



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
Directorate E - Global & Regional Challenges, LIFE  
ENV.E.3 - LIFE – Nature  
Acting Head of Unit

Brussels, 12/08/15  
ENV.E.3 LB/PR/ip Ares(2015)3364371  
Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate (FHNPD)  
Mr József FIDLÓCZKY  
Rév-Kócsagvár  
HU-9435, Sarród, Hungary

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**Subject: LIFE13 NAT/HU/000183 RAPTORSPREYLIFE Inception Report and visit to the project on 8 and 9 July 2015**

Dear Mr FIDLÓCZKY,

Thank you for your well structured and informative Inception Report which I received on 15 April 2015 and for welcoming Mr Andras Kovacs from the external monitoring team in your premises and in project areas on 8 and 9 July 2015.

I am pleased to hear that the project management has been properly set up to ensure timely project implementation and efficient coordination between the project beneficiaries. I noted that the Partnership Agreements were signed and followed the EC template. I acknowledge the progress in Actions E6 and E7 since the Inception Report, and especially appreciate the exemplary layout and content of the project notice boards.

However, I observed that there are delays in Actions A4, A8, A9, C7, D2, E2 and E4. Please try to overcome these delays as soon as possible and accelerate the implementation of these actions. Please pay special attention to keeping the foreseen deadlines for deliverables and milestones. Further recommendations are described in the annex to this letter.

The main purpose of an Inception Report is to allow the Commission to assess whether your project objectives and work plan are still valid and whether your overall objectives are still achievable. I inform you that, on the basis of the information received in the report, the Commission considers that the project remains viable and on-track to achieve its objectives within the original timeframe and is, therefore, allowed to proceed.

I wish you success with the ongoing implementation of the project as it moves into a more active phase, and look forward to receiving your Mid-term Report by 30 June 2016.

Yours sincerely,

**Anne BURRILL**

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## ANNEX

### Technical issues:

1. Actions A2 and A3

I approve the extension of deadline in these actions with one year, until December 2016.

2. Action A6

Please compile a more comprehensive *Spermophilus citellus* reintroduction protocol that includes a risk assessment chapter and considers the application of the relevant principles of IUCN's Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations, e.g. regarding monitoring and adaptive management of the released individuals. Please submit the extended protocol with your next report.

3. Action A7

I remind you that the project requires that water management recommendations are endorsed by the relevant authorities.

4. Action A8

I encourage you to complete the opinion poll as soon as possible since late completion may distort its results. Please submit the results with your next report.

5. Action B1

I approve your proposal to cancel the Kelebia site and purchase more land in Öttömös 0100/43 provided that the foreseen budget is not exceeded.

I inform you that the land purchase costs may be considered eligible by the EC only if the conditions laid down in Articles 24.1 and 25.1 of the Common Provisions are completely fulfilled. Based on the Decision I/1286/2015 of the Constitutional Court of Hungary the exclusive land management rights of the National Land Fund Management Organisation do not provide a sufficient legal guarantee that the purchased land will be assigned definitively to nature conservation. Please note that in accordance with the above-mentioned Decision the manager of the purchased land in the frame of the project should be the competent national park directorate otherwise the related costs may be considered ineligible.

6. Action B2

I approve the proposed budget reallocation from B2 to C4. Please note that while no related modification of the Grant Agreement is necessary at this stage, the reallocation will have to be taken into account in case any other modifications in the budget are made.

At the same time I encourage you to actively monitor the status of national legislation entering into force with an impact on this and any other actions in order to see if you can revert to the originally planned form of actions.

7. Action C4

I approve the habitat reconstruction on the newly proposed Öttömös site, the land use contracts and the replacement of the damaged land with the additional *S. citellus* reintroduction site.

8. Action C5  
I approve the proposed change of target sites. Please do remember that the action will be considered successful only if viable *S. citellus* populations are established.
9. Action E2  
I encourage you to start the production of the colouring book and the memory cards as soon as possible if there are no specific technical reasons for postponing this sub-action.

### **Financial issues**

10. Action F1  
From the copies of the timesheets provided during the visit I noted that you use a good timesheet template. Please note that the timesheets should be dated and signed within two weeks after the end of the declared month at the latest. The last working day of the month as the date of the signature is not acceptable.  
  
In the timesheet of Dr Szentirmai (Associated Beneficiary ÖNPD) the project reference was missing. Please pay special attention to the proper indication of the project reference in the relevant text box, otherwise the personnel costs of the declared time may be considered ineligible.
11. Based on your justification I consider the purchase of unforeseen equipment (e.g. project cars, laptops and photo equipment etc.) as provisionally acceptable. Nevertheless, eligibility of these costs will be definitively assessed with the future financial reports in the context of the whole project expenditure.
12. I remind you that subcontractors or suppliers should mention the project reference in their description of services or elsewhere on the invoice. Only when this is not possible you should stamp or write the reference on the original invoice. The recommended stamp reference is the project number and acronym and not only one of the two.
13. Please submit the VAT declarations of the beneficiaries by the time of the Mid-term Report at the latest.