(Projects submitting final reports after 1 January 2014 must use this format.)

LIFE Project Number

LIFE10NAT/HU/000020

MIDTERM Report

Covering the project activities from 01/09/2011 to 31/12/2015

Reporting Date

<18/04/2016>

LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym

Conservation of priority natural values in Turjánvidék Natura 2000 site southern unit

Project Data

Project location	Hungary
Project start date:	01/09/2011
Project end date:	31/08/2016 **Extension date:** -
Total Project duration (in months)	60 months (including **Extension of - months**)
Total budget	2 730 102 €
Total eligible budget	
EU contribution:	2 047 577 €
(%) of total costs	75%
(%) of eligible costs	

Beneficiary Data

Name Beneficiary	Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate
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1. List of contents

List of abbreviations

DINPD – Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate

MoD DEB – Ministry of Defence Defence Economic Bureau

BFC –Budapest Forestry Company

WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature Hungary

MoA – Ministry of Agriculture

EC – European Commission

SAC – Special Area for Conservation

SR – shooting range

NCA – nature conservation area

PA – partnership agreement

IR – inception report

PR – progress report

MTR – midterm report

HD – Habitats Directive

CMP – Conservation Management Plan

IAS - Invasive Alien Species

2. Executive Summary (maximum 5 pages)

Between 01.09.2011 and 31.08.2016. in *"Conservation of priority natural values in Turjánvidék Natura 2000 site southern unit" LIFE+ project*, *Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, Ministry of Defence, Defence Economic Bureau, Budapest Forestry Company* and *WWF Hungary* aim the conservation and state improvement of the natural assets in the southern unit of *'Turjánvidék' SAC*, which is one of the most extensive, continuous humid and sand habitat systems of the Middle Hungarian Region. Sand steppes, juniper-poplar forests, alder-ash forests, bog meadows and Molinia meadows are present here with outstanding numbers of protected plant and animal species (e.g. flagship species Hungarian Meadow Viper).

One serious **conservation problem** of the area is the *shortage of water (Threat 1.)*. Draining, the construction of channels and the effect of the decreasing amount of precipitation altered significantly the natural water conditions of the area, which resulted in the notable decline of ground water level and the temporal and spatial decrease of surface water cover.

Another characteristic conservation problem here is the *spread of alien species (Threat 2.)*. Habitats are infected with non-indigenous species in several locations. Their populations can be found mainly wedged between and on the borders of natural habitats.

The most adequate management in the habitats of the seriously endangered Hungarian Meadow Viper is grazing. However, its habitat was managed by *intensive mowing* in our project area which had rather negative effect on the viper population *(Threat 3.)*.

In spite of the military presence in the project area, several ways of *illegal area use* can be observed here like unauthorised access with quads, motorbikes, stealing timber, waste deposition, etc. (*Threat 4.)*.

Lack of information on this precious area is a characteristic phenomenon regarding even the locals and military users, as well as conservation professionals. If they don't know about the natural assets of the area, they cannot protect them (*Threat 5.)*.

To address the threats above, we took the following **measures** and expect the **results** below:

Threat 1.: For the increase of ground water level and to store surface water in the area for a longer period in the droughty years, *a complex water retention plan* was elaborated (**Action A2**). Based on this, *17 larger water management objects* (for water control, retention and recovery) *are constructed.* Of these 3 are completed and operates (**Action C4**), 14 are under permission process by water authorities. This serves primarily the *conservation of the fragmented and dried-out remnants of alder-ash gallery forests (88 ha)*, however, it contributes also to the optimal water conditions of the habitats of the whole 'Turjánvidék' Natura 2000 site.

Threat 2.: With *gentle chemical treatment* we *eradicated invasive plant species in sand steppes and sand dune thickets (1172 ha* – **Action C1***)* and *changed the non-indigenous plantations* wedged between or spreading aggressively on the borders of native ones *into native forests (42 ha* – **Action C2***)*. Thus a significant core area developed, where the repeated infection is of low probability. *Alien species were eliminated from alder-ash gallery forests* (*51 ha + 15 ha Russian olive removal*) *with gentle techniques*, too, and in the place of hybrid black poplar, *plantation of ash* took place (*2 ha* – **Action C3**). In case of IAS management only the post-treatment is in progress. In forest regeneration the nursing activities take place presently.

Threat 3.: For the protection of the *Hungarian Meadow Viper*, the size of its *habitat was extended through the conversion of arable lands into grasslands* in **Action C5** (*on 55 ha alfalfa was sown + 19.1 arable land was purchased in* **Action B1** - *and re-grassed*), and the *change of two non-indigenous plantation patches into meadows (30 ha)* is planned – **Action**

C6. *We introduced cattle grazing instead of intensive mowing* as optimal viper habitat management *on 573 ha* altogether (**Action C5**).

Threat 4.: To prevent illegal access to the area, numerous *dirt roads were closed by crossing gates (41 pcs).* We *eliminated also an illegal sand pit (1.3 ha*) – **Action C7.**

Threat 5.: To draw attention on our project, we created the *project brand* **(Action D2)**, set up the *website* of the program (*visitor number* is over 37,397 - **Action D1)**, compiled a project *brochure (3500 pcs* - **Action D4)**, produced *promotion material (3800 pcs* - **Action D2)**, raised *information boards (7 pcs* - **Action D3)**, *shoot a film* **(Action D7)** etc. When the project launched, we held a *press conference* to provide information on the valuable habitats and the aim of the project and at the end, we will present the project results again for the wide audience **(Action D7)**. Once a year, *schoolchildren of the region* could visit a safe part of the military area on a *'Green Day'* and got acquainted with its natural values and the project actions (*5 occasions, 3 are held so far* - **Action D5)**. A *project-thematic DINPD newsletter* was issued *(5000 pcs* - **Action D7).**

For the military users of the shooting range we organised *2 trainings* to present the area from the conservation viewpoint. We prepare a *soldier's field card* showing the natural value zones on a map to protect them easily during manoeuvres (*2000 pcs*). As a base of the above mentioned tasks, the *conservation management plan of the shooting range* was *updated and simplified* (also will be issued on *CD-ROM in 300 pcs* - **Action D6).**

To disseminate the results also for professionals, a *volume on Turjánvidék Natura 2000 site* is edited. We shared information on our project site and results also at *scientific conferences (8 publications/posters/presentations* - **Action D9).**

The know-how on *defence against invasive species* was collected, best practices were presented in *1 national professional forum. (1 international professional forum* will be held and *thematic WWF booklet for laymen (1000 copies) will be issued in 2016* - **Action D9).**

Management monitoring took place to exactly document the effects of habitat management (in *32 sample areas*) and *biodiversity monitoring* was carried out to survey the effects of management on biodiversity (*survey on Hungarian Meadow Viper, Arthropoda taxa,* 17,798 *GIS records on flora and fauna were collected*, etc. - **Action E2).**

On the results of the project we will issue a *Layman's report* **(Action D10)**. An *After-LIFE conservation management plan* will be compiled to safeguard the improved natural status of the area, which is provided by the results of our project **(Action E3).**

Our project is progressing well. Some of the actions have been fulfilled even with extra content. Action A2 is delayed and as a consequence the construction of water management objects in Táborfalva can be carried out by 31.10.2016. (Action C4). In Action D6 the compilation of the simplified CMP of the SR took more time than foreseen. However, the development of the training material, the trainings for the military users were accomplished and the soldier's field card will be also issued within the original project duration. All our project aims are still viable.

Our project results will be sustainable, which will be officially guaranteed by the After- LIFE CMP.

Parts of the report:

1. *List of contents:* The content of 2MTR of the HUTURJAN project is listed by page numbers.
2. *Executive summary:* Brief and consistent description of the HUTURJAN project (threats, objectives, measures taken, outcomes)
3. *Introduction:* Introductory part for the HUTURJAN project
4. *Administrative part:* Description of beneficiaries and project management and its evaluation
5. *Technical part:* The technical achievements of the project are described action by action in this chapter, with special regards to the dissemination activities
6. *Comments on the financial report*: Summarising financial tables and descriptions of financial management in the project
7. *Annexes:* All the annexes relevant to the project
8. *Financial report and annexes:* financial report and annexes relevant for the HUTURJAN project are displayed in here

3. Introduction (1 page)

Description of background, problem and objectives:

The *overall objective* of the project is the improvement of the natural state of the southern part of 'Turjánvidék' Natura 2000 site, which comprises 7300 ha. In the humid territories Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) (91E0), Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) (6410), Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the Cnidion dubii (6440), Alkaline fens (7230) and in the drier sand areas a mosaic of Pannonic sand steppes (6260) and Pannonic inland sand dune thickets (91N0) can be found, and these are of outstanding conservation value. In the area we can find: 4 Natura 2000 plant species of community importance, 9 strictly protected, 74 protected plant species; 20 Natura 2000 animal species of community importance (Hungarian Meadow Viper is of priority importance), 15 strictly protected, 118 protected and 24 red data book animal species.

Threats to be targeted by the project:

- water shortage of the area
- spread of invasive plant species
- inadequate habitat management for the Hungarian Meadow Viper
- lack of information in stakeholder groups (military users, locals, conservation professionals, etc.)

Specific objectives of the project are:

1. to improve the water conditions of the above-mentioned area
2. to decrease drastically the amount of the invasive plant species here
3. to change area use from mechanical mowing to cattle grazing in Hungarian Meadow Viper habitats
4. to disseminate information on the natural assets and their conservation to various groups (military users, conservation professionals, local people, laymen, children)

Socio-economic context:

The southern edge of Pest County is one of with the lowest living standards in Hungary. Those parts of the project area which are closer to town Dabas (which already belong to the agglomeration of Budapest) have higher living standards. Cutting operations, forestation and nursing were carried out by local companies providing employment possibilities for many local people.

Expected longer term results:

With the use of the water management objects a more favourable water supply can be provided for the Natura 2000 habitats and species on the long run. The cca. 100% elimination of the invasive plant species from the managed areas results a large core area where alien species have difficulty to colonise again. The native forests planted in the place of alien plantations will highly contribute to this long term result. The shift from mowing to cattle grazing in the Hungarian Meadow Viper habitats is guaranteed by a declaration on respecting the conservation management requirements (signed by the leaseholders) on the long term. IAS management, transformation of IAS plantations to native forests, re-grassing, the shift from mowing to grazing and water retention are carried out in 100% of the areas originally planned. The project website can be visited even after the project ends and it conveys information on the project site and results. The boards remain in their place and also distribute project information. The conservation materials for the military users can be used for a long term as well. The possibility of the free visit of the nature trail in the safe part of the military SR is further advertised on our webpage and gives opportunity to get to know the natural assets of the project area.

4. Administrative part (maximum 3 pages)

4.1 Description of the management system

Participants of HUTURJAN project are:
Coordinating beneficiary: The ***Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate*** was founded in 1997. Its area of responsibility lies in the central part of Hungary, including the Duna-Ipoly National Park, 8 landscape protection areas and 30 nature conservation areas. Natura 2000 areas cover nearly 250,000 ha, and among the areas managed by the Directorate there is one with European Diploma, as well as several Ramsar areas and forest reserves.
DINPD is the conservation management organisation of the project area.

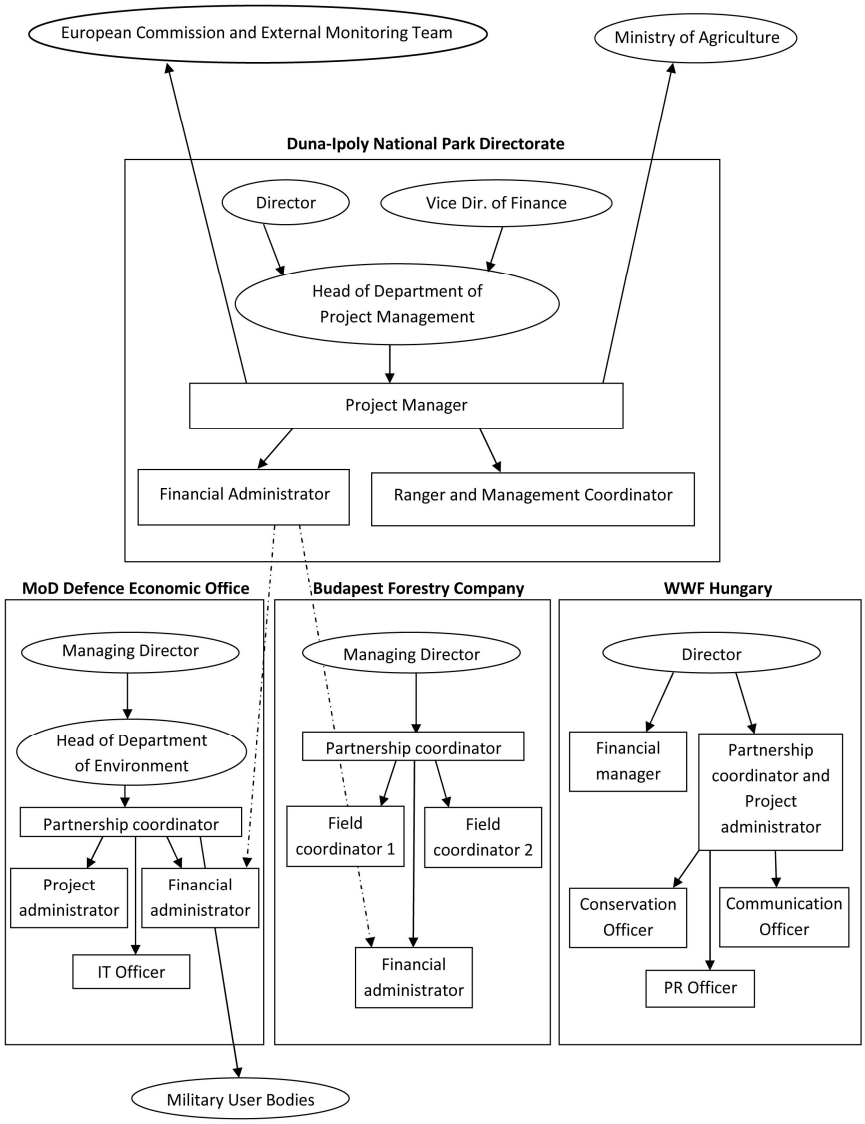
Associated beneficiaries:
Ministry of Defence, Defence Economic Bureau is a background institution for the Hungarian Defence Forces specialized for completing tasks related to the accommodation conditions, the environmental, administrative and residential needs of organizations governed and controlled directly by the Minister of Defence besides the operation, representation and development of immovable used by them. The MoD DEB operating directly under the direction of the General Director is responsible for the nature conservation and environment affairs at MoD. Lawmaking, comprehensive and operational management of environmental affairs and execution of EU-financed projects have top priority among the general scope of duties.
MoD DEB is the property manager of the Táborfalva SR.
Budapest Forestry Company is a 100% public institution under the Ministry of Agriculture, whose aim is the coordination of military activities with forest, game management and agricultural activities. Established in 1993, the company has been active, in accordance with its business profile, in the following fields: forest and game management, marketing in tourism, maintenance of community recreational installations and protected geological and natural values, conservation of the natural and cultural heritage.
The Dabas Forestry Directorate of the company works on an area of about 10,000 ha.
BFC is the special manager of the Táborfalva SR.
WWF Hungary is a non-profit organisation and launched its office in 1991. With regard to its nature conservation goals, the organisation focuses on forests, rivers, wetlands, extensive land use, the conservation of some endangered species, as well as general environmental problems. The main goal of WWF Hungary is to improve the ecological status of species and habitats in Hungary and to contribute to that goal on European level.
WWF is responsible for communication actions in the project.
All partners have previous experience in LIFE project implementation.

The **initial phase** of the project dated from 01.09.2011. (project start date) to 22.02.2012 (PA is put into force). In this period the major part of the personnel of the project was recruited, most of the equipment needed for the project implementation was purchased and the system of partners' cooperation was elaborated. The translation of English reporting forms and data sheets of LIFE were implemented together with the translation of the whole project proposal into Hungarian to help all the project personnel and responsible persons.

For the implementation of former HUNSTEPPICOAKS project, we rented an office in Nagykőrös (Nagykőrös, Lőrinc pap utca 3.), which we use further for the management of HUTURJAN project. (For a photo of office see IR Annex 5.1.24.-1.)

The PA regulates the detailed technical, administrative and financial cooperation between the partners. It was completed and supervised by all partners and was signed by their responsible leaders on 22.02.2012. For PA see IR Annex 4.3. on CD.
The list of the personnel presently working in HUTURJAN project is provided in Annex 4.1.1.

Organigram of the project:



The project is implemented through the continuous cooperation of the project personnel of all partners. Everyday conversations via telephone and e-mail are the most characteristic (to be environment friendly and achieve cost and time efficiency). The project manager directly contacts with the project coordinators of the partners in most cases.

However, if more issues to discuss are collected, workshops are held, with the participation of stakeholder parties. If field negotiations are needed, those are organised and carried out. Regarding the latter activity, asking for entry permits to the SR is a permanent task (The project manager asks for entry permits through MoD DEB, and Bakony Combat Centre issues the permits).
The information-flow on project-related issues is always mutual between the coordinating beneficiary and the associated beneficiaries. It is the project manager who is responsible for the management of these processes.
We summoned a kick-off project meeting on 11.11.2011. (photo in 1MTR Annex 4.1.2.)

Now we are in the **second phase** of the project. (The **third phase** will be the final stage between the last month of project duration and the subsequent 3 months until the final report is submitted.)

In a letter dated 29.07.2015, the EC provisionally accepted that the water management objects of Táborfalva SR can be only completed by 31.10.2016. For this reason, the postponement of the original project end date is necessary, proposed project end date: 31.12.2016. (The formal amendment request will be submitted by 31.05.2016.)

We held common annual project workshops where the results achieved and the project plans for the given year are negotiated with project partners on 09.01.2013. and 06.02.2014 (for photos see 1MTR Annex 4.1.3.,4) As for planning, we compile annual workplans for each project year. (The signed document for 2012 is attached in IR Annex 5.1.24.-3., for 2013 see PR Annex 5.1.24.-3, for 2014 1MTR Annex 4.1.5. on CD and for 2015 Annex 4.1.2. on CD.)

A public tendering expert is hired for the project by MoD DEB to assist public tendering procedures (for the contract see Annex 1PR 5.1.24.-4.).
We have delivered the IR on 08.06.2012 and 1st PR on 07.06.2013, see Annex 4.1.3.,4. on CD.
We submitted the 1MTR on 23.01.2015 (see Annex 4.1.5. on CD).

In most cases the project manager communicates by e-mail with EC representative Mr László Bécsy Technical Desk Officer through our monitoring expert Mr András Kovács. With our monitoring expert we communicate via e-mail or telephone (in general and technical questions the project manager, in detailed administrative and financial questions the administrative and financial coordinator of DINPD). Major cases regarding the change of the content of the project are presented to him in e-mail and after we wait for the permit from the EC. Astrale-GEIE external monitor, Andrej Bača visited our project on 03.05.2012. (a photo is enclosed in 1MTR Annex 4.2.3.) The external monitoring team (Mr Bent Jepsen and Mr András Kovács) visited our project on 29-30.04.2013. (For this occasion photos are enclosed in 1MTR Annex 4.2.4.) and on 16-17.07.2014 Mr András Kovács visited us again (photo in 1MTR Annex 4.2.5.).
The representatives of the European Commission (Mr László Bécsy and Ms Paivi Rauma) and the external monitoring team (Mr. András Kovács) visited our project on 14-15.04.2015. On the first day the achievements of the project were presented in the main office of DINPD in Budapest as well as administrative and financial documents of the project were supervised. On the second day they visited the project area where project results were also presented. (For a photo see Annex 4.1.6., the lists of participants are enclosed in Annex 4.1.7., 8).

4.2 Evaluation of the management system

The elaborated management system (See Point 4.1.) provides us a smooth project implementation through the regular correspondence between the partner organisations and the external monitoring team (and the European Commission).

In the project management process we faced one major problem: and it was the late submission of the administrative and financial reports of two partners. As several of the monthly reports arrived delayed and at the same time, their elaboration caused serious difficultly to the staff of DINPD. This hindered the payment of the amounts spent on the project by certain partners and highly contributed to the postponement of the submission of the 1st MTR. The partners in question were officially asked to respect the regulations of the PA regarding the monthly submission of the reports and they did so.
For the detailed description of previous problems and their solutions see 1MTR Point 4.2.

5. Technical part (maximum 50 pages)

5.1. Technical progress, per task

5.1.1. ACTION A1 - Preparation of forest habitat management

Action status: ongoing
Responsible partner: BFC
Description of the results achieved so far:
Negotiations with the Forestry Directorate of Government Office of Pest County have been held from the end of 2011. Forest planners of this competent authority launched the new forest management plan preparation in field, from the end of May, 2012.
Negotiations with the forestry authority were held by each forest compartment, where BFC and DINPD also participated. Forest management plans valid from 2013 to 2022 were compiled and endorsed by the competent forestry authority at the beginning of May, 2013 (for two of these see 1MTR Annex 5.1.1.-1). All the forest compartments of the project area were subjects of this planning process and the conservation management tasks foreseen in our program were incorporated as well. Former HUNSTEPPICOAKS project showed that the success of gentle forest reconstruction under our extreme site and weather conditions is dubious. For this reason, in the planning phase we used the possibilities provided by the applicable forestry legislation to decrease these areas.
Planning of the exact timing and spatial distribution of invasive management and discussion on technologies took place from the launch of the project.
The Hungarian Road Management Company gave its permission for the invasive elimination in the area in its property management (2 m wide zones in both sides of roads within the project area affected by invasive repress).
Conservation management works are planned in details at the beginning of each year and included in the annual workplan of the project.

The Law for public tendering changed in summer, 2013 and as a consequence of the new regulations 3 public tendering procedures were carried out by BFC (with the guidance of the external public tendering expert company of our project) in 2014 to charge companies with the forestry works of 2014: forest regeneration - forest nursing; repress of herbaceous invasive plant species and repress of arboreal invasive plant species. (Public tendering documentation of 2014 is available on the CD in 1MTR Annex 5.1.1.-2.)
In 2015, 3 public tendering procedures (forest nursing, repress of arboreal and repress of herbaceous invasive plant species) were carried out again by BFC (with the guidance of the external public tendering expert company of our project) to charge companies for 2015. For public tendering documentation see Annex 5.1.1.1 on CD.

Outputs (BFC):
- forest management plans for 2013-2022 for the compartments of the project area which are managed as forests, incorporating the tasks of HUTURJAN LIFE+ project
- the new forest management plans are permits for the implementation of nature conservation management works of this project
- forest habitat management works are planned and prepared in details

Time schedule: on time (deadline: 31.03.2016.)
Problems: no
Modifications: no

5.1.2. ACTION A2 - Preparation of water supply regulation

Action status: ongoing
Responsible partner: DINPD
Description of the results achieved so far:
We contacted with representatives of water management authorities and made field trips to the sites of future water retention from winter, 2012 to collect information on the present state.

In Táborfalva SR:
Our field coordinator could have joined our project in January, 2012. In the southern part of Turjánvidék Natura 2000 area DINPD practically had no field experts before. Thus it took a longer time for the field coordinator to get the efficient information on the area by himself and we could launch Action A2 only after that. The supervision of the compilation of the water retention drafts supposes well-founded conservation knowledge of the area. The development of the basic contact with the Táborfalva Military Base also required time, as this body is not a project partner (our partner is MoD DEB, which is a ministry organisation). The above mentioned facts and the long public tendering procedures contributed to the delay of this action.
We hired a geodesic expert to measure the heights of main points to provide a foundation for the detailed geodesic survey and water level modelling (26.04.2013.). For photos please see 1MTR Annex 5.1.2.-1.
We launched a negotiation with the external public tendering expert of our project on the public tendering procedures on water retention planning on 25.11.2013. For drafting the water retention in Táborfalva SR one procedure was launched. It contained two separate sub-procedures: one for the geodesic survey and one for the drafting tasks. The first sub-procedure was summarized on 16.09.2014 and the second one on 25.07.2014. For the contracts see 1MTR Annex 5.1.2.-2,3, for the complete public tendering documentation see 1MTR Annex 5.1.2.-4. on CD.
The detailed geodesic survey on the SR was completed by 26.10.2014. For the results see a map in 1MTR Annex 5.1.2.-5.

A negotiation with the military users (with the participation of the charged architect) on the water retention of the SR took place in Székesfehérvár (14.10.2014.) in the headquarters of Joint Forces Command. The next negotiation in field was held on 27.10.2014. with the military users again, with the participation of BFC and the charged architect. The main topic was to determine the quantity and location of the retained water, which can be accepted from the military training point of view. Our concept was discussed with the water management authority on 20.11.2014. The draft plans were presented by the architect on 02.04.2015 and 28.05.2015. To discuss the draft plans in field, a trip was again organised with the military users on 03.03.2015 and 27.04.2015. The application for water rights implementation permit for a hydrologic engineering project was submitted to the National Organisation for Rescue Services, Ministry of Interior on 09.06.2015 (for the document see Annex 5.1.2.1. on CD). Also the draft for construction was compiled, see Annex 5.1.2.2. on CD. The completion of documents was later required by the authority. For the detailed register of the procedures in the drafting and permitting procedure (with dates) please see Annex 5.1.2.3. on CD. As the authority did not issued the permit until the foreseen date, the contract with the planning company had to be modified two times (see Annex 5.1.2.4, 5. on CD) The authority hasn't issued the permit yet.
Soil mechanic survey was also carried out in the future locations of the water management objects (between 01.03.2015 and 01.04.2015).

Regarding the draft itself, following the geodesic survey, the concept plan of water retention in the SR (described in the project proposal) had to be supervised. It proposed to develop two sluices on Channel XX. However, it turned out that the direct drive of surface water to the Hungarian meadow viper habitat is obstructed by sand hills of significant height between the water providing Channel XX and the main viper habitats. That is why the construction of one of the sluices here was cancelled in the revised plan.
Cca. 25 km long Channel XX is the main channel in the vicinity of the SR. In the process of planning sluices built in this channel, several effects of the water retention rose, which are far beyond the scope of the project. Although the complex modification of the water retention effect of Channel XX remains a priority conservation goal on landscape level, in the present project the other foreseen sluice will be built in Channel XX/a.
The content of the revised plan submitted to the authority is the following:

- Reconstruction of an old sluice at the end of the drainage system, on Channel XX/a, just before it falls into Channel XX.
- Three sluices to the intersections of three main branches of the drainage system and a military dirt road.
- 10 smaller regulated water locks on the main branches and sub-branches of the drainage system.
- Several earth made, unregulated, permanent water locks in the ditches along military dirt roads.

With the construction if these elements we will achieve the same water retention goal as described in the project proposal. For an updated map see Annex 5.1.2.6.

In Dabas Turjános NCA:
Middle Danube Valley Inspectorate for Environment, Conservation and Water kept us waiting for the reply for the application of water rights implementation permit for a hydrologic engineering project for two years. This authority started to ask for the completion of documents only in Autumn, 2012. The water rights implementation permit for hydrologic engineering was issued finally on 16.12.2013. (see 1MTR Annexes 5.1.2.-10,11). The duration of the public tendering procedures was also extended after our project proposal had been compiled. The procedure was summarized on 15.09.2014. and included the compilation of the final construction drawing for the water retention of Dabas Turjános NCA, together with the construction works. The complete public tendering documentation is available on the CD in 1MTR Annex 5.1.2.-4. For the signed contract and its modification see 1MTR Annex 5.1.2.-12,13 on CD).
The contract with the winner company was signed on 26.09.2014. The company asked immediately for the modification of the contract as the period was too short to carry out its tasks by the given deadlines. Based on the water rights implementation permit for hydrologic engineering the construction works can be carried out between 15th August to 31st October in a certain year. (Due to the temporal restrictions to protect the nesting birds and the hibernating amphibians and reptiles.)
The compilation of construction drawing was carried out by 15.12.2014. (For the final construction drawing see Annex 5.1.2.7. on CD.)

Outputs (DINPD):
1 permitted final construction draft for Dabas Turjános NCA
contract for construction works in Dabas Turjános NCA (for Action C4)
Time schedule:
Táborfalva SR: original deadline: 31.03.2014

planned new deadline: 31.03.2016.

Dabas Turjános NCA: last deadline accepted by EC: 30.06.2014
planned new deadline and completed: 15.12.2014.
Consequences for other actions: Action C4 is also delayed
Problems: yes
The extra long duration of the public procurement procedure, the more negotiations with the military users than foreseen and the fact that the permitting procedure of the water rights implementation permit for a hydrologic engineering project has been considerably longer than foreseen resulted in the delay of this action.
Modifications: There will be more and smaller water management objects than foreseen in the proposal (Táborfalva SR). (Instead of 5 there will be 4 medium size and 10 smaller ones constructed, 14 pcs altogether.)

5.1.3. ACTION A.3: Munition treatment planning

Action status: completed
Responsible partner: DINPD
Description of the results achieved so far:
The areas affected by the future munition treatment in Action C8 (subjects of the munition treatment plan) were designated (for its map please see IR Annex 5.1.3.-1.). These were the areas of forest reconstruction (42 ha+4.5 ha), the sites of the future water management objects (0.05 ha) and the area of the illegal sand pit (2 ha). The contract with the selected company was signed on 18.05.2012. (for the contract please see IR Annex 5.1.3.-2.). In all processes MoD DEB was drawn in, as responsible partner for the munition treatment. Photos on the sampling of the area and a munition found are in 1MTR Annex 5.1.3.-1,2. The munition treatment plan was compiled by 29.08.2012. The plan is made up of the following sections: historical overview on the use of the SR, results of the fieldwork, results of the sampling activities, estimating the contamination of the soil, suggested methods of munition treatment, technical specifications, corresponding legislation, estimated time and budget needed for the activity.
For the munition treatment plan please see 1PR Annex 5.1.3.-1.

The first period of the munition treatment took place in spring, 2015 (see Point 5.1.12.).

Outputs (DINPD): Munition treatment plan is compiled.
Time schedule: original deadline 31.05.2012, completed: 29.08.2012.
Problems: no
Modifications: no

5.1.4. ACTION B.1: Land purchase in the administrative area of Dabas

Action status: completed
Responsible partner: DINPD
Description of the results achieved so far:
On the 19.1 ha large ploughland (plot numbers: 0946/15, 0946/16 in the administrative area of Dabas, for its photo and map see 1MTR Annex 5.1.4.-1.,2) we had the preliminary value assessment compiled in November, 2011 (the complete document is in IR in Annex 5.1.4.-3). The next stage was the obligatory permitting procedure with the National Land Fund, which was followed by the permitting procedure with the Hungarian State Holding Company. After both permits for the land purchase were received, the sale and purchase contract was compiled, which had to be permitted by the MoA. The contract was signed by both parties on 27.04.2012. (For the sale and purchase contract see IR Annex 5.1.4.-4.).

To know their precise boundaries, the purchased land parcels were marked out by surveyors. The change of ownership was registered in the national land registry, where DINPD is listed as property manager of Dabas 0946/15, 0946/16 land parcels.

Although we incorporated sections in the sale and purchase contract which guarantee that the purchased land is dedicated for nature conservation purposes, the European Commission asked for further guarantee, thus we made a commitment before a notary regarding the definitive assignment of the land purchased in this project for nature conservation purposes (on 26.11.2012). For this document please see 1MTR Annex 5.1.4.-3.).

For the decision on the change of land use from 'ploughland' to 'meadow' see 1MTR Annex 5.1.4.-4. on CD.

For the land registry sheets with the new property manager (DINPD) and land use (meadow) see 1MTR Annex 5.1.4.-5.

Outputs (DINPD): 19.1 ha large area, potential viper habitat is owned and managed by DINPD
Time schedule: deadline 30.06.2012., completed: 27.04.2012. (date of the sale and purchase contract)
Problems: no
Modifications:

Dabas 0946/17, 0946/18, 0350/5 and 7 plot numbers are parts of the project site, but they are not owned by DINPD at the moment. Dabas 0946/17, 0946/18 area is wedged between the land formed by Dabas 0946/15 and 0946/16 plot numbers (purchased in the frame of the project) and the strictly protected Dabas Turjános NCA. At present, these land parcels are covered by grassland, however, this area is registered with landuse type 'ploughland' so its ploughing can legally take place anytime, which would break the continuity of the valuable humid habitats. Dabas 0350/5 and 7 are in landuse type "meadow" and directly border on the strictly protected areas of the NCA. DINPD is considering the purchase of these plot numbers since they could greatly contribute to the long-term restoration of the unity of the Natura 2000 site and could be excellent sites for the grazing in our project. (When livefire military exercises are held in the SR, the cattle stock has to be driven away from the viper habitat grassland for safety reasons.) The area which can be grazed outside the SR is not extensive – any enlargement in this respect would be beneficial. For these reasons, if a part of the project budget is saved at the end of our project, we would intend to purchase Dabas 0946/17, 0946/18, 0350/5 and 7 plot numbers.

5.1.5. ACTION C.1: Control of invasive species in sand habitats

Action status: ongoing
Responsible partner: BFC
Description of the results achieved so far:
Prior to the management, a more detailed assessment on the quantity of the invasive plant species was made by a specialist in March, 2012 (on 470 ha).
In July, 2012 the trunk injection and spraying of tree of heaven with Medallon herbicide took place. The shoot smearing of alien common milkweed was implemented in the same 470 ha with Medallon combination.
In September-October 2012 trunk injection of black locust, Russian olive and desert indigo together with the post-treatment of the tree of heaven was carried out.
The more exact quantity of the invasives was surveyed by a specialist in March, 2013 (332 ha). Between May and October, 2013 the trunk injection and spraying of tree of heaven with Medallon herbicide took place. The smearing of common milkweed shoots was implemented also with Medallon combination. Trunk injection of black locust, Russian olive and desert indigo was carried out with Medallon.
The 1st post-treatment of the alien species managed in the 470 ha in 2012 was implemented.
The quantity of the invasives was surveyed again by a specialist in March, 2014.
Between May and October, 2014 the trunk injection and spraying of tree of heaven with Medallon herbicide took place. The smearing of common milkweed shoots was implemented also with Medallon combination. Trunk injection of black locust, Russian olive, desert indigo and boxelder maple was carried out (370 ha). The 1st post-treatment of the alien plant species left alive in the 332 ha area managed in 2013 was implemented. The 2nd post-treatment of the invasive species was executed (managed at first in 2012, in 470 ha).
In 2015, the following activities took place:
elimination of arboreal invasives, from August: 1st post-treatment on 370 ha, 2nd post-treatment on 332 ha, 3rd on 470 ha.
elimination of herbaceous invasives, between April and September: 1st post-treatment on 370 ha, 2nd post-treatment on 332 ha, 3rd on 470 ha.

For the process and results of the elimination of tree of heaven please see 1MTR Annex 5.1.5.-1,2.
For the trunk injection method for black locust and for the results see 1MTR Annex 5.1.5.-3,4.

For the shoot smearing of common milkweed see 1MTR Annex 5.1.5.-5. and for the result of this activity in the first year and in the second year of the management see 1MTR Annex 5.1.5.-6,7.

For a map illustration of the implementation see Annex 5.1.5.1.

Between 2012 and 2014 efforts were focused on the aggressively sprouting species like black locust, common milkweed and tree of heaven. To control these species, chemical treatment and regular post-treatment is inevitable. After the first chemical treatment in the entire target area of Action C1 was completed, partial eradication of pine tree species followed in 2015. However, since these species are far less aggressive (they are not sprouting), no chemicals are needed. By seeds, they spread more slowly than the species mentioned above. Furthermore, the larger individuals may serve as nesting trees for some protected (e.g. common buzzard) and strictly protected (e.g. white-tailed eagle and short-toed eagle) bird species. For these reasons, pine trees are harvested as follows: in February, 2015, a 70 ha part of the target area was managed (ind. below 4 m). The rest will be harvested in autumn 2016. All the large

individuals will be left standing. A very few young individuals will be left standing to provide a next generation of large nesting trees. However, nearly all of the youngest, couple of years old saplings will be harvested.

Outputs (BFC): 1172 ha of Pannonian sand steppes and inland sand dune thickets are free of alien plant species in 98%
Time schedule: on-time, deadline: 31.08.2016., first treatment is finished in 2014
Problems: no
Modifications: no

5.1.6. ACTION C.2: Restructuring of non-indigenous forests into indigenous ones

Action status: ongoing

Responsible partner: BFC

Description of the results achieved so far:

We grew native black poplar seedlings from the seeds we collected in the project site in May, 2012. (for a photo see Annex IR 5.1.6.-1.). The seeds collected in the project site underwent a genetic examination, which proved that the reproduction material doesn't contain foreign clones. The saplings were cultivated in a nursery for two years.

In autumn, 2013 we carried out the complete forest regeneration of altogether 18 ha area (26 ha with the buffer zones left standing).

Between September and December, 2013 logging was implemented (for a photo see 1MTR Annex 5.1.6.-1.). The next step was the clearing of the area with the aid of a forwarder (for a photo see 1MTR Annex 5.1.6.-2.) and the chipping of the timber (1MTR Annex 5.1.6.-3.). The next phases were the removal of the trunks (1MTR Annex 5.1.6.-4) and their transportation off the site, arranging the site, deep ploughing and smoothing the surface and finally machine and manual planting with native Poplar saplings. (For a photo on machinery planting see 1MTR Annex 5.1.6.-5. and for picture on a fresh plantation see 1MTR Annex 5.-6).

From March until October, 2014. nursing tasks were carried out in these new plantations: cutting back the saplings, disking and manual hoeing were implemented (see 1MTR Annex 5.1.6.-9). Photos on native plantations taken in July, 2014 (planted in autumn, 2013) can be found in 1MTR Annex 5.1.6.-7,8.

In February, 2015, shrub removal on 14.15 ha took place and 81,000 pcs poplar seedlings were purchased. In March, arranging the site, pit boring, finally machine, manual planting and cutting back the saplings were implemented in 16.46 ha.

Between April and September mechanical and manual nursing (disking and manual hoeing, mowing) were carried out on 33.47 ha.

From August, trunk injection, smearing as post-treatment on 14 ha and IAS management of the buffer zone (8 ha) were implemented.

For maps on Action C2 see Annex 5.1.6.1.,2.

Outputs (BFC): 18 ha forest reconstruction with native species (complete soil preparation), 8 ha planting (in the surrounding buffer zones, with pit boring), 11 ha planting in a new location 37 ha planting altogether

26 ha IAS management (instead of forest reconstruction with gentle soil preparation)

Time schedule: deadline: 31.08.2016.

Problems: no

Modifications: yes

HUNSTEPPICOAKS project provided us with widespread experience in the topic of forest regeneration in the forest steppe zone. As we experienced here, the success of gentle forest regeneration with native species under the extreme soil and weather conditions (forest steppe zone) we have is dubious.

Consequently gentle forest regeneration would be cancelled in those 6 plots where afforestation was proposed for the entire plot. Besides the arguments against large scale gentle forest regeneration, the vegetation around these mainly small patches also made the project

staff change their attitude towards intensive management using heavy duty machinery. For this reason, two other isolated plots were withdrawn from artificial forest regeneration. These two patches were proposed for complete soil preparation on the entire plot. These 8 plots together cover 11 ha.
Three other plots (two for complete, one for gentle afforestation, 15 ha) where partial afforestation was proposed were also withdrawn from artificial forest regeneration as they contain sufficient amount of native habitats or native tree species. The two plots for complete soil preparation are two edges of a larger plot. So, altogether 11 plots were withdrawn from afforestation (26 ha), see map in 1MTR Annex 5.1.6-10.

DINPD applied for changes to the European Commission regarding the artificial forest regeneration in this area and it was accepted for 19.5 ha (cancelling the additional 6.5 ha partial afforestation became clear later). The only action that is planned to be accomplished on these sites is the elimination of invasive plant species with trunk injection: this took place in 2014 mainly on black locust with herbicide Medallon. However, there are large patches of recently abandoned ploughlands within the project site that are both infected by invasive species at present and have a less favourable neighbourhood of plantations of introduced tree species, where total soil preparation can be used before the plantation. We would like to reallocate the budget planned for the artificial regeneration of the 8 patches where afforestation was proposed for the entire plot. This way we can convert the recently selected plot to native forest (11 ha).

5.1.7. ACTION C.3: Reconstruction of alder and ash gallery forests

Action status: ongoing
Responsible partner: BFC
Description of the results achieved so far:

Removal of boxelder maple and Russian olive:

In autumn, 2013, from a 15 ha large area Russian olive individuals were removed with stump treatment method. The post-treatment of the individuals (shoot spraying) was carried out in autumn, 2014.
We cleared 51 ha alder-ash and hardwood gallery forest from invasive species (mainly boxelder maple) with the trunk injection technique between September-November, 2013. (In the proposal 56 ha was included, however, it proved to be a wrong number as in GIS the size of the area was originally 51 ha.)
From August, 2015 post-treatment was carried out in the 15 ha and 51 ha large areas.

For the results see map in Annex 5.1.7.1.

Hybrid black poplar restructuring:
The logging was implemented in 2 ha hybrid black poplar plantation in winter, 2013. The majority of wood was removed from the area and was chipped. For a photo see 1MTR Annex 5.1.7.-2. In February, 2015, 9000 pcs of native poplar seedlings were purchased. The soil preparation (with pit boring) was carried out in 2.2 ha. In March, planting and cutting back took place, followed by manual nursing.

The plantation with ash individuals took place in 2015, in 1.41 ha. In the rest of the logged area there are larger native tree individuals which remain and no additional plantation is needed. Nursing took place in 2015.

In the proposal we planned the removal of 4.5 ha hybrid black poplar plantation. However, the valid forest management plan enabled us only to transform 2 ha of the plantation.

For the location of the activity see map in Annex 5.1.7.1.

Outputs (BFC):

51 ha ash-alder and hardwood gallery forest is free of alien plant species

15 ha area is free of Russian olive

2 ha hybrid poplar stand is removed and native poplar was planted

1.41 ha ash is planted
Time schedule: deadline: 31.08.2016.
Problems: no
Modifications: yes, the size of the removed hybrid poplar stand is smaller (2 ha instead of 4.5 ha)

5.1.8. ACTION C.4: Water control and retention in the southern unit of 'Turjánvidék' Natura 2000 site

Action status: ongoing

Responsible partner: DINPD, MoD DEB

Description of the results achieved so far:

For Dabas Turjános NCA we carried out a public tendering procedure and contracted by the winner company also for the construction of the water management objects (see 1MTR Annex 5.1.2.-12., 13. for the contract in Action A2). (For the technical supervisor's contract see 1MTR Annex 5.1.8.-1. on CD, for the negotiations regarding the compilation of final construction drafts and the preparation of construction see 1MTR Annexes 5.1.2.-14,16 in Action A2.)

The construction was implemented based on the final construction drafts submitted by 15.12.2014 (see Action A2). The water management objects were built by 30.10.2015. (see report on completion in Annex 5.1.8.1.).

For the documentation of the construction see photos in Annex 5.1.8.2. The work was continuously supervised by the charged technical supervisor and our field coordinator. The technical and financial summary was compiled by 02.12.2015., see Annex 5.1.8.3.) For more documentation of the negotiations regarding construction, see Annex 5.1.8.4 on CD.

The elements of the water retaining system are as follows (in NW to SE direction - from the water source to the target habitat):

- The last 500 meters of Duna-Tisza channel bed was significantly dredged in order to provide sufficient water level even in dry spring periods when active water retention is necessary. This section of the system is directly linked to the RSD part of river Danube. At the SE end of this section a concrete platform was constructed on the shore to host a diesel-fueled electricity generating unit, as well as a concrete ring in the channel bed itself to host the water pump.
- SE from the pumping unit platform Sluice No. I. was constructed. It aims to isolate the water providing channel from the water receiver channel in the active pumping seasons (dry springs). By the isolation of the two channel sections and active pumping higher water level can be developed in the receiver channel. In the rest of the year, this object retains the water in the receiver channel. (See the photo in Annex 5.1.8.5.)
- A 3 km section of the receiver channel was not planned to modify. However, the manager of the channel has slightly swept it all the way long (not from the project budget).
- The receiver channel has an intersection with another channel section, so Sluice No. II. was built to drive pumped water towards the target habitat. Besides this the sluice can retain water in the intersecting channel as well. (See the photo in Annex 5.1.8.6.)
- From Sluice No. II. a cca. 1200 m long channel section was dredged and reconstructed. This section runs among precious habitats so the highest precautions were applied. (See the photo in Annex 5.1.8.7.)
- At the end of the system Sluice No. III. was constructed. This double sluice can retain water in the target forest habitat. From the sluice a 50 m long shallow channel bed was constructed in order to let the pumped water flow into the forest. (See the photos in Annex 5.1.8.8. for the whole water retention system see map in Annex 5.1.8.9.).

The compilation of the operational plan of the water management system in Dabas NCA is in progress.

For Táborfalva SR we plan to carry out the construction of water management objects by 31.10.2016., see Action A2.

Outputs (DINPD): 3 water management objects are completed in Dabas NCA
Time schedule:
Dabasi Turjános NCA: last deadline accepted by EC: 31.10.2015
completed: 30.10.2015.

Táborfalva SR: original deadline 28.02.2015.
planned new deadline: 31.10.2016.
Problems: yes, this action is delayed, for reasons see Action A2
Modifications: There will be more and smaller water management objects than foreseen in the proposal (Táborfalva SR). (Instead of 5 there will be 4 medium size and 10 smaller ones constructed, 14 pcs altogether.)

5.1.9. ACTION C.5: Development of potential Hungarian Meadow Viper habitats with grazing

Action status: ongoing
Responsible partner: BFC, DINPD
Description of the results achieved so far:
Spatial and temporal planning of the conversion of ploughlands into grasslands and their grazing in Táborfalva SR and Dabas Turjános NCA took place from October, 2011.

Re-grassing in Dabas Turjános NCA: The 19.1 ha area was purchased at the end of April, 2012. We planned to sow alfalfa seeds in this ploughland, however, spontaneous processes of conversion to grassland launched. By the end of June, 2012, the predominate part of the area was continuously covered by a grassland made up of *Cynodon dactylon* and *Agropyron repens*. *Festuca rupicola*, which also occurs in the newly formed grassland, was surely the native grass-forming species of this site. *Molinia coerulea* is also present in the deeper parts of the grassed area. We had the area mown once and removed the hay in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. This way we prevented weed invasion and supported the grass individuals strengthening. As this favourable spontaneous process took place, there was no need to perform the alfalfa sowing in this area. For a photo please see 1MTR Annex 5.1.9.-1.

Re-grassing in Táborfalva SR:
Grassland habitat reconstruction was finally launched by the end of August 2013. After the delay (due to an extremely dry August in 2012 and a humid spring in 2013), alfalfa seeds were finally sown under optimal circumstances. In the proposal we foresaw 45 ha for re-grassing in the SR, however, this area was calculated based on aerial photos taken in a humid year (large areas were covered with water and were left out from area calculation). The exact size of the area turned out to be 55 ha. In 2014 and 2015 the alfalfa field was mown four times. (For a picture on the alfalfa field see 1MTR Annex 5.1.9.-2.) From the nearby mown natural area, mowing side products (hay particles) rich in *Molinia* seeds were transferred to the freshly mown alfalfa field and were sown manually on a patch of it on 27.06.2014 (for photos see 1MTR Annex 5.1.9.-3.).

Grazing: Based on a decree in 2013 of the nature conservation authority, mowing was abandoned on a 134 ha large part of the viper habitats (see map in 1MTR 5.1.9.-5.). The abandonment was initiated by DINPD after up-to-date Hungarian meadow viper presence data were collected here. This part of land was grazed by cattle in 2013 with low grazing pressure, on a temporary basis. Besides some illegal sheep grazing, there was no grazing activity on this 134 ha large area in 2014. The rest of the potential viper habitat (where grazing was proposed) was mown according to the practice of the previous years, permitted by the valid land leasing contract.
However, the land leasing contract of the present land user was terminated by 31.08.2014. At the same time, all land leasing contracts were terminated in Táborfalva SR. Project partner BFC is responsible for the agricultural land use of the SR and it has the right to bind long-term leasing contracts. During 2014, a new call for lease tenders was out.
BFC (and all state-owned forestry companies in Hungary) is controlled by certain public bodies which represent the ownership rights of the state. After this public body changed and the forestry companies were monitored by a new control organization, the call for land lease tenders was cancelled. DINPD presented nature conservation regulations to BFC again which has to integrate them into the new call (see 1MTR Annex 5.1.9.-6. on CD). The size and number of land blocks to be leased changed on more occasions during 2015. The land lease contracts of the former leaseholders were prolonged more times on the request of the MoA.

The new call was out on 17.09.2015. However, it (and the attached draft contract) did not include the nature conservation regulations compiled by DINPD (as sufficient nature conservation guarantees that the land will be managed in line with the necessary conservation requirements). Regarding conservation requirements, only general phrasing was incorporated, which is not legally binding. DINPD contacted BFC immediately, however, it turned out that they consider the general and theoretical nature conservation regulations satisfactory and the announced contract phrasing cannot be changed in this stage. If this situation had remained, it would have meant that the leaseholders are not obliged to respect the conservation regulations (to manage the leased area according to the habitat management needs of Hungarian meadow viper, or other Natura 2000 habitats or species.) To tackle this serious situation the EC send us a letter (on 29.10.2015.) to emphasize that the requirements have to be incorporated into the contract, otherwise, major results and budget elements connected to the project may be not accepted by the EC. As a result, after discussion between BFC and DINPD, a separate declaration was compiled and signed on 11.27.2015. by the winning land leaseholders for every land block. It included that the nature conservation regulations which were sent to leaseholders prior to contracting were accepted and received also as a printed document. The leaseholder accepts that he is obliged to respect these nature conservation regulations. In case these are not respected, the conservation status of the leased block is threatened and it leads to the immediate termination of the contract. (For the detailed correspondence see Annex 5.1.9.1. on CD, for the declarations for every leased block see Annex 5.1.9.2. on CD). So the new type of grassland management can be launched in spring, 2016 on the whole known viper habitat.
In 2014, cattle grazing was already introduced in other areas of the SR as well, which were not foreseen in the project and were not leased permanently before. As shooting range, these are highly threatened by fire. As a part of a new fire control system developed in the SR jointly by the military users and DINPD, grazing was introduced in order to reduce fire fuel on more than 350 ha.
We set in our project proposal, that we will gradually introduce grazing by the end of April 2016. For a photo on grazing please see 1MTR Annex 5.1.9-4. For the map of the action see Annex 5.1.9.3.

Outputs: 19.1 ha ploughland in Dabas NCA is changed into grassland - **DINPD**

573 ha viper habitat is dedicated for grazing – **BFC, DINPD**
Time schedule: deadline: 31.08.2016.
Problems: yes
In the call for lease tenders (and the draft contracts) affecting large areas of the project site, the nature conservation regulations were not included. On request of the EC, the serious problem was solved: contracts were completed by a declaration of the same value. For more details, see above.
Consequences on other actions: no
Modifications: Larger area is grazed than foreseen in the proposal, area extended on even potential viper habitats. (The size of the area is 573 ha instead of 500 ha.)

5.1.10. ACTION C.6: Development of potential Viper habitats with transforming forests into meadows

Action status: delayed

Responsible partner: BFC

Description of the results achieved so far:

This action should have been launched in Autumn, 2014 based on the submitted proposal.

For 2014 alien plant treatment tasks were scheduled in large areas elsewhere within the project site and we lacked capacity (see Action C1). Furthermore, the areas subjects to Action C6 are in the direct buffer zone of the live fire SR and for this reason we have restricted access here.

However, we faced a serious problem: although this action was accepted by the military users prior to project submission, it revealed that – due to ballistic safety reasons - Joint Forces Command Bakony Combat Centre (the user of the SR) doesn't support the elimination of the invasive plantation patches of C6. Our project partner MoD DEB asked for their official statement in this question and the IAS elimination was again rejected by Joint Forces Command. DINPD compiled a letter and asked for seeking a quick solution for this problem, what was agreed by the Joint Forces Command. When BFC asked for permit to manage the IAS of the other plantation patch, due to safety reasons, this was also rejected by the Ministry of Defence Office of Authorities. When BFC compiled the call for tender for arboreal IAS management at the beginning of 2015, the fact that the result of the ballistic survey can get out later than the call is out was also considered. This way the possibility of IAS elimination within Action C6 remained in all the vegetation period of 2015. However, unfortunately, 2015 passed without finding solution for C6 problem. Through lengthy correspondence, it revealed that the military users of SR have no special staff to investigate the safety parameters of the SR, so a weapon technology expert is needed. It turned out, that to hire such an expert, they had no foreseen budget (for the complete correspondence see Annex 5.1.10.1. on CD). In the end, the EC was asked to judge whether the cost of this expert could be covered by the project (11.10.2015). On the permission of the EC, MoD DEB started to look for the expert and collect the technical documentation for the investigation of the problem. The ballistic survey takes cca. two months.

If we are permitted (by 30.04.2016) to carry out the IAS management on the whole or in a part of the area, the work can start in summer, 2016. Results of the planned trunk injection technique will be clearly visible immediately and the treatment can be repeated in the same vegetation period, if needed. The completion of this action was scheduled by 31.08.2016, so presently we are still on-time.

From the two invasive plantation patches of this action one is not registered as 'forest'. The other area is registered presently as 'forest' and has a valid forest management plan. The deletion of this area from the registry of 'official' forests is in progress.

Outputs (BFC): no so far

Time schedule: original deadline 31.08.2016.

new planned deadline: 31.10.2016.

Problems: yes

The military user of the SR doesn't allow to carry out the IAS control due to safety reasons. Weapon technology expert is needed.

Consequences on other actions: no

Modifications: no

5.1.11. ACTION C.7: Moderation of general threatening factors

Action status: completed
Responsible partner: BFC
Description of the results achieved so far:
Regulated closing of roads: 20 crossing gates were placed at the entrances of the dirt roads entering the project site to help to end the illegal and harmful use of the area (stealing timber, wildfire, waste deposits, motocross, quad, etc.) in May, 2012. These are very thick, hard metal ropes, which we can be moved more easily than an inflexible bar. The crossing gates can be opened with a key to provide access only for the authorised personnel. The remaining 21 crossing gates were placed out in July, 2012. Between the public road and natural habitats, on both sides of the crossing gates ditches were created as well (3000 m long altogether). (For photos please see 1MTR Annex 5.1.11-1.)
Due to vandalism and illegal access attempts, the supervision of the crossing gates and ditches is a continuous task until the project ends (the light-reflection signs and the padlocks often have to be substituted).
During the past period it revealed that some crossing gates would be more useful if they were set in a slightly different place. In 2016 we plan to consider and carry out their relocation.

Elimination of illegal sand pit: Waste transportation off the site was carried out. Parallel to the public road tree and shrub rows were planted in autumn, 2012, to hide the formal illegal sand pit. These are formed by *Populus nigra, Populus canescens, Ulmus campestris, Pyrus pyraster, Berberis vulgaris, Ligustrum vulgare, Crataegus monogyna, Euonymus europaeus*. (For a photo please look at Annex 5.1.11.-2.)
Between the paved road and the sand pit a deep ditch was developed (06.2012.) to prevent the access of motorbikes and quads.
From the sand pit alien plant species (mainly black locust) were also eliminated from a 1.3 ha size area with trunk injection method in 2013, see photo in 1MTR Annex 5.1.11-3.
Nursing the tree and shrub rows closing the sand pit is a task until the project ends.

Outputs (BFC):

regulated closing of the roads crossing the project area with 41 crossing gates

halting the soil surface disturbance with closing the illegal sand pit and quitting the spread of invasives through their elimination (1.3 ha)
Time schedule:
regulated closing of roads: original deadline 31.12.2013., completed by 31.07.2012.
elimination of illegal sand pit: original deadline 31.10.2014., completed by 31.10.2013.
Problems: Due to vandalism, padlocks have to be replaced.
Modifications: no

5.1.12. ACTION C.8: Implementation of munition treatment

Action status: ongoing
Responsible partner: MoD DEB
Description of the results achieved so far:
Originally, the areas of the munition treatment were the following: all areas of forest reconstruction (42 ha+4.5 ha), the sites of the future water management objects (0.05 ha) and the area of the illegal sand pit (2 ha). However, exclusively the Hungarian Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Warship Regiment can implement the munition treatment tasks of our project. (It is an individual budgetary organisation and according to Hungarian legislation it is entitled alone to carry out the bomb disposal tasks.) For this reason, they are very busy. Furthermore, the acquisitions of the MoD DEB are carried out by a different organisation (Ministry of Defence, Defence Economic Office, Procurement Directorate), which fact also contributed to the delay of the acquisition procedure. To keep up with the timetable of the proposal, in this exceptional case Joint Forces Command Bakony Combat Centre provided bomb technician supervision for a major part of the forest regeneration works and in the illegal sandpit (free of charge). For a photo on an example of intact ammunition found in these areas see 1MTR Annex 5.1.12.-1.
The Hungarian Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Warship Regiment compiled its bid offer on the basis of the field trip carried out on 17.09.2014. (for the minutes and list of participants see 1MTR Annex 5.1.12.-2. on CD, which was accepted by the MoD DEB on 28.10.2014. For the contract bound for munition treatment on 01.12.2014. see 1MTR Annex 5.1.12.-3. on CD). Munition treatment was launched in spring, 2015, in forest regeneration areas of the project, see 1MTR Annex 5.1.12.-4.). Between 02.03.2015. and 01.04.2015 bomb technicians worked on 21 days in a 1.64 ha area and parallel to the forest plantation works they provided also continuous supervision.
For photos see Annex 5.1.12.1. For further documentation see Annex 5.1.12.2. on CD.
Short description of the process of munition treatment:
Members of the Hungarian Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Warship Regiment get to the site prior to the launch of the earthworks. The patrol is led by a chief bomb technician and composed of max. 8 persons. The designated area is surveyed with VMH-3 type handhelp metal detector, in our case at a depth of 60 cm. If the equipment signals, the spot is cautiously dug up. If an explosive item or an equipment containing pyrotechnical material is found, this fact is reported to the MoD Bomb Technician Department on Duty. Depending on the type and the physical state of the ammunition it is eliminated on the spot or transported off the site.
Supervision by bomb technicians:
3 patrols are present parallel to the earthworks made. Their task is the identification and management of the ammunition revealed during the work.

The remaining munition treatment activities will take place parallel to the construction of water management objects in Táborfalva SR, in autumn, 2016.

Outputs (MoD DEB): 1.64 ha is free of dangerous ammunition
Time schedule:
original deadline 30.11.2014., delayed (because of the delay of Action C4)
planned new deadline: 31.10.2016 (completion of the construction of water management objects in SR in Action C4)
Problems: no
Modifications: Planned to be carried out in a smaller area than foreseen. (Foreseen: cca. 48 ha, actual: 1.64 ha so far)

5.1.13. ACTION E.2: Conservation management and communication monitoring

Action status: ongoing
Responsible partner: DINPD

Description of the results achieved so far:

Management monitoring:

In this action we planned and designated the locations of the sampling plots during the spring of 2012 (their spatial distribution is illustrated on the map in 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-1., one plot had to be changed as it was destroyed by fire, see below). We already started the monitoring activities from April, 2012, that year was dedicated for the basic state survey.

The management monitoring is carried out by our field coordinator: on the invasive species elimination in 10 permanent sampling plots for Actions C1, C6; on forest reconstruction in 10 sampling plots for C2, C3; forest naturalness change in 6 sampling plots for Actions C1, C2 and C3; structural development of potential viper habitats in 6 sampling plots for C5 and C6.

Elimination of invasive species:

The field coordinator, Mr György Verő implemented the monitoring action in each year between 2012 and 2015.
Results of invasive plant management monitoring show that the established management is highly effective. The majority of managed plots represent 100% efficiency, and all of them above 90% after one season of management. It became clear that overall efficiency is reduced rather by the lack of any management (due to missing a certain population of invasive plant species) than by the method of eradication.
For detailed data see table on CD, in Annex 5.1.13.1.

Reconstruction of forests:

Planted saplings show high vitality and survival rate in most of the forest reconstruction plots. Although complete soil preparation has a devastating effect on any natural vegetation, it seems to be an effective way to transform highly degraded forest stands to that of native species. High summer precipitation and lack of extremely hot temperatures in 2014 had a major positive effect on the survival rate in the crucial first vegetation season after plantation. High proportion of strong 2nd year saplings survived in 2015 on the plots with complete soil preparation. However, in case of Action C3 where partial soil preparation was implemented (drilling), survival rate of saplings were below 10 percent of all saplings.
For detailed data see table on CD, in Annex 5.1.13.1.

Change of forest naturalness:

This research is carried out by Mr László Gálhidy, WWF conservation officer, expert of forest ecology. The TERMERD basic state survey was carried out according to the national protocol (see 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-3. on CD)

For the location of sampling plots see map in 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-1.

3 sampling plots were located in sand habitats and 3 in the humid forests.

The composition of the 6 quadrants:

2 for alien plant management in sand forest habitats

2 for alien plant management in humid forest habitats

2 for forest regeneration (1 for gentle soil preparation and 1 for complete soil preparation)

The outcomes show that we can find forests with higher naturalness as could be assessed based on the national averages. The results will reveal after the sampling following the conservation management works.

For the table with detailed data, calculations and further explanations see 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-4.,5 on CD.

(For a photo on fieldwork see 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-6.)

The second round of data collection and drawing conclusions are due in the last vegetation period of the project, in 2016.

Structural development of potential habitats of viper:

The field coordinator carried out the monitoring in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Regarding the effect of grassland management of Hungarian meadow viper habitats, the abandonment of mowing clearly resulted in a higher level of vegetation cover. On the other hand, the amount of dry biomass started to accumulate quickly, so proposed grazing is inevitable. Besides the vegetation cover is against the predators of the viper, sufficient prey stock is also necessary for the species. The lack of any management on grasslands reduces the diversity of plant species and consequently the diversity of consumer levels as well. The development of Molinia spp. tussocks seems to be a slow process and needs the contribution if certain ant species as well. Till date, there are no characteristic tussocks after three years without mowing.
For detailed data see table on CD, in Annex 5.1.13.1.

Effects of water retention:

The only staff gauge in the area is just above the junction of Channel XX. and Channel XX. "árapasztó", cca. 7 km from the SR along Channel XX. Regarding the Dabas Turjános NCA, the closest staff gauge is cca. 4 km from the target site. For these reasons we have not collected any data on the present hydrology of the area. However, regular visual observations and geodesic data confirm the need of water management objects.
For detailed data see table on CD, in Annex 5.1.13.1.

Biodiversity monitoring:

To assess the effects of conservation management the special knowledge on other taxa is also required. For this reason we hired three researchers (in April, 2012): Mr Ottó Merkl, specialist of taxon Coleoptera, Mr Gergely Petrányi, specialist of Lepidoptera and Mr Gergely Szövényi, specialist of Orthoptera to carry out the basic state survey on these taxa, connected to designated sampling plots. For Coleoptera and Lepidoptera, elimination of invasive species, change of forest naturalness and structural development of potential habitats of viper; for Orthoptera, elimination of invasive species and structural development of potential habitats of viper will support the management monitoring. (Photos on their fieldwork taken are attached in 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-7,8 for the research reports see 1PR Annex 5.1.25.-2.)

These surveys were repeated and conclusions drawn in the planned last year of the project, in 2015. Two research reports were submitted by 30.11.2015. Unfortunately, the third research report on butterflies has not been submitted by the set deadline or the end of 2015. In this case providing additional deadline for the completion of the report is in progress (officially). (The research reports can be found in Annex 5.1.13.2.,3.)

The comparison of the results of the 'before' and 'after' reports show that the time passed after the management is too short to indicate the significant change of the Orthoptera or Coleoptera fauna. Sadly, 2012 and 2015 were both very dry years which altered the sampling significantly. However, some trends can be clearly seen: for instance, the Orthoptera fauna of the sampling sites, where the common milkweed was removed, significantly improved and the species characteristic for sand grasslands returned. It was also documented that the fauna devastated in the wildfire of 2013 can only return very slowly to its former habitats.

Both reports contain habitat management recommendations for Natura 2000, protected or rare species, which can be taken into consideration when the CMP is formulated.

Biodiversity monitoring, in which sampling takes place each year and the survey lasts much longer (not only for 3 years), definitely reveals better results.

In the monitoring, other specialists of DINPD are drawn in (no personnel costs are budgeted for them).

We did Hungarian Meadow Viper monitoring on some occasions with favourable weather conditions for this species.

Hungarian meadow viper is the flagship species of our project. As many of our conservation management actions aim the improvement of its habitat, it is essential to have information on its population in the area. For this reason we carried out viper monitoring with the participation of more than 10 invited people, according to the recommendations of the project team of CONVIPURS project. On 08.04.2013 and 12.04.2013 our efforts were crowned with success: we found 3 adult viper individuals altogether. (These were the first specimens seen here after 2009!) A found nice viper individual is pictured in 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-9. On 06.09.2013. two offspring born in 2013 were seen during monitoring. (For a photo on the activity please see 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-10.) This shows that our project area homes a hopefully viable population as it is constituted of individuals of different ages. (On picture 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-11. Mr Bálint Halpern, CONVIPURS project manager, collects data on one of the specimens, before letting it back to the site it was found.) We made an unsuccessful attempt to find more individuals also on 29.03.2014.

In 2015, we continued with a presence-absence survey in potential Hungarian meadow viper habitats, with the participation of DINPD staff on 08.04, 21.04 and 22.04. Unfortunately, no viper individual was found. (However, spending one field day in each potential habitat is a very short time to draw conclusions on the presence of the animal there.) For photos see Annex 5.1.13.4,5.) (This activity is also out of the direct tasks of HUTURJAN.)

The results of the monitoring of the Natura 2000 habitats and protected species is a basis of the supervision of the CMP for the SR and justifies also that our conservation management actions are adequate. However, due to the variety of protected species (many of which need specialists to identify) and their enormous specimen numbers in our project area, it is impossible to carry out with the present personnel capacity. Despite the above mentioned fact, we took the opportunity to recruit professional staff to collect data on many occasions (e.g. inviting DINPD specialists or whole departments to the project area (see 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-12. for a photo); for the data collector group of WWF see 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-13).

The number of data collected on species during the project is quite high (well above the 3000 GIS data proposed in our application): 17,798

We also started a capture-recapture research on the Hungarian ground beetle (*Carabus hungaricus*) population of the SR in Autumn, 2013. This Natura 2000 priority and strictly protected species is supposed to have the largest populations within Hungary here, and this

survey will show us an estimated individual number of this beetle on the project area. (For photos see 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-15, 16, for the preliminary results of the research see 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.8.-4. in D8.) The research was carried out even in 2015. (This activity is out of the direct tasks of HUTURJAN.)

We placed out also 14 nest boxes for the European roller in spring with the help of BirdLife Hungary, Budapest Division, 19 nest boxes for red-footed falcon and one nest tray for the saker falcon in autumn, 2014. (See 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-17.) The perished nest of our white-tailed eagle was also renewed. (See 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-18.) The experts of HELICON LIFE visited the surroundings of the viper habitat on 25.11.2014 as a suspicious raptor corpse was found there (unfortunately there was a poisoning case near the project site in November, 2013 which affected 3 eagles, 2 of them died). (For a photo see 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-19.) (This activity is out of the direct tasks of HUTURJAN LIFE.)

From 2013, with the help of our project (providing knowledge on the area, asking for entry permits, etc.) and BirdLifeHungary, Budapest Division, the monitoring of Montagu's harrier launched (out of project budget). As a result, it revealed that the population of the SR is among the largest ones in Hungary. For this reason, it is very important to monitor the effect of the management of the leased grasslands (of Action C5) on this valuable bird population of the region.

On 15.06.2013. fire set out in the SR during a military training (out of the live fire area) and destroyed cca. 240 ha priority habitats and vast amounts of protected species. For photos see 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-20,21,22.)

The serious conservation value damaging case was reported to the European Union through MoA. Connected to the incident, there were grave conclusions drawn about the necessity of observing the CMP, the need of immediate action, the essential dialog between military and conservation, the cooperation with fire service, etc. It was the DINPD field coordinator, who played the main role in fire fighting, listing the damages and in further negotiations. (For the minutes of the negotiations with military see 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-23. on CD) As a consequence of the sad case, the fire fighting plan of the SR was supervised and became more strict. It revealed that there must be further actions made to prevent similar cases (e.g. grazing was introduced even in the live fire shooting range – not as a part of the project). Water retention (Action A2, C4) also plays an important role in decreasing the number and extent of fire cases. Potential fire tracts were designated with the joint cooperation of MoD DEB, DINPD and BFC, which are ploughed up only when serious fire emerges – not as a part of the project.

The main effect of the fire case on the conservation management tasks of our project can be the increase of the alien plant species quantities. For monitoring the rehabilitation of the burnt areas quadrants were set in the damaged areas. DINPD experts carried out the basic state survey after the fire and the plots are further monitored each year (no personnel costs are charged for our project). For a photo see 1MTR Annex 5.1.13.-24. According to the results of 2015, currently there is no serious increase in the alien populations, which are eradicated by now (C1).

Outputs (DINPD):

direct indicators for management actions C1, C2, C5

direct indicators for communication actions D1-D9, D11

management monitoring data series for 32 sample areas

2 biodiversity monitoring summaries

17,798 GIS data records
Time schedule: on time, deadline 31.08.2016.
Problems: no
Modifications: no

5.1.26. ACTION E.3.: After-LIFE conservation management plan

Action status: not due yet

5.2 Dissemination actions

5.2.1 Objectives

Summarise the objectives of the dissemination plan set out in the revised project proposal.

There was no dissemination plan set in our proposal, but we created a communication plan at the beginning of the project. We set different communication objectives and planned to use different tools for the different target groups of the dissemination activities.

The target groups were identified and classified in 4 groups:

- Military users of the SR from all across the country (and abroad)
- Professionals (conservation managers, researchers, forestry practitioners, water managers, authorities, land users) on the national level, broaden to the neighbouring countries regarding conservation professionals
- Local municipalities and inhabitants (both adults and children) of the neighbouring region of the SR
- Wider public nationwide, interested in environmental topics (mainly internet users)

Objectives per target groups:

Target group	Objectives	Tools (Actions)
Military users	- Awareness raising on the project and increasing knowledge on the cons. values of the SR - Reconciliation of the interests of the military users and nature cons. - Involvement in the cons. management and monitoring of the SR	- Information boards (D3) - Project brochure (D4) - Revised management plan, pocket card, DVD and trainings for the military users (D6) - Articles in specialized media and project film (D7) - Layman's report (D10)
Profession-als	- Presentation of the project results and supporting the capitalization on them - Exchange of experience on cons. activity in military sites and on invasive control practices	- Material available on the website (D1) - Participation on scientific conferences (D8) - Workshops and publications on invasive control (D9) - Networking with other projects (D11)
Locals	- Awareness raising on the project and the cons. values of the SR - Increasing sensitivity to nature cons. - Reducing unauthorized access to the project site	- News on website (D1) - Information boards (D3) - Project brochure (D4) - Green Days for schools (D5) - Articles in local media and project film (D7) - Layman's report (D10)
Wider public	- Awareness raising on nature cons. - Increase knowledge on the Turjánvidék and on the project	- Website (D1) - Project brochure (D4) - Media work and project film (D7) - Layman's report (D10)

5.2.2 Dissemination: overview per activity

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– **5.2.2.1. ACTION D.1: Information to the general public – website operation**
– **Action status:** ongoing
– **Responsible partner:** WWF
– **Description of the results achieved so far:**
– We launched the project website in two languages, www.turjanvidek.hu on 03.07.2012. We advertise our website address on our project car, on the webpages of the project partners, on the promotion objects, etc. We regularly upload news on what happened in the project and we pay special attention to update the English version of the website as well. (For two pictures on *www.turjanvidek.hu* website – Hungarian and English versions – please see 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.1.-1.) The website content is continuously extended. We published a detailed material on the past and present military use of the SR and a list of the protected species of the project site with links to the description of the species, etc. We made available the electronic version of the project brochure and the inception report and progress report as well.
– The presentations of the invasive seminar, held in October 2013, were also published on the website.
– The PDF version of the thematic issues of periodicals of WWF and DINPD (see Action D.7) were also made available for downloading from the website.
– Social media activity: In April 2014, for the Earth Day a quiz game was launched on the Facebook to generate visits on the website. During four days each day a question was posted for which the answer could be found on the website. Among those who replied correctly to all the 4 questions promotional material of the project was sorted. Over a 100 players sent correct answers. (For printscreens see 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.1.-2.)
– The trailer and spots from the project film (see Action D.7) were also published on the website, and promoted through social media.
– We expected to have 10,000 visitors on our website during the duration of our project. Presently (by end of December 2015) we have already more than 37,000 visits, counting the returning visitors as well (for the updated web usage statistics please see Annex 5.2.2.1.1.).
– We created new pages on the project website for the international workshop on invasive plant species (see Action D.9). As the language of the workshop will be English the Hungarian pages contain only a link to the English ones.
– We consider the on-line communication effective and on-track. The website has been filled and regularly updated with both general public and expert contents, and it has generated higher interest than planned.

Outputs (WWF):
an up-to-date project website in Hungarian and English with downloads, links
practical experiences can be downloaded on invasive plant management
min. 10000 visitors (well exceeded, currently 37,000)
Time schedule: on time (deadline: 31.08.2016.)
Problems: no
Modifications: no

- **5.2.2.2. ACTION D.2: Creation of project brand**
- **Action status:** completed
- **Responsible partner:** WWF
- **Description of the results achieved so far:**
- For HUTURJAN project logo see 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.1.-1. on the left side at the top of the webpage.
- Regarding promotion materials, past experience showed (from HUNSTEPPICOAKS, 'Conservation of alluvial habitats of community interest on the Szabadság Island and side channel in Béda-Karapancsa pSCI', 'Management of floodplains on the Tisza' LIFE projects) that the complete fulfilment of this action part should be postponed until the relevant communication actions take place to achieve the best results. In this case the target groups can be specified better and the ideas emerging during project implementation can be also used.
- We produced our first promotion material, an illuminating key holder with solar collector in 1000 pcs. The target group of this promotion object are children. During the selection of promotion material we considered that some of the future promotion objects should be useful also for the military users. The other promotional material for children was colouring pencil sets, 500 pcs. Other promotional material were produced, which target the military users and the professionals and media representatives: 700 pcs copybooks with pens, 150 pcs military/camping spoon sets, 500 pcs water-bottles, 1000 pcs coasters. On the promotion material the LIFE logo and the project logo was placed, and all the others bear all the logos related to the project. 3 white caps (with LIFE, Natura2000 and panda logo) were also bought for the project staff of WWF as sun protection on the field.
- In total we produced 3853 promotional objects. For a photo see 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.2.-1. The objects were distributed on the press conference (June 2013), on the first invasive seminar (October 2013), through the Táborfalva Base to the military users and on excursions held for children (September 2012 and 2013). The rest of the material was distributed among the partners in order to use them on upcoming project events and give them to their professional contacts. Some copybooks are held in stock for the international invasive workshop (Action D.9), some pencil sets for the excursions (Action D.5), and some water bottles for the closing press conference (Action D.7) in the last year. Updated distribution list is attached in Annex 5.2.2.2.1. on CD.
- The promotional materials fulfil the purpose, as the different objects are popular among the different target groups.
-

Outputs (WWF):
nice and consistent logo of high advertising value
cca. 3800 different promotion objects
Time schedule: original deadline: 31.03.2012., deadline: 19.06.2013.
Problems: no
Modifications: no

- **5.2.2.3. ACTION D.3: Setting up information boards**
- **Action status:** completed
- **Responsible partner:** WWF, DINPD
- **Description of the results achieved:**
- 7 information boards on the HUTURJAN project, LIFE fund and Natura 2000 network are set up. We have ones in Hungarian erected in frequently visited locations of Táborfalva, Örkény, Tatárszentgyörgy and Dabas settlements. A Hungarian infoboard was also put by the entrance of the Dabas Turjános NCA. By the Táborfalva Military Base and the entrance of the Central Shooting Range two-language infoboards were set up, as foreign soldiers were also taken into consideration. (For a photo on the infoboard set up in Örkény please see MTR1 Annex 5.2.2.3-1., for the infoboard in Táborfalva Military Base see MTR1 Annex 5.2.2.3-2.). For the English text of the infoboard see 1PR Annex 5.1.15.-3.
- 20 pcs Natura 2000 boards were placed on the borderline of the Turjánvidék Natura 2000 site southern unit (for a photo please see 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.3-3.)
- Supplementary warning signs with LIFE stickers were also put on the border of the SR, a lot of them in three (Hungarian, English, German) languages to prevent the unauthorised members from entering the very valuable habitats. (These sites are threatened by motocross and quad use, illegal collection activities of amateur foreign entomologists, waste deposition, etc.) For the signs please see 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.3-4.
- Unfortunately, due to the vandalism, our warning signs are usually damaged or stolen (see 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.3-5. for a photo). These signs were replaced with the spared ones.
- The information boards and the warning signs are at visible places and help to raise attention of the local people to the values of the territory on one hand, and the rules and restrictions that apply on the other.
-
- **Outputs (DINPD, WWF):**

7 information boards set up
20 Natura 2000 demarcation boards set up
81 supplementary warning signs
Time schedule: original deadline: 31.10.2012., deadline was 31.10.2012.
Problems: Due to vandalism, some of the signs have to be replaced from time to time.
Modifications: no

- **5.2.2.4. ACTION D.4: Compilation of project brochure**
- **Action status:** completed
- **Responsible partner:** WWF
- **Description of the results achieved:**
- The project brochure was issued in 2000 pcs (1500 Hungarian, 500 English) in 2012. For the leaflet please see 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.4.-1,2. As it was distributed soon to the contacts of the partners, to military bodies, local governments near the project site, schools, etc., a second edition needed (1000 pcs in Hungarian). Additional 500 pcs of the English brochure were printed in order to distribute them to the participants of the 'Nature protection in military areas' international conference in May 2014. The rest will be used until the end of the project.

For the distribution list please see 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.4.-3. on CD. The leaflet is uploaded to the project website in both languages:

- http://turjanvidek.hu/media/statikus/wwf%20leporello%20uj3.pdf
- http://turjanvidek.hu/media/statikus/wwf%20leporello%20angol.pdf
- The leaflet was distributed in the region to schools and public institutions, to the military users, to the international expert community, and to interested public through the general channels of the partnership.

Outputs (WWF): 3500 project brochures are issued
Time schedule: original deadline: 31.05.2012., deadline: 10.11.2012.
Problems: no
Modifications: The format of the leaflet was changed to A5 size landscape, and the number of copies printed and distributed was raised to 3500 from 2000.

5.2.2.5. ACTION D.5: 'Green Days' on Táborfalva Military Shooting Range

- **Action status:** ongoing
- **Responsible partner:** WWF
- **Description of the results achieved so far:**
- A nature trail program was held on the already existing Betyár-domb Nature Trail of the BFC on 05.10.2012. This way 40 pupils (from 3rd and 4th grade) of the Csurgay Franciska Primary School of Táborfalva with teachers gained information on the conservation values of the Natura 2000 site and the aims of our project. For reference on the occasion please see a photo in 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.5.-1.).

The 2nd nature trail programme was organised for the pupils of the primary school of Tatárszentgyörgy on 16.09.2013. (4 classes of 3rd and 4th grade). On the excursions the children received promotional material and the leaflet of the project. For a photo see 1 MRT Annex 5.2.2.5.-2.

- The nature trail, which can be freely visited (no entry permit needed and there is no hazard of intact munition here) is advertised also on our website:
- http://turjanvidek.hu/?/tanosveny
- We had two jigsaws made with the characteristic protected species of our project area and one (three in one) memory-jigsaws-colouring sheet game was also purchased and used to popularize our conservation values in the region and in Hungary. (The photo in Annex MTR1 5.2.2.5.-3. was taken at Tata Wild Geese Festival, in November, 2013).
- The 3rd nature trail programme was held on 14.05.2015 for the 5th grade students of Huszka Hermina Általános iskola in Örkény. At the end of the excursion project promotional objects and information material was given to the children and the teachers. This time the project film producers joined the group to make footage about the nature trail visit (all participants and parents agreed to be filmed and signed an authorization for it). For a photo see Annex 5.2.2.5.1.
- Using the existing nature trail at the edge of the SR plus other events proved to be a feasible, effective and well received by the target group solution for taking people close to the project site, which is not accessible due to life hazard.

- **Outputs (WWF):**

- 3 Green Days so far

- cca. 130 participants for 3 occasions so far

- **Time schedule:** on time, original deadline: 31.12.2016.
- **Problems:** no
- **Modifications:** no

- **5.2.2.6. ACTION D.6: Nature conservation training for military users and environmental officers**
- **Action status:** ongoing
- **Responsible partner: DINPD, MoD DEB**
- **Description of the results achieved so far:**

- **Updating the CMP (CD-ROM, pocket card):**

(This action part is closely connected to the training of the military users (see below)).
We have to mention the following important events regarding the compilation of the updated CMP:
In January, 2014, a detailed questionnaire was compiled by Mr György Verő DINPD field coordinator and was sent out through MoD DEB to all the military bodies using Táborfalva SR. In this document DINPD asked for information on those characteristics of military activities, which interest us from the viewpoint of conservation. (As conservation experts are not allowed to enter the SR while military trainings take place, we knew almost nothing what the activities going on the habitats look like.) As a basis for the CMP, the area of the SR was divided into zones based on their present military use. The main conflict points between the conservation and military proved to be the following factors: offroad vehicle traffic, soil disturbance and fire. See Annex 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.6.-2 for the questionnaire and further explanations on CD.
To have a picture on the military trainings, DINPD staff visited also a live fire training on 09.04.2014. For photos on the occasion see 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.6.-3,4.
The next step in updating the CMP was the following event (for previous ones see 1MTR Point 5.2.2.6.):

- *Name:* ***Negotiation with the military users on CMP***
- *Topic:* final negotiation on updating the CMP of the SR
- *Date and place:* 02.12.2015; Székesfehérvár
- Audience: 18
- *Participants:* Mr György Verő – field coordinator, Ms Annamária Csóka – project manager, Ms Zsófia Dukát – head of department (DINPD) Mr Attila Vécsei – head of department (MoD DEB), Eszter Forgács – project coordinator (MoD DEB)
- On the basis of this all-day negotiation our complex zone system in the CMP was simplified and finalised. 9 zones remained and larger blocks were developed to be easily observed in field. From Zone No.1 to Zone No. 9. the number of conservation requirements is increasing. (For instance Zone No. 1 is the area of the military bases with hardly any conservation restrictions and Zone No. 9. contains habitats of sensitive, strictly protected species.) For the background documents on the updated zones see Annex 5.2.2.6.1,2 on CD. For the minutes and list of participants please see Annex 5.2.2.6.3,4. on CD. For a map of the zones see Annex 5.2.2.6.5.

After the zone map is accepted officially, it will serve as a base for the soldier's field card.
(More information on the field card and the CD is available in the next point 'training'.) The whole CMP document needs supervision. As it contains also a lot of basic data (geography of the area, ownership data, etc.) it is beyond the capacity of this project.
To gain exact information on the effect of the military use on the natural habitats, populations, middle and long-term surveys and monitoring programs have to be set – as a base of the future supervision and modification of the CMP.

Training of the military users of the SR:

As a part of our conservational training program, two posters – in Hungarian and English languages – were compiled for the Hungarian and foreign troops using the SR to show the natural values of the live fire SR and the aims of our LIFE project. These are displayed in one of the control buildings of the SR. (Please see the Hungarian version poster in 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.6-9.

We held several meetings, presentations for the military users of the SR, for these see Point 5.2.2.6. in 1MTR.

The first round of the training of military users of Táborfalva SR was held close to the finalisation of the CMP, on 18.11.2014; Székesfehérvár, for details see 1MTR Point 5.2.2.6.

Second training occasion for the military users of the SR:

- *Name:* ***Training for the military users***
- *Topic:* presentation of conservation basics and HUTURJAN LIFE+ project, update of CMP
- *Date and place:* 02.12.2015.; Székesfehérvár
- Audience: 18
- *Participants:* Mr György Verő – field coordinator, Ms Annamária Csóka – project manager, Ms Zsófia Dukát – head of department (DINPD) Mr Attila Vécsei – head of department (MoD DEB), Eszter Forgács – project coordinator (MoD DEB)
- *Messages delivered:* Basic concept and definitions of conservation, the importance of the Natura 2000 network and the protected habitats/species in the Táborfalva SR and the final version of the CMP were presented
- For the list of participants on the occasion see Annex 5.2.2.6.3. on CD

The first field trip with the military users of the SR was held on 15.05.2013; Táborfalva, see 1MTR Point 5.2.2.6. On the second occasion the use of the zone system as well as soldier's field card will be presented in field, in the vegetation period of 2016.

Based on our previous experience gained from the trainings, we plan to compile a complex training material (for on-line use and CD).

Parts of the training material:

1. introduction to conservation and environmental protection (general issues, definitions, conservation and environmental problems, case studies, etc.) – compiled by Mr. László Gálhidy, WWF

(Already available on our website, see: http://turjanvidek.hu)

2. special (local) conservation topics (Natura 2000 in the SR, special habitats and species, etc.)

Information is already available on our project website, e.g.

http://turjanvidek.hu/?/erintett_terulet/elovilaga

http://turjanvidek.hu/?/erintett_terulet/vedett_fajok

3. zone map and its description regarding the SR (after the plan is officially accepted)

Field data collection and GIS exchange:

- The data collection for future updating the CMP for the SR is continuous. Up-to-date field data is sent to the MoD DEB. A record number of 15 616 new data were collected on Natura 2000, protected, strictly protected and Red Data Book species from the SR since our project launched. Over 2500 protected species data were collected by participants of the military sector, with the guidance of DINPD, which are included in the DINPD database.

On 04.07.2014 a workstation started to operate at Táborfalva Base with QGIS database and the biotic data on the SR (for a photo see 1MTR Annex 4.2.2.). Here, the internet service is also provided by your project from October, 2014.)

Within this action the ultimate goal is to create the framework for a fruitful, long-lasting bi-lateral cooperation between the military users and nature conservation on the SR. For that reason we have chosen an approach based on engagement and win-win consensus, which takes more time and effort to create than delivering one-way communication actions (training, CD-ROM). However, we are convinced that this approach will pay back in the long run, and CMP commonly agreed through iterative talks will fulfil its conservation purpose the best.
During the joint revision of the CMP the military users have been learning the basic principles and needs of nature conservation on the SR. Besides the expert dialogue, the over-achieved field data collection activity with the involvement of the troops and the training field trip in 2013 both contributed to the awareness raising and capacity building of the military officers.

- **Time schedule:** deadline: 31.08.2016.
- (last sub-deadlines accepted by EC:
- compilation of the updated CMP – military use part: 31.12.2014.
- completed: 02.12.2015.
- development of the soldier's field card: 31.03.2015.
- proposed new deadline: 30.05.2016.
- complete updated CMP is compiled – all stakeholders' part: 31.03.2016.)
-
- **Outputs (DINPD, MoD DEB):**
- presentation: introduction to conservation and environmental protection – on website**;** Natura 2000 habitats, species of SR - on website
- Work station and GIS equipment for the Táborfalva military base
- 2 trainings and 1 field trip with military users for practical training
- over 2500 GIS data on protected species collected by the military users – in DINPD database
- **Problems:** yes
- Our field coordinator could have joined our project in January, 2012. (We were waiting for an expert who has previous experience in LIFE implementation and habitat management, with good English and GIS knowledge.) In the southern part of Turjánvidék Natura 2000 site DINPD practically had no field experts before. Consequently, there was no expert to gain the knowledge of the area and habitat management from. Thus it took a longer time for the field coordinator to get the efficient information on the area by himself and he could launch Action D6 only after that. The procession of the CMP supposes well-founded conservation knowledge of the area, with special regards to the fact that the available management plan was compiled almost ten years ago (in 2004) and was not detailed enough in many cases. The development of the basic contact with the Táborfalva Military Base also required time, as this body is not a project partner (our partner is MoD DEB, which is a ministry organisation). To contact all the military users is difficult again as the troops which train in the SR are stationed in different, remote parts of Hungary. For these reasons, our field coordinator needs numerous days of fieldwork and data procession to update the CMP. The adaptation of the CMP requires detailed negotiations with the military users as well. For these reasons this action is delayed**.**
  Consequences for other actions: no
- **Modifications:** no, except for the deadline

- **5.2.2.7. ACTION D.7: Information to the general public - Media work**
- **Action status:** ongoing
- **Responsible partner:** WWF
- **Description of the results achieved so far:**
- We held a thematic workshop after starting the project (03.04.2012.) and as a result the five-year communication plan of HUTURJAN project was compiled (submitted as IR Annex 5.1.19-2)
- In the first years of the project we provided information on the conservation values of Turjánvidék Natura 2000 site southern unit and the conservation actions of our project in national magazines, local newspapers and magazines of the partners, e.g. Herald Cincér, the DINPD quarterly newspaper (please see 1PR Annex 5.1.19.-1.). We had also on-line media releases on the partners' own webpages, websites of the local governments of the settlements neighbouring the project site and national websites. (For the complete and updated list of media clippings please see Annex 5.2.2.7.1. on CD.) We had two roll-ups prepared. (Compared to a poster, a roll-up is much more durable and can be easily transported.) One of these provides information about HUTURJAN project and will be used by all our project partners to advertise our program at conferences, meetings, etc. (For this roll-up see MTR1 Annex 5.2.2.7.-3.) The other roll-up displays the natural values of Turjánvidék Natura 2000 site southern unit, our project site, and Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek Natura 2000 site, subject of another LIFE project of DINPD, which is completed. This roll-up is integrated to the roll-up series of DINPD, which demonstrates the conservation values of its operational area, and exhibited at every public program of DINPD. (The roll-up is shown in Annex 1PR 5.1.19.-4.) To inform also the foreign interested, the project roll-up was translated into English and a poster produced (please have a look at 1PR Annex 5.1.19-5.).
- A workshop on military communication with MoD DEB, WWF and DINPD was held on 28.02.2013., for its minutes please see 1PR Annex 5.1.19-7.
  We held our first press conference and field trip on 20.06.2013 on the project site. The organisation was done by WWF, with the support from the partners and the Military Base. The invitation (on CD), the final programme, photos and participants list are presented in MTR1 Annexes 5.2.2.7.-4-10.
- - The programme produced high interest among the media, altogether 30 journalists participated. The press conference and the press release generated 30 clippings in the on-line and printed media and 2 television interviews. The programme produced high interest among the media, altogether 30 journalists participated. Interviews were made with the representatives of the project partners and the Military Base. The press conference and the press release generated 30 clippings in the on-line and printed media and 2 television interviews, which is a quite good coverage. All the press articles are collected and filed in (See MTR1 Annex 5.2.2.7.-11.on CD and MTR1 Annex 5.2.2.7.-12. for some examples in the printed version).
- Later, in July the unfortunate fire incident on the SR was reported on one green portal, but did not generated more media interest.
- In 2015 the field video clips and news about the fauna monitoring generated the highest media attention. Besides them, a 40-minute-long interview about the project was recorded by OzoneNetwork TV channel in September and broadcast several times. Pál Kézdy from DINPD and Klára Kerpely from WWF were interviewed.
- The usual length of nature documentaries in the Hungarian channels is 25 minutes, therefore our film will have this length as well. We will also produce a 2-minute short clip to present it at events and on-line. The film production is coordinated by WWF and Mr.

György Verő and Mr. József Molnár support it on the field. To select the film maker company we asked different producers and selected Natfilm Kft. on the basis of their previous works and the price offered. We launched the film shooting at the end of spring, 2013. Some scenes were shot on the press excursion in June. Obtaining the official permit for film shooting on the military area took several months, therefore the troop could start to work on their own only at the beginning of 2014. (For the permit see MTR1 Annex 5.2.2.7.-13. on CD.) Unfortunately in June 2014 the cameraman was injured seriously in a traffic incident, which resulted in 2 months in hospital. Also their 4WD car was totally damaged. This caused a 3 months delay in the work, no shooting could be done during the vegetation season of 2014. In October the filming was restarted and went on until the end of 2015. The military use of the SR is a limiting factor, since it is not permitted to enter the site when military activity is on-going. The only exception is when the military activity is filmed. (For photos on film shooting see 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.7.-14,15.)

- In April 2015 a 2-minute-long trailer was created, which was published on the project website and popularized in social media (youtube and facebook). The trailer was presented at a side event of an international nature film festival, held in May in Gödöllő, besides the official programme. In the spring two other short spots about animals of the SR were released in the on-line media, which created many clippings (included in the clipping list). Before publication all the videos had to be approved by the press office of the Ministry of Home Defence. All the 3 clips can be watched in News section of the website: http://turjanvidek.hu/?/news, and for printscreens see Annex 5.2.2.7.2.
- The 'first cut' version of the 25-minute-long film was ready at the end of 2015. It will be finalized according to the feedback from WWF and DINPD, and then it will be submitted for approval of the partners and of the press offices of the Ministry of Home Defence and Ministry of Agriculture. Broadcast on TV will be organised during 2016.
- The film making professionals found the project site so interesting and valuable that they decided to create another, much longer nature documentary about it, and they managed to raise additional funds for it from the national fund for movie and television production. Therefore we extended the filming period until the end of the project, and then the full-night movie will be completed as part of the After-LIFE actions.
- Within this Action, we decided to create an additional publication, a thematic issue of the regular WWF Magazine, which was used in the direct communication to the locals and the wider public. It was approved previously by the external monitor and the EC desk officer. The thematic issue, focused on the project site was published in 15,000 pcs (size A5, full colour, 20 pages, 1 full copy was attached in MTR1 Annex 5.2.2.7.-16 on CD). Out of it 10,100 was directly distributed by post to all households in the 4 settlements around the SR in December 2013. The rest was distributed by WWF and the project partners on events and by post to individual supporters. (Distribution plan attached in MTR1 Annex 5.2.2.7.-18. on CD.
- In the summer of 2015 the special issue of Cincér newsletter of DINPD was published in 5000 copies on 09.07.2015. and distributed by the partnership to schools, libraries, environmental education NGOs and individuals at different events. A PDF version on the CD is attached as Annex 5.2.2.7.3.
- The media interest for the hidden natural treasures of the Táborfalva SR has been raised nation-wide through the media field trip, targeted articles and the short video spots of animal species, which were released to the on-line media. The media reach value of the clippings during the 4 years has been over 7.5 million hits. The issue of nature conservation on military areas has been introduced to the green media agenda. Furthermore, people living in the nearby settlements received 3 specific publications about the project through the post and through local institutions.

- **Outputs (WWF, DINPD):**
- increased interest on the issues targeted by the projects
- 1 press conference
- press releases are issued
- press articles are collected and filed in
- special issue of WWF Magazine in 15,000 copies
- 1 trailer and 2 spots of the project film
- special issue of Cincér newsletter in 5000 copies
- **Time schedule:** on time, original deadline: 31.12.2016.
- **Problems:** Car accident of the cameraman had caused some delay in filming, but it was overcome after he recovered.
- **Modifications:** One additional publication in 15,000 pieces was issued by WWF and distributed among the inhabitants of the 4 settlements. The film about the project originally was planned to be 15 minutes long, but we changed this plan to 25 minutes after consulting with contacts at television channels.

- **5.2.2.8. ACTION D.8: Dissemination of scientific results of the project**
- **Action status:** ongoing
- **Responsible partner: DINPD**
- **Description of the results achieved so far:**

- We participated in the following scientific conferences in 2015:
- *Name:* ***'Conservation of Dry Grasslands in Central Hungary'***
- *Date and place:* 20-21 May, 2015; Győr
  Participants: Ms Annamária Csóka – project manager, Mr György Verő – field coordinator
- *Description:* Organised by MoD DEB and its partners within LIFE project LIFE08 NAT/H/000289. The goal was to share conservation experience in military areas and the reconstruction of dry grasslands. An international meeting of professionals from the two sectors, with 50+ participants.
- *Presentation:* Presentation (also with Slovakian translation) on HUTURJAN project and another one on Hungarian ground beetle research concerning our project site as well. (For presentations see Annex 5.2.2.8.1,2 on CD, for photos Annex 5.2.2.8.3,4.)
- *Lessons learnt:* How conservation and military can coexist in other sites of Hungary? Methods of successful grassland reconstruction. Hints on IAS management.

For details on previous conferences see Point 5.2.2.8 in 1MTR. The list of other held presentations is also available in the same point.

The number of scientific events we have participated in by the end of 2015: 11.
Number of professionals who got information on our project in these events: cca. 700.
The project was represented by one or more presentations, posters or project brochures in these events.

Outputs (DINPD):

- 8 conference, 23 participation

- 8 scientific publications – presentations (more than foreseen, instead of 6 – for the new ones see Annex 5.2.2.8.-1,2, the others are available in 1MTR Annex 5.2.2.8.).

- **Time schedule:** on time, original deadline: 31.12.2016.
- **Problems:** no
- **Modifications:** no

- **5.2.2.9. ACTION D.9: Best practices in the defence against invasive species**

- **Action status:** ongoing
- **Responsible partner:** WWF, DINPD
- **Description of the results achieved so far:**
- The first (national) seminar on invasive plant management in practice was held on 14-15. October, 2013 in Bugyi, near the project site. WWF was responsible for the organisation and the programme was defined together with the staff of DINPD. In the proposal we foresaw the participation of 30 experts, but the interest was so high that we decided to increase the event until the budget is not overspent. At the end, we received 98 registered participants.
- The seminar was co-organised by another project of DINPD, „Özönnövények elleni egységes védelem homoki és ártéri élőhelyeken" Magyarország-Szlovákia Határon Átnyúló Együttműködési Program (HUSK/1101/2.2.1/0052). In this project a small-scale experience exchange was planned on the same topic among the staff of DINPD and their Slovakian partners, and it was a good synergy option to upgrade the scale of knowledge to be shared. The costs of the participants from Slovakia and the colleagues of DINPD (9 persons in total) were covered from the HU-SK project.
- In the event representatives of LIFE projects dealing with invasive management, experts of all the 10 national park directorates, forestry companies, alien species specialists of universities, colleges and other scientific institutions participated. For participants list see Annex 5.2.2.9-1 on CD. Description of the venue, programme and outcome of the national seminar was provided in the 1MTR.
- All the presentations of the national invasive seminar are available on our project site:
- http://turjanvidek.hu/?/news/invasive_seminar
- The international workshop on invasive management will be held on the 19-21st of April 2016, in Hotel Benczúr, Budapest. WWF collected offers from several 3 and 4 star conference hotels and selected the best value for money option, considering the location and service as well.
- We do not ask for a registration fee from the participants, and the accommodation and meals will be covered from the project budget for all presenters and maximum 1 additional participants per organisation. Travel costs by default should be covered by the participants, but in case of valuable contributors in need we will consider to support it. We expect 40-60 participants from all over Europe, and the total budget is foreseen to be around 10,000 Euros, including room, accommodation, meals, field trip. Originally we planned a much smaller event with a smaller budget, but we are aware of the high interest and since the experience exchange in this topic is very important we would like to extend the scale and scope, and increase the budget of the workshop. Costs of the event can be covered by some savings that we achieved in other Actions of the project, and it does not represent a significant change among the cost categories. The larger event will contribute to the dissemination of the results of the present project at European level.
- The workshop will contribute to the on-going Biogeographic Seminar process of the Pannonian eco-region as an official follow-up event approved by the Commission.
- The first circular with a call for contribution was sent out to the available international contact lists (e.g. all LIFE projects that dealt with invasive plants, Eurosite members, European national park directorates, etc.) at the beginning of December 2015. For the first circular see Annex 5.2.2.9.1.
- All the important information about the workshop is published on the event pages that we created on the project website: http://turjanvidek.hu/?/invasive_plants_workshop

- As we discussed it with the Monitor at the mission last year, we plan to modify a little the concept of the planned WWF booklet on invasive plants, because since the proposal writing the situation changed. Several shorter end longer publications have been issued for the professional target groups on invasive plant species recently, therefore the planned booklet would be a duplicate. On the other hand, there is a lack of information tailored to laymen, in spite they also have an impact on this problem through gardening in private and public spaces in settlements. With the publication in this action we want to cover this gap by targeting the wide public around the project site and nationwide. For this purpose we plan with the same budget to print a smaller format brochure (A5, 24 pages) in higher number of copies (10,000), and only in Hungarian. English translation will be created only as a PDF and published on-line. The content will be general information on problems caused by invasive plants and the openly available techniques to eliminate them, and then detailed information on the 15 most common and dangerous species in the Danube-Tisza interfluve area.
- Our activities regarding the invasive species knowledge collection and leverage apparently meet the needs of the conservation community in Hungary and within the EU. As a result, our events continuously generate higher interest and host larger audience than originally planned. For the most efficient use of EU resources the project builds on the synergies with other on-going projects regarding this topic as well, like the HUSK/1101/2.2.1/0052 project. Apart from disseminating the collected best practice among professionals the project will contribute to awareness raising among laymen about this serious issue.

Outputs (WWF, DINPD):
1 national experts' forum is held
Time schedule: original deadline for forums were: 31.12.2013.
- planned new deadline: 30.04.2016.
- original deadline for Rosalia volume: 31.12.2015.
- planned new deadline: 31.12.2016.
- original deadline for WWF booklet: 31.05.2016.
- planned new deadline: 31.08.2016.
-
- **Problems:** no
- **Modifications:** Both expert seminars has been upgraded with more participants and more days since the interest among professionals is high and the topic offers large amount of experience to be exchanged.
  The target group of the WWF invasive plants booklet will be the wider public instead of the professional audience, because for them several specialised publications have been issued recently in other projects. Smaller format and higher number of copies are planned.
  For the same reason, we plan to change the topic of the Rosalia volume as well, and prepare a monograph of the Turjánvidék instead of the practical manual on eradication and management of IAS. A similar volume to the latter has been published in a Hungarian-Slovakian CBC project.

- **5.2.2.10. ACTION D.10: Compilation of the Layman's report**
- **Action status:** not due yet

- **5.2.2.11. ACTION D.11: Networking with other LIFE projects**
- **Action status:** ongoing
- **Responsible partner:** DINPD

- **Description of the results achieved so far:**

- All the partners have participated in LIFE projects already.

- DINPD has been a coordinating beneficiary for 3 LIFE projects so far.

- In *'Restoration of Pannonic forests and grasslands on the Szénás Hills'* LIFE project, Mr Pál Kézdy was the project manager, who is presently the Head of Department of Project Management Department in DINPD. In *'Conservation of Euro-siberian steppic woods and Pannonic sand steppes in 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' pSCI'* LIFE project, at first Ms Annamária Csóka (project manager of HUTURJAN) was the project manager, who was later substituted by Mr György Verő (management coordinator of HUTURJAN). This way, the experience of the former LIFE personnel is collected in HUTURJAN project. DINPD incorporates the previous experience mainly regarding invasive management, forest regeneration and overall project management. DINPD also participated in *'Conservation of the Pannon endemic Dianthus diutinus'* LIFE project, which also provided good experience in invasive management. The Directorate was a partner even in *'Establishing the background of saving the Hungarian Meadow Viper (Vipera ursinii rakosiensis) from extinction'* LIFE project and gathered valuable information on the distribution and needs of this species, which is a flagship species for HUTURJAN project as well. We are in continuous contact with the manager of *'Conservation of Hungarian Meadow Viper* (*Vipera ursinii rakosiensis*) *in the Carpathian Basin'* LIFE project and we are given help in viper monitoring. We share habitat management experience with *'Conservation of dry grasslands in Central Hungary'* DINPD LIFE project also.

- MoD DEB is the coordinating beneficiary in *'Restoration and conservation of priority habitats and species in the Eastern Bakony area'* LIFE project and *'Restoration and conservation of priority-listed Pannonic sand land habitats in military owned area of the Hungarian Little Plain'*, both implemented in military areas. This way, we can use the experience in harmonising the needs of conservation and military use, compilation of materials with conservation scope dedicated for military users, etc.

- BFC is also a partner of *'Restoration and conservation of priority-listed Pannonic sand land habitats in military owned area of the Hungarian Little Plain'* LIFE project and has previous experience in forest habitat management.

- WWF worked together with DINPD before in *'Conservation of Euro-siberian steppic woods and Pannonic sand steppes in 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' pSCI'* LIFE project, so all its communication expertise can be transferred to HUTURJAN LIFE+. This partner also uses the LIFE communication experience gained from *'Conservation of alluvial habitats of community interest on the Szabadság Island and side channel in Béda-Karapancsa pSCI'*, *'Management of floodplains on the Tisza'* LIFE projects, as coordinating beneficiary, and in new LIFE+ project 'Improved communication, cooperation and capacity building for preserving biodiversity in Natura 2000 forests (LIFE13 INF/HU/001163).

- We participated in the event organised by MoA on the 20th anniversary of LIFE (17.05.2012.), where also best LIFE practices were presented (we profited from ideas in

'*Restoration of pannonic steppes and marshes*', *Conservation of the Pannon endemic Dianthus diutinus' 'Restoration and conservation of priority habitats and species in the Eastern Bakony area'* LIFE project and *'Restoration and conservation of priority-listed Pannonic sand land habitats in military owned area of the Hungarian Little Plain'* LIFE projects which were presented there. For the program and a photo see IR Annex 5.1.23.-1.,2.

- We visited the Hungarian Meadow Viper Conservation Centre in Kunadacs with our project staff on 27.06.2012. (Please see the photo in Annex 5.2.2.11.-1). We participated in the closing conference of this project and had a field visit to viper habitats in Hanság (22.08.2013. photo Annex 5.2.2.11.-2). We also contact with *'Restoration and conservation of priority habitats and species in the Eastern Bakony area'* in the topics of compilation of the conservation management plan of the SR and the soldier's field card and had a visit on 20.09.2012, and we participated in its closing conference on 14-16 May, 2014 (see also Action D8). For a photo see Annex 5.2.2.11.-3.
- We extended the networking to the international level with the visit to the *'Restoration and management of sand dune habitats in MTA Záhorie'* LIFE project implemented in Slovakia, in a military area with similar habitats to ours. The visit was organised on the 10 September 2013, with the participation of staff from all project partners. For photo of the excursion see Annex 5.2.2.11.-4. In 2014 a new LIFE Information and Communication project was started in the coordination of WWF, LIFEinFORESTS. Experience exchange with the implementing team is planned in the future.
- On 19-20.06.2014. we were present in the meeting of project coordinators of national parks in Királyrét (photo: Annex 5.2.2.11.-5. On 25.06.2014. we took part in the LIFE infoday (photo: Annex 5.2.2.11.-6). On these occasions practical hints of LIFE project management and general information of future LIFE application were exchanged with other project staffs.
- In 2015, as a main networking event we participated in a conference organised by Little Plain LIFE project (in Győr, see D8 in Point 5.2.2.8.) We worked together with HELICON LIFE again and the coordinator of CONVIPURS LIFE participated in one of our viper monitoring occasions.

- For exact data on these occasions and other contacting in 2015 see the table in Annex 5.2.2.11.1. on CD.

Outputs (DINPD):

exchanged experiences in the topic of invasive management, viper monitoring, military in conservation areas, communication, project administration, etc.

- 2 field visits to related projects, and experience exchange meeting with project coordinators of 10 projects

- **Time schedule:** on time, original deadline: 31.12.2016.
- **Problems:** no
- **Modifications:** no

Results of D actions:
Regarding communication monitoring, the indicator numbers are as follows (by 31.12.2015.):

- number of visitors of webpage: 37,397
- number of participants in project events: 280
- number of delivered materials: 26,286
- number of media events: 84

Photos were taken by Mr. Zoltán Bajor, Ms. Annamária Csóka, Mr. György Verő, Mr. József Molnár, Mr. Gábor Kovács, Ms. Eszter Forgács, Ms. Klára Kerpely, Mr. Ferenc Halász, Mr. Zsolt Nemes, Mr. Pál Kézdy, Mr. Adrián Novák, Ms. Viktória Siposs, Mr. András Sevcsik, Ms. Ágnes Spáda, Mr. Attila Vécsei, Mr. Gábor Szelényi
Photos on military can be publicized only with further permission from the Ministry of Defence, Press Office.
Maps were compiled by Mr. György Verő.

Thanks to the project staff helping the compilation of this report and project implementation.

TIMETABLE

In the timetable, deliverables and milestones tables progress made so far is coloured in green.

(In the timetable the original schedule is in the first row by each action, the second row represents the actual timing.)

The tick in 4.2016 represents the proposed date of end of the project – therefore it is not an official statement.

Action	2011		2012				2013				2014				2015				2016			
Number	09	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or action plans :																						
A1	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓			
		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓			
A2			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
A3	✓	✓	✓	✓																		
		✓	✓	✓	✓																	
B. Purchase/lease of land and/or rights :																						
B1	✓	✓	✓	✓																		
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																
C. Concrete conservation actions :																						
C1					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
C2									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
C3									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
C4									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
													✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
C5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
C6													✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	
C7					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
C8					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
															✓	✓						
D. Public awareness and dissemination of results :																						
D1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
D2	✓	✓	✓																			
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓														
D3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																
			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										
D4	✓	✓	✓	✓																		
			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															
D5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
D6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
D7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
D8										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
D9									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
D10																		✓	✓	✓		
D11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
E. Overall project operation and monitoring:																						
E1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
E2				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
E3																		✓	✓	✓		

DELIVERABLE PRODUCTS OF THE PROJECT

Name of the Deliverable	Code of the associated action	Deadline
Min. 4 newly employed persons for conservational tasks	E1	31.12.2011
Preparation of 3000-3500 copies of different promotion materials	D2	19.06.2013.
2 clearing saws with seed collection adapter	C5	31.03.2012
2000 copies of A4 format, full-colour brochures in Hungarian and English, printed on recycled paper	D4	10.11.2012
6 information boards set up	D3	31.10.2012
20 out placed boards of demarcation and further 10 items as replacement	D3	31.10.2012
Elaborated guide on conservation management	E2	31.12.2012

monitoring and report on the habitat fundamental status		
adaptation of the conservation management plan for land users and environmental officers	D6	02.12.2015
1 training CD-ROM for military users 300 pcs	D6	31.05.2013
2000 pieces of laminated pocket cards in Hungarian and English	D6	31.05.2013
41 crossing gates	C7	31.07.2012
Research report of management monitoring of Actions C1, C2, C3 and C5	E2	31.12.2013
Dabas water management objects and 1 observation well for indicate groundwater table are built and have harmonized operation plan	C4	28.02.2014
New forest management plan, that includes conservational interests that come off by the new habitat status that exist because of the project's actions	A1	31.03.2014
Research report of management monitoring of Actions C1, C2, C3 and C5	E2	31.12.2014
Water management objects and 2 fountains for indicate groundwater table are built in Táborfalva Military SA and have harmonized operation plan	C4	28.02.2015
Special issue of newsletter 'Cincér' on the project, 5000 pcs	D7	09.07.2015
15 minute long film on 'Turjánvidék' Natura 2000 site southern unit	D7	31.12.2015
1 thematic 'Rosalia' volume in Hungarian, in 500 copies about elimination of invasive species	D9	31.12.2015
Research report of management monitoring of Actions C1, C2, C3 and C5	E2	31.12.2015
1 thematic WWF booklet in Hungarian and English, in 1000 copies altogether	D9	31. 05. 2016
min. 2500 conservational data collected in field by military users and elaborated	D6	27.05.2015
8 scientific publications/posters/presentations	D8	21.05.2015
1000 copies of Layman's report in Hungarian and English languages	D10	end of project
After LIFE management plan	E3	end of project

MILESTONES OF THE PROJECT

Name of the Milestone	Code of the associated action	Deadline
Technical implementation of the project established (Recruitment of new personnel, acquisition of office equipment, Kick-off meeting, partnership agreements)	E1	22.02.2012

Design of the project brand including logo	D2	31.01.2012
Project website set up	D1	28.02.2012
Land purchase: 19,1 ha arable land for conservational management purposes	B1	30.06.2012
1 permitted construction drawing and contracts for construction of management objects on 'Dabasi Turjános' NCA	A2	15.12.2014
45+19,1 ha conversion of enclosed arable land into grassland started, (alfalfa and grass seed sowing)	C5	31.08.2013
1 field trip in the frame of environmental officer training 1.	D6	15.05.2013
Press conference with press trips held for the national media, 1. for introduct the project	D7	20.06.2013
1 national and 1 international experts' forum, platform for sharing experiences on invasive species	D9	31.12.2013
1 permitted construction drawing and contracts for construction of management objects on Táborfalva Military Shooting Range	A2	31.03.2014
Munition treatment plan is compiled	A3	31. 05. 2012
Elimination of an illegal sand pit on 1, 3 ha	C7	31. 10. 2013
End of implementation of munition treatment	C8	30.11. 2014
1 field trip in the frame of environmental officer training 2.	D6	31.12.2015
In 500 ha potential Viper protection area the gradual introduction of extensive grazing instead of machinery mowing, combined with mowing in a mosaic pattern (15%)	C5	31.03.2016
5 'Green Days' on Táborfalva Military Shooting Range during the project	D5	end of project
Press conference with press trips held for the national media, 1. about the results of the project	D7	end of project
1100 ha Pannonic sand steppes and Pannonic inland sand dune thickets are free of invasives in 95%	C1	30.11.2014
42 ha non-indigenous forests (primarily Black Locust) restructured into indigenous forests	C2	31.12.2015
56 ha alder and ash gallery forest (91E0) is free of invasives	C3	30.11.2014
15 ha buffer zone for 91E0 forests is free of Russian Olive	C3	30.11.2014
Restructuring of 4.5 ha Hybrid Black Poplar plantation into ash gallery forest	C3	30.11.2014
Development of 30 ha potential Viper habitats with transforming forests into meadows (clearings) and grazing	C6	end of project

5.3 Evaluation of Project Implemention

For the methodology of project implementation see Point 4.

Comparison of the project results against the objectives:

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
A1	1. Legally binding forestry permits between 2012 and 2016, for Actions C1, C2, C3 and C6 The inclusion and regulation of the habitat status developed in the project in the forestry management plan valid in 2013-2022 2. Contracts for construction works bound for Actions C1, C2, C3 and C6 (according to procurement rules)	1. forest management plans for 2013-2022 for the compartments of the project area which are managed as forests, incorporating the tasks of HUTURJAN LIFE+ project; the new forest management plans are permits for the implementation of nature conservation management works of this project 2. forest habitat management works are planned, prepared in details and contracted	on-going, no problems, no modifications, cost-effective, successful results, same content as foreseen, immediately visible results (maps, contracts, etc.); **important and effective part of the project**
A2	1. 1 permitted construction drawing for Dabas Turjános NCA 2. 1 permitted construction drawing for Táborfalva SR 3. Contracts for construction works bound for Action C4 (according to procurement rules) a.) in Dabas Turjános NCA b.) in Táborfalva SR	1. construction drawing is compiled for construction works in Dabas Turjános NCA (for Action C4) 3. a.) Contract for construction works in Dabas Turjános NCA for Action C4 (company selected by public tender)	on-going, problems (Point 2. and 3. b. is delayed, see Action A2 in Point 5.1), modifications of the foreseen number and size of water management objects, cost-effective, immediately visible results (contracts); **important part of the project, lesson learnt: more lengthy action than foreseen**
A3	1. A well established munition treatment plan, that enables safe circumstances for construction works	1. Munition treatment plan is compiled	completed, no problems, no modifications, cost-effective, successful results, same content as foreseen, immediately visible results (munition treatment plan) **important and effective part of the project**
B1	1. On 19.1 ha area DINPD, as owner guarantees the implementation of conservation management	1. 19.1 ha large area, potential viper habitat is owned and managed by DINPD with conservation guarantee	completed (before schedule), no problems, no modifications, cost-

			effective, successful results, same content as foreseen, immediately visible results (contract), later visible results (changed ownership sheet, etc.) **important and effective part of the project**
C1	1. 1100 ha Pannonic sand steppes and Pannonic inland sand dune thickets are free of invasives in 95%	1. 1172 ha of Pannonic sand steppes and inland sand dune thickets are free of alien plant species in 95%	on-going (only post treatment is due), no problems, no modifications, cost-effective, successful results carried out in a larger area than foreseen, immediately visible results (after one day plants begin to wilt) **important and effective part of the project**
C2	1. 42 ha non-indigenous (mainly Robinia, and Pinus) forests, border or enclosed in priority habitats, restructured into indigenous forests, 28 ha complete and gentle reconstruction, (from that: 17 ha interior parts complete reconstr., 11 ha outer areas by gentle reconstr.) and 14 ha gentle reconstruction (enclosed patches).	1. 18 ha forest reconstruction with native species (complete soil preparation), 8 ha planting in surrounding buffer zone with pit boring, 11 ha afforestation in new location 37 ha altogether (plantation) 26 ha alien plant management (instead of forest reconstruction with gentle soil preparation),	on-going, no problems, modifications (see Action C2 in Point 5.1), cost-effective, successful results, immediately visible results (clearcutting), later visible results (new native plantation) **important and effective part of the project**
C3	1. 56 ha elimination of invasives from alder-ash gallery forests, 2. 4.5 ha from that reconstruction with alder and ash saplings, 3. 15 ha alder ash forest buffer zone is free of Russian Olive, treated area altogether 75.5 ha.	1. 51 ha ash-alder and hardwood gallery forest is free of alien plant species (56 ha was an incorrectly calculated number) 2. 2 ha hybrid poplar stand is removed 3. 15 ha area is free of Russian olive	on-going (post-treatment and nursing is due), no problems, no modifications, cost-effective, successful results, immediately visible results (after one day plants begin to wilt, clearcutting) **important and effective part of the project**

C4	1. 5+3 water management objects, 2 observation wells 2. The water supply is improved in 88 ha alder-ash gallery forests, priority habitat (91E0) 3. The water supply is improved in 1400 ha Natura 2000 site 4. 2 harmonized operation plan 5. the exact hectares of affected areas is not yet known (Action A2), improved water supply on 56 ha (Táborfalva) and 32 ha alder-ash gallery forests (Dabas) and on approximately 39 ha Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils 6410	1. 3 water management objects are constructed in Dabas Turjános NCA 2. The water supply is improved in 32 ha alder-ash gallery forests, priority habitat (91E0) 3. The water supply is improved in 700 ha Natura 2000 site 5. the exact hectares of affected areas is not yet known (Action A2), improved water supply on 32 ha alder-ash gallery forests (Dabas)	delayed (see Action A2 in Point 5.1.), modifications in size and number of the water management objects, objectives are still viable **important and effective part of the project, lessons learnt: its preparatory action is longer than foreseen**
C5	1. 19.1 (Dabas, ~B1 land purchase) ha and 45 ha (Military Shooting Range) arable land conversion into grasslands, 64.1 restored habitat, gradual introduction of grazing 2. Development of potential Hungarian Meadow Viper habitats: introduction of extensive grazing on 500 ha, 70% of them Molinia meadows (6410), 30% Pannonic stand steppes, closed sand steppes (6020) instead of machinery mowing, combined with mowing in a mosaic pattern (15%)	1. 19.1 ha ploughland in Dabas NCA is changed into grassland 2. Development of potential Hungarian Meadow Viper habitats: introduction of extensive grazing on 573 ha, 70% of them Molinia meadows (6410), 30% Pannonic stand steppes, closed sand steppes (6020) instead of machinery mowing, combined with mowing in a mosaic pattern (15%)	on-going, no, solved problem, see Point 5.1 for Action C5, no modifications (larger grazed area than foreseen), cost-effective, successful results (alfalfa is sown on 55 ha instead of 45 ha within the SR), immediately visible results (grazing) later visible results (alfalfa and grass occupies the ploughland) **important and effective part of the project**
C6	1. 12+18 ha forests transformed to meadows ; development of 30 ha potential Viper habitats with transforming forests into meadows (clearings) 2. Possibility of vertical migration for the Viper 3. Decrease of invasive quantities	no so far	delayed, (see Action C6 in Point 5.1), no modifications, objectives are still viable
C7	1. Regulated closing of the roads crossing project area with the instalment of 41 crossing gates	1. regulated closing of the roads crossing the project area with 41 crossing gates	completed (before schedule), no problems, no modifications, cost-

	2. Cessation of occasional soil surface disturbance and eradication of invasives dropping seed in the sand habitat block, with the elimination of an illegal sand pit in 1.3 ha	2. halting the soil surface disturbance with closing the illegal sand pit and quitting the spread of invasives through their elimination (1.3 ha)	effective, successful results, same content as foreseen, immediately visible results (crossing gates, ditches) **important and effective part of the project, lessons learnt: vandalism is still common in the area**
C8	1. Safe circumstances for construction works, life hazard is eliminated	1. Safe circumstances for construction works, life hazard is eliminated in 1.64 ha forest regeneration site	delayed, modifications, (see Action C8 in Point 5.1), objectives are still viable **important and effective part of the project**
D1	1. An up-to date website in Hungarian and English version with e-mail address, downloads, links to a number of other websites (LIFE+, beneficiary, partners, other projects) are established 2. An individual webpage on the practical experiences in invasive elimination with a forum and links is set up 3. Min. expected number of visitors: 10 000 during the project period	1. an up-to-date project website in Hungarian and English with downloads, links 2. practical experiences can be downloaded on invasive plant management. Pages of the international invasive plant workshop have been set up. Military conservation training material is also available. 3. cca. 37,000 visitors (already exceeded)	on-going, no problems, no modifications, cost-effective, successful results (foreseen number of visitors is already tripled), immediately visible results (webpage set up) **important and effective part of the project**
D2	1. Easy-to-understand, nice and consistent design made by project logo and graphical elements with high advertising value 2. Different types of promotion objects (textile bags, pens, stickers, etc.) in altogether 3000-3500 pieces	1. nice and consistent logo of high advertising value 2. cca. 3800 different promotion objects	completed, no problems, no modifications, cost-effective, successful results (number of promotion objects is higher than foreseen), immediately visible results (logo, promotion objects) **important and effective part of the project**
D3	1. 6 information boards set up 2. 20 out placed boards of demarcation and further 10 items as replacement	1. 7 information boards set up 1. 20 Natura 2000 demarcation boards set up	completed, no problems, no modifications, cost-effective, successful results

			(the number of information boards is higher than foreseen), immediately visible results (boards set up) **important and effective part of the project**
D4	1. 2000 copies of A4 format, full-colour brochures in Hungarian and English, printed on recycled paper	1. 3500 project brochures are issued (Hungarian and English)	completed, no problems, no modifications, cost-effective, successful results (the number brochures is higher than foreseen), immediately visible results (brochures) **important and effective part of the project**
D5	1. 5 'Green Days' on Táborfalva Military Shooting Range during the project 2. Min. 30 participants per event, 180 persons altogether	1. 3 Green Days so far 2. cca. 130 participants for 3 occasions so far	on-going, no problems, no modifications, cost-effective, successful results (the number of participants per occasion is higher than foreseen), immediately visible results (visiting groups) **important and effective part of the project**
D6	1. 2 field trips in the frame of environmental officer training 2. min. 500 conservation data collected in field by military users per year 3. 1 training CD-ROM for military users 4. 2000 pieces of laminated pocket cards in Hungarian and English	1. 1 is completed (on 15.05.2013.) 2. completed (over 2500 items) 3. a part of the training material is available on-line	delayed, (see Action D6 in Point 5.1.), no modifications, objectives are still viable **important part of the project, lessons learnt: more lengthy process than foreseen**
D7	1. increased interest on the issues targeted by the project and wide knowledge on the results achieved 2. wide media presence 3. 2 press conferences with press trips held for the national media	1. increased interest on the issues targeted by the projects 2. cca. 90 media clippings, including TV interviews 3. 1 press conference and press	on-going, no problems, no modifications, cost-effective, successful results, immediately visible results (issued

	4. press releases are issued 5. a special issue of newsletter 'Cincér' on the project 6. a 15 minute long film on 'Turjánvidék' Natura 2000 site 7. press articles collected and filed in	trip 4. press releases are issued 5. special issue of 'Cincér' newsletter published (in higher number than foreseen) 6. Trailer and spots from the project film on-line 7. press articles are collected and filed in (special issue of WWF Magazine is also published)	articles) **important and effective part of the project**
D8	1. 3 conference participation for 2 persons 2. 6 scientific publications/posters/presentations	1. 8 conference for 23 participations 2. 8 scientific publications/posters/presentations	on-going, no problems, no modifications cost-effective, successful results (the number of scientific publications is higher than foreseen), immediately visible results (issued scientific material) **important and effective part of the project**
D9	1. 1 national experts' forum, platform for sharing experiences on invasive species 2. 1 international experts' forum, platform for sharing experiences on invasive species 3. 1 thematic 'Rosalia' volume in Hungarian, in 500 copies 4. 1 thematic WWF booklet in Hungarian and English, in 1000 copies altogether	1. 1 national experts' forum is held 2. the registration for the international experts' forum in April 2016 is open	delayed (Rosalia), no problems, no modifications, cost-effective, successful results (the number of participants of the national forum was higher than foreseen), immediately visible results (organised forum) **important and effective part of the project, lessons learnt: more interested parties in IAS information exchange than foreseen**
D10	1. 1000 copies of Layman's report in Hungarian and English languages (in A4 format, on recycled paper, full colour, text	no so far	not due

	with photos and figures) 2. A publication documenting the aims, steps and goals of the project		
D11	1. Well established and tried technologies of invasive control, on forums will collect the experiences	1. exchanged experiences in the topic of invasive management, viper monitoring, military in conservation areas, communication, project administration, etc.	on-going, no problems, no modifications cost-effective, successful results (the number of topics in information exchange is higher than foreseen), immediately visible and later results (due to experience exchange) **important and effective part of the project**
E1	1. 1 partnership agreement 2. Min. 4 newly employed persons 3. Min. 5 project workshops 4. 5 project report 5. Continuous and smooth project implementation 6. Continuous contact between partners 7. Quick and concrete answers to raising problems 8. Continuous contact with the responsible persons of LIFE-monitoring, MEW DD and European Commission	1 partnership agreement 2. Min. 4 newly employed persons 3. Min. 5 project workshops 4. Continuous and smooth project implementation 5. Continuous contact between partners 6. Quick and concrete answers to raising problems 7. Continuous contact with the responsible persons of LIFE-monitoring, MoA and European Commission	on-going, no problems, no modifications cost-effective, successful results, visible and later results **important and effective part of the project**
E2	1. direct indicators for all management actions C1-C7 2. direct indicators for all communication actions D1-D11 3. monitoring data series for min. 30 sample areas, at least twice a year 4. min. 3000 GIS data record	1. direct indicators for management actions C1, C2, C5 2. direct indicators for communication actions D1-D9, D11 3. monitoring data series for 32 sample areas 4. 17,798 GIS data records so far	on-going, no problems, no modifications cost-effective, successful results (the number of sample areas and GIS data is higher than foreseen), immediately visible results (data) and later results (due to the evaluation of records at the end of the project) **important and effective part of the**

			project
E3	1 After-LIFE conservation management plan, which is at the same time the updated management plan of the southern unit of 'Turjánvidék' Natura 2000 site	no so far	not due

Indicate effectiveness of the dissemination and comment on any major drawbacks:

The dissemination actions till now were going according to the schedule and with the expected effectiveness and results. Media interest at the first field trip was higher than expected, and also the website has been generating higher traffic than planned.
One extra (not planned in the proposal) tool was introduced, the thematic issue of the WWF Magazine. It was distributed directly to all inhabitants near the project site (10,000 households) so this, together with the information boards contributed largely to the raised awareness of local people.
The revision of the management plan of the SR in Action D6 took longer time than expected, and therefore the production of the training CD and the soldier's field card will be completed in 2016. It is important to highlight that thanks to the thorough and long negotiation, the new zoning is based on a wide agreement, what will facilitate its implementation. Military users knowledge about conservation has notably been increased during the negotiation process.
There is a slight delay in the film shooting in Action D7, due to a 'vis maior' but we expect that it will not cause problems in finishing and presenting the film by the end of the project.
The expert events on invasive plants attract much more professionals than the planned number of participants, what shows that these are responding to a real need of the conservation sector.

5.4 Analysis of long-term benefits

1. Environmental benefits

a.) Direct / quantitative environmental benefits:

The overall natural state of the southern part of the 'Turjánvidék' Natura 2000 site is improved.

The natural state is improved in the case of the following 6 habitats of community importance: Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) (91E0), Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) (6410), Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the Cnidion dubii (6440), Alkaline fens (7230), Pannonic sand steppes (6260) and Pannonic inland sand dune thickets (91N0). The natural state of the species mentioned below is improved : 4 Natura 2000 plant species of community importance, 9 strictly protected, 74 protected plant species; 20 Natura 2000 animal species of community importance (among these Hungarian Meadow Viper is of priority importance), 15 strictly protected, 118 protected and 24 red data book animal species.

b.) Relevance for environmentally significant issues or policy areas:

HUTURJAN project directly helps to reach the aims of Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) as the conservation management supports to reach and maintain the favourable conservation status of habitats and species within the Natura 2000 network.

Our project also contributes to the successful implementation of the key objectives of the 7th Environment Action Programme: With the management of habitats we protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital. During project implementation we apply a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy (preference of digital information exchange, use of recycled paper, solar energy, etc.)

We also directly contribute to the objectives of the Commission Communication COM (2006) 216 final: "Halting the loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond"

2. Long-term benefits and sustainability

a.) Long-term / qualitative environmental benefits:

If the tasks undertaken in the project are carried out, we succeed in mitigating the main factors threatening the Natura 2000 habitats and species of the area.

After the end of the project the following activities are planned:

the maintenance of restructured forests with indigenous tree species (C2, C3); maintenance and use of water management objects; the extensive grazing of areas inhabited by the Hungarian Meadow Viper (C5); maintenance of new grasslands developed from plantations (C6); maintenance of crossing gates (C7); providing access to the website of the project (D1); maintenance of the information and demarcation boards (D3); further use of military nature conservation material (D6).

The responsibility relations of the implementation of actions after the project duration will remain the same as in the proposal. Activities will be financed from the organisations' own budget. The project equipment will be used for conservational actions and for surveys and by the partner that has purchased it.

The detailed regulation and tasks regarding the period after the project will be described in the future After-LIFE management plan.

After eliminating the invasive species (C1, C3) there will be no need to interact actively according to our expectations until cca. 10 years in the same areas. However, the press of invasive plant species from the areas surrounding the project site will remain a problem. In

water retention we can extend the time and quantity of the water remaining in the area, however, we cannot influence the negative effects of climate change (decreasing annual precipitation quantity and unpredictable annual distribution).

b.) Long term qualitative economic benefits:
With the use of the water management objects a more favourable water supply can be provided for the Natura 2000 habitats and species in the whole project area and beyond. However, as in the region the land-use as pastures or hay-meadows is characteristic, the higher production of grasslands has a beneficial effect also on the private farming of the region. A larger water quantity kept in the area has very positive effect on the forests and forestry of the region, too.
As a result of the cooperation between the project partners, more state-owned land parcels can be leased by local farmers as a part of the conservation management of the Natura 2000 area. It is very important, as in this area the land leasing possibilities are scarce.

c.) ***Long term qualitative social benefits:***
The advantages listed in Point b.) contribute to the higher employment rate for the locals in the region.
Although the nature trail at the edge of the SR was not constructed in the frame of our project, we advertise it through our webpage and set a good example with inviting schoolchildren groups from the neighbouring settlements to visit the site. This possibility can be a part of increasing social welfare on the long term.
Our more stable, improved Natura 2000 area is able to provide more in the field of ecosystem services at the local, national and also on the global level.

d.) Continuation of the project actions by the beneficiary or by other stakeholders:
Water management objects will be managed by the military users (representatives of Bakony Combat Centre) with the guidance of DINPD.
Monitoring activities according to the national standards will be carried on (NBMR), also for the spread of invasive plant species.
Cattle grazing in the Hungarian Meadow Viper habitats continues, guaranteed by a declaration (including conservation management requirements) attached to lease contracts.
The cooperation between the conservation and military will be carried on and the CMP, soldier's field card and training material will be used also after the deadline of the project.
The project website will further operate.
The details of the maintenance of the results will be regulated and accepted by the After-LIFE management plan.

3. Replicability, demonstration, transferability, cooperation:
Our conservation management measures are replicable in any similar habitats in the Danube-Tisza Interfluve. The practical invasive management methods can be downloaded from our webpage and was also shared at a professional forum, thus became replicable.
The conservation materials for the military are replicable for the troops using Táborfalva SR, however, these can be transferred and adopted to other used military areas of Hungary.
The project achieved great results in the cooperation in practice between the conservation and military. Before the project the cooperation in the project area was rare and formal.
(For demonstration value please see Point 5.)

4. Best Practice lessons:
We are compiling our 2MTR, thus it is early to discuss the Best Practice lessons learnt during our project. However, we have already used best practices of former LIFE projects, in invasive management and forest regeneration (see in Point 5.1 in Action A1 and C2). In HUTURJAN project a best practice can be the development of a daily routine of cooperation between the military and conservation in Táborfalva SR.

5. Innovation and demonstration value:
There innovative domains of actions in HUTURJAN project:
cooperation with different sectors (DINPD, MoD DEB, BFC, WWF)
cooperation with military (training, field trips)
approach to water supply problems of the Danube-Tisza Interfluve
environmental education in an area which lacks this facility
elaborate collection of experience on practical invasive management

The demonstrative value of the project is shown related to two types of audience: the military users of the shooting range and the civil population of the settlements concerned.
The majority of the target area is in active military usage, it functions as a shooting range and manoeuvring site, thus the most important users are soldiers. Our aim is to increase their environmental awareness and form their attitude – this is manifested in several actions.
The shooting range cannot be visited so the neighbouring civil population is not aware of its natural values; they often consider it to be a hindrance to the development of their settlements. For their sake, we annually organize field trips for schoolchildren (‘Green Days’) with the intention to draw their attention to the nationally and internationally unique natural values of the area.

6. Long term indicators of the project success:
long term indicator: conservation status of the habitats: EU and national indicators are used to assess the conservation status of habitats of community importance of the EU

long term indicator: conservation status of the species (Hungarian Meadow Viper and other Natura 2000 species of the area): national indicators are used to assess the conservation status of habitats of community importance of the EU

6. Comments on the financial report

The Coordinating Beneficiary (DINPD) and the three Associated Beneficiaries (the MOD DEB, the BFC, and WWF) all contribute to the costs of the project and they also benefit from the LIFE grant.

The financial reporting period is 01/09/2011 to 31/12/2015.

Each beneficiary keeps accounting in HUF. In accordance with the Commission's financial guidance in the present MTR, accounting is based on exchange rates published by the European Central Bank on the first working day of the year in which the expenditure was paid.

None of the project participants can recover the VAT from the national tax authorities, thus the gross costs, including VAT, are accounted.

Due to the effective use of the financial sources, the modification of the water management objects in Táborfalva (of a much lower budget) and the exchange rates, there is cca. 185 million HUF unspent in the project budget (on 31.12.2015).

MoD DEB purchased its 4WD car at a considerably higher price than foreseen. The detailed justification of this fact can be found in the Financial Annexes.

6.1. Summary of Costs Incurred

	PROJECT COSTS INCURRED			
	Cost category	**Budget according to the grant agreement**	**Total costs incurred from the start date to 31/12/2015**	**%**
1.	Personnel	622 713,00	389 749,29	62,59%
2.	Travel	88 750,00	44 182,03	49,78%
3.	External assistance	862 268,00	475 319,42	55,12%
4.	Durables: total non-depreciated cost	0,00	0,00	
	- *Infrastructure sub-tot.*	682 815,00	110 754,18	16,22%
	- *Equipment sub-tot.*	120 736,00	96 492,78	79,92%
	- *Prototypes sub-tot.*	0,00	0,00	
5.	Land purchase	88 147,00	72 905,40	82,71%
6.	Consumables	46 022,00	28 391,67	61,69%
7.	Other costs	67 100,00	23 702,93	35,32%
8.	Overheads	151 551,00	48 248,77	31,84%
	TOTAL	**2 730 102,00**	**1 289 746,47**	**47,24%**

6.2. Accounting system

All costs incurred by the project participants are registered in the analytical accounting systems of the respective participants and these are differentiated from all other expenditures with the help of a source code (1552) which makes them easily identifiable. All costs related to the project are properly supported with accounting documentation. Certified copies of the original documents of the Associated Beneficiaries (tender documents, invoices, purchase orders, proof of payments, salary slips, time sheets) were sent to the Coordinating Beneficiary, thus these are systematically filed and are available at the DINPD Headquarters.

Working time for each person involved in the project is registered electronically on the basis of the timesheet template recommended by the Commission printed and signed monthly by

the respective staff members and approved by their project managers (except for the project manager and ranger/field coordinator, who work exclusively in HUTURJAN LIFE).

The invoices and other accountancy documents are stamped with a special HUTURJAN project stamp which ensures that the incurred costs will be accounted exclusively for our project.

6.3. Partnership arrangements

DINPD opened a foreign currency account in EUR to which the EU contribution is transferred. We frequently exchange EUR to HUF and transfer it to the DINPD's main account from which payments are made after accepting the submitted monthly financial reports of the associated beneficiaries.

The expenses of the coordinating beneficiary and the reimbursements toward the Associated Beneficiaries (based on their examinated monthly reports) are approved by the director and vice director of finance of the coordinating beneficiary.

This MTR is compiled by the coordinating beneficiary on the basis of monthly reports received from the partners.

The project costs incurred by Partners are presented in the table below:

Beneficiary	Budget according to the grant agreement (EUR)	Total costs incurred from the start date to 31/12/2015 (EUR)	%
BFC	878 958,00	586 814,18	**66,76%**
MOD DEB	906 103,00	106 679,63	**11,77%**
WWF	184 218,00	130 446,59	**70,81%**
DINPD	760 823,00	465 806,07	**61,22%**
TOTAL	**2 730 102,00**	**1 289 746,47**	**47,24%**

6.4 Auditor for Final Report

SZT.-Szép Tamás
Könyvvizsgáló-, és Adószakértő Kft
HU-1052 Budapest, Váci utca 25.

Reg.No.:002454
Chamber of Auditors

6.5 Summary of costs per action

Action no.	Short name of action	1. Personnel	2. Travel and subsistence	3. External assistance	4.a Infra-structure	4.b Equip-ment	4.c Proto type	5. Purchase or lease of land	6. Consumables	7. Other costs	TOTAL
A1	Preparation of forest habitat management	1 281,23	1 849,06	0,00	0,00	6 123,14	0,00	0,00	97,81	7 657,29	17 008,53
A2	Preparation of water supply regulation	4 288,45	2 489,85	30 713,22	0,00	260,08	0,00	0,00	9,99	1 447,86	39 209,45
A3	Munition treatment planning	857,69	806,69	3 029,77	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	4 694,15
B1	Land purchase in the administrative area of Dabas	319,14	82,53	1 225,67	0,00	0,00	0,00	72 905,40	0,00	122,97	74 655,71
C1	Control of invasive species in sand habitats	15 290,19	3 225,09	95 875,86	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	108,84	0,00	114 499,98
C2	Restructuring of non-indigenous forests into indigenous ones	15 572,69	2 952,59	230 792,48	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	8 601,99	85,70	258 005,45
C3	Reconstruction of alder and ash gallery forests	8 797,26	2 122,81	23 817,33	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	34 737,40
C4	Water control and retain in the southern unit of 'Turjánvidék' Natura 2000 site	4 288,45	669,54	4 043,14	97 217,25	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	941,18	107 159,56
C5	Development of potential Hungarian Meadow Viper habitats with grazing	20 707,98	4 497,30	31 417,65	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	34,71	0,00	56 657,64
C6	Development of potential Viper habitats with transforming forests into meadows	10 521,31	1 495,10	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	12 016,41
C7	Moderation of general threatening factors	5 363,13	2 198,67	4 075,23	9 964,42	0,00	0,00	0,00	631,28	0,00	22 232,73
C8	Munition treatment	0,00	0,00	11 433,19	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	11 433,19
D1	Information to the general public – website operation	19 278,63	0,00	2 355,41	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	21 634,04
D2	Creation of project brand	3 533,99	0,00	2 279,74	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	10 250,16	0,00	16 063,89
D3	Setting up information boards	4 561,44	0,00	2 685,59	3 572,51	0,00	0,00	0,00	111,33	0,00	10 930,87
D4	Compilation of project brochure	1 272,17	0,00	268,62	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	695,90	0,00	2 236,69
D5	'Green Days' on Táborfalva Military Shooting Range	13 598,39	2 464,15	556,08	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	461,98	0,00	17 080,60

D6	Nature conservation training for military users and environmental officers	19 082,73	3 382,27	138,80	0,00	6 864,12	0,00	0,00	266,00	20,51	29 754,43
D7	Information to the general public - Media work	18 938,97	264,74	7 557,81	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	738,06	0,00	27 499,58
D8	Dissemination of scientific results of the project	5 157,73	843,32	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	35,31	546,36	6 582,72
D9	Best practices in the defence against invasive species	10 910,76	138,81	3 557,03	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	51,46	0,00	14 658,06
D10	Compilation of Layman's report	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
D11	Networking with other LIFE projects	16 809,65	543,35	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	725,21	11,66	18 089,87
E1	Technical and financial implementation of the project, coordination	173 378,21	9 097,95	13 508,09	0,00	80 154,39	0,00	0,00	4 762,77	12 869,40	293 770,81
E2	Conservation management monitoring	15 939,11	5 058,17	2 807,84	0,00	3 091,05	0,00	0,00	808,85	0,00	27 705,02
E3	After-LIFE conservation management plan	0,00	0,00	3 180,86	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3 180,86
Over-heads											48 248,77
	TOTAL	**389 749,30**	**44 181,99**	**475 319,41**	**110 754,18**	**96 492,78**	**0,00**	**72 905,40**	**28 391,65**	**23 702,93**	**1 289 746,41**

The coordinating beneficiary examined the compliance with the 2% rule, the own contribution of public beneficiaries is above the total reported costs for permanent personnel.

Each suggestion made by the Comission in its letter of 01.04.2015 was realised (requested transfers between the cost categories).

In accordance with Decree No. CXVII/1995, Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate has to pay a ’representation tax’ related to catering and marketing expenditures incurred on business, official, professional and diplomatic events. The rate of this tax is 0.5117 % of the gross invoiced cost. The tax is due to the National Tax Authority of Hungary by the 20th of each month subsequent of the incurrence of the costs. The ‘representation tax’ related to eligible invoices of a project is accounted on the project file and identified with the same ‘source code’.

On request from the Commission, an example for internal memo on representation tax to be paid to the National Tax Authority related to the costs of catering for project meetings and an updated VAT declaration of MOD DEB is attached to this report.