



Project Partners



Deliverable: Project's Conservation Monitoring Protocol

Action D1: Monitoring the impact of concrete conservation actions

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

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ACTION D.1

Monitoring the impact of concrete conservation actions

DELIVERABLE: Project's Conservation Monitoring Protocol

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

Project Data

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

Beneficiary Data

Name of Beneficiary	Department of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
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Project Website	http://www.lifeforbirds.eu

Beneficiary responsible for implementation:

Department of Forests



FREDERICK UNIVERSITY CYPRUS

natureconservationunit



with the support of all consortium members

Conservation Monitoring Protocol – Action D.1

Action D.1 of the project *LIFE-FORBIRDS: Improving lowland forest habitats for birds in Cyprus LIFE13 NAT/CY/000176*) is designed to assess the effectiveness of the concrete conservation actions as compared to the objectives of the project and to each Action's particular objective. Part of this action is the preparation of the *Conservation Monitoring Protocol*, which will follow the comparison of the ongoing project's status and the initial situation prior to the commencement of the project. The *Conservation Monitoring Protocol* was prepared with the contribution of an Ornithologist on aspects of bird monitoring and was assessed and approved by the Scientific Committee (SCo) during its first meeting in Cyprus (March 2015 – Action F.2). After its approval it was distributed to all partners.

The Protocol includes and describes the following (Table 1):

- the indicators for monitoring the impact of the project's concrete conservation actions on the status of the targeted bird species and habitat types,
- Sources of information that will be used for monitoring each indicator,
- Methods/procedures/techniques of the monitoring process,
- Assessment criteria for each indicator,
- the assessment criteria for each indicator,
- Time-frame for the assessment of each indicator and
- Target numbers (where applicable) for each indicator and for the different phases of the project.

These monitoring indicators will allow the Project Management Team (PMT) and the SCo either to confirm the adequacy of the developed means to address the specific problems and threats, or to question these means and alternatively develop new ones. The SCo in all of its meetings will review the progress achieved towards fulfilling each of the monitoring indicators and will provide its scientific guidance so that the monitoring of the impact of the project on the targeted habitats is implemented according to the Conservation Monitoring Protocol.

Table 1: Monitoring Indicators and relevant information

Conservation Action and Responsible Beneficiary*	Monitoring Indicator	Information Sources	Assessment Criteria	Monitoring Procedure	Time-frame for the Assessment	Foreseeable Target Numbers (where applicable)	Responsibility for Evaluation*
C.1: Creation of traditional agricultural fields (DF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Diversity of bird species visiting the fields ii. Total number of birds visiting the fields iii. Number of target species visiting the fields 	<p>(i, ii, iii)</p> <p>On site observations/counting</p> <p>Field cameras</p>	<p>(i, ii, iii)</p> <p>Comparison with corresponding numbers of birds in selected neighboring plots</p>	<p>(i, ii, iii)</p> <p>Field observation / counting</p>	<p>Twice a year starting from 2016, 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. April – June for breeding birds b. August – September for migratory species 	<p>100 % difference in fields in all indicators</p>	<p>GFS, DF, (SCo)</p> <p>The role of each partner to be agreed</p>
C.2: Improvement of water, food and nesting conditions (DF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Percentage of successfully occupied nesting boxes ii. Number of birds visiting weir, cereal fields and watering points iii. Number of target species visiting weir, cereal fields and water points 	<p>(i, ii, iii)</p> <p>On site observations/counting</p> <p>Field cameras</p>	<p>(i, ii, iii)</p> <p>Comparison with corresponding numbers of birds in selected neighboring plots</p>	<p>(i, ii, iii)</p> <p>Field observation / counting</p>	<p>Twice a year starting from 2016, 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. April – June for breeding birds b. August – September for migratory species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 20 % by end of 2016, 30 % by 2017 ii & iii : 100 % difference in fields in all indicators 	<p>GFS, DF, (SCo)</p>

Conservation Action and Responsible Beneficiary*	Monitoring Indicator	Information Sources	Assessment Criteria	Monitoring Procedure	Time-frame for the Assessment	Foreseeable Target Numbers (where applicable)	Responsibility for Evaluation*
C.3: Removal of alien plant species and restoration of indigenous vegetation (DF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Invasive/alien plants dead/removed ii. Survivors after treatment iii. New area of the site free of invasive species iv. Restored area of each targeted natural habitat type v. Newly established plants characteristic of targeted habitats 	Field / site information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Number of dead stems of invasive species ii. Number of survived stems after treatment iii. Surface in m² free of invasive species iv. Surface in m² with restored habitats v. Number of new plantlets established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Count of dead stems in the field ii. Count of survived stems iii. Mapping of area with GPS iv. Mapping of area with GPS v. Measuring number of established plantlets 	End of each year of project implementation 2016, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 6000 invasive/alien plants dead/removed ii. Below 10% of survivors after each treatment iii. About 6 ha of new area free of invasive / annual iv. Restoration of habitats over an area of 6 ha v. Establishment of 5.000 new plantlets of indigenous species 	DF, (SCo)
C.4: Combating bird crime in the project areas (GFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Illegal bird trapping incidents per year in all three project sites ii. Awareness on damage caused by illegal bird trapping iii. Area of Koshi inaccessible to vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Last 5 years inventory records of GFS ii. Questionnaire iii. Maps / on site observations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Number of prosecutions per year per site or number of limesticks and mist-nets confiscated ii. Percentage of local population informed iii. Percentage of forest land free of vehicular access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. GFS records ii. Carrying out questionnaire iii. Mapping the area free of vehicle access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. End of each year ii. One questionnaire in spring 2016 and one near the end of project iii. End of 2016, 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reduction of 30% ii. Improvement of population awareness at 50 % iii. 20% increase of area free of vehicles 	DF, GFS, (SCo)