



LIFE Project Number
LIFE10NAT/HU/000020

Inception Report
Covering the project activities from 01/09/2011 to 31/05/2012

Reporting Date
31/05/2012

LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym
**Conservation of priority natural values
in Turjánvidék Natura 2000 site southern unit**

Data Project

Project location	Hungary
Project start date:	01/09/2011
Project end date:	31/08/2016 Extension date: -
Total budget	2 730 102 €
EC contribution:	2 047 577 €
(%) of eligible costs	75%

Data Beneficiary

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2. List of abbreviations

DINPD – Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate
MoD AQMO – Ministry of Defence Armament and Quartermaster Office
MoD BFC – Ministry of Defence Budapest Forestry Company
WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature Hungary
MoRD – Ministry of Rural Development
SAC – Special Area for Conservation
SR – shooting range
NCA – nature conservation area
PA – partnership agreement
GA – grant agreement

3. Executive summary

In this project, Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, Ministry of Defence Armament and Quartermaster Office, Ministry of Defence 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 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 great numbers of protected plant and animal species (e.g. Hungarian Meadow Viper) and these are of outstanding conservation value.

One serious problem of the area is the shortage of water. 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. Consequently, the habitats which are dependent on satisfactory water conditions changed or disappeared. To stop this unfavourable process, a complex water retention plan is elaborated and water management objects are constructed and operated. This serves primarily the conservation of the dried-out remnants of alder-ash forests, however, it improves the water conditions of the humid habitats in the whole ‘Turjánvidék’ Natura 2000 site.

Another characteristic conservation problem is the spread of alien species. The sand grasslands and juniper-poplar forests are infected with non-indigenous species in several locations. Their populations can be found mainly wedged between and on the borders of natural habitats. In the project, we eradicate the invasives from sand steppes and alder-ash forests with gentle chemical treatment. We restructure the non-indigenous forest stands mainly with gentle forest reconstruction methods, using native arboreal species.

For the protection of the seriously endangered Hungarian Meadow Viper, the size of its potential habitat is extended through the conversion of arable lands into grasslands (we also purchase 19.1 ha land) and the transformation of two non-indigenous plantations into meadows. Instead of intensive mowing, we introduce grazing with Hungarian Grey Cattle as optimal viper habitat management.

In spite of the military presence in the project area, several ways of illegal use can be observed here. To prevent unauthorised access to the area, numerous dirt roads are closed by crossing gates. We carry out the biological recultivation of an illegal sand pit as well.

To draw attention on our project, we create a project brand, set up the website of the program, compile a brochure, produce promotion materials, raise information boards, shoot a film, organise press conferences, Green Days and provide continuous media presence. We disseminate our results also for professionals (publications, workshops).

For environmental officers and military users of the shooting range, we prepare materials (pocket card, zone map) and organise trainings to present the natural assets of the area, helping them how to protect these during the manoeuvres.

In the frame of monitoring, we document the results of invasive elimination, reconstruction of forests, the change of forest naturalness, structural development of potential habitats of the viper as well as communication outcomes.

3.1. General progress.

The grant agreement of HUTURJAN project was signed on 22.08.2011. In line with the timetable of the proposal, we could have launched the work in September, 2011. The project personnel was recruited, the administrative and financial structure of the project was adapted (E1). The partnership agreement was signed on 22.02.2012., the annual workplan for 2012. was accepted on 21.03.2012. Regarding the technical implementation of the project, we planned and started the management of alien species due in 2012 in 470 ha (A1, C1). The munition treatment plan is under preparation (A3). We purchased the 19,1 ha land to be converted into grassland (B1). We installed 20 crossing gates to prevent unauthorised access to the project area (C7). The project logo and brand is prepared (D2), our website will be available by the end of June (D1). The first articles on HUTURJAN project were issued and presentations held (D7, D8). The monitoring activities launched in spring, 2012 (E2). For other actions and details see 5.1.

3.2. Assessment as to whether the project objectives and work plan are still viable.

We had the experience from our past LIFE projects that for the optimal preparation of the conservation management actions adequate time should be devoted. For this reason, when we compiled the project proposal of HUTURJAN, in the timing optimal periods were foreseen for the preparatory actions. We also aimed to set realistic conservation aims, which can be implemented within the five-year-duration of the project. As a result, we can state that the objectives of the project are still viable and can be carried out with the same content according to the timetable.

The deadline of our next report is 31.05.2013. (progress report). We relate the progress foreseen in each action to this date.

3.3. Problems encountered.

The only problem we have encountered so far was that a longer period was needed for finalising the project logo than foreseen (Action D2), which hindered slightly all the communication actions at the beginning of the project. As all the partner organisations have different profiles and strong bureaucracy, to achieve a consensus between them took much longer than it was expected. However, we had to wait for the logo as a substantial element of the project brand and all future communication actions. For this reason the launch of the website (Action D1) was also delayed. We will make up for the delay by 30.06.2012 (for details see Actions D1, D2).

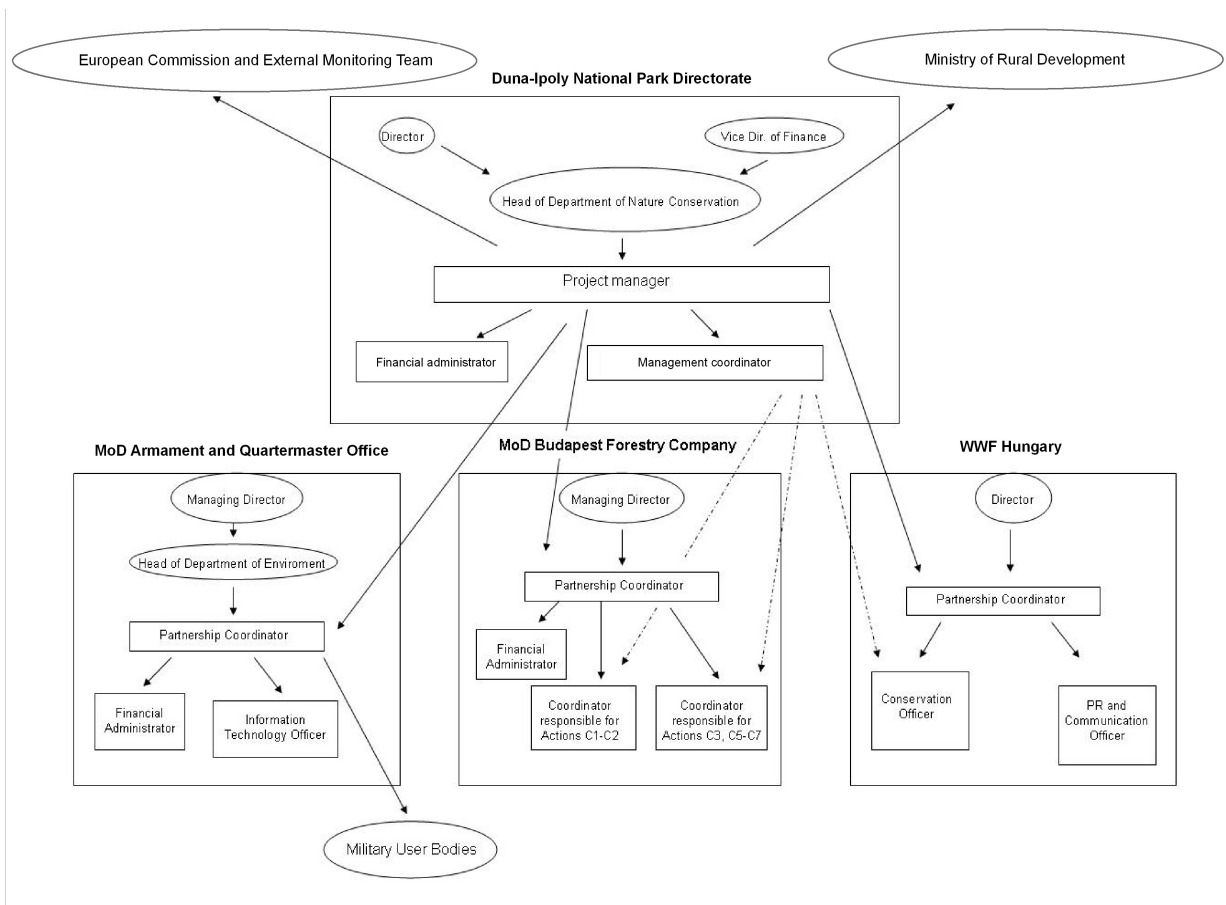
4. Administrative part

4.1. Description of project management

The project is implemented through the continuous cooperation of the project personnel of all partners. Everyday conversations via phone and e-mail are the most characteristic (to be environment friendly and achieve cost and time efficiency). 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. 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. (For more information on project management please see Action E1).

The list of the personnel presently working in HUTURJAN project is attached in Annex 4.1.-1. The project manager works exclusively in HUTURJAN project, for this reason she doesn't fill separate timesheets. For her employment contract see Annex 4.1.-2.

4.2. Organogram of the project team and the project management structure.



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

The draft partnership agreement (compiled following the guidelines set by EC) was presented at the kick-off meeting of HUTURJAN project. The document was completed and supervised by all partners and was signed by their responsible leaders on 22.02.2012.

The key content of the partnership agreement: **1. Aim of the agreement**, **2. General provisions**, 2.1. Role and obligations of the coordinating beneficiary, 2.2. Role and obligations of the associated beneficiaries, 2.3. Common obligations of the coordinating beneficiary and the associated beneficiaries, 2.4. Financial contribution of the EC and partners, 2.5. Providing publicity on the project, **3. Detailed provisions**, 3.1. Roles of the coordinating beneficiary and the associated beneficiaries, 3.2. Rules applicable for the technical implementation of the project, 3.3. Rules applicable for the financial implementation of the project, 3.4. Ownership and use of project results and goods, **4. Modification of the PA**, **5. Other provisions**, **6. Closing provisions**, **Annexes**

Annexes: No.1. grant agreement, No.2. financial manual, No.3. project stamps, No.4. logos, No.5. brand of the Hungarian national parks, No.6. Form of annual workplans

For the PA and its annexes see Annex 4.3. (Annex No.1. of the PA, which is the complete GA, is attached only in digital format).

5. Technical part

5.1. General description of the project background.

Our project area is made up of Táborfalva SR (which is one of the largest, actively used military areas of Hungary) and Dabasi Turjános NCA. This area is very precious from the conservation viewpoint. With this project we would like to protect its natural assets and improve their conservation state. To achieve the above goal, the cooperating project partners are: DINPD (property manager of Dabasi Turjános NCA and conservation manager

organisation of Táborfalva SR), MoD AQMO (property manager of the SR and responsible organisation for the enforcement of the environmental legislation of NATO), MoD BFC (responsible organisation for the forestry and agricultural use of the SR area), WWF (a global NGO with conservation scope and expert of communication actions).

5.1.1. ACTION A1 - Preparation of forest habitat management

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

Negotiations with the Forestry Directorate of Government Office of Pest County have been held so far, from winter, 2011. Forest planners of this competent authority launch the new forest management plan preparation in field, from the end of May, 2012.

Former HUNSTEPPICOAKS project showed that the success of gentle forest reconstruction under our extreme site and weather conditions is dubious. Consequently, in the new forest management plans we should use all the possibilities provided by the applicable forestry legislation to decrease the areas which are subjects of forest regeneration obligation. These can be: ranking into category 'forest of soil protection aim' (the forest cover can decrease to 40%), category 'opening forest' (the forest cover can decrease to 30%), category 'meadow' or afforestation outside the project area instead of the cleared area.

Planning of the exact timing and spatial distribution of invasive management and discussion on technologies (using the lessons learnt from HUNSTEPPICOAKS and HUNDIDI projects) took place from the launch of the project.

We planned the invasive management due in 2012, its area was designated (470 ha). For map illustration see Annex 5.1.1.-1. As the area managed this year is not under forest management planning obligation, there was no need to initiate forestry permitting procedures.

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).

When compiling the project proposal we planned to apply mainly stump treatment as gentle chemical treatment method for invasive elimination. However, the experience of the finished HUNSTEPPICOAKS project showed that stem injection is a much more effective way of the invasive repress. The advantages of trunk injection compared to stump treatment are the following: the optimal period of invasive management is longer and short-term feedback is received on its success (in case of insufficient effect the opportunity of repeated treatment is provided soon); there is no mechanical disturbance on the shoot system as long as the tree is alive (which would generate shooting); it is not necessary to remove the dead trunk (but winter harvest is possible); as sprouting is insignificant, this method is cheaper on the long run; the risk of chemical dispersion is considerably lower than in stump treatment and shoot spraying. It is also an experience from HUNSTEPPICOAKS that the invasive control should precede the artificial forest regeneration to protect the saplings from disturbance and chemicals (this fact was already taken into consideration when we drafted the timing of the actions of HUTURJAN).

Envisaged progress until next report:

Drafting new forest management plans for 2013-2022 by forest compartments and their finalisation.

Invasive management planned for this year is completed, planning the target areas for invasive management for 2013, repeated treatment (if needed) in the areas treated in 2012.

Permitting the invasive management of 2013 with the competent authority.

Completion of public tendering procedure for alien repress works due in 2013.

5.1.2. ACTION A2 - Preparation of water supply regulation

Action status: ongoing

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 supply regulation from winter to collect information on the present state. We discussed with the military users on the water levels acceptable during the trainings.

Envisaged progress until next report:

Launch and completion of the tendering procedure for planning and permitting the water management objects (it will start after the public tendering expert is selected).

In Táborfalva SR: detailed geodesic survey, determination of current channel bottom levels, principle drafting with preliminary environmental impact assessment and water-level modelling is completed. In Dabasi Turjános NCA: detailed discussion on the water management plan with regional water management bodies and conduction of principle water permitting process is carried out.

5.1.3. ACTION A.3: Munition treatment planning

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

The areas affected by the future munition treatment (subjects of the munition treatment plan) were designated (for its map please see Annex 5.1.3.-1.). These are 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). We selected the contractor according to the DINPD organisational rules. Following this, the contract was compiled and signed on 18.05.2012. (for the contract please see Annex 5.1.3.-2.). The charged company has already launched the fieldwork. In all these processes MoD AQMO was drawn in, as responsible partner for the coming munition treatment. We foresaw the finalisation of the munition treatment plan by 31.05.2012., however, as the fieldwork and research in the archives take a long period, the plan will be compiled by 31.09.2012. As the first activity which begins with munition treatment is due to start in October 2012 (elimination of the illegal sand pit), it won't be a problem. Photos on the sampling of the area and a munition found are in Annex 5.1.3.-3.,4.

Envisaged progress until next report:

Munition treatment plan is compiled and used (in elimination of illegal sand pit).

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

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

Regarding the 19.1 ha ploughland (plot numbers: 0946/15, 0946/16 in the administrative area of Dabas, for its photo and map see Annex 5.1.4.-1.,2.), at first the we had the preliminary value assessment compiled in November, 2011 (for the excerpt of the preliminary assessment report see Annex 5.1.4.-3., the complete document is on the DVD). 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 Ministry of Rural Development. The contract was signed by both parties on 27.04.2012. (For the sale and purchase contract see Annex 5.1.4.-4.).

In the sale and purchase contract we included the section below as a guarantee that the land is dedicated for nature conservation purposes:

'Point 7. The purchaser obliges itself to manage the property described in Point 1. (to be owned by the Hungarian State) in the following way:

to serve the conservation public purposes (to protect the living and non-living natural values as well as the landscape and cultural history values, to preserve the state and value of natural assets and increase their value in a sustainable manner), taking into consideration the government regulation 262/2010. (XI. 17.) on the detailed rules of the use of land included in the National Land Fund, sections 43/A-43/B on the property management with conservation aim and to serve the aims of LIFE-Nature project titled 'Conservation of priority natural values in Turjánvidék Natura 2000 site southern unit' (code: LIFE10NAT/HU/000020), which cannot be implemented without the above mentioned properties, according to the specifications set in the grant agreement between the European Commission and the purchaser.' (The translation is not official.)
We completed this action before schedule (original deadline was 30.06.2012.).

Envisaged progress until next report:

The purchased land will be designated by surveyors and the change of ownership will be registered into the national land register.

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

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

The shoot smearing of alien common milkweed started (for the photo on the activity please see Annex 5.1.5.-1.) and has good results (a photo on a perishing common milkweed stand can be found in Annex 5.1.5.-2.). Trunk injection of arboreal invasives also launched in May, 2012. (for a photo see Annex 5.1.5.-3.).

Envisaged progress until next report:

Trunk injection of arboreal alien species and smearing/point spraying of common milkweed is completed in 470 ha.

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

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

To grow native black poplar seedlings we collected seeds in May, 2012. of this species from individuals in the project area (for a photo see Annex 5.1.6.-1.).

Envisaged progress until next report:

The seeds undergo a genetic examination to prove that the reproduction material doesn't contain clones. Seeds develop into saplings in a nursery.

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

Action status: not due yet

Envisaged progress until next report: no

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

Action status: not due yet

Envisaged progress until next report: no

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

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

Spatial and temporal planning of the conversion of ploughlands into grasslands in Táborfalva SR and Dabasi Turjános NCA took place from October, 2011. Planning of *Molinia* seeds and/or hay collection (the majority of the *Molinia* reproduction material will be collected from the Turjánvidék Natura 2000 site, near the settlement of Ócsa.) We are going to purchase the two clearing saws with seed collection adapter by the end of June.

We plan to carry out this action a year before schedule (original deadline was 30.11.2013., new deadline: 30.11.2012.)

Envisaged progress until next report:

Alfalfa and *Molinia coerulea* sowing is performed in arable lands in the Dabasi Turjános NCA and Táborfalva SR.

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

Action status: not due yet

Envisaged progress until next report: no

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

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

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 and bordered by ditches on both sides. For the photos on crossing gates see Annexes 5.1.11.-1,2.

We are before schedule in this action (planned completion date: 31.12.2012., original was: 31.05.2013.)

Envisaged progress until next report:

We will place the remaining 20 crossing gates. The elimination of the illegal sand pit will take place.

5.1.12. ACTION C.8: Implementation of munition treatment

Action status: not due yet

Envisaged progress until next report:

The munition treatment of the illegal sand pit will be implemented.

5.1.13. ACTION D.1: Information to the general public – website operation

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

The negotiation with partners on the content and design of the project website started following the kick-off meeting of HUTURJAN, in November, 2011. Subsequently, the contractor for designing was selected and the compilation and translation of the information material began. Here, we had to wait for the finalisation of the project logo (which is an important element of the website design and its permitting procedure also delayed this action). After the logo was accepted at the beginning of May, the website design was completed soon. For the examples in website design please see Annex 5.1.13.-1. (The complete version is on

the DVD). The website texts are also finalised in Hungarian and English languages. Now the programming of the website is proceeding. Our website address will be www.turjanvidek.hu. The original deadline for this action was 28.02.2012., however, we set a new, realistic deadline: 30.06.2012. We studied the possibilities to launch a draft website earlier than this deadline. However, it is the final design and text which have to be approved by the communication department leaders and directors of our organisations. It is strongly forbidden to publicize materials without their permission given in advance. The programmer of the website foresaw more weeks to program up the website. So, unfortunately, our possibilities are restricted in this respect, and we can fulfil only the 30.06.2012. deadline.

Envisaged progress until next report:

Continuous operation of the website in Hungarian and English languages. Up-to-date information is available on project progress.

5.1.14. ACTION D.2: Creation of project brand

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

After the kick-off meeting we started the negotiations with partners on the logo, brand and promotion materials of the project, as a result the agreed “brief” was compiled. Then we selected the contractor, who designed the logo and brand, following this, the proposed logo was accepted by all partners (long organisational permitting procedures closed by 07.05.2012.). It was not easy to meet the requirements of the four organisations regarding the logo and design as we would put the emphasis on different elements, however, we achieved a compromise. The original deadline was 31.01.2012. for logo and brand, we set 10.05.2012. as new deadline, which we completed. For HUTURJAN project logo see Annex 5.1.14.-1.

Regarding promotion materials, past experience showed (from HUNSTEPICOAKS, '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. The original deadline was 31.03.2012. for promotion materials. The first type, which will be a key-ring, will be prepared for children by 30.06.2012. The events for which we plan to produce promotion material types are the press conferences and the trainings for environmental officers (or even more occasions). That is why the new deadline for this action part would be: 31.12.2015. for the production of all types of promotion materials (the original deadline was 31.03.2012.).

Envisaged progress until next report:

Project logo and brand are used constantly in all information materials and events related to HUTURJAN project. Promotion materials will be prepared for children and for the participants of the opening press conference and the training for environmental officers.

5.1.15. ACTION D.3: Setting up information boards

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

Originally we planned to have 6 information boards in the frame of the project: 4 items in the settlements neighbouring Táborfalva SR and Dabasi Turjános NCA (Táborfalva, Örkény, Tatárszentgyörgy, Dabas), 1 item by the Dabasi Turjános NCA and 1 piece at the entrance of the SR. However, the military area has two entrances: one for the shooting range (near Tatárszentgyörgy) and one for the training area (near Táborfalva), so we decided to have one additional information board; this way the arriving military troops can read it by each entrance. We negotiated with the local governments on the potential sites for the information

boards and these were selected (in central places of settlements). We designated the locations for the other information boards as well in April and May, 2012, and the permitting procedures will begin. The contractor was selected for the construction of the wooden part and information board. The wooden part is being produced. All the information board outplacements are foreseen to be completed by mid-summer.

The location of the Natura 2000 boards is under discussion with the stakeholder partner organisations (DINPD, MoD AQMO, MoD BFC). The outlook of these boards is officially regulated.

Envisaged progress until next report:

We set up all the 7 information boards and the 20 Natura 2000 boards of border demarcation in the project area.

5.1.16. ACTION D.4: Compilation of project brochure

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

The draft version of the brochure text presenting HUTURJAN project is compiled. The original deadline was 31.05.2012., new deadline for the edition of the project brochure is: 30.06.2012. The reason for the slight delay is that the project logo is an important element of the design of the brochure and its permitting procedure also delayed this action.

Envisaged progress until next report:

Project brochure is edited in Hungarian and English versions and the majority of the copies is disseminated to target groups.

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

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

We are planning the exact date and site for the field trip on the 'Green Day', 2012. This year we would like to invite schoolchildren of the settlement Táborfalva (located next to the SR) on this occasion.

Envisaged progress until next report: One 'Green Day' is held in the SR in autumn, 2012.

5.1.18. ACTION D.6: Nature conservation training for military users and environmental officers

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

We are discussing the content of this action and exchanging ideas with the military users of the area.

Envisaged progress until next report:

The training material for environmental officers is compiled, pocket card and zone map helping the field manoeuvring is prepared.

5.1.19. ACTION D.7: Information to the general public - Media work

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

We issued news on our project on the WWF website (http://dev.def.hu/wwf_regi/index.php?m=hirek&f=aktual&p=3&p2=hotakaro-alatt-varja-az-ujevet-a-taborfalvai-loter-elovilaga) and DINPD website (<http://dinp.nemzetipark.gov.hu/user/browser/File/Turjanvidek%20LIFE.pdf>).

In January 2012, we compiled the plan of media releases for the year 2012.

We edited news on HUTURJAN in Herald Cincér, the DINPD quarterly newspaper (please see Annex 5.1.19.-1.). All the press articles are collected and filed in.

We held a thematic workshop (03.04.2012.) and as a result the five-year communication plan of HUTURJAN was compiled (Annex 5.1.19.-2., only on DVD). (The list of participants is enclosed in Annex 5.1.19.-3.)

Envisaged progress until next report:

Continuous media presence regarding HUTURJAN, issuing articles, news according to the plan for annual media releases 2012, a new plan will be compiled for 2013.

5.1.20. ACTION D.8: Dissemination of scientific results of the project

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

We participated in the following scientific conferences:

Name: Conference on sand steppe woods and Pannonic sand steppes (organised by HUNSTEPPICOAKS and HUNDIDI projects)

Date and place: 6-8.10.2011.; Kecskemét

Participants: Ms Annamária Csóka – project manager (no charge)

Lessons learnt: in invasive management, forest regeneration issues

Name: VII. Hungarian Conservation Biology Conference

Date and place: 3-6.11.2011.; Debrecen

Participants: Mr György Verő – management coordinator; Mr Sándor Bérces, – monitoring expert helping Action E2 (DINPD)

Lessons learnt: on fauna monitoring methods and practices

Name: IX. Actual Flora and Vegetation Research in the Carpathian Basin Conference

Date and place: 24-26.02.2012.; Gödöllő

Participants: Mr György Verő – management coordinator (no charge)

Messages delivered: presentation of LIFE fund, HUTURJAN and other LIFE projects of DINPD in an article in the conference book edited in 270 copies (please see Annex 5.1.20.-1.) and 1 scientific poster on the LIFE 20th anniversary (it is attached in Annex 5.1.20.-2.) and was seen by 250 professionals in the field of botany and ecology).

We held the following scientific presentations:

Name: Duna-Ipoly National Park Advisory Board meeting

Topic: Presentation of HUTURJAN LIFE+ project (similar to presentation in Annex 5.1.24.-4.)

Date and place: 25.10.2011.; Ócsa

Participants: National Park Advisory Board members (10 persons)

Messages delivered: presentation of the new HUTURJAN project

Name: LIFE+10 Kick-off Meeting

Topic: Presentation of HUTURJAN LIFE+ project (for the presentation see Annex 5.1.20.-3.)

Date and place: 14.11.2011.; Bucharest

Participants: LIFE personnel of Central and Eastern Europe, EC, Astrale-GEIE personnel (50 members)

Messages delivered: HUTURJAN project content

For the agenda please see Annex 5.1.20.-4.).

Name: Celebration of the 20th anniversary of LIFE

Topic: Presentation of HUTURJAN LIFE+ project (similar to Power Point presentation in Annex 5.1.24.-4.)

Date and place: 20.05.2012.; Budapest

Participants: LIFE project participants (20 members)

Messages delivered: HUTURJAN project content

For the invitation of the event please see Annex 5.1.20.-5.) and for a photo Annex 5.1.20.-6.)

Envisaged progress until next report:

Participation in the IX. Congress of Hungarian Ecologists (09.2012.).

5.1.21. ACTION D.9: Best practices in the defence against invasive species

Action status: not due yet

5.1.22. ACTION D.10: Compilation of the Layman's report

Action status: not due yet

5.1.23. ACTION D.11: Networking with other LIFE projects

Action status: ongoing

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 PhD was the project manager, who is going to be the Head of Department of the formulating 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 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: we follow the preparation of future reintroduction and we are given help in the viper monitoring methods.

MoD AQMO is the coordinating beneficiary in ongoing '*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.

MoD 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-Karapanca pSCI*' and '*Management of floodplains on the Tisza*' LIFE projects, as coordinating beneficiary.

We participated in the event organised by MoRD 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 Annex 5.1.23.-1.,2. The presentations are available on the following webpage:

http://www.termeszetvedelem.hu/hd_life_evfordulo

Envisaged progress until next report

Continuous networking with LIFE projects mentioned in Action D11, drawing in new LIFE projects to exchange experience and ideas.

The extension of networking to the international level is foreseen: we would like to visit '*Restoration and management of sand dune habitats in MTA Záhorie*' LIFE project implemented in Slovakia, in a military area with similar habitats to ours (summer, 2012.).

5.1.24. ACTION E.1: Technical and financial implementation of the project, coordination

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

We informed the EC about the change of HUTURJAN contact person from Ms Katalin Sipos to Ms Annamária Csóka in a letter dated 20.12.2011.

For the present personnel of the project please see Annex 4.1.-1.

Since the project launched, we keep contact with the project partners and field trips are proceeding in the project area. Regarding the latter activity, asking for entry permits to the SR is a permanent task.

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. When compiling the HUTURJAN proposal we foresaw that the project manager will work in the DINPD main office in Budapest and the management coordinator in the regional DINPD office in Ócsa. However, as the project manager lives at a 15 km distance from Nagykőrös and for the management coordinator Nagykőrös is as far from the project area as Ócsa (35 km), we decided to run a HUTURJAN project office in Nagykőrös. Another reason was that the Ócsa office has only one small room, which is fully occupied by the two colleagues of the Ócsa Landscape Protection Area. When HUTURJAN project started, we moved to a smaller and less costly office (Nagykőrös, Széchenyi tér 13.). However, as the owner terminated the rental agreement, we had to hire a new office again in February, 2012 (Nagykőrös, Lőrinc pap utca 3.). Nagykőrös office also provides a good opportunity to stay close to HUNSTEPPICOAKS project area and fulfil its After-LIFE commitments. (For a photo of the present office see Annex 5.1.24.-1.)

Acquisitions of project equipment also took place.

The kick-off meeting of the project was held on 11.11.2011. (The list of participants is attached in Annex 5.1.24.-2.) Ms Katalin Sipos and Ms Annamária Csóka participated also in the kick-off meeting organised by EC for LIFE+ projects in Bucharest, on 14.11.2011. (For the agenda please see Annex 5.1.20.-4., our presentation is attached in Annex 5.1.20.-3.)

Following a long, detailed discussion, the partnership agreement of HUTURJAN was signed on 22.02.2012. (For this document and its annexes see Annex 4.3.) The content of the PA is described in Section 4.3.

Based on our PA, the annual workplan for 2012 was signed by all parties on 21.03.2012. (The document is attached in Annex 5.1.24.-3.)

The technical, administrative and financial reports for the whole passed project period were submitted by partners for the coordinating beneficiary by 30.04.2012.

The selection process for the public tendering expert of the project is proceeding.

During the project implementation we held thematic workshops. One of these was about the annual reservation of the SR for military purposes, with the participation of military users of the shooting range on 29.02.2012., where HUTURJAN project was presented as well. (The presentation can be found in Annex 5.1.20.-4., to the paper format only the first slide is attached, the whole presentation is enclosed in the digital form of the report). The communication workshop with WWF and DINPD was held on 03.04.2012., for details please see Action D7. From time to time we have negotiations also in field with the representatives of MoD AQMO, MoD BFC and WWF (for a photo please see Annex 5.1.20.-5.)

Astrale-GEIE external monitor, Andrej Bača visited our project on 03.05.2012. (For this occasion the list of participants Annex 5.1.20.-7.) and a photo is enclosed in Annex 5.1.20.-6.)

The compilation and submission of the inception report is due by 31.05.2012.

Envisaged progress until next report:

Continuous partnership contact and project operation, smooth technical, administrative and financial implementation of the project, submission and supervision of partners' reports, compilation of annual workplan for 2013, organisation of workshops if needed. The public tendering expert is hired for the whole project.

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

Action status: ongoing

Description of the results achieved so far:

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 Annex 5.1.25.-1.) We already started the monitoring activities from April, 2012. This year is dedicated for the basic state survey.

The major part of the monitoring described in Action E2 is carried out by our management coordinator: on the invasive species elimination in 10 permanent sampling plots for Actions C1, C2, C3, C6 and C7; 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 10 sampling plots for C5 and C6; effects of water retention in 11 sampling plots. However, to assess the effects of conservation management the special knowledge on other taxa is also required. For this reason we charged 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. (These surveys will be repeated

and conclusions drawn in the last year of the project.) 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 monitoring performed by the management coordinator. (Photos on their fieldwork taken in May are attached in Annex 5.1.25.-1., 2., 3.)

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

We also did Hungarian Meadow Viper monitoring on some days, with favourable weather conditions for this species, according to the recommendations of the project team of CONVIPURS project.

Regarding communication monitoring, as the project is in its starting period, it is not possible to formulate the numbers for all the given communication indicators:

- number of visitors of webpage (not launched so far)
- number of participants in project events (no event held so far)
- number of delivered materials (none so far)
- number of media events: 2 articles on websites, 1 newspaper article, 1 scientific article, 1 scientific poster (described in Actions D7 and D8)

Envisaged progress until next report:

Submission and evaluation of the monitoring results for 2012. Launch of the monitoring for the year 2013.

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

Action status: not due yet

Envisaged progress until next report: no

5.2. Availability of appropriate licences and authorisations (not relevant)

5.3. Envisaged progress until next report.

The actual timing of the actions is coloured in orange, while the proposed timing of the actions is coloured in yellow. In the deliverables and milestones tables progress made so far is coloured in orange and the progress foreseen until the next report is coloured in yellow. (For details of envisaged progress please see the detailed action descriptions above.)

TIMETABLE

Action	2011				2012				2013				2014				2015				2016			
	0	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
Number	9																							
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	30.06.2012 (original deadline: 31.03.2012)
2 clearing saws with seed collection adapter	C5	30.06.2012 (original deadline: 31.03.2012)
2000 copies of A4 format, full-colour brochures in Hungarian and English, printed on recycled paper	D4	30.06.2012 (original deadline: 31.05.2012.)
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 monitoring and report on the habitat fundamental status	E2	31.12.2012
adaptation of the conservation management plan for land users and environmental officers	D6	28.02.2013
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	31.12.2012 (original deadline: 31.05.2013)
Research report of management monitoring of Actions C1, C2, C3 and C5	E2	31.12.2012
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, 3000 pcs	D7	31.12.2015
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	end of project
6 scientific publications/posters/presentations	D8	end of project
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 (original deadline: 31.12.2011.)
Design of the project brand including logo	D2	20.05.2012 (original deadline: 01.01.2012.)
Project website set up	D1	30.06.2012 (original deadline: 28.02.2012.) see above
Land purchase: 19,1 ha arable land for conservational management purposes	B1	27.04.2012 (original deadline: 30.06.2012.)
1 permitted construction drawing and contracts for construction of management objects on 'Dabasi Turjános' NCA	A2	30.06.2013
45+19,1 ha conversion of enclosed arable land into grassland started, (alfalfa and grass seed sowing)	C5	30.11.2012 (original deadline: 30.11.2013.)
1 field trip in the frame of environmental officer training 1.	D6	31.12.2013
Press conference with press trips held for the national media, 1. for introduce the project	D7	31.12.2013
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	31.09.2012 (original deadline: 31.05.2012.)
Elimination of an illegal sand pit on 1, 3 ha	C7	31.12.2012 (original deadline: 31.10.2014.)
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	end of project
42 ha non-indigenous forests (primarily Black Locust) restructured into indigenous forests	C2	end of project
56 ha alder and ash gallery forest (91E0) is free of invasives	C3	end of project
15 ha buffer zone for 91E0 forests is free of Russian Olive	C3	end of project
Restructuring of 4.5 ha Hybrid Black Poplar plantation into ash gallery forest	C3	end of project
Development of 30 ha potential Viper habitats with transforming forests into meadows (clearings) and grazing	C6	end of project

6. Financial part.

6.1. Putting in place of the accounting system.

The coordinating beneficiary (DINPD) uses an integrated accounting system. HUTURJAN project costs are differentiated from all other expenditures with the help of a certain source code, which provides that the incurred costs will be accounted exclusively for our project. The invoices and other accountancy documents are stamped with a special HUTURJAN project stamp as well. DINPD opened a foreign currency account (EUR), where the EU contribution is transferred. Most costs are incurred in HUF. These are paid from the HUF bank account, where we put the amount exchanged from the EUR. The eligible costs are paid to the associated beneficiaries after their monthly reports were accepted by DINPD. In the report gross costs are accounted.

6.2. Continued availability of co-financing.

MoRD transfers the relevant part of the co-financing for us in each year. (The amount is determined by our foreseen project costs in the given year). The MoRD declared that it will provide the co-financing in the declaration included in the project proposal.

6.3. Costs incurred (summary by cost category and relevant comments).

Fill in the following table concerning the incurred project costs:

Budget categories	breakdown	Total cost in €	Costs incurred from the start date to 25.05.2012 in €	% of total costs
1. Personnel		622 713	26 309.66	4.23%
2. Travel and subsistence		88 750	1 943.64	2.19%
3. External assistance		862 268	862.1	0.1%
4. Durable goods				
Infrastructure		682 815	0	0.00%
Equipment		120 736	8 057.91	6.67%
Prototype		0	0	0.00%
5. Land purchase / long-term lease		88 147	0	0.00%
6. Consumables		46 022	902.62	1.96%
7. Other Costs		67 100	398.65	0.59%
8. Overheads		151 551	2 693.22	1.78%
TOTAL		2 730 102	41 167.8	1.51%

Please fill in also the following additional table (recommended). When compiling the information please refer to Form B of the proposal:

Action number and name	Foreseen costs	Spent so far	Remaining	Projected final cost
Action 1 " <u>Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or of action plans</u> "	99 615	167.87	99 447.13	99 615
Action 2 " <u>Purchase/lease of land and/or compensation payments for use rights</u> "	88 157	2 175.88	85 981.12	88 157
Action 3 " <u>Concrete conservation actions</u> "	1 487 660	85.2	1 487 574.8	1 487 660
Action 4 " <u>Public awareness and dissemination of results</u> "	108 374	1 025.26	107 348.74	108 374
Action 5 " <u>Overall project operation and monitoring</u> "	172 032	8 710.71	163 321.29	172 032
TOTAL	1 955 838	12 164.92	1 943 673.08	1 955 838

7. Annexes.

7.1. **Partnership agreements:** PA is enclosed in Annex 4.3.

7.2. **Deliverables:** not relevant

7.3. **Other annexes:** for reference see the detailed action descriptions above.

7.4. **Output indicators:** Please see Annex 7.4.