LIFE Project Number </br><LIFE13 NAT/HU/000183>

MIDTERM Report 1. Covering the project activities from 01/07/2014 to 30/04/2016

Reporting Date <30/06/2016>

LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym **<RAPTORSPREYLIFE>**

	Project Data
Project location	Hungary and N-NW-Romania
Project start date:	<01/07/2014>
Project end date:	<31/12/2018> Extension date: <dd mm="" yyyy=""></dd>
Total Project duration (in months)	<54> months (including Extension of <xx> months)</xx>
Total budget	€ 2 881 243
Total eligible budget	€ 2 881 243
EU contribution:	€ 2 160 932
(%) of total costs	75,00
(%) of eligible costs	75,00
	Beneficiary Data
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2. Executive Summary

2.1. Project objectives:

1. It aims to strengthen the European core populations of *Aquila heliaca* and *Falco cherrug*, by stopping the decline of their main food sources, the small mammals (*Spermophilus citellus, Cricetus cricetus*, and *Lepus europeus*).

2. The project aims to increase public awareness towards the birds of preys and especially their small mammals prey too.

3. The project also aims to demonstrate how to adjust different nature conservation priorities when we carefully consider the life style and habitat demand of *Sicista subtilis trizona* and *Nannospalax (superspecies) leucodon*.

2.2. Deliverable and outputs:

Up-to-date distribution maps of *S. citellus, C. cricetus, N. leucodon* and *S. trizona* were prepared for the entire area of Hungary (A1). First preliminary results of the genetic examination is available (A2). Land Stewardship Advisory Service established (A4). An up to date digital Reintroduction Protocol for *S. citellus* repatriation based on the latest developments was developed (A6). Baseline data of public awareness available (A8). 37.75 ha grassland purchased and reconstructed (B1, C4). Captive breeding facilities established (C1). 55 ha stepping stones among Natura 2,000 sites established and maintained (C4). 1,000 logo stickers, 7,000 sticker of target species, 2,000 copies of leaflets on *C. cricetus*, 1,000 copies of brochures on *C. cricetus* and 2,000 copies of brochure on target species printed (E2), 2,000 pcs of "Keep the dog closed" A2 size posters printed and displayed (E4). Project Web is functioning (E6). 22 information boards in Hungary and 10 pcs in Romania prepared and erected. One roll-up got to produced and displayed in events (E7). 1,500 copies of B1 size posters, 7x500 stickers and 7 magnetic boards are ready (E8). Two TV and radio broadcast, 7 printed and 3 online articles and 3 scientific papers published (E9).

2.3. Summary of chapters:

2.3.1. Introduction:

Includes the overall objective and the specific objectives of the project, the sites are involved, the species are targeted, the main conservation issues being targeted (including threats), the socio-economic context and the expected long term results.

2.3.2. Administrative part

Includes the description of the management system, description and schematic presentation of working method, including overview of project phases, activities and planning, presentation of the beneficiaries, changes in the project management structure, partnership agreements status (incl. date of signature) and key content, evaluation of the management system, description of the project management, the project management process, the working method, the problems encountered, the partnerships and their added value, including comments on any significant deviations from the work plan, Communication with the Commission and Monitoring team.

2.3.3. Technical part

includes the technical progress

- A: Preparatory actions (A1-A9),
- B: Land purchase (B1)
- C: Concrete conservation actions (C1-C7)
- D: Monitoring of the impact of the project actions (D1-D5)
- F5: Networking

and the dissemination progress E1-E10

2.3.4. Financial Part

The work was based on the annual work plans and budget. The project management follows the work and checked the expenses monthly and quarterly in case of foreign partners.

1,019,580 €, 35.39% of the planned total budget have spent during the reporting period. There was some relocation among the cost categories in consultation with EC but within the 10 % or 30,000 € limit.

3. Introduction

3.1. Overall and specific objectives

3.1.1. Overall objectives

The project's overall objective to reinforce the on-going efforts to strengthen the European core populations of *Aquila heliaca* and *Falco cherrug*, globally threatened species on Annex I of the Birds Directive also identified as priority species for LIFE-Nature projects.

3.1.2. Specific objectives

- The project aims to stop the decline of the existing small mammals (*Spermophilus citellus*, *Cricetus cricetus*, and *Lepus europeus*) population as the essential food sources of *A. heliaca* & *F. cherrug* where they are exists.
- The project works as a demonstration project in some actions to prepare the background scientifically for the possible future increase of those populations based on the best practices applied.
- The project aims to increase public awareness towards the birds of preys and especially their small mammals prey too.
- The project also aims to demonstrate how to adjust different nature conservation priorities when we carefully consider the life style and habitat demand of *Sicista subtilis trizona* and *Nannospalax (superspecies) leucodon* strictly protected species in Hungary and adjusting our work for the benefit of all species.
- Strong, healthy genetically stable *S. citellus* population will provide suitable food for *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug* population. *S. citellus, C. cricetus, N. (superspecies leucodon),* and *L. europeus* will increase in the Natura sites and around them within 10 km. *S. citellus, C. cricetus,* will increase in the food of *A. heliaca and F. cherrug.*
- More healthy and bigger *S. citellus* population.

3.2. Sites are involved

There are 27 Hungarian and 17 Romanian Natura 2000 areas involved in the project.

3.2.1. In Hungary

HUBF20003Kab-hegy; HUBF20031Szentkirályszabadja, HUBN10002, HUBN20034 Borsodi-Sík and Borsodi Mezőség; HUBN10003, HUBN20009Tard-környéki erdőspuszta; HUBN10007, HUAN20004Hernád-völgy és Sajóládi-erdő; HUDI10002, HUDI20039Pilis és Visegrádi-hegység (Strázsa hegy, Dömörkapu és Kesztölci dombok); HUDI20047 Szigeti homokok; HUFH10001, HUFH20002Fertő-tó; HUFH10004Mosoni-sík; HUFH20001Rábaköz; HUFH20007, HUFH20009Péri repülőtér & Gönyüi homokvidék; HUFH20011Rába; HUFH30004Szigetköz; HUFH30005Hanság; HUHN20144Kenderesilegelő; HUHN20145Kecskeri-puszta és környéke; HUKM10003, HUKM20014Csejt-puszta (Dévavány környéki gyepek); HUKN20008Déli-Homokhátság; HUON10001, HUON20018 Örség (Szalafő and Csörötnek); HUON20011Kenveri reptér.

3.2.2. In Romania

ROSPA0015, ROSCI0048, ROSCI0049, ROSCI0231, ROSCI0350Câmpia Crișurilor; ROSPA0016, ROSCI0021Câmpia Ierului; ROSPA0069, ROSCI0108Lunca Mureșului Inferior; ROSPA0078, ROSCI0115Mlaștina Satchinez; ROSPA0103, ROSCI0104Valea Alceului; ROSCI0068Diosig; ROSCI0287Comloșu Mare; ROSCI0345Pajiștea Cenad; ROSCI0349Bulgăruș.

3.3. Species are targeted

Imperial Eagle (Aquila heliaca), Saker (Falco cherrug), Ground-squirrel (Spermophilus citellus), European hamster (Cricetus cricetus), Hare (Lepus europeus), Southern birch mouse (Sicista subtilis trizona) and Lesser blind mole rat (Nannospalax (superspecies) leucodon)

3.4. Main conservation issues being targeted (including threats)

The rodents population especially *S. citellus, S. leucodon, S. substilis, C. cricetus, L. europaeus* are shrinking today. It means that the increasing birds of prey population facing with decreasing rodents population what is resulting increasing conflict with fanciers and hunters. (D1, D2)

- Fragmentation of habitat and insulation of the probably inbred small mammals populations; (A1, A2, A4, A6, B1, C1, C3, C4, C5, C6, D3, D5, F7)
- Diseases of small mammals; (A3, C2, D3)
- Poisoning; (A4, A5, C6, D3)
- Loss of habitat; (A4, A5, A7, C4, D3, D5)
- Predators; (C7, D3)
- Lack of information; (A8, D3, D4, E1, E6, E7, E9, E10, F5, F6)
- Lack of public awareness; (A8, D3, D4, E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E8, E10)
- Lack of food sources in the breeding period; (A3, C1, C5, D3)
- Conflict with hunters (A4, D3, D4).

3.5. Socio-economic context

Stakeholder groups and their likely attitude to the project: Governmental bodies:

- Nature conservation authorities: + promote species and habitat conservation, long-term nature conservation ensured.

- Agricultural and rural development authorities: + reconciling land-use priorities, long-term nature conservation ensured.

<u>Regional and local municipalities:</u> +/- eco-tourism, possible restrictions

<u>Land-owners</u>, <u>land-users</u>: +/- possible future funding and/or restrictions on agricultural activities in core areas.

<u>Tourists, travel agencies:</u> +/- possible future restrictions on tourism in nesting areas, increase in tourism potential of the area.

<u>MME/BirdLife Hungary:</u> + promote species and habitat conservation, long-term nature conservation ensured.

<u>Other nature conservationists:</u> + contribute to a long-term, realistic species and habitat conservation and management project.

<u>Scientific and educational institutes:</u> + directly and indirectly share the outcome of the project.

Local people: + increase in tourism potential of the area.

Hunters: -/+ increase of raptors, improved habitat

Social-economic impact of the project:

- 1. Land purchase provide income for landowners
- 2. Impact of the compensated set aside on bounds on the farmers' economy.
- 3. Impact of the compensated set aside on bounds on the hunters' economy.
- 4. Impact of assisted reduction of predators on the hunters' economy.
- 5. Impact of birds of prey on farmers' and hunters' economy.

6. Impact of extensive farming of the restored areas on the farmers' and hunters' economy.

The Agricultural Environmental Programme (AEP) came to existence to support sustainable agriculture and to aid the protection of the living environment. Zonal subsidies are available for ESAs (Environmental Sensitive Area) within the programme that aims to land use practices favourable for the target species (e.g. *A. heliaca & F. cherrug*).

3.6. Expected longer term results

As a result of the project the main reasons of the decrease of small mammals will be better understand and the decrease of these main food sources of A. heliaca and *F. cherrug* will be stopped.

- Strong, healthy genetically stable *S. citellus* population will provide suitable food for *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug* population.
- *S. citellus, C. cricetus, N. (superspecies leucodon),* and *L. europeus* will increase in the Natura sites and around them within 10 km.
- S. citellus, C. cricetus, will increase in the food of A. heliaca and F. cherrug.
- Gene banks will be established and captivity breeding will provide sources for the improvement of fragmented small populations.
- Potential habitats will be reconstructed and about 2000 *S. citellus* will be reintroduced from strong viable populations.
- The fragmented populations will be connected by stepping stones.
- The public awareness would be increased towards these species.

4. Administrative part

4.1. Description of the management system

The project manager position was outsourced by tender to FENCON Ltd. A Project Manager together with the Project Technical Coordinator and Project Administrator did the project

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

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

In the *preparation phase* the project management started the work with work planning. The work was divided by years and the first year by months. The budget was also adjusted to the work plan. In the main time technical, communication and financial guidelines were prepared and an electronic Project Handbook were compiled including the Partnership Agreement, guidelines, work plans, budgets, common provisions etc. Training was organised for all staff involved in the project to standardise the implementation of the work. After the training the *implementation phase* started. The Project Manager tracked the progress by monthly reports provided by the partner coordinators and by visits to the project sites. The project management assisted the beneficiaries by all means through telephone, internet and personal visits. The Steering Committee followed up the work's progress annually.

4.1.1.1. Initial technical meeting

The Coordinating Beneficiary invited the Associated Beneficiaries for a technical preparation meeting on 12.09.2014. The meeting was held in the Budapest Zoo. (Refer to Annex F1/1 of IR).

4.1.1.2. Contracting Project Management

- Coordinating Beneficiary employed the Project Technical Coordinator and the Project Administrator from 01.11.2014. to speed up the work.
- This speed up the tender process also for the Project Manager who was contracted 12.12.2014.

4.1.1.3. Project management activities

- Partner co-ordinators were appointed by all partner organisations in September 2014.
- Detailed work plan and budget of all partners were divided for years and in 2015 for months and included in the Project Hand-book.
- The Technical Coordinator took part on the Kick of Meeting in Budapest on 11 November 2015 (Refer to Annex F1/2 of IR).
- Project Hand-book were prepared electronically for each project partners and introduced during the project training (**Refer to Annex F1/3 of IR**). It was amended time by time with some up to date documents like "Permission to collect samples for evaluation of genetic status of *S. citellus*" (Annex A2/3), or with the updated S. citellus Reintroduction Protocol (Annex A6/1)
- Two days project training was organised in Királyrét in Hungary on 10-11 February 2015, where partners' team took part to learn about the technical,

administrative and financial issues of the project implementation (Refer to Annex F3/2 of IR).

- Partnership Agreements and Financial Amendments were prepared, signed and submitted with the Inception Report (Refer to Annexes 7.1/1-7.1/13 of IR)
- The external auditor was selected and contracting in progress (Refer to Annex F4/1 of IR).
- Steering Committee was established. The first meeting was held on 19 March 2015 (Refer to Annexes F2/1-F2/7 of IR). The second was held on 23 March 2016 (Annexes F2/1-F2/5).
- Project Manager announced the project in a press conference together with the announcement of *Spermophillus citellus* as "the Mammal of the Year" in the Museum of Natural History on 27 March (Refer to Annexes E9/1-E9/7 of IR).
- The Project Manager establish hotline to the head of Dept. of the Nature Conservation Authority to speed up the permission process (Annex F1/1).
- The project management organised annual evaluation meeting in Budapest (FÁNK) on 04.09.2015. (Annexes F1/2-F1/4).
- The project management organised a coordination meeting for preparation of the implementation of A2 action what was in delay due to delaying permission- in Tihany (BfNPD) on 24.02.2016. (Annexes A2/5-A2/6).
- The Project Manager, the Technical Coordinator and the Project Administrator visited the project partners to assist them in the project start and follow up the work progress (Annexes F1/5-F1/7).
- Regular electronic communications (by emails and telephones) are going on between the project manager and administrator and the partner co-ordinators.
- Partners are submitting monthly progress and financial reports to the project management and the Project Manager to the External Monitoring team.

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✓ planned but not implemented **B2**>C4 S=Start IR=Inception Report; MR=Mid-term Report; FR=Final Report ✓ implemented as planned

dimplemented but not planned

✓scheduled for next phase

4.1.2. Presentation of the beneficiaries

<u>Co-ordinating beneficiary</u>: Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate (FHNPD)_is responsible for 46,000 ha protected areas. There are about 10 pairs *F. cherrug* and 6-7 pairs *A. heliaca* within the national park

Associated beneficiaries:

<u>In Hungary:</u>

Balaton-felvidéki National Park Directorate (BfNPD), plays an important role in the conservation of *S. citellus* populations in Hungary. There are 48 ground squirrel colonies within its operational area.

Budapest Zoo & Botanical Garden (FANK) is more than 145-year-old and has long history in keeping, breeding and showing animals.

Bükk Mammalogical Society (BEKE) has been engaged in research and conservation of mammal species since more than a decade.

KAPOSVÁR University studying two of the target species, *S citellus* and *L europeus*, for over a decade and published a dozen research papers on topics related to their conservation.

Kiskunság National Park Directorate (KNPD) managing one of Hungary's most characteristic geological area is the Danube-Tisza Interfluve region.

MADÁRVILÁG Nonprofit Közhasznú Kft main activities are surveying and monitoring species and habitats, active conservation measures in the field.

MAVÍR Zrt. Is responsible for bird safety on high voltage electric powerlines.

MME/BirdLife Hungary a member of BirdLife International was created to protect birds and their natural environment

NIMFEA Nature Conservation Society is engaged with nature conservation since many years, conserving biodiversity in local and regional level.

Örségi National Park Directorate (ÖNPD) controls and manages 50,000 ha nationally protected area and 70,000 ha Natura 2000 area. It carries out several species conservation programmes.

<u>In Romania:</u>

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Association MILVUS Group is dedicated to bird and nature protection, acting in the fields of conservation, education, research and consultancy

Environmental Protection Agency of Satu Mare County (EPASM) is a provincial environment protection agency.

4.1.3. Changes in the project management structure

According to the new project management structure the project is managed by an external Project Manager who was selected by tender. The Project Manager has two assistants, a Technical Coordinator and a Project Administrator who are employed by the Coordinating Beneficiary specifically for the project work and for the project duration.

The Project Manager's tasks:

Administration

- Establish and get to maintain the administration system necessary for running the LIFE+ Project, particularly the reporting systems.
- Ensure that proper accounting and financial reporting system established and maintained what is necessary for running the LIFE+ Project, and monitoring of budget.
- Ensure that purchase of goods and services fully comply with the Hungarian and EU regulations.
- Inform and advise the project Steering Committee on project progress. Prepare reports for the project Steering Committee.
- Prepare reports for the European Commission.
- Ensure good communication between different partner organisations.

Co-ordination

- To deliver the project according to contractual terms or its amended variation approved by the European Commission, by planning and progressing the project tasks using suitable project management and monitoring techniques as necessary and appropriate. The Project Manager is expected to be fully aware of all deliverables, timing & resourcing; ensuring that they are implemented or a formal agreement is made with the European Commission for a contractual change.
- To ensure that suitable budgeting and resource planning is set up within each and all beneficiaries for the duration of the Project.
- Provide training for Beneficiaries' staff involved in the project's implementation.

Production of Project Handbook

 Prepare a Project Handbook for Project staff and other key people to set quality standard and ensure consistency across the Project.

Public Affairs and Communication

- Ensure that all dissemination tasks specified within the application document are completed.
- Respond to queries about the LIFE+ Project from press, media and general public as well as other similar projects.

Technical Coordinators' Tasks:

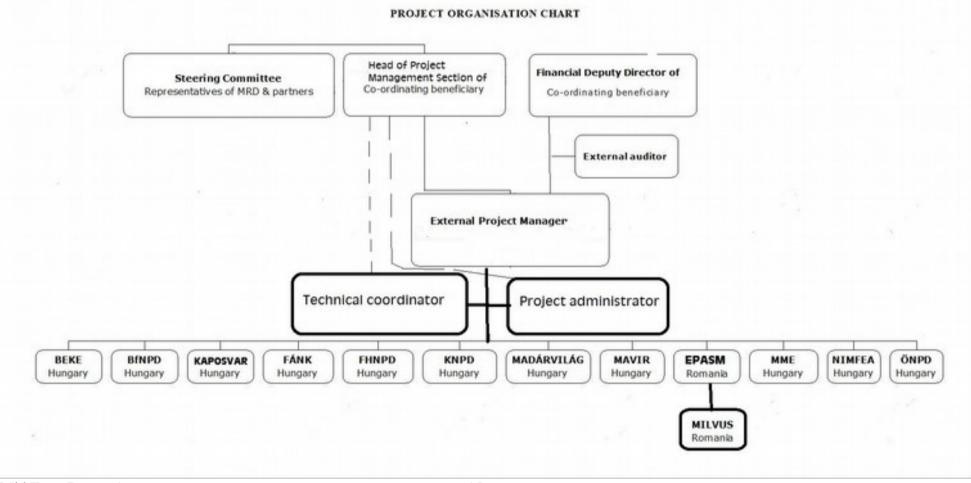
- 1. Assist the Project Manager in the management of all technical issues.
- 2. Coordinate the preparation of the technical guidelines of the Project Handbooks.

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- 3. Assist the Project Manager in the training of project staff.
- 4. Prepare the Steering Committee meetings.
- 5. Coordinate the annual work planning of the beneficiaries.
- 6. To co-ordinate the Project Team to carry out project tasks as required, ensuring that they are aware of their roles, tasks and responsibilities within the team and they have a suitable overview of the whole project.
- 7. Follow up the implementation of the work plans.
- 8. Ensure that project web site set up and functioning properly.
- 9. Promote awareness of the aims, activities and results of the LIFE+ Project.
- 10. Ensure that project staff, project beneficiaries and all other interested parties kept informed of project progress.

Project Administrator's tasks: did not change comparing to the originally planned.

4.1.4. Up to date organigramme of the project team and the project management structure at the end of the project Names and functions of the participants is given in Annex F1/8



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

Partnership agreements were prepared according the "LIFE+ Guidelines for Partnership Agreements" and were signed on 09.01.2015 and submitted with the Inception Report. (Refer to Annexes 7.1/1-7.1/12 of IR).

A Modification was signed with NIMFEA due to transferred dissemination work and costs (Refer to Annex 7.1/13 of IR).

Financial Amendments were signed with the Associated Beneficiaries as soon as the 2015 years budgets were approved (**Refer to Annexes 7.1/14-7.1/18 of IR**).

Amendments to Grant Agreement were not necessary according to Article 15 of the Common Provisions.

4.2 Evaluation of the management system

4.2.1. Description of project management

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

4.2.2. The problems encountered

The main problem was the slow and very bureaucratic governmental system in both countries:

- It hampered the procurements and even the start of the project work.
- Lack of permissions in time delay some activities especially A2.
- Communication activities have to be transferred from national parks to NGOs to keep schedule.
- Action A2 had to be converted to Action C4.
- Some adjustments were needed on the work and work schedule but it was not significant.

4.2.3. Communication with the Commission and Monitoring team

The project management has a good communication with the Monitoring team and the Commission. The Project Manager has informed the External Monitor about the monthly progress and escorted him during his project inspections. The External Monitor and the commission answered all questions promptly and helped to solve all problematic issues.

5. Technical part

Both *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug* population is increasing in the Carpathian basin thanks to the conservation effort of the last decades and the valuable European Union' support in the last decade. While these endangered bird species populations are increasing their important food sources the small mammals like *S. citellus* and *C. cricetus* are decreasing. Our aim is to understand the present condition of these species and do all effort to stop this decrease.

5.1. Actions

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

<u>Action A1:</u> Baseline surveys of populations of target species for monitoring future trends and impacts of our actions October 2014-December 2016

Result planned	Result achieved					
With these data, it will be possible to exactly identify the threats that local populations or colonies are facing, and these threats will be addressed through specific conservation measures.	been preparedSurvey method tested and presented					

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original	Revised	Progress
	deadline	deadline	
• Actualized distribution map of <i>S. citellus</i> ,	31.07.2015	30.09.2016	completed
C. cricetus, L. europeus in standard digital			
format (D).			
• Baseline survey accomplished (M)	30.06.2015	31.08.2016	extended
• Habitat suitability analysis (M)	30.07.2015	30.09.2016	pending
• Trend analysis (M)	30.07.2015	30.09.2016	pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

Guidelines for the baseline surveys have been prepared and included in the Project Handbook (**Refer to Annex F3/1 of IR**). *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug* breeding pairs' survey has been accomplished in 2015 (Annex A1/1). BEKE tested *C. cricetus* survey and presented the first result in a conference (**Refer to Annex A1/1 of IR**).

The baseline surveys were completed in 2015 and are ongoing also in 2016. During the 3^{rd} week of April 2015, that is the week of National Biodiversity Monitoring (NBMR), an intensive survey was implemented at national level regarding *S. citellus*, to which the partners contributed by implementing the survey on their areas. Besides, the partners also

implemented a more precise and detailed survey based on GPS recording on their areas regarding *S. citellus* (Annexes A1/2-A1/3) and *C. cricetus*. A precise survey on *C. cricetus*, *N. leucodon* and *S. trizona* was implemented regarding the entire area of Hungary and up-to-date distribution maps were prepared (Annexes A1/4-A1/8). The detailed baseline survey highlighted that the NBMR method need to be revised. The project will prepare a proposal for this to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Number of sites surveyed and the % of the total population surveyed.

Problems and their impacts:

No

Modifications:

BEKE prefered to use ear tag to mark *C. cricetus* leaving inside the villages during the baseline survey. *C. cricetus* usually are poisoned inside the villages. BEKE wants to catch these *C. cricetus* and take them to an *A. heliaca* eyrie as a food source of the bird. By the ear tag they want to monitor the efficiency of this kind of action. About 500 ear tags cost about $130 \in$.

Due to the initiative of partners the baseline survey was extended as the partners indicated that they would see it useful to go on with a precise baseline survey regarding the target species (highlighting *S. citellus*, at their project areas, *C. cricetus*, *N. leucodon* and *S. trizona* nationally in HU) The baseline survey is ongoing in 2016 and will finish by 31.08.2016.

The activities (milestones) were rescheduled at the annual project evaluation meeting (04.09.2015).

MME and BEKE will implement a survey on the distribution of *C. cricetus* linked to *A. heliaca* territories, based on the analyse of *A. heliaca* food remains to reconstruct *C. cricetus* population trend for the previous decades where data are missing. (Annex A1/9) Preliminary approved by the EC (in e-mail) on 30.03.2016.

Result planned	Result achieved
We will obtain a general knowledge of the genetic status of the <i>S. citellus</i> populations. This includes the assessment of heterozygocity as a measure of viability and the determination of the loss of genetic diversity due to isolation. Molecular methods can also be used to monitor the genetic status of repatriated populations to prevent bottlenecks. Such knowledge will be used to restore the genetic heterogeneity of the fragmented populations by planned reintroductions to increase the size and viability of target populations. The result of	 been prepared. List of Potential colonies are prepared. Genetic sample collection was implemented Genetic examination of the collected samples is ongoing First preliminary results of the genetic examination is ready

Action A2: Evaluation of the genetic status of the fragmented populations of	f S.	citellus
October 2014 – December 2016		

such analysis help us identifying and
protecting populations that serve as a source
for future colonisations and relocations, and
to assess the potential risk of local
extinctions. Describing the spatial and
demographic structure of the populations will
enable us to select the optimal strategy for S.
citellus management in the following years.

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
 Genetic sample collection (M) sequencing (M) evaluation and reporting (M) 	30.04.2016 30.10.2016 31.12.2016	31.08.2016	ongoing ongoing pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

The guideline for sample collection has been prepared and included in the Project Handbook (Refer to Annex F3/1 of IR). List of Potential colonies were prepared (Refer to Annex A2/1 of IR).

In Hungary:

Procurements of 900 traps happened in the frame of C5 action but it was used for trapping for sampling. Sequencing methodologies studied and a meeting was held to select the best methods for the project. (Annex A2/1)

The request for permission to the National Environmental Authority (NEA) was submitted at the beginning of May 2015 (Annex A2/2). Questions for the completion of the request of the permission from the NEA arrived to FHNPD on 15th June and the answers with the clarifications were posted to the authority on 27^{th} June. The permission was only issued in December 2015 by the NEA (Annex A2/3). The modification request to extend the sampling survey with invasive sampling methods (regarding blood check and biopsia) was prepared and submitted on 25^{th} January, the permission regarding the extension of sampling survey with invasive sampling methods was issued on 31^{th} March and arrived 1^{st} April. (Annex A2/4).

A meeting was held in Tihany (BfNPD) (Annex A2/5) on 02.24.2016. with the participation of all partners involved in the filed sample collection. The list of selected sites and time schedule was finalized and the details and responsibilities were agreed. (Annex A2/6)

S. citellus field sampling activities were implemented between 1-20th April, with the involvement of almost all project partners. Besides the coordinator of the activity, KAPOSVÁR, also KNPD and FANK took place in the sampling of the appointed population with the assistant of other partners (BEKE, BfNPD, EPASM, FHNPD, MADRVILAG, MME, MILVUS, NIMFEA, and ÖNPD), helping in the trapping of *S. citellus*. The three groups collected 362 genetic samples from 32 sites all over Hungary. (Annex A2/7) The samples were handled over to the laboratory responsible for implementing the genetic analysis by 30.04.2016. (Annex A2/8)

In Romania:

Due to late permission the work did not started.

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Indicators used to be test the performance:

Number of correctly collected samples and the number of <u>l</u>ocation from where those are collected.

Problems and their impacts:

In both countries the delay in issuing the permission resulted in delay of implementing the filed sampling activities.

In Hungary:

The sampling in Hungary had only been implemented between 1-20th April 2016.

In Romania:

The permission was issued too late in 2015. Romanian beneficiaries had to apply for new permission in 2016. The new permission was issued by the National Authority allowed the sample collection only at sites that are not protected and neither N2000. Thus new sites had to be selected for the genetic sampling that are in connection with N2000 sites.

Consequence in other actions:

It delays of actions C1, C3, C5, C6

Modifications:

<u>In Hungary:</u>

Due to the delay in the issuing of the permission the field sampling activity had to be postponed to April 2016, thus the prolongation of the activity with one year was necessary.

Besides the mapping of genetic variability of populations also another sampling is planned to be implemented to reveal the genetic relations of different *S. citellus* populations (3 individuals per populations). A proposal of this survey had been outlined by KNDP on 31/05/2015. Modification request was submitted in March 2016 and was approved by 06/04/2016 regarding the development of the schedule of the methodology. Before the end of April the contract was signed and the schedule was developed (Annex A2/9). The sample collection will continue until 31.08.2016.

In Romania:

Because of the delayed permission, as well as due to insufficient knowledge on the status of colonies before completion of action A1, a prolongation of the activity with one year is desired. Since the National Authority based on the recommendation of the Academy of Science allowed the sample collection only at sites that are not protected and neither N2000, thus new sites had to be selected for the genetic sampling that are in connection with N2000 sites (Annex A2/10).

Comments on Commission's requests:

"I approve the extension of deadline in these actions with one year, until December 2016." We will manage to complete the work until this deadline.

<u>Action A3:</u> Survey of the stress status of S. citellus colonies and its use to develop S. citellus welfare plan October 2014 – December 2016

Result planned	Result achieved
Describing the physiological status of animals helps us predicting the future diseases and thus preventing the lethal events leading to population decrease. As stress responsiveness plays a key role in allowing animals to cope with environmental challenges, measurement of glucocorticoid levels can give insight into an animal's well- being and can aid us solving conservation and management issues. We will prepare a suslik habitat management guideline summarizing the optimal conditions corresponding to minimal stress levels.	 been prepared. List of Potential colonies are prepared Collection of samples for stress analyses was implemented together with the collection of genetic samples (in A2)

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
 Sample collection (M) <i>S. citellus</i> welfare plan (D) 	30.11.2015	30.04.2016	completed
	31.12.2015.	31.12.2016	pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

The sample collection of this action will be done together with the A2 action. The guideline for sample collection has been prepared and included in the Project Handbook (**Refer to Annex F3/1 of IR**). List of Potential colonies are prepared (**Refer to Annex A2/1 of IR**). *S. citellus* field sampling activities were implemented between 1-20th April, with the involvement of almost all project partners during the sample collection in Action A2. Some additional samples were collected by KAPOSVÁR at the beginning of June 2016 to reveal the seasonal difference of stress hormones. The three groups collected 401 samples for the analyses of stress status of *S. citellus* (Annex A3/1). The samples were handled over to the laboratories implementing the analysis 13.06.2016 (Annex A3/2).

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Number of correctly collected samples and the number of location from where those are collected.

Problems and their impacts:

In both countries the delay in issuing the permission resulted in delay of implementing the filed sampling activities.

In Hungary:

The sampling in Hungary had only been implemented between 1-20th April 2016. *In Romania:*

The permission was issued too late in 2015. Romanian beneficiaries had to apply for new permission in 2016. The new permission was issued by the National Authority allowed the

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sample collection only at sites that are not protected and neither N2000. Thus new sites had to be selected for the genetic sampling that are in connection with N2000 sites.

Consequence in other actions:

It delays of actions C1, C3, C5, C6

Modifications:

In Hungary:

Due to the delay in the issuing of the permission the field sampling activity had to be postponed to April 2016, thus the prolongation of the activity with one year was necessary.

In Romania:

Because of the delayed permission, as well as due to insufficient knowledge on the status of colonies before completion of action A1, a prolongation of the activity with one year is desired. Since the National Authority based on the recommendation of the Academy of Science allowed the sample collection only at sites that are not protected and neither N2000, thus new sites had to be selected for the genetic sampling that are in connection with N2000 sites (Annex A2/10).

Comments on Commission's requests:

"I approve the extension of deadline in these actions with one year, until December 2016." We will manage to complete the work until this deadline.

Action A4: Set up the Land Stewardship Advisory Service

October 2014 – December 2016

Result planned	Result achieved
Land Stewardship Advisory Service established in the project areas that would provide regular advice for the farmers and hunters on the target species.	Advisory was prepared and included in the

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original	Revised	Progress
 LSAS established (M) Romanian best management guideline(D) 	deadline 28.02.2014. 28.02.2014.	deadline 17.11.2015 31.12.2016	completed delayed

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time: <u>In Hungary:</u>

The manual of the Land Stewardship Advisory Service was developed and and included in the Project Handbook (Refer to Annex F3/1 of IR). It was introduced at the training of project participants (F3) at 10/2/2014. The partner coordinators selected the advisors in their area who have close contacts with the farmers in the project sites. Training was organized for the members together with the kick-off meeting of the LSAS on 17/11/2015 (Annex A4/1) about the project's requirements on land use.

In Romania:

During early 2015 MILVUS compiled a comprehensive document presenting the exact location (including maps and coordinates) of all *S. citellus* colonies identified so far within the project area (Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timiş counties) (Annex A4/2). This document was sent to EPASM, which then officially forwarded it to all other Environmental Protection Agencies and competent agricultural authorities within the four counties. The aim of distributing such a document was to notify these institutions about the populations of this protected species, and warn them about considering this scientifically based information in cases of infrastructural or agricultural development, or any other case which might have the risk of destroying ground squirrel habitats. This document is considered one of the basic data necessary for compiling the "Best Management Guideline".

During summer 2015 a national agri-environmental package proposal was developed for the conservation of dry grassland as habitats of European ground squirrel (*S. citellus*) and blind mole rats (several *Spalax* and *Nannospalax* species), partly using our results and experience from the present project. This proposal contains both general and specific recommendations of grassland management applicable in regions where no other grassland-based agri-environmental measures are in place, and works as a starting point in compiling the "Best Management Guideline", which is still dependent on the final results of Action A.1. The proposal was forwarded to authorities in November 2015. (Annex A4/3)

In September 2015, a large part (over 300 hectares) of one of our target areas (and incidentally the largest intact grassland habitat of the European ground squirrel in Western Romania), situated inside protected areas ROSCI0231 and ROSPA0015 was illegally ploughed. By conducting field surveys in the area, we managed to stop further destruction of this extremely valuable, protected habitat, and reported the case to authorities, (Annex A4/4) during September and October providing them with many scientifically founded data about the values of this protected habitat, among which the appearance of *S. citellus* is also listed.. The case is currently being prosecuted.

In late 2015 and early 2016 we were actively involved in the Natura 2000 site designation process, by providing the scientific based for designations, as well as participating in related public debate. As a result, boundaries of some of our project sites are expected to be extended, however official decision is pending. This is expected to have important consequences on grassland management in our project areas, as legal status of some European ground squirrel habitats will be modified.

Developing of the "Best Management Guideline", is in process, the known *S. citellus* habitats were listed however it is dependent on the final results of Action A.1.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Number of trained advisors.

<u>Problems and their impacts:</u> <u>In Hungary:</u> none In Romania: none

Modifications:

<u>In Romania:</u>

The preparation of the Best Management Guidelines was postponed by 31.12.2016.

Action A5: Preparing airport's grassland management guideline

October 2014 – December 2016

Result planned	Result achieved
An airport management guideline what would enable the airport managers to manage the airport grassland to satisfy the air and <i>S.</i> <i>citellus</i> safety requirements in the same time.	in the Project Handbook.

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original	Revised	Progress
	deadline	deadline	
• Survey completed and data management guidelines ready (M)	31.12.2015.	30.09.2016	ongoing
• workshop organised (M)	28.02.2016.	31.10.2016	pending
• 200 copies of adjusted airport management guideline prepared (D)	31.03.2016	31.12.2016	pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

The contacting of airport management personnel happened to start studying the implemented management practices.

The questionnaire had been prepared (Annex A5/1) and the survey is being implemented. Consultations with airport managers is ongoing.

FHNPD held a meeting with the management of Péri Airport on 30/07/2015 regarding the appropriate management of the airport in order to maintain the *S. citellus* population of the airport. (Annex C5/2).

KNPD collected the data of *S. citellus* populations at the 5 aiports at the National Park area. Of these areas important populations are present at two areas, of two areas the population disappeared and there is one area where *S. citellus* is still present but the size of the population is critical and close to disappearing. Besides the characteristics of the areas and populations the threats were also identified and the recommendations regarding the appropriate management are to be prepared.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Nr. of Airports willing to apply the management guideline

Problems and their impacts: None

Modifications: None

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<u>Action A6:</u> Updating S. citellus Reintroduction Protocol

July 2014 - December 2015

Result planned	Result achieved
1 0	An up to date digital Reintroduction Protocol for <i>S. citellus</i> repatriation based on the latest developments was developed 15.2.2015 and was revised by 31.12.2015.

Action status: completed

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
• Up to date Reintroduction Protocol (D)	31.12.2014	31.12.2015	completed

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

The *S. citellus* reintroduction protocol was updated (**Refer to Annex A6/1 of IR**), was discussed during the training of project participants (F3) and was finalized accordingly. The protocol was further revised upon the request of the EC. (Annex A6/1)

In order to summarize all experiences gained during the implementation of the reintroduction the protocol might further be updated in case it is found reasonable.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Inclusion of EC's requirement

Problems and their impacts: None

<u>Modifications:</u>

None

Comments on Commission's requests:

The revised *S. citellus* reintroduction protocol 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 was completed.

<u>Action A7:</u>: Evaluation of the water management system on *S. citellus* habitat and preparing recommendation how to improve it. July 2014 – December 2016

Result planned	Result achieved
Mortality due to flood will be reduced and repatriation would not be done on area endangered by flood.	1

Measure	Original	Revised	Progress
	deadline	deadline	
• Identifying the potential risk of flood on	31.12.2015.	31.12.2015	completed
the S. citellus habitat (M)			
Recommendations for Water Authority	31.12.2016.	31.12.2016.	ongoing
for the required water management on S.			
citellus habitat (D)			

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

The protocol for the evaluation of the water management system on *S. citellus* habitat in favour of the *S. citellus* was prepared and included in the Project Handbook by 8/12/2014. The project areas were assessed fist according to it and it was realised that many of the selected project sites are located on potential flood plain therefore it was recommended to replace them (**Refer to Annex A7/1 of IR**). Details are given in C4. and C5. FHNPD prepared a detailed study regarding the water management systems at the project areas of FHNPD that can be subject of repatriation of *S. citellus* (Annex A7/1).

The preparation of recommendations for water management authorities is ongoing.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Nr. of safe sites.

Problems and their impacts:

None

<u>Modifications:</u>

None

Comments on Commission's requests:

We will arrange the endorsement of it when it is ready.

<u>Action A8:</u>: Baseline survey of the public awareness

July 2014 – March 2016

Result planned	Result achieved
Through the survey we will be able to maximise the effects of our program, and PR-campaign.	

<u>action status</u> completed			
Measure	Original	Revised	Progress
	deadline	deadline	
Questionnaire (M)	31.12.2014.	29.05.2015.	completed
• Data collection completed (M)	31.03.2015.	31.01.2016.	completed
• Data processing ready (D)	01.12.2015	31.03.2016.	completed

Action status: completed

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

The development of the questionnaire is coordinated by MME. A subcontractor was selected and the first sets of the questionnaires were developed by 30/3/2015 (**Refer to Annex A8/1 of IR**). The questionnaire was in testing-phase for one month and after this initial phase it was revised and finalized by 15.05.2015 according to the comments and experiences that were collected and sent to the external company. The questionnaires were finalized by 29.05.2015. Following some final corrections the final pdf and the online version of the questionnaires were also prepared and both of the versions were uploaded and available on the project website (Annex A8/1).

The questionnaire was adjusted to Romania and the Romanian version was translated and uploaded to the site (Annex A8/2).

The date collection was completed and the filled questionnaires sent to the company responsible for the evaluation by 31.01.2016. The evaluation was ready by 31.03.2016. The prepared questionnaires in case of the one targeting children in the lower grades of primary school consisted of 16 questions, while the one targeting the higher grades consisted of 18 questions (both 2 A4 pages). For adults a questionnaire of 31 questions (on 6 pages) was prepared. The one for farmers and hunters was made up of 30 questions (also on 6 pages).

At project level a total of 269 questionnaires were filled by adults, 19 by farmers and hunters, 223 by children at lower classes of primary schools and 279 by children in higher primary school classes. Summarizing the answers of the questionnaires the survey showed that among the target groups farmers and hunters and the age group of 18-29 and 50-59 should be targeted by more active communication in order to demolish the existing misbelieves regarding *S. citellus*. Besides the general knowledge of both the groups of school children and general public (adults) should be extended. The main aim of informing should be to improve the acceptance of the *S. citellus* as protected rodent species. The study had been uploaded to the website (Annex A8/3).

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Nr. of field questionnaires and the identified background knowledge.

Problems and their impacts:

None

<u>Modifications:</u>

The data processing was ready by 31.03.2016

Comments on Commission's requests:

It is completed. Results are submitted_(Annex A8/3)

Action A9: Acquisition of equipment (in compliance with public-procurement regulations) July 2014 – March 2015

Result planned	Result achieved
Cost efficient procurement.	• cars were purchased

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
• Tender process complete (M)	31.12.2014	31.05.2016	ongoing
• Multifunctional equipment purchased (M)	28.02.2015	31.09.2016	ongoing

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

All the cars of the project and most of the equipment (satellite transmitters, photo traps, notebooks, tablets, GPS, telescopes, freezer) were purchased.

Only the equipments of

BfNPD: some equipments necessary for the establishment of the citellus shows,

KAPOSVÁR: the air condition of the breeding station

NIMFEA: binocular, notebook, software, GPS, telescope, etc. are still ongoing.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Number of purchased equipment

Problems and their impacts:

<u>In Hungary:</u>

In the case of MME 25.862 \in was budgeted for the purchase of a new car considering the income from selling an old car. However in the main time the old car of MME was needed for another LIFE project where another old car completely broken down.

<u>In Romania:</u>

In the case of Environmental Protection Agency of Satu Mare (EPASM) 50% of a car's cost were budgeted. However due to the strict regulation of the Romanian Government state agencies cannot buy an additional car. Therefore they cannot use state money to cover the other 50%-t of the car outside of the project only in case they cover the total cost of the car of project money. Without this car the project activities cannot be managed since the agency has only 3 cars that would be needed for their daily work.

Modifications:

Due to the necessary changed in the management structure of the project (change from externalized to personnel and externalized sources a car and two notebooks would be needed for the two employees (Technical Coordinator and Project Administrator). FHNPD had used about $15,600 \in$ for the car and about $2,000 \in$ for the notebooks from the spared VAT.

Due to the problem mentioned at MME it was necessary to buy a new Land Rower for the project that had cost about 35,000 €.

NIMFEA requested to purchase one binocular and one telescope instead of the two that was planned within the original budget.

Due to the problem mentioned at EPASM a second hand car was purchased for $6,500 \notin$ from the project budget that will be used only for the project work during the project duration. KAPOSVÁR requested to shift 2,300 \notin for additional costs of equipment. These modifications were already reported in the Inception Report.

5.1.2. Action B. Purchase/lease of land and/or compensation payments for use rights

Action B1: **Purchase of land** July 2014 – March 2016

Result planned	Result achieved
and managed by the KNPD. It will serve for rehabilitation and sustainable management as	73 ha grassland will be purchased by KNPD of which 37.75 ha happened already.

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original deadline	Revised dedline	Progress
 58.6 ha grassland purchased (D) 2 ha farmhouse land (D) 	31.01.2016	31.12.2016	ongoing
	31.01.2016.	31.01.2017	pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

The target areas were checked also in the frame of A7 action and Öttömös found flood safe. KNPD was negotiated with the land owners and basically has agreed. The procurement process was completed and the purchase of the land happened by November 2015 (Annexes B1/1-B1/2).

It is foreseen that the procurement of the second part of the area would be completed by the end of December 2016.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Nr. of ha purchased

Problems and their impacts:

The target areas were checked also in the frame of A7 action and it was found that the smaller area Kelebia 0169/1 (6,6 ha) is unsuitable for *S. citellus* because it is a very low area along a small creek and the rainwater is naturally gravitating to this area. In very rainy years the rainwater and the creek may flood the area what may kill the *S. citellus*.

The purchase of the 35.25 ha of 0100/85 is more complicated considering the more divers ownership of the area, thus the procurement needs longer time.

NIMFEA is facing problems regarding the purchase of abandoned farmhouse lands as these lands are no more existing at separate parcel numbers but are merged with other agricultural land areas (pastures, arable land). These types of cultivation areas due to the national legislation cannot be purchased by NGOs. NIMFEA is at the moment looking for other abandoned farmhouse areas which are not classified as agricultural land areas. Further problem is that at these areas buildings can still be found that is not appropriate regarding the aims of the project and also the value of the areas are also higher in these cases (Annex B1/3).

Consequence in other actions:

It delays of actions C4 and C5

Modifications:

KNPD prefer to purchase land only in Öttömös but altogether more than it was originally planned. In the main time the land registration numbers have been changed due to some reorganisation of the ownership. (See Table 2 bellow.)

	Table 2: Kiskunsági National Park Directorate's land purchase							
Settlement	Old land register numbers	New land register numbers	Total area in ha	area for purchase ha	price in HUF	Protected Natura 2000:	Reference	Source
							Annex es	
Öttömös	0100/35	0100/59	37.9765	37.75	41525000	Х	B1/1-B1/4	LIFE
							Annexes	LIFE,
							B1/1 &	MoA,
Öttömös	0100/43	0100/85	68.2064	35.25	31725000	Х	B1/4-B1/5	KNPD
Total	area:		106,1829	73	73250000	Х		

229 804 €

In the new reorganised set up it is important to purchase this quantity to have the majority role in these joint ownership areas. The original budget would be enough for these lands.

Comments on Commission's requests:

Registration of the management right of KNPD on the purchased land is in process.

Action B2: Lease of land October 2014 – December 2018

Result planned	Result achieved
50 ha leased. Natura 2000 sites will be connected. The <i>S. citellus, C. cricetus</i> and <i>L.</i> <i>europeus</i> populations will be strengthened and spread over the area what would serve food source for the increasing <i>A. heliaca</i> and <i>F.cherrug</i> population and may reduce the pressure on other game species. It will reduce the conflict between hunters and nature conservationist.	

Action status: modified

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
 First contract (M) Cutting grass (M) Planting Alfa alfa by farmers (M) Signing new contracts (M) 	31.12.2014 31.01.2016. 01.08.2015 01.01.2016		Moved to C4.

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

We were working hard to be able to overcome on the difficulties what the new legislation created for us (see bellow). Finally we developed a contract form for external assistance and a Proof form. The land owners were approached and the land management contracts with 6 owners for 20 pieces of land and for 30 ha signed (Refer to Annex B2/1 to IR).

Problems and their impacts:

Due to recent unexpected changes in the legislation we are facing some difficulties at the implementation of action B2 Lease of land that aims to establish strips of bounds on the leased areas. According to the Art. 25-26 and 39 of the new Land Law that came in effect by 1^{st} January 2014 the official procedure of handing over arable land by selling and buying and also by leasing or /by other types of solutions for use became more complicated, given that every contracting and also every intent of contracting of this type has to be evaluated by the local land committees, which indeed has still not yet been established until now. Until these committees start to work – the date of this is still unknown – the local Chambers of Agriculture are entitled for realizing the procedure. But still the rules for land lease are so strict that there could be several (around 3-6 months) of delay in the administration.

The additional problem is that in 2014 the regional bodies of the government launched inspections at Győr-Moson-Sopron County regarding unusually high fees paid for land lease at new contracts. This has resulted in putting in focus all land related contracting.

Modifications:

Considering the above mentioned reasons, in order to avoid any kind of difficulties but most of all significant delays, we would like to realize the work planned in action 'B2 Lease of land' in the frames of action 'C4 Habitat reconstruction', where assignment contracts would be made with the land owners defining the activities to be implemented at the areas subject of the contract. The implemented activities would be paid as an assignment fee for the farmer from the external assistance costs. In practice the technical implementation and the objective would remain the same, only the way of financing would change. This modification was already reported in the Inception Report.

Comments on Commission's requests:

It is not possible to revert to the originally planed form of action since the Law did not change.

5.1.3. Action C. Concrete conservation actions

Action C1: Establishing captive breeding program for S. citellus and gene bank from captive and natural colonies January 2016 – December 2018

Result planned	Result achieved
and breeding S. citellus individuals in	Location of the captive breeding of <i>S.citellus</i> was selected within the university premises and the establishment of the facilities and captive breeding conditions were developed.

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
 Facilities and breeding conditions establishment (D) 	31.12.2015	30.09.2016	ongoing
 Captive breeding technology developed (M) 50 individuals produced in captivity (D) 	31.12.2016 31.12.2018.		pending pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

Location of the captive breeding of *S. citellus* at KAPOSVAR was selected within the university premises. The university started some site preparation outside of the project. Procurement of necessary equipments and materials (cages, runs, etc.) are ongoing. The building facilities are developed, only the climatization enabling the winter hibernation of *S. citellus* and the establishment of the runs are still to be installed by the selected suppliers (Annex C1/1).

The captive breeding activity will start by capturing individuals during the Summer of 2016. Based on the first years experiences the captive breeding method will be adjusted if it would be necessary and the regular breeding activities will start. The gene bank of *S.citellus* will be established by the experts of KAPOSVAR. After this has successfully happened, a sort of second satellite base will be set up at FANK of the offspring born in captivity at KAPOSVAR, in order to have a safety duplicate base for the breeding activities either at the gene bank. Though FANK is at the moment ready to start the breeding activities either at the same time as it will be launched at KAPOSVAR, given that the facilities for breeding are partly available at the Quarantine and Nature Conservation Station of FANK, and partly can be developed within a very short time.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Nr. of S. citellus produced in captivity.

Problems and their impacts:

No

Modifications:

Instead of 20 only 10 separate enclosures will be built but those have to be grassing every year.

Some additional equipment: 5 surveillance cameras, a steamer cleaner and 10 metal shelf were purchased.

Much more nourishment (294 bags) and some nutritional supplement (30kg) may need. Preliminary approved by the EC (in e-mail) on 30.03.2016.

Action C2: Establishing veterinarian surveillance of potential food sauces of A. heliaca and F. cherrug i.e. S. citellus, C. cricetus, N. superspecies leucodon and L.europeus October 2014 – December 2016

Result planned	Result achieved
Veterinarian surveillance of potential food sauces of <i>A. heliaca</i> and <i>F. cherrug</i> is established.	1

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Online	Revised	Progress
	deadline	deadline	
- Guideline for sample collectors (M)	31.01.2015		completed
- Training for sample collectors (M)	28.02.2015		completed
- Functioning veterinarian surveillance	31.12.2016		ongoing
system(M)			

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

Guideline for sample collectors was prepared and included in the Project Handbook (Refer to Annex F3/1 in IR)

<u>In Hungary:</u>

The permission to the National Authority was submitted at the beginning of May 2015. Questions for the completion of the request of the permission from the National Environmental Authority arrived to FHNPD on 15th June and the answers with the clarifications were posted to the authority on 27th June. The permission was only issued in December 2015 by the National Authority. The modification request to extend the sampling survey with invasive sampling methods (blood check and biopsy) was prepared and submitted on 25th January, the permission regarding the extension of sampling survey with invasive sampling methods of 31th March and arrived 1st April.

In the frame of the project training (at 10-11/02/2015 of F3) the sample collection was introduced.

A meeting was held in Tihany (BfNPD) (Annex A2/5) on 02.24.2016. with the participation of all partners involved in the filed sample collection. The list of selected sites and time schedule was finalized and the details and responsibilities were agreed. (Annex A2/6)

S. citellus field sampling activities were implemented between 1-20th April, with the involvement of almost all project partners. Besides the coordinator of the activity, KAPOSVÁR, also KNPD and FANK took place in the sampling of the appointed population with the assistant of other partners (BEKE, BfNPD, EPASM, FHNPD, MADRVILAG, MME, MILVUS, NIMFEA, and ÖNPD), helping in the trapping of S. citellus. The three groups collected 399 samples of excrement of S.citellus for the analyses of bacteriological and parasitologycal examination (this later was extended with the examination of protozoans and worms) completed by Duo-Bakt Veterinary Microbiological Laboratory (Annex C2/1). Upon the results of the laboratory tests it can be stated, that the presence of Salmonella cases need to be considered during the future activities when moving animals (Annex C2/2) and the further monitoring and investigation of *Coccidiosis (Eimeria*) is necessary.

Another important part of the veterinary surveillance and monitoring is to implement the veterinary examination and condition survey of rescued individuals, being wounded or for other reasons, as it happened to the S. citellus that was found during the sampling with paralysed back part. The animal was treated and the recovered animal was released at Malomházi Zoo of Hortobágy National Park Directorate (Annex C2/3).

The sampling will be continued until 31/08/2016 with blood checks, implemented by the vets of FANK, to identify also the virological status of the most important S. citellus populations, that can be used as source populations for the reintroductions.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Nr. of colonies tested.

Problems and their impacts:

The permission was issued too late in 2015. Romanian beneficiaries had to apply for new permission in 2016. The new permission was issued by the National Authority allowed the sample collection only at sites that are not protected and neither N2000. Thus new sites had to be selected for the genetic sampling that are in connection with N2000 sites (Annex A2/10).

Consequence in other actions:

No.

Modifications:

Instead of purchasing a mobile anaesthetic machine, FANK converted an anaesthetic machine, the one that they have at the moment.

Action C3: Improving the genetic status of target populations by planned introductions of animals of known allelic composition T

Result planned	Result achieved
10 <i>S. citellus</i> colonies genetic status will be improved and higher overall genetic variance and viability of the populations.	

Ianuarv	2016 -	September	2018
Janual y	2010	September	2010

Action status: pending

Measure	Original	Revised	Progress
	deadline	deadline	
Source population of high genetic variability selected (M)	31.12.2015	31.12.2016	pending
Performing the translocation of 10x50 individuals (M)	31.05.2016	31.05.2018	pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

In order to be able to perform the trans-location of the indicated number of individuals, the source population has to be selected in advance. The selection of source population can be identified after the evaluation of genetic samples collected during the baseline survey.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Nr. of trans-location

Problems and their impacts:

No

Modifications:

Due to the delay in the genetic sampling and examination (sequencing) A2, the source populations selected upon the genetic variability can be selected by 31/12/2016 and activity of reintroduction of individuals can only start in mid 2017.

Action C4: Habitat reconstruction to improve the carrying capacity for prey species January 2015 – June 2017

Result planned	Result achieved
<i>heliaca</i> and <i>F. cherrug</i> will be converted to suitable habitat for prey species including	

prevented by our specific actions. The
decline will slow down and hopefully stop
after five years. We expect about 10%
increase after a 10 years period. The
2 1
proportion of small mammals among the
preys of the increasing A. heliaca and F.
cherrug would not be further reduced what
would reduce the conflict with hunters. In
case of S. citellus based on previous similar
actions when half of the introduced animals
survived and integrated to the local
population, we expect similar outcome after
the planned action. Therefore it is foreseen
that about in 28 locations which were
inhabited sometimes in the past the S.
<i>citellus</i> population will be restored. In case
of S. substilis trizona it is foreseen that the
known 20 ha habitat will be doubled or it
will be justified that there is not any other
localities in Hungary. The existing and
potential habitats will be properly maintained
without any conflict with S. citellus interest.
In case of C. cricetus we expect better
information about the size of the existing
-
information about the size of the existing population.

4		-
Action	ctatuc.	ongoing
<u> 1011011</u>	sinns.	<u>ongoing</u>

Measure	Original	Revised	Progress
	deadline	deadline	
• 200 ha reconstructed (M)	01.04.2017.		ongoing
• First contract (M)		10.03.2015	completed
• Cutting grass (M)		15.07.2015	completed
• Planting Alfa alfa by farmers (M)		01.08.2015	completed
Signing new contracts (M)		01.01.2016	completed

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

The sites for habitat reconstruction were checked and some sites needs to be changed. (See in modification bellow.) Land use contracts were signed with land owners (See Action B2.)

1. The reconstruction of 37,75 ha purchased site of KNPD at Öttömös has started with the elimination of invasive *Eleagnus angustifolia* (Annex C4/1). Grazing of the area is going on by a temporary arrangement until KNPD would be able to make a long term arrangement as the official land manager of the area.

2. FHNPD has contracted landowners to maintain the stepping stones among Natura 2000 sites on 55.ha (Annex C4/2). The landowners planted alfa-alfa on the land strips and cut it according to the national park's requirement set in the contract. The managements of sites were constantly checked by FHNPD (Annex C4/3).

3. The installation of electrical fence and reconstruction of grassland was completed at Osli-Hany project site in March 2016 (Annex C4/4).

4. NIMFEA had chosen appropriate sites for S. citellus repatriation, Kecskeri-puszta and Csejt-puszta. Habitat reconstruction at Kecskeri-puszta is ongoing by grazing by the farmer managing the area at Csejt-puszta the grazing is ongoing under the management of NIMFEA. *In Romania:*

It takes more time to make all arrangement. MILVUS is working on it and it is foreseen that the work can start in August.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Size of reconstructed sites

Problems and their impacts:

- Land purchase changes in KNPD area in HUKN10008 needs changes in rehabilitation target site too.
- In FHNPD area in HUHF30005 the selected sites ("Illetményföldek") were completely destroyed by wild boars which ransacked the area so heavily during last year that the reconstruction of the site would be very costly and very time consuming (**Refer to Annex C4/1 of IR**).

Modifications:

- In case of reconstruction of *S. citellus* habitats by KNPD since the planned land purchase has to be changed (refer to B1) therefore the habitat reconstruction will be done on the finally purchased land (Refer to Annex B1/1 of IR).
- Instead of leasing lands (B2) land use contracts were prepared and some already has signed to create "stepping stones" among Natura 2000 sites (Refer to Annex B2/1 of IR).
- The rehabilitation of "Illetményföldek" HUHF30005 was given up and the planned *S. citellus* repatriation will be done in a new place (See in Action C5) (Annex C4/4).

These changes were reported in the Inception Report.

Comments on Commission's requests:

We are working only in the Öttömös site.

Action C5: Reintroduction of S. citellus to reconstructed areas April 2016 – September 2018

Result planned	Result achieved
Such interventions will enrich the food supply of local breeding pairs of <i>A. heliaca</i> and <i>F. cherrug</i> in a region where their population is expected to grow and where they mostly predate small game. Reduction in the predation on game animals would make it easier to incorporate local hunters to our conservation efforts. We expect a general increase of <i>S. citellus</i> habitat especially in	 unsuitable were replaced. Permission regarding repatriation of <i>S. citellus</i> was issued by the National Environmental Authority in Hungary. Permission regarding the repatriation of <i>C. cricetus</i> was submitted to the National Environmental Authority.

regions where <i>A. heliaca and F. cherrug</i> feed. Buffer zones with special water management would reduce the impact of catastrophic	
events like flooding.	
Due to repatriation, the number of colonies	
and their density will increase. Such changes	
will positively affect the breeding success of	
raptors. Based on previous similar actions	
when half of the introduced animals survived	
and integrated to the local population, we	
expect similar outcome after the planned	
action. Therefore it is foreseen that about in	
28 locations which were inhabited	
sometimes in the past the S. citellus	
population will be restored.	

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
20 established S. citellus colonies (M)	30.08.2018		pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

The selected sites for *S. citellus* reintroduction were checked and some sites had to be changed. (See in modification bellow.)

In Hungary:

The reintroduction activities will start by 15th July 2017 in order to have the preliminary result of the genetic examination of Action A2 (sequencing).

A tentative plan for reintroduction, regarding source populations for each targeted site were prepared (Annex C5/1). A request for permission for reintroduction of *S. citellus*, based on the reintroduction plan was submitted to the NEA on 01/10/2015 and the permission was issued on 04/02/2016 (Annex C5/2). A request for modification was issued by 03/04/2016 and the permissions, one regarding the modification of repatriation (Annex C5/3) and a new permission regarding the use of microchips (Annex C5/4)arrived on 24/06/2016. *In Romania:* No work has been done so far.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Nr. of new population.

Problems and their impacts:

Many of the originally selected area for repatriation have to be changed due to different reasons:

- The target areas were checked first in the frame of A7 action and became evident that some of the selected areas are in a flood hazard area therefore these areas have to be changed. (See bellow in modifications.) (Refer to Annex A7/1 of IR).
- In case of KNPD since the planned land purchase has to be changed (refer to B1) therefore the habitat reconstruction has to be done on the finally purchased land (**Refer to Annex B1/1 of IR**).

- Some area was destroyed either by land owner or by wild boars therefore those must be replaced (**Refer to Annexes A7/1 and C4/1 of IR**).
- The Audi Co. the owner of the area did not agre to reintroduce *S. citellus* to its area at Péri Repülőtér HUFH20007.
- More suitable area was found in ÖNPD area.

The National Environmental Authority did not give the permission or limited the number of individuals that can be removed from the source populations in case of some sites requested sites. This might effect the volume of the reintroduction activities or may lead to further modifications regarding the source populations.

Modifications:

- The following sites on flood hazard area has to be changed to safer sites in HUBN10007-HUAN20004 (Refer to Annex A7/1 of IR): Göncruszka site has to be cancelled and replaced by Pere site. Hernádbüd site has to be cancelled and replaced by Bekecs North site. In HUKN10008 Kelebia site has to be cancelled since the area will not be purchase due to flood risk.
 Destroyed areas have to be replaced:
- Destroyed areas have to be replaced: In HUBN10007-HUAN20004 (Refer to Annex A7/1 of IR): The ploughed Garadna site has to be cancelled and replaced by Hollóháza site. The Onga South site planted with trees has to be cancelled and replaced by Bekecs South site.
 "Illetményföldek" in HUFH30005 destroyed by wild boars has to be cancelled and

"Illetményföldek" in HUFH30005 destroyed by wild boars has to be cancelled and replaced by LIFE08NAT/HU/000289 project rehabilitated area in HUFH20009 (Refer to Annex C5/1 of IR).

- Péri Repülőtér (Pér Airport) may abandon because Audi does not want *S.citellus* in their area. However we will continue the negotiation with them.
- ÖNPD prefer to replace Csikólegelő in HUON10001 by Kemenessömjén 0237/1 and 0234 areas in HUON20012. The new area is better for *S. citellus*, which was occurring there in the past. The new owner of the area is willing to maintain the area properly for *S. citellus* (Refer to Annex C5/2 of IR).
- Repatriation of *C. cricetus* from urban areas to natural sites was requested as a modification. Request for permission regarding the repatriation of hamsters was submitted to the NEA by BEKE (Annex C5/5)

A management plan will be developed (based on the inception protocol (Annex C5/6) that was prepared on the base of "Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage: "Implementation and evaluation in situ of restocking operations of *C. cricetus* populations in the departments of Haut-Rhin and Bas-Rhinfrom 2013 to 2017" and on own experiences) including reintroduction protocol for the Hungarian *C. cricetus* population which will be useful in the future in case of the radical decrease of *C. cricetus*. In Jászság an agreement was signed by the competent nature conservation authority (Hortobágy National Park Dir.) (Annex C5/7) which lay a charge on the responsible for the action (BEKE). This action will be achieved in cooperation with HELICON LIFE and its Eagle Center. In case of Túrkeve project sites, NIMFEA arranged the declarations with the farmers (Annex C5/8) and waiting the official reply from KMNPD too.

Comments on Commission's requests:

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We are working on the changed target sites.

Action C6: Protection of short term survival and evaluation of long term success of reintroduced and natural prey populations July 2017 – September 2018

Result planned	Result achieved
Measurably higher success of reintroductions with reduced number of repatriated animals	No achievements yet.

Action status: pending

Measure	Deadline	Progress
Measurable higher success (M)	30.09.2018	pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Problems and their impacts:

Modifications:

<u>Action C7:</u> Encouraging hunters to catch predators the competitors of A. heliaca and F. cherrug around the habitat of S. citellus, C. cricetus, and L. europeus by distribution of traps for them. April 2015 – September 2018

Result achieved
 260 traps were purchased and handed over to hunting organizations Trapping has started

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
– Procurement of trap (M)	31.12.2014	30.06.2016	ongoing
– Contracts with hunters (M)	28.02.2015	30.06.2016	completed
– Hunters report (D)	31.12.2015	31.12.2016	pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

Traps were purchased by FHNPD, ÖNPD, BfNPD and MADÁRVILÁG. Agreements and records of handover were signed with hunters regarding traps and trapping (Annex C7/1). Traps were handed over and it was agreed that hunters will submit a report by the end of the every year. In 2016 BfNPD is implementing the trapping by themselves, but it was not so successful so far (Annex C7/2). It is foreseen that in 2017 it will be handed over for hunters.

The preparation of purchase started at NIMFEA, the appropriate traps are being tested with the assistance of hunters presently using their own traps. The most suitable traps for catching the targeted species of trapping activities will be selected following the results of the pilot trapping activities and the selected type(s) of traps will be purchased accordingly.

<u>In Romania:</u>

The permissions for trapping were requested from the managers of areas affected by trapping and from local Environmental Authorities.

Before handing over the traps, county hunting organizations in Szatmár, Bihar, Arad and Temes county had been contacted that are mainly covering the targeted grassland of *S. citellus*.

The official documents of the traps had to be translate as the certified translation was necessary in order to be able to convince the hunters of the traps being suitable for the Romanian legislation.

Traps were handled over for four hunting associations that were contracted for trapping (Annex C7/3). The appropriate use and siting of the traps was introduced for the hunters. Hunters will submit a report with the results of trapping by the end of every year.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Trapping report of the hunters

Problems and their impacts:

No

Modifications:

Some traps were planned with GSM control but finally ordinary traps were purchased.

Action C8: Mapping the movements of S. citellus October 2014 – March 2018

Result planned	Result achieved		
New and practical information on the two species that will contribute to prepare and carry out more conservation measures more efficiently.			

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original	Revised	Progress
	deadline	deadline	
• Deploying first tags (M)	30.06.2015	31.08.2016	ongoing
• Following the tagged animals & tagging	31.05.2016	31.05.2017	pending
 new individuals (M) Detailed report on the movements and 	31.01.2017	30.01.2018	pending
population dynamics of the species (D)Follow up of tagged animals (M)	31.05.2017	31.05.2018	pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

Two type of tagging will be implemented, the use of collars (Annex C8/1) will be used in general, and some individuals will be tagged by placing internal tags in the animals. Request for permission was submitted to NEA on 03/04/2016 regarding the methods of tagging with collars and was received on 24/06/2016. (Annex C5/4). The other method using internal tags is still to be developed.

Due to the delay in Action A2 and A3 the tagging of *S. citellus* was postponed. In the period covered by the report the preparatory activities of tagging was ongoing, studying the alternative tagging methods (implant transmitter, collar, harness), collecting the references and descriptions of products (opportunities, constraints, prices) of different producers, articles about the necessary technology and negotiations and meetings were held with producers (Biotrack, ATS, Telenax, Lotek, etc.) by MADÁRVILÁG, to find the necessary and appropriate technology and tags for mapping *S. citellus*. The investigation revealed that only one system, produced by a Hungarian developer, is able to automatically log and follow the movements of the animal in space (the other type of automatic transmitters are only able to record certain parameters but not able to track movement in space).

The parts of the system are the tags, the transmitters and a central .receiver tower.with a special software, which processes and visualizes the signs of the towers. The transmitter itself is cylinder shaped and c.a 1 cm long and wide, with the wight of 3-4 gramms and can be attached to the animal with collars. The range of the transmitter is several kilometres, the frequency of the signs can be programmed and can be working for more than a year with built in battery. The system is able to track 32 animals at the same time.

At the moment the procurement of the equipments was launched. First the central receiver tower and the 10 transmitters were produced. The first 4 individuals of *S. citellus* will be tagged during the reintroduction to the project site near Esztergom, around end July and beginning of August. This will function as a test phase of the system and the settings.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Nr. of S. citellus tagged and information collected.

Problems and their impacts:

The delay is due to the difficulties in finding appropriate method for tagging, which took respectively more time than it was foreseen. No impact of the delay is foreseen.

Consequence in other actions:

No

<u>Modifications:</u> No

5.1.4. Action D. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions (obligatory only if there are concrete conservation actions)

Action D1: Monitoring of the impact of the project actions by video record and photo traps in A. heliaca and F. cherrug nests. January 2015 – September 2018

Result planned	Result achieved
Pictures of the photo traps at the nests along the project areas will document the preys used to feed the juveniles. The evaluation of the pictures will confirm the presence and possible increase of the <i>S.citellus</i> , <i>C. cricetus</i> and <i>L. europeus</i> among the preys.	trapping was developed and was included in the Project Handbook.Pictures are continuously recorded for

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
			1 . 1
• Web camera installed (M)	28.02.2015.	28.02.2016	completed
• Photo-traps purchased (M)	31.03.2015	21.12.2015	completed
• Photo-traps installed in <i>F. cherrug</i>	15.05.2015	15.05.2016	completed
nests(M)			
• Photo-traps installed in <i>A.heliaca</i> nests(M)	01.06.2015	01.06.2016	completed
	30.09.2018		ongoing
1 1 / 1			0
of identified preys (M)			

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

The guideline for video- and photo-trapping was finalized by 15/1/2015 by MME and MADÁRVILÁG and was presented at the training. The guideline was included in the Project Handbook (Refer to Annex F1/3 of IR).

In Hungary at the beginning of 2015 the tendering of the streaming activity had been conducted and the supplier had been selected. The selected supplier has installed the system and the pictures continuously recorded since the *F. cherrug* pair started to breed. Due to some technical errors of the accumulator and the accelerator in the first days the streaming was only functioning during daytime. In a few days the problem was recovered and since then the streaming was continuous. At the end of March 2015 the streaming was linked to and can be followed on the website of the project (Refer to Annex D1/1 of IR). In 2015 in the nest targeted by the camera a pair of *F. cherrug* is was nesting and incubating 5 eggs but unfortunately the nesting was not successful. The 5 rotten eggs were removed from and were sent for laboratory examination to find out the reason of the unsuccessfulness of the breeding. The eggs were found infertile. (Annex D1/1) In 2016 although the female occupied the nest and laid one egg but unfortunately there was no breeding in the nest observed by the camera as the male *F. cherrug* of the pair died.

The nests of *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug* were surveyed in order to find the appropriate place for photo trapping and satellite tagging both in 2015 and in 2016.

In 2015, 4 photo-traps were purchased by MME in April and 15 by MAVIR in December.

In May 2015 7 photo-traps (4 new and 3 old) were installed to monitor *F. cherrug* nests (3 in Győr-Moson-Sopron county, 3 in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, and 1 in Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county). In June 2015, photo traps were removed from the monitored nests of *F. cherrug nests* and one was re-installed to a late breading. 2 cameras were re-installed at nests of *A. heliaca* by FHNPD (Annex D1/2). Data from memory cards were downloaded to the computer and was evaluated (Annexes D1/3-D1/4).

(In 2016, 19 photo-traps were installed in Hungary and 3 in Romania during May-June)

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Nr. of data recorded.

Problems and their impacts:

Pirate users had overtaken the streaming and were using it unauthorized on different sites. Due to this activity the streaming was switched off but the pictures were continuously recorded for evaluation. After some security measures the streaming was restarted.

The male falcon became old and died in the Video monitored nest therefore we could not record successful breeding there.

Modifications:

No necessary modifications.

Action D2: Monitoring of the impact of the project actions by satellite tagged adult birds October 2014 – September 2018

Result planned	Result achieved	
The land use of the breeding birds can be identified. The impact of the different project action can be justified by the satellite tagged birds.	birds was developed and was included in	

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original	Revised	Progress
	deadline	deadline	
• Transmitters delivered (M)	28.02.2015	28.02.2016	completed
• Transmitters installed (M)	15.05.2015	30.06.2016	ongoing
• Data evaluated (M)	30.09.2015	30.09.2016	pending
• Digital maps with the birds locations on	30.09.2018		pending
the sites (D)			

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

The guideline for satellite tagging of adult birds was finalized by 15/1/2015 by MME and MADÁRVILÁG and was presented at the training. The guideline was included in the Project Handbook (Refer to Annex F1/3 of IR).

The purchase of 20 transmitters was completed by MAVIR mid February 2016. The first transmitter was installed on *F. cherrug* by FHNPD on 02/03/2016 (Annexes D2/1-D2/2).

(By 30/06/2016 eight individuals of *F. cherrug* (6 adult in Hungary and 2 juveniles in Romania) were tagged with the transmitters.)

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Nr. of tagged birds and nr. of data received.

Problems and their impacts:

The delay in the purchase of the transmitters was due to the complex and rather bureaucratic procurement rules of MAVIR.

Modifications:

No necessary modifications.

Action D3: Monitoring of the project actions

January 2015 – December 2018

Result planned	Result achieved
The project's impact on the target species will be easily monitored by the management team.	e e,

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
Annual monitoring (M)		ongoing
Annual monitoring report (D)	31.12.of each	pending
	year from 2016	

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

For the monitoring of the impacts the 5 guidelines that were prepared also for the baseline surveys (A1) (Refer to Annex F3/1 of IR) for each target species will be used to monitor the development of the populations of targeted species with the same tool to provide comparable data. The monitoring actions can only start after the baseline survey had been implemented. Given that the baseline survey regarding *S. citellus* was extended by 31/08/2016, and that the direct conservation actions regarding *S. citellus* will only start in 2017, the monitoring of the species can only start in 2017. The monitoring of the other targeted species is ongoing according to the protocols and the 1st monitoring report will be prepared by 31/12/2016.

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Annual population data is available in the Annual Monitoring Reports.

Problems and their impacts:

No problem

Modifications:

Based on the baseline survey results four *A. heliaca* nests are selected in every 5 regions covering all four density categories (4*5=20 nests in total) for special monitoring what would enable us to identify *C. cricetus* population density from food remains (Annex A1/9). BEKE

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will do the *C. cricetus* population survey on the 20 sites in a 3-4 km circle around the nests. MME would do the a) collection of food remains from *A. heliaca* nests during the breeding season, b) the collection food remains second time from 20 selected *A. heliaca* nests after fledging, between 2016-2018 and c) the analyses of collected food samples. As a result we expect to find *C. cricetus* populations within the hunting area of *A. heliaca* pairs and to ensure their protection and monitor their population dynamics. Besides, it will be possible to calibrate the result of food remain analysis by field surveys and an index, showing the relation between population density and *C. cricetus* frequency in prey, will be defined. The detailed analyses of food remains prior and during the project could serve the largest objective database for *C. cricetus* distribution and densities in a large spatial scale, almost covering the whole Great and Little Plain areas of Hungary. Based on the previous analyses (mostly from 1995-2004 period) we estimate that during the 24 years (1995-2018) we will gain more than 2000 occurrence data for the species, which can be compared with the occurrence of ca 10000 other prey items. Therefore the ratio of the species within the diet will serve an accurate estimation for the local trends of the (sub)populations as well.

Action D4: Assessment of the social-economic impact October 2015 – December 2018

Result planned	Result achieved
A study will be prepared and delivered with the Final Report.	No achievements yet.

Action status: pending

Measure	Deadline	Progress
A study prepared (D)	31.12.2018	pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

Data collection is going on in the frame of the other actions

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Problems and their impacts:

No problems appeared.

<u>Modifications:</u>

No necessary modifications.

<u>Action D5:</u> Assessment of ecosystem functions restoration

October 2015 – December 2018

Result planned	Result achieved
A study will be prepared and delivered with the Final Report.	The manual of the action was prepared by $10/2/2015$

Action status: pending

Measure	Deadline	Progress
A study prepared (D)	31.12.2018	pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

The guideline of the assessment of ecosystem functions restoration of the project was prepared by NIMFEA and was presented and accepted on the training of project participants (Refer to Annex F3/1 of IR).

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Problems and their impacts:

No problems appeared.

Modifications:

No necessary modifications.

5.2. Dissemination actions

5.2.1. Objectives

- E1: The awareness of the stakeholders and their tolerance towards the target species will increase.
- **E2:** To improve the habitat management in favour of the target species by improving the knowledge of the stakeholders
- E3: S. citellus habitats will be considered and protected from flood water
- E4: Less dogs will hunt outside of the settlement
- **E5:** Annually at least 100.000 people will learn about the animals and related nature conservation problems and the work of the project
- **E6:** An accessible and up-to-date web site will inform the general public and technical staff working on similar projects about the project.
- **E7:** There will be large scale publicity of the project aims and activities and its support by LIFE.
- **E8:** To secure public support for conservation efforts by producing and disseminating different materials.
- E9: Adequate public support will be attracted to the necessary conservation measures.
- E10: To disseminate the result of the project by a Layman's report.

5.2.2. Dissemination overview per activity

Action E1: Organising forums for stakeholders

October 2014 – March 2018

Results planned	Results achieved
The awareness of the stakeholders and their tolerance towards the target species will increase. Less conflict will risk these	1 5
species	

Action status: pending

Measure	Deadline	Progress
Minutes of the meetings.	28.02.2018	ongoing

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

BEKE:

Regular on site advising on areas affected by down town invasion of *C. cricetus* by listening the complaints of the population and assured them that nature conservation is aware of the problem and a solution is being developed (Annex E/1).

BfNPI:

During the estimation of shrub control activities the requirements of *S. citellus* habitats are being considered. In favour of the protection of the *S. citellus* population at Gyulai-domb, a site under the management of Veszprém Zoo, the habitats used by *S, citellus* were marked off. (Annex E/1).

FHNPD:

Providing guidance during personal meetings or through phone regarding the necessary and possible tasks, through being in constant contact with them (Annex E/1). KNPI:

Given that the NP has no livestock the maintenance of the project site is planned to be solved by providing the site as a common pasture for the habitats of the nearby village of sheep and cattle. Personal negotiations were already held regarding this issue with the municipality and with the owners of livestock of the village (Annex E/1).

Regarding *N. leucodon* forums will be organized for the public and another one for the managers of the lands owned by the municipalities.

NIMFEA:

In the office, at Fekete István Education Centre experts are available for personal consultation, furthermore they are available on phone and by email. The Advisory Service will further be advertised at the offices of farm advisors' network and in local newspapers. ÖNPD

The forums will be implemented before the repatriation activities being implemented.

The Advisory Service conducting intensive and continuous informing activity on theN2000 sites involved in the project. In the frames of this activity every farmer involved in the management of the affected sites were contacted and informed of the project and of the habitat needs and environmental importance of *S. citellus*. They were continuous consulted regarding the grazing of pastures inhabited by *S. citellus*, recommendations regarding the change of methods (e.g pressure of grazing) were made. Besides the appropriate management of grasslands was also consulted with the users of the target areas of the repatriation of *S. citellus*, in order to have the grasslands in appropriate status for the species. The hunting organizations of the sites were also informed regarding the need of reducing the number of predators (Annex E/1).

<u>In Romania:</u>

EPASM:

In the first part of 2016 EPASM started building the cooperation with the agricultural policy officers of the municipalities of Érmellék area. This cooperation was based on the activities of 2015, during which the representatives of municipalities were contacted personally and the contacts of agricultural policy officers were collected (Annex E1/2)

As the first step of consultations with the farmers the agricultural policy officers of some municipalities of Érmellék (ROSCI0021) were contacted on phone and personal meetings were initiated and organized. From the point of farmers the period of early spring and early summer, thus the forums were scheduled for winter time.

According to the guidance of the policy officers of the contacted municipalities (Mezőpetri - Petresti, Érendréd - Andrid, Érszalacs - Salacea, Székelyhíd - Sacueni) the shepherds of these areas were contacted on site. During the field-consultations with the shepherds their attantion were called on the importance of the target species of the certain areas and also on the laws and possible subsidies regarding grasslands. (Annex E1/3)

Indicators used to test the performance:

Persons/farmers informed

Problems and their impacts:

No problems appeared

Modifications:

In many cases individual consultations with farmers, landowner were found more useful than to organize forums (Annexes E1/1-E1/3).

<u>Action E2:</u> Production and distribution information materials about the target species, their habitat requirement and management. October 2014 – December 2018

Results planned	Results achieved
Improved knowledge of the stakeholders will improve the habitat management in favour of the target species	 1.000 logo stickers produced 7.000 sticker of target species prepared 2.000 copied of leaflets on <i>C. cricetus</i> printed 1.000 copies of brochures on <i>C. cricetus</i> printed 2.000 copies of brochure on target species printed layout of educational exercise booklet prepared

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original	Revised	Progress
	deadline	deadline	
• 2000 copies of colour brochures(1)	31.12.2014	30.06.2015	completed
• 6000 copies of coloring books(2)	31.12.2014	30.06.2016	ongoing
• 7000 stickers (3)	31.12.2014	30.06.2015	completed
• 7000 memory cards (4)	31.12.2014	30.06.2016	ongoing
• 2000 brochures(5)	31.12.2014	30.06.2016	ongoing

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

1.000 project logo stickers were produced in 3 different sizes (15 cm, 10 cm and 5 cm diameter) by 9/6/2015 and the stickers were distributed among beneficiaries. (Annex E2/1) (For details see below at point 1.) of Modifications)

7*1.000 stickers (3) of targeted species was prepared by 31/7/2015 (Annex E2/2)

2.000 copies of LA4 size 3-side-folded leaflet regarding *C. cricetus* (Annex E2/3) was printed by 15/9/2015 and

1.000 copies of A5 size brochures on *C. cricetus* was printed by 16/9/2015. (Annex E2/4) (For details see below at point 2.) of Modifications)

2.000 copies of brochure (1) introducing the target species was prepared by 1/11/2015 and had been distributed among Beneficiaries (Annex E2/5)

The draft layout of *educational exercise booklet* (5) was prepared by 30/6/2016 (Annex E2/6) and is being finalized at the moment.

The concept of the layout of *the memory cards* (4) had been decided, preparation of the layout has started. Given that the memory cards will be used to promote the citellus shows of the project and none of the shows was opened by 30/6/2016, the production of the material was further postponed by 30/9/2016.

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Indicators used to test the performance:

copies of materials produced number of materials distributed

Problems and their impacts:

In case of educational exercise booklet (5) some additional delays were due to necessary modifications, the preparation has to be shifted from NIMFEA to MME due to lack of necessary capacity at NIMFEA during the scheduled time of the preparation.

Modifications:

The preparation of the materials (2000 copies of colour brochures, 7000 stickers, 2000 brochures) started by 1/5/2015 and planned to be ready by 30/6/2015.

The production of the 6.000 copies of colouring books and 7.000 memory cards for children that will be distributed for children visiting the exhibition centres is rescheduled by 30/6/2016 to be ready by the opening of the centres.

1.) The production of 1.000 pieces of not scheduled <u>project logo stickers</u> were produced in 3 different sizes (request was approved by the EC by)

2.) Production of not planned 2.000 copies of <u>LA4 size 3-side-folded leaflet</u> and 1.000 copies of <u>A5 size brochures</u> regarding *C. cricetus* was requested (request was approved by the EC by 30/3/2016)

3.) <u>5.000 copies of A4 leaflets about the project by 30/9/2016:</u>

For the introduction of the project to general public, the project has no 'simple' materials that could be distributed at events, etc. Additional costs needed is: $250 \notin$ of External assistance and 700 \notin of Consumables that will reallocated from our reserve found saved during the former modifications. It is important given that the project had already used most of the materials that had been printed. Even is a project brochure is existing, but only printed in 2.000 copies and due to the content it is more serious (also expensive) to be suitable for broader distribution. These, the project would like to keep for distribution on conferences, technical workshops, etc. The rest of the awareness raising materials are targeting kids with more specific content – not with general information about the project. Instead we would like to produce a shorter, more brief and more general introduction of the project – a simple, 3-times folded LA4, leaflet, that could be distributed to the general public (kids, parents, etc.) on public awareness raising events. (modification preliminary approved by the EC by email on 30/3/2016)

4.) Changes regarding two originally planned awareness raising materials

Instead the originally planned 6.000, <u>only 4.000 copies</u> of A/4 size 16 pages educational colouring tale book for kids will be produced. The cost in Consumables budget line of printing the 4.000 copies will be lower, $3310 \in$ (compared to 4.966 \in of the cost of printing 6.000 pieces).

Instead of the planned 2.000 copies of A/5 size 12 pages brochures 4.000 copies would be printed and the extent of the brochure would be extended to a 20+4 (cover) pages educational exercise booklet. Regarding the preparation of the booklet a working group had been set up within the partnership and continued to develop the booklet. Given that it would be a respectively more complex_output, the extension of the deadline of the delivery by 30/06/2016 was approved. The layout is ready, it is foreseen to be printed by 31/7/2016.

<u>Regarding the expenses, the cost of External assistance would increase from</u> $345 \in$ to 1.400 € (cost of design and graphics: design 800 €, illustrations/graphics 600 €), the cost of

<u>Consumables would increase from 2.345</u> \in to 4.800 \in (printing of 4.000 copies 20+4 pages booklet instead of 2.000 pcs of 12 pages brochure.).

In total the production of the two brochures will result in additional cost of $1.055 \in \text{External}$ assistance (extra cost of design $455 \in$, and cost of illustrations/graphics $600 \in$) and $800 \in$ of Consumables cost (extra cost of printing 2.000 copies of the exercise booklet: $2.455 \in$ minus the $-1.655 \in$ savings of printing 4.000 copies instead of 6.000 of the colouring booklet). In total: $1.855 \in$, which will be reallocated from the reserve saved during the former modifications.

The reason of the change is to keep the original number of these two outputs (total of 8.000 copies of the two brochures) – from 6.000+2.000 the number of copies will change to 4.000+4.000. One reason is that the A/5 size brochure, that is now going to be developed into an educational exercise book will receive more emphasize and we expected to have a quality output and would like to have a higher number of copies. The other reason is an economic reason, as in case of 4.000 copies the exercise booklet can be printed at a more reasonable price, compared to 2.000. Given that the exercise booklet would be a more complex material with more complex design, in this case it is more important than in the case of the other (colouring) brochure, where the production price will be lower.

Modification preliminary approved by the EC by email on 30/3/2016

The preparation of *the memory cards (4)* and the *educational exercise booklet* (5) has to be shifted from NIMFEA to MME due to lack of necessary capacity at NIMFEA during the scheduled time of the preparation.

Comments on Commission's requests:

The colouring book and the memory cards will be needed in the citellus show and will be ready for the opening of the show.

<u>Action E3:</u> Raising awareness measures to convince the water management bodies to protect habitats by nature friendly water management October 2014 – October 2018

Results planned	Results achieved
S. citellus habitats will be considered and	No achievements yet
protected from flood water	

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
Minutes of meeting	31.12.2016		pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

Action A7 is going on. This action can start based on its results.

Indicators used to test the performance:

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Problems and their impacts: No problems appeared

Modifications: BEKE will make connection with the Water Authority in October 2016.

<u>Action E4:</u> Producing and displaying "Keep the dog closed" posters

October 2014 – December 2018

Results planned	Results achieved
Less dogs will hunt out settlement	 e of the 2.000 copies of the poster was printed in English-Hungarian the English-Romanian layout was finalized

Action status: completed

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
2000 pieces of A2 size poster	31.12.2014	30.04.2015	completed

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

2000 posters were prepared by 31/8/2015 in Hungarian and were distributed to partners. (Annex E4/1.) Posters were installed at project areas and other relevant areas of partners and installation will continue in the future around the repatriation sites (Annex E4/2.)

Indicators used to test the performance:

Number of posters printed Number of posters exhibited.

Problems and their impacts:

No problems appeared

Modifications:

There will also be Romanian version of the poster prepared due to the initiation of the Romanian partners. Given that on their project areas, even if those are Hungarian speaking parts, it is not appreciated to install Hungarian posters if parallel a Romanian version cannot be found. The Romanian layout was prepared by 15/4/2016.and will be printed in 500 copies.

<u>Action E5:</u> S. citellus show (Introduction of the target species for the general public) October 2014 – October 2015

Results planned	Results achieved
Three exhibition centre will be developed	No achievements yet
and annually at least 100.000 people will	
learn about the animals and related nature	
conservation problems and the work of the	
project	

Action status: in progress

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
 6000 copies of B/5 size guide booklets Three exhibition centres ready 	31.07.2016 31.07.2016	31.03.2017.	ongoing ongoing

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

There will be three citellus shows developed.

1.) At BfNPD the purchase of the equipments of the Citellus show is still ongoing. At the moment the documentation of the procurement is ready but the approvals of the Ministry is still ongoing, getting closer to the end of the given time-frame of these kind of approvals. As the approvals arrive, the procedures for procurement will be launched immediately.

In case the approval arrives in July, the procedure could be closed by September, and the implementation could be started after. In any case the citellus show will not be ready in this season.

2.) At NIMFEA the establishment of the citellus show was planned at Fekete István Learning Centre. The selection of the supplier happened after the contracting the production of panes/elements happened and were delivered to Nimfea. Thought the opening is only planned for 2017.

3.) The establishment of the citellarium at FANK is not yet ready, but there are distinct plans regarding the implementation. The citellus show will be developed at the paddock that is presently used for *N. nutria* that can be easily changed to be suitable for *S. citellus*. This show will introduce the animals from Ferihegy International Airport and their habitat, and will be placed in a place so-called "Budapest House' showing the wildlife of Budapest and its close neighbourhood. The implementation can be started after the end of the Zoo peak season in September 2016 and it is foreseen to last for 3-4 months.

Problems and their impacts:

BfNPD was and still facing problems with the overcomplicated bureaucracy of procurement process, that is taking really long time. The procedure was launched in January 2015 by the Directorate and it still ongoing. This may lead to delays in the implementation. It is foreseen to be completed by 31/8/2016.

At FANK the reason of the delay is that the individuals born in captivity at the breeding of KAPOSVAR will be placed in the show, that is in delay at the moment, thus the animals can only be placed in 2017.

At NIMFEA the reason of the delayed opening of the citellus show is that the permission of the implementation is in delay. After the production of the panels, there were difficulties with the purchase of soil, that was necessary to fill the citellarium, and only when the place is ready the permission can be requested, that would take 3-4 months. The request of the permission will be submitted to the relevant Authority only in the autumn of 2016 given that the same supplier was hired for the repatriation of *S. citellus* (action C5) that will start by 15/7/2016 by NIMFEA, thus the capacities of the supplier are at the moment limited and in any case the 'production' of *S. citellus* born in captivity is in delay and the first individuals can be placed in 2017.

Modifications:

KAPOSVÁR is planning to use the captive breeding site also to introduce the *S. citellus* for the public especially for the students of the University. The paddocks are not yet ready but they will be before the spring of 2107.

Action E6: Design and operate project web site October 2014 – December 2018

Results planned	Results achieved
An accessible and up-to-date web site will inform the general public and technical staff working on similar projects about the project. Hence, it will promote networking with past and future LIFE projects dealing with the conservation of the target species. We expect 20,000 visitors over the project period to visit the site.	 The website of the project has been launched by 10/3/2015 <i>F. cherrug</i> breeding can be monitored there continuously in breading seasons Continuously being updated, news and outcomes/deliverables uploaded.

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Deadline	Progress
Functioning Webpage	31.12.2014	completed

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

The preparation of the project website began by the beginning of 2015 by the beneficiary responsible for the maintenance, MME, and the project coordinator. The website was launched during the 2nd week of March 2015 and can be reached at the following direct link: <u>http://sakerlife3.mme.hu</u>. (Refer to Annex E6/1 of IR). The website was linked to the common website for previous Saker LIFE project as a 3rd 'menu point' (http://www.sakerlife.mme.hu/intro.html) by 31/3/2015 in order to reach higher publicity be reaching the audience of the two previous well-known projects. (Refer to Annex E6/2 of IR). The site can be reached in three languages (English, Hungarian and Romanian). The streaming of the webcam of Action D1 was linked to the website by 31/3/2015. (Refer to Annex D1/1 of IR). The site is under constant development and the uploading of the content is in progress, news and results/outcomes of the projects are being uploaded when being ready. The Web has 24,746 visitors from 106 countries who visited the site 104,217 times. (Annex E6/1).

Indicators used to test the performance:

Number of visitors of the site:

Problems and their impacts:

To avoid pirate sites overtaking the streaming a disclaimer had been developed and uploaded to the site together with the streaming. This took some times to finalise by the lawyer of MAVIR therefore the streaming started 2 weeks later.

Modifications:

No necessary modifications.

Results planned	Results achieved
There will be large scale publicity of the project aims and activities and its support by LIFE+.	6 5

Action E7: Erecting information signs at project site October 2014 – March 2015

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
• 23+10 information boards ready	31.12.2014	31.05.2015	completed
Boards erected	31.03.2015	30.06.2015	completed

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

<u>In Hungary:</u>

The subcontractor was selected, and the text of the signboards was prepared. The boards are bilingual, in Hungary the text is visible in English/Hungarian, the boards that are erected in Romania are English/Romanian. (Refer to Annex E7/1 of IR). The 22 Hungarian boards were prepared in B1 size (Annex E7/1) and a roll-up (Annex E7/2) was also produced. The boards were placed by the project sites or by more frequently visited areas near the project sites (Annex E7/3).

In Romania:

The 10 Romanian boards were prepared in B2 size (Annex E7/4). All information boards were placed in the central/focal places of settlements; near schools, municipalities, town centres, parks, tourist information centres (Annex E7/5).

Indicators used to test the performance:

Nr. of information sign displayed.

Problems and their impacts:

No problems appeared

<u>Modifications:</u>

<u>In Hungary:</u>

Instead of 23 information board 22 were prepared and one roll-up. The roll up were displayed in many places during meetings and different evens.

Problems and their impacts:

No problems appeared

Action E8: Secure public support for conservation efforts

January 2015 – December 2018

Results planned	Results achieved
• 1500 copies of B1 size	1500 copies of B1 size posters are ready
posters in Hungarian and	
300 copies in Romanian	
languages	
11. 1000 T-shirts	
12.500 copies of DVD in	
English, Hungarian, and	
Romanian languages	
produced, distributed and	
broadcasted in national	
channels.	

Action status: pending

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
• 1500 + 300 copies of A2 size posters		31.07.2016	ongoing
1000 T-shirts500 copies of DVD	31.03.2016 01.07.2018	31.07.2016 01.07.2018	ongoing ongoing
	01.07.2010	01.07.2010	011501115

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

<u>Posters:</u> Final layout of the poster (3^{rd} version) had been prepared by 30/4/2015. The poster is now ready in Hungarian (Annex E8/1). For the Romanian version the basic and also distribution maps has to be changed in order to include the areas of Romania.

<u>T-shirts</u> are under preparation. The layouts are under finalization. Two type of T-shirts will be prepared:

1.) *T-shirt for project staff* (with project logo and the name of the project) (Annex E8/2) and 2.) *T-shirt for public* (with the drawings of the targeted species) (Annex E8/3). Will be ready by 31/7/2016. Both will include LIFE and Natura 2000 logo too.

Film: Film producer company - NATFILM - had been contracted by December 2015.

The production of the film had started, the film troop took shots of the field-sample collecting at Tihany site and at the installation of a camera trap at a nest of saker near Dévaványa.

The project work was introduced at several events during the year:

<u>In Hungary:</u>

1.) Presentation by the Project Manager on the 'Mammal of The Year' of 2015 in the National History Museum in Budapest on 27/3/2015. (Refer to Annexes E9/1-E9/2 of IR)

2.) Presentation by the Project Manager in the "Ürgekutatás Konferencia" organised in the frame of "The mammal of the year 2015, the souslik." events during the year: The project took part in the organization of the final scientific conference of the event on 03/11/2015 at Budapest Zoo (FANK) (Annex E8/4).

3.) The project participated at the final closing event, the "Ürgegála" 13-16/11/2015 at Natural History Museum (MTM) where the project appeared with the didactic materials for children (Annex E8/5).

4.) Presentation by Project Technical Coordinator in at the VI.th Bird Protection Conference (VI. Madárvédelmi Konferencia) on 18/11/2015 (Annexes E8/6-E8/7).

5.) Participation on the "Family Day" events of MME in 2015 (19/9/2015) and in 2016 (14/5/2016) where the project appeared with didactic and awareness raising materials (Annexes E8/8-E8/9).

6.) Presentation of the project work by the Project Manager in the 10th Hungarian Conservation Biological Conference (X. MTBK at Mórahalom, on 1-3/4/2015. BEKE introduced the activities regarding the protection of *C. cricetus* and presented a poster regarding the project-related activities (Annexes E8/10-E8/11).

<u>In Romania:</u>

On 9/4/2015 EPASM and MILVUS organized a presentation at Szaniszló (in Satu Mare County) to introduced the project and it's aims to local students, teachers and representatives of the municipality. Besides the presentation a file trip was organized for the participants where *S. citellus* could be showed to the participants.

On 24/8/2015 the project was represented by EPASM at the cultural event of 14th Patrium Hungarian Day at the Kossuth Garden in Szatmárnémeti (Satu Mare) through an information stand where the project itself, it's aims and target species was introduced to the participants of the event.

On 14-16/12/2015 EPASM gave presentations about the project at the 3 most significant Hungarian schools (Kölcsey Ferenc Main Gymnasium, Szatmárnémeti Reformat Gymnasium and Hám János Roman-Catholic Lyceum) to secondary and primary school children. At the presentations the project and the target species were introduced to call the attention of students on the importance of the protection of the species. (Annex E8/12)

Indicators used to test the performance:

Nr. of sort of material produced

Nr. of materials distributed.

Nr. of people participated at the events/ were informed by the project.

Problems and their impacts:

<u>Poster</u>: The distribution data in Hungary and Romania are differently detailed. In the moment the synchronization of the distribution data is ongoing to be able to generate the up-to date maps for the poster. The Romanian version is foreseen to be ready by 31/7/2016.

<u>T-shirt</u>: The prices of the production of 1.000 T-shirts is higher than that was budgeted, searching for cheaper possibilities (different suppliers and solutions) was time-consuming.

Modifications:

<u>Poster</u>: Instead of 300 copies 500 will be printed of the Romanian version due to more costeffective production costs (as the price of 300 would be the same as of 500 copies). <u>Additional materials produced:</u>

1.) <u>7*500 pieces of stickers</u>: stickers with drawings of the target species for children were produced by 15/09/2015 (Annex E8/13) (modification approved by the EC on .09/10/2015)

2.) <u>Production of 8 magnetic boards</u> of the very popular game (B1 size) with illustration of the target species of plastic: the 7 already existing paper boards (Annex E8/14) (and an additional one about the habitat of the species) would be produced of plastic (that is more suitable for outdoor use on events, as the present ones that are made of paper are respectively destroyed) and metal (for the magnetic effect). <u>Additional costs:</u> $1.000 \notin$ of Consumables cost, that can be reallocated this sum from our reserve found saved during the former modifications. (modification was approved by the EC by 30/3/2016).

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3.) Production of toy tunnel system of mole-rat with explanation boards: A mobile game tunnel system and other material (explanation boards, etc) made by MME to illustrate mole-rat life and explain the life of the other target species. Additional costs: about $1.700 \notin$ of External Assistance ($1.500 \notin$ for the design of 20pcs of A2-size plastic boards explaining the station and exercises of the tube system; $200 \notin$ for designing paper masks of the target species that kids can colour and wear these in the tube system while doing the exercises as mole-rats and ground squirrels) about $1800 \notin$ of Consumables cost ($500 \notin$ for the purchase of the materials of the tube system (tubes, chambers and other materials- balls and plastic vegetables, etc), $350 \notin$ for the production of 20pcs of A2-size plastic board ; $350 \notin$ for the frames of the plastic boards and $600 \notin$ for printing of (3*500pcs) paper masks. The cost can be from the reserve saved during the former modifications. (modification was preliminary approved by the EC by email on 30/3/2016).

<u>Action E9:</u> Informing media about project's aims, activities and achievements June 2014 – December 2018

Results planned	Results achieved
 The conservation problems 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 CAP 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 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. 	 Launch Press Conference was held 27/3/2015 and press release was launched Scientific article was published Articles in newspapers were launched

Action status: pending

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
Press releases, articles, scientific papers	01.10.2014	25.03.2015	completed
First Press Conference	01.10.2014	27.03.2015	completed

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

The fist **press conference** was held at 27/3/2015 at the National History Museum in Budapest, together with the announcement of the *S. citellus* as the 'Mammal of The Year' of 2015. The event was organized in cooperation with the MoA and the NHM. (Refer to Annexes E9/1-E9/3 of IR).

A background material was prepared about the project and **press release** was launched by MME and NHM to introduce the project and its aims to the media. (**Refer to Annex E9/4 of IR**). The national media was represented at the event of and two radio interviews were made with the Project Manager (Oxigen environmental programme of Radio Kossuth and Radio Katolikus).

Three online media published news about it: MTI/Dióhéj Kiadó Kft. (Refer to Annex E9/5 of IR), National Geographic (Refer to Annex E9/6 of IR), and Greenfo (Refer to Annex E9/7 of IR).

The project was also presented in the MAVIR magazine (Refer to Annex E9/8 of IR). Printed Media:

Articles regarding *C. cricetus* were published in 1/2016 in 'Kistermelők Lapja' magazine (Annex E9/1) and in 19/2015 in 'Alkony' magazine (Annex E9/2) initiated by BEKE.

Articles regarding *N. leucodon* initiated by KNPD, were published in 2/2016 in 'Túrista Magazin' magazine (Annex E9/3), in 3/2016 an article in 'Madártávlat' magazine (Annex E9/4) and in 4/2016 an article in 'Élet és Tudomány' magazine (Annex E9/5) was published regarding the baseline survey of *N.leucodon* initiated by KNPD.

Scientific papers:

In 2/2016 an article in 'Természet Búvár' magazine was published regarding the *N. leucodon* initiated by KNPD (Annex E9/6).

Online articles:

In 2/2016 an article at 'Greenfo' regarding the importance of the protection of *N. leucodon* was published, initiated by KNPD. The article was also published by the Eco-blog of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Annex E9/7).

In 3/2016 an article at 'Greenfo' was published regarding the baseline survey of *N. leucodon* initiated by KNPD (Annex E9/8).

In 3/2016 two online interviews were broadcast about *N. condonable* at the 'Green Compass' programme of Radio Jazzy

In Romania:

7 articles were published, 1 at a national weekly and 6 at regional daily newspapers regarding the project, introducing the aims and targeted species in 12/2015.

Articles in seven on-line sites were published, 2 in Romanian sites and 5 in Hungarian language (Annexes E9/9).

Indicators used to test the performance:

Number of articles published in printed (national, local, regional) and in online media.

Problems and their impacts:

No problems appeared

<u>Modifications:</u>

No necessary modifications.

<u>Action E10:</u> Layman's report October 2017 – October 2018		
Results planned	Results achieved	
4000 copies of 20 pages hard copy report and PDF format on the web in English,	5	
Hungarian, and Romanian languages		

4 0 4 1 2017 0 4 1

Action status: pending

Measure	Deadline	Progress
• 2000+1000+1000 copies of the Layman's report	30.08.2018	pending

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time: **Only in 2018.**

Indicators used to test the performance:

Problems and their impacts: No problems

Modifications: No necessary modifications.

5.1.5. Action F. Overall project operation and monitoring of the project progress

Actions F1-F4 is discussed in part 3, Administrative part.

Networking June 2014 – December 2018 Action F5:

Result planned	Result achieved
Efficient project implementation due to	The project has been presented on a several
intensive networking	events.

Action status: ongoing

Measure	Original deadline	Revised deadline	Progress
3. Reports of visits	31.12.2015		completed
4. Memos of meetings	31.12.2016	31.12.2018	ongoing

Description of the progress and outputs during the reporting time:

Networking on technical events:

BfNPD participated in the 5th European Ground Squirrel Meeting in Rust, Austria on 2-5 October 2014 (Refer to AnnexF5/1 of IR) and invited the 7th meeting to Hungary to join the International conference of the project in 2018 (F6).

The project was presented at the 13th Nature Conservation Conference (25-27/3/2015) in Túrkeve (Refer to Annex F5/2-F5/3 of IR), where the Project Manager and colleagues of BEKE gave presentation regarding the project. The Project Manager introduced the project and its aims in general (Refer to Annex F5/4 of IR), while BEKE presented "The possibility to monitor *C. cricetus* and the first results (**Refer to Annex A1/1 of IR**)

The project was presented at the precious 27th International Conference for Conservation Biology/4th European Conference for Conservation Biology at Montpelier in France (Annex F5/1) by KNPD. A poster was exhibited in the poster session (Annex F5/2) and an abstract was included in the abstract book of the conference (Annex F5/3).

In November 2015 MADARVILAG participated at the raptor protection and research konference (<u>http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/2015_conference_program.pdf</u>) organized by the American Raptor Research Foundation and presented the results and aims of the tagging of the project, highlighting the importance of habitat protection outside protected areas (Annex F5/4).

In February 2016 partners participated at the event called "Sólyomcsalogató" at Vértesboglár, where the activities and results of ongoing and closed LIFE projects were introduced (Annex F5/5).

The project was presented at the national meeting of green organizations (Zöld Szervezetek Országos Találkozója) at Őriszentpéter 30/4/2016 (Annex F5/6).

Networking meetings between partners:

1.) FHNPD visited the raptor model site of ÖNPD, the Chernel garden, in September 2015 and October 2015, where the predators (mainly *V. vulpes* and *Corvus cornix*) are causing damages to the injured and treated birds. The trapping methods were discussed and experiences shared.

2.) FHNPD visited those grasslands of BfNPI in October 2015. and in April 2016. that are habitats of *S. citellus* and are the sites of former repatriation of the species. The monitoring methods and the methods and timing of repatriation were discussed.

3.) In April 2016 five colleagues of ÖNPD visited BfNPD to exchange professional experiences regarding the trapping of *S. citellus*.

Networking meetings with other projects:

1.) In April and June 2016 FHNPD hosted the experts of Helicon LIFE at the *A. heliaca* habitats of their project areas and discussed the experiences of satellite tagging of the species useful for the implementation of the activities of the project.

Networking with other institutions

BfNPD organized a visit to BNPD on 12-13/5/2016 and visited the sites of former repatriation activities regarding *S. citellus* and exchanged experiences (Annex F5/7).

FANK contacted IZW of Berlin ((Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research) regarding the virological survey and FIWI of Austria (Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology) regarding the issue of telemetria and consulted with the expert of the institutes regarding the mentioned issues.

MADARVILAG consulted with the Austrian Veterinary University and the related company producing VHS transmitters regarding the experiences of tagging small mammals. Following a personal consultation held in March 2015, as a result, a test transmitter was prepared.

MADARVILAG contacted colleagues of Check republic at the beginning of 2016 producing GPS based collars for tagging

BEKE participated at a meeting and field visit with the colleagues of ANPD and discussed and exchanged knowledge about the reintroduction of *S.citellus* (Annex F5/8).

Indicators used to be test the performance:

Number of networking occasion

Problems and their impacts:

No problems appeared

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5.3. Evaluation of Project Implementation

5.3.1. Methodology applied

Since the main objective of the project to secure the prey sources of the endangered *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug* therefore a baseline survey of the target species' population and the stakeholders knowledge was conducted; Also the genetic, stress and health status of them was assessed; Suitable habitat was purchased and reconstructed; Stepping stones were created among Natura 2000 areas; Facilities has prepared for indoor propagation of *S. citellus; S. citellus* and *C. cricetus* will be relocated into suitable habitats; Mainly adult but some juvenile birds are tagged with PTT to collect information of land use and hunting habit; The prey assortment will be identified by using of video camera and photo traps; using chips to mark repatriated *S. citellus* for success and failures effectiveness.

5.3.2. Results achieved

Table 3: Results achieved and evaluated

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
A1. Baseline surveys of populations of target species for monitoring future trends and impacts of our actions.	With these data, it will be possible to exactly identify the threats that	surveys have been preparedSurvey method tested and presented	Result achieved but it is extended to get more precise informations.
A2. Evaluation of the genetic status of the fragmented populations of <i>S. citellus</i>	We will obtain a general knowledge of the genetic status of the <i>S</i> . <i>citellus</i> populations. This includes the assessment of heterozygocity as a measure of viability and the determination of the loss of genetic diversity due to isolation.	collection has been prepared.List of Potential colonies are prepared.	In progress Due to late permission the action delayed but now it is in good progress and successful completion expected.
A3. Survey of the stress status of <i>S. citellus</i> colonies and its use to develop <i>S. citellus</i> welfare plan	Describing the physiological status of animals helps us predicting the future diseases and thus preventing the lethal events leading to population decrease. As stress responsiveness plays a key role in allowing animals to cope with environmental challenges,	 The guideline for sample collection has been prepared. List of Potential colonies are prepared 	In progress It is going parallel with A2.

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
	measurement of glucocorticoid levels can give insight into an animal's well-being and can aid us solving conservation and management issues. We will prepare a suslik habitat management guideline summarizing the optimal conditions corresponding to minimal stress levels.	• The examination of the collected samples is ongoing	
A4. Set up the Land Stewardship Ad- visory Service	Land Stewardship Advisory Service established in the project areas that would provide regular advice for the farmers and hunters on the target species.	 The manual for the Land Stewardship Advisory was prepared and included in the Project Handbook. It was introduced on the training of project participants on 10/2/2015 The kick-off meeting of the Advisory Service was held on 17/11/2015 in Budapest together with the training of the members of the Service. 	Result partly achieved, delayed. LSAS has established but in Romania the Romanian best management guideline preparation is going on .
A5. Preparing airport's grassland management guideline	An airport management guideline what would enable the airport managers to manage the airport grassland to satisfy the air and <i>S</i> . <i>citellus</i> safety requirements in the same time.	 A protocol was prepared and included in the Project Handbook. The questionnaire was prepared and finalized and is in use by the partners during the consultations with airport managers. 	In progress Collection of information from present situation is going on.
A6.UpdatingS.citellusReintroduction Protocol	An up to date digital Reintroduction Protocol for <i>S.</i> <i>citellus</i> repatriation based on the	An up to date digital Reintroduction Protocol for <i>S.</i> <i>citellus</i> repatriation based on the	Result achieved

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
	latest developments.	latest developments was developed 15.2.2015 and was revised by 31.12.2015.	
A7. Evaluation of the water management system on <i>S. citellus</i> habitat and preparing recommendation how to improve it.	Mortality due to flood will be reduced and repatriation would not be done on area endangered by flood.	 The protocol for the evaluation of the water management system on <i>S. citellus</i> habitat in favour of the <i>S. citellus</i> was prepared Project areas were assessed against flood danger 	In progress Collection of information from present situation is going on.
A8. Baseline survey of the public awareness	Through the survey we will be able to maximise the effects of our program, and PR-campaign.	 The first test version of the questionnaire was developed. Online and pdf. version of the finalized questionnaire was developed and unloaded to the site. Data collection was implemented Collected data was analysed and evaluation was prepared 	Result achieved
A9. Acquisition of equipment (in compliance with public-procurement regulations)	Cost efficient procurement.	• cars and most of the equipment were ordered or purchased	In Progress, delayed.
B1. Purchase of land	58,6 ha grassland will be owned by the state and managed by the KNPD. It will serve for rehabilitation and sustainable management as a potential habitat for <i>S. citellus</i> repatriation and for feeding ground for <i>A. heliaca</i> and <i>F. cherrug</i> . Another10 abandoned farmlands about 2 ha will be purchased in HUKM20014.	The proposed areas were checked against flood danger and the purchase plan has modified according to it. 70 ha grassland will be purchased by KNPD of which 37,75 ha happened already.	In Progress. delayed.

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
B2 . Lease of land	50 ha leased. Natura 2000 sites will be connected. The S. citellus, C. cricetus and L. europeus populations will be strengthened and spread over the area what would serve food source for the increasing A. heliaca and F. cherrug population and may reduce the pressure on other game species. It will reduce the conflict between hunters and nature conservationist.	The activity is moved to C4 action.	See in C4 Action
C1. Establishing captive breeding program for <i>S. citellus</i> and genebank from captive and natural colonies	We establish the methodology of keeping and breeding <i>S. citellus</i> individuals in captivity. Such methodology will be transferred to keep the animals in the Education Centre (Action E5) and show the tame individuals to the public there. We expect to produce 50 captive bred animals by the end of the project. Captive bred and tamed animals will be used by FÁNK and NIMFEA to exhibit animals without capturing new individuals from the wild.	Location of the captive breeding of <i>S.citellus</i> was selected within the university premises and the establishment of the facilities and captive breeding conditions were developed.	In Progress Facilities are almost ready to start the breeding activities
C2. Establishing veterinarian surveillance of potential food sauces of <i>A. heliaca</i> and <i>F. cherrug</i> i.e. <i>S.citellus, C. cricetus, N. superspecies leucodon</i> and <i>L. europeus</i>	Veterinarian surveillance of potential food sauces of <i>A. heliaca</i> and <i>F. cherrug</i> is established.	 Guideline for sample collectors has prepared and included in the Project Handbook Training for sample collectors was held Samples for veterinarian examination were collected 	In Progress

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
		during the filed sample	
		collection activity	
C3. Improving the genetic status of	10 S. citellus colonies genetic		Only from July 2016
target populations by planned	status will be improved and higher		
introductions of animals of known	overall genetic variance and		
allelic composition	viability of the populations.		
C4. Habitat reconstruction to	The potential future hunting areas	Habitat reconstructions were	In Progress
improve the carrying capacity for	of <i>A. heliaca</i> and <i>F. cherrug</i> will be	ongoing on the 35 ha the purchased	
prey species	converted to suitable habitat for	are of KNPD and the nature	
	prey species including those 58,6	conservation maintenance of 55 ha	
	ha, what is purchased in the frame	stepping stones were carried out	
	of the project. Total area and	under the supervision of FHNPD.	
	carrying capacity of grasslands for		
	S. citellus and L. europeus will		
	increase in the purchased areas.		
	The grassland composition will be		
	more natural dominated by plant		
	species preferred by S. citellus. 2		
	ha suitable habitat for C. cricetus		
	and <i>L. europeus</i> on the		
	reconstructed abandoned		
	farmhouses' lands and 100 ha		
	bounds along dirt roads in the		
	Great Plain area. Another 70 ha		
	will be reconstructed in FHNPD		
	area. Removal of invasive		
	allergenic plants like ragweed		
	would reduce health problems of		
	local people. The current trend of		
	the small mammals' population decline will be prevented by our		
	specific actions. The decline will		
	slow down and hopefully stop after		
	slow down and noperuny stop after		

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
	five years. We expect about 10%		
	increase after a 10 years period.		
	The proportion of small mammals		
	among the preys of the increasing		
	A. heliaca and F. cherrug would		
	not be further reduced what would		
	reduce the conflict with hunters. In		
	case of S. citellus based on		
	previous similar actions when half		
	of the introduced animals survived		
	and integrated to the local		
	population, we expect similar		
	outcome after the planned action.		
	Therefore it is foreseen that about		
	in 28 locations which were		
	inhabited sometimes in the past the		
	S. citellus population will be		
	restored. In case of S. substilis		
	trizona it is foreseen that the		
	known 20 ha habitat will be		
	doubled or it will be justified that		
	there is not any other localities in		
	Hungary. The existing and		
	potential habitats will be properly		
	maintained without any conflict		
	with S. citellus interest. In case of		
	C. cricetus we expect better		
	information about the size of the		
	existing		
C5. Reintroduction of S. citellus to	Such interventions will enrich the	• Potential sites are checked	Only from July 2016
reconstructed areas	food supply of local breeding pairs	and unsuitable were	
	of A. heliaca and F. cherrug in a	replaced.	
	region where their population is	Permission regarding	

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
	expected to grow and where they	repatriation of S. citellus	
	mostly predate small game.	was issued by the National	
	Reduction in the predation on game	Environmental Authority in	
	animals would make it easier to	Hungary.	
	incorporate local hunters to our	• Permission regarding the	
	conservation efforts. We expect a	repatriation of C. cricetus	
	general increase of S. citellus	was submitted to the	
	habitat especially in regions where	National Environmental	
	A. heliaca and F. cherrug feed.	Authority.	
	Buffer zones with special water	-	
	management would reduce the		
	impact of catastrophic events like		
	flooding.		
	Due to repatriation, the number of		
	colonies and their density will		
	increase. Such changes will		
	positively affect the breeding		
	success of raptors. Based on		
	previous similar actions when half		
	of the introduced animals survived		
	and integrated to the local		
	population, we expect similar		
	outcome after the planned action.		
	Therefore it is foreseen that about		
	in 28 locations which were		
	inhabited sometimes in the past the		
	S. citellus population will be		
	restored.		
C6. Protection of short term survival	Measurably higher success of		Only from July 2016
and evaluation of long term success			
of reintroduced and natural prey	number of repatriated animals		
populations			
C7. Encouraging hunters to catch	Predators' number in the	• The traps were purchased and	In Progress

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
predators the competitors of <i>A</i> . <i>heliaca</i> and <i>F</i> . <i>cherrug</i> around the habitat of <i>S</i> . <i>citellus</i> , <i>C</i> . <i>cricetus</i> , and <i>L</i> . <i>europeus</i> by distribution of traps for them.	reintroduction areas will be reduced therefore the reintroduction success will considerably increase.	handed over to hunting organizationsTrapping has started	
C8. Mapping the movements of <i>S. citellus</i>	New and practical information on the two species that will contribute to prepare and carry out more conservation measures more efficiently.	Two types of tags (collar and internal tag) was selected.	In Progress
D1. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions by video record and photo traps in <i>A. heliaca</i> and <i>F. cherrug</i> nests.	Pictures of the photo traps at the nests along the project areas will document the preys used to feed the juveniles. The evaluation of the pictures will confirm the presence and possible increase of the <i>S.citellus</i> , <i>C. cricetus</i> and <i>L. europeus</i> among the preys.	 The guideline for video- and photo-trapping was developed and was included in the Project Handbook. Pictures are continuously recorded for later evaluation On-line video streaming is presented on the website of the project 	In Progress
D2. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions by satellite tagged adult birds.	The land use of the breeding birds can be identified. The impact of the different project action can be justified by the satellite tagged birds.	 The guideline for satellite tagging of adult birds was developed and was included in the Project Handbook. 20 transmitters were purchased by 28.02.2016 by MAVIR 8 birds are tagged 	In Progress
D3. Monitoring of the project actions	The project's impact on the target species will be easily monitored by the management team.	5 guidelines of the monitoring methodology of the target species were prepared and were included in the Project Handbook.	In Progress
D4. Assessment of the social- economic impact	A study will be prepared and delivered with the Final Report.	No achievements yet.	No Progress yet
D5. Assessment of ecosystem	A study will be prepared and	No achievements yet.	No Progress yet

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
functions restoration	delivered with the Final Report.		
E1. Organising forums for stakeholders	The awareness of the stakeholders and their tolerance towards the target species will increase. Less conflict will risk these species	Awareness raising of stakeholders had begun on project areas. 7 beneficiaries provided advises on sites	In Progress
E2. Production and distribution information materials about the target species, their habitat requirement and management.	Improved knowledge of the stakeholders will improve the habitat management in favour of the target specie	 1.000 logo stickers, 7.000 sticker of target species, 2.000 copied of leaflets on <i>C. cricetus</i>, 1.000 copies of brochures on <i>C. cricetus</i>, 2.000 copies of brochure on target species printed layout of educational exercise booklet prepared 	In Progress Most materials are ready
E3. Raising awareness measures to convince the water management bodies to protect habitats by nature friendly water management	<i>S. citellus</i> habitats will be considered and protected from flood water	Action A7 is going on. This action can start based on its results.	Pending
E4. Producing and displaying "Keep the dog closed" posters	Less dogs will hunt outside of the settlements	 2.000 copies of the poster was printed in English- Hungarian the English-Romanian layout was finalized 	In Progress
E5. <i>S. citellus</i> show (Introduction of the target species for the general public)	Three exhibition centre will be developed and annually at least 100.000 people will learn about the animals and related nature conservation problems and the work of the project	Preparation is going on	In Progress
E6. Design and operate project web site	An accessible and up-to-date web site will inform the general public and technical staff working on similar projects about the project.	has been launched by $10/3/2015$	In operation

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
	Hence, it will promote networking with past and future LIFE projects dealing with the conservation of the target species. We expect 20,000 visitors over the project period to visit the site.	 breading seasons Continuously being updated, news and outcomes/deliverables uploaded. 	
E7. Erecting information signs at project site	There will be large scale publicity of the project aims and activities and its support by LIFE+.	 The design of the draft layout has been prepared by 31/3/2015 22 Hungrian/English and 10 Romanian/English boards had been prepared and installed one roll up produced and used 	Result achieved
E8. Secure public support for conservation effort	 1500 copies of A2 size posters in Hungarian and 300 copies in Romanian languages 1000 T-shirts 500 copies of DVD in English, Hungarian, and Romanian languages produced, distributed and broadcasted in national channels. 	1500 copies of B1 size posters are ready T-shirts and film are in preparation.	In Progress
E9. Informing media about project's aims, activities and achievements	The conservation problems 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	 Launch Press Conference was held 27/3/2015 and press release was launched Scientific article was published Articles in newspapers were launched 	In Progress

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
	information on subsidies available		
	through CAP 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.		
E10. Layman's report	4000 copies of 20 pages hard copy		Pending
	report and PDF format on the web		
	in English, Hungarian, and		
	Romanian languages		
F1. Project management	Technical, Administrative and	Technical, Administrative and	Working
	financial arrangements and	financial arrangements and	
	mechanisms are in place to enable	mechanisms are in place to enable	
	the smooth and accurate running of	the smooth and accurate running of	
	the project. All project staff is	the project. All project staff is	
	appointed and aware of their roles	appointed and aware of their roles	
	and obligations for completing the	and obligations for completing the	
	project. High quality technical	project.	
	reports and appropriate financial		
	reports produced on time, correctly		
	and to budget, accompanied by		

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
	report(s) from independent auditor and submitted on time.		
F2. Held Steernig Committee Meeting	Regular, timely, scheduled meetings, held with good attendance, which will help secure the high priority of the project work for project staff and their leaders.	Annual Steernig Committee Meeting held Project staff trained and Project	Functioning
F3. Training of project staff	1 2		Result achieved
F4. Independent financial audit	Audited Financial Report	External auditor contracted. She is checking the financial documents regularly.	Functioning
F5. Networking	Efficient project implementation due to intensive networking	Intensive networking going on	In Progress
F6. International conference to share and evaluate results and experience of the project	Evaluation of the work and achievements of the project with the participation of international experts will contribute to the global success of <i>A. heliaca, F. cherrug</i>		Pending

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
	and the food sources species		
	conservation. The personal contacts		
	established at the conference will		
	improve future conservation		
	activities of these species.		
F7. After LIFE conservation Plan	After-LIFE Conservation Plan		Pending
	delivered with the final report.		

5.4 Analysis of long-term benefits

5.4.1. Environmental benefits

5.4.1.1. Direct environmental benefits

- 37.75 ha habitat was already purchased by Kiskunsági National Park Directorate. These are direct benefits for the Annex I. *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug* species but also for *S. citellus* and *N. (superspecies) leucodon.*
- 55 ha stepping stones were created among Natura 2000 sites by Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate. These are direct benefits for the Annex I. *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug* species but also for *C. cricetus*, and *L. europeus*.
- 35 ha habitats were reconstructed for the benefit of *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug* species but also for *S. citellus*, *N. (superspecies) leucodon*, *C. cricetus*, and *L. europeus*.
- Improved conservation status of the target species.
- Stabilised populations.

5.4.1.2. Relevance for environmentally significant issues or policy areas

- EU Natura 2000 iniciative
 - Bird Directives
 - Habitat Directives

Agri-Environmental schemes

A proposal for proper habitat management requirement of *S. trizona* was prepared and submitted to the Bükk National Park Directorate.

5.4.2. Long-term benefit and sustainability

5.4.2.1. Long-term environmental benefit

The long term environmental benefit would be that the increasing *A. heliaca*, and *F. cherrug* breeding population may find enough food in the long run and can sustain on it. Besides the targeted prey species are also endangered species and their survival itself a long term benefit will be of the project.

The project sites in the Natura 2000 areas will be improved which support higher biodiversity and the EU policy for it.

5.4.2.2. Long-term economic benefit

The nature conservation is not an economic issue but rather an issue to compensate or eliminate the distraction of the economic activities. However the stabilised or increased population may attract recreational tourism. Some extensive agriculture with some agri-environmental subsidies may sustain local farmers.

5.4.2.3. Long term social benefit

Peoples especially the future decision maker generation (children) may understand better the value of Natura 2000 sites, the biodiversity, ecosystem service and the importance of the conservation of the preys of the raptors. A healthier ecosystem would means healthier human beings.

The extensive agriculture may provide more employment in some regions.

5.4.2.4. Continuation of the project actions

- C1. Establishing captive breeding program for *S. citellus* and gene bank from captive and natural colonies
- C2. Establishing veterinarian surveillance of potential food sauces of *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug i.e. S.citellus, C. cricetus, N. superspecies leucodon* and *L. europeus*
- C3. Improving the genetic status of target populations by planned introductions of animals of known allelic composition
- C4. Habitat reconstruction to improve the carrying capacity for prey species
- C5. Reintroduction of S. citellus to reconstructed areas
- C6. Protection of short term survival and evaluation of long term success of reintroduced and natural prey populations
- C7. Encouraging hunters to catch predators the competitors of *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug* around the habitat of *S. citellus, C. cricetus,* and *L. europeus* by distribution of traps for them
- D1. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions by video record and photo traps in A. heliaca and *F. cherrug* nests
- E1. Organising forums for stakeholders
- E5. S. citellus show (Introduction of the target species for the general public)
- E6. Design and operate project web site
- E8. Secure public support for conservation efforts

5.4.3. Replicability, demonstration, transferability, cooperation

The establishment and management of stepping stones among the Natura 2000 areas has demonstration character. It will be demonstrate for nature conservationists farm advisors, farmers of other areas and for the press how to incorporate nature conservation interest into daily farming practice.

There is an interest and demand from Serbian organisations to transfer the knowledge and replicate the project in Serbia in a new LIFE project. The knowledge what would be gained during the project will be transferred to the stakeholders and target audience via project web page, networking, by the press and in a planned international conference.

Project partners have an intensive cooperation among them and in the neighbouring countries.

5.4.4. Best Practice lessons

The project has applied best practices of the Best of LIFE projects LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 and LIFE09 NAT/HU/000384 i.e.

C4 Habitat reconstruction to improve the carrying capacity for prey species;

C5 Reintroduction of S. citellus to reconstructed areas;

D1 Monitoring of the impact of the project actions by video record and photo traps in *A. heliaca* and *F. cherrug* nests;

D2 Monitoring of the impact of the project actions by satellite tagged adult birds;

D3 Monitoring of the project actions;

F1-F5 Overall project operation and monitoring of the project progress

5.4.5. Innovation and demonstration value

The indoor breeding of *S. citellus* will be an innovative process. The establishment of stepping stones among the Natura 2000 areas has demonstration value.

5.4.6. Long term indicators of the project success

The indicators was given in the online indicator tables

The status of the indicators for project LIFE13 NAT/HU/000183 has changed to Validated

6. Comments on the financial report

6.1. Summary of Costs Incurred

Table 4: Summary of the costs incurred

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED					
Cost category	Budget according to the grant agreement	Total cost after modification	Costs incurred within the reporting period	%	
Personnel	880983	916 031	265 494	28,98	
Travel	171 887	201 886	49 750	24 64	
External assistance	543 660	566 720	148 957	26,28	
Durables: total <u>non-</u> <u>depreciated</u> cost	502 981	518 581	310 458	59,87	
- Infrastructure sub-tot.	108 621	108 621	40 311	37,11	
- Equipment sub-tot.	394 360	409 960	270 147	65,90	
- Prototypes sub-tot.	0	0	0	0	
Land purchase/lease	435 856	269 806	130 276	48,29	
Consumables	172 402	174 402	55 999	32,11	
Other costs	13 518	13 518	5 438	40,23	
Overheads	159 956	159 956	53 208	33,26	
TOTAL	2 881 243	2 881 243	1 019 580	35,39	

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

6.1.1. Comments on the costs categories

6.1.1.1. <u>Personnel costs</u>

28.98% of the original personnel costs were used. However there was some relocation **to** and **from** the personnel costs:

At FHNPD the Project technical coordinator's costs $(54,720 \in)$ and the project administrator's costs $(41,280 \in)$ were transferred from External assistance to personnel costs. This changes was reported already in the Inception Report. At KAPOSVAR there was some internal changes:

Since the partner coordinator who is doing the most specific project work cannot spend more than 50% of his working time on the project some two additional staff (Field Assistant 5,070 \in , and Genetic consultant 5,850 \in) were employed. The partner coordinator's salary is much higher than it was originally budgeted because he became a professor (Expected total sum 30,800 \in). However the animal keeper's cost would be much lower 19008 \in only.

These changes was approved by the TDO on 2 January 2016

At MADÁRVILÁG the total personnel costs (60,952 €) were transferred to external assistance costs due to the form of applied payment according to the Hungarian regulation. This was already reported in the Inception Report. Some communication work was transferred from FHNPD to NIMFEA with

7,474 € covered by the Partnership Agreement.

At NIMFEA 5,180 \in personnel cost were converted to external assistance costs.

This was approved by the TDO on 14.04.2016.

The personnel costs were calculated according to the CP 24.2.

Partner	Name of	Position	Actual	Daily rate	Reason
	person	I USILIUII	daily	in the	Ксазон
	person		rate	budget	
BEKE	Tamás	Partner	46.32 €	72 €	According to the Statistical Office, BEKE is a
DERE	Cserkész	coordinator	40.52 €	120	non-governmental researcher place, therefore
	CSEIKESZ	coordinator			BEKE is entitled to validate income tax
					reduction.
BEKE	Tamás Kondor	Staff1	25.88€	72€	Same as above
FÁNK	Dr. Endre Sós	Veterinary	124.8 €	64 €	Because of the one year delay three team has
FAINK	DI. Ellure Sos	vetermary	124.0 t	04 C	collected the samples in the same time
					therefore he had to participate in the work for
					a few days. But the other vet work cheaper as
					it was planned.
FÁNK	Dr. Viktória	Veterinary	43.69€	64€	Originally this position was planned for a
FAINK	Koroknai	vetermary	45.09 €	04 C	person specially hired for this position but due
	KOIOKIIdi				to the delay the work has to be done in a
					shorter period therefore the two permanent vet
					did the work.
FÁNK	Gábor Simonyi	Communication	99.52 €	59€	Originally this position wasn't planned for the
		Manager	JJ.52 C	570	Head of Communication, but since the citellus
		widinager			show is in delay only a few days work was
					done by him.
FÁNK	Mária Bodó	Partner	65.58 €	33€	Originally this position was planned for a
		administrator		55 0	person specially hired for this position, but
		uummstrator			since the work was in delay due to the lack of
					permission, therefore less administration was
					needed also.
KNPD	Melinda	Partner	36.48€	74€	She was employed for lower salary but more
	Forgó/Csima	administrator			time.
KE	Dr. Vilmos	Partner	116.12 €	79€	He became professor since the project was
	Altbäcker	Coordinator	(2015)		planned with much higher salary. This was
			113.37 €		negotiated with EC and it was accepted on 12
			(2016)		January 2016
ÖNPD	Krisztián	Ranger	75.57€	43 €	He is a ranger and his salary is given by the
	Harsányi		(2015)		official classification. He was replaced by a
	-		105.04 €		lower salary ranger
			(2016)		
ÖNPD	Blanka	Ranger	59.89 €	43 €	She is a ranger and her salary is given by the
	Kóródi				official classification. She was replacing the
					more expensive Krisztián Harsányi

Table 5: More than 20% differences in actual and planned daily rates:

Changes in position:

EPASM:

In Romania the state employees did not get salary for about 4 months at the beginning of the year due to budgetary reason what makes a frequent fluctuation.

Angela Bota was responsible for the project administration position till the end of March 2015, and she was replaced by Levente Koczan.

Levente Koczan quitted from this position 14 October 2015. From 15 Februry 2016 he was replaced by Zoltan Balog.

FÅNK:

Dr. Endre Sós and Dr. Viktória Koroknai share the veterinary position.

FHNPD:

From 01.11.2014 the task of the project technical coordinator (Zsuzsa Fidlóczky) and the project administrator (Viktória Bene) were transferred from the external assistance cost category. This was already reported in the Inception Report.

From 01.02.2016 Attila Fersch joined to the project to take over some task from Miklós Váczi.

KAPOSVÁR:

Since the partner coordinator (Dr. Vilmos Altäcker) who is doing the most specific project work cannot spend more than 50% of his working time on the project two additional staff (Ágnes Altbäcker- Field Assistant and Dr. Tamás Molnár-Genetic consultant) were employed from 01.04.2016.

MILVUS:

In the end of February 2016 Attila Marton quit his project assistant position, and he was replaced by Szilárd Sugár and Zsuzsanna Aczél-Fridrich. They divided the position from 1 March 2016.

MME:

Tamás Trauttman has quit his partner administrator position from 1 March 2016. NIMFEA:

Anita Nagy and Géza Molnár share the partner coordinator position from 1. March 2015 ÖNPD:

Krisztián Harsányi was replaced by Blanka Kórodi in the Ranger position from 1. March 2016.

6.1.1.2. <u>Travel costs</u>

24.64 % of the original travel costs were used.

In Hungary all costs (fuel, repair, insurance, tall fee, etc. excluding amortization) in relation with company's cars accounted on the cars and km unit cost are calculated and accounted. A correction was calculated and accounted at the end of the years. Partners declared their unit costs by car what were used for the project. These unit costs were used to calculate the project costs multiplying the justified km of the given month and the unit costs.

In Romania partners accounted only the fuel costs of justified km.

Some cost was relocated to and from:

At FHNPD 29,999 € was transferred from external assistance to travel costs of the project technical coordinator. This changes was reported already in the Inception Report.

At MME 4,122 \in was relocated from travel costs to equipment costs to cover the 4WD car surplus costs.

At NIMFEA 2,535 \in was relocated from travel costs to external assistance costs.

This was temporarily approved by the TDO by email on 30.03.2016.

6.1.1.3. <u>External costs</u>

26.28% of the original external assistance costs were used.

At FHNPD 96,000 \notin was relocated to personnel costs for project management and 15,600 \notin was relocated for car and 2,630 \notin for two laptop computers to equipment costs, while 145,597 \notin from renting of land was relocated to external assistance. This changes was reported already in the Inception Report. From FHNPD 1,585 \notin was transferred to BEKE for *S. citellus* repatriation. This was approved by the TDO or 20.02 2016

This was approved by the TDO on 30.03.2016.

21,723 € was transferred to NIMFEA with the transferred communication work covered by the Partnership Agreement, another 1,706 € for additional printing works and 1,800 € was transferred to MME's equipment costs. These were approved by TDO on 30.03.2016.

1,600 € was transferred to MME for the development of the schedule of the methodology, 2,543 € was transferred to MME for printing costs and 6,247 € for *C. cricetus* survey in *A. heliaca* food remains what was approved by the TDO on 06.04.2016.

 $1,600 \in$ was spent on catering of *S. citellus* conference by the approval of TDO on 21.10.2015.

At KAPOSVÁR for grassing the enclosures every year 960 € was approved by TDO 19.01.2016.

At MADÁRVILÁG the total personnel costs (60,952 €) were transferred to external assistance costs due to the form of applied payment according to the Hungarian regulation. This was already reported in the Inception Report.

6.1.1.4. <u>Infrastructure costs</u>

37.11 % of the original infrastructure costs were used.

At KAPOSVAR 1,100 \in was converted from Consumables to Infrastructure with the approval by the TDO on 19.01.2016.

6.1.1.5. <u>Equipment costs</u>

65,9 % of the original equipment costs were used.

BfNPD has purchased an extra objectives within the original costs for photo equipments which was approved by the TDO on 01.05.2016.

At FHNPD 15,600 \in relocated from external assistance for a 4WD car and 2,630 \in for two laptop computer for the project management. This changes was reported already in the Inception Report.

From FHNPD 1,800 \in external assistance costs was transferred to MME for a telescope with the approval of the TDO on 30.03.2016.

At KAPOSVÁR 2,300 \in was relocated from consumables costs with the approval by the TDO on 19.01.2016.

For MME on 30.03.2015. the EC approved to cover the total cost of the new Land Rover project car from the budget of the project on the basis that the replacement car was broken down and therefore it completely lost its market value. This was mentioned in the Inception Report already.

6.1.1.6. Land purchase/lease costs

48.29 % of the original land purchase costs were used.

At FHNPD 145,597 \in from renting of land was relocated to external assistance as it was mentioned in the Inception Report.

6.1.1.7. <u>Consumable costs</u>

32,11% of the original consumable costs were used. From FHNPD 12,586 € was transferred to NIMFEA for communication costs.

6.2. Accounting system

Forrás SQL Integrated accounting system is used by the Coordinating Beneficiary. In this system the project's codes are 1121 and 1126.

Coordinators of Beneficiaries submitted their monthly financial report to the Project Office of the Coordinating Beneficiary where the project administrator checked them whether all verifications were submitted, matching the formal requirement and the approved budget figures.

Time sheets were completed electronically.

The Coordinators of Beneficiaries were countersigned the staff's time sheets and the Project Manager approved the Coordinators' time sheets. Any deviation from the approved budget was requested and approved by the Project Manager in advance.

Usually the purchase order has included the project reference number and the supplier had to refer for it. All beneficiaries got a stamp including the project reference number and the short name of the Beneficiary. All invoices and any other verification had to be stamped with it.

6.3. Partnership arrangements

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

Most of the partners can't reclaim VAT except MAVIR, and MADÁRVILÁG, which is under examination by the Tax Office. (Annexes Fin29-Fin39)

6.4. Auditor's report/declaration

An external Auditor was of	contracted .
Name of the Auditor Ltd.:	Kolbe Könyvvizsgáló Kft. (Kolbe Auditor Ltd.)
Address:	1137 Budapest, Szent István park 14.
Registration nr.:	01-09-260371
Represented by:	Mrs. Tünde Kolbe manager/auditor

6.5 Summary of costs per action

Annex Fin1 includes an excel tables with these information.

7. Annexes

Annex 1 List of Annexes of Inception Report

7.1 Administrative annexes

Annex F1/1 The Project Manager establish hotline to the head of Dept. of the Nature Conservation Authority to speed up the permission process

Annex F1/2 Invitation & program. Annual evaluation meeting in Budapest (FÁNK) on 04.09.2015.

Annex F1/3 Minutes of Annual evaluation meeting in Budapest (FÁNK) on 04.09.2015.

Annex-F1/4 Picture of the Annual evaluation meeting in Budapest (FÁNK) on 04.09.2015.

Annex F1/5 The Project Manager, the Technical Coordinator and the Project Administrator visited the project partners to assist them EPASM

Annex F1/6 The Project Manager, the Technical Coordinator and the Project Administrator visited the project partners to assist them KAPOSVÁR

- Annex F1/7 The Project Manager, the Technical Coordinator and the Project Administrator visited the project partners to assist them KNPD
- Annex F1/8 List of participants in the project work
- Annex F2/1 Invitation for the second Steering Committee Meeting
- Annex F2/2 Program of the second Steering Committee Meeting
- Annex F2/3 Minutes of the second Steering Committee Meeting
- Annex F2/4 Attendance sheet of the second Steering Committee Meeting

Annex F2/5 Participants of the second Steering Committee Meeting

7.2 Technical annexes

7.2.1. List of keywords and abbreviations used

CAD	
CAP	Common Agriculture Policy
EC	European Commission
EPASM	Environmental Protection Agency of Satu Mare County
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSM	Global System for Mobile
HQ	Headquarter
KNPD	Kiskunság National Park Directorate
MAVIR	Hungarian Transmission System Operator Company Ltd.
MILVUS	"Milvus Group" Association
MME	BirdLife Hungary
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
NEA	National Environment Authority
NGO	Non-governmental Organisations
NHM	Natural History Museum
NW	North West
PA	Partnership Agreement
PTT	Platform Transmitter Terminals
Mid Term Repo	rt 1 87

RD	Rural Development
RDP	Rural Development Program
RMEWF	The Romanian Ministry of Environment Water and Forest
SC	Steering Committee
SPA	Special Protected Area
ToR	Terms of Reference

7.2.2 Other Technical annexes

Annex A1/1 A. heliaca and F. cherrug breeding pairs' survey in 2015 Annex A1/2 S. citellus baseline survey in Fertőszéplak in 2015 Annex A1/3 S. citellus baseline survey in Szentirályszabadja in 2015 Annex A1/4 up-to-date distribution map of Spermophilus citellus Annex A1/5 up-to-date distribution map of *Cricetus cricetus* Annex A1/6 up-to-date distribution map of Sicista subtilis trizona Annex A1/7 up-to-date distribution map of Nannospalax (superspecies) leucodon Annex A1/8 up-to-date distribution map of Lepus europeus Annex A1/9 Methods to reconstruct C. cricetus former periods population trend Annex A2/1 The selected sequencing methodology. Annex A2/2 Request for permission of genetic sampling from NEA Annex A2/3 "Permission from NEA to collect samples for evaluation of genetic status of S. citellus" Annex A2/4 Permission for invasive sampling from NEA Annex A2/5 Coordination meeting for preparation of the implementation of A2 action Annex A2/6 The list of selected sites, time schedule and the responsibilities for the genetic sampling Annex A2/7 Genetic samples collection Annex A2/8 Collected samples handed over to the Lab. Annex A2/9 Methodology of the filogeographical genetic sampling' Annex A2/10 Maps of selected sites for genetic sampling Annex A3/1 Samples collection for stress status determination Annex A3/2 Delivering samples to the lab for stress status determination Annex A4/1 Kick-off meeting of the LSAS Annex A4/2 List of Romanian S. citellus habitats Annex A4/3 Romanian national agri-environmental package proposal Annex A4/4 Report on the destruction of this extremely valuable, protected habitat to the Authorities Annex A5/1 Questionnaire for preparing airport's grassland management guideline Annex A5/2 Minutes of the meeting with the management of Péri airport and FHNPD Annex A6/1 Updated S. citellus Reintroduction Protocol Annex A7/1Water management study implemented by FHNPD Annex A8/1 Hungarian questionnaire for the public awareness baseline survey Annex A8/2 Romanian questionnaire for the public awareness baseline survey Annex A8/3 Result of the public awareness baseline survey Annex B1/1 Land purchase contracts Annex B1/2 Pictures of the site Annex C1/1 The Indoor breeding facilities in Kaposvár University Annex C2/1 Result of Duo-Bakt Veterinary Microbiological Laboratory's examination

Annex C2/2 Articles about Salmonella Annex C2/3 Paralysed and treated S. citellus Annex C4/1 Habitat reconstruction of the purchased area in Öttömös Annex C4/2 Contracts for stepping stone habitat managements Annex C4/3 Stepping stones habitat management Annex C4/4 Osli-Hany habitat management Annex C5/1 A tentative plan for reintroduction Annex C5/2 Permission for S. citellus reintroduction Annex C5/3 Modification of the permission for S. citellus reintroduction Annex C5/4 Permission to use microchips and for tagging with collars Annex C5/5 Request for permission for repatriation of C. cricetus Annex C5/6 Inception protocol for C. cricetus repatriation Annex C5/7 An agreement signed by HNPD Annex C5/8 An agreement signed by the local farmers and NIMFEA Annex C7/1 Agreement with hunters and pictures about trapping in Hungary Annex C7/2 Trapping sites of BfNPD Annex C7/3 Agreement with hunters about trapping in Romania Annex C8/1 Collar tag for S. citellus Annex D1/1 Report about the lab examinations' result. Annex D1/2 Installation of photo traps Annex D1/3 Pictures of preys Annex D1/4 List of preys in 2015 Annex D2/1 First adult taged by PTT Annex D2/2 Movement of the tagged bird Annex D6/1 Google Analytics – list of entries in the web Annex E1/1 LSAS works in Hungary Annex E1/2 List of contact persons in Romania Annex E1/3 LSAS works in Romania

7.3 Dissemination annexes

7.3.2. Other dissemination annexes

Annex E2/1 project logo stickers (digital & hard copy) Annex E2/2 Stickers of targeted species (digital & hard copy) Annex E2/3 LA4 size 3-side-folded leaflet regarding C. cricetus (digital & hard copy) Annex E2/4 A5 size brochures on *C. cricetus* (digital & hard copy) Annex E2/5 brochure introducing the target species (digital & hard copy) Annex E2/6 Draft layout of educational exercise booklet Annex E4/1 "Keep the dog closed" poster (digital & hard copy) Annex E4/2 "Keep the dog closed" poster installed Annex E7/1 The Hungarian B1 size board Annex E7/2 The roll-up Annex E7/3 The installed boars in Hungary Annex E7/4 The Romanian B2 size board Annex E7/5 The installed boars in Romania Annex E8/1 B1 size poster (digital & hard copy) Annex E8/2 T-shirt for project staff Annex E8/3 T-shirt for public Annex E8/4 Presentation in the "Ürgekutatás Konferencia"

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Annex E8/5 The project participated at the "Ürgegála"

Annex E8/6 Porgram of the VI.th Bird Protection Conference

Annex E8/7 Presentation in the VI.th Bird Protection Conference

Annex E8/8 Family Day 2015

Annex E8/9 Family Day 2016

Annex E8/10 Program of the 10th Hungarian Conservation Biological Conference

Annex E8/11 Abstract of the 10th Hungarian Conservation Biological Conference

Annex E8/12 Stickers for children (digital & hard copy)

Annex E8/13 Paper boards of target species

Annex E9/1 Articles regarding C. cricetus in 'Kistermelők Lapja' (digital & hard copy)

Annex E9/2 Articles regarding C. cricetus in 'Alkony' magazine (digital & hard copy)

Annex E9/3 Articles regarding *N. leucodon* in 'Túrista Magazin' magazine (digital & hard copy)

Annex E9/4 Article in 'Madártávlat' magazine (digital & hard copy)

Annex E9/5 Article in the 'Élet és Tudomány (digital & hard copy)

Annex E9/6 Articles regarding *N. leucodon* in 'Természet Búvár' (digital & hard copy)

Annex E9/7 Online articles regarding importance of protection of *N. leucodon* in 'Greenfo'

Annex E9/8 Online articles regarding N. leucodon basline survey in 'Greenfo'

Annex E9/9 Online articles in Romania

Annex E5/1 Conference for Conservation Biology at Montpelier in France

Annex F5/2 Poster presented in the Conference for Conservation Biology

Annex F5/3 Abstract was included in the abstract book of the conference

Annex F5/4 Pictures of networking activities

7.4 Final table of indicators

The indicators was given in the online indicator tables

"The status of the indicators for project LIFE13 NAT/HU/000183 has changed to Validated"

8. Financial report and annexes

Finacial Reports by beneficiaries Annex Fin1 Costs per action tables

(electronic and hard copy)

Annex Fin2 "Standard Payment Request and Beneficiary's Certificate" Annex Fin3 "Consolidated Cost Statement for the Project" Annex Fin4 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects"FHNPD Annex Fin5 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects"BEKE Annex Fin6 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects"BfNPD Annex Fin7 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects"FÁNK Annex Fin8 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects"FÁNK Annex Fin9 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects"KAPOSVÁR (Annex Fin10 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects"KAPOSVÁR (Annex Fin11 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects"MADÁRVILÁG Annex Fin12 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects"MAVIR Annex Fin13 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects"MILVUS Annex Fin14 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects"MME

Annex Fin15 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects"NIMFEA Annex Fin16 "Beneficiary's Certificate for Nature Projects" ÖNPD Annex Fin17 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement"FHNPD Annex Fin18 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement" BEKE Annex Fin19 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement"BfNPD Annex Fin20 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement" EPASM Annex Fin21 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement"FÁNK Annex Fin22 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement"KAPOSVÁR Annex Fin23 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement"KNPD Annex Fin24 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement" MADÁRVILÁG Annex Fin25 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement" MAVIR Annex Fin26 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement"MILVUS Annex Fin27 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement"MME Annex Fin28 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement"NIMFEA Annex Fin29 "Beneficiary's Individual Cost Statement" ÖNPD Annex Fin30 VAT declaration of FHNPD Annex Fin31 VAT declaration of BEKE Annex Fin32 VAT declaration of BfNPD Annex Fin33 VAT declaration of EPASM Annex Fin34 VAT declaration of FÁNK Annex Fin35 VAT declaration of KAPOSVÁR **Annex Fin36** VAT declaration of KNPD Annex Fin37 VAT declaration of MILVUS Annex Fin38 VAT declaration of MME Annex Fin39 VAT declaration of NIMFEA Annex Fin40 VAT declaration of ÖNPD