



LIFE06 NAT/H/000104

PROGRESS REPORT No. 1.

Covering the project activities from 01. 09. 2006. to 31. 08. 2007.

Reporting date 08/09/2007

„Conservation of the Pannon endemic *Dianthus diutinus*”

Data Project

Project location:	Hungary
Project start date:	01/09/ 2006
Project end date:	31/08/2011
Total project duration (month):	60
Total budget:	1 630 785
EC Contribution:	1 223 088
(%) of total costs	75
(%) of eligible costs	75

Data Beneficiary

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Lists of (i) key-words and (ii) abbreviations

Key-words:

Dianthus diutinus, Ex situ conservation, Forest reconstruction, Habitat restoration, Hungary, Invasive species, Natura 2000, Pannon endemism

Abbreviations:

BEN – Beneficiary (KNPD)
 DINPD - Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate
 Kefag Zrt - Kiskunság Forestry Incorporated Company
 KNPD - Kiskunság National Park Directorate
 KVÖ - Local Government of Kiskunmajsa
 Nefag Zrt - Nagyunság Forestry Incorporated Company
 SZTE - University of Szeged

Executive Summary

- Project objectives

The main project objective is to stabilize the 85% of the presently known stands of the *Dianthus diutinus* and prevent/counteract the continuous decrease of the population by habitat diminuation and isolation of the subpopulations.

Since its habitats have been fragmented in the past 50 years mainly because of forestry activity, the goal of the project is to create such a habitat network with the help of the enlargement and unification of the present habitats, which won't be influenced by forestry activity at all or only at a minimal level on the three most important habitats of *Dianthus diutinus*.

Securing a potential unbroken habitat network, connecting and strengthen the fragmented sub-populations and informing the public about the importance of *Dianthus diutinus* and it's habitats, the chances of survival of this species in the long run would increase.

- List of key deliverables and outputs

Status of the fulfilment of deliverable products and milestones by 31/08/2007

(1 PR = 1st Progress Report)

1. Deliverable or Milestone (description)	2. Reference action	3. Deadline	4. Status	5. Evidence of reaching deliverable / milestone	6. Sent to Commission (Report (Annex))

Nomination of project manager	F1	30. 09. 2006.	Completed	Contract	
Partnership agreement signed	F1	31. 10. 2006.	Completed	Signed agreements	1PR (Ann. 21)
Project staff in place at all sites (except guide)	F1	01. 11. 2006.	Completed	Contracts, Time sheets	
Project auditor contracted	F3	31. 12. 2006.	On-going	Auditor appointed	
Cars, computers and monitoring equipments purchased and delivered	F1, D3, F4, F5	31. 12. 2006.	Completed	Equipments delivered	
Logo created	E5	31. 12. 2006.	Completed	Project designe handbook (including project logo)	1PR (Ann. 17)
Nursery set up	C4	31. 12. 2006.	Completed	Foto document.	1PR (Ann. 8)
Species and habitat monitoring protocol elaborated	F4, F5	31. 01. 2007.	Completed	Monitoring protocol handbook	1PR (Ann. 22)
Leaflets published	E2	31. 05. 2007.	On-going	Leaflets prepared for printing	1PR (Ann. 14; 15)
Gates installed at Bócsa site	C2	30. 06. 2007.	On-going	External assistante appointed	
Desintegrator purchased and delivered	C1	31. 08. 2007.	?	After purchase and deliver the dsisintegrator has been stolen. It is not budgeted	1PR (Ann. 7)
Project poster	E5	31. 08. 2007.	On-going	Designer appointed	
Management Plans for the 3 pSCI site submitted	A1	30. 09. 2007.	On-going	Habitat maps, management maps	1 PR (Ann. 1; 2; 3)
Forest management plans for the 3 project site modified	A2	30. 09. 2007.	On-going	Official ask for modification (Bócsa project area), Minutes of the consultation (Bodoglár and Csévharasz project area)	1PR (Ann. 5)
Website developed	E4	30. 09. 2007.	On-going	www.tartosszegf u.hu ; www.longlasting pink.eu	

Technical progress on project actions by 31/08/2007

Action	Deadline	Status	Description
A1 - pSCI management plan	31/12 /2007	on-going	Biotic dates collected, the 5 years implementation strategy of the restoration and reconstruction activities implemented. Management plan preparation contracted for Bócsa and Bodoglár project site. Habitat map, management map for the project areas are ready. Biotic dates and literature for the pSCIs collected.
A2 - Forest management plan	31/07 /2007	on-going	The implementation strategy of the restoration and reconstruction activities implemented, as a basis of the presently used forest management plan modification. Ask for modification to the State forestry for the year 2007 for Bócsa project site by KNPD submitted.
A3 - Plan of the forest nature trail	31/07 /2007	pending	-
C1 - Forest restructuring	31/07 /2007	on-going	Administrative preparations and consultations using achievements of action A1. Fieldwork preparation is ongoing.
C2 - Installation of gates	31/07 /2007	on-going	Preparation is ongoing. The exact place of the gates has been chosen.
C3 - Installation of the study trail	31/07 /2007	not started	-
C4 - Nursery for ex situ propagation	31/07 /2007	completed	576 m ² nursery is situated in the Botanic Garden of the University of Szeged. It is compassed round with wire fence with lockup gate. The ground under the growing pots is covered by agrifolia.
D1 - Eradication of non- indigenous <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	31/07 /2007	on-going	The detailed mapping of the infected area is completed in June. Contractor was chosen by public tender. The planned 1 st year chemical handling in Bodoglár and Bócsa project area is accomplished with success. Routing, order and method of eradication (one by one or with spray machine) is planned patch by patch in Csévharaszt project site.
D2 - Follow-up treatment of arboreal invasives	31/07 /2007	on-going	Preparation of the implementation and detailed habitat mapping is ongoing. Unexpected need of D2 activities in Csévharaszt project site due to unwanted clear-cut on reconstruction area made before the project starting date.
D3 - Ex situ propagation and re-establishment	31/07 /2007	on-going	Seed collection protocol is worked out. Seed collection was completed two times, covering all sites of <i>D. diutinus</i> . Investigation of the genetic variability of the populations is on-going: protocol of DNA analysis for serial work is elaborated. Testing the germination % and seedling survival is on-going.
E1 - Foresters informed and included	31/07 /2007	on-going	Day by day communication about implementation and modification of forest management plan.

E2 - Locals informed and included	31/07/2007	on-going	Leaflets are ready to publish Field trip (open to the public) was organized together with the Leader of the European Communication Institute in Kiskunmajsa.
E3 - Installing informational board	31/07/2007	on-going	The first table was implemented on Bodoglár project site.
E4 - Project web site	31/07/2007	on-going	www.tartosszegfu.hu ; www.longlastingpink.eu
E5 - General project branding	31/07/2007	on-going	The logo and the general project design is created (design handbook of the project); Press congress and press trip organized by great success, followed by high local and national interest and resulted further press releases, TV and Radio interviews
E6 - Disseminate lessons	31/07/2007	on-going	Power point presentation was held in botanical conference in Túrkeve. Since the representatives of the whole professional team of the science of Botany in Hungary were present, the overall dissemination of the start of the project may be completed. The project aims were presented by DINPD in a civil forum (Power point presentation), where mainly NGO-s were present.
E7 - Layman's report	31/07/2007	Not started	-
F1 - Project management	31/07/2007	on-going	Technical, financial and administrative arrangements were done to enable the proper running of the Project. All Project staff is appointed and aware of their roles and obligations for completing the Project.
F2 - Technical meetings	31/07/2007	on-going	Two technical meetings arranged in time. On the second meeting it was checked that the initial actions have been completed satisfactorily and that the financial arrangements have been effective. The 3 rd meeting is planned to be at the end of September where one of the main topic will be the ex situ conservation. We expect specialist of the plant as well foresters to be present.
F3 - Independent auditing	31/07/2007	on-going	Auditor is appointed.
F4 - Monitoring	31/07/2007	on-going	- <u>NBmR local project</u> was accomplished in August, 2007. The mapping of the individuals, their phenological state (number of buds/sprouts, flowers and cores) of the individuals) took place and were recorded in 990 unit (0,33x0,33m) per plot, in three permanent sample plot. <u>Individual mapping</u> of the whole distribution area of <i>D. diutinus</i> is continuous. - <u>Monitoring of the regeneration of the vegetation</u> : permanent square sample plots in size 50x50 m were selected in all project site and the baseline data were collected - <u>Monitoring of the effect of the eradication on the invasive alien species <i>Asclepias syriaca</i></u> . (Action D1) Mapping activity was finished in June in all project site. The shape of the infected patches were recorded by GPS as polygon.
F5 - Analysis of monitoring	31/07/2007	on-going	All monitoring activity and data handling is going according to the Monitoring protocol's instructions. Detailed data

results			analysis will start when the collection of the data has finished.
F6 - After LIFE- conservation plan	31/07/2007	pending	-

Technical development

A.1 - Preparation of Natura 2000 management plan

Proposed start and end of the action

10/2006 – 09/2007

Expected results

pSCI management plans prepared for 12 708 ha Natura 2000 area.

The Office for Nature Conservation of the Ministry of Environment and Water will approve the Natura 2000 management plans before the end of the project.

Achievements

Management plan preparation contracted for Bócsa and Bodoglár project site.

Habitat map for Bodoglár és Bócsa project areas are ready. (**Annex 1 and 2**).

Map about the management units in Csévharaszt project site is ready. (**Annex 3**).

Biotic data and literature for the pSCIs are collected.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

According to the A2 activity of the 1st year reporting period, the preparation of the pSCI management plans concentrated on the project areas.

Detailed habitat map are prepared to Bodoglár and Bócsa project sites, in order to help all the planning activity in actions C1, D2 (Forestry activities) D3 (Ex situ activity).

The habitat maps are digitally prepared and the polygons are saved in GIS database. The attribute table is filled by the necessary information about the present state of the habitat type (and are also useful for the documentation of the present situation).

On Csévharaszt project site the detailed mapping of the arboreal invasive species has been made. The result of this mapping is that detailed management units are ready and are used for planning the forestry actions and during consultations with foresters.

Biotic data, archive botanical, zoological and forestry reports has been collected for all 3 pSCI sites.

The legend for Annex 1 and 2 can be seen in table below:

D2:	Molinio coeruleaetum
H5b:	Sand steppe vegetation
G1:	Festucetum vaginatae „danubiale”
OC (O5):	Uncharacteristic dry and semidry steppe
P2b:	Scrubs mainly with Crataegus, Prunus and Juniperus
M5:	Poplar-Juniper woodland
S1:	Robinia pseudo-acacia plantation
S4:	Pinus nigra and P. sylvestris plantation

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

A.2 - Preparation of the forest management plan and the forest reconstruction actions

Proposed start and end of the action

10/2006 – 09/2007

Expected results

Preparation and authorisation of modified forest management plan for 12 708 ha Natura 2000 forest area (where relevant, according to the project’s strategies) gets ready, the preconditions for the nature conservational management actions are established in form in accordance with the actual forestry management plan.

Achievements

Consultations with forestry property managers (Bodoglár project site: Kefag Zrt. (**Annex 4.**), Csévharaszt project site: Nefag Zrt. **Annex 6.**) about the strategies and the implementation.

In Bócsa project site (where the property manager is the Beneficiary, and the work should started before) the official request for modification has already been sent (**Annex 5.**).

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

We concentrate on forestry activity which is relevant to the project’s aims. Therefore the forest management plan will only be modified where necessary to the project.

Bodoglár project site: a request for modification on the implementation of 1st year’s forestry activity is in progress. The official request for preparation should be arranged by the property manager of the site, which is the Kefag Zrt. The Beneficiary is in consultation with the property manager about the strategy and implementation. Since the field implementation is planned to be started in winter, we expect to get the permission in time.

Bócsa project site: The official request for the 1st year implementation was sent to the State Forestry Authority in June, 2007, right after the necessary biotic data had been collected in order to plan the work properly. The permission process is in progress. The public tender will start after the permission arrived. We expect to get the permission in September. The action in this site should be started in autumn.

Csévharaszt project site: The negotiation about the new forest management plan is in process. The official reminder of the last meeting is attached. During the consultation, DINPD handed over the defined treatment patches and their description to NEFAG (competent forestry). The detailed description about the C1 situation and the main topic of the consultation with the property manager (Nefag Zrt.) is summarized under action C1.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

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A.3 - Plan of the forest nature trail

Proposed start and end of the action

1/01/2008 – 30/09/2008

Expected results

A feasible construction plan for the nature trail is ready by 30 September 2008 after consultation with relevant staff.

Achievements

-

Action status

Not started

Description of the progress during the reporting time

-

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

C.1 - Artificial forest restructuring with indigenous species

Proposed start and end of the action

10/2007 – 03/2010

Expected results

As a result of action C1 approximately 70 ha forest area will be reconstructed according to the habitat demand of the *D. diutinus*. The canopy cover will be reduced from 100% to a maximum of 50%. Totally on 13,5 ha grassland area the non-indigenous tree stand will be

eliminated. On the three project sites 455 ha interconnected potential habitat is created (as table below)

Project site	Tree cutting (ha)		Forest reconstructing (ha)	Interconnected potential habitat created with reduced forestry activity (ha)
	Forest area	Grassland area		
Bodoglár	44,0	0,0	44,0	160
Bócsa	17,0	2,0	17,0	100
Csévharaszt	8,5	11,5	8,5	195

These habitats will not, or just partly concerned by forestry use and will secure the ground to the long-term survival of the target species.

Achievements

Preparation of the forestry management map for year 2007-2008
 Administrative and official preparation of the forestry activity

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Although the Action C1 was planned to start in October, 2007, administrative preparation for the concrete activities has to be started before to allow a quick and effective start. These preparative measures started parallel to the achievements in action A1 and A2.

Bodoglár project site

Consultations made with the Forest Property Manager (Kefag Zrt.) and the State Forestry Authority for the planning of the forestry fieldwork.

The last consultation was held on 29 August 2007. The results of the monitoring activity (F4, F5) and the map (A1) were submitted for both property manager and authority, in order to allow the common work and understanding the reasons for the planned activity.

The fieldwork planned to be carry out is also submitted as a planned forestry management map.

During the consultation details for the preparation of the forestry work in 2007-2008 winter was discussed.

Since the action is planned to be started in winter, we expect to get the permission from the State Forestry Authority in time.

Bócsa project site

Action A1 resulted for the project site a detailed habitat map, which could be used for the detailed planning and preparation of the forest management map.

Previous consultation with experts resulted that the tree cut is more effective to carry out at the end of the vegetation period. We are planning to start it in October.

The official application for this forestry activity was sent to the Forestry Authority in 12 June, 2007.

The appeal contains the following details:

- Map of the concerned area (to be cut): based on air photograph made in 2005;
- The concerned Forestry compartments with hectar data;
- The short description of the planned activities and their justification

The public tender documentation is ready to be published.

In the documentation the conditions for the method to be used during the work, the chemical handling, the possible transport lines and the rule of the cut tree material deposition is determined. The possible start of the fieldwork is the 2nd part of October. We expect to get the permission from the State Forestry Authority in September.

Csévharaszt project site

The negotiation with NEFAG (Competent Forestry Property Manager) is in progress. The official reminder of the last meeting is attached (**Annex 6**).

DINPD handed the defined treatment patches and their description to NEFAG (competent forestry).

According to the consultation concerning the eradication of arboreal invasives from grassland is realizable on the evidence of the current forest management plan. In case of forest reconstruction the compatibility of the official forest management plan and the treatment guide-lines made by DINPI is still a subject-matter of inspection.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

Bócsa project site

In the project proposal the purchase of a disintegrator was included for chopping the unclassifiable cut tree material in Bócsa project site.

After the purchase (public tender, contract, all documentation of the machine) and delivery of the disintegrator it was completed by the BEN and deposited inside a fenced off area of the Kiskunság National Park Directorate's headquarters in Kecskemét town, until the fieldwork would begin.

Regrettably, the disintegrator was stolen from the fenced and closed park of the Directorate (See **Annex 7**, the certificate from the Police about the fact).

The use of the disintegrator is of high importance, because:

- the soil conditions of the habitat of *D. diutinus* do not allow any extra organic material; as extra of organic matter would make unfavourable change in the soil conditions preferred by *D. diutinus*.
- there is no enough place for deposit
- danger of fire

According to these facts the action could not be accomplished without the disintegrator. The final solution of this problem on longer term would manifest only if the Police would finish the investigation. In case the process closes with positive result (the disintegrator is traced), the Beneficiary would continue the work with the equipment. If there will be no results of the investigation, the BEN should purchase a new one.

Since the work can be started without the disintegrator, the BEN does not expect any delay due to this unfortunate event.

Csévharaszt project site

In the time between the project application and approval (before the project starting date) NEFAG (Forest Property Manager) has clear-cut 5 compartments on the project area without consulting this with DINPD. On this area (forest compartments: 66D, 47 F1, 91E, 48C, 86B) now dense Robinia sprouts can be found originated from rudimentary shoots.

The clear-cut (2006) area touched C1 - Forest Reconstruction area (see Map in **Annex 3**). The situation was consulted with the Monitor during the field visit of the 1st Mission in June, 2007.

The used method for clear-cut (2006) stimulates the sprouting from rudimentary shoots, which is not the intension wanted and described in the project proposal.

The follow-up report of the 1st Mission summarizes the concensus among Mission participants about the solution: "...the best restoration concept would be the enlargement of the existing grassland/woodland patches by chemical treatment of fast resprouting Acacia trees, and the creation of buffer zones between these extended patches and the cut Acacia woodland by planting local Poplar species." According to the concept the enlargements would attached as glades to the grassland area. The **buffer zone** would be app. 20 m wide.

The buffer zones (Robinia sprouts) between the clear-cut Robinia stands and grassland patches need follow-up treatment in unexpected amount and their management should start before the planned timing. At the next negotiation DINPD is going to urge to interpret the buffer zones as glades.

C.2 - Install infrastructure to improve control of preserve zone

Proposed start and end of the action

01/2007 – 10/2007

Expected results

Six gates will be installed at Bócsa project site by the end of June, 2007..

Achievements

- Exact place of the gates has been chosen,
- Overview of the administrative side of this action

Action status

Ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Similar actions already completed by KNPD were investigated to overview all the administrative side of this kind of activity. Since the project site is 100% in property management of the KNPD, and there are no official roads or roads in forestry use, there isn't any administrative barrier to complete the action. We plan to finish it this year.

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Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

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C.3 - Construction of a nature trail

Proposed start and end of the action

04/2009 – 10/2009

Expected results

The possibility to visit the site in such an organised way will reduce the chance of direct and unwanted trampling and demolition.

The number of visitors will reach 1000 people per year.

The practical nature conservation's concrete realization will present a positive example and a hopeful vision to the public.

Achievements

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Action status

Not started

Description of the progress during the reporting time

-

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

C.4 - Nursery for ex situ propagation of *Dianthus diutinus**Proposed start and end of the action*

01/2006 – 12/2006

Expected results

The result of the action is a 576 m² nursery in the Botanic Garden of the University of Szeged available for growing and handling 15000 plants provided a safe site for the ex situ propagation (Photo documentation, **Annex 8**).

Achievements

-preparation of the ground surface, wire fence and the lockup gate, cover by agrifolia

Action status

Completed

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Nursery is situated in the Botanic Garden of the University of Szeged. It is compassed round with wire fence with lockup gate. The place is ready to serve for appropriate handling of the plants as to prevent occasional grazing of herbivorous animals. There are enough place to handle separately the seedlings deriving from the different pSCI sites. To prevent the growth of weeds, the ground under the growing pots was covered by agrifolia.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

D.1 - Eradication of non-indigenuos *Asclepias syriaca**Proposed start and end of the action*

06/2007-08/2010

Expected results

Clear away the whole stand of *Asclepias syriaca* from the infected areas.

Project site	Bodoglár	Bócsa	Csévharaszt
infected area estimated in the project documentation (ha)	16	20	17

Achievements

Public tender for Kiskunmajsa-Bodoglár és Bócsa project areas; contracting for the external assistance.

Elaboration of the detailed working protocol and daily working routine of the contractor based on the *Asclepias syriaca* monitoring results (Action F4, F5)

1st year handling completed in Kiskunmajsa-Bodoglár and Bócsa project sites.

Routing, order and method of eradication (one by one or with spray machine) is planned patch by patch in Csévharaszt project site.

Action status:

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

The public tender and the contracting process for Bodoglár and Bócsa project sites started well before the handling; the tendering document was published and the contract was made using the estimation dates of the project proposal regarding the cover of the infected areas (in hectares) and the average relative cover (%) of the infected patches.

Due to monitoring activity (F4, F5) the real infected hectares differ from the previously estimated. The extension of the real infected area (results of the precise GPS data collecting) and distribution of the relative cover values can be seen as following:

Project site	Project area (ha) = traversing area (ha)	Estimated infected area (ha)	Estimated relative cover (%)	Measured (GPS) infected area (ha)	Real average relative cover (%)
Kiskunmajsa-Bodoglár	160	16	80	36 (See Map: Ann. 9)	Varied between 10% and 90%, mostly between 60-80%
Bócsa	100	20	80	10 (See Map: Ann. 10)	Varied between 10% and 90%, mostly between 60-80%

Although the total infected area for this two project sites is turned to be more extended as previously estimated, the main relative cover was less than expected. These evidences

were recorded in *minutes* made between the Beneficiary (KNPD) and the Contractor without further comments.

During the chemical handling the quality requirement (work safety; safety of nature values; effectiveness of the *A. syriaca* eradication) of the fieldwork was strictly monitored by regular (daily) consultations and daily control activity of KNPD.

All treatment required manual work. On the two project areas for the chemical handling there have been spent altogether more than 3000 working hours by 12 workers.

The chemical was purchased by the contractor.

The used chemical: Medallon Premium (Syngenta)

Methods of chemical handling were elaborated and used as protocol as following:

- In stands where *A. syriaca* occurred scattered and the grass structure was untouched, the leaves of the young plants were coated one by one;
- In stands where the relative cover varied between 40%-75% the handling method was spraying from pressurised container (2 liters). This equipment allowed more precise handling than the man power machines;
- In case where the grass structure was suppressed already by weed vegetation, or where the *Asclepias* covering was more than 75 %, the chemical treatment was spraying from man power spray machines.

The most commonly used method was the spraying from pressurised container, since the most common relative cover value of the infected stands varied between 50-70% (Data analysed in Action F5).

The 1st year handling contains the three repetitions on the same infected patch during the vegetation period of *A. syriaca* as described in the project documentation.

Photo documentation about the activity can be seen in Annex 12.

The effectiveness of the 1st year chemical handling based on visible observations is 90-95%. The real effectiveness however could only be examined after the *A. syriaca* monitoring of the next year.

The natural vegetation and most importantly the *Dianthus diutinus* population do not suffered any damage during the handling.

The observations about collateral effect of the chemical handling were made by visual assessment. In case of:

- man power spraying machine the weed vegetation was destroyed. This however did not resulted damage in species or in habitat with nature value.
- The use of pressurized spray container must have been regularly controlled. The observation based on the examination whether there are in the vicinity of poisoned *A. syriaca* other plants affected by the chemical. Apart from some *leaves* of *Festuca vaginata*, *Galium verum*, *Ailanthus altissima* affected, ***seriously damaged*** or ***dead plants could not be observed***. Since the chemical do not leave the root system into the soil, there are no further collateral effects to be expected. The cover of the vegetation affected by the chemical (in percentage of 1 m² unites) with 60% relative cover of *A. syriaca* do not reach 2% in every handled spot.
- On places where *D. diutinus*, or other protected plants occurs, the handling was made by coating the leaves. This method is even more sophisticated and has less effect to the natural vegetation.
- In every project site there are two permanent plots established with *A. syriaca* patches (see action F4) which are monitored to gain information about the

restoration activities, therefore also about the results of action D1. The first data collection has finished in August, which contains the 1st year cover of *A. syriaca*, and the cover of natural vegetation as well. Any damage of the natural vegetation on these plots could be detected by the changes of species composition.

Csévharaszt project site:

Fieldwork (Action F4) revealed that the amount of *Asclepias* is less than expected, eradication was considered to be accomplished in 3 years. Routing, order and method of eradication (one by one or with spray machine) are planned patch by patch.

Project site	Project area (ha) = traversing area (ha)	Estimated infected area (ha)	Estimated relative cover (%)	Measured (GPS) infected area (ha)	Real average relative cover (%)
Csévharaszt	108 ha	17	25%	1,7 ha (See Map: Ann. 11.)	Varied between 1 and 100 %

DINPD has found *Asclepias* patches with bigger extent in the boundary zones of the planned grassland restoration areas of the project documentation (inside project area and pSCI border). In our point of view the eradication of these patches is very important too, because they endanger the grassland areas of high importance, in some years they are going to cause problems there as well.

However, the coverage is less than expected, the distribution of *Asclepias syriaca* is very patchy and diffuse, approaching them is more difficult, eradication needs more work by hand and to protect grassland native species we have to use chemicals with special care.

The high amount of arboreal invasives proved to be a more serious problem, their eradication will be of primary importance.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

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D.2 - Follow-up treatment of arboreal invasives: *Robinia pseudo-acacia*, *Ailanthus altissima*, *Prunus serotina*

Proposed start and end of the action

07/2007 – 03/2011

Expected results

On the whole territory the forest reconstruction and the grassland restoration activities regarding arboreal invasives will be completed. On the whole project territory the reconstruction of approximately 46,5 ha area will be completed by the follow-up treatments of arboreal invasives, according to the following data:

Project site	Area (ha)
Bodoglár	2,0
Bócsa	17,5
Csévharaszt	27,0

Achievements

- field investigation (GPS data recording) is going on to get detailed information about the amount of the tree material to be handled
- collecting information about the best practice to cope with rudimentary sprouts of *Robinia pseudo-acacia* and *Prunus serotina*

Action status

Ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Action D2 follows the tree cut completed in action C1.

On Bodoglár project area this winter only *Pinus nigra* will be cut, so there will be no need of D2 activity directly connected to it.

On Bócsa project site the cut of 2,4 ha *Robinia pseudo-acacia* will be followed by D2 activity if there will be sprouts this year.

Follow-up treatments on Csévharaszt project site became due previous to the timetable because of the new clearcuts, where NEFAG sprouts *Robinia* (See details at action C1).

In the buffer zones the follow-up treatments should begin with great effort this year.

Size of *Robinia*, *Prunus* and *Ailanthus* stands, amount, cover or count and coordinates of them are estimated in this site. *Prunus serotina* occurs in management patch 55, *Ailanthus altissima* causes problems mainly in 44, 46, 51. (see attached map)

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

D.3 - Ex situ propagation and re –establishment of *Dianthus diutinus*

Proposed start and end of the action

09/2006 – 08/2011

Expected results

The result of this action will be approximately 15 000 newly out-planted *Dianthus diutinus* individuals of different age with the appropriate genetic diversity and reproductive capacity. These plants make the existing small population fragments into large units to assure the successful survival of *Dianthus diutinus*.

A feasible construction plan for the nature trail is ready by 30 September 2008 after consultation with relevant staff.

Achievements

Seed collection protocol is worked out. Seed collection was completed two times, covering all sites of *D. diutinus*.

Investigation of the genetic variability of the populations is on-going: protocol of DNA analysis for serial work is elaborated.

Testing the germination % and seedling survival are on-going.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Quick and simple DNA isolation method has been worked out. Primers for RAPD analysis and for rDNA ITS sequences were synthesised.

The amplification potential of the primers was compared.

The appropriate process for serial analysis of genomic DNA and rDNA ITS pattern was tested.

The comparative analysis of the genetic heterogeneity of the populations has started.

The collection of the seeds from the areas marked off in all sites was completed two times (1st: 2006. September-October; 2nd : 2007 July-August).

The germination rate of seeds and the seedling survival was different in different time of the vegetation period and by seeds originated from different populations.

The seedlings grow well, slight difference can be observed between the populations.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

E.1 - Foresters informed and included

Proposed start and end of the action

10/2006 - 08/2011

Expected results

There will be 5 meetings at all projects sites until 2011

1000 pieces stickers will be produced and distributed among target groups

300 pieces of badges will be produced in 2006

Achievements

Preparation of the 1st meeting.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

There have been meetings with foresters during the project, all of them organised with the leaders of the relevant authorities and property managers, in order to discuss all questions regarding the main forestry activities of the project. The forthcoming meeting is planned to be organized this winter, after the specific questions are discussed and agreed.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

E.2 - Locals informed and included

Proposed start and end of the action

10/2006 – 08/2011

Expected results

- 15000 pcs of leaflets for Kiskunság project sites in Hungarian
- 4000 pcs of leaflets for Kiskunság project sites in English and German
- 10000 pcs of leaflets for Csévharaszt project site
- 200 boxes of puzzle
- plant picture appear on the back of 25000 spa tickets
- 100 pcs of fridge magnet.

Achievements

Complete design of the leaflets ready (in Hungarian).

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Three graphic artists were requested to send a proposal for designing the leaflets, the one with the best price and references was chosen.

Detailed information on the project, its objectives and actions are given on the leaflets, as well as general information about this endemic plant. LIFE and Natura 2000 logos appear on all, as well as those of co-financiers and particular partners. The 4 1/3 A4 size leaflets is going to be printed on recycled paper in full colour. 5000 pieces of leaflets for laymen, 5000 pieces with a more precise wording and professional information.

See the two leaflets (prepared by KNPD, and DINPD) in jpg format in Appendix 14, 15.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

E.3 - Installing information boards

Proposed start and end of the action

04/2008 – 09/2008

Expected results

Kiskunmajsa-Bodoglár	6 information boards maintained by KVÖ
Bócsa	3 information boards maintained by KNP
Csévharaszt	3 information boards maintained by DINP
Botanic Garden Szeged	1 information board maintained by SZTE
Kiskunmajsa town	2 information boards maintained by KVÖ

Achievements

A sample information board is ready and installed at Bodoglár project site.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Since there were no sign at all at Bodoglár project site, the 1st information table was installed before the planned date (See photos in Annex 16).

The board helped to reach general public awareness as well, e.g. local TV and radio of Kiskunhalas (neighbour City to the project partner Kiskunmajsa) was interested and made a report about the project.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

E.4 - Project web site

Proposed start and end of the action

01/2007 – 08/2011

Expected results

An up-to-date web site informing the broad public about the project will be created by September, 2007. It will help networking with similar plant conservation projects, and disseminate information on project results.

We expect 10 000 visitors to the website over the project period.

Achievements

Website is completed and actualized both in Hungarian and English

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

E.5 - General project branding and awareness raising

Proposed start and end of the action

10/2006 – 08/2011

Expected results

- 2 background materials
- 1,000 pcs posters
- 1000 pcs DVDs
- exhibition of 50 pcs photos
- 2500 pcs postcards
- 2 press conferences and 5 press releases
- 20 articles

Achievements

Design handbook of the project is ready
Press conference and a related press trip organized.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

The logo and the general project design is created (design handbook of the project (Annex 17) and the guidelines of it are going to be used for all dissemination products in order to represent a unified project design;

Press congress and press trip organized by great success, followed by high local and national interest and resulted further press releases, TV and Radio interviews.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

E.6 - Disseminate scientific and management lessons

Proposed start and end of the action

04/2007 – 08/2011

Expected results

- 5 scientific articles
- Presentations are held at least ten times on workshops and conferences
- Direct networking with other LIFE projects on workshops and conferences

Achievements

3 power-point presentation, introducing the project in scientific forums,
Networking with other projects: Common meeting with HUNSTEPPICOAKS about eradication of arboreal and herbaceous invasives.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time.

A botanical conference was held in Túrkeve (24-26 of November, 2006), organized by "Nimfea" Environment and Nature Conservation Association. Two power-point presentations were presented about the project (see power-point slides in Annex 18, 19.)

1. “A Pannon endemikus tartós szegfű védelme - LIFE-Nature projekt bemutatása” (Conservation of the Pannon endemic *Dianthus diutinus* – a LIFE-Nature project) by Mile Orsolya

2. „Problems and management of invasive species occurring on Natura 2000 sites of DINPID” by Sipos Katalin:

Since the representatives of the whole professional team of the science of Botany in Hungary were present, the overall dissemination of the start of the project may be completed.

Along with other project running at DINPID, the project was introduced on a Civil Forum on 28. november 2006.

Meeting about eradication of arboreal and herbaceous invasives was held in on the 3rd of July in Nagykőrös as it is a common problem for two LIFE projects (HUNSTEPPICOAKS and HUNDIDI). We invited competent colleagues from other National Parks and a specialist of chemical eradication of invasive species. Practical informations were discussed about each species.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

E.7 - Production of layman’s report

Proposed start and end of the action

04/2011 – 08/2011

Expected results

- 2000 copies of layman's report in Hungarian and English languages
- a comprehensive publication informing the general public on the objectives, aims, and lessons of the project and species conservation
- increased awareness towards the subendemic plant species *Dianthus diutinus*, its habitats and its threatening factors

Achievements

-

Action status

Not started

Description of the progress during the reporting time

-

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

F.1 - Project management, technical and financial monitoring

Proposed start and end of the action

09/2006 – 08/2011

Expected results

Technical, financial and administrative arrangements are in place to enable the proper running of the Project. All Project staff is appointed and aware of their roles and obligations for completing the Project. High quality technical reports will be prepared and submitted on time.

All the activities described in this application will be implemented on time and within budget.

Achievements

Technical, financial and administrative arrangements were done to enable the proper running of the Project. Partnership agreement is prepared and signed (Annex 21.) All Project staff is appointed and aware of their roles and obligations for completing the Project.

Regular reports from project partners make possible the administrative and financial monitoring.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

In order to minimize exchange rate loss the Kiskunság National Park Directorate opened a foreign currency bank account in September 2006 at the Hungarian State Treasury and asked the Commission to send the first pre-financing payment to this new account.

The beneficiary and its partners maintain up-to-date book-keeping systems which conform to the national law and regulation and can clearly identify the expenditures and incomes related to the project. The beneficiary applies different codes for the EU contribution, the co-financer's contribution and its own contribution in its books-keeping.

The beneficiary's request of November, 2006 concerns the use of a floating exchange rate since the HUF/EURO exchange rate increased significantly with more than 10% since *the start of the project*. Regrettably, in its answer the Commission rejected our request referring to less than 10 % increase from the date of the *1st pre-financing payment*, although there have been expenses prior to this date, after the project's commencement.

All project staff is appointed (except guide) (see list and organigram in Annex 20).

The project costs incurred until the 1st reporting date can be seen in table below:

Cost category	Total cost according to the Commission's decision €	Total costs incurred from the start date to 31/08/2007 €	%
1. Personnel	356 604	29 243	8,20
2. Travel	79 640	1 970	2,47
3. External assistance	874 907	36 334	4,15
4. Durable goods			
Infrastructure	50 180	2 042	4,07
Equipment	120 900	64 785	53,59
5. Land purchase/lease	0	0	
6. Consumables	39 200	2 380	6,07
7. Other costs	32 400	587	1,81
8. Overheads	76 954	1 107	1,44
SUM TOTAL	1 630 785	138 448	8,49

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

F.2 - Hold technical meetings

Proposed start and end of the action

09/2006 – 08/2011

Expected results

Scheduled meetings will be held with good attendance and on time (7 times in the whole project period), which will help to secure the high priority of the project work for project staff and authorities.

Achievements

Two technical meetings arranged in time.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

On the first meeting the project was represented in details for the representatives. The first half year's activities were discussed. On the second meeting it was checked that the initial actions have been completed satisfactorily and that the financial arrangements have been effective. The 3rd meeting is planned to be at the end of September where one of the main topic will be the ex situ conservation. We expect specialist of the plant as well foresters to be present.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

F.3 - Independent financial auditing

Proposed start and end of the action

10/2006 – 08/2011

Expected results

The auditor will be appointed until the end of 2006. The financial revision of the project will be carried out by an independent auditor, whose audit report will be part of the final report.

Achievements

Auditor is appointed.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Three auditors were requested to send a proposal for auditing the project. The one with the best price (and also best reference of auditing other LIFE projects) was chosen.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

-

F.4 - Monitoring

F.4 - Monitoring

Proposed start and end of the action

09/2006 – 08/2011

Expected results

This action will produce results after the data are analysed under F.5 about the following:

- Distribution area
- Permanent square sample plots

Monitoring results will summarise the impact of the concrete project actions on the species as habitats:

- Regeneration process of the reconstructed and restored areas (action C1, D1, D2)
- Results of the ex situ conservation (action C4, D3)
- Stopped further fragmentation of the populations (C2)

Achievements

- NBmR local project: subaction in Bodoglár project site. It was accomplished in August, 2007. The mapping of the individuals, their phenological state (number of buds/sprouts, flowers and cores) of the individuals) took place and were recorded in 990 unit (0,33x0,33m)/plot, in three plot, differing from each other by the habitat conditions.

- Field monitoring on the population changes of *Dianthus diutinus*: Individual mapping of the whole distribution area of the species is continuous. The subaction started in June, when the main flowering period of *D. diutinus* started. Since the 2nd big flowering amplitude starts in September, this activity will continue until October.

- Monitoring of the regeneration of the vegetation in place of the forest regeneration and grassland restoration area. (Action C1, D2). The permanent square sample plots in size 50x50 m were selected in all project site and the baseline data were collected (we have the data about the preconditions of the reconstruction and restoration activity of actions C1, D1, D2).

- Monitoring of the effect of the eradication on the invasive alien species *Asclepias syriaca*. (Action D1) Mapping activity was finished in June in all project site. The shape of the infected patches were recorded by GPS as polygon. The average relative cover value of *A. syriaca* was registered to the patch. The infected patches with diameter less than 2 m were recorded as point and the number of individuals was added.

The *A. syriaca* infection maps can be seen in Annex 9, 10, 11.

- Monitoring of the survival rate of the reintroduced *Dianthus diutinus* specimen. The first reintroduction will happen in October, 2007.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Every activity was controlled by both monitoring coordinator of KNPD, Project coordinator of DINPD and project manager.

- NBmR local project: subaction was carried out in August, 2007. The mapping of the individuals, their phenological state (number of buds/sprouts, flowers and cores) of the individuals) took place and were recorded in 990 unit (0,33x0,33m)/plot, in three plot, differing from each other by the habitat conditions:

- A.) intact natural open grassland vegetation
- B.) edge of native poplar grove
- C.) edge of Pinus nigra plantation

Exact data analysis will carry out in action F5, after the data collection (vegetation period) finished.

- Field monitoring on the population changes of Dianthus diutinus:

The monitoring activity is own contribution of KNPD and DINPD. One person (Gál Attila) dedicated only for monitoring has been working from 1st of June in Bócsa and Bodoglár project sites. The purchased equipment (Trimble Pathfinder ProXT professional GPS receiving + Trimble GPS Correct Extension for ArcPad 7x software + RECON 400 MHz (Bluetooth, WiFi, yellow)- all ESRI Products-) and the software for the data analyses (ESRI® ArcMap™ 9.2) allow data collecting with accuracy less than 0,5 m.

Since the activity did not finished yet, and the detailed analysis of the data will start after the collection finished, the final numeric results of this activity could not reported in the 1st progress report. There can be however declared some evidences regarding the result of the activity.

The accurate monitoring activity resulted:

- records on areas (inside project site) where no data was recorded before
- more detailed information about the habitat demand of the target species, therefore
- more correct basis for the consultation with the Forest Property Manager (Kefag Zrt.) in Bodoglár project site and Forest Authority about the planned reconstruction (C1), and
- essential information about some overlapping habitat of *D. diutinus* with *A. syriaca*, which was crucial information planning the handling methods in action D1.
- One of the *D. diutinus* population outside the project areas (Harkakötöny) turned to be surprisingly strong: instead of the records of 490 individuals (see ecological part of the project proposal) this year there could be observed until mid August more than 6000 (!) individuals. On this site there was an additional species conservation activity not included in the present project proposal: Two hectare area, covering the core of this population was fenced off by KNPD in September, 2006 to avoid occasional sheep grazing and trampling. This activity was sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Water and the Mol Rt (Hungarian Oil Company). The detailed analysis of this result will accomplish after all data collection has finished. (Unfortunately no other population showed such good results like this, at this point).

- Monitoring of the regeneration of the vegetation in place of the forest regeneration and grassland restoration area. (Action C1, D2). The permanent square sample plots in size

50x50 m were selected in all project site and the baseline data were collected (we have the data about the preconditions of the reconstruction and restoration activity of actions C1, D1, D2).

In every plot there are 50 pcs of 2x2 m microquadrates, which are deposited in semi-systematic way: In every 5x5m unit should be deposited two 2x2m quadrates for data collecting (see design in Monitoring Protocol, on page 6; Annex 22).

Since the parameters (the length and width) of the plots allow depositions on edge zones of the reconstruction and restoration areas, in the 50x50 m permanent sample plots there are microquadrates of 2x2 m partly from the intact open grassland or open woodland vegetation as well. Since the regeneration source, the potential propagules are also represented in the quadrates, the recolonisation of the grassland species could register in its progress.

- Monitoring of the effect of the eradication on the invasive alien species *Asclepias syriaca*. (Action D1) Mapping activity was finished in June in all project site. The shape of the infected patches was recorded by GPS as polygon. The average relative cover value of *A. syriaca* was registered to the polygone. The infected patches with diameter less than 2 m were recorded as point and the number of individuals was recorded.

The mapping activity of this subaction was in June, 2007 accomplished.

Since the 1st main flowering period of *D. diutinus* and the main monitor period of *A. syriaca* are the same, the most monitoring effort should be represented in June, with all the staff dedicated to this activity (monitoring team of KNPD; Project coordinator, Botanical assistant and Ranger at DINPD, see organigram, Action F1). DINPD gained also monitoring data from the data purchase contract for Action A1.

The result can be seen in Annex 9, 10, 11.

The table below shows the results in hectares:

Project site	Bodoglár	Bócsa	Csévharaszt	Total
infected area estimated in the project documentation (ha)	16	20	17	53
Real infected area (ha)	36	10	1,7	47,7

Although the precise measurements show differences from the estimated values, the total infected area changes only slightly.

Using the methodology of monitoring during D1 activity, the expected results (reduction of the patches (polygons) in size and the diminishing relative cover) hopefully could produce expressive series of maps.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

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F.5 - Analysis and reporting of monitoring results

Proposed start and end of the action

10/2006 – 08/2011

Expected results

Monitoring protocol is ready and available for all project partners to standardize data collection (Annex 22).

All monitoring information gained during action F.4 is stored and available in a GIS database.

Achievements

All monitoring activity and data handling is going according to the Monitoring protocol's instructions.

GPS records are saved and handled in GIS database.

Detailed data analysis will start at the end of this vegetation period, when the collection of the data has finished (at the end of October).

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Monitoring protocol was elaborated before the data collection has started.

Every activity of action F4 has detailed description with practical instructions, and expected accuracy of the data collection.

Data handling methods are also given and the structure of the database is also prescribed.

Additionally, results gained from Action A1 (habitat map for Bodoglár and Bócsa project site) is also imported in the GIS database.

Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

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F.6 - Production of an after-LIFE conservation plan

Proposed start and end of the action

07/2007 – 08/2011

Expected results

An after-LIFE conservation plan will be produced and will be supplement with the final report to guarantee long term conservation efforts and the continuation of recent programme.

Achievements

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Action status

Not started

Description of the progress during the reporting time



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Modifications in comparison to the proposal, justification of changes and delays

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