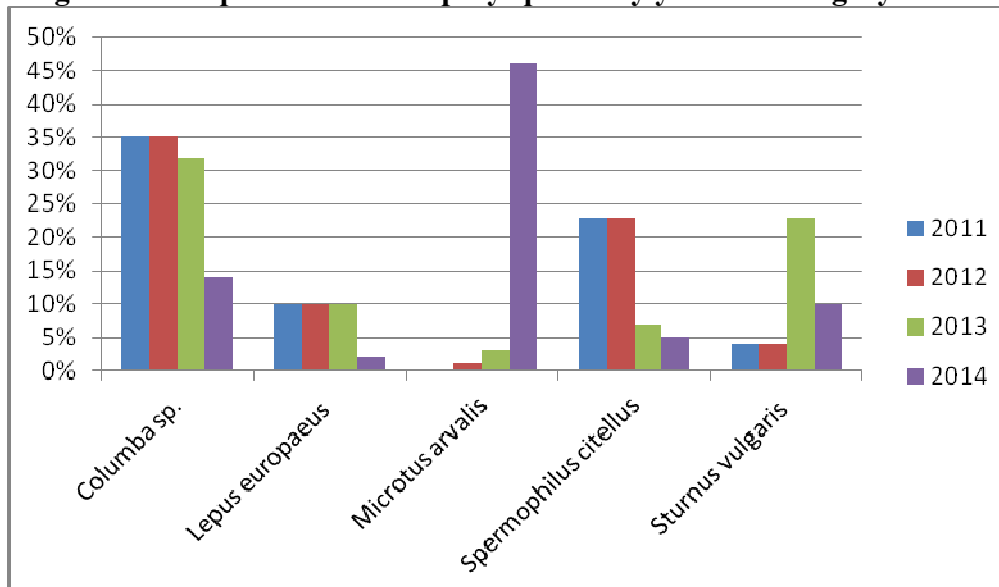
* It has happened some times that the adults took away the prey after feeding and most probably they have returned it later. It means that one prey may occur some different times in the nest especially with the *Columbia sp.* and with *Lepus europeus*

Diagram 1: Proportion of main prey species in years in Hungary



The 2011 data are not relevant due to the very small number of photo traps.

Diagram 2: Proportion of main prey species by years in Hungary



The main conclusions are:

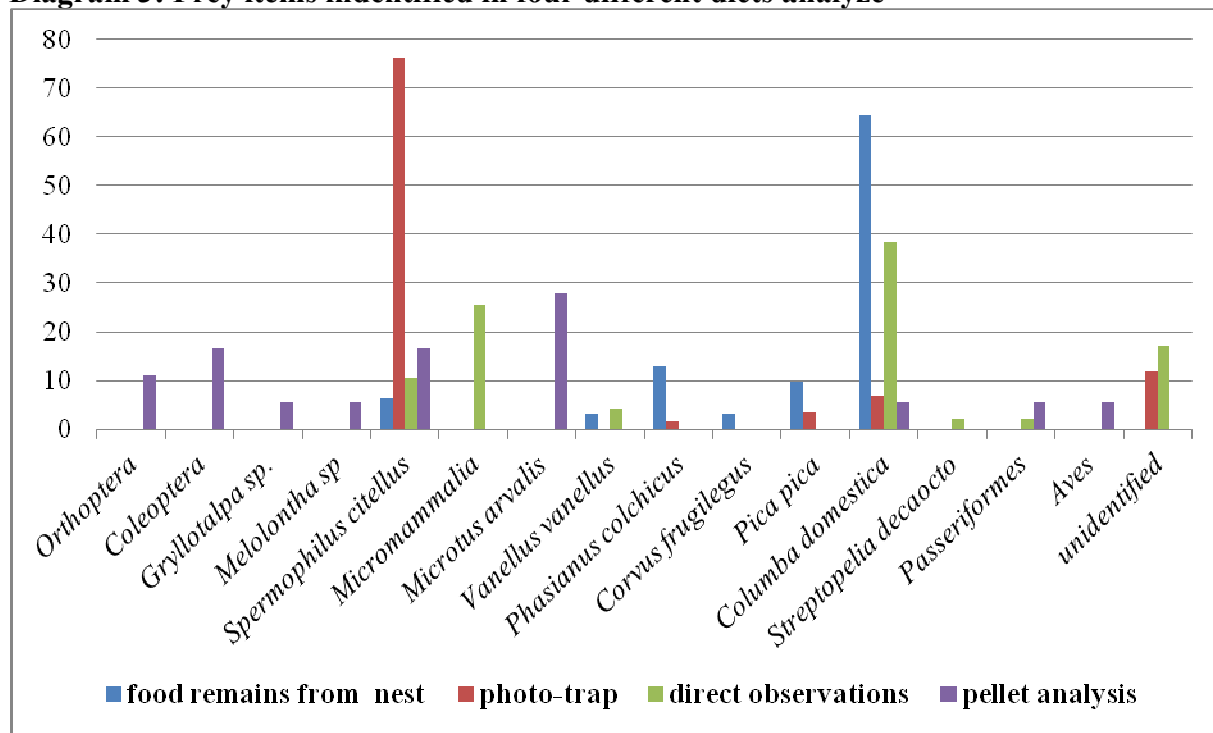
1. Weather has a significant impact on the composition of available prey items. In wet springs, like in 2013, proportion of mammals decreases dramatically (22%), in contrast to average spring weather, when proportion of mammals is higher (40–55%).
2. In years of vole peak (like 2014), Common vole (*Microtus arvalis*) makes the main food. In those years, proportion of larger mammals and birds decreases; e.g. proportion of hare (*Lepus europaeus*) decreased from 10% to 2% to 2014.
3. No considerable hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) prey was observed in Hungary between 2011–2014 that can be linked to the continuous decline of the hamster population observed in the last few years.

4. In average years, the proportion of *S. citellus* reaches 23%, thus the species is of great importance to *F. cherrug*'s diet, despite *S. citellus* has disappeared from many sites by today.

In Romania:

In 2011 breeding pairs were not found in Dobrogea and due to delayed advanced payment photo traps were not procured. In 2012 three potential breeding pairs has been discovered during the baseline survey in Dobrogea in abandoned Hooded Crow's nest, however it was too late to install any photo trap there. Food remains were collected under the occupied nest. In 2013 a photo-trap was successfully installed near the nest of Toro, in the vicinity of the A1 area, with the help of ENEL Romania. Almost 10000 images were taken and analysed. A report was presented (**Refer to Annex A4/4 of MTR**). Totally 154 prey items were indentified in the diet of the *F. cherrug* from the three locations. Mammals were one of the main prey groups, totalling 46.8% of their diet. Among mammals the *S. citellus* was their main prey (35.7%). The different type of diet analyzes provided different results (**Diagram 3**). The final report of this action includes the details of the evaluation of prey survey in Romania (**Annex A4/3**).

Diagram 3: Prey items indentified in four different diets analyze



In Slovakia:

By Video captures:

In 2011 the video-camera was purchased and installed (**Refer to Annex A4/5 of IR**) during ringing of the chicks, the breeding has been recorded. The pictures of the video-camera was analysed (**Refer to Annex A4/8 of PR**). In 2012 the video recording was aborted due to unsuccessful breeding (**Refer to Annex A4/9 of PR**). In 2013 the video camera was operating well, 495 hours were recorded and valuable data about the prey composition has been collected. The results are included in **Table 3**. In 2014 the nest with video camera was occupied by Common Kestrel.

By photo traps:

In 2011 the photo traps were purchased. Two photo traps have been installed (**Refer to Annex A4/6 of IR**) in each year (**Table 2**) for the purpose of monitoring of the prey assortment. Those

were checked in case of need and removed after the breeding season of each year. The pictures from the photo-traps were copied to the computer and analysed. Based on the analysis, higher density of small mammals and birds was recorded from the photo-trap pictures than from the analysis of food remains removed from the nest box (**Refer to Annex A4/10 of PR and Table 3**). It means the photo-traps bring very important results concerning the prey composition of *F.cherrug*. We have also identified that the adults are marked with rings in some cases (**Refer to Annex A4/11 of PR**). This was new information. It was also recorded when the adults come to the nest box to spend the night there. The importance of the landing platform was proved as well as the possible stress from mirror inside the nest box (**Refer to Annex A4/12 of PR**). Valuable data about the prey composition has been collected, 86 thousand photographs has been recorded. The result of the prey assortment analysis of photo-traps is presented in **Table 3** bellow. The pictures from photo-traps and pictures of camera can be seen in (**Refer to Annex A4/5 of MTR**). Data about prey assortment collected by photo traps and video camera were evaluated and presented in article published in the Slovak Raptor Journal 8/2014 (2) (**Annex A4/4a**).

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because *F.cherrug*'s prey composition was identified and correlation with habitat was identified and this information was published.

Problems and their impacts:

In Romania:

Breeding pairs were found late to install photo traps in Dobrogea.

In Slovakia:

It was not possible to install the video-camera in 2012 in Slovakia, because the chicks on the nest were dead. Because of complicated manipulation it was not possible to use the camera on other nest that year. In 2014 the nest with video camera was occupied by a *F. tinnunculus* although a pair of *F. cherrug* has been observed in the eyrie in the beginning of breeding season.

Modifications:

In Hungary:

MAVIR got to install a very sophisticated broadband GSM transmitted Video system what made it enable to continuously follow up the activities in the nest on the web. In 2013 after the *F. cherrug* breeding the *F.subbuteo* breeding was recorded in the same nest.

Comments on Commission's requests:

The video camera was successfully replaced to an active nest box in 2012 and breeding were successfully recorded during three years.

We estimated the size of the unidentifiable preys.

We installed the full numbers of photo-traps however some breeding have failed due to the bad weather in the spring therefore a few did not provided data despite of the early replacement. However the working photo-traps provided lots of valuable data about the prey assortment.

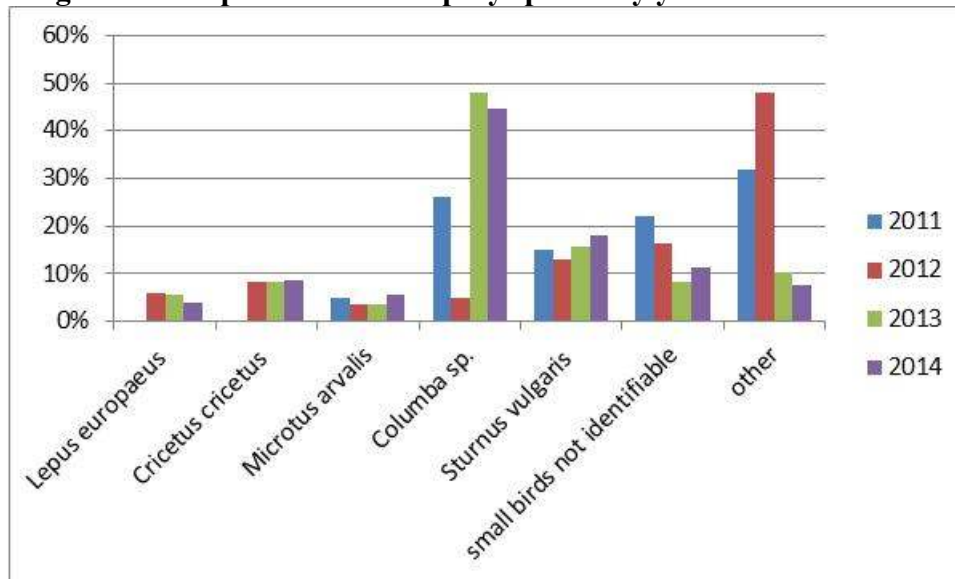
The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

The action will be continued by the LIFE13 NAT/HU/000183 project as a monitoring tool.

Table 3: Prey composition identified by pictures in Slovakia

Year	2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number of specimens	%	Number of specimens	%	Number of specimens	%	Number of specimens	%
Mammals								
<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>								0
<i>Lepus europaeus</i>			5	5,88	6	5,55	4	4
small mammals not identifiable					2	1,85		0
mammals not identifiable								0
<i>Cricetus cricetus</i>			7	8,24	9	8,33	9	9
<i>Microtus arvalis</i>	2	4	3	3,53	4	3,70	6	6
<i>Rattus sp.</i>								0
<i>Talpa europaea</i>								0
Birds								
<i>Columba sp.</i>	14	26	41	48,24	52	48,15	47	45
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	8	15	11	12,94	17	15,74	19	18
small birds not identifiable	12	22	14	16,47	9	8,33	12	11
birds not identifiable								0
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>					2	1,85		0
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>								0
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			2	2,35				0
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>								0
<i>Columba oenas</i>							1	1
<i>Columba palumbus</i>					3	2,77	2	2
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>							1	1
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>					2	1,85		0
<i>Passer montanus</i>								0
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>								0
<i>Carduelis chloris</i>								0
Reptiles								
<i>Lacerta viridis</i>								
<i>Sauria sp.</i>								
Not identifiable								
Not identifiable	18	33	2	2,35	2		4	4
Total:	54	100	85	100	108	100	105	100

Diagram 4: Proportion of main prey species by years in Slovakia



5.1.2. Action C: Concrete conservation actions

Action C1: Implement, promote and enforce the agri-environment scheme for *S.citellus* January 2011 – June 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
20 ha in Muránska planina - Stolica SPA and 20 ha in Záhorské Pomoravie will be managed under the scheme. The scheme will be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture to be accepted and included in the RDP for 2014 – 2020	20 ha in Muránska planina - Stolica SPA and 20 ha in Záhorské Pomoravie were managed under the scheme. The scheme was accepted and included in the final proposal of RDP 2014 - 2020.

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Slovakia:

20 ha in Muránska planina - Stolica SPA and in Záhorské Pomoravie were selected for management under the scheme where *S. citellus* repatriation was done. Particular conditions for management measures have been agreed in an agreement (**Refer to Annexes C1/1-C1/2 of IR**) signed with the farmers. The farmers submitted annual reports (**Refer to Annex C1/1 of PR and Annexes C1/1-C1/2 of MTR**) based on the agreements. Each report was consulted by details and questions were discussed. No problems were recorded during the management measures implementation. The subsidies from project sources were paid for both farmers in 2011 and 2012. In the proposal of the agri-environment scheme payment of 100 –150 euro per one hectare was proposed. This proposal includes real management costs as well as very important costs for motivation of farmers to implement the measures. The same principle was used to calculate subsidies for farmers already implementing the measures within the project. The reported data together with data from other farmers and statistical data provided by Research Institute for Soil Science and Conservation used by negotiations with the MoE for the calculation of the final payment of the scheme. Several meetings of a Working group for the implementation of environmental measures into the RDP were held (**Refer to Annexes C1/2-C1/4 of PR and Annex C1/3 of MTR**). The material discussed can be found in **Annex C1/4 of MTR**. During the meetings RPS informed about the AES for *S. citellus* and the mechanism of subsidies was discussed. In cooperation with the State Nature Conservancy and a non-governmental Agri-environmental Association called Agroekoforum a proposal of agri-environment scheme was prepared (**Refer to Annex C1/5 of MTR**), submitted to the Ministry of Environment as well as to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and discussed with both Ministries. The proposal was also used to comment the draft of the Action Plan for the Conservation of the European Ground Squirrel (*S. citellus*) in the European Union by RPS. The agro-environmental scheme (AES) for *S. citellus* was integrated in the proposal of Rural Development Programme approved in May 2014 by the Ministry of agriculture and rural development of the Slovak Republic for the next programming period. This proposal of RDF has been sent to EC for comments. The EC had 6 months to deliver the comments and approve the RDP. The comments have been sent in September and are being integrated by the Ministry of agriculture and rural development of the Slovak Republic. Although there is not the final version of the RDP available these days, according to the EC comments the AES for *S. citellus* will be a part of the final version. The final version of the RDP should be known in the beginning of 2015. RPS was working with this document via two platforms – an e-mail platform „Agroekoforum“, and work-group of SNC and MoE, we participated in both groups. AES for *S. citellus* can be found on page 300 – 301 of the proposal of RDF (**Annex C1/1**). The Statement of the Government about approval of the proposed RDP and stating the MoA to

coordinate the process of preparation is also attached (**Annex C1/2**). Altogether 9 meetings were organised on different levels. The last meeting was held on 4th February 2014. On this meeting suggestions were presented and final version of RDP proposal was discussed, this meeting was crucial for preparation of the final version of RDP approved by the MoA in May 2014 and submitted on EC (**Annex C1/3**). Farmers on both project sites are willing to join the AES after it is approved. The management on both sites respected the *S. citellus* requirements during the whole project period and the farmers already follow the principles of AES now, they are interested to create conditions for *S. citellus* and are participating on conservation of these species via providing information about distribution, reporting of the status etc.

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because the scheme was accepted and included in the final proposal of RDP 2014 - 2020.

Problems and their impacts:

The change of the government in Slovakia caused delay comparing to original schedule of the negotiations.

Modifications:

The proposal of the scheme was submitted to the ministries a year later due to the problem mentioned above.

Comments on Commission's requests:

The 1st meeting of the Working group for preparation and modification of RDP for the period 2014 – 2020 was held in March 2011 (**Refer to Annex C1/4 of PR**). The aim of meeting was to evaluate the co-sponsor of the measures (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, APA), identification of barriers to the implementation of measures under Axis 2 of the RDP 2007 to 2013, design brief and vision solutions and critical points of cooperation in the next programming period. RPS was included in member of the Working group. The Working group was working on preparation of different parts of RPD, including AES. The result of the first meeting was the specification of the aims of the group and preparation of the schedule of work (**Refer to Annex C1/5 of PR**). The scheme proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Environment in Slovakia.

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

Follow up how the agri-environment scheme is applied. Advising farmers how to join the scheme.

Action C2: Production and installation of nest boxes in Bulgaria and Romania according to the Hungarian experience January 2011 – March 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
<p><u>In Bulgaria:</u> a number of 20 nest boxes will be installed in suitable <i>F. cherrug</i> habitats in whenever necessary with priority within the project SPAs. This will provide sufficient breeding sites secured with durable, safe and long lasting nests and in the same time will ensure no lag time in the process of <i>F. cherrug</i> dispersion.</p> <p><u>In Hungary:</u> 3 Type 2 in the frame Action D1.</p> <p><u>In Romania:</u> 45 nest boxes will be installed in Romania in priority within SPAs. There will be 2 durable nest boxes in each of the identified best <i>F. cherrug</i> habitats at the end of the project, what would provide a sufficient number of safe breeding sites for the increasing population of the species. In this way in some of the potential areas we will create new, beforehand inexistent breeding sites, while elsewhere we will increase very significantly the number of the safe breeding possibilities of <i>F. cherrug</i>.</p>	<p><u>In Bulgaria:</u> 20 nest boxes are installed in suitable <i>F. cherrug</i> habitats mainly within the project SPAs. This will provide sufficient breeding sites secured with durable, safe and long lasting nests and in the same time will ensure no lag time in the process of <i>F. cherrug</i> dispersion.</p> <p><u>In Hungary:</u> 4 Type 2 in the frame Action D1.</p> <p><u>In Romania:</u> 127 nest boxes are installed in Romania in priority within SPAs. There were successful breeding in four of them.</p>

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Bulgaria:

According to the project work plan 10 nest boxes “type 2” have been produced in 2011 (**Refer to Annex C2/1 of IR**). Meeting with the relevant division of the National Electric Company was done and permission was obtained to install the aluminium nest boxes on the high voltage power lines (**Refer to Annex C2/2 of IR**). GPS coordinates of the appropriate trees for the nest boxes installation has been taken and the 10 wooden nest boxes were also produced. All planned 10 wooden and 10 aluminium nest boxes have been installed within the project area (**Refer to Annexes C2/1-C2/2 of PR**).

In Hungary:

Four nest boxes were installed during conferences (**Refer to Annex D1/3 of PR and Annex D1/4 of MTR**).

In Romania:

In West-Romania 85 aluminium nest boxes “type 2” were installed in the four western counties: Satu Mare (2), Bihor (21), Arad (24), Timis (38) (**Refer to Annexes C2/3-C2/4 of PR and Annex C2/1**). Another five wooden nest boxes “type 1” were installed in Bihor and Satu Mare counties in 2012 (**Refer to Annexes C2/3-C2/4 of PR, Annex C2/1 of MTR and Annex C2/1**).

In Dobrogea 2 wooden “type 1” and 29 aluminium “type 2” nest boxes were installed. 7 nest boxes were installed in the bordering area of ROSPA0073, while the remaining ones close to Padurea Babadag, Stepa Casimcea, Padurea Dumbraveni, Adamclisi and Dunarea Veche Bratul Macin SPA’s (**Refer to Annexes C2/4-C2/5 of PR**). All nest boxes were installed on high voltage electricity pylons crossing Dobrogea from North to South, from Ukraine to Bulgaria

(Annex C2/2a-b). In addition 4 aluminium type nest boxes were installed also in Ialomita county approx. 30 km South from where the initial breeding pair was discovered. In Oltenia 2 “type 1” and 4 “type 2” were installed on high voltage electricity pylons and in suitable trees **(Annex C2/3).**

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because more nest boxes were installed than originally planned and four were already occupied in Romania by *F. cherrug*. Among the new pairs were pairs with Hungarian ornithological rings what justified that the expanding Hungarian population is populating the new habitats.

Problems and their impacts:

In Bulgaria:

Due to adverse weather condition the installation had to postpone for the spring 2012.

In Romania:

Unfortunately the nest boxes were installed later than we planned and expected it but this was subject to the willingness of the electric companies. Different companies and even the different regional units have different attitude about this work. Even after very intensive lobbying some was very helpful, some was ready to do it for payment and some refused to cooperate.

Modifications:

In Hungary:

The nest boxes were installed during MAVIR's conferences. The last one was installed in the International Conference organised by MAVIR in March 2013.

In Romania:

Based on the TDO's approval on 29 May 2012 we revised our plan and increased the planned aluminium nest boxes with 85 items **(Refer to Annexes C2/3 and C2/5 of PR)**. Originally we planned a very low numbers due to two different reasons:

1. The aluminium nest boxes must be installing on electric pylons but the electric companies were not very keen on it. Therefore we planned action D1 to convince them based on the Hungarian and Slovak experience but we were very careful about its success.
2. Our calculation was based on very limited information about the real size of the *F. cherrug* population in Romania.

However thanks to the successful lobbying (D1) together with our Hungarian colleagues we could convince the electric companies to install nest boxes on the pylons and in the other hand as a result of the intensive baseline survey (E8) with the assistance of the Hungarian colleagues we understand better the status of the *F. cherrug* population of Romania. First of all we understood that **the most limiting factor is the lack of suitable nest**. Even the existing breeding pairs hardly can find abandoned natural nest and those very few one are also in bad quality. The potential new breeding pairs from the expanding population in Hungary would not find nest also in West-Romania. In the present we know about 5-6 territories occupied by adult pairs, unfortunately most of them do not have proper nest or even not at all. Based on the lessons learned from Hungary and Slovakia, knowing the habitats in West-Romania, we expect that *F. cherrug* population may increase rapidly in the next 10 years if we cover the potential regions with artificial nests. We kept in mind the dynamics of the Hungarian and Serbian population identifying the locations of the nest boxes therefore we concentrate our effort on the south-western part of Romania named Banat (Arad and Timis counties), where *F. cherrug* pairs are known. The initially planned locations of wooden “type 1” nests were changed as we tried to fill the gaps where there is not possible to install artificial nests on high voltage pylons **(Refer to Annex C2/3 of PR)**. The situation is the same in Dobrogea where *F. cherrug* moved

down from the cliffs in ROSPA0073 due to regular human disturbance and also expanding from Ukraine to Romania but cannot find nests on the electric pylons connecting Ukraine with Bulgaria across the area. The locations of the nest boxes were adjusted to newly found pairs in the high voltage electric pylon crossing the area in a north-south direction from Ukraine towards Bulgaria. First of all the old nests were replaced by nest boxes and some other nest boxes were installed and will be installed in suitable distances (**Refer to Annex C2/5 of PR**).

Comments on Commission's requests:

Explanation is given in "Modification".

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

In Bulgaria: New nest boxes will be installed where *S. citellus* populations are in good conditions, but nesting sites are missing.

In Romania: Installing 5 new nest boxes where *S. citellus* populations are in good conditions, but nesting sites are missing.

Action C3: Repatriation of *S. citellus* on Natura 2000 habitats where it is missing in Hungary, Slovakia (using ear-tags) and Romania based on the Hungarian & Slovak experience March 2011 – August 2013

Results planned	Results achieved
<u>In Hungary:</u> 400 <i>S.citellus</i> will be repatriated for two SPAs what would increase the favourable food sources of <i>F.cherrug</i> and rescuing them from an area where they are considered as a flood security risk.	<u>In Hungary:</u> 235 <i>S.citellus</i> were repatriated for two SPAs what increased the favourable food sources of <i>F.cherrug</i> .
<u>In Romania:</u> A number of 300 <i>S. citellus</i> will be repatriated into about 7 habitats in 3 SPAs and by this <i>S.citellus</i> population of the 3 SPAs will increase by 7-10 % up to the end of the project period.	<u>In Romania:</u> 252 <i>S. citellus</i> were repatriated in Western Romania.
<u>In Slovakia:</u> 800 <i>S. citellus</i> will be repatriated from different donor sites to two SPAs.	<u>In Slovakia:</u> 450 <i>S. citellus</i> were repatriated from different donor sites to two SPAs.

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Hungary:

Repatriation from Siófok-Kiliti Airport to HUDD10008 Belső-Somogy by the Green Corridor Public Foundation (ZFK).

ZFK surveyed the donor population on Siófok airport and applied for permission from Nature Conservation Authorities in 2011. After a long process finally the permission was given for a short period (19-31 July 2012) on 28 June 2012 (**Refer to Annex C3/2 of PR**). Based on the permission the host site in HUDD10008 Belső-Somogy was prepared. One hectare (100mX100m) area was fenced around with a 1m high iron mesh. Inside the area 80 holes were drilled for the planned 50 animals (**Refer to Annex C3/3 of PR**). Animals were trapped with apple live traps in Siófok-Kiliti Airport on 26-27 July 2012 (**Refer to Annex C3/4 of PR**). Finally 37 *S. citellus* were repatriated (**Refer to Annex C3/5 of PR**). Out of them 9 were juveniles. 2/3-rd of the adults was female. The repatriated colony was guarded and feed with apple and oat (**Refer to Annex C3/6 of PR**). ZFK had a plan to continue the repatriation in

April 2013 but probably due to the return winter in the spring the repatriation was unsuccessful there were not any surviving *S. citellus* in the site. Due to the government unfriendly policy towards NGOs and the foreseen lost of responsibility over the host site ZFK decided not to repatriate any more *S. citellus* to the site in question. They could not find any other area in the region where the repatriation would be safe in long term.

Repatriation from Kecskemét airbase and Budapest airport to HUKN10002 Kiskunsági szikes tavak és az őrzégi túrjánvidék by KNPD.

KNPD applied for permission from the National Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water in March 2013 however it took a lot of time to get it. In the main time KNPD selected the subcontractor for the work and surveyed the potential donor populations in April 2013. They did not find any *S. citellus* in the Danube's dam in Dunaegyhaza but they found sufficient number in Kecskemet airbase and Budapest International Airport (**Refer to Annexes C3/1-C3/2 of MTR**). They received the permission in June and did the repatriation in July. The subcontractor started to prepare the site first. They drill holes in 4 ha large area, covered the holes by empty beer bottle and fenced the area by plastic mesh around (**Refer to Annex C3/3 of MTR**). Trapping *S. citellus* started in Kecskemet airbase on 15 July and 123 individuals were caught within 3 days (**Refer to Annex C3/4 of MTR**). The caught animals were transported in the evening to the host site and released next early morning (**Refer to Annex C3/5 of MTR**). Trapping continued in Budapest International Airport on 18-19 July and another 75 animals were caught there (**Refer to Annex C3/6 of MTR**). The repatriated population was guarded (**Refer to Annex C3/3 of MTR**). A viable population was established in an important *F. cherrug* habitat.

Table 4: *S. citellus* repatriation results in Hungary

Years	donor sites	number of individuals	Sites of release	Annexes
2012	Siófok Kiliti Airport	37	HUDD10008	C3/1 - C3/6 of PR
2013	Kecskemét Airbase & Budapest Airport	198	HUKN10002	C3/1 - C3/6 of MTR

In Romania:

In 2011 several potential donor populations was selected for repatriation. Host sites were carefully selected within the originally allocated areas as well (**Refer to Annex C3/1 of IR**). MILVUS submitted a request for permission of *S. citellus* repatriation in 2012 to the Regional Environmental Agency in Timisoara in 09.07.2012 (**Refer to Annex C3/7 of PR**). However the Agency did not give permission for ROSPA0047 and ROSCI0345 but requested an EIA for it (**Refer to Annex C3/8 of PR**). Therefore the first-ever *S. citellus* repatriation in Romania took place only in ROSPA0015 Campia Crişului Alb şi Crişului Negru between 18 and 22 August 2012. The outskirts of Arad town was selected for donor site. Inside the area 50 holes were drilled for the planned 50 animals (**Refer to Annex C3/11 of PR**). We trapped the animals with 50 apple live traps (**Refer to Annex C3/12 of PR**). Finally 49 *S. citellus* were repatriated. Out of them 30 were juveniles 11 sub-adults and 8 adults. 49% of them were female. The repatriated colony was guarded and feed with apple and melon. (**Refer to Annex C3/13 of PR**). The required EIA was prepared and submitted to the Romanian Academy for endorsement (**Refer to Annex C3/7 of MTR**). The study included the reasons and methods of repatriation and the impact of these activities on the whole *S. citellus* population from West-Romania. In the meantime, unfortunately one of the pasture selected as donor site was partially ploughed (see also Action A.2) and the *S. citellus* population was heavily effected therefore the repatriation from Vinga to Ortisoara (ROSPA0047) was cancelled. Finally, 97 *S. citellus* in May and 106 *S. citellus* in September were repatriated from Aradul Nou to Santana pasture based on the received permission in 2014 (**Annex C3/1**).

Table 5: *S. citellus* repatriation results in Romania

Years	donor sites	number of individuals	Sites of release	Annexes
2012 2014	Aradul Nou	189	ROSPA0015	C3/11-C3/13 of PR
2014	Sannicolau Mare	63	ROSCI0345	C3/1

In Slovakia:

Permission for the capturing and repatriation of *S.citellus* as a protected animal has been obtained from the Ministry of Environment. Since all source sites have been affected by heavy rains in 2010 and the donor colonies were not strong, therefore the methods and plans for capturing had to be considered carefully. The numbers of released individuals had to be reduced. The first capturing and releasing was done in April 2011 on new sites, therefore we started with several individuals. It was necessary to ensure guarding of the individuals for several days after the releasing. The first year's repatriation followed by further repatriations in each project's year. Altogether there were 278 individuals repatriated to SKCHVU016 and 172 individuals to SKCHVU017 from 11 places (**Refer to Annexes C3/2-C3/3 of IR, Annexes C3/8-C3/9 of MTR and Annexes C3/2 & C3/3**). Details are given in **Table 6**. Each individual was marked by a chip in order to estimate the success of the action within E.2. Viable populations were established in both habitats. The work is presented in article published in the Slovak Raptor Journal 8/2014 (2) (**Annex A4/4**).

Table 6: *S. citellus* repatriation results in Slovakia

years	donor sites	number of individuals	Sites of release	Annexes
2011	Chtelnica, Kuchyňa, Nové Zámky airport, ZOO Bojnice	98	SKCHVU016	C3/14 of PR
2011	Biele Vody	10	SKCHVU017	C3/15 of PR
2012	Nové Zámky airport, Trnava airport, ZOO Bojnice, Chtelnica	59	SKCHVU016	C3/14 of PR
2012	Zádiel, Turňa nad Bodvou, Gemerské Dechtáre, Jesenské, Košice airport	81	SKCHVU017	C3/15-C3/16 of PR
2013	Chtelnica, Kuchyňa, Nové Zámky airport, ZOO Bojnice	80	SKCHVU016	C3/10 of MTR
2013	Jesenské, Gemerské Dechtáre, Spišská Nová Ves airport, Košice airport	59	SKCHVU017	C3/10 of MTR
2014	Bratislava	41	SKCHVU016	C3/2
2014	Spišská Nová Ves airport, Jánovce	24	SKCHVU017	C3/3

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because five SPAs within three countries were successfully repopulated with *S. citellus* the most important food source of *F. cherrug*.

Problems and their impacts:

In Hungary:

ZFK had a plan to continue the repatriation in April 2013 but probably due to the return winter in spring there were not too much sign for living *S. citellus* in the site. Besides the Government had a plan to nationalise the lands owned by the public foundations and lease it for farmers therefore ZFK decided not to repatriate any more *S. citellus* to the site in question.

KNPD wants to repatriate *S. citellus* for rehabilitated grassland from old Alfa Alfa field. However due to the very dry 2012 they had to postponed the repatriation to 2013. The bureaucracy made very short the period for repatriation what resulted less repatriated animals. Form September 2012 the *S. citellus* became strictly protected therefore the bureaucracy increased. Late permissions made possible the summer repatriation only. The very dry summer was not a favor for *S. citellus*. Lack of natural food was replaced by feed.

In Romania:

Regional Environmental Agency in Timisoara did not give permission for repatriation to ROSPA0047 and ROSCI0345 but requested an EIA (**Refer to Annex C3/8 of PR**). The Romanian Academy accepted the submitted EIA after a long period therefore the repatriation was completed in the last minutes in 2014. In the main time unfortunately one of the pasture selected as donor site was partially ploughed (see also Action A.2) and the *S. citellus* population was heavily effected therefore the repatriation from Vinga to Ortisoara (ROSPA0047) was cancelled.

In Slovakia:

S. citellus populations on donor sites were influenced by heavy rains in 2010 even in 2012 and 2013. Therefore more donor sites had to be used to capture individuals for repatriation in Slovakia and the number of captured individuals had to be reduced comparing to original plan.

Modifications:

In Hungary:

Originally 200 *S. citellus* repatriation was planned for both sites. ZFK repatriated only 37 individuals in 2012 and had a plan to continue the repatriation in April 2013 but because of the Government had a plan to nationalise the lands owned by the public foundations and lease it for farmers therefore ZFK decided not to repatriate any more *S. citellus* to the site in question.

In Romania:

The donor site was changed from Macea to Arad (**Refer to Annex C3/9 of PR**). The repatriation from Vinga to Ortisoara (ROSPA0047) was cancelled because the donor site was partially ploughed.

In Slovakia:

Ear-tag was changed to chip to mark the individuals. Due to extremely bad weather conditions that complicated the implementation of the action we expect the numbers of individuals repatriated in Slovakia was reduced from originally planned 800 individuals to 450 individuals.

Comments on Commission's requests:

In Hungary during the former project the *S. citellus* repatriation went smoothly. The target of the current project is considerably less than before however since the government changed the bureaucracy slaw done all activities very much. It is probably because the protection status of the *S. citellus* has increased and the experienced officials were replaced by inexperienced ones. We started the preparation in time as a normal routine but we could not foreseen, that the administrative process would slow down very much. Finally we overcome on this problem.

In Romania *S. citellus* population of Arad is not affected by any particular ongoing investment but it is endangered by many different factors mentioned before.

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

In Bulgaria: It is foreseen after 2016 in case of sustainably managed grasslands.

In Hungary: It will be continued by the LIFE13 NAT/HU/000138 project.

In Romania: It will be continued by the LIFE13 NAT/HU/000138 project.

Action C4: Locate and insulate dangerous electric pylons January 2011 – August 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
<p>Information will be available on the most dangerous electric pylons around breeding and foraging sites.</p> <p><u>In Bulgaria:</u> 600 pylons will be insulated in the most risky areas</p> <p><u>in Hungary:</u> 7000 pylons,</p> <p><u>in Romania:</u> 700 pylons,</p> <p><u>in Slovakia:</u> at least 850 pylons will be insulated.</p> <p>The number of birds electrocuted on insulated sections of the electric power-lines (E3) will decrease by 95 % compared to baseline data while the breeding success and individual survival increases. Numerous other important, protected and strictly protected species, including ones listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive, benefit from the action (e.g. <i>Coracias garrulus</i>, <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>, <i>Falco vespertinus</i>, <i>Tyto alba</i> etc.).</p>	<p>Database of dangerous electric pylons are created and shared with the electric companies in all countries.</p> <p><u>In Bulgaria:</u> A total of 400 pylons of highest risk for <i>F. cherrug</i> are insulated. Another more than 40 dangerous pylons are insulated by the electric company on its own costs.</p> <p><u>In Hungary:</u> 6547 pylons were converted to bird safe. Out of these 662 pylons got new bird safe crossarms. Besides 118 fire flies were installed on 3,2 km distance to avoid collation.</p> <p><u>In Romania:</u> 831 pylons were insulated.</p> <p><u>In Slovakia:</u> 1138 pylons were insulated.</p> <p>The number of birds electrocuted on insulated sections of the electric power-lines (E3) decreased by 100 % compared to baseline data. Numerous other important, protected and strictly protected species, including ones listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive, benefit from the action (e.g. <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>, <i>Heliaeetus albicilla</i>, <i>Buteo buteo</i>, <i>Buteo rufinus</i>, <i>Bubo bubo</i>, <i>Coracias garrulus</i>, <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>, <i>Falco vespertinus</i>, <i>Tyto alba</i> etc.).</p>

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Bulgaria:

Baseline surveys of killed birds were carried out along some sectors of 20 kV power lines, identified for insulation (**Refer to Annex C4/3 of PR and Annexes C4/4a-b of PR**). In some part of the 20 kV power lines in the Project territory were considered to be of no risk from electrocution (insulators turned down, existing elements, etc.) (**Refer to Annex C4/1 of IR**). All the electric pylons planned for insulation have been photographed and GPS coordinates have been taken for all of them, and then included in a database (**Refer to Annex C4/2 of PR**). A new map with changes was prepared (**Refer to Annex C4/4 of IR**). Intensive negotiation with the concerned electric companies (E.On and its successor Energo-Pro Grid) was done (**Refer to Annex C4/5 of IR, Annexes C4/1, C4/3 and C4/5 of PR, and Annexes C4/1-C4/2 of MTR**). 348 pylons were insulated in 2013 and another 52 pylons in 2014 (**Annex C4/1**).

In Hungary:

Baseline survey was carried out by BNPD, KMNPĐ and KNPD. The survey sheets (**Refer to Annex C4/6 of IR**) were sent to the Monitoring Centre of MME for data processing. The result was given in **Annex C4/6 of PR**.

Insulation work on ÉMÁSZ/BNPD territory:

The work started with a co-ordination meeting among the concerned parties to adjust and coordinate the LIFE+ and KEOP projects activities on 16.02.2012. (**Refer to Annex C4/7 of PR**). Based on the result of this meeting ÉMÁSZ provided its digital data base about their pylons to BNPD what was used to adjusted the priority polygons to the electric sections, it means to the switches at the ends of certain power line sections and identified the co-ordinates of the start and end pylons of the priority section for insulation (**Refer to Annexes C4/8a-c of PR**). In the same time it was also adjusted with the KEOP project to avoid any overlapping pylons. In the main time a standard certification of completion was designed which was used to certify the work (**Refer to Annex C4/11 of PR**). A new method was applied. In the frame of this BNPD hired the best expert Mr. Péter Tóth to photograph and survey all target pylons and identify the needed material. He is specialist in both electricity and bird. ÉMÁSZ selected the subcontractors by tender who did the work. BNPD hired Mr. Péter Tóth to train the subcontractors' workers, and also to check and assist the work, and record the results by photos before signing the certification of completion (**Refer to Annexes C4/7a-c-C4/8, C4/10-C4/11 of MTR**). During the project implementation three different Hungarian companies were developing bird safe crossarms (**Annex C4/2**) which were approved by electricity safety too. EC encouraged the use of these new crossarms. Since there was not any operational experience with these crossarms therefore ÉMÁSZ decided to use all the three once regardless of their price. ÉMÁSZ converted 3693 pylons of 37 power lines to bird safe in 17 polygons within the original project period which were 16% less than it was originally planned. The reasons for this was either that some of the power lines were cut off since the factories or farms became abandoned or some lines course were changed and get shorter. But the originally considered priority areas became bird safe at the end of the project. Since the project was extended due to the delay of EDF-DÉMÁSZ therefore BNPD and ÉMÁSZ decided to continue the work in a selected new area (**Annex C4/3**) where another 406 pylons were converted to bird safe. From these 284 Megawatt type crossarms were installed. This area was selected first of all because a new *F. cherrug* pair is nesting in the vicinity of these lines, secondly because the area is a frequently visited hunting area and finally because many birds especially *Ciconia ciconia* were killed there every years. Finally ÉMÁSZ converted 4106 pylons to bird safe including 662 pylons which got new crossarms (562 Megawatt, 72 Erőterv and 28 Nyirmix types) (**Annexes C4/4-C4/6**). Besides 118 fire flies were installed on 3,2 km distance to avoid collation (**Annex C4/7**).

Insulation work on DÉMÁSZ/KNPD&KMNPĐ territories:

DÉMÁSZ has started the preparation but in January 2013 the manager of DÉMÁSZ informed the director of BNPD that they cannot fulfil its obligation due to the new taxes imposed by the government (**Refer to Annex C4/12 of MTR**). After a long negotiation process (**Refer to Annexes C4/13-C4/18 of MTR**) DÉMÁSZ finally agreed to carry out the work what was originally agreed (**Annex C4/8**). However DÉMÁSZ recognised that the remaining time is not enough therefore they requested the extension of the project until the end of the year (**Annex C4/9**). To speed up the work BNPD agree to get to survey the selected priority sections to identify the needed materials and work as it was done for ÉMÁSZ. Mr. Péter Tóth the subcontractor of BNPD surveyed 2633 pylons of 22 power line sections within 19 polygons (**Refer to Annex C4/19 of MTR and Annex C4/10**). From these pylons 158 were already safe, 24 pylons were not in use and 10 pylons had to be left out due to some technical reasons, mostly because the bad condition of the pylons. DÉMÁSZ will do it in its own costs when

replaced those pylons. Finally 2441 pylons were converted to bird safe by DÉMÁSZ which is 3,5% more than it was planned (**Annexes C4/10-C4/12**).

Result of the bird protection work on electric network was presented in the Slovak Raptor Journal 8/2014 (2) (**Annex A4/4b**).

In Romania:

In West-Romania baseline survey was carried out in 2011 (**Refer to Annexes C4/9-C4/10 of IR**) and the data were analysed in 2012. Based on this it was realised that there were too much dangerous electric pylons to be insulated therefore the first priority must be given to those which are located near to the breeding pairs. However the nest box installation could start only in 2012 therefore we had to wait until the *F. cherrug* would occupy the nest boxes. In the main time with the help of the Hungarian partners we made contact with Megawatt Co. which is a supplier of the bird protection materials. Based on the photos of the pylons Megawatt helped us to select the specific materials needed and helped to train the specialists of ENEL. There were 23 pylons insulated along the first breeding pair's nest in 2013 (**Refer to Annex C4/23 of MTR**). In 2014 six breeding pairs were found and 331 pylons were insulated around them. Altogether 354 pylons were converted to bird safe around breeding pairs nest boxes in West-Romania (**Annex C4/13**).

In Dobrogea around 150 pylons identified and photographed in the period of 22-30 August 2013 (**Refer to Annex C4/22 of MTR**) and photos were sent to Megawatt to evaluate the materials needed for insulation. However despite of continuous negotiation with the electric company of the region, finally they did not do the work (**Annex C4/14**). Therefore in 2014 we used the purchased materials in Oltenia to insulate 477 pylons around the installed nest boxes where the electric company was ready to do it (**Annexes C4/15-C4/16**).

In Slovakia:

A baseline survey has been done. 1241 pylons were inspected within the baseline survey. Nine *F. cherrug* were found dead most probably due to electrocution during the monitoring of 22 kV power lines in Western and Eastern Slovakia in 2012. This, as well as the movement of PTT tagged birds confirms the necessity of insulation of the dangerous pylons. 412 pylons were insulated in SKCHVU023 (**Refer to Annexes C4/24 & C4/27 of MTR**) and 202 pylons in SKCHVU016 (**Refer to Annexes C4/25 & C4/27 of MTR**) in 2012. Another 405 pylons were identified for insulation and out of these 131 pylons were insulated in SKCHVU014 in 2013 (**Refer to Annexes C4/26 & C4/27 of MTR**). In 2014 another 166 pylons were insulated outside of SKCHVU023 (**Annex C4/17**) and 227 pylons were insulated in SKCHVU016 (**Annex C4/18**). Altogether 1138 pylons became bird safe.

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because nearly 9000 medium voltage electric pylons were converted to bird safe in the four project countries and eliminating the serious danger of electric circuit in large breeding and foraging areas.

Problems and their impacts:

In Bulgaria:

There was a significant delay in the implementation of this action because of the changes of ownership over the electric company (Energo-Pro officially replaced E.ON on 04.07.2012). For almost seven months BSPB was waiting for the decision of the new owners to consider and accept the collaboration offered by BSPB in terms of *F. cherrug* conservation and prevention of electrocution of birds and disturbance in electricity supply for the people. After the favourable decision of the electric company, BSPB has encountered financial inconveniences therefore only 2/3rd of the originally planned pylons have been insulated (**Annex C4/19**). However this is a great achievement since there is not yet any breeding *F. cherrug* pair in the

area, , and the insulated pylons were amongst the most dangerous for *F. cherrug* and other bird species in the project area.

In Hungary:

- In January 2013 the manager of DÉMÁSZ informed the director of BNPD that they cannot fulfil its obligation due to the new taxes imposed by the government (**Refer to Annex C4/12 of MTR**). After a long negotiation process (**Refer to Annexes C4/13-C4/18 of MTR**) DÉMÁSZ finally agreed to carry out the work what was originally agreed (**Annex C4/8**). However DÉMÁSZ recognised that the remaining time is not enough therefore they requested the extension of the project until the end of the year (**Annex C4/9**). The project was extended and DÉMÁSZ finally completed the work.
- E.On the third electric distributor company in Hungary declared the bird protection materials which are covering the insulators too risky from electric safety point of view and started to remove them for its network. However on the Unimpeded Sky Treaty meeting on 12.11.2014. representatives of ÉMÁSZ and DÉMÁSZ declared this problem as a result of installation error and not a technical problem (**Annex C4/20**).

In Romania:

The delay in nest box installation results delay of insulation because we wanted to do the most efficient way around the occupied nest boxes. Finally the work was completed successfully in West-Romania. In Dobrogea the electric company finally did not do the work therefore in the last minutes the purchased material was used to insulate pylons along the installed nest boxes in Oltenia.

Modifications:

In Bulgaria:

Because some of the initially planned sectors have been changed into no risk pylons, therefore we proposed some changes in the initially proposed sectors for insulation to be made. A new map with the proposed changes was prepared (**Refer to Annex C4/4 of IR**). The replacement pylons were also very dangerous since many carcasses were found under them (**Refer to Annexes C4/11-C4/12 of IR**). As the majority of the installation costs were covered by Energo-Pro, therefore we reallocated 9480 EUR from External assistance and 1100 EUR from travel to consumable costs, thus providing a total of 32840,56 EUR for 400 insulators. Since BSPB has encountered financial inconveniences therefore no more pylons were insulated (**Annex C4/19**). Few insignificant changes has been done to the planned insulation of electric pylons, due to 1) 15 pylons of cut off power line, 2) 8 errors in GPS-registered pylons or pylons that were mistakenly registered as dangerous type pylons, and 3) 22 pylons that were visited more frequently by *F. cherrug* and other birds of prey and need to be insulated first, so were exchanged with other initially planned pylons (**Refer to Annex C4/3 of MTR**).

In Hungary:

- BNPD hired the best expert Mr. Péter Tóth to survey the selected pylons, photograph them, identify the material needs, supervise the work of the subcontractors and confirm the completed work before signing the certification of completion (**Refer to Annexes C4/6, C4/8 and C4/18 of MTR**).
- Altogether 6,5% less pylons were converted to bird safe maily because ÉMÁSZ records were out of date. Within the polygons some pylons did not exist any longer or in the main time it was already replaced with insulated one.
- ÉMÁSZ have changed 662 crossarms with three different new type crossarms which were recently developed and provides the best safety for birds.
- In HUBN10004 Hevesi-sík SPA 118 fire flies were installed on 3,2 km distance to avoid collation.
- Due to DÉMÁSZ delay the project was extended with three months.

In Romania:

Insulations were done in Oltenia around the installed nest boxes instead of Dobrogea.

In Slovakia:

When preparing the project proposal, we calculated the number of pylons based on the approximate length of the power line planned to be insulated. During the insulation itself the real number of pylons was identified, so there was difference between the estimated number and real number of pylons. Two power lines were insulated in the project area so far. In the area SKCHVU016 Zahorske Pomoravie – north 145 pylons were estimated when preparing the project proposal, the real number of pylons in the project area was 202 (**Refer to Annex C4/25 of MTR**). In the area SKCHVU023 Uľanska mokrad' 360 pylons were estimated within the longest line, the real number of pylons was 412 (**Refer to Annex C4/24 of MTR**). We removed the SKCHVU012 from the project areas, where the C4 action was supposed to be implemented, because the conditions to include *F.cherrug* in the SDF of this SPA are not met. Instead we included the SKCHVU014 Male Karpaty as a project area in this action. The SPA was listed among project sites in the project proposal. The reason was that a dangerous power line was identified during the field survey –several cadavers of birds of prey were found under it. The line is close to the *S.citellus* colony, created during the LIFE06NAT/H/000096 project and it is a very important feeding territory of *F.cherrug*, breeding in the vicinity (the nest where the video-camera was installed within Action A.4 is about 12 km). The dangerous power line included 131 pylons (**Refer to Annex C4/26 of MTR**).

Comments on Commission's requests:

- Re. Bulgarian map of insulation: A jpg version was submitted in **Annex C4/16 of PR**.
- Re. new crossarms: In Hungary ÉMÁSZ had established three short test sections by the three different types of new crossarms before. They were tested from bird protection, security of electric supply and price point of view and we also studied the possibility to replace insulation by replacing the crossarms within the project. Since the first test justified all the three crossarms, therefore ÉMÁSZ decided to replace the crossarms of another 372 pylons using all the three once upon the recommendation of the expert to get more operational and maintenance experience. Finally the new crossarms were increased up to 662 involving an additional area in line with the recommendation of EC.
- BNPD and ÉMÁSZ are involved in KEOP project in North-East Hungary. MME and DÉMÁSZ were involved in KEOP project preparation in South Hungary but DÉMÁSZ refused to do this project. These projects are scheduled after the LIFE+ project therefore these had not any impact on the LIFE+ project. The KEOP projects are completely separated from the LIFE+ Project both in the site and in financially. All pylons were identified by co-ordinates. The insulated sections were identified by the co-ordinates of the two ends in the certification of completion and recorded in the GIS database what was exchanged among the parties.
- In Romania the insulation work was delayed either by the delay of nest box installation because we consider the occupied nest boxes for first priority or by the attitude of the electric company in Dobrogea.

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

In Bulgaria: The most dangerous segments of the power lines will be insulated.

In Hungary: It is continued by a KEOP project.

In Romania: Installed insulators will be monitored and damaged insulators will be replaced or repaired if it is needed. Pylons around newly occupied nest boxes will be insulated.

In Slovakia: 400 pylons will be made bird safe in W-Slovakia.

Action C5: Keeping and breeding of injured birds and repatriation of juveniles

April 2011 – Sept 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
4 cages will be built in Romania and Slovakia. Insured birds may recover and can be repatriated. Disabled birds may breed in captivity and their chicks will strengthen natural population.	in Romania 2 cages were built for injured birds in Santsimon Mures county. 4 injured <i>F. cherrug</i> were treated there. In Slovakia one cage was built in the ZOO in Bratislava and another in rehabilitation centre in Ratnovce where 6 injured <i>F. cherrug</i> were treated there. 2 out of 4 injured birds were successfully released in Hungary.

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Hungary:

One injured juveniles was found and taken to one of the rehabilitation centre in 2011. (**Refer to Annex C5/1 of IR**). The bird cannot be released because of the nature of the injury. It may be kept for breeding. In 23 May 2013, a weakened *F. cherrug* was found by the colleagues of Bukk National Park Directorate, near Tisza Lake. With the assistance of MME/BirdLife Hungary, the bird was taken to Budapest Zoo for health check and treatment. The reason, why he got weakened is not known. As it was found by the veterinarian of Budapest Zoo, he did not have any injury, however poisoning could not be excluded, especially that bird was found in the region most affected by direct poisoning of birds of prey. The recovered bird released by Zsolt Erdei World Champion boxer on 28 June in Csakvar (**Refer to Annex C5/1 of MTR**). In 12 July 2013 a juvenile male was found with insured wing most probably due to collision. It would never be completely recover therefore it would be kept for breeding in a rescue centre.

In Romania:

Two cages were built in our property in Sansimion, Mures County (**Refer to Annex C5/1 of PR**). A juvenile *F. cherrug* rescued in Arad County and was taken to Targu Mures into the rehabilitation centre of the Milvus Group in 2012. The bird presents some slight affection at one of its wings, which was expected to be healed in a couple of month. It was moved into the cage in the summer of 2013 for flying exercises and to re-familiarize to catch live animals (pigeons). An adult female wounded to her wing, unable to fly, was found in Bihor County. The third *F. cherrug* was found near Reghin city and it was bring to our Rehabilitation Centre in 15th of January 2014. She came from a Czech Republic's falconry and it was most probably a hybrid bird. The bird was deeply injured because of collision, refused to eat and died shortly after arriving. The forth bird was a tagged adult male TORO. On October 2014 the Milvus Group were informed by the monitoring centre that there was a problem with Toro's GPS transmissions. Straight away, our colleague went to the location, an alfalfa field, and searched for the bird. Toro was clearly injured and weakened but, aside from a small problem with the bird's wing, no injuries were immediately apparent. That same day, the bird was bought Tîrgu Mureş, where it was examined by veterinarian, but the bird could not be saved. Our final report is presented in **Annex C5/1**.

In Slovakia:

One injured *F. cherrug* was transported to the rehabilitation centre in Zazriva and was released in June 2011 (**Refer to Annex C5/3 of IR**). One cage was built in the ZOO in Bratislava and another in rehabilitation centre in Ratnovce. Both cages for disabled individuals were opened by the presence of media (**Refer to Annex C5/2 of PR**). The cages are being used to keep

disabled birds. In June 2012 a *F. cherrug* female was found in East-Slovakia with Hungarian ring. After several days she was released. One *F. cherrug* individual ringed in West-Slovakia in 2012, was found on the Bratislava airport injured by the plane and died during the transport. One injured *F. cherrug* male was found near a road in Western Slovakia in June 2013 and was placed to the cage in ZOO Bratislava (**Refer to Annex C5/3 of MTR**). One *F. cherrug* individual with a Slovak ring was found in Austria in April 2013 and treated in a local rescue centre, after consultation with experts from rehabilitation centre in Ratnovce. The individual was released in May 2013 (**Refer to Annex C5/4 of MTR**). Both cages are being used for injured individuals of different bird of prey species.

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because 4 cages were built and 12 insured birds were treated and two of them were repatriated.

Modifications:

Finally we decided to build the cages at Sansimion (Mures County) on the property of the Milvus Group.

Comments on Commission's requests

Finally we did not build the cage in the Zoo but at Sansimion (Mures County) on MILVUS Group's property.

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

This action will be continued in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.

Action C6: Guarding of endangered nests by photo traps and video cameras

January 2011 – March 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
Breeding failure is reduced. Any threat factors are soon identified and actions to reduce them are conducted. Thanks to propagation, the guarding place is visited by numerous tourists/ornithologists, so the activity has added educational value as well. Wide promotion of activity will bring doubts to robbers that they are watched and their plans could be thwarted.	Breeding failure was reduced. Thanks to propagation, the guarding place was visited by numerous tourists/ornithologists, so the activity added educational value as well. Wide promotion of activity brought doubts to robbers that they might watch and their plans could be thwarted.

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Romania:

F. cherrug abandon the old nesting sites on the cliff of the Macin Mountains, and they move to high voltage pylons on the plain like *F. cherrug* did in Hungary before. There was no *F. cherrug* presence at the previously known nest places therefore this action did not get effective in Romania.

In Slovakia:

The video-camera installed within A4 action also serves as a guarding system (**Refer to Annex A4/5 of IR**). Another 3 GSM photo-traps were purchased and installed to ensure safe nesting on sites where there is a suspicion of nest robbery from the past (**Refer to Annex A4/6 of IR**).

Three photo traps (GSM systems) were used in every year, and successful nesting was ensured by the guarded pairs where there was a suspicion of nest robbery from the past. Pictures from the photo-traps were copied to the computer and analysed (**Refer to Annex A4/12 of PR and Annex A4/5 of MTR**). The pictures are also used for PR activities.

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because breeding failure was reduced.

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

In Slovakia: annually 6 nests guarded yearly by photo-traps and video-camera

Action C7: Marking juveniles with PTT to collect migratory and immigration data

May 2011 – June 2013

Results planned	Results achieved
4 juveniles will be tagged by satellite transmitter in Romania. Migratory route and wintering area of Romanian F. cherrug will be identified. Potential breeding sites will be identified. <i>Data on the behavior of F. cherrug in the wind farm areas.</i> Saker Action Plan will be revised.	5 juveniles were tagged to collect migratory data in Romania. Migratory route and wintering area of Romanian F. cherrug was identified. Potential breeding sites were identified. <i>Data on the behavior of F. cherrug in the wind farm areas were collected.</i> CMS adopted the Global Action Plan with our commitment in 2014. (Annex E9/1)

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In 2011 we agreed with the electric power distribution company to provide support for tagging a chick with PTT recovered from the former Hungarian project. A female juvenile named Maia was tagged on 14 June 2011 (**Refer to Annex C7 of IR**). A female juvenile named Thea was tagged near to Arad in West-Romania in 2012. (**Refer to Annexes A3/7 and C7/1 of PR**). Maia died in Bosnia. Her PTT was recovered near to Saraievo (**Refer to Annexes A3/7 and C7/2 of PR**). A juvenile named Kilo was ringed and tagged with PTT in 2013 in West-Romania with the help of Transelectrica (**Refer to Annexes A3/4 & C7/1-C7/2 of MTR**). Two males (Toni & Guszt) were ringed and tagged with PTT near Carpinis with the help of our Hungarian colleagues (**Annex C7/1**).

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because five juveniles were tagged by PTT and the behaviour of the Romanian population was studied.

Problems and their impacts:

A breeding pair in Dobrogea has found too late in 2012. The juveniles left the nest already therefore it was not possible to tag them. The ringing and tagging of another juvenile from West- Romania failed in 2013 as he left the nest very early.

Modifications:

It was agreed that instead of MILVUS, BNPD will purchase the PTTs with one tender and will provide it to MILVUS when those are needed. A recovered PTT from the former project was

used to mark Tobias the son of Barnabas a male bird tagged in 2007 in Hungary was tagged in Czech Republic where Barnabas is breeding (**Refer to Annexes A3/7 and C7/3 of PR**).

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

In Hungary: It is continued by the LIFE13 NAT/HU/000183 project.

5.1.3. Action E: Monitoring

Action E1: Monitoring of installed nest boxes in Bulgaria and Romania according to the Hungarian and Slovak experience (incl. collection & analysis of food remains) January 2012 – March 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
50% of them will be occupied at the project period.	<u>In Bulgaria:</u> 90% of the installed nest boxes are occupied by <i>F. tinnunculus</i> which does not prevent future <i>F. cherrug</i> 's nesting. <u>In Romania:</u> In the years of 2013 and 2014 we monitored 85 installed nest boxes. 4 nest boxes were occupied in 2014.

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Bulgaria:

Installed nest boxes were monitored during 2012-2014 (**Refer to Annex E1/1 of MTR and Annex E1/1**). There were no *F. cherrug* breeding registered in both types of nest boxes. However about 90% of the installed nest boxes were occupied by *Falco tinnunculus* (**Refer to Annex E1/2 of MTR**). On 16.10.2013 the BSPB project team has observed a female *F. cherrug* near one of the nest boxes, installed in Dobrudzha. The bird was soaring by one of the tens migrating there *Buteo buteo* and when it continued its way to the South, the *F. cherrug* returned the opposite direction. The fact that active migration was going on at the place does not allow certain conclusion whether the observed bird was local or migrant, but in the same area a *F. cherrug* was observed during the breeding season of 2013. In 2014 one aluminum nest box was found occupied by *Buteo rufinus* and two nest boxes were occupied by *F. tinnunculus* (**Annex E1/2**). One wooden nest box was destroyed, probably by people collecting walnuts from the tree it was set on. In spite of the generally rainy and wet weather (including some hailstorms), all the nests were in very good condition. For economical and effectiveness reasons the field visits under E1 action were combined with those under E8 action.

In Romania:

Because of the delay of nest boxes installation the nest box monitoring stated in 2013. All the installed nest-boxes were checked in 2013 but only *F. tinnunculus* were breeding in it (**Refer to Annex E1/3 of MTR**). In 2014 the monitoring work identified 4 pairs of *F. cherrug* that bred for the first time in aluminium nest boxes (type 2) in the West-Romania from the breeding 6 pairs (**Annex E1/3**). There were not any nest boxes occupied in Dobrodgea and Oltania.

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because installed nest boxes were checked and new breeding pairs were identified.

Problems and their impacts:

The chance of occupation of the nest boxes during the very first year of their installation was very low, thus a complete monitoring of the nest boxes started in 2013 and completed during the breeding seasons of 2014.

Modifications:

Because of the delay of nest boxes' insulation full scales monitoring started only in 2013.

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

Installed nest boxes will be regularly checked, the occupied will be cleaned and the damaged will be repaired.

Action E2: Monitoring of repatriated *S. citellus* population using the Hungarian and Slovak experience of former LIFE project March 2011 – September 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
Success of Action C3 will be justified.	Results of Action C3 justified.

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Hungary:

In HUDD10008 the repatriated animals were fed and guarded. Monitoring of the repatriated population was carried out during the guarding and also on the 30th and 45th days after the repatriation. The animals extended the artificial holes and created their burrows (**Refer to Annex E2/1 of PR**). Thanks to the feeding they remained in the area despite of the severe draught. We recorded two predations by *Buteo buteo* only. There was any dog or fox predation. The repatriated population successfully accommodated in the fenced area however two burrows system were created outside of the fences too. Based on our monitoring we believe that 95 % of the repatriated population successfully hibernated. Unfortunately probably due to the severe weather (returned winter) in the spring *the repatriated population did not survived*.

In HUKN10002 the repatriated animals were guarded. Monitoring of the repatriated population was carried out during the guarding and also after that on the 30th and 45th days after the repatriation in 2013. The animals extended the artificial holes, created their burrows and started to occupy a larger area (**Refer to Annex E2/1a-b of MTR**). Monitoring of the repatriated population was carried out also in 2014. The *S. citellus* colony extended its territory (**Annex E2/1**). Juveniles were identified (**Annex E2/2**). The monitoring justified that about 100 animals were present on the site and about half of them were juveniles. (**Annex E2/3**).

In Romania:

In the days following translocations, repatriated animals were checked twice a day, in the morning and evening hours. During these controls any appreciable change had been recorded. We recorded individuals which stayed in the artificial burrows or those which have left it and later returned, the digging activity of animals, the rate of retention cap removal, the number of abandoned artificial burrows, the presence or absence of food, the presence and number of actively foraging individuals around artificial burrows. The release area had been previously evaluated based on several indicators, so that the target area meets the basic needs of the species: the soil is easy to dig in, the groundwater table is low, height of the grassy vegetation is low with patches of medium height tussocks and there are fairly many positive micro-relief forms. The size of the area ensures the viability of newly adapted colonies. The area is used as a pasture for sheep, which should remain unchanged in the long run, thus ensuring the long-term survival of ground squirrel populations. Success of the repatriation was assessed by daily controls in the three days following the releasing of ground squirrels, after which weekly controls followed. During these controls special attention was accorded to assessing if individual burrows were occupied, and if so, by which species (ground squirrel or common vole). Generally, our relocations can be considered successful on the short term, as roughly half of the released individuals were found to occupy our pre-drilled artificial burrows, and during later controls most of them continued following these, or have dug new burrows near them (**Table 7**). In Sântana individuals released in 2012 had persisted after one and a half year,

apparently strengthening the local population. Reproduction success of these individuals, however, could not be directly proven, as certain distinguishing of native and relocated individuals was not possible. Generally, a translocation is considered successful if it results in a self-sustaining population. The three main objectives of a reintroduction are: (1) survival of the animals after release, (2) settlement of animals in the release area, and (3) successful reproduction in the release area. The first and second objectives deal with the days or weeks immediately after the release of the animals. Consequently, long-term survival at the release site strongly depends on this critical period. There are many factors which influence the outcome of this critical period including e.g. suitable habitat, predator exclusion, and confinement of the animals to the release site. In our case it is yet too soon to determine the success of the translocation. This can and should be evaluated on multiple temporal scales. Post release monitoring of the animals should occur via observation for 5 years. One should do visual census of the ground squirrels on the release site for at least three days during the activity peaks. Following this, used burrow counts are recommended every month from the release until the first hibernation. Data on ground squirrel census numbers at the release area are required to decide if the translocation was successful in the long term (**Refer to Annex E2/2 of PR and Annex E2/2 of MTR**).

Table 7. *Percentage of artificial burrow occupation based on repeated controls after relocations in Romania*

Period	Relocation site	% of occupied artificial burrows (Annex E2/4)
18-22.08.2012	Sântana	42
27-30.04.2014	Sântana	30
27-30.04.2014	Sânpetru Mare	35
17-21.09.2014	Sântana	60
17-21.09.2014	Sânpetru Mare	65

In Slovakia:

It was necessary to concentrate on the monitoring of the success of the release on both sites where the new colonies has been established. Acclimatization of released *S. citellus* have been recorded and the success of the release itself by observation. According to the monitoring the first phase of the repatriation was successful, what was very important information for the next implementation of C3 action (**Refer to Annex C3/3: 2nd picture of IR**). Intensive monitoring of the released individuals was carried out, with the use of photo-traps in 2012 (**Refer to Annex E2/3 of PR**). The results are very interesting – for example in one case 5 out of 10 released males used one burrow. We have also recorded predation of *S. citellus* by other species. Based on the consultation and approval we used the microchips to identify the recaptured individuals in 2012 and 2013. This method helps to evaluate the success of releasing. Monitoring was carried out after every releasing phase (**Refer to Annex C3/9 of MTR**). New methods were tested to check the behaviour of individuals. The methods are described in details in **Annex E2/3 of MTR**. All active burrows were recorded in GPS database (**Refer to Annex E2/4 of MTR**). After every releasing the number of burrows increased (**Refer to Annex E2/5 of MTR**). The next releasing was adjusted to the results of the previous ones. Successful hibernation was confirmed on both project sites. This indicates that the sites are suitable for *S. citellus*. Based on the observations some measures were needed to be carried out to ensure the reproduction – several females were released in burrows occupied with the highest number of males. After the release of females the repatriation was continued in safe distance to avoid disturbance of the pairs. The reproduction was confirmed in SKCHVU016 in 2014 (**Annex E2/5**) therefore the populations can be confirmed stable. We hope the population

will grow and a stabile colony will be established on both sites. Description of situation on both project sites where the *S. citellus* was repatriated in different years:

In 2011: There was heavy rain and floods in 2010 in the whole territory of Slovakia. That was a reason why many of *S. citellus* colonies disappeared, even strong and stabile ones. Therefore it was not possible to capture enough individuals to establish the population on project sites.

In 2012: Successful hibernation of released individuals was recorded on both sites. Some more individuals were released to strengthen the population in order to follow the aim to establish a colony on both sites. *S. citellus* colony in SKCHVU016 was still not stabile. In SKCHVU017 the colony was already stabilised. The population was spread in several sub-colonies. Successful reproduction was supposed on this site.

In 2013: In SKCHVU017 the status of the colony after hibernation was evaluated as very good. Continuous rainy weather in May, June and beginning of July influenced both sites significantly and resulted in decline of the population. In SKCHVU016 only 6 individuals and in SKCHVU017 the presence of only 10 individuals was proved. Later higher numbers of *S. citellus* were proved and after releasing in summer in both sites the status of colonies became stable again. It was confirmed that the weather can influence the population significantly.

In 2014: This year juveniles were recorded on SKCHVU016 for the first time (**Annex E2/5**). This means the reproduction was successful as well as the reintroduction.

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because repatriated *S. citellus* were checked and repatriation success justified.

Problems and their impacts:

In Hungary and Slovakia the populations were significantly influenced by extremely bad weather (heavy rain, floods and snow) especially in 2010 and 2013.

Modifications:

In Slovakia photo traps and chips were used first time for better monitoring.

Comments on Commission's requests:

In Hungary and Romania the guide line what was developed by LIFE06NAT/H/000096 project was used (**Refer to Annex E2/4 of PR and Annex E2/6 of MTR**). In Slovakia the methods included in the original guideline developed for LIFE06NAT/H/000096 were adjusted to the experience of the project works considering the new method applied first time of this project (**Refer to Annex E2/3 of MTR**).

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

Monitoring of the repatriated *S. citellus* population will be done annually by the concerned beneficiary according to the national monitoring protocols in each country.

Action E3: Efficiency control of dangerous electric pylon's insulation

January 2011 – September 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
Repeated survey on the same sections of electric lines what were surveyed under Action C4 will justify the efficiency of the insulation.	Surveys of the insulated sections of power lines are executed and demonstrated high effectiveness of the bird electrocution prevention activity. The number of birds electrocuted on insulated sections of the electric power-lines (E3) decreased by 100 % compared to baseline data. Numerous other important, protected and strictly protected species, including ones listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive, benefit from the action (e.g. <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> , <i>Heliaetus albicilla</i> , <i>Buteo buteo</i> , <i>Buteo rufinus</i> , <i>Bubo bubo</i> , <i>Coracias garrulus</i> , <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> , <i>Falco vespertinus</i> , <i>Tyto alba</i> etc.).

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Bulgaria:

Efficiency control of the insulation was done along the insulated sections of the power lines in 2014. The monitoring of the insulated pylons was executed at the beginning of December. Most of the sectors with insulated pylons were surveyed and no dead birds due to electrocution were found along all of them. Moreover, at several places *Buteo buteo* and in one case *Falco tinnunculus* were observed safely perched on insulated pylons. BSPB's volunteers have reported many observations of birds of prey perching on the secured pylons since their insulation (**Annex E3/1**).

In Hungary:

Baseline survey was carried out by BNPD, KMNP and KNPD. The survey sheets (**Refer to Annex C4/6 of IR**) were sent to the Monitoring Centre of MME for data processing. The result is given in **Annex C4/6 of PR**. Once the insulation work was completed in some section within national parks territory the responsible rangers checked the insulated sections of the power lines. They checked the surroundings for carcasses of killed birds. They filled out the survey sheets again (**Refer to Annex C4/6 of IR and Annex E3/1 of MTR and Annex E3/2**) and send them to MME's Monitoring Centre to data processing. The first result was given in **Annex C4/6 of PR**. The monitoring justified the efficiency of the work (**Annex E3/3**).

Romania:

The insulated power lines were monitored. No remains of electrocuted birds were found under the insulated poles (**Refer to Annex E3/2 of MTR and Annex E3/4**).

In Slovakia:

All of the pylons insulated under C.4 were surveyed and no electrocuted bird has been found (**Annex E3/5**).

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because efficiency of insulation was justified.

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

Survey of the insulated pylons will be done time by time.

Action E8: Baseline survey to monitor project success January 2011 – January 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
The original population size (number of territorial pairs) of <i>F. cherrug</i> in the project area will be known. This will be used at the end of the project to assess whether the proposed increase in population size was achieved.	The original population size (number of territorial pairs) of <i>F. cherrug</i> in the project area was identified and that was used at the end of the project to define the population increase during the project period.

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Bulgaria:

The baseline surveys were carried out in 2011. Four surveys were done. The first two were in January and February to register *F. cherrug* in the Project territory during the winter season. Over 20 records of at least 4 different *F. cherrug* (2 adult and 2 juvenile birds) were gathered, including photo and video shots. Areas of winter occurrence were outlined; data on the daily activity and movements of the *F. cherrug* were collected. Two other field visits took place in March and April and covered both the entire Project territory at the beginning of the breeding season. All suitable sites for breeding were visited, carefully checked and documented (recorded by GPS and photographed). They include cliffs, high voltage electricity lines, forest edges and tree lines, and previously installed artificial nest boxes. A pair of *F. cherrug* was observed in April in an area, very suitable for breeding, but no occupied nest was found. All nests of large birds were recorded; abundant additional information about the state of the habitats, threatening factors and other was collected (**Refer to Annex E8/1 of IR**). In August 2011 the field work on baseline survey was completed. The collected data has been analysed. In February 2012 the final Baseline Survey Report has been written in Bulgarian language (**Refer to Annex E8/1 of PR**). The annual monitoring data were compared to this but there was any established breeding pair recorded in Bulgaria (**Annex E8/1**).

In Romania:

In 2011 70% of the project area from the Western part of Romania was covered by baseline survey along the high voltage electricity lines. Janos Bagyura from MME helped the baseline survey and found a breeding pair in a raven nest on pylon near to ROSPA0069 (**Refer to Annex E8/2 of IR**). Several data were collected regarding the presence of the target species in this area. In Oltenia baseline survey was carried out in all of project targeted SPA's, moreover data received from birds equipped with satellite transmitters from previous years were checked on sites. Unfortunately no occupied nests were identified along these site visits. 3 SPA's were visited in southern Romania and most of the points from where birds from previous years were transmitting, were checked. In Dobrodgea, south-eastern Romania, all the SPA's targeted by the project were checked, also 3 more sites (all SPA's) from were previous years *F. cherrug* were reported have been visited (**Refer to Annex E8/3 of IR**). Unfortunately any *F. cherrug* was not found. The baseline survey for assessing the *F. cherrug* population was carried out by the Milvus Group both in the Western Plain and in Dobrudja region in 2012. A detailed survey report is given in **Annex E8/2 of PR**. All the known places where *F. cherrug* has been observed in the last 10 years were checked. A single pair was identified around Dulgheru with breeding attempt that turned out to be unsuccessful in June when the pair left the area. Baseline survey was carried out in other target SPAs in Oltenia confirming the absence of the species in the area. The annual monitoring data were compared to the baseline data and increase of the

population in West-Romania from one to six breeding pairs was defined (**Refer to Annex E8/1 of MTR, Annex E1/3**). In Dobrogea the breeding pairs doubled.

Indicators used to test the performance:

The annual monitoring data were compared to the baseline data and population increase was identified especially in West Romania.

The perspectives for continuing the action after the end of the project:

Not the baseline survey but the population monitoring will be continued after the LIFE project.

Action E9: Collecting migratory and immigration data by satellite telemetry, bird ringing and feather analysis April 2011 – June 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
Actions A1, A3, & C7 will be successfully accomplished. Based on this information a population model developed by LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 can be adjusted better for Europe. Sufficient data will become available to understand the spatio-temporal dynamics of the <i>F. cherrug</i> population in the Carpathian Basin. The knowledge acquired by the action is vital for future conservation management planning. The Saker Action Plan will be revised.	Actions A1, A3, & C7 were successfully accomplished. Based on this information a population model developed by LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 was justified. Sufficient data are available to understand the spatio-temporal dynamics of the <i>F. cherrug</i> population in the Carpathian Basin. The knowledge acquired by the action is vital for future conservation management planning. CMS adopted the Global Saker Action Plan with our commitment in 2014.

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

The movement of the roaming five juveniles tagged in the frame of action C7 were followed by satellite receiver and the data were evaluated (**Annex C7/1**). The information together with other data collected by the project were used to complete the Global Saker Action Plan what was adopted by the COP of CMS in 2014 (**Annex E9/1**).

In the main time there were many networking in the frame of this action what produced a lot of useful information (**Refer to Annexes E9/1-E9/6 of IR and A3/7, C7/2-C7/3, D6/1, E9/1-E9/4**).

The project contributed the international conservation of the *F. cherrug*. (**Refer to Annexes E9/5a-E9/6b of PR and Annex E9/1 of MTR**) and finally the Global Saker Action Plan what was adopted by the COP of CMS in 2014 (**Annex E9/1**).

Indicators used to test the performance:

5 juveniles tagged by PTT and data collected from the roaming of the Romanian juveniles.

Modifications:

The participation of the CMS and Task Force meetings did not planned. Participation of in the CoP meeting was financed by the Hungarian Government. The participation costs on the first Task Force meeting covered by an Arab foundation, the second by the Hungarian Government. Only one was covered by the project.

5.2. Dissemination actions

5.2.1. Objectives

D1-D2: To convince electric companies to install nest boxes on high voltage electric pylons and insulate medium voltage electric pylons;

D3: To inform the population around the Natura 2000 area covered by the project about the project's objectives and EU support by installing 24 information boards.

D4: To inform the general public about the project objectives, the project's work, the achievements and EU support by operating a web page in five languages.

D5: To secure public support for conservation efforts by producing and disseminating different materials.

D6: To increase the public awareness about *F. cherrug*, its conservation status and our effort to improve it with EU support via the media.

D7: To disseminate the result of the project by a Layman's report.

5.2.2. Dissemination overview per activity

Action D1: Lobbying for installation of nest boxes in electric pylons

October 2010 – March 2011

Results planned	Results achieved
Decision makers at the Transelectrica Company are accepting the idea to install nest boxes on the high voltage power lines and are cooperating with the project team in this activity.	Lobby was made for installing the nest boxes at Transelectrica S. A. and Enel Banat S.A. companies and 120 nest boxes were installed.

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Hungary:

MAVIR organised conferences about "bird protection on power lines" in every year and MME in April 2011. Most project partners introduced their activities in connection to the electric network on these conferences (**Refer to Annexes D1/1-D1/2 of PR and Annexes D1/1-D1/3 of MTR**). Representatives of Romanian and Slovak Electric Suppliers were invited and they participated in 2013. An aluminium nest box installation was introduced to the audience of the conferences (**Refer to Annex D1/3 of PR and Annex D1/4 of MTR**).

The Romanian Ministry of Environment and Forestry invited the electric companies for a meeting to the ministry on 14. December 2011. György Biró (MAVIR), János Bagyura (MME) and József Fidlóczky (FENCON Ltd. on behalf of BNPD) took part on the meeting. The Hungarian partners introduced the method, experiences, result of the nest box installation on electric pylons and the advantage of it for the electric distributor company. They brought an aluminium nest box with them what they handed over to the Romanian partner. (**Refer to Annex D1/4 of PR**).

In Romania:

The three relevant electric distributor companies (ENEL, Transelectrica and Electrica) were regularly contacted in this issue; we have invited them to the international conferences on power lines and bird mortality, held in Budapest. We were joining the meeting and we have presented the presentations of the meeting in CD for the companies. We used the occasion of PTT tagging for lobby too. The participating staffs of ENEL were convinced about the

importance and safety of nest box installation and show interest about it. A large scale success meeting was organised with the help of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 14 December 2011 in Bucharest where representatives from every electricity supplier company from Romania participated and the Hungarian partners took part also and introduced the Hungarian experiences. **(Refer to Annexes D1/5-D1/6 of PR)**. The meeting was successful. Several other meetings were held with the representatives of ENEL, Transelectrica and Electrica, letters were sent with our specific requirements **(Refer to Annex D1/7 of PR)**. The lobby with ENEL and Electrica was successful. In 2012 a total of 50 “type 2” nest boxes were installed on pylons of high voltage power lines own by the ENEL S.A. company. We also signed an agreement Transelectrica Timisoara about mounting 41 nest boxes on high voltage power lines in Arad and Timis counties **(Refer to Annex D1/8 of PR)**. Transelectrica has agreed to install the last nest boxes in Dobrogea on the transmission line from the Ukrainian boarder during the project period **(Refer to Annex D1/5 of MTR)**. Transelectrica has also agreed to install the remaining nest boxes in West-Romania in their own expense before the next breeding season in March 2014 **(Refer to Annex D1/6 of MTR)**. Despite of our agreement the Transelectrica did not installed the nest boxes because lack of finance resources but the Electromontaj S.A. finalized the work in August of 2014. The action was successful since finally more than the originally planned nest boxes were installed on high voltage electric pylons.

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because nest boxes were installed on high voltage electric pylons in Romania based on the Hungarian and Slovak experiences.

Problems and their impacts:

None of the invited Romanian companies participated in the relevant meetings in Hungary in 2011 and 2012 but ENEL took part in 2013. Despite of our agreement with Transelectrica Timisoara in late November 2012 we have received a letter from them **(Refer to Annex D1/9 of PR)** as they didn't get the approval to cover the costs of the installation from their HQ in Bucharest. After a long negotiation an authorized company: Electromontaj S.A. was selected to install 35 nest boxes on Transelectrica's high voltage pylons. The Electromontaj S.A. finalized the work in August of 2014.

Comments on Commission's requests:

The first meeting was held in 14 December 2011 in Bucharest **(Refer to Annexes D1/5-D1/6 of PR)**. ENEL participated in the International Bird Protection Conference in Hungary in 2013.

Action D2: Lobbying for insulation of electric pylons January 2011 – June 2011

Results planned	Results achieved
Decision makers of the Romanian Electricity Companies are accepting the idea of isolating the dangerous pylons of medium-voltage power lines and are helping the project team in this activity.	Decision makers of the Romanian Electricity Companies were accepting the idea of isolating the dangerous pylons of medium-voltage power lines and were mostly helping the project team in this activity. Enel Banat S.A. company in West-Romania and CEZ in Oltenia insulated dangerous pylons along installed nest boxes.

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Hungary: See at action D1.

In Romania:

The three relevant electric distributor companies (ENEL, Transelectrica and Electrica) were regularly contacted in this issue; we have invited them to the international conferences on power lines and bird mortality, held in Budapest. We were joining the meeting and we have presented the presentations of the meeting in CD for the companies. We used the occasion of PTT tagging for lobby too. The participating staffs of ENEL were convinced about the importance and safety of nest box installation and show interest about it. A large scale success meeting was organised with the help of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 14 December 2011 in Bucharest where representatives from every electricity supplier company from Romania participated and the Hungarian partners took part also and introduced the Hungarian experiences. **(Refer to Annexes D1/5-D1/6 of PR)**. In the meeting we introduced the problem and the Hungarian experiences. The meeting was successful. Several meetings were held with the representatives of ENEL Banat. They tested 50 sets of insulators they were given in Timis County, near Ianova **(Refer to Annex D2/1 of PR)**. We agreed with ENEL Banat to insulate 350 pylons in West-Romania **(Refer to Annex D2/2 of PR)**. In the International Conference in Hungary ENEL made direct contact with Megawatt Ltd. one of the producers of new insulation materials. Finally ENEL Banat has insulated 354 pylons around installed especially occupied nest boxes. However despite of continuous negotiation with ENEL Constanta the electric company of the region in Dobrodgea, and despite of their promise, finally they did not do the work **(Annex C4/14)**. Therefore in the last minutes we could convince SC CEZ Distribute SA and the purchased material was used to insulate pylons along the installed nest boxes in Oltenia.

Indicators used to test the performance:

The action was successful because medium voltage electric pylons were insulated in Romania based on the Hungarian and Slovak experiences.

Problems and their impacts:

None of the invited Romanian companies participated in the relevant meetings in Hungary in 2011 and 2012 but ENEL took part in 2013. ENEL Constanta despite of long negotiation and many promises did not do the insulation in Dobrodgea.

Modifications:

Because ENEL Constanta did not do the insulation in time in Dobrogea therefore CEZ did the insulation along the installed nest boxes in Oltenia.

Comments on Commission's requests:

The first meeting was held in 14 December 2011 in Bucharest (**Refer to Annexes D1/5-D1/6 of PR**). ENEL participated in the International Bird Protection Conference in Hungary in 2013.

Action D3: Erecting information signs at project site September 2011 – March 2012

Results planned	Results achieved
Large scale publicity of the conservation status of <i>F. cherrug</i> , project aims and activities and its support by LIFE+. In Bulgaria 2, in Hungary 12, in Romania 4, Slovakia 2, information signs will be erected along main roads near the most populated area and the pilot area.	Large scale publicity of the conservation status of <i>F. cherrug</i> , project aims and activities and its support by LIFE+. In Bulgaria 2, in Hungary 14, in Romania 4, Slovakia 2, information signs were erected along main roads near the most populated area and the pilot area.

Responsible:

for design: MME

for translation: BSPB, MILVUS and RPS;

for production: BSPB, MILVUS, MME and RPS;

for installation: all beneficiaries

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Bulgaria:

The text of the information signs has been translated into Bulgarian. The most appropriate sites Cape Kaliakra (visited annually by about 1 000 000 peoples from Bulgaria and abroad) and the Centre for protection of animals and nature in Dobrich town (visited by many people, mainly from Dobrich and its surroundings, and especially by families with children), were selected and the information boards were erected (**Refer to Annex D3/1 of IR and Annex D3/1 of PR**). Monitoring the number of visitors of the information signs was done in Kaliakra and Dobrich, between June and August 2012 and 2013. Short reports were prepared (**Refer to Annex D3/2 of PR and Annex D3/1 of MTR**).

In Hungary:

The signboard designed for all the four countries (**Refer to Annex D3/2 of IR**). 14 information signs were prepared based on the design in the end of 2011. These were distributed among the Hungarian beneficiaries. Some of the beneficiaries installed them in their own frequently visited premises (ÉMÁSZ, DÉMÁSZ, MAVIR) while others in public areas. Permissions were obtained from the municipalities during the winter. During the spring and summer all the information signs were erected on the selected locations (**Refer to Annex D3/3 of PR**).

In Romania:

In 2011 the text of the information signs has been translated into Romanian. Targeted project site managers at Macin National Park have been informed about the erection of information signs, local authorities to be contacted (**Refer to Annex D3/3 of PR**). In 2012 two information boards were erected in West-Romania and one in the south in Greci at the entrance of the Macin National Park (**Refer to Annex D3/4 of PR**). The last information sign was erected in escăria Cefa – Pădurea Rădvani SPA in 2013 (**Refer to Annex D3/2 of MTR**).

In Slovakia:

The text of the information signs was translated into Slovak. Two signboards were prepared. One of the signboards will be installed near their seat in Abraham village in SKCHVU023 Uľanska mokrad' (**Refer to Annex D3/4 of IR**) and the other one in ZOO Bratislava (**Refer to**

Annex D3/5 of PR). The information board in Abraham was replaced into a more frequently visited place (**Annex D3/1**).

Deliverables: 22 information board (14 Hungarian, 4 Romanian, 2 Bulgarian and 2 Slovak languages) with LIFE and Natura 2000 logo.

Indicators used to test the performance:

- None of them was destroyed.
- These were displayed in very frequently visited places: touristic places, ZOOs, customer services. Based on the surveys daytime about 100 peoples in an hour turn over along them **Refer to Annex D3/2 of PR and Annex D3/1 of MTR**).

Action D4: Design and operate project web site October 2010 – September 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
An accessible and up-to-date web site will be informing the general public and technical staff working on similar projects about the project's work and achievements. Hence, it will promote networking with past and future LIFE projects dealing with the conservation of <i>Falco spp</i> . We expect 240 000 visitors over the project period to visit the site.	An accessible and up-to-date web site www.sakerlife2.mme.hu was informing the general public and technical staff working on similar projects about the project's work and achievements. It promoted networking with other LIFE projects dealing with the conservation of <i>Falco spp</i> . There were 302 879 visitors over the project period on the site.

Responsible:

for design & maintenance: MME

for management: BNPD

for writing and translation: BNPD, BSPB, MILVUS and RPS

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Bulgaria:

The content of the project website was translated into Bulgarian and 16 news were prepared by BSPB about the progress of the project activities in Bulgaria for the project web page. Additionally, this news was published on BSPB's official web site and Facebook page. News from other partners has been translated into Bulgarian for the project web site.

In Hungary:

Website www.sakerlife2.mme.hu was developed in five languages and it is operating. It is common with the former and the next project's website. Selection between the projects can be done in the home page. Website was continuously maintained and it provides information about the project progress. The web camera installed at a nest box was connected to the web page and the breeding of the *F. cherrug* pair could be monitored continuously in 2012, 2013 (**Refer to Annex D4/2-D4/3 of MTR**) and in 2014 (**Annex A4/1**). In 2013 a *Falco subbuteo* pair started to breed after the *F. cherrug* in the nest box.

All project's dissemination materials (Guidelines, Reports, Layman's Report, project film) are displayed on the web under the results.

In Romania:

The content of the project website has been translated into Romanian and several articles were created in three different languages (Romanian, Hungarian, English).

In Slovakia:

The content of the project website has been translated into Slovak and new articles were submitted and published. The streaming of video from camera installed under Action A.4 was ensured in 2013.

Deliverables: An accessible and up-to-date web site in five languages.

Indicators used to test the performance:

This action was very successful since there were 1 514 625 visits from 302 879 address from 147 countries. There were more than 1000 visits from 33 countries. (**Annex D4/1**). 80% of the visitors returned (**Annex D4/2**). Basically all pages of the website were visited (**Annex D4/3**).

Action D5: Secure public support for conservation efforts July 2011 – September 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
Disturbance of <i>F. cherrug</i> breeding will be reduced by 50% as public awareness increases. 4000 copies of A2 size posters 4000 copies of A4 size leaflets DVD: 1000 copies in five languages (Bulgarian, English, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak) Presentation of the project on the seminars organised by the national LIFE+ Authorities and in the materials published by them.	Not any evidence was recorded about breeding failure due to disturbance. 2x1000 copies of A2 size posters in Bulgarian, Romanian languages, 1000 copies of A3 size posters in Hungarian language, 300 pcs of T-shirts and 500 copies of brochures were produced in Slovakia, 2x1000 Bulgarian & Romanian +2500 Hungarian copies of A4 size leaflets, 1000 DVD in five languages (Bulgarian, English, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak) 300 DVD about the <i>F. cherrug</i> breeding.

Responsible:

for design and production: BSPB, BNPD, MILVUS, RPS

for distribution: all beneficiary

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Bulgaria:

- A questionnaire related to the conservation of *F. cherrug* has been prepared (**Refer to Annex D5/1 of IR**) and it was disseminated within stakeholders of the project area to collect baseline information from June 2011 (**Refer to Annex D5/2 of IR**). At the project end the survey has been repeated (**Annex D5/1**) and evaluated (**Annex D5/2**).
- 1000 copies of A2-size posters were printed in April 2012 (**Refer to Annex D5/1 to PR**). Their distribution initiated on 6 May 2012, when an official event was organized by BSPB in the town of Varna, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the LIFE Programme and their distribution and displacement continued with the help of BSPB's volunteers in different events and visited places (**Refer to Annex D5/2 of PR and Annex D5/1 of MTR**).
- 1000 copies of leaflets were printed in January 2013 (**Refer to Annex D5/2 of MTR**) and it was vastly distributed in the project area (**Refer to Annex D5/3 of MTR**).
- Some documentary video material was taken by the project team, showing the field activities which were used for the project film (**Refer to Annex D5/4 of MTR**).
- Text of the project film was translated to Bulgarian, and the received DVDs were distributed.

In Hungary:

- A questioner was designed to assess the impact of the communication (**Refer to Annex D5/12 of PR**) and it was displayed on the web and we tried to use them during some event. However the questioners are not very popular in Hungary, therefore only a few were returned after the events. Therefore we changed the method and our colleagues have filled the questioner interviewing the participants (**Refer to Annex D5/7 of MTR**). In the project end the survey has been repeated (**Annex D5/3**) and evaluated (**Annex D5/4**).
- 1000 copies of posters were printed in May 2012 (**Refer to Annex D5/4 of PR**). We printed A3 size posters instead of A2 because it is easier to install it on the information boards of Municipalities, schools, medical centres, pubs. The posters were distributed among the Hungarian partners and they displayed them in their areas in public places like public offices, schools, pubs, etc. (**Refer to Annex D5/5 of PR**).
- 2000 copies of leaflets (**Refer to Annex D5/6 of PR**) were printed and distributed among the partners in 2012. The partners use them in different event and when they were negotiating peoples in the field. (**Refer to Annex D5/7 of PR, and Annex D5/5 MTR**).
- Text of the project film was translated to English, and the film was displayed on the project web. The film was introduced to national TVs which may include it their 2015 year's program. The received DVDs were distributed among the Hungarian beneficiaries and the audience of different events (**Annex D5/5**).
- 29 presentations were held about the project in different audience in different places by different peoples (**Refer to Annex D5/9-D5/11 of PR and Annex D5/6 of MTR and Annex D5/6**).

In Romania:

- The Hungarian poster and leaflets were adapted into Romanian. The draft version was submitted to the board for comments (**Refer to Annex D5/13-D/14 of PR**).
- 1000 posters in Romanian and 500 copies in Hungarian languages were prepared (**Annexes D5/8a-b of MTR**) and distributed in the project areas.
- 1000 leaflets were prepared in Romanian and Hungarian languages (**Annexes D5/9a-b of MTR**) and distributed in the project areas.
- A 25' HD film "The Saker continues his journey" about the project activities were prepared in Romanian and Hungarian languages with Bulgarian, English and Slovak subtitles (**Annex D5/7**). The film is displayed in the project web and 1000 DVDs were prepared and distributed among the beneficiaries (**Annex D5/8**).
- The Hungarian questioner was adapted and 40 peoples were questioned about their knowledge of the project issues (**Annex D5/9**). The questioners were evaluated (**Annex D5/10**).

In Slovakia:

- A questionnaire was prepared based on the Hungarian one and published online on RPS web page in February 2013. The stakeholders were asked to fill the form either online or in printed form, according to their preferences. Forms filled in printed version were transformed to electronic version. Over 30 stakeholders, mostly farmers and hunters were contacted to fill in the form (**Refer to Annex D5/16 of MTR**). 19 people participated on the inquiry (15 online, 4 in printed version) with 62 % of correct answers. At the project end the survey has been repeated (**Annex D5/11**) and evaluated (**Annex D5/12**). 44 people participated online with 62 % of correct answers. More people participated at the end of the project on the survey. The knowledge of the stakeholders is good. The number of bird crime cases has decreased in the most critical region in SKCHVU023 from 6 cases in 2009 and 2010 to 2 cases in 2014.
- 300 T-shirts were prepared (**Refer to Annex D5/13 of MTR**) and distributed to stakeholders, project staff and volunteers in different project events.

- 500 brochures were produced (**Refer to Annex D5/14 of MTR**) and distributed to stakeholders (**Refer to Annex D5/15 of MTR**).
- There were 8 presentations (**Refer to Annex D5/11 of MTR and Annex D5/13a-b**) held about the project work, 5 articles and one short movie were presented.
- Slovak Raptor Journal was published in 200 copies presenting project results (**Annex A4/4**).

Deliverables:

- 2x1000 copies of A2 size posters in Bulgarian, Romanian languages,
- 1000 copies of A3 size posters in Hungarian language,
- 300 pcs of T-shirts and 500 copies of brochures were produced in Slovakia,
- 2x1000 Bulgarian & Romanian +2500 Hungarian copies of A4 size leaflets,
- 1000 DVD in five languages (Bulgarian, English, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak),
- 300 DVD about the *F. cherrug* breeding.
- 200 copies of Slovak Raptor Journal.

Indicators used to test the performance:

All materials distributed and the survey justifies that *F. cherrug* and its conservation is better known.

Modifications:

RPS produced project T-shirts instead of posters according to the approval of EC.

Table 8: Monitoring and assessment the impact of dissemination

Action nr.	Monitored activity	Methodology	Result indicator
A1/A2	Disseminating information among farmers how to access AES	Production and distribution of leaflets Advising farmers	1000 Bulgarian and 2000 Romanian leaflets produced and distributed 40 & 100 farmers were regularly contacted
A3	Disseminating information among decision makers about the effect of wind farms on <i>F. cherrug</i>	Production and distribution of Guidelines	4x100 Guidelines in 4 languages produced and distributed amongst decision makers
D1	Lobbying for installation of nest boxes in electric pylons in Romania	Accounting the installed nest boxes in Romania	120 aluminium nest boxes installed in pylons in Romania
D2	Lobbying for insulation of electric pylons in Romania	Accounting the insulated electric pylons in Romania	831 electric pylons were insulated in Romania
D3	Visitors of erected information signs at project sites	Responsible project staff randomly visiting the signboards and recording visitors met there	BG=50 per 2 hours HU=2~50 per hour RO=1,5 per hour SK=50 per hour in the ZOO and 2 per hours in Abraham

Actio n nr.	Monitored activity	Methodology	Result indicator
D4	Use of project web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Google Analytics • Counting request for permissions to use data published on web • Counting references made of web 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 1 514 625 visits from 302 879 address from 147 countries. • BG=0, HU=5, RO=3, SK=n.a. • BG=n.a., HU=7, RO=3, SK=n.a.
D5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A2 size posters • A4 size leaflets • Project film on DVD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveying the number of posters displayed in public places • Recording the sort and number of events and participants where leaflets are distributed • Maintaining record and statistic about the distribution and presentations of the film • Observing TV watch data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG=1000, RO=1000, HU=1000(A3size), posters SK=300 T-shirts, 500 brochures • BG= 1000, HU= 2500, RO=1000 leaflets are distributed in events • 25' film was copied on 1000 DVDs in Hungarian and Romanian languages with Bulgarian, English and Slovak subtitles. DVDs were distributed in conferences etc. • 300 DVDs about <i>F. cherrug</i> breeding in 2014
D6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press Conferences • Press releases • Articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining record about the number of invitation and participants • Observing media watch data • Maintaining record about the number of occasion and targeted press • Observing media watch data • Maintaining record about the submitted articles • Requesting copies about the published articles • Maintaining record about the published copies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 press conferences, 154 participants • 20 TVs, 28 radios, 3 printed and 51 online • 35 press releases, 40 press approached • 16 printed and 95 online • 24 articles submitted • 22 articles published
D7	Layman's report	Maintaining record about the distribution	5x800 copies distributed in 4 countries

Action D6: Informing media about project's aims, activities and achievements
October 2010 – September 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
The conservation problems of <i>F. cherrug</i> and the results of the LIFE project will be brought to the attention of the general public, decision-makers and interest groups. As a result, adequate public support will be attracted to the necessary conservation measures, and information on subsidies available through RDP and the Natura 2000 network will be widely distributed. <u>Two Press Conferences</u> will be organised one at the start and one at the end of the project. At least <u>two press releases</u> will be circulated annually to local & national newspapers. <u>Two articles</u> will be submitted annually to local & national newspapers to magazines for farmers and on the main web sites of relevant hunters associations. <u>Two scientific papers</u> will be produced during the project period. <u>Two site visits</u> will be organised for the media.	The conservation problems of <i>F. cherrug</i> and the results of the LIFE project have brought to the attention of the general public, decision-makers and interest groups. As a result, adequate public support attracted to the necessary conservation measures, and information on subsidies available through RDP and the Natura 2000 network was widely distributed. <u>Ten Press Conferences</u> were organised at the start, during and one at the end of the project. At least <u>35 press releases</u> were circulated to local & national newspapers. <u>Eight articles</u> were submitted annually to local & national newspapers to magazines for farmers and on the main web sites of relevant hunters associations. <u>Sixteen scientific papers</u> were produced during the project period. <u>Eight site visits</u> were organised for the media.

Responsible:

for organisation: BSPB, BNPD, MAVÍR, MILVUS, RPS, SOR

for contribution: all beneficiary

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

In Bulgaria:

Press Conferences: The initial one has been organized on 31st of March 2011 at the National Press Club with the Bulgarian News Agency in Sofia, to launch the project (**Refer to Annex D6/1 of IR**). Representatives of 10 different media have participated in the event (**Refer to Annex D6/2 of IR**). During the conference Dr. Petar Iankov, the Technical Coordinator of the Project in Bulgaria, gave a presentation on the purpose and activities with the aim to bring the conservation problems of *F. cherrug* to the general public (**Refer to Annex D6/3 of IR**).

Press releases: The first one was issued at the project start (**Refer to Annex D6/4 of IR**). Another was issued for the national and regional media about the initiated insulation of electric pylons in Dobrudzha in 2013.

Articles: One article on the conservation of *F. cherrug* in Bulgaria and the start of the project has been prepared and published in June in the BSPB Magazine "Za Ptitsite" (**Refer to Annex D6/6 of IR**), and another one dedicated to a satellite tagged bird crossing the territory of Bulgaria (**Annex D6/1**). The magazine is printed in 1000 copies and is distributed within BSPB members and partners. Another article about the Project was published in one of the most popular Bulgarian magazine for hunters "Lov i oruzhie" (**Refer to Annex D6/7 of IR**). An article about the importance of insulation of dangerous electric pylons was published in the BSPB's magazine "Za ptitsite" in June 2013 (**Refer to Annex D6/3 of MTR**).

Scientific papers: An article was submitted about Slavka's wintering in Bulgaria to the Heliaca (**Refer to Annex D6/1 of PR and Annex D6/14**). Another article was written and submitted to

the Slovak Raptor Journal, but due to major corrections it will be published in another magazine (**Annex D6/2**).

Publicity: There were 6 TV and 22 radio broadcasts, 11 articles in newspapers and 60 online articles published (**Refer to Annex D6/2 of MTR and Annexes D6/3 – D6/4**).

In Hungary:

Press Conferences: The project was launched in the press conference organised in the venue of the International Conference where most partners were present in September 2010 (**Refer to Annex D6/8 of IR**). MAVIR organised press conferences annually from 2012 for the occasion of marking chicks with ornithological rings in the “nestweb” (**Refer to Annexes D6/8-D6/9 of PR and Annex D6/5**). Three press conferences were held (poisoned satellite-tracked *F. cherrug*; releasing recovered *F. cherrug*, *S. citellus* repatriation) (**Refer to Annexes D6/5-D6/6 of MTR**). Finally a press conference was organised in November 2014 to introduce the project achievements by presenting the project film and publications, and the installed new crossarms on the field (**Annexes D6/6-D6/7**).

Press releases: Two press releases were issued from tagged birds and International Conference about “Power lines and bird mortality in Europe” (**Refer to Annex D6/10 of IR**). MME issued another press release about poisoned *F. cherrug* (**Refer to Annex D6/11 of IR**). KNPD and EDF-DÉMSZ issued a press release about their co-operation to make the electric power lines safer for birds and MAVIR has published another about the “saker channel” the webcam at nest annually from 2012 (**Refer to Annex D6/10 of PR**). Three press releases were published by the project management (topics: removing satellite tag from Lehel, the *F. cherrug* tagged in 2007; poisoned satellite-tracked *F. cherrug* and other raptors; PTT has rescued the life of *F. cherrug*;) (**Annex D6/8**). MME has published two press releases about the release of recovered *F. cherrug*, one by 'Madár', the Hungarian box champion and another by the project manager (**Annex D6/9**). Budapest Airport has published a press release about the repatriation of *S. citellus* from Budapest Airport by the project (**Annex D6/10**). MAVIR has issued another press release about the marking *Falco subbuteo* nesting in the same nest box after the *F. cherrug*'s breeding in front of the web camera (**Annex D6/11**).

Articles: Two articles were published in the Zöld Horizont about the project (**Refer to Annex-D6/5 of PR and Annex D6/12**). An article was published by a monthly periodical “Diszmadár Magazin” about the project work with LIFE support (**Refer to Annex D6/11 of PR**). An article was published in nature conservation journal (TermészetBúvár 2013/1) on the satellite tracking part of the programme (**Annex D6/13**).

Scientific papers: There were three scientific papers published in 2011 issue of Heliaca (**Refer to Annexes D6/4b of PR and Annex D6/14**). There were two scientific papers published in 2012 issue of Heliaca (**Annex D6/15**). The Annual Report of the Saker Falcon Conservation Working Group 2013 was in 2013 issue of Heliaca (**Annex D6/16**). The Annual Report of the Saker Falcon Conservation Working Group 2014 was submitted for 2014 issue of Heliaca (**Annex D6/17**). Another article was submitted to the proceedings of the International Conference in Ukraine (**Refer to Annex-D6/6 of PR**). An article was submitted for the French Ornithos Scientific paper (**Refer to Annex-D6/7 of PR**). An Article was published in the Slovak Raptor Journal in 2014 about the bird conservation on electric pylons (**Annex A4/4**).

Publicity: There were 5 TV and 6 radio broadcasts, 6 articles in newspapers or magazines and 40 articles in online version of newspapers or magazines published (**Annex D6/4 and Annex D6/18**).

Sites visits for the media: The press conferences were organised on the sites or at least site visits were included in the program.

In Romania:

Press Conferences: One was organised jointly by MILVUS and ENEL in the beginning of April 2012 concerning the newly placed nest-boxes (**Refer to Annex D6/12 of PR**).

Press releases: A press release was issued in 2012 (**Refer to Annex D2/1 of PR**). A MILVUS TRANSELECTRICA TIMISOARA common press release was sent in May 2013 to local press from Timis County (**Refer to Annex D6/8 of MTR**).

Articles: An article has been prepared about the project achievements for the ROS publication “Alcedo” (**Refer to Annex D6/13 of PR**).

Publicity: There were a total of 35 media appearances about two main topics: Installation of nest boxes and tagging by PTTs (**Annex D6/2 of PR**). Three times four TV channels broadcasted (**Refer to Annexes D6/14-D6/17 of PR**), and 31 online newsletter published the main topics (**Refer to Annex D6/18 of PR**) (**Annex D6/4 and Annex D6/19**).

In Slovakia:

Press releases: Nineteen press releases about the project and its outputs, about the money transfer problem (**Refer to Annex D6/5 of IR**), about the cages, the PTT tagged *F. cherrug* Slavka in Prague and the Bulgarian colleagues saved Slavka (**Refer to Annex D6/19 of PR**) were submitted to media and published on RPS web site and other web sites.

Scientific papers: A scientific paper was submitted to the Slovak Raptor Journal about the trend and conservation of the species in West Slovakia (**Refer to Annex D6/12 of IR**) and another three papers were published in the 2nd issue in 2014 (**Annex A4/4**).

Publicity: There were 5 TV 2 articles in newspapers or magazines and 15 articles in online version of newspapers or magazines published (**Refer to Annex D6/2 of PR, Annex D6/20 of PR and Annexes D6/9-D6/10**) (**Annex D6/4 and Annex D6/20**).

Deliverables:

19 articles published in newspapers and magazines

22 scientific papers published

Indicators used to test the performance:

Large publicity was provided for the conservation problems, the project work and the achievements.

Action D7: Layman’s report April 2014 – June 2014

Results planned	Results achieved
4000 items of paper copies of 8-12 pages report and PDF format on the web in English, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages.	4000 items of paper copies of 24 pages report and PDF format on the web in English, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages.

Responsible:

for edition and design: BNPD

for translation: BNPD, BSPB, MILVUS/SOR, RPS

for production: MME

for dissemination: all beneficiaries

Description of the activities and outputs achieved:

5x800 items of 24 pages A4 size colour Layman’s reports were prepared about the status of *F. cherrug* and the objectives, activities and achievements of the project. It was presented in Bulgarian (**Annex D7/1**), English (**Annex D7/2**), Hungarian (**Annex D7/3**), Romanian (**Annex D7/4**) and Slovak (**Annex D7/5**) languages in paper and electronic format and these were

distributed in meetings, MAVIR's International Conference (**Annex D5/5**), Press Conference and it is available in PDF format on the project and the beneficiaries' web site.

Deliverables:

5x800 items of 24 pages A4 size colour Layman's reports in Bulgarian, English, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages.

5.3. Evaluation of Project Implementation

5.3.1. Methodology applied

Since the main objective of the project was to transfer the knowledge and experiences of Hungarian and Slovak partners gained during the LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project to Bulgarian and Romanian partners and help them to implement the best practices of *F. cherrug* conservation, therefore mostly well established and tested methodologies were applied such as the assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies and related habitat management practices on *F. cherrug*'s habitat; production and installation of nest boxes; repatriation of *S. citellus* on Natura 2000 habitats where it is missing; locate and insulate dangerous electric pylons; keeping and breeding of injured birds and repatriation of recovered; marking juveniles with PTT to collect migratory and immigration data as well as the project management, monitoring and dissemination methodologies.

However thanks to the technical development sometimes some new methodologies were also applied successfully such as preparing guideline about the effect of wind farms on *F. cherrug* population with the help of satellite transmitters; identifying of prey assortment using of video camera and photo traps; guarding of endangered nests by photo traps and video cameras; converting dangerous electric pylons to bird safe by instalment of newly developed safe crossarms; using chips to mark repatriated *S. citellus* for better monitoring.

Both the well established and the newly developed methodologies worked well and founded the success of the project.

5.3.2. Results achieved

Table 9: Results achieved and evaluated

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
A1 Assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies and related habitat management practices on <i>F. cherrug</i> 's habitat in Bulgaria and Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results will make it possible to further specify the measures beneficial for <i>F. cherrug</i> and incorporate this into the subsidies. 3000 copies of leaflet will be prepared. Project staffs and specialists will be in close contacts annually with an estimated 100 farmers in Bulgaria and about 200 farmers in Romania on the sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results supported the agri-environmental measure for <i>F. cherrug</i> that was proposed to and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Bulgaria and in Romania. 3000 copies of leaflet were prepared. Project staff and specialists are in close contacts annually with an estimated 40 farmers in Bulgaria, and 100 farmers in Romania 	<p>Result achieved Habitats for <i>F. cherrug</i> may improve in the future in Bulgaria and Romania since the agri-environment scheme is extended to <i>F. cherrug</i> habitat and concerned farmers learned about it and will be assisted when the schema would be available. <u>Immediately visible:</u> modified AES, <u>Will be apparent within few years:</u> improved habitats</p>
A2 Elaboration of habitat management guideline for grasslands and proposal for appropriate subsidies to stimulate proper farming on the protected <i>S. citellus</i> habitats	Habitat rehabilitation and management method developed by LIFE06NAT/H/000096 adapted for grasslands on <i>F. cherrug</i> and <i>S. citellus</i> common habitats of Romania.	A habitat management guideline is prepared to protect the <i>S. citellus</i> in Romania.	<p>Result achieved <u>Immediately visible:</u> management guidelines and modified AES, <u>Will be apparent within few years:</u> improved habitats</p>
A3 Preparing guideline about the effect of wind farms on <i>F. cherrug</i> population for authorities evaluating wind farm's applications	31 birds will be tagged with PTT. 400 copies of guidelines about the effect of wind farms on <i>F. cherrug</i> population for authorities evaluating wind farm's applications in Slovak, Bulgarian, Hungarian, and Romanian languages. Guidelines will be distributed among national environment institutions.	38 birds tagged with PTT. 400 copies of guidelines were prepared about the effect of wind farms on <i>F. cherrug</i> population for authorities evaluating wind farm's applications in Slovak, Bulgarian, Hungarian, and Romanian languages. Guidelines were introduced to and distributed among national environment institutions.	<p>Result achieved I would help the authorities to carefully evaluate any future wind farm plans. <u>Immediately visible:</u> guidelines <u>Will be apparent within next years:</u> Well spaced wind farms excluding <i>F. cherrug</i> habitats.</p>

A4 Identifying of prey assortment using of video camera and photo traps	Collect data about the prey composition of <i>F. cherrug</i> in different habitat in the breeding season	Nearly 3000 data about the prey of <i>F. cherrug</i> were collected by video cameras and photo traps in different habitat and evaluated.	Result achieved but the work will be continued in the LIFE13NAT/HU/000183 project to get information from a longer period to filter out the weather and gradations effects. <u>Immediately visible:</u> high rate of small mammals among the preys <u>Will be apparent after few years:</u> effect of weather condition and habitat management.
C1 Implement, promote and enforce the agri-environment scheme for <i>S.citellus</i> in Slovakia	20 ha in Muránska planina - Stolica SPA and 20 ha in Záhorské Pomoravie will be managed under the scheme. The scheme will be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture to be accepted and included in the RDP for 2014 – 2020	20 ha in Muránska planina - Stolica SPA and 20 ha in Záhorské Pomoravie were managed under the scheme. The scheme was accepted and included in the final proposal of RDP 2014 - 2020.	Result achieved <u>Immediately visible:</u> modified AES, <u>Will be apparent after few years:</u> improved habitats
C2 Production and installation of nest boxes in Bulgaria and Romania E1 Monitoring of installed nest boxes in Bulgaria and Romania	<u>In Bulgaria:</u> a number of 20 nest boxes will be installed in suitable <i>F. cherrug</i> habitats in whenever necessary with priority within the project SPAs. <u>In Hungary:</u> 3 Type 2 in the frame Action D1. <u>In Romania:</u> 45 nest boxes will be installed in Romania in priority within SPAs.	<u>In Bulgaria:</u> 20 nest boxes are installed in suitable <i>F. cherrug</i> habitats mainly within the project SPAs. <u>In Hungary:</u> 4 Type 2 in the frame Action D1. <u>In Romania:</u> 127 nest boxes are installed in Romania in priority within SPAs.	Result achieved in Bulgaria Surpassed in Romania <u>Immediately visible:</u> installed nest boxes and the successful <i>F.cherrug</i> breeding in four of them. <i>F. tinnunculus</i> breeding in 90% of them. <u>Will be apparent in the following years:</u> More and more <i>F. cherrug</i> breeding in it. <u>Amendment:</u> increased number of nest boxes in Romania resulted that the breeding pairs could increase four times during the project.

<p>C3 Repatriation of <i>S. citellus</i> on Natura 2000 habitats where it is missing in Hungary, Slovakia and Romania</p> <p>E2 Monitoring of repatriated <i>S. citellus</i> population</p>	<p><u>In Hungary:</u> 400 <i>S.citellus</i> will be repatriated for two SPAs.</p> <p><u>In Romania:</u> 300 <i>S. citellus</i> will be repatriated into about 7 habitats in 3 SPAs and by this <i>S.citellus</i> population of the 3 SPAs will increase by 7-10 % up to the end of the project period.</p> <p><u>In Slovakia:</u> 800 <i>S. citellus</i> will be repatriated from different donor sites to two SPAs.</p>	<p><u>In Hungary:</u> 235 <i>S.citellus</i> were repatriated for two SPAs.</p> <p><u>In Romania:</u> 252 <i>S. citellus</i> were repatriated in Western Romania.</p> <p><u>In Slovakia:</u> 450 <i>S. citellus</i> were repatriated from different donor sites to two SPAs.</p>	<p><u>Immediately visible:</u></p> <p><u>In Hungary:</u> 50% success (one area out of two is repopulated)</p> <p><u>In Romania:</u> 67% success (population have increased about 10 % in two sites out of three)</p> <p><u>In Slovakia:</u> 100% success (two sites are repopulated)</p> <p><u>Will be apparent after few years:</u></p> <p>Viable <i>S. citellus</i> populations in all the five sites.</p>
<p>C4 Locate and insulate dangerous electric pylons</p> <p>E3 Efficiency control of dangerous electric pylon's insulation</p>	<p>Information will be available on the most dangerous electric pylons around breeding and foraging sites.</p> <p><u>In Bulgaria:</u> 600 pylons will be insulated in the most risky areas,</p> <p><u>in Hungary:</u> 7000 pylons,</p> <p><u>in Romania:</u> 700 pylons,</p> <p><u>in Slovakia:</u> at least 850 pylons will</p>	<p>Database of dangerous electric pylons are created and shared with the electric companies in all countries.</p> <p><u>In Bulgaria:</u> A total of 400 pylons of highest risk for <i>F. cherrug</i> are insulated. Another more than 40 dangerous pylons are insulated by the electric company in their own costs.</p> <p><u>In Hungary:</u> 6547 pylons were converted to bird safe. Out of these 662 pylons got new bird safe crossarms. Besides 118 fire flies were installed on 3,2 km distance to avoid collation.</p> <p><u>In Romania:</u> 863 pylons were insulated.</p> <p><u>In Slovakia:</u> 1138 pylons were</p>	<p>Result achieved</p> <p><u>Immediately visible:</u></p> <p><u>In Bulgaria:</u> 73% of planned pylons were insulated on the potential habitats. Since there is not any breeding pair there yet, it is a good prevention.</p> <p><u>In Hungary:</u> Although less pylon was converted to bird safe as it was planned because in the main time some unused power lines were demolished but all pylons within the identified areas plus another area were made bird safe.</p> <p><u>In Romania:</u> Basically around the occupied nest boxes and some other nest boxes the dangerous electric pylons are insulated. Unfortunately in Dodrodgea insulation was not possible due to the electric company.</p> <p><u>In Slovakia:</u> More pylons were</p>

	<p>be insulated. The number of birds electrocuted on insulated sections of the electric power-lines will decrease by 95 %</p>	<p>insulated. The number of birds electrocuted on insulated sections of the electric power-lines decreased by 100 %.</p>	<p>insulated than planned. The work was done with high efficiency. <u>Will be apparent in the following years:</u> fewer birds will be killed in all project countries. <u>Amendments:</u> <i>In Bulgaria</i> instead of some safe pylons others were insulated. <i>In Hungary</i> DÉMÁSZ finally completed the work thanks to the project extension. ÉMÁSZ applied 662 new crossarms and included an additional area. <i>In Romania</i> instead of Dobrogea insulations have been done in Oltenia. <i>In Slovakia</i> insulation was done on SKCHVU014 instead of SKCHVU012.</p>
<p>C5 Keeping and breeding of injured birds and repatriation of juveniles</p>	<p>4 cages will be built in <u>Romania</u> and in <u>Slovakia</u>. Insured birds may recover and can be repatriated. Disabled birds may breed in captivity and their chicks will strengthen natural population.</p>	<p><i>In Romania</i> 2 cages were built for injured birds in Santsimon Mures county. 4 injured <i>F. cherrug</i> were treated there. <i>In Slovakia</i> one cage was built in the ZOO in Bratislava and another in rehabilitation centre in Ratnovce where 6 injured <i>F. cherrug</i> were treated there. 2 out of 4 injured birds were successfully released in Hungary.</p>	<p>Result achieved <u>Immediately visible:</u> 2 cages in both countries. 10 treated insured birds. 4 released recovered birds. <u>Will be apparent in the following years:</u> more treated and recovered birds will be released.</p>

C6 Guarding of endangered nests by photo traps and video cameras	Breeding failure is reduced. Any threat factors are soon identified and actions to reduce them are conducted. Thanks to propagation, the guarding place is visited by numerous tourists/ornithologists, so the activity has added educational value as well. Wide promotion of activity will bring doubts to robbers that they are watched and their plans could be thwarted.	Breeding failure was reduced. Thanks to propagation, the guarding place was visited by numerous tourists/ornithologists, so the activity added educational value as well. Wide promotion of activity brought doubts to robbers that they might watch and their plans could be thwarted.	Result achieved Breeding pairs were efficiently saved.
C7 Marking juveniles with PTT to collect migratory and immigration data	4 juveniles will be tagged by satellite transmitter in Romania. Migratory route and wintering area of Romanian <i>F. cherrug</i> will be identified. Potential breeding sites will be identified. Saker Action Plan will be revised.	5 juveniles were tagged to collect migratory data in Romania. Migratory route and wintering area of Romanian <i>F. cherrug</i> was identified. Potential breeding sites were identified. CMS adopted the Global Saker Action Plan with our commitment in 2014.	Result achieved It has provided useful information and justified the connection with the fragmented population in the Crimea.
D1 Lobbying for installation of nest boxes in electric pylons in Romania	Decision makers at the Transelectrica Company are accepting the idea to install nest boxes on the high voltage power lines and are cooperating with the project team in this activity.	Lobby was made for installing the nest boxes at Transelectrica S. A. and Enel Banat S.A. companies and 120 nest boxes were installed on the high voltage power lines' pylons.	Result achieved It needed much longer and more intensive lobbying but finally the electric companies accepted it.
D2 Lobbying for insulation of electric pylons	Decision makers of the Romanian Electricity Companies are accepting the idea of isolating the dangerous pylons of medium-voltage power lines and are helping the project team in this activity.	Decision makers of the Romanian Electricity Companies were accepting the idea of isolating the dangerous pylons of medium-voltage power lines and were mostly helping the project team in this activity. Enel Banat S.A. company in West-Romania and CEZ in Oltenia insulated 863 dangerous	Result basically achieved However in Doderudgea the local branch of the electric company was not cooperative at all. SOR will continue to find the way how to convince them.

		pylons along installed nest boxes.	
D3 Erecting information signs at project site	Large scale publicity of the conservation status of <i>F. cherrug</i> , project aims and activities and its support by LIFE+. In Bulgaria 2, in Hungary 12, in Romania 4, Slovakia 2, information signs will be erected along main roads near the most populated area and the pilot area.	Large scale publicity of the conservation status of <i>F. cherrug</i> , project aims and activities and its support by LIFE+. In Bulgaria 2, in Hungary 14, in Romania 4, Slovakia 2, information signs were erected along main roads near the most populated area and the pilot area.	Result achieved Information boards were displayed in frequently visited places therefore lot of people got information about the project and EU support.
D4 Design and operate project web site	An accessible and up-to-date web site will be informing the general public and technical staff working on similar projects about the project's work and achievements. Hence, it will promote networking with past and future LIFE projects dealing with the conservation of <i>Falco spp.</i> We expect 240 000 visitors over the project period to visit the site.	An accessible and up-to-date web site www.sakerlife2.mme.hu was informing the general public and technical staff working on similar projects about the project's work and achievements. It promoted networking with other LIFE projects dealing with the conservation of <i>Falco spp.</i> There were 302 879 visitors over the project period on the site	Result achieved The project was widely known worldwide by the web which was visited from 147 countries during the project period.
D5 Secure public support for conservation efforts	Disturbance of <i>F. cherrug</i> breeding will be reduced by 50% as public awareness increases. 4000 copies of A2 size posters, 4000 copies of A4 size leaflets, DVD: 1000 copies in five languages (Bulgarian, English, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak). Presentation of the project on the seminars organised by the national LIFE+ Authorities and in the materials published by them	No evidence was recorded about breeding failure due to disturbance. 2x1000 copies of A2 size posters in Bulgarian, Romanian languages, 1000 copies of A3 size posters in Hungarian language, 300 pcs of T-shirts and 500 copies of brochures were produced in Slovakia, 2x1000 Bulgarian & Romanian +2500 Hungarian copies of A4 size leaflets, 1000 DVD in five languages (Bulgarian, English, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak). 300 DVD about the <i>F. cherrug</i> breeding.	Result achieved Printed materials and DVDs widely distributed among the stakeholders and accessible in the web in 5 languages. There was not any direct disturbance during the breeding periods. However there was some indirect poisoning case unfortunately. By questionnaires the influence of these materials was justified.

D6 Informing media about project's aims, activities and achievements	<p>The conservation problems of <i>F. cherrug</i> and the results of the LIFE project will be brought to the attention of the general public, decision-makers and interest groups. As a result, adequate public support will be attracted to the necessary conservation measures, and information on subsidies available through RDP and the Natura 2000 network will be widely distributed. <u>Two Press Conferences</u> will be organised one at the start and one at the end of the project. At least <u>two press releases</u> will be circulated annually to local & national newspapers. <u>Two articles</u> will be submitted annually to local & national newspapers to magazines for farmers and on the main web sites of relevant hunters associations. <u>Two scientific papers</u> will be produced during the project period. <u>Two site visits</u> will be organised for the media.</p>	<p>The conservation problems of <i>F. cherrug</i> and the results of the LIFE project have brought to the attention of the general public, decision-makers and interest groups. As a result, adequate public support attracted to the necessary conservation measures, and information on subsidies available through RDP and the Natura 2000 network was widely distributed. <u>Ten Press Conferences</u> were organised at the start and one at the end of the project. At least <u>35 press releases</u> were circulated to local & national newspapers. <u>Eight articles</u> were submitted annually to local & national newspapers to magazines for farmers and on the main web sites of relevant hunters associations. <u>Sixteen scientific papers</u> were produced during the project period. <u>Eight site visits</u> were organised for the media.</p>	<p>Result achieved Project issues were presented by the media more than 200 times mainly in the online media in line with the changing media use of the public.</p>
D7 Layman's report	<p>4000 items of paper copies of 8-12 pages report and PDF format on the web in English, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages.</p>	<p>4000 items of paper copies of 24 pages report were prepared and distributed and PDF format available in the web in English, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages.</p>	<p>Result achieved Layman's report. The project aims and results were widely popularized among vast audience.</p>
E4 Technical management of the project	<p>Technical, administrative and financial arrangements and</p>	<p>Technical, administrative and financial arrangements and</p>	<p>Result achieved Despite of the unfavourable</p>

	mechanisms are in place to enable the smooth and accurate running of the Project. All Project staff is appointed and aware of their roles and obligations for completing the Project. High quality technical reports will be prepared and submitted on time.	mechanisms were in place to enable the smooth and accurate running of the Project. All Project staff was appointed and aware of their roles and obligations for completing the Project. High quality technical reports were prepared and submitted on time.	political, legal and economic conditions the project successfully completed. <u>Amendment of the project:</u> was needed to complete all tasks.
E5 Financial management	Appropriate financial reports produced on time, correctly and to budget, accompanied by report(s) from independent auditor.	Appropriate financial reports produced on time, correctly and to budget, accompanied by report from independent auditor.	Result achieved Complete financial reports.
E6 Training of project staff	The training will be completed by 31.12.2010, with the attendance of all project participants. A uniform methodology will be ensured as the result of the training. Monitoring data will be comparable and suitable for statistical analysis. Earlier experiences will be utilised in the project execution and will be available for all project participants. Smooth rendering of accounts and compliance with national and EU financial regulations throughout the duration of the project.	The training was completed on 21-22 February 2011, with the attendance of all project participants. A uniform methodology was ensured as the result of the training. Monitoring data became comparable and suitable for statistical analysis. Earlier experiences were utilised in the project execution and was available for all project participants. Smooth rendering of accounts and compliance with national and EU financial regulations throughout the duration of the project.	Result achieved It was an essential tool for the successful project implementation.
E7 Held Steering Committee meetings	Regular, timely, scheduled meetings, held with good attendance, which will help secure the high priority of the project work for project staff and their leaders.	Annual meetings were held in every March with good attendance, which helped to secure the high priority of the project work for project staff and their leaders.	Result achieved Project work was well planned and prioritized during the years, ensuring thus successful implementation.
E8 Baseline survey to monitor project success	The original population size (number of territorial pairs) of <i>F. cherrug</i> in	The original population size (number of territorial pairs) of <i>F. cherrug</i> in	Result achieved The well established baseline

	the project area will be known. This will be used at the end of the project to assess whether the proposed increase in population size was achieved.	the project area was identified and that was used at the end of the project to define the population increase during the project period.	survey and monitoring data justify the population increase in the region.
E9 Collecting migratory and immigration data by satellite telemetry, bird ringing and feather analysis	Actions A1, A3, & C7 will be successfully accomplished. Based on this information a population model developed by LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 can be adjusted better for Europe. Sufficient data will become available to understand the spatio-temporal dynamics of the <i>F. cherrug</i> population in the Carpathian Basin. The knowledge acquired by the action is vital for future conservation management planning. The Saker Action Plan will be revised.	Actions A1, A3, & C7 were successfully accomplished. Based on this information a population model developed by LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 was justified. Sufficient data are available to understand the spatio-temporal dynamics of the <i>F. cherrug</i> population in the Carpathian Basin. The knowledge acquired by the action is vital for future conservation management planning. CMS adopted the Global Saker Action Plan with our commitment in 2014.	Result achieved Although the total number of the tagged juveniles in Romania were not too much, but it was a valuable complement to the data collected during the previous project. The connection with the Crimean population was justified.
E10 After Life Conservation Plan	After-LIFE Conservation Plan delivered with the final report.	After-LIFE Conservation Plan delivered with the final report.	Result achieved Further steps in <i>F. cherrug</i> conservation planned

5.4. Analysis of Long term benefit

5.4.1. Environmental benefits

5.4.1.1. *Direct environmental benefits*

- The installed 20 nest boxes in Bulgaria and 127 nest boxes in Romania will provide sufficient breeding places for the extending Hungarian and Slovak *F. cherrug* populations. Four of them were already occupied by breeding pairs and out of them at least two were birds with Hungarian ornithological rings. These are direct benefits for the Annex I. *F. cherrug* species.
- 8948 dangerous electric pylons were converted to bird safe around the breeding and most frequently visited feeding sites. This will increase the survival and life time of the birds and will result the strengthening the *F. cherrug* but also many other bird species. These are direct benefits for the Annex I. *F. cherrug* species.
- 937 *S. citellus* were repatriated into 5 new sites in 3 countries. This would help the survival of the endangered *S. citellus* species and would provide additional food sources for *F. cherrug*. This is direct benefits for both endangered species
- The 4 cages what were built would help the survival and recovery of injured birds or will provide breeding facilities of disabled birds. These are direct benefits for the Annex I. *F. cherrug* species.

5.4.1.2. *Relevance for environmentally significant issues or policy areas*

- The habitat management requirement was incorporated to the agri-environment scheme in Bulgaria and Romania based on the Hungarian and Slovak experiences.
- The Romanian grassland management guidelines may influence the habitat's conditions for *S. citellus* and *F. cherrug*.
- National Environment Agencies got guidelines to evaluate wind farm plans to avoid nature conservation risks while promoting clean energy.

5.4.2. Long-term benefit and sustainability

5.4.2.1. *Long-term environmental benefit*

The long term environmental benefit would be that the *F. cherrug* breeding population may increase up to 7 pairs in Dobrudzha in Bulgaria, 210 pairs in Hungary, 15 in Romania and at least 40 pairs in Slovakia in 2020 which means that the European population of this endangered species would be strengthened. In the long term the habitats may also improve in the Natura 2000 habitat areas thanks to the extended agri-environment scheme. The information campaign achieved by different means (media, printed materials, films, events etc.) among various target groups on local, national and international level, has increased the awareness of the people, thus securing indirect but long term benefits for the species and its habitats. The achievements of the project actions will be maintained and extended after the project end. An After-Life conservation Plan has been prepared to follow up these activities (**Annexes E10/1-E10/5**). The plan includes the activities by actions what have to be carried out by whom and from what kind of sources.

5.4.2.2 Long-term economic benefit

The stable nest boxes on the high voltage electric pylons and the different bird protection materials used on the medium voltage electric pylons especially the new crossarms avoid electric short circuit and by this way the electric supply is more secured what is reducing the operational and maintenance costs of the electric companies. The reduced number of electric short circuits has increased the productivity of the large consumers.

5.4.2.3 Long term social benefit

The project has a positive effect on employment not only by the direct involvement in the project activities but also by the production of different materials i.e. nest boxes and electric insulation materials and new crossarms, etc.

5.4.2.4 Continuation of the project actions

Some actions will be continued by new projects:

C3. Repatriation of *S. citellus* on Natura 2000 habitats,

C7. Marking birds with PTT,

D4. Design and operate project web site,

D6. Informing media about project's aim, activities, and achievements.

E2. Monitoring of repatriated *S. citellus* population will be continued by LIFE13NAT/HU/000183 project in Hungary and Romania.

C4. Locate and insulate dangerous electric pylons will be continued by a KEOP project in Hungary. In Slovakia LIFE13 NAT /SK/001272 project will continue the work for bird safety on electric network.

Most actions' results will be maintained or extended by the beneficiaries (see After-Life Conservation Plan)

5.4.3 Replicability, demonstration, transferability, cooperation

Some actions or activities were the replication in Bulgaria and Romania, of those ones what were used by former LIFE project (LIFE06NAT/H/000096) in Hungary and Slovakia i.e. (A1, A2, C2-E1, C3-E2, C4-E3, C5, C6 and C7). Some of these actions will be replicated also by other projects for example LIFE13NAT/HU/000183 will replicate action C3, *S. citellus* repatriation in Hungary and Romania and action C7, tagging birds with PTT. KEOP project will replicate C4, insulation of electric pylons in Hungary. Action C2, installation of nest boxes will be replicated in Serbia by local NGOs in cooperation with MME.

MAVIR had demonstration about nest box installation on high voltage electric pylons during annual International Conferences.

5.4.4. Best Practice lessons

The project has applied best practices of the Best of LIFE project LIFE06 NAT/H/000096. i.e.

A1 Assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies and related habitat management practices on *F. cherrug*'s habitat in Bulgaria and Romania applying the Hungarian - Slovak methods.

A2 Elaboration of habitat management guideline for grasslands and proposal for appropriate subsidies to stimulate proper farming on the protected *S. citellus* habitats using the Hungarian - Slovak method as the result of former LIFE project.

C2 Production and installation of nest boxes in Bulgaria and Romania according to the Hungarian experience.

- C3** Repatriation of *S. citellus* on Natura 2000 habitats where it is missing in Hungary, Slovakia (using ear-tags) and Romania based on the Hungarian & Slovak experience.
- C4** Locate and insulate dangerous electric pylons.
- C5** Keeping and breeding of injured birds and repatriation of juveniles.
- C7** Marking juveniles with PTT to collect migratory and immigration data.
- E1** Monitoring of installed nest boxes in Bulgaria Romania according to the Hungarian and Slovak experience.
- E2** Monitoring of repatriated *S. citellus* population using the Hungarian and Slovak experience of former LIFE project.
- E3** Efficiency control of dangerous electric pylon's insulation.
- E4** Technical management of the project.
- E5** Financial management.
- E6** Training of project staff.
- E8** Baseline survey to monitor project success.
- E9** Collecting migratory and immigration data by satellite telemetry, bird ringing and feather analysis.

5.4.5. Innovation and demonstration value

During the project implementation an important innovation was done. Three new types of bird safe crossarms were developed and used. This was introduced also for the Slovak electric company's representatives.

The insulation of dangerous electric pylons in NE Bulgaria was innovative for the operating there electric company, which was given a good example and encouraged to undertake further actions on securing the power lines by their own initiative and in cooperation with the nature protection organizations.

5.4.6. Long term indicators of the project success

Table 10: Project Sustainability Indicators

Project Action /Result	Verifiable Indicators	Source of verification
A1. Assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies and related habitat management practices on <i>Falco cherrug</i> 's habitat in Bulgaria and Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>F.cherrug</i> target program in the new RDP from 2014. Number of farmers involved 	New RDP MoAF database
A2. Elaboration of habitat rehabilitation & management methods for grasslands on the protected <i>S. citellus</i> habitat in Romania	Area (ha) where the grassland management guideline is applied	Contract with farmers
A3. Preparing guideline about the effect of wind farms on <i>F. cherrug</i> population for authorities evaluating wind farm's applications	Location of new wind farms (outside of the <i>F. cherrug</i> 's habitats).	Nature Authorities' records
C1. Implement, promote and enforce the agri-environment scheme for <i>S. citellus</i> in Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>F.cherrug</i> target program in the new RDP from 2014 with sufficient subsidies. Number of farmers involved 	New RDP LPIS database
C2.-E1. Production, installation, inspection and maintenance of nest boxes and artificial nests	Number of existing nest boxes and artificial nests	Beneficiaries' database
C3.-E2. Repatriation of <i>S. citellus</i> on Natura 2000 habitats where it is missing and monitoring them.	Number of the <i>S. citellus</i> populated Natura 2000 sites.	Biodiversity Monitoring Database
C4.-E3. Locate and insulate dangerous electric pylons and control the efficiency of it.	Number of insulated pylons and killed birds	BSPB's, MME's, MILVUS's, SOR's, RPS's database
D4. Guarding of endangered nests in Slovakia	Reduced number of destroyed clutches	Beneficiary's database
E4. Design and operate project web site Number of downloads Google analysts	Number of downloads	Google analysts
E5. Secure public support for conservation efforts	Intensive communication Distributed materials	LIFE13NAT/HU/000183 project' report Beneficiaries' records
E6. Informing media about project's aims, activities and achievements	Number of publicity	LIFE13NAT/HU/000183 project' report Beneficiaries' records

6. Comments on the financial report

6.1. Summary of Costs Incurred

The work was based on the annual work plans and budget. Except Slovakia national currencies were used. Annual exchange rates were used. In Hungary the exchange rate has changed very much from 2009 when we planned the project until the end of the project in 2014. In Hungary the euro had 8% more value in 2010, 11% more value in 2011, 26% more value in 2012, 17% more value in 2013 and 19% more value in 2014 than in 2009. In the same time the inflation rate was reduced during this period. Since 3/4th of the project budget were spent in Hungary therefore a considerable amount of euro were spared due to the exchange rate. This is the main reason that only about 90 % of the planned budget has been used. Costs by cost categories are given in table 11.

Table 11: Summary of the costs incurred

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED			
Cost category	Budget according to the grant agreement	Costs incurred within the project duration	%
1. Personnel	591 512	614 946	103,96
2. Travel	210 271	193 928	92,23
3. External assistance	1 138 627	1 097 122	96,35
4. Durables: total <u>non-depreciated</u> cost	289 774	256 563	88,54
- <i>Infrastructure sub-tot.</i>	4 660	4 660	100,00
- <i>Equipment sub-tot.</i>	285 114	251 903	88,35
- <i>Prototypes sub-tot.</i>	0	0	0
5. Consumables	1 523 615	1 194 230	78,41
6. Other costs	15 200	14 752	97,05
7. Overheads	263 830	236 007	89,45
TOTAL	4 032 828	3 607 547	89,45

Since BNPD had to keep the money in the National Treasury and the costs of the Associated Beneficiary was usually post-financed therefore there were any interest gained.

6.1.1. Comments on the costs categories

6.1.1.1. Personnel costs

The personnel costs were calculated according to the CP.25.2. 103,96% of the planned personnel costs were used. The reasons for some overspendings are: Temporary project management were employed at the beginning to initiate the project activities until the project management selected by tender. Extension of the project has result some extra work and costs also. In MAVIR the environmental senior manager had to replace the technical staffs because the Energy Authority did not let to mix up electric supplier and project activities work. The senior manager's salary rate is more than three times higher than the technical staffs.

In the Final Financial Report in case of BNPD the own contribution may not exceeds the total personnel costs with the 2%. The reason of it is that not only civil servants were employed for

the project. In the beginning of the project the temporary project management (Dóra Kiss and József Fidlóczy), and during the lifetime of the project Mátyás Prommer were employed with a temporary contract.

The requested copy of salary table (SOR) for year 2012 is annexed (**Annex Fin1**).

More than one position in the same time:

Some people had two part time contracts for two different positions in the same time in RPS.

Jozef Chavko had two contracts for Scientific Coordinator position from January 2011 and Junior Specialist position from May 2011 to August 2013. (**Refer to Annex F3 of MTR**)

Lucia Deutchová had two contracts for Country Coordinator position from January 2011 and Agri-environment Expert from August 2011 to June 2013.

Replacements:

Ms. Dóra Kiss acting project administrator was replaced by Mrs. Viktória Bene project administrator who returned from maternity leave on 01.01.2013.

Vladimir Nemcek was working as Junior Specialist from December 2010 to April 2011. He was replaced by *Jozef Chavko* between May 2011 and August 2013. *Vladimir Nemcek* is working again as Junior Specialist from September 2013.

Mr. Attila Nagy acting partner co-ordinator was replaced by Mr. Imre Simó from 08.10. 2013.

Ms. Tekla Fodor Communication Manager of MILVUS Group was replaced by Ms. Zsuzsanna Acél-Fr. from 31.08.2011. She was followed by Mr. Luke Dale-Harris from 13.11.2013.

Mr. Attila Fülöp Project Officer-1 of MILVUS Group was replaced by Mr. Barbos Laurentiu from 08.03.2013, he was followed by Mrs. Steriana Dehelean from 01.01.2014 and Mr. Attila Dósa from 18.03.2014.

Mr. Luca Dehelean Project Officer-2 of MILVUS Group was replaced by Ms. Mareike Brix from 31.03.2014.

Mrs. Marina Georgieva Communication Officer of BSPB left the project in September 2013. She was replaced by Mrs. Marina Veleva from 01.09.2014. In between Mr. Petar Yankov did the project communication voluntarily.

6.1.1.2. Travel and subsistence

92,23 % of the planned travel costs were used.

Travel:

In Hungary all costs (fuel, repair, insurance, toll fee, etc. excluding amortisation) in relation with company's cars accounted on the cars and km unit cost are calculated and accounted quarterly. A correction was calculated and accounted at the end of the years. Partners declared their unit costs by car what were used for the project (**Refer to Annex F4 of MTR**). These unit costs were used to calculate the project costs multiplying the justified km of the given month and the unit costs. The drivers with cars are reported in cumulative manners in suitable time units (**Refer to Annex F5 of MTR**). In the other countries partners accounted only the fuel costs of justified km (**Refer to Annex F6 of MTR**).

Subsistence:

DSA and accommodations were accounted for. In Hungary DSA was paid only in case of travel abroad. Meals for participants of project training and SC meeting were also accounted here.

6.1.1.3. External assistance

96,16 % of the planned external assistance costs were used. In Hungary besides the stronger euro about 6 % less pylons needed to be insulated. Besides of this ÉMÁSZ applied a total 27424 € penalty on JUKO Kft. because their delay due to lots of correction demand (**Annexes F7-F9 of MTR**). In case of ÉMÁSZ and DÉMÁSZ during the insulation work several

rectification were down. The invoices were issued according to the work what was done not according to the fully completed pylons. Therefore in the description of the financial report it is mentioned that in which polygon the work was done, and proofs attached to the invoices certify the real amount of insulated pylons. In contrary BNPD subcontracted an additional specialist to survey the material and control the quality of the work upon the request of the electric companies (ÉMÁSZ and DÉMÁSZ). In Bulgaria the GIS expert work was reallocated from Personnel costs to External assistance, due to the fact that BSPB 's GIS expert was not more contracted in the organisation as we already mentioned in the MTR. In Romania MILVUS had to pay for Electromontaj company for installation of nest boxes. The requested tender documents and contract to justify the selection of GA Magyarország as a subcontractor annexed to the Final Financial Report (**Annex Fin2**).

6.1.1.4. Durable goods

Infrastructure: 100% utilised for the planned two cages in Slovakia. The originally planned two cages were purchased but for both cages advanced payment was made and after the completion of the cages final payment was done.

Equipment:

88,35 % of the planned costs were used mainly because of the stronger Euro although BNPD purchased an Arc GIS software which costs double as was planned. The Arc GIS software could be purchased only from the official dealer of ERSI in a fixed price. BNPD has purchased two climbing equipment to replace old one terminated by warranty that were originally planned as consumables and an additional notebook for data recording. MME has purchased only one trap out of the planned three one what was sufficient for the work but purchased an additional desktop computer to replace the broken one for data storing and a photo camera body for an existing photo camera used for documentation. RPS purchased a 4WD car, Milvus and SOR purchased second hand cars.

6.1.1.5. Consumables

78,41% of the planned costs were used partly because the strong Euro, partly because about less 453 pylons had to be insulated in Hungary. In case of ÉMÁSZ and DÉMÁSZ during the insulation work several rectification were down. The invoices were issued according to the work what was done not according to the fully completed pylons. Therefore in the description of the financial report it is mentioned that in which polygon the work was done, and proofs attached to the invoices certify the real amount of insulated pylons.

6.1.1.6. Other costs

97,05% of the planned costs were used. Most of it was paid in Slovakia for farmers in the frame of C1 action as a model subsidy. Those partners which accounted only the fuel cost on the travel cost accounted the car related costs (repair, insurance, etc.) here. Some legal fees were accounted here too.

6.1.1.7. Overheads

As an average 7% overheads cost are calculated, however in case of ZSE only 2000 € was paid and in case of ÉMÁSZ which has the largest budget with relatively less administration only 5 % was planned and used in contrary with RPS where 12,1% and with MME where 16,25 % was used due to the most administration besides of BNPD where the subcontracted project management are doing the administration.

6.2. Accounting system

- Up to 30.06.2013 the Infosys accounting system was used. In this system the project's code was 53. From 01.07.2013 Forrás SQL Integrated accounting system is used by the Coordinating Beneficiary. In this system the project's code is LIO3.
- Coordinators of Beneficiaries submitted their monthly financial report to the Project Office of the Coordinating Beneficiary where the project administrator checked them whether all verifications were submitted, matching the formal requirement and the approved budget figures.
- Timesheets were completed electronically.
- The Coordinators of Beneficiaries countersigned the staff's timesheets and the Project Manager approved the Coordinators' timesheets. Any deviation from the approved budget was requested and approved by the Project Manager in advance.
- Usually the purchase order has included the project reference number and the supplier had to refer for it. All beneficiaries got a stamp including the project reference number and the short name of the Beneficiary. All invoices and any other verification had to be stamped with it.

6.3. Partnership arrangements

The Project Administrator entered the accepted costs into the financial table. The coordinating beneficiary reimbursed the costs what were approved by the project manager until the available advance payment. The NGOs got quarterly advance payment according to a Financial Amendment of the Partnership Agreement and their annual budget. Project administrator sent the financial table to the Associated Beneficiaries Coordinator for checking.

6.4. Auditor's report/declaration

The originally contracted auditor had to be replaced. Although he had good references and his offer was the lowest but he did not do a careful work therefore a new auditor was contracted.

Name of the Auditor Ltd.: Kolbe Könyvvizsgáló Kft. (Kolbe Auditor Ltd.)

Address: 1137 Budapest, Szent István park 14.

Registration nr.: 01-09-260371

Represented by: Mrs. Tünde Kolbe manager/auditor

The auditor's report is included with the financial report and clearly state that the financial report is in compliance with the LIFE+ Programme Common Provisions, the national legislation and accounting rules.

The auditor might be misunderstood the external assistance for GIS analysis of BSPB therefore she declared 3579,1 € ineligible. However we already mentioned in the MTR that "The GIS expert work was reallocated from Personnel costs to External assistance, due to the fact that BSPB 's GIS expert is no more contracted in the organisation." This work was originally planned and essential to achieve the aim of the action just the form of the implementation and the cost category was changed within the given threshold.

6.5 Summary of costs per action

This table should present an allocation of the costs incurred per action. It should be presented in both paper and Excel format.

Table 12: Summary of costs per action

tion no.	Short name of action	1. Personnel	2. Travel and subsistence	3. External assistance	4.a Infra-structure	4.b Equipment	5. Consumables	6. Other costs	TOTAL
A1	Assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies	48 178,64	8 533,62	21 363,6	0	763,21	1 010,53	332,07	80 171,67
A2	Elaboration of habitat management guideline for grasslands	16 957,60	1 600,36	9 450	0	0	0	0	28 007,96
A3	Preparing guideline about the effect of wind farms	69 090,77	37 908,73	0	0	167 606,88	72 742,41	0	347 348,79
A4	Identifying of prey assortment	75 632,73	24 915,62	14 254,61	0	25 363,49	2 579,86	0	142 746,31
C1	Implement, promote and enforce the agri-environment scheme	3 776,00	823,02	0	0	0	0	12 000	16 599,02
C2	Production and installation of nest boxes	17 145,35	7 295,35	9 509,51	0	0	16 538,18	0	50 488,39
C3	Repatriation of suslik	23 308,26	6 404,61	16 528	0	1 036,35	3 077,99	0	50 355,21
C4	Locate and insulate dangerous electric pylons	52 948,50	15 816,08	744 437,28	0	20 633,78	1 072 667,47	0	1 906 503,11
C5	Keeping and breeding of injured birds	7 159,51	1 408,36	360	4 660	322,55	4 988,12	0	18 898,54
C6	Guarding of endangered nests	11 190,28	4 182,11	0	0	6 947,13	105,19	0	22 424,71
C7	Marking juveniles with PTT	3 990,64	1 708,03	0	0	0	0	0	5 698,67
D1	Lobbying for installation of nest boxes	8 090,19	2 413,62	0	0	0	0	0	10 503,81

D2	Lobbying for insulation	7 398,77	1 226,70	0	0	0	0	0	8 625,47
D3	Erecting information signs	6 267,24	2 023,00	201,61	0	903,88	6 232,33	700,18	16 328,24
D4	Design and operate project web site	30 032,37	47,50	2 292	0	0	0	0	32 371,87
D5	Secure public support	26 728,72	3 749,32	22 137,6	0	0	8 633,59	63,22	61 312,45
D6	Informing media about project's aims	12 251,68	1 481,21		0	0	486,89	0	14 219,78
D7	Layman's report	1 922,00	0,84		0	0	4 373,75	0	6 296,59
E1	Monitoring of installed nest boxes	17 518,00	7 101,98	0	0	6 947,34	0	0	31 567,32
E2	Monitoring of repatriated suslik	21 772,66	5 336,29	0	0	0	0	0	27 108,95
E3	Efficiency control of dangerous electric pylon's	22 212,78	9 122,65	0	0	0	290,36	0	31 625,79
E4	Technical management	68 743,53	28 370,05	121 112	0	649,42	419,71	1 656,5	220 951,21
E5	Financial management	0,00	0,00	135 475,4	0	0	0	0	135 475,4
E6	Training of project staff	6 706,00	2 913,00	0	0	0	0	0	9 619
E7	Held Steering Committee meetings	2 148,00	1 852,63	0	0	0	0	0	4 000,63
E8	Baseline survey to monitor project success	21 918,38	9 401,17	0	0	17 626,88	83,55	0	49 029,98
E9	Collecting migratory and immigration data	31 857,17	8 291,77	0	0	3 102,49	0	0	43 251,43
E10	After Life Conservation Plan	0,00	0,00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over-heads									236 007
	TOTAL	614 945,77	193 927,62	1 097 121,61	4 660	251 903,4	1 194 229,93	14 751,97	3 607 537,3

These figures are just approximate since the beneficiaries managed more than one action within one trip within a day and they did not divide the trip in many actions but they usually recorded the trip and the daily costs in one action only.

For example A1 and A2 actions were very similar. The total costs of the two actions together are almost the same as it was planned.

22% more costs were accounted on A3 action, because PTT what was planned for C7 action were purchased and used together. The planned equipment costs of the two actions are matching the real expenditure. More tagged adults were survived therefore more data were available and costs more what increased the consumable costs of this action.

The costs of the web camera transmission from the nest box on high voltage electric pylon were more expensive, therefore the expenditure on A4 action was higher than it was budgeted.

Much more nest boxes were produced in Romania and MILVUS had to pay for the installation some of them what was not foreseen therefore the total expenditure on C2 action was higher than expected.

C4 action's costs were much less because fewer pylons have to be insulated in Hungary.

C6 action had much less costs because in Romania the Macin pair was moved from the cliff to the electric pylon and did not need to guard them.

C7 action costs less as it was mentioned at A3 action.

E4 actions costs have increased due to the extension of the project by three monthes.

7. Annexes

7.0. Annexes of former reports

Annex 7.0.1. List of annexes of Inception Report (**Refer to Annex ... of IR**)

Annex 7.0.2. List of annexes of Progress Report (**Refer to Annex ... of PR**)

Annex 7.0.3. List of annexes of Mid-term Report (**Refer to Annex ... of MTR**)

7.1. Administrative annexes

Annex E7/1 Invitation for the Steering Committee Meeting on 27 March 2014

Annex E7/2 Minutes of the SC meeting (electronic and **hard copy**)

Annex E7/3 BSPB's presentation of the work in Bulgaria in 2013

Annex E7/4 Project manager presentation of the work in Hungary in 2013

Annex E7/5 MILVUS's presentation of the work in Romania in 2013

Annex E7/6 RPS's presentation of the work in Slovakia in 2013

Annex E7/7 Tasks for 2014

Annex E7/8 Financial situation of the project

Annex 7.1/1 Modification of Partnership Agreement of BSPB (electronic and **hard copy**)

Annex 7.1/2 Modification of Partnership Agreement of DÉMÁSZ (electronic and **hard copy**)

Annex 7.1/3 Modification of Partnership Agreement of EDF-ÉMÁSZ (electronic and **hard copy**)

Annex 7.1/4 Modification of Partnership Agreement of KMNPD (electronic and **hard copy**)

Annex 7.1/5 Modification of Partnership Agreement of KNPD (electronic and **hard copy**)

Annex 7.1/6 Modification of Partnership Agreement of MILVUS (electronic and **hard copy**)

Annex 7.1/7 Modification of Partnership Agreement of MME (electronic and **hard copy**)

Annex 7.1/8 Modification of Partnership Agreement of RPS (electronic and **hard copy**)

Annex 7.1/9 Modification of Partnership Agreement of SOR (electronic and **hard copy**)

Annex 7.1/10 Modification of Partnership Agreement of ZFK (electronic and **hard copy**)

7.2. Technical annexes

7.2.1. List of abbreviations

AES	Agri-environment Subsidies
APA	Agriculture Paying Agency
BNPD	Bükk National Park Directorate
BSPB	BirdLife Bulgaria
CMS	Convention of Migratory Species
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowances
EC	European Commission
EDF-DÉMÁSZ	EDF-DÉMÁSZ electric distributor Ltd.
ENEL	ENEL electric distributor Ltd.
E.On	E.On electric distributor Ltd.
ERSI	Environment Rating Scales Institute
ÉMÁSZ	ÉMÁSZ electric distributor Ltd.
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSM	Global System for Mobile
HQ	Headquarter
KEOP	Environment and Energy Operational Programme
KMNPD	Körös-Maros National Park Directorate
KNPD	Kiskunság National Park Directorate
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
MAVIR	Hungarian Transmission System Operator Company Ltd.

MILVUS	„Milvus Group” Association
MME	BirdLife Hungary
MNE	Ministry of National Economy
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forest
MRD	Ministry of Rural Development
NGO	Non-governmental Organisations
NW	North West
PA	Partnership Agreement
PROVÉRTES	Pro Vértés Non-profit Private Limited Company
PTT	Platform Transmitter Terminals
RD	Rural Development
RDP	Rural Development Program
RPS	Raptor Protection of Slovakia
SC	Steering Committee
SOR	BirdLife Romania
SPA	Special Protected Area
SSE	State Secretary of Environment
ToR	Terms of Reference
WG	Working Group
ZFK	Green Corridor Public Foundation
ZSE a.s.	West-Slovakian Electric Company

7.2.2 Other Technical annexes

- Annex A1/1 Bulgarian leaflet for farmers (electronic and hard copy)
- Annex A1/2 List of the Bulgarian leaflet's distribution
- Annex A1/3 Elaborated management practice in potential *F. cherrug* habitat in Bulgaria
- Annex A1/4 Report of *Microtus arvalis* and *Cricetus cricetus* survey in West-Romania
- Annex A1/5 Position Paper, Rural Development Program 2014-2020, Romania
- Annex A1/6 Romanian leaflet for farmers (electronic and hard copy)
- Annex A1/7 Documents from distribution of Romanian leaflets
- Annex A2/1 Final report of the work done in West-Romania
- Annex A3/1 Bulgarian guidelines for wind farm's evaluation (electronic and hard copy)
- Annex A3/2 List of the Bulgarian Guidelines' distribution
- Annex A3/3 Hungarian guidelines for wind farm's evaluation (electronic and hard copy)
- Annex A3/4 List of the Hungarian Guidelines' distribution
- Annex A3/5 Romanian guidelines for wind farm's evaluation (electronic and hard copy)
- Annex A3/6 List of the Romanian Guidelines' distribution
- Annex A3/7 Slovak guidelines for wind farm's evaluation (electronic and hard copy)
- Annex A3/8 List of the Slovak Guidelines' distribution
- Annex A4/1 Preys on the pictures of webcam and photo traps
- Annex A4/2 The result of the prey-habitat correlation study
- Annex A4/3 Report about identifying prey assortment using photo traps in Romania
- Annex A4/4 Slovak Raptor Journal (hard copy)
- Annex A4/4a The saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) population, diet and nest boxes in Slovakia: LIFE-project report 2011–2014 (article in the SRJ)
- Annex A4/4b Bird conservation on electric-power lines in Hungary: Nest boxes for saker falcon and avian protection against electrocutions. Projects' report (article in the SRJ)

Annex A4/4c Movement of satellite-tracked juvenile saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*) in SW Slovakia (article in the SRJ)

Annex C1/1 AES for *S. citellus* on page 300 – 301 of the proposal of RDF

Annex C1/2 The Statement of the Slovak Government about approval of the proposed RDP

Annex C1/3 Minutes of the Meeting on 4. February 2014.

Annex C2/1 Nest box installation in west-Romania

Annexes C2/2a-b Nest box installation in Dobrodgea in Romania

Annex C2/3 Nest box installation in Oltenia in Romania

Annex C3/1 Report about the *S. citellus* repatriation in Romania in 2014

Annex C3/2 Final protocols of releasing *S. citellus* in SKCHVU016 in Slovakia

Annex C3/3 Final protocols of releasing *S. citellus* in SKCHVU017 in Slovakia

Annex C4/1 Maps about the location of insulated 20 kV pylons in Bulgaria

Annex C4/2 New type crossarms applied by ÉMÁSZ in Hungary

Annex C4/3 Map from the additional area selected by BNPD and ÉMÁSZ for bird protection

Annex C4/4 Inventory of pylons converted to bird safe in BNPD/ÉMÁSZ area in Hungary

Annexes C4/5a-c Maps of bird safe pylons by SPAs in NE-Hungary

Annex C4/6 Photo documents of the work

Annex C4/7 Map of flyer fly installation by ÉMÁSZ in Hungary

Annex C4/8 DÉMÁSZ letter about the continuation of the work

Annex C4/9 DÉMÁSZ letter requesting extension of the project

Annex C4/10 Inventory of pylons converted to bird safe in DÉMÁSZ area in Hungary

Annexes C4/11a-c Maps of bird safe pylons in S-Hungary

Annex C4/12 Photo documents of the work before and after the work

Annex C4/13 Report about the insulation work in West-Romania

Annex C4/14 Documents about unsuccessful negotiation with the electric company in Dobrogea

Annex C4/15 Receipt of materials by SC CEZ in Romania

Annex C4/16 Report about the insulation work in South-Romania

Annex C4/17 Map of electric pylons insulation in SKCHVU023 in Slovakia

Annex C4/18 Map of electric pylons insulation in SKCHVU016 in Slovakia

Annex C4/19 Explanatory letter of BSPB on the purchase of insulation material

Annex C4/20 MINUTES of the Unimpeded Sky meeting on 12.11.2014.

Annex C5/1 Final report of the work done by MILVUS Group in Romania

Annex C7/1 Final Report about marking juveniles with PTT to collect migratory data

Annex E1/1 Monitoring of nest boxes in 2014 in Bulgaria

Annex E1/2 *F. tinnunculus* nesting in nest boxes in Bulgaria

Annex E1/3 Breeding *F. cherrug* in the installed nest boxes in West-Romania-Final Report

Annex E2/1 Map of the *S.citellus* burrows in HUKN10002 in 2013 and in 2014

Annex E2/2 Juvenile *S.citellus* in HUKN10002 in 2014

Annex E2/3 *S.citellus* survey report of HUKN10002 from 2014

Annex E2/4 Map of the *S.citellus* burrows in Romania in 2012 and 2014

Annex E2/5 Juveniles justifying the successful reproduction of the repatriated animals

Annex E3/1 Documents of Bulgarian survey

Annex E3/2 Hungarian survey sheet and map

Annex E3/3 Hungarian survey result

Annex E3/4 Romanian survey result

Annex E3/5 Slovak survey result

Annex E8/1 Status of the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) in North-Eastern Bulgaria in 2014
Summary report

7.2.3 After-LIFE Conservation Plan

Annex E10/1 After-LIFE Conservation Plan, Bulgarian

Annex E10/2 After-LIFE Conservation Plan, English

Annex E10/3 After-LIFE Conservation Plan, Hungarian

Annex E10/4 After-LIFE Conservation Plan, Romanian

Annex E10/5 After-LIFE Conservation Plan, Slovak

7.3. Dissemination annexes

7.3.1. Layman's report

Annex D7/1 Bulgarian Layman's report (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D7/2 English Layman's report (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D7/3 Hungarian Layman's report (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D7/4 Romanian Layman's report (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D7/5 Slovak Layman's report (electronic and hard copy)

7.3.2. Other dissemination annexes

Annex D3/1 Replaced information board in Abraham in Slovakia

Annex D4/1 Google Analytics – list of entries in the web

Annex D4/2 Google Analytics – returning visitors

Annex D4/3 Google Analytics – visited pages

Annex D5/1 Field in Bulgarian questioner

Annex D5/2 Result of the Bulgarian questioner survey

Annex D5/3 Field in Hungarian questioner

Annex D5/4 Result of the Hungarian questioner survey

Annex D5/5 List of participants of International Conference who received DVDs

Annex D5/6 Presentations about the project

Annex D5/7 “The Saker continues his journey” film in DVD

Annex D5/8 Distribution of DVDs among beneficiaries

Annex D5/9 Filled in Romanian questioners

Annex D5/10 Evaluation of the Romanian questioners

Annex D5/11 Filled in Slovak questioners

Annex D5/12 Evaluation of the Slovak questioners

Annex D5/13a J.Chavko & R.Slobodnik's presentation held in 2014 about the project works

Annex D5/13b List of participants of RPS's Annual Meeting

Annex D6/1 Article about a satellite tagged bird crossing the territory of Bulgaria (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D6/2 Scientific article (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D6/3 Up to date Bulgarian Press Book (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D6/4 Actualised list of media appearance

Annex D6/5 Invitation for press conference organised by MAVIR

Annex D6/6 Invitation for project closing press conference in Hungary

Annex D6/7 List of participants on the Hungarian closing press conference

Annex D6/8 Three press releases about removing PTT, poisoned *F. cherrug* and PTT rescued life of *F. cherrug*

Annex D6/9 Two press releases of MME about releases of recovered *F. cherrugs*

Annex D6/10 Press release of Budapest Airport about the *S. citellus* repatriation form the airport by the project

Annex D6/11 MAVIR's press release about marking *F. subbuteo* in *F. cherrug*'s nest box by ornithological rings

Annex D6/12 Article in Zöld Horizont about the conservation of *F. cherrug* by EU support (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D6/13 Article in Természetbúvár about the satellite tracking (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D6/14 Heliaca 2011 including three papers (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D6/15 Heliaca 2012 including two papers (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D6/16 Annual Report of the Saker Falcon Conservation Working Group 2013 published in Heliaca 2013 (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D6/17 Annual Report of the Saker Falcon Conservation Working Group 2014 submitted to Heliaca 2014 (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D6/18 Hungarian Press Book (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D6/19 Romanian Press Book (electronic and hard copy)

Annex D6/20 Slovak Press Book (electronic and hard copy)

7.4. Final tables of indicators (Annex 7.4.)

8. Financial report and annexes

Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature and Biodiversity Projects (electronic and hard copy)

Standard Payment Request and financial Statement/Beneficiary's Certificate (electronic and hard copy)

Consolidated Cost Statement for the Project (electronic and hard copy)

Financial Statements of Individual Beneficiaries (electronic and hard copies)

Costs lager by cost categories and beneficiaries and a summary one

Founding of Beneficiaries by sources (electronic and hard copies)

Annex Fin1 Copy of salary table of SOR for year 2012

Annex Fin2 Tender documents and contract of GA Magyarország as a subcontractor

Annex Fin3 VAT certificate of National Tax Office for BNPD (electronic and hard copy)

Annex Fin4 VAT certificate of National Tax Office for KMNPD (electronic and hard copy)

Annex Fin5 VAT certificate of National Tax Office for KNPD (electronic and hard copy)