



## Project Partners



### **Deliverable: Action Plan for Bird Crime**

Action C.4: Combating bird crime in the project areas

LIFE13/NAT/CY/000176 "Improving lowland forest habitats for Birds in Cyprus"

Nikos Kassinis, Game and Fauna Service

Nicosia, March 2017

## ACTION C.4

### Combating bird crime in the project areas

#### DELIVERABLE: Action Plan for Birdcrime

##### *LIFE-FORBIRDS: Improving lowland forest habitats for Birds in Cyprus*

###### Project Data

<b>Project location</b>	Kavo Gkreko (CY3000005), Koshi - Pallourokampos (CY6000009), Stavrovouni – Potamos Panagias Stazousas (CY6000007)
<b>Project start date:</b>	01/10/2014
<b>Project end date:</b>	31/12/2017
<b>Total budget</b>	978.718 €
<b>EC contribution:</b>	489.359 € (50%)
<b>(%) of eligible costs</b>	100%

###### Beneficiary Data

<b>Name of Beneficiary</b>	Department of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment
<b>Contact person</b>	Mr Takis Tsintides
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<b>Project Website</b>	<a href="http://www.lifeforbirds.eu">http://www.lifeforbirds.eu</a>

Beneficiary responsible for implementation:

Department of Forests



with the support of all consortium members



## **Action Plan with suggestions to more specific measures and/or modifications and improvements to foreseen measures Action C4: «Combating bird crime in the project areas»**

Bird trapping, targeting primarily migratory warblers and to a lesser degree, wintering thrushes, is a serious conservation issue, particularly on the eastern part of Cyprus. The use of mistnets and limesticks as the means of this illegal activity results in the non-selective capture and killing of hundreds of protected species.

Eradication of the illegal trapping of birds is a time-consuming process, and it will take some time to educate and inform the public in the right direction, but it is only a matter of time in combination with the existing perseverance, strict law enforcement and public awareness for the rule of law to prevail. Bird trapping is among the most serious types of bird crime, that the project LIFE-FORBIRDS is trying to tackle.

After the 5<sup>th</sup> Consultation Committee Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2016, the Project Management Team (PMT) met January 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss project actions and relevant progress. Project conservation Action C4 has a 2-fold purpose: a) law enforcement and b) public awareness. Given the encouraging results as presented at the Consultation Committee against bird crime for a reduction in poaching activities in the 3 sites, the PMT felt that the more pressing need is to do more in terms of broadcasting the importance of nature protection, wildlife conservation and most importantly, the threats wildlife is facing, particularly in the form of bird trapping. At the same time, law enforcement-related practices foreseen through the project, will continue, especially during migration periods.

These additional activities will be complementary to Action E1 (Public awareness and dissemination of results).

### **Suggested Modifications and adjustments to project activities / proposal of additional activities that need to be taken to improve efforts towards combating bird crime.**

Proposed new activities:

1. Construction and placement of a giant billboard next to the Larnaca - Nicosia Motorway (adjacent to Koshi SPA). The message on the billboard will be constructive towards nature conservation, wildlife protection and against the



illegal bird trapping in a non-offending way. The communication expert will be consulted before the final message/image is designed and finalized.

2. Investigate the possibility of placing a “pro-nature conservation/against bird crime” message on the tourist buses of Ammochostos district, especially Agia Napa-Protaras area where the bulk of tourism visits during the summer period. The area is visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists annually and this will be broadcasted to a significant part of tourist Cyprus receives every year. Also this will put pressure on local business and society not to “tolerate” these illegal actions.
3. Increased frequency of TV spots broadcasting. Even though the 2 TV spots have been broadcasted by public TV (Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation or CYBC/RIK), it is the opinion of the PMT that additional time can be bought for more broadcasting so the positive conservation messages given, to reach the general public, even more.
4. There is a current discussion, between the Game and Fauna Service and a Cinema chain business (K-CINEPLEX) for broadcasting the TV spots before each movie. This will reach thousands of people, mostly of younger age, in all districts with a relatively small fee.
5. Produce pen /pencils, other advertising material with a clear message on it against bird trapping.
6. Produce an A5-sized flier that will be distributed through mail to all households in selected municipalities of the project areas. The message will be pro wildlife conservation and against bird crime, in a positive constructive way.
7. Increase number of lectures in public primary schools of the districts of Ammochostos and Larnaca, especially in areas near or adjacent to the three Natura 2000 project sites.