



LIFE09 NAT/HU/000384



LIFE Project Number
LIFE09 NAT /HU/000384

Inception Report
Covering the project activities from 01/10/2010 to 30/06/2011

Reporting Date
15/07/2011

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:	30/09/2014
Total budget	€ 4 032 828
EC contribution:	€ 3 006 470
(%) of eligible costs	74,55

Data Beneficiary

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2. List of abbreviations

BNPD	Bükk National Park Directorate
BSPB	BirdLife Bulgaria
EC	European Commission
EDF-DÉMÁSZ	EDF-DÉMÁSZ electric distributor Ltd.
ENEL	ENEL electric distributor Ltd.
E.On	EO.On electric distributor Ltd.
ÉMÁSZ	ÉMÁSZ electric distributor Ltd.
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSM	Global System for Mobile
HQ	Headquarter
KMNPD	Körös-Maros National Park Directorate
KNPD	Kiskunság National Park Directorate
MAVIR	Hungarian Transmission System Operator Company Ltd.
MILVUS	„Milvus Group” Association
MME	BirdLife Hungary
MNE	Ministry of National Economy
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MRD	Ministry of Rural Development
NGO	Non-governmental Organisations
NW	North West
PA	Partnership Agreement
PROVÉRTES	Pro Vértés Non-profit Private Limited Company



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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
ZFK	Green Corridor Public Foundation
ZSE a.s.	West-Slovakian Electric Company



3. Executive summary (max 3 pages)

3.1. General progress.

The start and work of the project was hampered seriously by Hungarian administrative difficulties i.e. NGO partners could not access to their money, very slow and long tender process, very slow process to enquiring permissions from national authorities.

Thanks to the enthusiastic work of all project staff of every partner the project could survive and did a promising start despite of these serious problems. We will finally overcome all these problems during July. (Money was transferred on 8 July 2011.)

Summary of progress during reporting period:

- The methodology of *F. cherrug* habitat's study developed by the LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project has been translated and adapted into Bulgarian and Romanian, 2-2 pilot areas were selected, and first round of survey has been carried out (A1).
- The *S. citellus* populated areas have been identified and surveyed within the two SPAs and in the new *F. cherrug* populated area in Romania (A2).
- Detailed maps of some of the wind parks within the Project territory in Bulgaria, 2 adult males and a juvenile female birds tagged by PTT in Hungary, 1 juvenile female bird tagged in Romania and 4 juvenile birds tagged in Slovakia (A3)
- A video camera was installed in Hungary and its pictures are broadcasted in the project web although *Falco tinnunculus* breeding there this year. Two borrowed photo traps were installed also in Hungary. In Slovakia a video-system and photo traps were installed to collect data on prey (A4).
- Agreements signed with the farmers in the pilot area and meeting with the working group of RDP was held in Slovakia (C1).
- 10 nest boxes "type 2" have been produced in Bulgaria and 8 nest boxes "type 1" in Romania (C2).
- Donor populations have surveyed in all countries, permissions obtained and 34 inds. repatriated in Slovakia (C3).
- Baseline surveys were going on, some necessary changes were identified, and survey of needed material completed, tender preparation was going on (C4).
- Preparation to build cages is going on in both country, 2 injured birds have collected and transferred to rescue centre (C5).
- Video camera system and 3 GSM photo-traps were purchased and installed in Slovakia (C6).
- One juvenile was marked by PTT in Romania (C7/A3).
- ENEL's staffs participated in action C7 were convinced about the importance and safety of nest box installation and show interest about it (D1).
- Signboards have designed and ready for production, and location of the signboards have selected (D3).
- Web page: www.sakerlife.mme.hu is functioning (D4).
- Posters have designed, project was presented by the project manager on the kick of meeting and in the LIFE+ Information session 2011 (D5).
- Two press conference, 8 Press Releases, 10 radios, 3 newspapers, 34 online news (D6).
- Monitoring protocol is ready. Included in the Project Handbook (E1-E3).
- Project management in place and functioning, PAs prepared and signed, Project Handbook prepared (E4).



- Project Auditor contracted, financial guideline prepared, regular financial monitoring is going on (E5).
- Project staff trained and project work standardised (E6).
- Steering Committee has established and the Start up SC meeting held (E7).
- Large areas were surveyed in both countries and one new pair was found in Romania (E8).

Two visits in Croatia and one in Ukraine to assist Saker conservation and ensure support of our roaming birds (E9).

3.2. Assessment as to whether the project objectives and work plan are still viable.

Despite of the difficulties effected the project implementation during the reporting period the project objectives and work plan are still viable.

There is an experienced project management team, and an enthusiastic project team. Most of the partners have experience in LIFE project. There is a good co-operation among the project partners and the management team. Partners used all possible solution and all effort to alleviate the difficulties created by the Hungarian administrative problems. Thanks to this most of the action started up in time and proceeded. There are some minor delays which won't risk the achievement of project objectives since the effecting problems will be solved in July.

3.3. Problems encountered.

3.3.1. Background

The project followed a successfully and smoothly implemented large project LIFE06 NAT/H/000096. However in the main time the government, its structure, rules and regulations changed in Hungary what has very much affected the project immediately from the beginning.

3.3.2. *Very long bureaucratic tender procedure in Hungary*

The tender procedure became very long and bureaucratic what hamper the effective start of the project (See under 4. bellow). All steps of the tender process planned by the national parks i.e. invitation of lawyers for bid, selection of lawyer, tender conditions, issuing the tender must be approved by the state secretary of Environment or the minister of RD. As the latest development the ministry contracted an external assistance company to monitor the tender process what makes an extra bureaucratic step with more form to fill in. This made it impossible to get the necessary equipment for the first breeding season after 6 months of the project start in Hungary since most equipment (PTTs, photo traps, etc.) were planned to be purchased by BNPD.

3.3.3. *NGO partners cannot access to their portion of LIFE contribution.*

Organisations like the co-ordinating beneficiary who is covered by the National Budget cannot support NGOs due to modification of the Public Finance Act effective from 01.01.2011. Therefore, after the signature of the Partnership Agreement the director requested permission from MRD to transfer LIFE contribution to the NGO partners (6 out of 13) on the 5 April 2011 and another three times. Despite that the LIFE contribution is not a part of the national budget and the Grant Agreement signed before the law was changed MRD could not decide about it but they asked the permission from MNE. Although the decision was taken according to our information but official letter was not received until the end of June.



Due to this situation the NGO partners became a very difficult situation. They either used their own money and became bankrupt or suspended some of their procurements until the money would arrive. The situation of these partners turns to critical as the time passing.

3.3.4. *Measures taken to alleviate the effects of these problems*

- Temporarily project management was provided either voluntarily or by contract until the permanent project management contracted. (See under 4. bellow)
- Intensive communication (6 letters) was going on towards MRD requesting and urging permission to transfer money to NGOs. After 3 months waiting in vain press releases were sent to national media by the partners. Minister of national economy's letter of 04. July 2011. devolve the responsibility to minister of rural development. On 05. July a telephone call from MRD let the director understand that any written permission won't come, but he can transfer the money therefore he took the responsibility to transfer the money finally. First instalments were transferred on 8. July 2011.
- PTTs used in the former project and recovered were get to repair and used. (See A3 and C7 bellow)
- Photo traps were borrowed and installed. (See A4 bellow)

The project is a little bit behind schedule due to these problems but this would not hamper the project work seriously.

4. Administrative part

4.1. Description of project management

4.1.1. *Contracting project management*

- BNPD the co-ordinating beneficiary informed the State Secretary of Environment on 22. September 2010. that the new project was scheduled to start on 01.10. 2010. and external assistance had to be contracted for the project management.
- The supporting letter from the SSE was received on 15 October 2010.
- In the main time BNPD had to apply for the permission of the minister of RD.
- This was received on 3 December 2010 and the tender could start.
- As a result of the tender process the contract was signed by the selected external assistance (FENCON Consulting Ltd.) on 13 January 2011. FENCON Ltd. is providing the project manager and project administrator and operating the Project Office in the co-ordinating beneficiary's HQ.

4.1.2. *Temporary project management at the beginning*

The former LIFE project's management began to organise the project's start voluntarily in October. They were contracted as temporary project management between 8 November and 31 December 2010. They worked again voluntarily until 12 January 2011.

4.1.3. *Project management activities*

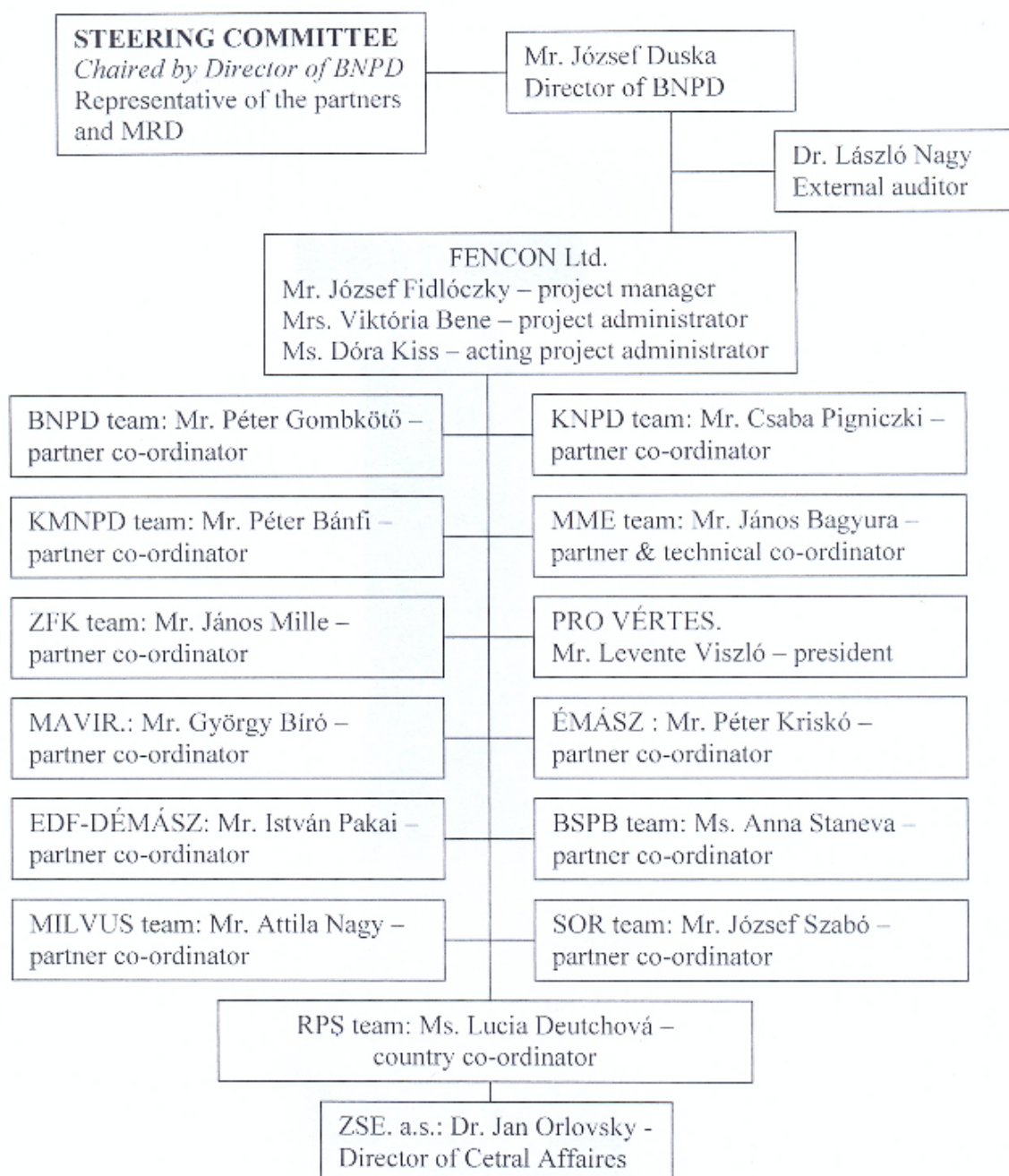
- Partner co-ordinators were appointed by all partner organisations in October 2010.
- Detailed work plan and budget of all partners were divided for years and in 2011 for months and included in the Project Hand-book.



- The acting project manager took part on the Kick of Meeting in Ljubljana as a volunteer and presented the project on 11-12 January 2011 (**Annex E4/1**).
- 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. (**Annex E4/2**).
- Project Hand-book were prepared electronically for each project partners and handed over during the project training (**Annex E4/3**).
- Two days project training was organised 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 (**Annex E4/4**).
- Partnership Agreements and Financial Amendment for NGOs were prepared and signed (See in 4.3. below).
- Steering Committee was established and the first meeting was held on 23 March. 2011. (**Annex E4/5**).
- Lots of effort was taken by the project manager and the director of the co-ordinating beneficiary to solve the problem created of the modified Hungarian law what blocked the money transfer to NGO partners.
- Tender processes were initiated and assisted by the project manager.
- The project manager regularly visited the project partners to assist them and follow up the work progress. Sometimes he took the project administrator with him also (**Annex E4/6**).
- Regular electronic communications (by emails and telephones) are going on between the project manager and administrator and the partner co-ordinators.
- Partners' project teams were formed and held internal co-ordinating meetings (**Annex E4/7**).
- Partners are submitting monthly progress and financial reports.



4.2. Organigramme of the project team and the project management structure





4.3. Partnership agreements status (incl. date of signature) and key content

The PA of the former project (LIFE06 NAT/H/000096) was copied and amended with the compulsory items according to the guide line. Most of them were signed in March 2011 except those which were lost on the post and had to resend them. These were signed in April. Financial Amendments were prepared for the NGOs only (**Annex 7.1**).

5. Technical part

The LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project has provided lots of revolutionary new information about the risks, survival rate, and migration and roaming of juveniles. 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 habitat. 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. The project aims 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 aims to eliminate some endangering threat in the core area too.

5.1. Actions

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

Action A1:

Name of the action: 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

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2011 – June 2014

Expected results:

A GIS will be established containing map files of habitats incorporating up to date land cover and prey data. A detailed knowledge base will be established on the exact effect of specific agricultural practices and subsidy systems on *F. cherrug* habitats and food supply. The results will make it possible to further specify the measures beneficial for *F. cherrug* and incorporate this into the subsidies. It will help to elaborate the management plans of the SPAs. 1000 copies of Bulgarian leaflet & 2000 copies of Romanian/Hungarian leaflets 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 during this action, provide information and advise.

Achievements:

- The methodology of *F. cherrug* habitat's study developed by the LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project has been translated and adapted into Bulgarian and Romanian.
- 2-2 pilot areas were selected.
- First round of survey has been carried out.



Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Evaluation of offers and selection of suppliers</i> • <i>Procurement</i> • <i>Allocation of pilot areas</i> • <i>GIS database establishment</i> • <i>Adult tagged by PTT</i> • <i>Land use survey and mapping</i> • <i>Prey survey</i> • <i>Data processing and analysing</i> • <i>Proposal for adjustment of agri-environment subsidies</i> • <i>Submitting to the ministries</i> 	31.01.2011 05.03.2011.	ongoing ongoing completed ongoing ongoing ongoing ongoing pending pending pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Bulgaria:

Firstly, 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 (**Annex A1/1**). Consultations have been made with the BSPB GIS expert and the 40 km² pilot areas have been chosen within the two Natura 2000 zones "Batova" (**Annex A1/2**) and "Suha Reka" (**Annex A1/3**). Because of the delay of the first payment of project funds, the planned field studies within this action have not been realised in full scale according to the work plan. Nevertheless, during the visits of the sites within the Action E8 (Baseline Survey) preliminary information was gathered for both "Batova" and "Suha Reka" SPAs on the composition and numbers of some potential prey for *F. cherrug*, land uses, agricultural practices, infrastructure elements, etc. The initial field studies on biodiversity within the two representative 40² km areas were realised between 6th and 15th of June 2011. All counts on birds and mammals (**Annex A1/4**) – potential prey of Saker, were done according to the Slovak - Hungarian methodology in both "Suha Reka" and "Batova" SPAs (**Annex A1/5**). The next part of the field studies on agri-environment practices within the two representative 40² km areas will be realised according to the development of the issue with the transfer of the funds. It is planned to disseminate the questionnaire on agri-environment practices amongst local farmers during the next field visit. In June, official letters sent to the target Agri-environment institutions (**Annex A1/6**).

In Hungary:

Documents elaborated under LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project were handed over to the Bulgarian and Romanian partners.

In Romania:

In Macin Niculutei ROSPA0073 the pilot area was selected (**Annex A1/7**). Instead of Campia Crisului Alb si Crisului Negru ROSPA0015 we have selected the most relevant area along ROSPA0069 for the baseline survey, taking into consideration the location of the breeding pair found during this spring, and the daily movements and hunting behaviour of these birds. The selected area is app. 48 km² (**Annex A1/8**). We have made a basic survey in order to identify the crop structure of this area (**Annex A1/9**). The collected data was introduced in a GIS database. Transects and observation points for the prey species survey were selected based on the analysis of the geographic datasets mentioned above (**Annex A1/10**). The prey species survey protocols from LIFE06NAT/H/000096 project were adopted for the Romanian specific conditions, the whole material was translated into Romanian language (**Annex A1/11**). Standard data sheets were created for the prey species surveys (**Annex A1/12**). A first



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survey was made in the late of June (vole, hamster, bird species, rabbit, and road-kill survey) (**Annex A1/13**). The movements of the breeding Saker falcon pair were monitored and registered regularly (two days in a week) in order to identify the main important hunting areas (**Annex A1/14**). We have made regular observation to identify the species captured by the Falcons, carried to the nest to feed the chicks (**Annex A1/15**).

Problems and their impacts:

In Bulgaria:

Due to delay of the first payment of project funds, the planned field studies within this action have not been realised in full scale according to the work plan but during the visits of the sites within the Action E8 (Baseline Survey) preliminary information was gathered for both “Batova” and “Suha Reka” SPAs on the composition and numbers of some potential prey for *F. cherrug*, land uses, agricultural practices, infrastructure elements, etc. (However it won't effect the result of the action in the long run since the money is transferred now.)

In Romania:

Unfortunately there was not any nesting pair in the two project SPA areas this year. A new pair was found in outside SPA in a wind farm project area, which is 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.

Modifications:

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 this spring, and the daily movements and hunting behaviour of these birds. The selected area is app. 48 km² (**Annex A1/8**). Our proposed area can be compared with the official proposal for the SPA extension here:

http://85.204.149.94/hartidd/map_shp.phtml?inmod=inmod

We expect your approval this changes because this is the only area where *F. cherrug* nest was found in Romania this year and possibility to use tagged adult birds for this A1 study is very important.

Action A2:

Name of the action: 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

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2011 – June 2014

Expected results:

Habitat rehabilitation and management method developed by LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 adapted for grasslands on *F. cherrug* and *S. citellus* common habitats of Romania.

Achievements:

The *S. citellus* populated areas have been identified and surveyed within the two SPAs and in the new *F. cherrug* populated area.



Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

Documents elaborated under LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project were handed over Romanian partners.

In Romania:

Adoption of the documents elaborated under LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project into the Romanian conditions are going on. We intend to extend this activity near to ROSPA0069 too where *F. cherrug* is currently breeding. Suslik habitats where animals were present have been assessed in all targeted SPA visited. 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 (**Annex A2**).

Problems and their impacts:

Non

Modifications:

We intend to extend this activity near to ROSPA0069 too where *F. cherrug* is currently breeding.

Action A3:

Name of the action: Preparing guideline about the effect of wind farms on *F. cherrug* population for authorities evaluating wind farm's applications

Proposed start and end of the action: October 2011 – September 2014

Expected results:

Birds tagged with PTT:

In Bulgaria: monitoring of Hungarian/Slovakian/Romanian tagged birds eventually appeared on Bulgarian territory

In Hungary: 24

In Romania: 3

In Slovakia: 4

400 copies of guideline will be prepared about the effect of wind farms on *F. cherrug* population for authorities evaluating wind farm's applications in Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages. It is expected the BSPB will manage to incorporate the planned guidelines in the national strategy. If due to the time constraints this is not included in the initial version (due to the time discrepancy), the recommendations will be introduced during the update of the document, as such is envisaged. The guidelines will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Association of Towns and Villages, State Nature Conservancy, to the environmental institutions participating in the wind park assessment process and national and local NGOs. Each wind park project is assessed separately. State Nature Conservancy has not any information what they can use for evaluation therefore they are eager to have some tools for their work. The NGOs can increase their pressure on the authorities to apply it.



Achievements:

- Detailed maps of some of the wind parks within the Project territory in Bulgaria
- 2 adult males and a juvenile female birds tagged by PTT in Hungary
- 1 juvenile female bird tagged in Romania
- 4 juvenile birds tagged in Slovakia

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
• Evaluation of offers and selection of suppliers	31.01.2011	ongoing
• Procurement		ongoing
• Adult tagged by PTT	05.03.2011	ongoing
• Juveniles tagged by PTT	15.06.2011	ongoing
• Second batch juveniles tagged by PTT	15.06.2012.	pending
• Third batch juveniles tagged by PTT		pending
• Land use survey in existing and planned wind farms area		ongoing
• Guidelines has prepared		pending
• Guidelines has printed and distributed		pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Bulgaria:

Although this activity entirely depends on the appearance of satellite tagged *F. cherrug* from other project countries, BSPB carried out some preliminary work on the issue. Detailed maps of some of the wind parks within the Project territory were prepared (**Annex A3/1**). Some of the parks were visited to get familiar with the real situation on the spot, especially during presence of individual *F. cherrugs* in the area in January. BSPB's volunteers in the areas of wind parks were instructed to record specific data about the attitude of *F. cherrugs* towards wind turbines in case they will have a chance to observe the species close to the wind constructions (**Annex A3/2**). Project information and assistance was provided to enhance the forthcoming government strategic document on the future development of the wind energy sector (**Annex A3/3**).

In Hungary:

Tender process in state sector is became a very slow and long process. Therefore procurement of PTTs has delayed very much. It may complete at the end of July or beginning of August and PTTs will be ordered after that. To overcome on this situation we got to repair some recovered PTTs from previous project and 2 adult males and one juvenile were tagged by PTTs along the largest wind farms in NW-Hungary in the wind farm triangle of Austria-Hungary-Slovakia (**Annexes A3/4-A3/5**). Another adult will be tagged on the wind-farm extension area there in June. In the main time land use survey is going on in potential wind farm areas.

In Romania:

We collected information about the planned wind farms, and we realized that one of them is located near to ROSPA0069 exactly where the only known breeding pair of Saker falcon breeds (**Annexes A3/6-A3/7**). Still environment authorities need to be contacted for forthcoming wind farm project implementations as on neighbouring sites of Macin SPA wind measuring pylons were observed (**Annex A3/8**).

**In Slovakia:**

The occupancy of potential nests was checked. Several inspections were made to record the breeding success and number of chicks. All 4 PTTs have been purchased, tested and installed on 4 juveniles in 3 nests in the vicinity of wind power plants (**Annex A3/9**).

Problems and their impacts:

Tender process in state sector is became a very slow and long process in Hungary. Therefore procurement of PTTs has delayed very much. It may complete in August and PTTs will be ordered after that.

Modifications:

We got to repair some recovered PTTs from previous project and 2 adult males and one juvenile were tagged by PTTs along the largest wind farms in NW-Hungary in the wind farm triangle of Austria-Hungary-Slovakia.

Action A4:

Name of the action: Identifying of prey assortment using of video camera and photo traps at nests to convince hunters and pigeon keepers

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2011 – September 2014

Expected results:

Correct data about the prey composition of *F. cherrug* in different habitat in the breeding season what can be used to convince hunters and pigeon keepers in the frame of Action D5.

Achievements:

- A video camera was installed in Hungary and its pictures are broadcasted in the project web although there is not Saker breeding there this year.
- Two borrowed photo traps were installed also.
- In Slovakia a video-system and photo traps were installed to collect data on prey.

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation of offers and selection of suppliers• Procurement• Installing Video camera• Installing photo traps• Evaluation of collected data• Publishing results	31.01.2011	ongoing ongoing completed ongoing pending pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:**In Hungary:**

MAVIR in cooperation with MME and PROVÉRTES has installed a video camera in a traditionally occupied nest box on an electric pylon (**Annex A4/1**). Unfortunately the Saker pair chosen a Buzzard nest instead this year. The nest box was occupied by a Kestrel pair (**Annex A4/2**). We decided to continue with them this year and we got already lots of new



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and exciting information (www.sakerlife.mme.hu). We are sure that next year Saker will return to the nest box. If not we will replace the camera. Tender process in state sector is became a very slow and long process. Therefore procurement of photo traps has delayed very much. KMNPD purchased one items in May. They installed it for test and they will decide to by another based on the test results. Procurement by BNPD, KNPD and MAVIR is going on and may complete it until August, but these can be used only in the next season. MME could not by it because of lack of money due to money transfer problem. However they borrowed two items to overcome on this problem and installed one on tree and the other on pylon (**Annex A4/3**). Two staff of BNPD got climbing training replacing former licensed staff who retired (**Annex A4/4**).

In Romania:

Breeding pairs were not found in Dobrogea this year and due to delayed advanced payment photo traps were not procured.

In Slovakia:

The video-camera was purchased and installed (**Annex A4/5**) during ringing of the chicks, the breeding has been recorded. After the breeding period the record will be analysed. The photo traps has been purchased and installed as well (**Annex A4/6**), the pictures are being collected on a memory card and will be analysed after the breeding period (**Annex A4/7**).

Problems and their impacts:

In Hungary:

- The Saker pair abandoned their nest box this year and it was occupied by a Kestrel pair. Therefore the video was used for advocacy only.
- Tender process in state sector is became a very slow and long process. Therefore procurement of photo traps has delayed very much. It will be used in the next breeding season.
- MME could not by its photo traps because of lack of money due to money transfer problem.

In Romania:

- Breeding pairs were not found in Dobrogea this year.
- Due to delayed advanced payment photo traps were not procured.

Modifications:

In Hungary:

MAVIR got to install a very sophisticated broadband GSM transmitted Video system what makes it enable to continuously follow up the activities in the nest on the web.

5.1.2. Action C: Concrete conservation actions

Action C1:

Name of the action: Implement, promote and enforce the agri-environment scheme for *S. citellus*

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2011 – June 2014

Expected results:

20 ha in Muránska planina - Stolica SPA and 20 ha in Záhorské Pomoravie will be managed under the scheme.



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The scheme will be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture to be accepted and included in the RDP for 2014 – 2020.

Achievements:

- Agreements signed with the farmers in the pilot area.
- Meeting with the working group of RDP.

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical guidelines prepared• Agreement signed with the farmers• Site management and data collection• Calculation of the final payment of the scheme• Meetings at the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment• Submitting the scheme to the Ministries for consideration.	30.11.2010 31.12.2012.	completed completed ongoing pending pending pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Slovakia:

An agreement has been signed with farmers on both sites where the repatriation of suslik is being done. 20 hectares will be under the measures on each site. Particular conditions for management measures have been agreed in the agreement (**Annexes C1/1-C1/2**). A meeting of a Working group for the implementation of environmental measures into the RDP was held in March 2011 (**Annexes C1/3-C1/4**).

Problems and their impacts:

Non

Modifications:

Non

Action C2:

Name of the action: Production and installation of nest boxes in Bulgaria and Romania according to the Hungarian experience

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2011 – March 2014

Expected results:

In Bulgaria:

20 nest boxes will be installed in suitable *F. cherrug* 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 *F. cherrug* dispersion.

In Hungary:

3 Type 2 in the frame Action D1.

In Romania:



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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 *F. cherrug* 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 *F. cherrug*.

Achievements:

- 10 nest boxes “type 2” have been produced in Bulgaria
- 8 nest boxes “type 1” have been produced in Romania

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Evaluation of offers and selection of suppliers</i> • <i>Procurement</i> • <i>Nest box production</i> • <i>Selection of the best location</i> • <i>Installation</i> 	31.01.2011.	ongoing ongoing ongoing ongoing pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Bulgaria:

According to the project work plan 10 nest boxes “type 2” have been produced. (**Annex C2/1**) 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 (**Annex C2/2**). No nest boxes “type 1” have been produced yet.

In Romania:

8 artificial nests made of wood “type 1” were produced, ready to be installed in autumn. Precise locations were selected for this purpose (**Annex C2/3**).

Problems and their impacts:

Due to delayed advanced payment climbing equipment did not purchased yet.

Modifications:

The planned climbing equipment was not purchased and we will not be bought because BSPB got it from other sources in the main time. Therefore we would like to reallocate 1000 € from equipment costs to consumables for maintenance of the BSPB’s 4x4 car (Land Rover Discovery), which is provided entirely and exclusively for the present project activities.

Action C3:

Name of the action: 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

Proposed start and end of the action: March 2011 – August 2013

Expected results:

In Hungary:



400 *S. citellus* will be repatriated for two SPAs what would increase the favourable food sources of *F. cherrug* and rescuing them from an area where they are considered as a flood security risk.

In Romania:

A number of 300 *S. citellus* will be repatriated into about 7 habitats in 3 SPAs and by this *S. citellus* population of the 3 SPAs will increase by 7-10 % up to the end of the project period.

In Slovakia:

800 *S. citellus* will be repatriated from different donor sites to two SPAs.

Achievements:

- Donor populations have surveyed
- Permissions obtained
- 34 inds. repatriated in Slovakia

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Evaluation of offers and selection of suppliers</i>• <i>Procurement</i>• <i>baseline survey</i>• <i>arranging permissions</i>• <i>site preparation</i>• <i>repatriation</i>	31.01.2011.	ongoing ongoing completed ongoing ongoing ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

Donor populations were surveyed and permissions were requested from Nature Conservation Authorities. Unfortunately Siófok airport is divided between two provinces therefore permission is needed from both Nature Conservation Authorities. This situation increased the time for permission therefore Green Corridor Public Foundation decided to do the repatriation next April. Based on the experiences gained during the former project we prefer April for repatriation. June is usually very hot in Hungary what could be very risky for the animals in the trap under the sun. Since we are using trap with apple and not watering the April repatriation is ideal. Except of very rainy weather what we had example last year. However we have still enough time to do it safely.

In Romania:

We have selected several potential sites with endangered Suslik population, which have to be repatriated. Host sites were carefully selected within the originally allocated areas as well (**Annex C3/1**). All these sites need to be monitored to be able to choose the best options. Due to money shortage and lack of experience on *S.citellus* repatriation we decided to use this year for preparation (site selection, procurement, organisation, applying permission) and do start the real repatriation next spring.

In Slovakia:

Permission for the capturing and repatriation of suslik as a protected animal has been obtained from the Ministry of Environment. All of the source sites have been affected by heavy rains in 2010 and the donor colonies are not so strong. Therefore the methods and plans for capturing had to be considered carefully. It was expected that the numbers of released individuals would have to be reduced. The first capturing and releasing was done in April on a new sites, therefore we started with several individuals. It was necessary to ensure guarding of the individuals for several days after the releasing. 10 individuals (2,5%) were repatriated to



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SKCHVU017 Muránska planina – Stolica and 24 individuals (1,5%) to SKCHVU016 Záhorské Pomoravie (**Annexes C3/2-C3/3**). The repatriation will continue in July.

Problems and their impacts:

Too much rain and flood in the region in 2010 reduced the *S. citellus* populations, therefore careful start was needed.

In Hungary_Siófok airport is divided between to provinces therefore permission is needed from both Nature Conservation Authorities. This situation increased the time for permission therefore Green Corridor Public Foundation decided to do the repatriation next April.

Money transfer problem delayed the work in Romania.

Modifications:

Non

Action C4:

Name of the action: Locate and insulate dangerous electric pylons

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2011 – August 2014

Expected results:

Information will be available on the most dangerous electric pylons around breeding and foraging sites.

Altogether approx. 9100 pylons will be insulated primarily within the SPAs but partly outside of them. In Bulgaria 600, in Hungary 7000, in Romania 700 and in Slovakia at least 850 pylons will be insulated.

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. *Coracias garrulus*, *Falco tinnunculus*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Tyto alba* etc.).

Achievements:

- Baseline surveys were going on.
- Some necessary changes were identified.
- Survey of needed material completed.
- Tender preparation was going on.

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
• Evaluation of offers and selection of suppliers	31.01.2011	ongoing
• Procurement		pending
• baseline survey		ongoing
• First batch of dangerous pylons insulated	31.12.2011	pending
• Second batch of dangerous pylons insulated	31.12.2012	pending
• Third batch of dangerous pylons insulated	31.12.2013	pending
• Last batch of dangerous pylons insulated	31.08.2014	pending

**Description of the progress during the reporting time:****In Bulgaria:**

Baseline survey of killed birds along some sectors of 20 kV power lines, identified for insulation, took place during field visits in January, February, March and April. Considerable part of the 20 kV power lines in the Project territory were assessed again to obtain actual information about the level of risk they can impose on *F. cherrug* occurring in the specific area. In some part of the 20 kV power lines in the Project territory are of such type, which can be considered to be of no risk from electrocution (insulators turned down, existing elements, which make impossible medium size or large birds to perch close to the power cable). (**Annex C4/1**) However, most of the sectors planned for insulation remain current for this action with these minor exceptions. (**Annex C4/2**) No killed *F. cherrug* or other birds of prey were found, but at about one km long section the carcasses of 10 electrocuted white storks were recorded (**Annex C4/3**). As some of the initially planned sectors have been changed into no risk ones, we propose some changes in the initially proposed sectors for insulation to be made. A new map with changes was prepared (**Annex C4/4**). An official letter asking for formal meeting on the issue was sent to the E.ON Electricity Company, responsible for the maintenance of the 20 kV power lines on the Project territory (**Annex C4/5**).

In Hungary:

Baseline survey is going on by BNPD, KMNPD and KNPD. About 830 pylons within 100 km power line have been surveyed until the end of June (**Annex C4/6**). In KNPD area some pylons have to be changed because in the main time LIFE05NAT/H/000122 project have insulated them as an emergency (**Annexes C4/7-C4/8**). DÉMASZ may need to wait for the new tender in the beginning of 2012. Most probably they can start to do the work from July 2012 but it will be ready on time. ÉMASZ preparing the work and tender.

In Romania:

We've opened discussions with the SC ENEL Banat SA power company to acquire maps with the existing medium voltage poles in Arad and Timiș counties, however we haven't obtain any maps yet, and according to some "after records" information received from former ENEL employees, it is possible that there is not any such dataset available in digital format. Electric pylons have been located on the sites in all visited areas in the south (**Annex C4/9**). There has been no assessment of dead birds under these pylons, as the vast majority of time spent in the project targeted area was concentrated on finding at least one pair of nesting Saker (E8). We've checked 753 medium voltage pylons in the 7 km radius neighbourhood of the only known breeding pair from the Western part of the country (**Annex C4/10**). GPS points and different kind of data (type of pylon, type of wire arrangement, nr of wire, position of cable insulators, surrounding habitat type, electrocuted bird species found, and status of corps) was collected for each pylon, noted on standard data forms. We've found remains of several electrocuted birds. We'll analyze the collected data in the autumn, and we'll select the pylons need to be isolated.

In Slovakia:

A baseline survey has been done. Approximately 500 pylons (59 %) were inspected.

Problems and their impacts:

Some planned sections were insulated in the main time.

DÉMASZ has a valid framework agreement for the 2008-2012 period based on tender but in 2008 they did not mentioned in the tender that they will use EU money also. They are negotiating with the National Public Procurement Council. If they do not accept their request for consider applicable their agreement for this work than they will include this work in the next tender. In that case they can start the project work in July 2012 but that would not create any problem for the project.

**Modifications:****In Bulgaria:**

Because some of the initially planned sectors have been changed into no risk pylons, therefore we propose some changes in the initially proposed sectors for insulation to be made. A new map with the proposed changes was prepared (**Annex C4/4**). These newly identified pylons are also very dangerous since many carcasses were found under them (**Annexes C4/11-C4/12**).

In Hungary:

In KNPD area some pylons were insulated by LIFE05NAT/H/000122 project in the main time as an emergency since there was a new roosting site for *Falco vespertinus*. Instead of these pylons the pylons left over of the same project have to be insulated because those are dangerous for *F. cherrug* also. Both sites are within the highest 5th risk category (**Annexes C4/7-C4/8**).

Action C5:

Name of the action: Keeping and breeding of injured birds and repatriation of juveniles

Proposed start and end of the action: April 2011 – Sept 2014

Expected results:

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.

Achievements:

- Preparation to build cages is going on.
- 2 injured birds have collected and transferred to rescue centre

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cages for disabled birds erected• keeping and breeding• repatriation	31.10.2011.	ongoing ongoing ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:**In Hungary:**

One injured juveniles was found and taken to one of the rehabilitation centre (**Annex C5/1**). The bird cannot be released because of the nature of the injury. It may be kept for breeding.

In Romania:

Preliminary discussions were held with the director of the ZOO from Târgu Mureş (where the Milvus Group's headquarter is), as they could provide enough space and excellent conditions for us to erect the cages (**Annex C5/2**).

**In Slovakia:**

One injured Saker was transported to the rehabilitation centre in Zázrivá and was released in June (**Annex C5/3**). Agreement with ZOO Bratislava and rehabilitation centre in Ratnovce, where the two cages will be built is being prepared.

Problems and their impacts:

Non

Modifications:

Non

Action C6:

Name of the action: Guarding of endangered nests by photo traps and video cameras

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2011 – March 2014

Expected results:

Breeding failure is reduced. Any threat factors are soon identified and actions to reduce them are conducted. 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.

Achievements:

Video camera system and 3 GSM photo-traps were purchased and installed in Slovakia

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation of offers and selection of suppliers• procurement of equipment• instalment• data processing and evaluation	31.01.2011.	ongoing ongoing ongoing pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:**In Romania:**

Because we did not get the first LIFE contribution due to legal problem in Hungary the procurement of equipment did not start yet. An agreement was made with the Măcin National Park Directorate to prepare the nest guarding conditions. Volunteers were contacted to cover two months of the breeding season. Three trips were made in early spring to the Măcin Mountains to identify active pairs. We had to postpone this action for the next year as unfortunately the falcons were missing from all three well known nests.

In Slovakia:

The video-camera installed within A4 action also serves as a guarding system (**Annex A4/5**). 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 (**Annex A4/6**).

**Problems and their impacts:****In Bulgaria:**

We did not get the first LIFE contribution due to legal problem in Hungary the procurement of equipment did not start yet.

We had to postpone this action for the next year as unfortunately the falcons were missing from all three well known nests.

Modifications:

Non

Action C7:

Name of the action: Marking juveniles with PTT to collect migratory and immigration data

Proposed start and end of the action: May 2011 – June 2013

Expected results:

- 4 juveniles will be tagged by satellite transmitter in Romania.
- Migratory rout and wintering area of Romanian *F. cherrug* will be identified
- Potential breeding sites will be identified
- Data on the behavior of *F. cherrug* in the wind farm areas.
- Saker Action Plan will be revised

Achievements:

One juvenile was marked by PTT in Romania

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
• Technical guidelines prepared	30.11.2010	completed
• Evaluation of offers and selection of suppliers	31.01.2011	delayed
• procurement of PTTs		delayed
• First batch juveniles tagged	15.06.2011	ongoing
• Second batch juveniles tagged	15.06.2012	pending
• report on satellite tracking	30.06.2013.	pending
• Saker Action Plan revised		pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

Because we did not get the first LIFE contribution due to legal problem in Hungary procurement of equipment did not start yet. We have 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 was tagged on 14 June (**Annex C7**).

Problems and their impacts:

We did not get the first LIFE contribution due to legal problem in Hungary; therefore procurement of equipment did not start yet.



Modifications:

A recovered PTT from the former project was used to mark a juvenile because new was not available due to the above mentioned problem.

5.1.3. Action D: Public awareness and dissemination of results

Action D1:

Name of the action: Lobbying for installation of nest boxes in electric pylons

Proposed start and end of the action: October 2010 – March 2011

Expected results:

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.

Achievements:

ENEL's staffs participated in action C7 were convinced about the importance and safety of nest box installation and show interest about it. It is a big step forward. Their interest in the conservation of Saker seems to be evident, as their contribution on this issue appears on the main webpage of the company: www.enel.ro (Annex D1)

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

MAVIR organised a conference in November 2010 and MME in April 2011. Representatives of Romanian Electric Suppliers were expected but they did not come. Next occasion will be in November 2011 again. However we are prepared to go to Romania if our partners will organise a meeting there.

In Romania:

We have contacted the three relevant electric distributor companies in this issue; we have invited them to the international conference on power lines and bird mortality, held in Budapest. We were join the meeting, unfortunately no one of the invited companies was shown up. We have presented the presentations of the meeting in CD for the companies. We have asked for the support of the MoE to invite these companies for a meeting where the representatives of the Hungarian companies may participate to help to introduce this issue.

We used the occasion of PTT tagging for lobby too. One of the electric companies, ENEL assisted us to tag a juvenile in a nest on a pylon. The participating staffs of ENEL were convinced about the importance and safety of nest box installation and show interest about it.

Problems and their impacts:

None of the invited companies participated in the relevant meetings in Hungary yet, but we have enough time to continue our effort.

Modifications:

Non



Action D2:

Name of the action: Lobbying for insulation of electric pylons

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2011 – June 2011

Expected results:

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.

Achievements:

ENEL's staffs participated in action C7 were convinced about the importance of insulation.

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

MAVIR organised a conference in November 2010 and MME in April 2011. Representatives of Romanian Electric Suppliers were expected but they did not come. Next occasion will be in November 2011 again. However we are prepared to go to Romania if our partners will organise a meeting there.

In Romania:

We have contacted the three relevant electric distributor companies in this issue; we have invited them to the international conference on power lines and bird mortality, held in Budapest. We were join the meeting, unfortunately no one of the invited companies was shown up. We have presented the presentations of the meeting in CD and the so called "Budapest declaration" (**Annex D2**) for the companies.

We have asked the support of the MoE to invite these companies for a meeting where the representatives of the Hungarian companies may participate to help to introduce this issue.

We used the occasion of PTT tagging for lobby too. One of the electric companies, ENEL assisted us to tag a juvenile in a nest on a pylon.

Problems and their impacts:

None of the invited companies participated in the relevant meetings in Hungary yet, but we have time to continue our effort.

Modifications:

Non

Action D3:

Name of the action: Erecting information signs at project site

Proposed start and end of the action: September 2011 – March 2012

Expected results:

Large scale publicity provided to the conservation status of *F. cherrug*, project. Aims and activities and its support by LIFE+ will be known.



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.

Achievements:

- Signboards have designed and ready for production
- Location of the signboards have selected

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation of offers and selection of suppliers• designed• Procurement• Information signs erected	31.01.2011 . 30.09.2011	completed completed delayed pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:**In Bulgaria:**

The text of the information signs has been translated into Bulgarian. The most appropriate sites visited and assessed for installation of information panels. The best site is Cape Kaliakra, visited annually by about 1 000 000 people from Bulgaria and abroad. Some preliminary consultations took place. Second appropriate place is one of the most famous summer sea resorts “Albena”, located near to the “Batova” Natura 2000 zone. (**Annex D3/1**)

In Hungary:

Due to the very difficult procurement process in the state organisation the procurement of the information boards was transferred from BNPD to MME. MME selected the supplier already but it cannot order the production due to the money transfer problem. However the signboard has been designed for all the four countries (**Annex D3/2**) as a credit and waiting for production.

In Romania:

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 (**Annex D3/3**).

In Slovakia: The text of the information signs has been translated into Slovak. The possibility of installation of a signboard in Abrahám municipality in SKCHVU023 Uľanská mokrad’ was consulted with the land-using Company. One of the signboards will be installed near their seat in Abrahám village (**Annex D3/4**).

Problems and their impacts:

- Very difficult procurement process in the state organisation.
- The money transfer problem for the NGOs.

We started earlier than we planned so we are not in delay yet.

Modifications:

MME will get to produce them Instead of BNPD due to very slow, long and costly procurement process in the state sector.



Action D4:

Name of the action: Design and operate project web site

Proposed start and end of the action: October 2010 – September 2014

Expected results:

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 *Falco spp.* We expect 240 000 visitors over the project period to visit the site.

Achievements:

Web page: www.sakerlife.mme.hu is functioning.

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Bulgaria: The content of the project website has been translated into Bulgarian.

In Hungary: Website www.sakerlife.mme.hu was developed in five languages and it is operating now. It is common with the former project's website. Selection between the old and new project can be done in the home page.

In Romania: The content of the project website has been translated into Romanian.

In Slovakia: The content of the project website has been translated into Slovak.

Problems and their impacts:

Non

Modifications:

Non

Action D5:

Name of the action: Secure public support for conservation efforts

Proposed start and end of the action: July 2011 – September 2014

Expected results:

- Disturbance of *F. cherrug* breeding will be reduced by 50% as public awareness increases.
- 4000 copies of A2 size posters
- 4000 copies of A4 size leaflets
- BETA cassette: 4 copy
- 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.



Achievements:

- Posters have designed
- Project was presented by the project manager on the kick of meeting and in the LIFE+ Information session 2011.

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
• A2 size poster designed	31.07.2011	completed
• 4000 copies of A2 size posters produced		pending
• A2 size posters distributed	31.08.2014	pending
• A4 size leaflets designed	31.07.2011	pending
• 4000 copies of A4 size leaflets produced	31.11.2013	pending
• 1000 copies of DVD produced from the project		pending
• DVDs distributed	30.09.2014	pending
• Monitoring and assessment the impact of communication and dissemination	30.09.2014.	pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Bulgaria:

A questionnaire related to the conservation of *F. cherrug* has been prepared (**Annex D5/1**) and it was disseminated within stakeholders from the project area in June (**Annex D5/2**) and will be continue in July 2011. General information about the project as well as two materials on *F. cherrug* observations and the beginning of the project was uploaded on BSPB's official web site http://bspb.org/show2.php?id=1852&menu_id=37).

In Hungary:

We decided to use the same design (**Annex D3/2**) for the A2 size poster as for the information board as we did it in the former project but production of these materials postponed to the beginning of 2012 due to tender process difficulties.

In Romania:

Three articles were presented on the Milvus Group's website in English and Romanian (**web:** <http://milvus.ro/training-in-hungary-for-the-partners-of-the-life-project-dealing-with-the-conservation-of-the-saker-falcon/1501>; <http://milvus.ro/fieldwork-in-dobrudja—survey-for-saker-falcons/1828>; <http://milvus.ro/the-saker-falcon-is-breeding-in-the-western-part-of-romania/1830>)

Problems and their impacts:

Production of these materials was postponed up to the beginning of 2012 due to the very difficult tender process in the state sector.

Modifications:

Non

Action D6:

Name of the action: Informing media about project's aims, activities and achievements

Proposed start and end of the action: October 2010 – September 2014



Expected results:

The conservation problems of *F. cherrug* 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.

- Two Press Conferences will be organised one at the start and one at the end of the project.
- At least two press releases will be circulated annually to local & national newspapers.
- Two articles will be submitted annually to local & national newspapers to magazines for farmers and on the main web sites of relevant hunters associations.
- Two scientific papers will be produced during the project period.
- Two site visits will be organised for the media.

Achievements:

- Two press conference
- 8 Press Releases
- 10 radios, 3 newspapers, 34 online news

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
• Press conference	15.10.2010	completed
• Articles submitted to newspapers and magazines	31.03.2011	completed
• Spring media release	30.04.2011	completed
• Autumn media release	30.09.2011	pending
• Articles submitted to newspapers and magazines	31.03.2012	pending
• Spring media release	30.04.2012	pending
• Autumn media release	30.09.2012	pending
• Articles submitted to newspapers and magazines	31.03.2013	pending
• Spring media release	30.04.2013	pending
• Autumn media release	30.09.2013	pending
• Articles submitted to newspapers and magazines	31.03.2014	pending
• Spring media release	30.04.2014.	pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Bulgaria:

One Press Conference has been organized on 31st of March at the National Press Club with the Bulgarian News Agency in Sofia, to launch the project. (**Annex D6/1**) Representatives of 10 different media have participated in the event (**Annex D6/2**). 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 (**Annex D6/3**). As a result of the Press Conference and the distributed first press release (**Annex D6/4**) on the project the event was widely covered by over 20 electronic media, radio channels and newspapers (**Annex D6/5**). 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” (**Annex D6/6**). 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” (**Annex D6/7**).



In Hungary:

The project was launched in the press conference organised in the venue of the International Conference where most partners were present in September 2010 (**Annex D6/8**). An article from the Saker conservation results was submitted for Heliaca periodical (**Annex D6/9**). Two press releases were issued from tagged birds and International Conference about “Power lines and bird mortality in Europe” (**Annex D6/10**). MME issued another press release about poisoned Saker (**Annex D6/11**).

In Romania:

There was a joint press release with ENEL about joint action to tag juvenile *F. cherrug* from the nest on an electric pylon. (**Annex D1**). The ROS is constantly working with the large public through media and by any mean in order to secure public support for conservation efforts (**Annex D6/5**).

In Slovakia:

3 Press Releases about the project and its outputs and another about the money transfer problem were submitted to media and published on RPS web site and other web sites (**Annex D6/5**). An article was submitted to the Slovak Raptor Journal about the trend and conservation of the species in West Slovakia (**Annex D6/12**).

Problems and their impacts:

The continuous problems with the money transfer to partners effected the communication of the project. We had to communicate this negative issue too instead of only positive progress.

Modifications:

Non

Action D7:

Name of the action: Layman’s report

Proposed start and end of the action: April 2014 – June 2014

Expected results:

4000 items of paper copies of 8-12 pages report and PDF format on the web in English will be published, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages.

Achievements:

No

Action status: pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

ONLY in 2014!

Problems and their impacts:

Non

Modifications:

Non

**5.1.4. Action E: Overall project operation and monitoring****Action E1:**

Name of the action: Monitoring of installed nest boxes in Bulgaria Romania according to the Hungarian and Slovak experience (*incl. collection & analysis of food remains*)

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2012 – March 2014

Expected results:

50% of them will be occupied at the project period.

Achievements:

Monitoring protocol is ready. Included in the Project Handbook

Action status: pending

Measure	Deadline	Progress
• Monitoring protocol ready	30.11.2010	completed
• Annual monitoring report Nr.1.	31.12.2011	pending
• Annual monitoring report Nr.2.	31.12.2012	pending
• Annual monitoring report Nr.3.	31.12.2013.	pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

From 2012 only!

Problems and their impacts:

Non

Modifications:**In Bulgaria:**

BSPB provided to the Project team 3 fully operational sets of walkie-talkies from other sources, therefore we would like to reallocate the 400 € from equipment cost category to consumables for maintenance of the BP's 4x4 car (Land Rover Discovery), which is provided entirely and exclusively for the present project activities.

Action E2:

Name of the action: Monitoring of repatriated *S. citellus* population using the Hungarian and Slovak experience of former LIFE project

Proposed start and end of the action: June 2011 – August 2013

Expected results:

Success of Action C3 will be justified.



Achievements:

Monitoring protocol was included in the Hand Book.

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
• Monitoring protocol ready	30.11.2010	completed
• Annual monitoring report Nr.1.	31.12.2011	pending
• Annual monitoring report Nr.2.	31.12.2012	pending
• Annual monitoring report Nr.3.	31.12.2013.	pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

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 susliks 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 is very important information for the next implementation of C3 action (**Annex C3/3: 2nd picture**).

Problems and their impacts:

Non

Modifications:

Non

Action E3:

Name of the action: Efficiency control of dangerous electric pylon's insulation

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2011 – September 2014

Expected results:

Repeated survey on the same sections of electric lines what were surveyed under Action C4 will justify the efficiency of the insulation.

Achievements:

Monitoring protocol was included in the Hand Book.

Action status: pending

Measure	Deadline	Progress
• Monitoring protocol ready	30.11.2010	completed
• Annual monitoring report Nr.1.	31.12.2011	pending
• Annual monitoring report Nr.2.	31.12.2012	pending
• Annual monitoring report Nr.3.	31.12.2013.	pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

From 2012 only!



Problems and their impacts:

Non

Modifications:

Non

Action E4:

Name of the action: Technical management of the project

Proposed start and end of the action: October 2010 – September 2014

Expected results:

Technical, Administrative and financial arrangements and 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.

Having an effective project management structure in place will ensure that the activities described in this application will be implemented on time and within budget. If unexpected problems arise, necessary steps will be taken. Therefore, this action is essential to ensure the effective implementation of the project.

Achievements:

- Project management in place and functioning
- PAs prepared and signed
- Project Hand-book prepare

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
• Project staff in place at all relevant position	01.10.2010	completed
• Work plan ready	30.11.2010	completed
• Project handbook prepared	15.12.2010	completed
• Partnership Agreements signed		completed
• Regular project management, co-ordination and supervision	30.09.2014	ongoing
• Inspection Report	30.06.2011	completed
• Mid-term Report	31.12.2012	pending
• Progress Report	31.12.2013.	pending
• Final Report	31.12.2014	pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

Project management is done by FENCON Ltd.

Description can be found under point 4.1. & 4.2. above.

Problems and their impacts:

- Slow tender process delayed the selection of project management.
- Modified Hungarian law made it difficult the money transfer to NGO partners.

**Modifications:**

Project management started voluntarily or by temporary employment before tender process ended.

Action E5:

Name of the action: Financial management

Proposed start and end of the action: October 2010 – September 2014

Expected results:

Appropriate financial reports produced on time, correctly and to budget, accompanied by report(s) from independent auditor.

Achievements:

- Project Auditor contracted
- Financial guideline prepared
- Regular financial monitoring is going on

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
• Project Auditor Contracted	30.11.2010.	completed
• Financial guideline prepared	30.11.2010.	completed
• Financial monitoring	30.09.2014.	ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

Financial management is done by FENCON Ltd. as a part of project management.

The project administrator is dealing with the financial management. Mrs. Viktória Bene is the project administrator who is in maternity leave currently. Ms. Dóra Kiss is the acting project administrator advised by Viktória.

Description can be found under point 6. below.

Problems and their impacts:

Modified Hungarian law made it difficult the money transfer to NGO partners.

Modifications:

Non

Action E6:

Name of the action: Training of project staff

Proposed start and end of the action: December 2010

Expected results:

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



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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.

Achievements:

Project staff trained and project work standardised.

Action status: completed

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

Two days project training was organised in Felsőtárkány in 21-22 February 2011, where all partners' team took part to learn about the technical, administrative and financial issues of the project implementation (**Annexes E4/4; E6**).

Problems and their impacts:

Due to the slow tender process the permanent project management cannot start working at the beginning therefore the training had to be postponed to February.

Modifications:

Non

Action E7:

Name of the action: Held Steering Committee meetings

Proposed start and end of the action: March 2011 – March 2014

Expected results:

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.

Achievements:

- Steering Committee has established
- Start up SC meeting held

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
• Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting	31.03.2011	completed
• Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting	31.03.2012	pending
• Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting	31.03.2013	pending
• Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting	31.03.2014.	pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Bulgaria:

On 23rd of March 2011 Dimitar Gradinarov – representative of the BSPB has been available for participation in the Steering Committee via Internet, as he could not participate personally



in the meeting. Because of technical reasons, the connection could not been realized. BSPB has obtained the Minutes from the Steering Committee from the Project Manager.

In Hungary:

First Steering Committee meeting was organised in Felsőtárkány on 23 March 2011 (**Annex E7/1**). ToR of SC was adopted (**Annex E7/2**). Minutes of it was distributed among the partners (**Annexes E4/5; E7/3**).

In Romania:

The president of MILVUS's car was broken down before the Hungarian border therefore he could not participate on it. Minutes from the Steering Committee meeting was received from the Project Manager.

In Slovakia:

RPS could not participate due to project inspection of another LIFE project.

Problems and their impacts:

Bulgarian, Romanian and Slovak partners could not participate due to different reason.

Modifications:

Non

Action E8:

Name of the action: Baseline survey to monitor project success

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2011 – January 2014

Expected results:

The original population size (number of territorial pairs) of *F. cherrug* 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.

Achievements:

- Large areas were surveyed in both countries.
- One new pair was found in Romania.

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Bulgaria:

Four field surveys were carried out. The first two were in January and February to register Sakers in the Project territory during the winter season. Over 20 records of at least 4 different Sakers (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 Sakers 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 Sakers 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. (**Annex E8/1**)

In Romania:

Until now up to 70% of the project area from the Western part of Romania were covered by our baseline survey. We've made our survey following the high voltage electricity lines. János Bagyura from MME helped the baseline survey and found a breeding pair in a raven nest on pylon near to ROSPA0069 (**Annex E8/2**). We have collected several data 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 where previous years Sakers were reported have been visited (**Annex E8/3**). Unfortunately any Saker was not found.

Problems and their impacts:

Non

Modifications:

One simple tent was purchased by MME to accommodate János Bagyura during the monitoring work in Romania.

Action E9:

Name of the action: Collecting migratory and immigration data by satellite telemetry, bird ringing and feather analysis

Proposed start and end of the action: April 2011 – June 2014

Expected results:

- Actions A1 (existing agricultural system will be evaluated in Bulgaria and Romania), A3, (sufficient data will be available for proposal on wind farms,) & C7 (wintering sites, migratory survival rate and new habitats where juveniles settle and possibly the reason of the loss would be also identified in north Bulgaria and Romania too) 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 *F. cherrug* 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.
- Data gained from this activity will form the base of conservation management plans and guidelines for authorities and management organisations regarding the topics mentioned above, thus the action contributes the conservation of the species as a result.



Achievements:

Two visits in Croatia and one in Ukraine to assist Saker conservation and ensure support of our roaming birds.

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

Three persons team led by the project manager visited the Ministry of Culture in Croatia upon their invitation to introduce the project and discuss about the possible cooperation in Saker conservation on 23.11.2010 (**Annexes E9/1-E9/3**). Following this meeting two persons (from BNPD and MME) visited the area on February 2011 where some PTT tagged Saker turned around before and where our birds may need some help sometimes (**Annex E9/4**).

A two person's team from BNPD visited Ukraine upon their invitation to discuss cooperation and transfer knowledge what would be essential when our birds may need some help between 29 May and 10 June (**Annexes E9/5-E9/6**).

Problems and their impacts:

Non

Modifications:

Non

Action E10:

Name of the action: After Life Conservation Plan

Proposed start and end of the action: July 2014 – September 2014

Expected results:

After-LIFE Conservation Plan delivered with the final report.

Achievements:

Non

Action status: pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

2014 only!

Problems and their impacts:

Non

Modifications:

Non



5.2. Availability of appropriate licences and authorisations

Falco cherrug is a globally endangered species therefore it is strictly protected. To work with it need special authorisation what most partner organisation have either as a ringing permit or research permission (**Annex 5.2a-c**). In Hungary, MME is organising this work since many decades and to enquire permission was just a routine process. There was a research permission covering the former LIFE project period and including all peoples from MME and national parks who was working with the species.

This year MME applied again for the permission including all strictly protected species (Falco cherrug, Falco vespertinus and Aquilla heliaca) but the formerly routine process turn out much longer procedure. It is foreseen that the permission will be issued in July 2011.

In Bulgaria there is any birds currently to ring or tag therefore BSPB do not need permission yet. As soon as they would need it they will arrange it since it is a routine process for them.

Authorization is needed for *S. cittellus* repatriation also. RPS has it for their work. The others would need it for next year since they won't do it this year. They will arrange it in time.

5.3. Envisaged progress until next report.

5.3.1. Revised reporting schedule

Originally we did not plan Inception Report because we projected the Mid-term Report at 30.09.2011. However due to the administrative problems in the inception period we had to reschedule our reporting plan. We are submitting now the Inception Report and from now on until 31.12.2012. we will submit the Mid-term Report as soon as possible.

Table 1: Revised schedule for Activity Reports

Type of report	Original deadline	Revised deadline
Inception Report	-	30.06.2011.
Mid-term Report	30.09.2011.	31.12.2012.
Progress Report Nr.1.	30.09.2012.	31.12.2013.
Progress Report Nr.2	30.09.2013.	-
Final Report	31.12.2014.	31.12.2014.



5.3.2. Deliverables and milestones

There were some mistakes in the “Code of the associated action” because after correction in the main text this table was not updated. In the tables we indicate the delivered one by green colour and the plan for the next period by yellow.

Table 2: DELIVERABLE PRODUCTS OF THE PROJECT

Name of the Deliverable	Code of the associated action	Deadline
Minutes of "Start up" Steering Committee Meeting	E7	30.09.2010
Technical guidelines	C1-C7	30.11.2010
Monitoring protocol	E1, E2, E3	30.11.2010
Work plan	E4	30.11.2010
Project Handbook	E4	15.12.2010
Web site developed	D4	31.12.2010
Minutes of project's staff training	E6	31.12.2010
Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting	E7	31.03.2011
Articles submitted for newspapers and magazines	D6	31.03.2011
Spring media release	D6	30.04.2011
A2 size posters	D5	31.01.2012
A4 size leaflets	D5	31.01.2012
Information sign erected	D3	30.09.2011
Autumn media release	D6	30.09.2011
Cages for disabled birds erected	C5	31.10.2011
Annual monitoring report Nr.1.	E1, E2, E3	31.12.2011
Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting	E7	31.03.2012
Articles submitted for newspapers and magazines	D6	31.03.2012
Spring media release	D6	30.04.2012
Autumn media release	D6	30.09.2012
Annual monitoring report Nr.2.	E1, E2, E3	31.12.2012
Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting	E7	31.03.2013
Articles submitted for newspapers and magazines	D6	31.03.2013
Spring media release	D6	30.04.2013
Annual monitoring report Nr.3.	E1, E2, E3	31.12.2013
Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting	E7	31.03.2014
Articles submitted for newspapers and magazines	D6	31.03.2014
Spring media release	D6	30.04.2014
Layman's report	D7	31.05.2014
Proposal for adjustment of agri-environment subsidies	A1	31.07.2014
Recommendation to revise the Saker Action Plan	E9	30.09.2014
After-LIFE Conservation Plan	E10	30.09.2014

Legend: D6=Corrected code 31.01.2012= rescheduled deliverables
 Work plan=Completed
 A2 size posters=plans for the next phase


Table 3: MILESTONES OF THE PROJECT

Name of the Milestone	Code of the associated action	Deadline
Project Staff in place at all relevant position	E4	01.10.2010
Press conference	D6	15.10.2010
Project Auditor contracted	E5	30.11.2010
Evaluation of offers and selection of suppliers	A1, ,A3,A4,C2,C3,C4 C5,C6,C7, D4 E4,	30.08.2011
Adults tagged by PTT	A1, A3,	05.03.2011
Juveniles ringed & tagged with satellite transmitter	A3,C7	15.06.2011
First batch of <i>S. citellus</i> are repatriated	C3	15.08.2011
First batch of nest boxes are installed	C2	31.12.2011
Fist batch of dangerous electric pylons insulated	C4	31.12.2011
Second batch adults tagged by PTT	A3	05.03.2012
Second batch juveniles are tagged	A3,C7	15.06.2012
Second batch of <i>S. citellus</i> are repatriated	C3	15.08.2012
Second batch nest boxes are installed	C2	31.12.2012
Second batch of dangerous electric pylons insulated	C4	31.12.2012
Third batch juveniles are tagged	A3	15.06.2013
Video, DVD for public	D5	31.11.2013
Third batch nest boxes are installed	C2	31.11.2013
Third batch of dangerous electric pylons insulated	C4	31.11.2013
Report on satellite tracking	A3,C7	31.11.2013
Last batch of dangerous electric pylons insulated	C4	30.09.2014
Press conference	D6	30.09.2014



5.3.3. Corrected time table illustrating progress

There were some mistakes in the time table what is corrected.

Table 4: TIMETABLE

Action	2010				2011				2012				2013				2014			
Number	September			IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
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.																			✓	



6. Financial part

6.1. Putting in place of the accounting system.

FENCON Ltd. provided a Project Administrator who is responsible about the project financial monitoring. She was putting in place the project's accounting system.

The detailed Work Plan and Budget prepared during the preparation of the project proposal was updated and divided by sites, staff, years and months for 2011 for each partners. From the detailed database budget can be filtered according to partners, sites, staff, years and months for 2011. The Work Plan and Budget for each partner was included in the electronic copy of the partners' Project Hand book. If any modification was approved the Project Manager send back the revised version for the partner coordinator. Revision is made by red colour. Project Administrator maintains an extended version of it where she can record the expenditures in some inserted column.

An auditor was contracted by the Beneficiary in May 2011. He regularly follows up the project financial management consulting with the Project Administrator and time by time with the Project Manager and the Head of the Financial Department of the Beneficiary.

A Financial Guideline was prepared and included in the Project Hand book. During the project training the Project Administrator taught the partners' administrators who to use it.

Partners are sending monthly financial reports to the Project Office. Project Administrator register and check it. She is preparing a "list of requested corrections" if she find any mistake or any missing documents. Financial reports are accepted only if all requested corrections are completed and missing documents submitted and accepted. A register is maintained about the status of each partner's monthly financial reports. NGO partners (BSPB, MILVUS, MME, RPS, and SOR) get quarterly advance payment. All other partners' accepted costs are reimbursed.

Each partners got a project stamp identical with the partner and they have to stamp all original financial documents before copying.

6.2. Continued availability of co financing.

The co-financing of the Ministry of Rural Development is available and seems to be available in the future too.



6.3. Costs incurred.

Table 5: Incurred costs by cost categories

Budget breakdown categories	Total cost in €	Costs planned from the start date to 30.06.2011 in €	% of total costs $3/2 \cdot 100$	Costs incurred from the start date to 30.06.2011 in €	% of total costs $5/2 \cdot 100$	% of planned costs $5/3 \cdot 100$
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Personnel	591 512	122 136	20,65	63 570	10,75	52,05
2. Travel and subsistence	210 271	43 228	20,56	25 824	12,28	59,74
3. External assistance	1 138 627	65 545	5,76	33 948	2,98	51,79
4. Durable goods						
Infrastructure	4 660	4 660	100,00	0	0	0
Equipment	285 114	221 899	77,83	66 545	23,34	29,99
Prototype						
5. Land purchase / long-term lease						
6. Consumables	1 523 615	53 632	3,52	5 044	0,33	9,40
7. Other Costs	15 200	4 000	26,32	4 091	26,91	102,27
8. Overheads	263 830	36 057	13,67	13 932	5,28	38,64
TOTAL	4 032 828	551 157	13,67	212 954	5,28	38,64

6.3.1. Comment on the budget

Due to the mentioned problems i.e. very late money transfer to NGO partners and the very long tender process in Hungary the expenditure of the reported period was less than it was planned. Especially the equipment costs and the consumables were much less than expected. There is a big fluctuation of exchange range more than 10% comparing to the first days of the year. Due to the uncertainty of money transfer to the partners because of the unsolved problem with the current law the co-ordinating beneficiary did not change any money yet. If it would do it today it would lost more than 10%-t now. It is expected that the 30% threshold value of the total costs to be reached until June 2012 since the former problems would be over now.



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Annex 7.2.

7.2. Maps, drawings, technical designs, technical memos etc. (DVD only)

For your attention!
These annexes may include more than one maps or pictures



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LIFE+ Nature output indicators

OUTPUTS

Part 1 - Preparatory actions

Table 1 - Types of preparatory actions planned (A, B actions)

Types of preparatory actions	No. of preparatory actions	Species involved (Latin name)	Type of habitats *	No. of species involved	No. of habitats involved	No. of N2000 sites involved	Surface involved (ha)	Budgeted cost (€)
Plans of project measures								
Action plans								
Management plans								
Guidelines & recommendation for agri-environment subsidies	3 (A1, A2, A3),	Falco cherrug Spermophilus citellus	1530, 6120, 6210, 6220, 6240, 6250, 6260, 6410, 6430, 6440, 6510, 91F0	2	12	30	400000	381 643
Inventories & Studies	(A4, E9)	F. cherrug	N/A**	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	187768
<i>Ex ante</i> monitoring	1(E8)	F. cherrug	1530, 6120, 6210, 6220, 6240, 6250, 6260, 6410, 6430, 6440, 6510, 91F0	1	12	23	400000	30000
<i>Ex post</i> monitoring	4(E8, E1, E2, E3)							135 738
Permit procedures (new Law)								
New Natura 2000 area								
Land purchased								
Other								
Total	8	2	12	2	12	30	400000	735 149

** E9 action may effect more continent. The possible roaming of the birds is not known yet.

OUTPUTS

Part 2 - Concrete actions



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Table 2 - Best practices/concrete techniques//conservation actions/methods planned (C actions)

Deliverable	No. of preparatory actions	Species involved (Latin name)	Type of habitats *	No. of species involved	No. of habitats involved	No. of N2000 sites involved	Surface involved (ha)	Budgeted cost (€)
Natura 2000 site creation								
Natura 2000 site restoration/improvement								
Conservation actions	4 (C1,C2,C4,C6,)	F. cherrug, S. citellus	1530, 6120, 6210, 6220, 6240, 6250, 6260, 6410, 6430, 6440, 6510, 91F0	2	12	30	400000	2 442 335
Reintroduction	1(C3)	S. citellus	6220, 6240, 6510	1	3	7	300	43 057
Ex situ conservation	1(C5)	F. cherrug	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	16 535
Removal of alien species								
Others– marking juveniles with PTT	1(C7)	F. cherrug	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	78 478
Total	7	2	12	2	12	30	400000	2 580 405

* Identification number and name as in the Directives

Table 3 - Training activities

No. of training sessions	Total no. of persons trained	Budgeted cost (€)
On the job training	48	20800



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OUTPUTS

Part 3 – Awareness-raising and communication

Table 4 - Workshops, seminars and conferences

Target audience:	General public			Specialised audience (e.g. decision-makers)			Very specialised audience (e.g. experts, academics)		
Number of participants:	Local/ Regional	National	EU/ International	Local/ Regional	National	EU/ International	Local/ Regional	National	EU/ International
0-25 participants	4				2	3		3	
25-75 participants									
75-100 participants									
More than 100 participants									
Total budgeted cost (€)	10000								



Table 5 - Media and other communication and dissemination work

Type of media	No.
Project website: average number of visitors per month	5000
Press releases made by the project	32
General public article in national press	16
General public article in local press	32
Specialised press article	8
Internet article	100
TV news/reportage	32
Radio news/reportage	32
Film produced	1
Film played on TV	4
Film presented in events/festivals	10
Exhibitions attended	
Information centre/Information kiosk	
Project notice boards	20
Other (please specify)	
Total budgeted cost (€)	68900

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Table 6 – Publications

Type of publication	No. published	No. of copies	Languages
Layman's report	1	4000	Bulgarian, English, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak
Manuals (Project Handbook)	1	200	Bulgarian, English, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak
Leaflets	2	4000	Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak
Brochures			
Posters	1	4000	Bulgarian, English, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak
Books			
Technical publications			
Other (guidelines)	3	400	Bulgarian, English, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak
Total budgeted cost (€)	51200		



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Table 7 - Educational activities

Establishment involved	No. of students
Kindergartens/Primary schools	0
Secondary schools	0
Higher education establishments	0
Total budgeted cost (€)	0



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