



LIFE06 NAT/H/000104

Mid-term Report

Covering the project activities from 01.09.2008 to 30.09.2009

Reporting date 30/09/2009

„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 (KNP)

DINP - Duna-Ipoly National Park

KEFAG Zrt - Kiskunság Forestry Incorporated Company

KNP - Kiskunság National Park

KVÖ - Local Government of Kiskunmajsa

MOL Nyrt. – Hungarian Oil Company

NEFAG Zrt - Nagykunság Forestry Incorporated Company

NBmR – National Biodiversity Monitoring System

SFS – State Forestry Service

SZTE - University of Szeged

TT – Nature Reserve Area (NRA)

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 subpopulations 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 30/09/2009

(1PR = 1st Progress Report)

(2PR= 2nd Progress report)

(MTR= Mid-term Report)

| Deliverable or Milestone (description) | Reference action | Deadline | Status | Evidence of reaching deliverable/milestone | 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. | Completed | Contract | Details of auditor included in MTR |
| 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 design handbook (including project logo) | 1PR (Ann. 17) |
| Nursery set up | C4 | 31. 12. 2006. | Completed | Photo document. | 1PR (Ann. 8) 2PR (Ann. 26) |
| Species and habitat monitoring protocol elaborated | F4, F5 | 31. 01. 2007. | Completed | Monitoring protocol handbook | 1PR (Ann. 22) |
| Leaflets published | E2 | 31. 05. 2007. | Partly completed | Leaflets | 1PR (Ann. 14; 15); 2PR (Ann. 33; 35) |
| Gates installed at Bócsa site | C2 | 30. 06. 2007. | Completed | Building permit, map, photo document | 2PR (Ann. 23-25) |
| Disintegrator purchased and delivered | C1 | 31. 08. 2007. | Completed | Photo document | 1PR (Ann. 7); 2PR (Ann. 16, 17) |
| Project poster | E5 | 31. 08. 2007. | Completed | Designer appointed, poster printed and disseminated | Sent to Commission with letter 15/04/2009 |
| Management Plans for the 3 pSCI site submitted | A1 | 30. 09. 2007. | On-going | Confirmation of submitted management plans | 1 PR (Ann. 1; 2; 3); 2PR (Ann. 1) |
| 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 Csévharaszt sites) | 1PR (Ann. 5) 2 PR (Ann. 2-3) |
| Website developed | E4 | 30. 09. 2007. | Completed | www.tartosszegfu.hu ; www.longlastingpink.eu | |
| Forest reconstruction completed in 50 % on the three project site | C1 | 28. 02. 2008 | completed | Contracts and photo documentation for each project site | |
| Construction plan of nature trail prepared | A3 | 30.09.2008 | completed | Construction plan available at BEN | |
| Information boards erected | E3 | 30.09.2008 | Partly completed | Photo documentation | |
| Eradication of non-indigenous <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> completed in 50 % on the three project sites | D1 | 30.09.2008 | Partly completed | Although the numbers have been reduced by more than 50%, the infected area has not been reduced that level | |
| Follow up treatment of arboreal invasives completed in 50 % on the three project site | D2 | 28.02.2009 | Partly completed | It is dependent on the vigour of target invasive species, hence it must be continued until project end in most cases | |

Technical progress on project actions by 30/09/2009

| Action | Deadline | Status | Description |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---|
| A1- pSCI management plan | 30/09/2008 | ongoing | Habitat mapping of Bócsa, Bodoglár and Csévharaszt project sites was done in 2007. The Natura 2000 management plans are ready for all three project sites and have been submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Water. |
| A2 – Forest management plan | 30/09/2008 | ongoing | Bodoglár project site: The modified forest management plan was received from Kefag Zrt for forestry works carried out in the first quarter of 2008. Bócsa project site: Permission for ongoing forestry activities at Bócsa is included in the yearly forest management plan of Kiskunság National Park, since the property manager of the area is KNP. An official request for forest management plan modification for forestry activities to be carried out at Bócsa project site in 2009 has been submitted to and approved by State Forestry Service (SFS). Csévharaszt project site: The forest management plan of this area was prepared in 2008. There was an official anticipatory negotiation (pre-arrangements) in April, 2008. According to these negotiations, there is no difficulty replanting our treatment strategy to the forest management plan and to get the soil protecting designation of these forest subcompartments. |
| A3 – Plan of the forest nature trail | 30/09/2008 | on-going | The final track of the nature trail had been identified the plan designed. |
| C1 – Forest restructuring | 30/09/2008 | ongoing | Bodoglár project site: Thinning of black pine plantations carried out on a 27 hectare area in the first quarter of 2008. Maps and management plans are ready for the thinning of the remaining 17 hectares black pine plantation. Bócsa project site: Chemical treatment and shrub eradication has been started on 10,6 hectare area in August 2008. Cutting of non-indigenous Robinia pseudo-acacia is completed on a 10,6 hectare area. A disintegrator for project purposes was purchased and started operation at this site. Csévharaszt project site: Contracts have been signed and forestry work completed on this project area on 38 ha. |
| C2 – Installation of gates | 30/09/2008 | completed | All six gates have been installed in spring 2008 for the protection of Bócsa project site. |
| C3 – Installation of the study trail | 30/09/2008 | not started | Contracts arranged both for the works and materials.- |
| C4 – Nursery for ex-situ propagatin | 30/09/2008 | completed | The nursery is surrounded by fence and the surface for the growing pots is covered by geotextile. |
| D1 – Eradication of non-indigenous Asclepias syriaca | 30/09/2008 | On-going | Public tender for Kiskunmajsa-Bodoglár and 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), but the daily routine was largely dependent on the actual weather conditions. 2nd and 3 rd year handling completed in Kiskunmajsa-Bodoglár and Bócsa project areas. Csévharaszt project site: On areas in property management of NEFAG (outside NRA) milkweed stands were precisely recorded and treated twice with chemicals. In 2009 3 treatments were applied. |
| D2 – Follow-up | 30/09/2008 | On-going | At areas where D.2 action occurs most efficient treatment methods |

| | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|--|
| treatment of arboreal invasives | | | were selected, and chemicals to be used for the treatments were identified for different arboreal invasive species (<i>Robinia pseudo-acacia</i> , <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> , <i>Prunus serotina</i>). Csévharaszt project site: Mechanical and chemical treatment of <i>Robinia</i> stands with sprouts have started outside of NRA according to schedule.. |
| D3 – Ex-situ propagation and re-establishment | 30/09/2008 | ongoing | Seed collection took place in the first and second part of the vegetation period. The raising and investigation of the plants in the nursery is continuous. So far 6261 plants have been out-planted. Samples for soil seed bank investigations have been collected and are being investigated. |
| E1 – Foresters informed and included | 30/09/2008 | ongoing | 3 meetings for foresters were organized. Regular meetings have been held with local foresters in order to implement forest activities properly from conservation point of view. |
| E2 - Locals informed and included | 30/09/2008 | ongoing | 3000 pieces of leaflets have been printed out on the Kiskunság project sites in Hungarian, and 1000 pieces issued both in English and German languages. 12000 pieces of leaflets for Csévharaszt as well as 1000 pieces of folders with the plant picture and all relevant logos. 10000 pieces of SPA tickets were issued with the plant picture. 3 public events in Csévharaszt, 2 in Bodoglár organized. |
| E3 – Installing informational board | 30/09/2008 | ongoing | 3 information boards made and installed at Csévharaszt project site 3 information boards made and installed at Bócsa project site 2 two information boards are being designed for Kiskunmajsa town 1 information boards made and installed at Bodoglár project site 1 information board made and installed for Botanical Garden of SZTE |
| E4 – Project web site | 30/09/2008 | ongoing | The website is operating and regularly updated in Hungarian language. www.tartosszegfu.hu ; www.longlastingpink.eu |
| E5 – General project branding | 30/09/2008 | ongoing | Five interviews on the LIFE project were made and broadcasted on local television channels. Project film makers selected, work started. 1000 posters were produced and disseminated. Seven articles were published in newspapers. 16 photos were chosen for exhibition. |
| E6 – Disseminate lessons | 30/09/2008 | On-going | Participation on 7 conferences (3 in Hungary, 4 in abroad) with poster or oral presentations. First scientific article submitted. |
| E7 – Layman’s report | 30/09/2008 | Not started | - |
| F1 – Project management | 30/09/2008 | ongoing | Technical, financial and administrative arrangements were done to enable the proper running of the Project. Partnership agreement is prepared and signed. 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. Orsolya Mile had led the project until 31 March 2008. From the 1 April 2008 her task was taken over by Tibor Danyik. From 15/10/2008 the project manager is András Bankovics. |
| F2 – Technical meetings | 30/09/2008 | ongoing | Five technical meetings were held. |
| F3 – Independent auditing | 30/09/2008 | ongoing | Auditor is appointed and an official contract was signed on 15/08/2007. |
| F4 - Monitoring | F4 | ongoing | <u>NBmR local project:</u> Based on the protocol of the monitoring, that has been going on since 1998, we prepared a point map of the individual plants of <i>Dianthus</i> |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|---------|--|
| | | | <p>diutinus in all the three fixed, 10x10 m quadrates (both divided into 33x33 cm microquadrates).</p> <p>The number of sprigs, the size (on a 1-3 scale), the vitality of the plant, and the number of healthy/injured capsules, flowers and buds as well, had been registered for all of the individuals.</p> <p><u>Field monitoring on the population changes of Dianthus diutinus.:</u> Similarly to the year 2007 and 2008, in accordance with the protocol in 2009 the population of Dianthus diutinus was fully surveyed. Field work began in May and will last until the end of October.</p> <p><u>Monitoring of the regeneration of the vegetation:</u> In accordance with the protocol all 50x50 m quadrates assigned were surveyed on the sites of forest reconstruction and on the site of milkweed eradication as well (Action C1, D2).</p> <p>In the case of the Bodoglár project area forestry interventions took place before the 2008 surveys, therefore considerable changes were detected in the composition of the vegetation.</p> <p><u>Monitoring of the effect of the eradication on the invasive alien species Common milkweed.</u> The pattern of infected patches - registrated by using GPS – was identical with the previous year's. Collection of data was full-scale, for the whole project area.</p> <p><u>Monitoring of the survival rate of the reintroduced Dianthus diutinus specimen.</u> The survival rate was 87 % taking into consideration the first 200 specimen reintroduced in 2007 autumn.</p> |
| F5 – Analysis of monitoring | F5 | ongoing | <p>All monitoring activity and data handling is going according to the Monitoring protocol's instructions.</p> <p>GPS records are saved and handled in GIS database.</p> <p>Data collection for the year 2008 and 2009 have been finished, comparison of data 2008 and 2009 will be finished by October.</p> |
| F6 – After LIFE-conservation plan | F6 | pending | - |

Technical development

A.1 – Preparation of Natura 2000 management plan

Proposed start and end of the action

10/2006 – 09/2007

Expected results

SCI 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

Habitat mapping of Bócsa, Bodoglár and Csévharaszt project sites was done in 2007.

The Natura 2000 management plans are ready for all three project sites and have been submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Water. The MEW have found the Csévharaszt management plan appropriate for public hearing, while for those of Bócsa and Bodoglár some additional information was requested to be provided and included. The organization of public hearings in Csévharaszt site has been started.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Natura 2000 management plans are ready for 12 708 ha Natura 2000 area, including Harkakötöny-Bodoglári homokbuckák SCI coded HUKN20035 with an area of 713 hectares, and Bócsa-Bugaci homokpuszta SCI coded HUKN20024 with an extension of 11 724 ha. The management plan of Csévharaszi homokvidék Natura 2000 site was produced, including the habitat maps based on aerial photographs of 2007, archive ecological data and military surveys. On the basis of the plans the conservation and improvement of *Dianthus diutinus* habitats could be done. The management plans were evaluated by ministry experts, hence the organization of public hearings could have been started. Foresters, local authorities and farmers are among the most important stakeholder groups to be invited to the events. Having analysed the comments of participants the management plan could be revised and the final version will be sent to MEW for approval, which is due before project end.

Modifications is 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

Forest management plan modification is in preparation phase in Bócsa project site. Forest management plans are issued for ten years. At this site it has to be renewed in 2010. Field works on the relevant project areas will be finished in 2009, data collection and mapping has already been carried out. Meanwhile yearly forest management plans, which served as the basis for C1 activities were regularly compiled and submitted to forest authorities.

All forestry activities are carried out in accordance with relevant forest management plan modifications.

Bodoglár project site: The modified forest management plan was received from Kefag Zrt for forestry works carried out in the first quarter of 2008 in 27 hectare area of pine plantations.

Bócsa project site: Permission for ongoing forestry activities at Bócsa is included in the yearly forest management plan of Kiskunság National Park, since the property manager of the area is KNPD.

An official request for forest management plan modification for forestry activities to be carried out at Bócsa project site in 2009 has been submitted to State Forestry Service (SFS).

Csévharaszt project site: The forest management plan of this area has been prepared. There was an official anticipatory negotiation (pre-arrangements) in April, 2008. Although the final management plan was completed until the end of the year 2008, it has not yet been signed by relevant minister due to some administrative reasons.

The conservational treatment strategy to the forest management plan was approved and the soil protecting designation of these forest subcompartments was agreed, as shown in overview map of management plan (Annex A2).

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.

Bócsa project site:

The State Forestry Service gave permission for clear cutting in 2008 for a 10,6 ha area and works have been carried out in autumn in accordance with the modified forestry plan for 2008. A modification request was submitted to SFS concerning forestry works of 2009. Permissions were granted to cut Robinia on a further 4 hectare area of which approximately 3 hectare is Robinia the rest is being native poplar species. These latter cuttings have to be finished by 31/12/2009.

The 10 years' forest management plan renewal for Bócsa site is in progress, field works and discussions have been carried out in 2009. The compilation of final documentation is expected in 2010.

Csévharaszt project site:

In course of the negotiations about the forest management plan of the site several three-sided discussions (on field as well) were organized by our Directorate involving representatives of Nefag Zrt. (registered forest manager) and the competent forestry authority.

The discussions were successful, and treatment patch borders were finalized.

The treatment patch borders that we created after several conciliatory rounds seem suitable to serve as forest subcompartment borders too, with regards to the pre-arrangements. The forest management planning service included them in the management plan which means that the treatment patches marked and the planned treatments correspond with the contents of the forest management plan and which fixes the form of use of the territories for 10 years.

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

There have been a new forestry law approved by the Hungarian Parliament in 2009, which measures modified previous paragraphs. However, management plans validity for ten years has remained no permissions are needed anymore for cutting trees but information must be provided previously to SFS. According to our information, the planning districts have been changed, and Bodoglár project site will not be planned as it was envisaged in 2010. There could be a special procedure processed which would include only project site (not the whole district), but its detailed discussion with relevant forest authorities will take place in February 2010. The forest management plan renewal for Bócsa site is in progress, field works and discussions have been carried out in 2009. The compilation of final documentation is expected in 2010. The final management plan for Csévharaszt project site was completed in 2008, however it has not yet been signed by relevant minister due to some administrative reasons according to our latest information from local forestry.

A.3 – Plan of the forest nature trail

Proposed start and end of the action

01/2008-09/2008

Expected results

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

Achievements

The final track of the nature trail had been identified after several field consultations. It can be found in the heart of the Bodoglár project area leading through natural habitats and black pine forests. Milkweed eradication and out-planted long-lasting pink individuals could also be observed along the trail. The relevant staff of particular project partners had been involved in the planning process.

The implementation of the nature trail could have started according to the plan after the vegetation period of 2009, since the property manager of the area is the beneficiary itself.

Action status

Completed

Description of the progress during the reporting time

There are two important property managers of Bodoglár project site: black pine plantations are belong to the KEFAG Zrt., while large proportion of natural habitats belong to the KNP. Based on the experiences of thorough field walks the best track for the nature trail has been identified crossing different habitats, which could provide most information on the project. The delineation of the new track was done by project staff in the autumn/winter of 2008, and it leads through natural habitats and black pine forests. Milkweed eradication and out-planted long-lasting pink individuals could also be observed along the trail. The property manager of the whole area where the track runs is the KNP, hence the technical design of the nature trail could have been started in early 2009.

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

Although there had been a potential track identified earlier and reported in 2PR it did not run through the property of the beneficiary, hence a new track delineation was necessary. The whole area where the nature trail runs is managed by the beneficiary. Plans of the nature trail were ready by April 2009, hence the construction works could be started in time and presumably be finished by the envisaged deadline of 31/12/2009.

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 to be created (see 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

Bodoglár project site: Thinning of black pine plantations carried out on a 27 hectare area in the first quarter of 2008.

Maps and management plans are ready for the thinning of the remaining 17 hectares black pine plantation.

Bócsa project site: Chemical treatment and shrub eradication has been completed on 10,6 hectare area by November 2008. Cutting of invasive *Robinia pseudo-acacia* is contracted and completed on a 10,6 hectare area by March 2009. The disintegrator purchased from LIFE sources was used for chipping wood for the whole area with the supervision of a disintegrator handler employed by BEN.

Csévharaszt project site: Contracts have been signed and forestry works started on this project area on the 1st September 2008 according to the technology determined by DINP experts. As a result 112 hectare area became invasive tree species free. On the place of former *Robinia* forests 0,8 ha was planted with native poplar trees.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Bodoglár project site:

Thinning of black pine plantations carried out on a 27 hectare area in the first quarter of 2008, half of the total wood mass of forest parts had been cut. Since most of the trees were thin ones, the number of cut trees was much more than half of total.

In the summer arrangements were made for the forthcoming forestry activities. The exact localization of relevant forest parts was done and plans were recorded on map, while contact was held with KEFAG Zrt. and plans discussed.

In the second phase 17 hectare thinning of black pine will be done presumably in February 2010 leaving the criteria and the work protocol unchanged.

Bócsa project site:

Cutting of non-indigenous Robinia pseudo-acacia is contracted and completed on a 10,6 hectare area, permits allowing forestry works to be carried out are included in the yearly forest management plan of KNP.

There were investigations in relevant forest parts concerning shrub cover ratio, ratio of native and non-native trees, dead and alive tree ratio and Robinia wood mass.

The new disintegrator purchased was used as it was envisaged in the proposal after the trial operation held in August 2008.

Cutting of Robinia started on 5th August 2008 and continued until February 2009 at Bócsa project site, and have been completed on 10,6 hectare. Companies for implementation were selected for each work phase.

First work phase:

Since Robinia sprouts from both root and stump firstly the trees have to be treated with chemicals in order to prevent it. Trees can be cut after drying. Since the area was covered with shrub, firstly shrubs had to be cut out. For chemical treatment of trees Medallon Premium was used the same as for the eradication of *A.syrriaca*. Robinia individuals with less than 6 cm stem diameter were cut then a whole was drilled on the cut surface where the chemical was injected. The whole was closed with putty to avoid evaporation. A special automatic equipment was used for the injection of the chemical making the treatment as precise as possible.

Robinia trees with stem diameter greater 6 cm were drilled as close to the roots as possible, drilling more wholes into big trees and each whole 6 ml chemical was injected. The effect of the chemical could well be seen after a week, leaves turned yellow than fall.

Cut shrub and valueless wood material was disintegrated and chips were taken from project area helping grass regeneration in the long-run.

Second work phase:

Trees treated with chemical dried out two weeks after the actual treatment thus in the future we have expected minimal spouting. After the trees dried out the clear cutting of the area has begun, and as a result only native trees have remained in the area most often in clusters.

Annual forestry plan modification was requested and approved for the 4 hectare area of which mapping and wood mass calculation activities were completed prior to actual Robinia cutting.

Csévharaszt project site:

Csévharaszi Borókás TT (Nature Reserve Area, NRA): according to former estimations the cover of invasives on the target area (67 ha) was 16, 68 hectares (net area). However, the net area increased by the time actual management have started, hence altogether 21 hectare Robinia was treated (Annex C1).

Outside the NRA 45 ha project area, net 17 hectares invasive trees were treated in 2008 and 2009.

Arboreal invasives were cut and the surface of the stump were treated with Garlon, branches and tree trunks were removed from the area. Contracted forestry actions and precise technology have also been described in the annexes of the public procurement procedure documentation.

Summary of the specified technology:

Arboreal invasives, 5 cm < diameter

Cutting of trees: not to damage the indigenous vegetation and the soil during the actions: this should be in focus of the works. All invasive trees are to be cut with chain saw, warily, with the possible lowest stump height. The cut surface has to be handled with 'Garlon' (*Robinia*, *Prunus*), in case of *Ailanthus* 'Banvel'. Transfer, track of transportation, spoil area, burning place of branches are to be traced out by DINPD. To minimize hauling damage the method of forwarding cut material is defined in every patch in a chart.

Works are partly allowed to be done by high tech machinery, but inside the TT forestry works has to be done by hand or by smaller machines (depending on the lie of the land) or after the vegetation period in winter, taking special care of the grassland.

Forest reconstruction by pit-planting

0,5 ha outside the Nature Reserve Area was planted with native poplar trees by this method (Annex C1). On this area there have been residues of the native vegetation. *Robinia* stands were cut without using chemicals in 2004 that caused sprouting. Thanks to the extreme climate sprouting was not very successful, and NEFAG changed the status of area from 'forest' to 'clearing'. This non-traditional, unknown forest regeneration technique is acceptable for the forestry only on this area where regeneration is not obligatory. However, in our view with the appropriate care this technique can be successful as well. Despite of spring draught experienced in 2009 50 % of the planted small trees survived, which is considered a fairly good result. The changing of dead trees to new ones is in progress.

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

During the project we have been informed and understood that a priori treatment with chemicals could be more efficient in the long run compared to repetitive post treatments. Hence we used this technology which can be applied in a very limited time (August-mid-October) to obtain best results. Since the personnel working for this action was also limited, and weather conditions working in the fields have to be respected we could not complete action as we have expected and described in proposal. Therefore we would like to continue the proper implementation of this action and consecutive D2 action by the end of project period to have best result achieved.

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

Proposed start and end of the action

01/2007-06/2007

Expected results

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

Achievements

All six gates have been installed in spring 2008 for the protection of Bócsa project site. They were placed at illegal road junctions, where one way is going across the project area hence drivers could notice the gates in time and can continue their drive on the other road. Naturally all gates are situated inside the Natura 2000 site borders. They all were maintained in the reporting period as well, and the used light reflecting stickers were changed to avoid accidents. Since the gates could be opened with a uniform key specially made for the lock of the gates trespassing of unofficial persons became impossible.

Action status

Completed

Description of the progress during the reporting time

The light-reflecting stickers were worn off due to weather conditions hence we have changed them to new ones in order to avoid accidents. All gates are operational and maintained properly.

An additional fence was built around the tiny but rather vulnerable *Dianthus diutinus* population of Ásotthalom. The posts were donated by the local forestry company, the wire netting of the fence was provided by the beneficiary. The enclosure was made by volunteers hence no cost at all was budgeted to the project. The enclosure saved the lives of 233 *Dianthus diutinus* individuals from direct grazing of brown hares and roe deer in 2009.

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

Bodoglár project site: Four additional gates would be necessary to avoid illegal traffic on the protected Natura 2000 site. Dirt roads leading in between the forests would be closed by the gates similar to those of Bócsa site. We expect the reduction of illegal traffic of off-road 4WDs heading for the most intact parts of the Natura 2000 site. Costs of these additional gates (an estimated 3500 Euro) would be budgeted in the infrastructure category of durable costs in case of official approval.

C.3 – Construction of a nature trail

Proposed start and end of the action

04/2009-12/2009

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

The public tendering for the construction works of the nature trail and for its building materials have been successfully completed in August 2009. Companies providing the best offers were selected and they will be contracted in early October.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

The beneficiary has received three offers for the construction of the nature trail in August 2009. The best offer was selected and in September 2009 the draft of the contract has been compiled. Its finalization and signing by both parties is expected in early October. The deadline for the construction is 31/12/2009 which is in accordance with original proposal. The public tendering of wood and metal materials needed for the construction of the nature trail has also been started in recent reporting period. Evaluation of the offers and the orders for best offers' providers will be made in early October in order to provide all materials for construction in time.

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

The official handing over ceremony will presumably take place in early June when long-lasting pink individuals are already flowering. Project partners, foresters, regional tourism and ministry representatives will also be invited to the event. Information boards along the nature trail will be erected by the ceremony at latest. Early summer is the best time to show visitors the plants themselves and the results of conservation measures, as well as potential threats to the populations compared to the deadline of the construction (mid-winter).

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.

Achievements

The nursery is surrounded by fence and the surface for the growing pots is covered by geotextile.

Action status

Completed

Description of the progress during the reporting time

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

There is a need for 'renovation' of the nursery that has been set up in the first year of the project due to continental weather conditions and continuous usage. The geotextile went wrong, hence it need to be changed and a new layer of net is needed to be purchased in order to give some shade to the small plants seeded in the Botanical Garden. Some parts of the watering pipe system also need to be changed. The whole cost of this renovation would be around 1000 Euro and be budgeted under the category consumables, where the relevant project partner have the resources for implementation. The approval of the renovation by the Commission will result the opportunity of continuation of ex-situ conservation measures carried out by SZTE.

D.1 – Eradication of non-indigenous *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 was done for all project sites in order to contract 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), but the daily routine was largely dependent on the actual weather conditions.

Second year chemical handling was completed in Kiskunmajsa-Bodoglár and Bócsa project areas. Third year treatment was completed in Bodoglár and Bócsa project sites.

Csévharaszt project site: On areas in property management of NEFAG (outside NRA) milkweed stands were precisely recorded and treated twice with chemicals in 2008. Treatments were done three times in 2009 on a 6 ha area total.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

According to proposal we have expected that after treatment relative cover of milkweed infected area will be halved by second year and further decreases in consecutive years. GPS data of 2008 and 2009 concerning this action can be seen below:

| Project site | Project area (ha) = traversing area (ha) | GPS measured infected area in 2008 (ha) | GPS measured infected area in 2009 (ha) | Real average relative cover (%) |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Kiskunmajsa- Bodoglár | 160 | 42 | 13,33 | Varied between 1% and 50%, mostly between 1-10% |
| Bócsa | 100 | 5,5 | 2,8 | Varied between 1% and 60%, mostly between 5-20% |

After summerizing the precise GPS data collecting results it can be seen that at Bócsa project site 5,5 ha was infected with *A.syrriaca* compared to the 10 ha of 2007, and it has further been reduced to 2,8 ha by May 2009. while at Bodoglár project site slight increase could be experienced from 36 ha of 2007 to 42 ha to 2008. Due to repetitive handling the infected area at Bodoglár has been reduced to 13.33 ha. Although it could be considered a significant change and a positive result, further treatments are necessary for high-percentage eradication of the invasive species. As a consequence, the final deadline available for invasive treatment should be changed to project end. Analysis of results of GPS data collection is described under F5. Precise GIS data can be seen on maps (Annex F5).

Unlike in previous years no chemical treatment was carried out in Bócsa and Bodoglár, since the milkweed plants were rather stressed and relatively small due to spring draught of 2009. There have been very few individuals what would flower and produce seeds, hence in 2009 the infected areas were treated mechanically in July. After the treatment we expected an intensive second growth as a reaction of the plant to stress, and chemical treatment was expected to be carried out in August-September. Since the plants did not grow in the extent expected this latter treatment was unnecessary. During the treatment no damage was caused to natural values.

Csévharaszt project site:

NEFAG treated *Asclepias* in a covenanted way, including spraying with Medallon twice in 2008, all invasive plants one by one. *Asclepias* occurs in Csévharaszt in scattered, smaller patches inside the indigenous vegetation. Outside the NRA altogether 1,4 ha of *Asclepias* was treated in 2008. Inside the NRA eradication started in 2009 on a 4,2 ha area by Pannonpark Kft.

In virtue of detailed fieldwork amount of *Asclepias* is lower than it was estimated in the proposal. However, with adverse weather conditions treatments are not that successful as they should be. This caused a need of repetition in treatments which as a matter of fact means bigger managed area, higher number of hectares.

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

Although numbers of invasive milkweed have been reduced significantly at all project sites the infected area has not been lessened to the extent as we have expected and as it was envisaged in proposal hence the continuation of this action is expected until the end of project period by 31/08/2011.

D.2 – Follow-up treatment of arboreal invasives: *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *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

At areas where D.2 action occurs most efficient treatment methods were selected, and chemicals to be used for the treatments were identified for different arboreal invasive species (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*, *Ailanthus altissima*, *Prunus serotina*).

10,6 ha was treated once mechanically in September 2009 in Bócsa site. At Csévharaszt mechanical and chemical treatment of *Robinia* stands with sprouts have started outside of NRA according to schedule in 2008, while post-treatments inside the NRA have taken place in 2009.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Bodoglár project site: The 27 ha thinned *Pinus nigra* plantation does not need this kind of action, since the species does not raise sprouts from the logs, nor from the roots.

Bócsa project site: The 10,6 hectare clear cut *Robinia* forest have raised sprouts in 2009 in spite of a priori chemical handling. Their extension was largely dependent on the efficiency of preventive chemical treatment. Sprouts were much smaller and fewer compared to control areas, hence we have decided to graze them by goats or sheep. Unfortunately the SFS has not taken these areas out of forest land category, hence their grazing would have been illegal and the idea was neglected. Instead mechanical handling was applied which gave satisfactory results. Arrangements of the post-treatments will start in spring 2010 again, and the sprouts on the 10,6 ha and the 2,9 ha cut in 2009 would hopefully be grazed in May-June in order to reduce the use of chemicals to a minimum but adequate level.

Csévharaszt project site:

Robinia sprouts growing around the treated logs are cut down to ground level. Mechanical handling was executed once followed by a chemical handling in 2009.

The chemical treatment of the sprouts is done when they reach a length of 25-30 cm. The technology of this treatment is coating one by one or spraying. In the given time, the chemical agent is passed onto the surface of the sprouts by low-spreading spraying. For invasive tree species, the method of chemical treatment is the following. In case of *Robinia* and *Prunus serotina* chemical treatment is carried out once, after the mechanical handling. In case of *Ailanthus* it is executed twice. Applied chemicals are "Lontrel 300" in case of wattle, "Medallon Premium" in case of *Prunus serotina* and „Banvel" in case of *Ailanthus* (Annex D2).

The total area, where stands of arboreal invasives are found and treated recently is 112 ha.

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

It is probable that grazing of the sprouts will be a possibility in 2010 on 10,6 ha at Bócsa site. Should it be the case there would be a need of purchase of some consumables, like electric fence, accumulators, solar panel, etc in connection with grazing. In this case detailed budget compared to those of other treatments (mechanical, chemical) will be given to Commission in March-April. However, grazing is not considered as the management satisfactory in itself, hence additional post-treatments are also needed.

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*.

Achievements

Seed collection took place in the first and second part of the vegetation period both in 2008 and 2009.

The raising and investigation of the plants in the nursery is continuous.

6261 ex-situ raised plants have been already out-planted to all project sites.

Samples for soil seed bank investigations have been collected and are being investigated.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

6061 individuals were out-planted in reporting period at all project sites. Most of the plants planted out in autumn have survived in the wild, while individuals planted out in spring have survived in relatively small numbers due to extreme spring draught which is uncharacteristic in Hungary. Exact locations and numbers out-planted per site can be found under Annex D3.

Out-planted individuals per project sites in reporting period

| | Bodoglár | Bócsa | Csévharaszt | Total |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 2008 autumn | 1395 | 850 | 770 | |
| 2009 spring | 493 | 1720 | 833 | |
| Total | 1888 | 2570 | 1603 | 6061 |

Appropriate populations were marked out for seed collection at all project sites then the necessary quantity of seeds was collected. Seed collection was done at two different time intervals in 2009, in the first and second part of the vegetation period.

Germination rate and survival rate of the seedlings have also been examined, while they were raised. Results have shown that there is only a slight difference in the above mentioned parameters of seedlings from different populations. Grown up individuals will be out-planted in October-November to the same project area where their seeds have been collected from. The permission was granted for the out-planting from the National Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water.

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

As we have informed the Commission in 2PR more genetic investigations were needed, since samples from different project areas are showing heterogeneity and new large long-lasting pink populations have been found. The extra costs of these genetic investigations are financed from the available cost of external assistance or travel budget category taking into consideration 'the 10 % rule' of LIFE Common Provisions.

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 of stickers will be produced and distributed among target groups
300 pieces of badges will be produced in 2006

Achievements

The KEFAG Zrt. property manager of Bodoglár site organized a national meeting for foresters on 22nd July 2007 with the participation of project team (Annex 55). (<http://www.kefag.hu/vandorgyules/index.html> See: Program 7th) Forest parts involved in the forest restructuring have been visited and applied management method discussed.

A special meeting was organized at Bodoglár project area on 15th January 2008 prior to actual forestry works. The third meeting with foresters was organized on 12/12/2008 at Csévharaszt. Regular meetings have been held with local foresters in order to implement forest activities properly from conservation point of view.

Potential designers of the stickers have been selected.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Regular meetings have been held with local foresters in order to implement forest activities properly from conservation point of view. These regular meetings are essential for obtaining permissions for forestry works and to identify target plots for forest reconstruction. Forest planners will compile forestry plans to meet conservational goals on target areas taking into consideration the borders identified by BEN (Bócsa) and DINP (Csévharaszt).

DINP established a good relationship with leader of forestry unit of Csévharaszt project area. Good communication and regular meeting resulted that all conservational suggestions were approved by foresters both on local and on regional level (permissions were granted). As an additional benefit of this relationship local forestry supported the conservational objectives and used native tree species (poplar) for the reforestation of 6,3 ha area adjacent to project site (Annex E1-E2).

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

Best design to be appeared on the stickers will be selected by project team in next reporting period after that the production of the stickers will immediately start and the dissemination of the product will be done among target groups. Naturally both the LIFE and Nature2000 logos will appear on the stickers.

Due to personnel changes in project management the production of the badges have not been completed yet, since handing over tasks and assuring the continuity of management work required more time than expected. Both the LIFE and Nature2000 logos will appear on the badges which made the designers work complicated, since these logos are coloured ones the product has also must be coloured if we must include them instead of the original conception of being metal coloured plant shaped badge. For the above mentioned reasons we will presumably produce metal badges with enamel layer on it. This delay does not endanger general project objectives envisaged in the original proposal.

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 puzzles
- plant picture appear on the back of 25000 spa tickets
- 100 pcs of fridge magnet.

Achievements

3000 pieces of leaflets have been printed out on the Kiskunság project sites in Hungarian, and 1000 pieces issued both in English and German languages.

12000 pieces of leaflets for Csévharaszt were produced as well as 1000 pieces of folders with the plant picture and all relevant logos.

10000 pieces of SPA tickets were issued with the plant picture.

The design of the fridge magnet has already been started.

Three public events in Csévharaszt, two in Bodoglár project site in 2008 and 2009 were organized and dissemination of project products was done and the project was introduced to locals at all venues.

An Ombudsman Meeting was held at Ócsa Military Base in the organization of Infrastructural Agency of Ministry of Defence on 12/09/2008 aiming to introduce the connection between nature conservation and military training for the Ombudsmen and the Minister. DINPD presented a photo exhibition and a special exhibition tent while the director of the national park held a short lecture and underlined the importance of natural values found in the training area including *Dianthus diutinus*.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Negotiations with the director of Jonathermal Spa about the spa tickets were carried out in 2009 again. There have been tickets with plant picture left from 2008 hence reprints were not necessary in 2009. Next year the track of the study trail will appear on a special leaflet attached to spa tickets. Local Government of Kiskunmajsa has selected the designer of the fridge magnet providing the best offer.

On 26/04/2009 an excursion was organised at Csévharaszt project site together with local society on the Village Day. Local teachers and visitors interested were introduced with LIFE-Nature project, its objectives and results. We have also compiled a program for children including plays about the plant, its habitat and nature conservation (Annex E1-E2).

A field trip was organised on 13/09/2008 together with MOL (Hungarian oil company), since a large population of *D. diutinus* can be found on their estate. On 09/05/2009 the second Tour of the Dune was organized together with MOL at Bodoglár. 54 people have participated the event, including families and children (Annex E1-E2).

Leaflets, folders and posters have been disseminated at all public events respectively.

Modifications is 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 boards maintained by SZTE |
| Kiskunmajsa town | 2 information boards maintained by KVÖ |

Achievements

3 information boards made and installed at Csévharaszt project site

3 information boards designed and installed at Bócsa project site

2 two information boards are being designed for Kiskunmajsa town

1 information board made and installed at Bodoglár project site

1 information board made and installed for Botanical Garden of SZTE

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

3 boards for Bócsa project site and 1 board for Botanical Garden were designed and installed in recent reporting period. The design of the boards for Kiskunmajsa is in progress. All information boards are maintained properly and the wooden frames are handled with natural oils and preservatives every year.

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

Five information boards for Bodoglár project site will be part of the nature trail so their production is expected parallel with the establishment of nature trail expectedly in 2009/2010. They will all be erected along the nature trail by the official opening of the trail which will be expectedly in early June 2010.

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

The website is operating and regularly updated in Hungarian language.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

The website is regularly updated with a direct link to all dissemination products (leaflets, conference posters and TV interviews).

Invitation on the events organized in the framework of LIFE-Nature project is also appear on the website, thus informing the general public.

Modifications is 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

Posters were designed and printed in 1000 pieces in March 2009.

Film makers have been selected and the production of project film has started in 2008.

Five interviews on the LIFE project were made and broadcasted on local television channels, the latest was informing about project mission of 12/03/2009.

Five articles were published in local newspapers called Halasi-Tükör and Csévharaszi Hírharang and in regional daily newspaper Petőfi Népe. Two additional articles were published in Cincér and Két víz köze periodicals of the DINP and KNP.

16 photos were chosen for the exhibition.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

1000 pieces of poster was made in early 2009 and disseminated in public schools and institutions, as well as at local events. It have already been presented to Commission representatives during the mission on 12/03/2009 and later sample copies were sent to Commission attached to the letter dated 15/04/2009.

The production of the project film has been started and habitat reconstruction, out-planting and conservational measures implemented have already been filmed.

Two articles were published in recent reporting period, one at the local newspaper called Halasi-Tükör and another in Petőfi Népe regional daily newspaper of Bács-Kiskun county (Annex E5).

A field trip was organised on 13/09/2008 together with MOL (Hungarian oil company) since a large population of *D. diutinus* can be found on their estate.

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

There have been two types of costs in connection for project film production: as external assistance for production and as consumables for film material. Having three offers received for film production the most economic offer was selected. Although the price was higher even with this best offer than available budget on external budget line there is no need for consumables, due to digital technology. Hence the increased costs could almost entirely be financed from the unused cost of consumables.

The number of articles will increase in 2010 since many PR activities will start from this year on mostly in connection with official opening of nature trail in Bodoglár and organized, guided tours in the region.

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 conferences

Achievements

Results of the project have been presented on **7 scientific events** both in Hungary and abroad:

- Participation on the 8th National Conference on Actual Flora- and Vegetation Research in the Carpathian basin with two poster presentation.
- Poster presentation: 2nd World Scientific Congress – Challenges in Botanical Research and Climate Change.
- GISDATA International Users Conference 2008. Opatija, Croatia – Poster presentation on the conference titled 'Cooperation, as the key of sustainable development'.
- Participation on the Biannual (2008) Conference of Hungarian Nature Conservationists Society at Nyíregyháza organized by The Parliament Environmental Committee, Hungarian Nature Conservationists Society with poster presentation.
- Participation on the Botanical (2009) Conference organized by Szent István University, Gödöllő with a poster on Pollen and seed production of a *Dianthus diutinus* population.
- Participation on the 2nd European Congress of Conservation Biology 'Conservation biology and beyond: from science to practice' with poster presentation titled Studies on temporal changes in several reproductive traits in an ex situ population of *Dianthus diutinus* Kit. In Prague in May, 2009.
- Oral presentation: Conservation of the Pannon endemic *Dianthus diutinus* Kit. with ex situ and in situ methods on the „Botanic gardens in the age of climate change” EuroGard V Congress, Finland, pp. 70.

The **first scientific article** has been submitted to the periodical Biodiversity and Conservation.

Networking with other LIFE Nature projects (Steppicoaks, Grasshabit).

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

The topic of the poster presentation on the Conference at Nyíregyháza was the genetic studies carried out in the frame of LIFE project. In the study we compared seven populations living in LIFE project sites (in the surrounding of Bócsa, Bodoglár and Csévharaszt). We applied RAPD analysis with two primers to detect the heterogeneity. Atypical patterns were detected in every populations (Annex E6).

The poster and abstract of 2nd European Congress of Conservation Biology ‘Conservation biology and beyond: from science to practice’ could be found under Annex E6.

The presentation in Helsinki gave a summary of our results in connection with the protection of *Dianthus diutinus* project supported by LIFE Nature. In this study we analysed the reproduction, germination success, soil seed bank and genetic characteristic of *Dianthus diutinus*. The location of the ex situ conservation is in the Botanic Garden of the University of Szeged. We added new information about the germination and outplanting methods (Annex E6).

The poster and abstract of Gödöllő Conference can also be found under Annex E6.

The first scientific article has been submitted to the periodical Biodiversity and Conservation in the third year of the project, cited as follows: Németh, A., Mihalik, E. and Makra, O. (in press): Conservation of the pannon endemic *Dianthus diutinus* Kit. with ex situ and in situ methods. A case study, Biodiversity and Conservation.

Professional co-operation was established with the researcher of Ecological and Botanical Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, since the Csévharaszt project area is being one of their priority research area for many years. Plans for forest restructuring and on eradication of invasive species have been forwarded to the Institute. Researchers familiar with the area have been contacted in order to obtain their results. A PhD thesis is being compiled including the Csévharaszt Borókás area. We took part in the arrangement of research plan, taking into consideration the objectives of the project. The research is focusing on the regeneration of sand grasslands after eradication of non-native forest plantations.

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

Project participants have used their own office equipments for production of reports including colour maps and graphs. Unfortunately, the printer of the SZTE has gone wrong hence they would like to purchase a new colour printer from LIFE sources. Naturally, the office equipment would exclusively be used for LIFE purposes, compiling and printing reports, scanning essential documents needed for technical and financial reporting and most importantly producing scientific papers in appropriate quality. These reports will be disseminated at scientific and public events and therefore would have a great role in informing the society about this LIFE project. The total cost of the equipment capable of printing A3 size maps would be around 750 Euro, which will be budgeted under durable cost equipment category in case of official approval of purchase by Commission.

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 is 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. 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.

The beneficiary submitted an official request on 09 July 2008 concerning the use of a floating exchange rate since the HUF/EURO exchange rate decreased significantly with more than 10% since 1st pre-financing payment. The Commission approved our request in its answer of 28 July 2008.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

The beneficiary and all partners work together efficiently on the implementation of the project, exchanging technical and financial data in their reports regularly.

All project staff is in place for implementing tasks properly (except guide) (see list of personnel in Annex F1).

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.

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

Although it had been expected, that by the end of 2nd year of the project (31st August 2008), the mid-term report would be submitted, that time we could only submit our 2nd progress report, since we had not spent the amount of money (co-financers' contribution and beneficiary's and partners' contribution) requested for submitting the mid-term report (150% of first payment). After thorough calculations it turned out that we have not reached threshold by next reporting date, hence postponement of the submission was requested by beneficiary.

There have been personal changes concerning the director and the project manager in former reporting period. György Kállay former director of KNPD was followed by Géza Temesi from 15 November 2007 till 31 January 2008. He was replaced by Dr. Vajna Tamásné from 1 February 2008 on. The project manager has also been changed two times. Orsolya Mile had led the project until 31 March 2008. From the 1 April 2008 her task was taken over by Tibor Danyik. He was managing the project until 30/09/2008. The third and recent project manager is András Bankovics, who is working for the project from 15/10/2008 on.

For the proper operation of the purchased disintegrator a new personal contract was signed and costs budgeted under personnel costs. Certain monitoring tasks have been contracted for Bócsa and Bodoglár project sites, as in previous years. A forester was employed for three months for wood mass estimation and ecological state assessment and delineation of forest activities, and costs budgeted under personnel. Forest activities are supervised by own forester of KNPD.

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

Altogether five technical meetings have been held with good attendance. The fifth technical meeting was held in recent reporting period (12 March, 2009).

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

The 5th technical meeting was held on 12 March 2009 together with project mission 3 in the House of Nature in Kecskemét. Project actions' progresses have been demonstrated on 4 power point presentations followed by discussions. All project actions have been discussed and results were presented. Two project partners were contributing the event (DINPD and SZTE). The list of participants and minutes of the meeting are attached as Annex F2. The indoor session was followed by a field trip to Bócsa and Bodoglár project sites. Forestry activities (Robinia cutting and thinning of Pinus nigra plantations) were checked, as well as results of Asclepias syriaca eradication from year 2008 and those of the out-planting and monitoring activities from previous years.

Modifications is 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 and an official contract was signed on 15/08/2007. The first partial audit had already been carried out covering project activities by 31/12/2008. In the meantime the VAT of almost all services (including audit) has been changed from 20 % to 25 % from the 1st July 2009, hence the contract had to be modified respectively.

Details of the auditor:

Name: Kolbe Könyvvizsgáló Kft.
Address: 1137 Budapest, Szent István park 14.
Tax number: 10807891-2-41

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Incurred costs and financial administration of different project partners have been checked by the auditor according to audit protocol at the premises of the beneficiary with the help of project staff and the first partial audit have been carried out covering the project activities by 31/12/2008.

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

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 analyzed under F.5 about the following:

- Distribution area
- Permanent square sample plots

Monitoring results will summarize the impact of the concrete project actions on the species and its habitat:

- 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:

Based on the protocol of the monitoring, that has been going on since 1998 we prepared a point map of the individual plants of *Dianthus diutinus* in all the three fixed, 10x10 m quadrates (both divided into 33x33 cm microquadrates).

The number of sprigs, the size (on a 1-3 scale), the vitality of the plant, and the number of healthy/injured capsules, flowers and buds as well, had been registered for all of the individuals.

The three plots, 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.

Field monitoring on the population changes of *Dianthus diutinus*:

Similarly to the previous years of the project (2007, 2008), in accordance with the protocol in 2009 the population of *Dianthus diutinus* was fully surveyed. Field work began in May and lasted until the end of September.

BEN colleagues were lucky to find a new, huge population of *Dianthus diutinus* in the vicinity of Nemesnádudvar, South-Hungary. There have been no previous data available about this isolated population counting 10495 individuals in 2009. This number is huge and the whole population can be found in a relatively small (1 ha) area. This newly explored population had largely contributed to the **significant increase of long-lasting pink individuals** from **22.840 in 2008** to **46.460 in 2009**.

Another, however much smaller population was found in 2009 in the vicinity of Pusztavacs counting 15 long-lasting pink individuals.

Monitoring of the regeneration of the vegetation:

In accordance with the protocol all 50x50 m quadrates assigned were surveyed on the sites of forest reconstruction and on the site of milkweed eradication as well (Action C1, D2).

In the case of the Bodoglár project area forestry interventions took place before the 2008 surveys, therefore considerable changes were detected in the composition of the vegetation. Further forestry activities are expected to be implemented in 2010 winter at the Bodoglár site, hence further significant changes could be envisaged in the vegetation period afterwards. On the other hand Robinia cutting have been completed on a 10,6 ha area at the Bócsa project site, where significant changes could be detected in the composition of the vegetation.

Monitoring of the effect of the eradication on the invasive alien species Common milkweed.

The area of infected patches - registered by using GPS – was significantly decreased at Bócsa and Bodoglár project sites, to 2,8 and 13,3 ha respectively.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

Methods were the same as described in the IPR. In the chapter „Monitoring of the regeneration of the vegetation” there was a mistake concerning the description of the method.

In the frame of the 50x50 quadrates 2x2 m microquadrate pairs were not set by 5x5 m, but by 10x10 m units. Thus in all the large quadrates 50 pieces of microquadrates are surveyed.

Csévharaszt project site:

In the area of the Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate the survey of *Dianthus diutinus* populations at Csévharaszt, Ócsa and Nagykőrös was carried out in the same way as in previous years, by using high accuracy GPS. In 2008 two new, small populations of *Dianthus diutinus* have been found outside the protected area, but inside the Natura 2000 site.

The monitoring of the vegetation with András Kun has been continued in 2009, too. The 2nd recording of the 7 habitat-management and the 3 biodiversity monitoring quadrate were made by using the same protocol as in the Nagykőrös Steppe Oakwoods (HUNSTEPPICOAKS) Life programme. Therefore recording of the ground state preceding the interventions can be regarded as full-scale. Report on the change of the vegetation will be made by 2011, the final year of the project (Annex F4).

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

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.

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.

Data collection for the year 2008 and 2009 have been finished, ongoing comparison of data 2008 and 2009 will be finished by October.

Action status

On-going

Description of the progress during the reporting time

NBmR local project

At sample area I the population stagnated for years (although inner dynamics was intensive, means that there were many new and perishing individuals in the same period.); In 2004 presumably due to the spring and summer that was more rainy than the average, the number of individuals rose, but then in 2007 the extremely dry spring and grazing sheep damaged the population. Besides damages caused by game species (hare and roe deer-mastication) are also significant every year at both sample area with natural vegetation (I-II). In 2008 the population was slightly increasing again, due to the more rainy weather. However the piled up dry leaves from poplar trees and stronger concurrence of grass due to the increased shading is not favorable for the long lasting pink plants. A further, slight decline of the population could have been experienced in 2009 again. Despite of the severe spring draught of 2009 we have registered increase at all populations found in the Kiskunság taking into consideration the dynamics of the entire population. Hence, the decrease at the sample area is probably due to the growing of *Crataegus* shrubs and the increased accumulation of litter.

At sample area II continuous decrease of the population was characteristic until the year 2007. In 2008 the number of individuals was increasing due to rainy spring and in 2009 a new plant also have appeared (10 individuals total), although it is still far away from the ground state of 1998. The total absence of shading, the sporadic grazing of sheep and the

accompanying heavy trampling is unfavorable for the long lasting pink plants. Sheep were not grazed here in 2009, hence there is a chance of further increase in the future.

At sample area III many individuals survived the planting of pine trees, and those were able to regenerate the population for a while. Due to the growing of pine trees and the accompanying shading effect, and the piling of dry pine needles population decrease have begun after 2001. On the other hand partial shading increased the population's chance for surviving during the drought in 2007, and another positive effect was that pine trees sheltered the individual plants around them from grazing of sheep and game, so in 2007 the population decrease was the smallest in this area compared to 2004 data.

Similarly to the other 2 quadrates the number of individuals was increased in 2008, the population has been doubled on the surveyed area. The cause of the increase might be this year's rainy weather. Several new plants appeared in 2009, mostly on places where the pine needle litter was not too high. In spite of this fact the total number of individuals has dropped from 130 to 88, which shows the significant disappearance of older plants. The remaining individuals are mostly situated in the margins of pine tree with semi-shadows, where the leaf litter is thin, and the in-between 'glades' of the pine plantations with hardly any shadow, litter free, characteristic sandy open grass fragments.

On the basis of 11 years data series it is conspicuous that the long lasting pink likes a slight shadow, but dislikes full shading and the piled-up litter of fallen leaves. In the case of the quadrate III continuous „migration” of the plants to the growing edge of the pine crown can be experienced – in each case the density of pink plants was the highest on the drip-line of the tree, from the strongly shaded parts around the trunk of the trees our flowers retire. At quadrate I. the same migration process can be observed, but due the concurrence of grass and the piled up leaves mentioned above, in spite of the rainy year there was only a minor increase in 2008 compared to the year 2007, which gave outstandingly bad results. Unfortunately the number of plants has decreased again in 2009, so the population is still far from the ground state.

Field monitoring on the population changes of *Dianthus diutinus* (Annex F5)

BEN colleagues were lucky to find a new, huge population of *Dianthus diutinus* in the vicinity of Nemesnádudvar, South-Hungary. There have been no previous data available about this isolated population counting 10495 individuals in 2009. This number is huge and the whole population can be found in a relatively small (1 ha) area. This newly explored population had largely contributed to the **significant increase of long-lasting pink individuals from 22.840 in 2008 to 46.460 in 2009.**

Another, however much smaller population was found in 2009 in the vicinity of Pusztavacs counting 15 long-lasting pink individuals.

In spite of adverse weather conditions there have been greater numbers counted in almost all subpopulations, hence by 2009 a significant increase has been experienced as it can be seen in the following table.

| Site | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Ásotthalom | 101 | 103 | 233 |
| Bodoglár | 5 007 | 8 590 | 12 906 |
| Bócsa | 1 753 | 1 845 | 3 791 |
| Csévharaszt TT | 1 500 | 1 138 | 1 782 |
| Csévharaszt belterület | 1 769 | 1 353 | 5 803 |
| Harkakötöny | 7 255 | 8 483 | 9 036 |
| Nagykőrös, Strázsa-hegy | 90 | 68 | 25 |
| Nagykőrös, Száraz-dűlő | 1 046 | 704 | 988 |
| Ócsa-Üllő katonai lőtér | 508 | 556 | 1 386 |
| Nemesnádudvar* | - | - | 10 495 |
| Pusztavacs* | - | - | 15 |
| Összesen | 19 029 | 22 840 | 46 460 |

* Previously unknown populations found in 2009

Monitoring of the regeneration of the vegetation (Annex F5)

Bodoglár, eradication of Common milkweed:

The coverage of Common milkweed is spectacularly reduced following the eradication. The applied herbicide made only a few smaller patches where grass was damaged, so there is a good chance for total regeneration. In quadrat II some juvenile poplar trees that were considered as dead due to chemical handling have new shoots in 2009. In quadrat II most of the plant litter consists of pine needle, poplar leaves, last year's dry stems of milkweed, the amount of other substances (originating from grass and dicots) is irrelevant.

Bodoglár, forest reconstruction:

In the place of cut down pine trees in most cases pine needles litter is left in significant quantities, hence litter coverage could be high at places, where there is no canopy level at all presently. The cause of high rate of soil surface without coverage is that litter disappeared locally, and plants were not able to colonize it yet. Disturbance (logging, transport of the logs) also causes (mainly in the areas affected by logging) high rate of uncovered soil surface. At these places the rate of pioneer species, weed in the coverage is slightly higher, but real high-rate growing could only be observed in the coverage of Shiny Bugseed (*Corispermum nitidum*) and Green foxtail (*Setaria viridis*) in 2008. The number of *Corispermum nitidum* has decreased significantly by 2009. .

Disturbance is favorable for Common milkweed, thus its coverage have not been reduced significantly in spite of the eradication by 2008. However, in 2009 the coverage of milkweed was much smaller than in previous years, due to former chemical treatments and severe draught of spring 2009. On the bare, sandy surface new species characteristic of sandy grasslands have appeared among them *Euphorbia segueriana*, *Centaurea arenaria*, and in smaller numbers *Festuca vaginata*. Besides them *Polygonum arenarium* and in the 2 pine quadrat the coverage of *Setaria* has increased slightly.

Bócsa, eradication of Common milkweed:

In the area of quadrat I occurrence of milkweed was less frequent than in quadrat II, thus the eradication has not affected the surface of the vegetation seriously. Milkweed has been suppressed to a minimal extent practically without any damage of the grassland.

In the same time in quadrat II eradication of the dense stock of milkweed has seriously worn down the grass stock and the poplar sprouts.

Although most of the milkweeds were inactive in 2008, the open sand grassland, on one third of the quadrat is completely destroyed, and covered with pioneer and disturbance tolerant species (mainly *Bromus squarrosus*, *B. tectorum*, *Secale sylvestre*, *Erigeron canadensis*). Species characteristic of open sand grassland were absent from this quadrat in 2008.

Here the amount of litter biomass is also high, mainly consisting of dead plants left from the milkweed eradication in 2007. By 2009 the number and coverage of pioneer and weed species have significantly been decreased, and plant species characteristic of sandy grasslands have started to occupy the area. Among them *Euphorbia segueriana*, *Artemisia campestris*, *Centurea arenaria* were common, while *Kochia laniflora*, *Euphorbia cyparissias*, *Polygonum arenarium* appeared in smaller numbers. Locally *Festuca vaginata*, *Potentilla arenaria*, *Stipa* spp., *Alkanna tinctoria* were also present. Poplar shoots appeared in great numbers, some individuals ‘seemingly’ not alive in 2007-2008 have also leaves and canopies in 2009.

Despite of proactive chemical treatment of Robinia trees some were vital enough to produce new shoots after the trees have been cut in 2008. Some shoots also have appeared in the grassland of quadrat I, adjacently to forest reconstruction area. Shoots have been cut mechanically in September 2009, and a further chemical treatment will also be applied in case it is necessary. Appearance of shoots have not resulted any damage in the grassland, although precise documentation of effects of post treatments could be made in the 2010 vegetation season.

Bócsa, forest-reconstruction:

Robinia tree stands were cut in the second half of 2008, and consequently the Robinia canopy coverage has been decreased significantly. There have been only a few trees or clusters of trees left in the area of reconstruction. Most of the underneath vegetation characteristic of Robinia forests including generalist and disturbance tolerant species have disappeared. They were replaced by pioneers, weeds the most frequent is being *Chenopodium album*, but the cover of *Bromus sterilis* is still high. As a result of Robinia cutting new shoots have appeared even in the adjacent grasslands. Shoots have been cut mechanically in September 2009, and a further chemical treatment will also be applied in case it is necessary. Some of the shrubs have also been cleared away in order to make forestry activities implemented safely and properly, most importantly in dense forest parts.

Monitoring of the effect of the eradication on the invasive alien species Common milkweed.

The treatment executed in 2007, combined with the effect of the droughty vegetation period resulted in a bigger reduction of milkweed coverage than it was expected. In those patches, where in 2007 the milkweed-coverage was up to 60-80% average, it was only 10-30% in 2008 and further decreased by 2009 to 1-10 % in Bodoglár.

In the project area at Bócsa the infected area was reduced to almost 50% of the original extent in both years, which means that whilst in 2007 10 ha was infected with milkweed, in 2008 *Asclepias* could be found only on 5,5 ha area and in 2009 only on 2,8 ha.

In the project area at Bodoglár the area of infection is even bigger: it raised from 36 hectare to 42 hectare in 2008. More rainy weather conditions might be the explanation for this fact: seed-bank in the soil germinated, therefore milkweed appeared in new areas. However, by 2009 the extension of milkweed in Bodoglár has significantly been decreased since this invasive species could be found only on 13,3 ha. The rare, spring draught of the year could have contributed to this change, as well as previous years treatments.

The comparison of the precise GPS data collected in 2007, 2008 and 2009 can be seen in the table below.

| Project site | Measured (GPS-2007) infected area | Measured (GPS-2008) infected area | Measured (GPS-2008) infected area | Real average relative cover-2007 (%) | Real average relative cover-2008 (%) | Real average relative cover-2009 (%) |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Kiskunmajsa-Bodoglár | 36 hectare | 42 hectare | 13,33 hectare | mostly between 60-80% | mostly between 10-30% | mostly between 1-10% |
| Bócsa | 10 hectare | 5,5 hectare | 2,8hectare | mostly between 60-80% | mostly between 10-25% | mostly between 5-20% |

Vegetation period that's rich in precipitation results in the lack of bigger changes in the percentage of coverage in 2009. The rain of the last year was beneficial, because most of the seed stock stored in the soil („seed bank”) is germinated, thus in the coming years the risk of infection from seeds presumably will be minimal. Additionally, treatments executed year by year ensure that milkweed population will not produce seeds.

Recording of milkweed extension with GPS has slightly been changed at the Bodoglár project area from year 2007 to 2008, however significantly been reduced by 2009 due to previous treatments.

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

Recording micro-quadrates is accompanied with considerable trampling damage, particularly in the case of quadrate I. and II., both situated on a steep slope of a mound. Surveyors' trampling makes slighter damages in the case a quadrate III. too. As long lasting pink can not tolerate trampling, and the main cause of population decline is grazing and the accompanied trampling we would like to improve a new 'footpath' (presumably ladders and planks) to avoid such endangering factors.

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

Action status

Not started

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

Comments on financial report

General

The project started on 01/10/2004. The beneficiary has received first advance payment of 489.235 EUR on 27/11/2006.

The project was implemented in accordance with the original proposal, although slight changes could have been experienced, which did not endanger the reaching of project objectives in the long run.

All project expenditures incurred before the end of recent reporting period 30/09/2009.

The expenditures incurred in HUF during project period and were converted to Euro by using the exchange rate applied by the European Central Bank on the first day of the month in which the expenditure incurred that is the date of execution. The table below shows the rate applied.

<http://www.ecb.int/stats/exchange/eurofxref/html/eurofxref-graph-huf.en.html>

| YEAR | MONTH | DAY | EXCHANGE RATE |
|------|-----------|-----|---------------|
| 2006 | September | 1. | 277,65 |
| | October | 2. | 275,00 |
| | November | 1. | 259,34 |
| | December | 1. | 256,12 |
| 2007 | January | 2. | 251,44 |
| | February | 1. | 254,98 |
| | March | 1. | 256,2 |
| | April | 2. | 246,95 |
| | May | 2. | 246,83 |
| | June | 1. | 250,32 |
| | July | 2. | 245,51 |
| | August | 1. | 252,41 |
| | September | 3. | 254,97 |
| | October | 1. | 251,42 |
| | November | 1. | 251,96 |
| | December | 3. | 253,16 |
| 2008 | January | 2. | 253,22 |
| | February | 1. | 257,38 |
| | March | 3. | 264,43 |
| | April | 1. | 258,55 |
| | May | 2. | 251,93 |
| | June | 2. | 241,06 |
| | July | 1. | 235,96 |
| | August | 1. | 233,76 |
| | September | 1. | 237,70 |
| | October | 1 | 241,65 |
| | November | 3 | 258,36 |
| | December | 1 | 262,20 |
| 2009 | January | 2 | 265,48 |
| | February | 2 | 297,98 |

| | | | |
|--|-----------|---|--------|
| | March | 2 | 307,03 |
| | April | 1 | 304,81 |
| | May | 4 | 288,23 |
| | June | 1 | 280,73 |
| | July | 1 | 271,11 |
| | August | 3 | 265,71 |
| | September | 1 | 273,65 |

No income was generated by the project - except interests which arose in Euro and amounted altogether 25.771 Euro by 30/09/2009.

Correct cost classification was realized according to the comments of the Commission and the suggestions of the Commission's representatives during missions and personal consultations.

Due to the change of the Law LXXIV of 1992 on the Value Added Tax, the VAT of assets and services purchased and executed before 1st of January 2008 and financed from EU contribution could be reclaimed in a special procedure, while in case of assets and services acquired after 31st December 2007 the VAT was not allowed to be refund irrespectively of the source of finance. A declaration concerning VAT was obtained from the TAX Authority. In the declaration there are descriptions of general rules which have to be applied by all project participants. VAT of travel costs could not be reclaimed since it is prohibited by the force of law (Law LXXIV of 1992 on the Value Added Tax).

Personnel

There is a difference in the time units of project staff dependently on their working time allocated to the project. For those personnel, who have been employed by beneficiary or project partners full time and exclusively for the LIFE project, the time unit is a month. On the other hand, personnel who have been employed full time, but not only for the LIFE project or employed only part time the time unit is a day. This differentiation was discussed and was agreed by Commission representatives and external monitor during mission of 12/03/2009. However, time sheets are maintained and signed each month for all person involved in the implementation as personnel, independently on the longevity of their work contracts. Naturally, any of these time sheets could be provided on requests.

There have been personal changes concerning the director and the project manager in the first three years of the project. György Kállay former director of KNPD was followed by Géza Temesi from 15 November 2007 till 31 January 2008. He was replaced by Dr. Vajna Tamásné from 1 February 2008 on. The project manager has also been changed two times. Orsolya Mile had led the project until 31 March 2008. From the 1 April 2008 her task was taken over by Tibor Danyik. He was managing the project until 30/09/2008. The third and recent project manager is András Bankovics, who is working for the project from 15/10/2008 on.

For the proper operation of the purchased disintegrator a new personal contract was signed that originally have not been envisaged in proposal and costs budgeted under personnel costs. The employment of the operator is necessary since the BEN could not lease the purchased disintegrator to any companies doing external assistance. Moreover special exams are needed to handle such equipment. Certain monitoring tasks have been contracted for Bócsa and Bodoglár project sites, as in previous years, since the persons envisaged in proposal have too much additional tasks, that could have not be foreseen

when writing proposal. Since monitoring is an essential part of evaluation of project actions success, this change is considered as necessary and useful for proper implementation. A forester was employed for three months for wood mass estimation and ecological state assessment and delineation of forest activities, and costs budgeted under personnel. Forest activities are supervised by own forester of KNPD.

Travel

Travel costs are declared cumulatively in meaningful time block, as it was also agreed by Commission representatives and external monitor during mission of 12/03/2009. Both project cars (at BEN and DINP) have log books, which are being collected and filed after each month, and the monthly invoice issued by fuel provider company also attached. Any private car usage is also paid on the basis of filled out forms in the forthcoming month, as the costs have been calculated based on internal rules of the project organizations. An example of justifying documentation could be found as Annex FC (log books, and the relevant monthly invoice for the fuel of the project car).

All travel costs are declared inclusive of VAT, since the VAT of travel costs could not be reclaimed as it is prohibited by the force of law (Law LXXIV of 1992 on the Value Added Tax).

External assistance

Unlike it was envisaged in proposal project management was implemented as external assistance between 15/09/06 and 14/02/07. The organizational structure of national park directorates had been changed and several people had to leave the beneficiary based on a governmental decision. Thus the number of employees was reduced by ten people at the beneficiary among them was Orsolya Mile. In the following half year period it was not possible to employ her, the project manager as personnel, as she was laid off, thus she was doing her task as an external assistance, invoicing her services. The project manager was employed by the beneficiary as personnel from 15th February 2007 with a long-term contract.

External assistance services have been subcontracted respecting the national tendering policy and any such documentation could be provided upon request.

Consumables

Among the dissemination products leaflets and spa tickets were included ordered by the BEN, as well as folders and leaflets ordered by DINP. They were all disseminated at public events and at the visitor centres of project organizations, the spa tickets naturally at the Jonathermal Spa in Kiskunmajsa.

Garden instruments obtained by SZTE included tools necessary for plant growing and outplanting. Among them there were joints for pipes, water pipes, spades, wheelbarrows, buckets, watering cans, gloves. They were all exclusively used for LIFE purposes, for the successful ex-situ growing of *Dianthus diutinus* specimens.

Accumulators, chargers, cables and stylus for the PDAs and GPS purchased and used by BEN for monitoring purposes have been bought in order to continue efficient work with these working tools, since the original accessories have gone wrong in the meantime. All such costs have been included as budget category consumables at the BEN.