



Conservation of *Euro-Siberian steppic woods and Pannonic sand steppes* in 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' pSCI

Project N° LIFE06/NAT/HU/000098

3rd Progress Report

Covering period:

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Környezetvédelmi
és Vízügyi
Minisztérium

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LIFE Project Number
LIFE06 NAT/H/000098
3rd PROGRESS REPORT

Covering the project activities from 01.03.2010 to 31.01.2011

Reporting Date

15.02.2011

LIFE PROJECT NAME

**Conservation of *Euro-Siberian steppic woods* and
Pannonic sand steppes in ‘Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek’
pSCI**

Data Project

Project location	Hungary
Project start date:	01.09.2006.
Project end date:	31.08.2011.
Total Project duration (in months)	60 months
Total budget	1 863 236 €
EC contribution:	1 397 427 €
(%) of total costs	75%
(%) of eligible costs	75%

Data Beneficiary

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3rd Progress Report

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2. Lists of key-words and abbreviations

Key words:

Central-Hungary, Euro-Siberian steppe oaks, Pannonic sand steppes, conservation, management, Natura 2000

Abbreviations:

DINPI - Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate

NKÖ - Local Government of Nagykőrös Town

KöVa - operator of Pálfája Education Centre

WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

MEW - Ministry for Environment and Water

MRD – Ministry of Rural Development

SFS - State Forestry Service

NEFAG - Nagykőrös Forestry Company

pSCI - proposed Site of Community Importance

3. Executive Summary

Project objectives

Through the cooperation of Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, Local Government of Town Nagykőrös and WWF Hungary partners requisite for the establishment of the successful long-term conservation and improvement of the favourable conservational status of the Euro-Siberian steppe woods with *Quercus* spp. and Pannonic sand steppes priority habitats in 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' proposed priority Site of Community Importance are ensured. These unique habitats can be found exclusively in the Carpathian Basin, moreover steppe oak forests of Nagykőrös represent the last larger, more or less continuous area of them. These habitats are seriously threatened by the spread of alien species, problems in natural forest regeneration capacity, improper forest management practices, fragmentation and by the ignorance of society as well as lack of information related to this area.

Expected results:

- 1.) 405 ha area becomes free of invasive species in 99% (with using mechanical and chemical methods as well as post-treatment the arboreal and herbaceous invasive species are gradually removed from the area).
- 2.) With the exclusion of game, relevant information is gained on that the decrease of ground water level accounts alone for the elimination of the natural forest regeneration processes or the excessive game population has a devastating effect on these (with fencing off forest compartments and monitoring).
- 3.) Change in forest management practices by taking over the restricted right of disposal from the forest owners over 175 ha of pSCI (through agreements and compensation we ensure, that forestry management actions harming the precious habitats are halted for 90 years as exclusively the conservational management tasks can be implemented in these areas).
- 4.) 88.5 ha indigenous forest is established in the patches formerly occupied by invasives (the reconstruction of the external and inner unity of the habitat of steppe oak forests by artificial forest regeneration with indigenous species are implemented).
- 5.) Elimination of lack of information and ignorance of local communities as well as information dissemination and utilisation of know-how on the steppe oak forests through communication aiming at the public, professionals, together with environmental education (media work, website, professional and public events, reconstruction of Educational Centre, outbuildings and camp area together with equipment is completed, complex environmental educational programmes (min. 3) are developed complying with the local and regional needs in this pSCI site).
- 6.) Management plan of 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' Natura 2000 site is elaborated (in the management plan all available data - former and novel, national, international - suggestions and results of the research carried out in the area regarding the biological state and monitoring of the effects of management tasks are utilized).

List of key deliverables and outputs

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Deliverable or Milestone	Reference Action	Deadline	Status	Evidence of reaching deliverable/milestone	Annex
project system is established	A1	31.12.2006	completed 05.10.2006	minutes of the kick-off meeting	1 PR: A1-1
detailed partners' agreements are signed	A1	31.12.2006	completed 01.01.2007	partnership agreement	sent to the Commission on 02.05.2007
Advisory Board is set up	A1	31.12.2006	completed 08.05.2007	correspondence, memorandum and photo of the foundation meeting of Steppe Oaks Advisory Board, presentation	1 PR: A1-5/a-b, A1-6/a, A1-6/b, 1 PR: G/a
regional office is leased	A1	31.12.2006	completed 01.03.2007	photos on the leased regional office	1 PR: A1-3/a-d
personnel is recruited	A1	31.12.2006	completed 16.10.2006	official task descriptions	1 PR: A1-2
durable goods are purchased (4 WD car, 2 laptop, 2 GPS, 1 digital camera, personal computer, chain saw, clearing saw)	A1	31.12.2006	completed 30.03.2007 supplemented 31.08.2009	photo on 4WD car, personal computer, chain saw, clearing saw	1 PR: A1-4 2 PR: A1-2/1-2
project introductory brochure is prepared (10000 copies), and re-issued (3000 copies)	A1	31.12.2006	completed 14.03.2007 supplemented 30.04.2009	information brochure in Hungarian and English languages (samples are attached), list of distribution	1 PR: A1-7/a-b, A2-3, A1-8 MTR: A1-1 2 PR: A1-1 3 PR: A1-1
notice boards are placed out (2 items)	A1	31.12.2006	completed 22.03.2007	texts and photos on two information boards and their inauguration	1 PR: A1-9/a-b, A1-10/a-b
project logo and complex project design is ready	A2	31.12.2006	completed 27.02.2007	logo (appearing in every material connected to the project)	1 PR: A2-1
promotion materials are prepared (3000-3500 items)	A2	31.12.2006	completed 28.09.2007	promotion materials (folder, magnet, sticker, pen, textile bag) (samples are attached) and their	1 PR: A2-2, A2-3 MTR: A2-1 2 PR: A2-1

				distribution lists	3 PR: A2-1
authorized reconstruction plan for educational centre and its surroundings is ready	A3	31.03.2007	completed 30.06.2007	photos of meetings, final authorised plans of the educational centre (plans are attached) and its surroundings	1 PR: A3-1/a-b, A3-2/a-c
public tendering is completed	A3	31.03.2007	completed 20.12.2007	summary of public tendering procedure, decision of board	1 PR: A3-3, A3-4
modified forestry management plans are completed	A4	31.03.2007	completed 31.08.2007	modified forestry management plan (example)	A4-1, A4-2, A4-3
detailed contracts are ready	A4	31.03.2007	completed 17.12.2007 12.08.2008	final detailed contract (example, same as in B1)	1 PR: B1-1/a-b MTR: B1-2 (on DVD)
public tendering is completed	A4	31.03.2007	completed for 2008-2010 works on-going for 2011 works	contracts on 331 ha	1 PR: A4-4/a-b, A4-5 MTR: A4-2/1-4 A4-3/1-5 A4-4/1-2 A4-5 3 PR: A4-3/1-11
management plan of 'Nagykörösi pusztai tölgyesek' Natura 2000 site is ready	A5	31.07.2011	not started yet		
contracts are ready and signed (restricted right of disposal over 175 ha of pSCI)	B1	31.12.2006	completed 17.12.2007 (12.08.2008)	detailed pre-contract, signed contract (example), photo on the occasion Final signed contract (example), photo on occasion	1 PR: B1/a-b, B1-2 MTR: B1-1 B1-2 (on DVD)
restricted right of disposal over 175 ha of pSCI is taken over	B1	31.08.2011	completed		
70% elimination of arboreal invasives in 405 ha	C1	31.03.2008	completed on 397 ha 31.10.2009 not started yet on the rest of 405 ha of target site	photos, minutes on handovers, map	MTR: C1-1/1-5 C1-2 2 PR: C1-1/1-2 C1-C2-D1-D2-1

In a 88.5 ha area (60 ha in larger patches, 28.5 ha in smaller patches) the reconstruction of the external and inner unity of the habitat by forest regeneration with indigenous species is developed, plantation is completed	C2	31.05.2008 .	completed on 55 ha, 31.03.2009 on-going on 10 ha	photos, minutes on handovers, map	MTR: C2-1 C2-2/1-5 C2-3 C2-4 2-PR: C2-1 C1-C2-D1-D2-1
12600 m game fence is completed	C3	31.12.2007 .	completed 15.04.2009 on-going: Strázsa-hegy game elimination	photos, map	MTR: C3-1/1-3 C3-2 2 PR: C3-1/1-6
reconstruction of Educational Centre, outbuildings and camp area together with equipment is completed	C4	31.05.2008 .	completed: reconstruction 05.06.2008 equipment: on-going	photos	MTR: C4-1/1-5 C4-2 2 PR: C4-1 3 PR: C4-1
405 ha area is free of invasive species in 99%	D1	30.11.2010 .	on-going	photos, map	2 PR: D1-1/1-2 C1-C2-D1-D2-1 3 PR: D1-1
88.5 ha indigenous forest is established	D2	30.11.2010 .	on-going	photos, map	2 PR: D2-1 C1-C2-D1-D2-1
4 national press conference with trip is completed	E1	31.08.2011	on-going	photos on national press conference and trip, press registration form	1 PR: E1-3/a-d MTR: E1-2 2 PR: E1-1 E1-2
1 international press conference with trip is completed	E1	31.08.2011	not started yet		
several press releases are completed	E1	31.08.2011	on-going	list of media coverage, selected articles, presentation, judgement on	1 PR: E1-1, E1-2/a-e, G/b MTR: E1-1

				emendation	E1-3/1-6 2 PR: E1-3 E1-4/1-5 E1-5 3 PR: E1-4/1-5
website is set up	E2	31.01.2007	completed 02.04.2007	webpage in Hungarian and English	1 PR: E2-1/a-b
website is in operation with min. 30000 visitors per year	E2	31.08.2011	on-going	www.pusztaitolgyesek.hu, usage statistics	1 PR: E2-2 MTR: E2-1 2 PR: E2-1 3 PR: E2-1
educational programme (5 forest lessons, 1 summer camp, 1 Nature Trail programme) is completed	E3	31.05.2008	completed 31.03.2009	questionnaire, photos on 'Nagykörös Days', correspondence with schools, evaluation of inquiry, photo on exhibition stand and archery contest, presentation, syllabi of programs	1 PR: E3-1, E3-2/a-b, E3-3, E3-4, E4-2, E4-3/a-b, 1 PR: G/c 2 PR: E3-1/1-6 (on DVD)
1 'Train the trainer' programme, teaching aid book in 500 copies) is compiled	E3	31.05.2008	cancelled	draft teaching aid booklet, photos on networking	1 PR: E3-5, E3-6/a-c
a brochure on the educational centre programme (15000 copies), is completed	E4	31.08.2011	on-going		
9 occasion with min. 100-150 participants	E4	31.08.2011	on-going	photos, poster	MTR: E4-5/1-7 2 PR: E4-1 3 PR: E4-2
establishment of the educational part of the website is completed	E4	no deadline foreseen	completed 02.04.2007	education webpage, usage statistics	1 PR: E4-1 MTR: E4-1/1-2 E2-2/1-2 2 PR: E4-2

					3 PR: E4-1
75 forest lessons, 180 Nature Trail programmes, 9 summer camps are completed	E5	31.08.2011	on-going	photos, visitors statistics	MTR: E5-1/1-2 E5-2/1-4 2 PR: E5-1 E5-2/1-5 3 PR: E5-1 E5-2/1-3
6 'Train the trainer' programmes are completed	E5	31.08.2011	cancelled		
10000 website visitors	E5	31.08.2011	on-going	usage statistics	1 PR: E2-2 2 PR: E2-1 E4-2 3 PR: E2-1, E4-1
1 conference with 75 participants, conference proceedings (500 items)	E6	31.07.2011	not started yet		

participation and presentation in conferences (in topics of botany, forestry, nature protection and conferences of green NGOs - altogether 4 occasions)	E6	31.07.2011	on-going	presentations on the project to professional audience	1 PR: G/d-h MTR: E6-1 E6-2
the edition of monograph (1000 copies), CD on steppe oak forests (500 copies)	E6	31.07.2011	not started yet		
study trips (on 3 occasions for 30 participants) is completed	E6	31.07.2011	on-going	photos	1 PR: E6-1/a-b 3 PR: E6-1/1-2 E6-2/1-2
1 freely accessible Nature Trail is ready with guide book (8000 copies)	E7	31.03.2008	completed 31.05.2008	map on track of Nature Trail and bicycle route, photos, Nature Trail booklet	1 PR: E7-1 MTR: E7-1/1-5 E7-2 E7-3 2 PR: E7-1/1-4
Layman's report	E8	31.07.2011	not started yet		

effective project implementation	F1	31.08.2011	on-going	Minutes, memorials, list of participants and photo of annual project opening workshops	1 PR: F1-1/a-b MTR: F1-1/1-3 2 PR: F1-1 F1-2 F1-3 F1-4 F1-5
Advisory Board field trip (altogether 5 occasions) is finished	F1	31.08.2011	on-going	photos on trip on 08.05.2007. photos on 26.11.2008 session, list of participants on 06.10.2009 session	1 PR: E1-3/a-d MTR: F1-2/1-2 2 PR: F1-6 3 PR: F1-1 F1-2
20 sample areas in 10X10 m squares, a basic survey and 3-year data series for the 3 management elements and their research report is completed	F2	31.03.2011	on-going	studies, maps, photos	1 PR: F2-1, F2-2, F2-3, F2-4/a-b, F2-5, F2-6/a-b, F2-7, F2-8 MTR: F2-F3-1 F2-F3-2 F2-F3-3/1-4 (on DVD) F2-F3-4/1-2 2 PR: F2-F3-1 F2-F3-2 (on DVD) F2-1 3 PR: F2-F3-1 (on DVD) F2-F3-2
10, 10X10 sample squares (botanical, including mosses and lichens, at least 5 Arthropoda taxa), a basic survey and 3-year data series, the examination of 3 tree trunk per year and their research report is compiled	F3	31.03.2011	on-going	studies, maps, photos	1 PR: F3-1, F3-3, F3-5, F3-6, F3-7, F3-8, F3-9 MTR: F2-F3-1 F2-F3-2 F2-F3-3/1-4 (on DVD) F2-F3-4/1-2 2 PR: F2-F3-1

					F2-F3-2 (on DVD) 3 PR: F2- F3-1 (on DVD) F2-F3-2
After-LIFE conservation plan is completed	F4	31.08.2011 .	not started yet		

4. Technical progress

Table of technical progress on project actions by 28.02.2010

1.	2.	3.	4.
Action	Deadline	Status	Description
A1 - Establishment of the project system	31.12.2006	completed 08.05.2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ kick-off meeting is held ○ Partnership Agreement is bound ○ new staff is recruited (ranger, educational coordinator) ○ equipment is acquired (1 4WD car, 2 notebooks, 2 GPS, 1 digital photo camera, personal computer, chain saw, clearing saw) ○ project information brochure is edited (10000 items - 9000 in Hungarian 1000 in English), and reissued (3000 copies) ○ 2 information boards are erected ○ Advisory Board is set up
A2 - Brand design of the project	31.12.2006	completed 28.09.2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ logo and design of the program is created ○ promotional material is prepared (700 folder, 700 pen, 700 textile bag, 1000 magnet, 10000 sticker, 120 T-shirts)
A3 - Preparation of the reconstruction of the buildings	31.03.2007	completed 20.12.2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ authorised final plans of the reconstruction of the buildings and its surroundings are compiled ○ public tendering procedure is implemented
A4 - Preparation of the conservational management actions	31.03.2007	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ exact management needs by forest compartments are documented ○ new forestry management plans are compiled in which the management needs and change of function is included ○ planned management is agreed by the forest owners, managers ○ 5 tendering procedure is completed for 2008-2009 management on 397 ha

A5 - Elaboration of the conservational management plan of 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' Natura 2000 site	31.07.2011	not started yet	
B1 - Taking over the restricted right of disposal of habitats Euro-Siberian steppe woods and Pannonic sand steppes	31.08.2011	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6 detailed pre-contracts are bound with forest owners and managers on the take-over of the restricted right of disposal of habitats Euro-Siberian steppe woods and Pannonic sand steppes, for 90 years (17.12.2007.) ○ 6 final contracts are bound (12.08.2008)
C1 - Removal of arboreal invasive species using mechanical and chemical methods	31.03.2008	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arboreal invasive species are harvested, or stem injected on 397 ha land. ○ In 2010-2011 6,8 ha stem injected Robinia is harvested
C2 - Artificial forest regeneration with indigenous species	31.05.2008	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ cca. 55 ha of land formerly planted by arboreal invasive species has been planted by indigenous species (01.11.2008-15.04.2009)
C3 - Natural forest regeneration with the exclusion of game	31.12.2007	<p>Fences: completed 15.04.2009</p> <p>on-going:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fence of Strázsa hegy - further elimination of game 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 233 ha is getting fenced around by 25006 m long fence of 3 types: permanent, temporary and electric fence ○ most of big game is eliminated
C4 - Reconstruction of building complex for educational and ecotouristical purposes	31.05.2008	<p>completed: reconstruction 05.06.2008</p> <p>on-going: equipment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both the building and its surroundings are reconstructed. It was inaugurated on 05.06.2008

D1 - Treatment of herbaceous invasives, follow-up treatment of arboreal invasives	30.11.2010	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ cutting of Robinia and Prunus sprouts ○ chemical treatment of Robinia and Prunus sprouts ○ chemical treatment of Asclepias syriaca
D2 - Follow-up treatment of artificial forest regeneration	30.11.2010	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ hoeing of rows of saplings ○ mowing of lanes between rows of saplings ○ chemical treatment of Robinia and Prunus sprouts
E1 - Information to the general public - Media work	31.08.2011	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ continuous media presence is achieved ○ 1 opening press conference and press trip for the national media is held (08.05.2007.) ○ press conference and press trip for the national media is held to the inauguration of Educational Centre (05.06.2008) ○ press trip for national media on 12.02.2010
E2 - Information to the general public - Website	31.08.2011	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ website is set (02.04.2007.) ○ links are established ○ website continuously operates (cc. 105 000 visitors)
E3 - Development of programmes for the educational centre	31.05.2008	completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ questionnaire inquiry on environmental education needs of locals (181 items) ○ information exchange within national parks and other LIFE-programs ○ syllabi for nature trail programs, outdoor-school classes and summer camps are ready

E4 - Communication of the educational programme to target groups	31.08.2011	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establishment of education webpage (cca. 9500 visitors) ○ communication with local educators and target groups ○ presence in local media presence ○ participation in local events with stand ○ cooperation with local NGOs and educational institutes, schools, kinder gardens
E5 - Starting up the educational programme and continuous operation of the educational centre	31.08.2011	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 36 'outdoor school' classes ○ 3277 guided visitors on Nature Trail ○ 24 events with 5914 participants ○ 11 summer camps with 332 participants
E6 - Mutual communication aiming at different groups of professionals and dissemination of scientific results	31.07.2011	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ project was presented at professional conferences, meetings (7 presentations) ○ field trip for 20 NGO members is held (13.10.2007.) ○ visit to Hortobágy NPD ○ presentation of seedbed making machine ○ field trip for NPDs
E7 - Development of a Nature Trail	31.03.2008	completed 05.06.2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ track of Nature Trail (1800 m) and an additional bicycle route (2700 m) are inaugurated.
E8 - Compilation of Layman's report	31.07.2011	not started yet	
F1 - Project operation, organizing cooperation with the partners	31.08.2011	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ communication between partners is continuous and effective ○ annual project opening workshops were held ○ thematic workshops were organized ○ Advisory Board participated in field trip ○ local office is rented ○ project equipment is in operation

F2 Conservation management monitoring	- 31.03.2011	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ vegetation sample plots (20) were designated in 2007 and supplemented with 5 more in 2008, 2 more in 2009, 2010, when 5 plots were abandoned ○ vegetation quadrants were sampled in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 ○ pitfall traps (85 items) and window traps (4 items) operated in 2007, pitfall traps (40 items) in 2008, 2009, 2010 ○ game monitoring was carried out in 2007
F3 - Monitoring of biological status of habitat types of community importance	31.03.2011	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ sample plots (10) were designated ○ vegetation quadrants were sampled in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 ○ pitfall traps operated in 2007 (45 items) and 2008, 2009 (30 items) and window traps (1 item) operated in 2007 ○ survey on weevils, longicorn beetles, orthoptera, moths were implemented in 2007 and 2008 ○ dead wood material was examined in 2007
F4 - Continuation of the activities after project completion and preparation of an After-LIFE conservation plan	31.08.2011	not started yet	

Description of technical progress on project actions by 28.02.2010

A1 - Establishment of the project system

Expected results:

- official leaders and stakeholders are informed on the project
- personnel is recruited
- local office is rented
- necessary equipment is purchased
- Advisory Board is set
- a full-colour brochure introducing the project in Hungarian and English languages, in 10000 copies,
- 2 information boards

Achievements:

- official leaders and stakeholders are informed on the project
- personnel is recruited (ranger, educational coordinator)
- local office is rented (Nagykőrös, Kálvin Square 6.)
- necessary equipment is purchased (4 WD car, 2 laptops, 2 GPS, 1 digital photo camera)
- Advisory Board is set
- a full-colour brochure introducing the project in Hungarian and English languages, in 10000 copies is issued and 3000 copies re-issued
- 2 information boards are erected

Action status: completed

Description:

The action was completed before 01.02.2009 – refer to the Midterm Report

For distribution of project launch brochure, see **Annex PR3 A1-1**.

A2 - Brand design of the project

Expected results:

- identifiable and distinctive project logo and graphical elements that make up an easy-to-understand, nice and consistent brand design
- different types of promotion objects in altogether 3000-3500 pieces

Achievements:

- project logo was designed and it is in use
- graphical elements that make up an easy-to-understand, nice and consistent brand design were elaborated and used to create the project website, the information brochure and the promotional material
- different types of promotion objects decorated with the logo of the LIFE programme and with that of the project were obtained: 700 pcs of pens, 700 pcs of textile bags, 700 pcs of folders, 1000 pcs of fridge magnets and 10,000 pcs of colour stickers

Action status: completed

Description:

The action was completed before 01.02.2009 – refer to the Midterm Report

For distribution list of promotional materials, see **Annex PR3 A2-1**

A3 - Preparation of the reconstruction of the buildings

Expected results:

- authorised reconstruction plan for the buildings of 'Pálfája' forest, which meets the environmental educational requirements both in appearance and function.

Achievements:

- authorised reconstruction plan for the buildings and their surroundings in 'Pálfája' forest, which meets the environmental educational requirements both in appearance and function.

Action status: completed

Description:

The action was completed before 01.02.2009 – refer to the Midterm Report

A4 - Preparation of the conservational management actions

Expected results:

The results of the preparation and authorisation of modified forest management plans are the following:

- the fragments of priority habitat types get the primarily protection function instead of a primarily economic function
- the preconditions for the nature conservational management actions are established in accordance with the actual forestry management plan
- on the basis of fieldwork the preparation of detailed contracts and public tendering is finished

Achievements:

The results of the preparation and authorisation of modified forest management plans are the following:

- the fragments of priority habitat types got the primarily protection function instead of a primarily economic function
- the preconditions for the nature conservational management actions are established in accordance with the actual forestry management plan
- on the basis of fieldwork the preparation of detailed contracts is ready
- public tendering is launched, and completed and contracted in case of 331 ha for management Actions C1, C2, C3 and the first season of D1, D2.

Action status: on-going, delayed

Description:

Premise: during 2006, 2007, 2008, broad negotiations with SFS took place including forest management plans, field data was collected referring the estimated amount and allocation of different conservation management activities, public tendering procedures were initiated and completed for the 2008-2009 management. For all the details of the above activities, please refer to the MTR and PR2, as well as for those on the state of Strázsa-hegy stand (Nagykörös (98 A, B, C, D, E, T11, T12, NY forest compartments, land reg. No.:Nagykörös 0821/1). For the delays concerning this Action, please refer to the MTR. Forestry expert was hired in 2009 in order to develop forestation technology.

As reported in PR2 problems erased concerning the forest management plan of Strázsa-hegy stand. Following multiple requests of forest manager DINPI the management plan was finally issued by SFS (**Annex PR3 A4-1/a and A4-1/b on DVD**) and consequently, authorisation of further management activities such as timber harvest and reforestation had become possible.

Contracts on forestry works have ended by 31.12.2009. Procurement of continuing management faced some initial obstacles. As evaluation of the study compiled by the forestry expert was under process a detailed description of methodology had not been available yet. Furthermore, a decree of the government (**Annex PR3 A4-2**) did not allow to initiate any public tendering procedures up to the date of establishment of the new government following spring parliamentary elections. Although a subsequent decree has acquitted EU funded projects of the prohibitive decree, procurement has started in accordance with it, as described below.

Large scale procurement of initial management activities had several positive effects on the implementation of project goals. For continuing management involving mainly post-treatment activities an altered system of procurement seemed to be more adaptive. For improved quality control sapling purchase was separated from other contracts. Purchase of chemicals

and contracting authorised controlling personnel for chemical treatments was another procedure. The developed soil preparation method reported in PR2 requires special appliances and as such it was procured separately. Subject of two other procedures were tasks with requirement of mid-level machinery (tractor) and tasks with hand tools and manual labour. As public tendering was paused and procurement was in season, all these procedures were conducted in accordance with DINPI Procurement Statutes. Public tendering company hired stated that above separation of procurements is on accord with legislation. For the minutes on evaluation of bids, see **Annex PR3 A4-3/1-11**.

While preparing procedures mentioned above it have become clear that volume of manual labour would reach the limit of public tendering, so an open public tendering procedure was launched on 20.07.2010. Similarly to the prior procedure call for applications allowed bids for four sub-sites. However, only two of the four sub-sites were applied, there were no bids concerning the other two. Consequently, a repeated procedure had been launched. Although this procedure was an invited tendering and call for applications were sent to potential subcontractors having experiences with management to be procured, no bids were handed in. In case of one sub-site (Strázsa-hegy land) tasks could have been rescheduled, but regarding the other one, subtask chemical treatment of root-sprouts was not possible to postpone. Considering the special circumstances sprout chemical treatment on one sub-site was implemented by DINPI staff. For the summaries of the two procedures, see **Annex PR3 A4-3/10-11**.

Procurement design in 2011 is going to be similar to that in 2010. By the end of reporting period, tendering of the public tendering company is under process. Sapling purchase for spring plantations is complete. Further schedule of tendering is as follows:

In accordance with DINPI Procurement Statutes the following procurements are proposed to be completed by the end of April:

- soil preparation (Strázsa-hegy land, supplementary forestation in leased lands)
- mid-level machinery (Strázsa-hegy land, leased land)
- chemicals and control of chemical treatment
- manual labour and mid-level machinery on NEFAG land

Manual labour will be procured by public tendering, which is a time consuming process. It started in December, when consent of MRD was requested for the launch of procurement of a public tendering company. We consider the process to be completed by the end of April.

As reported at Action F1 request for modification of Grant Agreement is under preparation. An element of the requested modifications is the extension of project period to 31.12.2011. One of the underlying circumstances is that the complex structure of procurements is more feasible to accomplish for the entire set of management that ranges throughout 2011.

A5 - Elaboration of the conservational management plan of 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' Natura 2000 site

Expected results:

Long-term management plan of 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' pSCI is elaborated in digital and paper format as well as it is officially approved by the competent authority before end of the project. Basic and management data are recorded in GIS. The overview of the historical aspects - especially on forest use - are collected and analysed in a study.

Achievements:

Revision of Natura 2000 forest management plans

Action status: on-going

New legislation of forestry came into force in 2009 obliged SFS to revise all the forest management plans of Natura 2000 forests of Hungary in accordance with nature conservational requirements. During the process of revision the forest management plans of all Natura 2000 forest compartments affected by any kind of timber harvest within the term of operative forest management plans was negotiated by SFS and National Park Directorates. Although in respect of 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' pSCI most of DINPI suggestions have been integrated into the management plans, disagreements have emerged, for example in case of harvest of Nagykőrös 137A forest compartment. In general, DINPI suggestions focused on limited harvest of indigenous wood and forestations with indigenous species.

The 2009 forestry law introduces Natura 2000 designation as one of the several potential protection aims within the large group of aims. Aim of a forest compartment highly influences the frame of possible management activities (please refer to MTR Action A4 on aims of forests). According to SFS verbal communication, 'Natura 2000 protection aim' will be registered when the next 10-year management plans come into force. In respect of the project area, this will happen in 2016.

Implementation of this Action aims the use of every piece of experience gained during the project. To reach this goal results of last year's monitoring and management experiences are important to be integrated. This consideration underlies the proposed request of extending the project period to 31.12.2011..

B1 - Taking over the restricted right of disposal of habitats Euro-Siberian steppe woods and Pannonic sand steppes

Expected results:

Discontinuation of economic forest use on patches of habitats of community interest (altogether 175 hectares) as well as establishment of a long-term professional cooperation between the conservational manager and private owners

Achievements:

- 6 contract bound guaranteeing the discontinuation of economic forest use on patches of habitats of community interest (altogether 175 hectares) for 90 years as well as establishment of a long-term professional cooperation between the conservational manager and private owners

- Final contracts containing the precise square measure of leased lands were signed on 12.08.2008

Action status: completed

Description:

The action was completed before 01.02.2009 – refer to the Midterm Report

C1 - Removal of arboreal invasive species using mechanical and chemical methods

Expected results:

Considerable repress of invasive species, the decrease of load of invasives on Euro-Siberian steppic oak forests and Pannonic sand steppes and regeneration of grasslands on the total project area (altogether 405 hectare).

Achievements:

- 77 % of arboreal invasives are removed on 331 ha (all leased land, NEFAG land, Erdő Bt. land, Faith-Wood Kft. land)
- 50 % of arboreal invasives are removed on 60 ha (Pálfája stand)
- 99 % of arboreal invasives are stem injected on 10 ha (Strázsa-hegy stand)
- clear cut of altogether 6,8 ha patches of Robinia stands (Strázsa-hegy stand)
- 95 % of logging waste is eliminated

Action status: on-going, delayed

Description:

Premise: arboreal invasives were removed in autumn 2008 on 331 ha of leased and un-leased land. For methods used (including chemical treatment, transportation, waste removal) and details on land involved, please refer to the MTR. In PR2 activities were reported as follows: Robinias were harvested on a patch of forest compartment Nagykőrös 140B (map of site: Annex MTR A4-6.) which contains an abandoned nest of black stork (Ciconia nigra). 10 ha of Strázsa hegy land was stem-injected, partial removal of arboreal invasives took place on 60 ha of Pálfája stand

Clear cut of four patches with joint area of 6,8 ha in Stázsa-hegy was implemented. Being 90% property of DINPI, in case of Strázsa-hegy special legal construction of timber sell was to be negotiated and elaborated. Applied stem injection allowed winter harvest with all it's advantages. Local hunting society requested to postpone timber harvest. Most of their annual income emerges in the mating season of fallow deer, which prefer the Strázsa-hegy stand for its diverse habitat compared to nearby non-indigenous plantations. Although nature

conservation sector has many disagreements with present principles and aims of game management, cooperation and being on good terms with hunting societies is inevitable. Spring fencing (see Action C3) of the stand will take place in cooperation with the local society, too. All above factors pointed to winter harvest, which was completed on 31.01.2011.

Planned continuation of stem injection was rescheduled due to the lack of bids in 2010 (see Action A4). Complete stem injection of arboreal invasive species in Strázsa-hegy stand will be implemented in summer 2011.

Continuation of arboreal invasive removal was rescheduled to 2011, too, for the following reasons that has emerged by the autumn 2010 synthesis of broad management experiences of previous years has emerged:

1. Accomplishing invasive removal the serious problem of sprouting came up (see also PR2). Focus on minimizing the primary emergence of root sprouts seems to be the most effective and probably the cheapest method in the long run. Treatment of standing tree individuals is much more precise than that of dispersed sprouts when the action takes place in a diverse habitat like a steppic oak forest with dense patches of shrub layer. In such circumstances finding all the sprouts and spraying them without destroying some parts of vegetation are both nearly impossible, especially when a target area reaches hundreds of hectares and the range of season is limiting.
2. As sprouting is mostly induced by a sign of a disturbed shoot system, a best practice must separate actions of chemical destruction and logging, in case the latter is necessary. Harvest should take place only after the organism including the complete root system of it is totally dry dead. Making sure of this requires both feedback and a chance of repeated chemical treatment of the same tree individual. Only way is leaving the tree standing as long as green foliage is not completely absent.
3. As optimal season of chemical treatments and that of vegetation-friendly timber harvest do not overlap, so the opportunity of winter harvest is an additional advantage of this separation of management tasks.

As a result of above considerations further management of oak stands in Pálfája stand must have been revised. Legal frame of stem-injection of must involve hints on conditions of subsequent logging of injected individuals. Having an after LIFE scope, this issue should be arranged within a long-term agreement with the forest manager (NKÖ).

The same reasons have led to the parallel reschedule of harvest and reforestation of a 1 ha small but highly exposed Robinia stand around the magnificent oak individual 'Pál fa'.

Facilitated by projects staff forest managers have agreed with local individuals to remove some logging waste in return for aggregating the useless portion into stacks in several forest compartments.

Stem injections left and consequently the removal of arboreal invasives on 417 ha are possible to accomplish by 31.08.2011. However, the stem injection of 1 ha site around Pál fa followed by autumn forestation is possible only in case of extension of project period to 31.12.2011.

For the map of clear cut on Strázsa-hegy, please see **Annex PR3 C1-1**. For the overall map of C1 Action, please see **Annex PR2 C1-C2-D1-D2**

C2 - Artificial forest regeneration with indigenous species

Expected results:

Transformation of the non-indigenous stands (*Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Pinus spp.*) of high canopy closure into stands of indigenous species (*Quercus ssp.*, *Populus spp.*) around (60 hectare) and within (28.5 hectare) the priority habitat patches (altogether 88.5 hectare). Enforcement of the stability and unity of the habitat fragments.

Achievements:

- 55 ha planted
- 43 ha partial soil preparation (on leased and un-leased land)
- 12 ha complete soil preparation (on un-leased land)
- partial soil preparation has proved to be usable with stumps left on site.

Action status: on-going, delayed

Description:

Premise: 55 ha of forest plantation with indigenous species was accomplished in 2008-2009. For methods used (including soil preparation, saplings) and details on land involved, please refer to the MTR. Completion of this first and largest scale volume of plantation was reported in PR2.

Forestation of Strázsa-hegy stand (6,8 ha) was rescheduled to spring 2011 as a result of unsuccessful public tendering (see Action A4) and winter harvest of Robinia stands (see Action C1). Forestation around 'Pál fa' was rescheduled due to reasons described at Action A4.

Soil preparation by drilling was proposed in PR2 to forestations in Strázsa-hegy stand, Pálfája stand and in case of small scale forestations. As described at Action C1 synthesis of experiences regarding methods of arboreal invasive removal and less destructive forestations emerged. In respect of forestations findings of hired and subsequently employed forestry expert Dénes Dobrosi's study suggested a soil preparation partial but more extensive than that used in the first volume of forestations. Results of the new method appeared by the end of season. Taking these into consideration wider use of the new method is preferable. In case of Strázsa-hegy conservation of natural relief of the area was a factor against use of heavy machinery. However, according to the revised method most of this land would be planted by the new method which requires heavy machinery (for a photo on the device, see **Annex PR3 C2-1**). Use of machinery should be carefully implemented in patches of sand dunes. Besides this, proposed results of the new method justify the use of heavy machinery. The new method will be used in those clear patches of small scale forestation where heavy machinery can both enter and work without threatening oak root system.

In case of forestation around 'Pál fa' (1 ha) and some less accessible patches of small scale forestation drilling technology remains the proposed method for soil preparation.

For the map of implemented Action C2, see **Annex PR2 C1-C2-D1-D2**.

The most important forestation on Stázsa-hegy and supplementary forestations are possible to accomplish by 31.08.2011. However, 1 ha of autumn forestation around Pál fa is possible only in case of extension of project period to 31.12.2011.

C3 - Natural forest regeneration with the exclusion of game

Expected results:

12600 meter game fence is completed and the possibility of the investigation of the natural regeneration capacity is given. The natural forest regeneration is facilitated by the serious decrease in gnawing.

Achievements:

- 25006 m fence is ready
- most of big game is eliminated
- information plates on each fence

Action status: on-going, delayed

Description

Premise: 25006 m fence was established by 15.04.2009 For the map of fences fulfilled, see Annex MTR C3-2, for photos on fence construction and maintenance, see Annex PR2 C3-1/1-5. For the description of different type of fences, the referring tendering procedures and forest manager conditions, please refer to the MTR. Elimination of game within fences in continuous. Information plates were installed to each fence. For details please refer to PR2.

Following the first volunteer based game driving held on 12.02.2010, a second one took place on 20.03.2010. As a result, significant portion of roe deer and fallow deer were driven out. For a photo, please see, **Annex PR3 C3-1**.

Regarding game exclusion fences vandalism occurred on some locations. Motivation supposed to be material in most cases, while in one case motivation was unclear. Some lockers were damaged, too, so more robust lockers are to be purchased. Overall, vandalism is not a significant problem.

By the end of last hunting season wild boar was nearly completely removed from all the fenced sites. However, a single individual remained and caused damages by digging deposited acorn in forestations of forest stands Nagykörös 115, 116, 117. Competent hunting society engaged in redeposit acorn to the sites in question, furthermore in establishing artificial hill at the fence that let animals jump out of the fenced area.

Further hunting started in October 2010 in order to entirely eliminate all other big game species. However, game abundance is not a significant problem any more within the non-electric fences. In latter case fences are permeable for some extent for roe deer and fallow deer. Presence of wild boar is not reported within sites with electric fences.

Maintenance of electric fences requires further development. Along supplementary power supply, also a restructuring of the wire system seems to be necessary: in order to reduce voltage loss by vegetation and snow the bottommost wire is to be insulated from the others and an additional wire shall be placed in cca. 70 cm height

DINPI staff implemented both removal of fallen trees and related repair of fences and mowing the track of electric fences.

Further fence construction around Strázsa-hegy stand proposed to be established in 2010 was rescheduled to spring, as the fence shall be erected after the winter harvest of Robinia stands and subsequent spring forestation (see Action A4, C1, C2).

Other proposed action is the on-going reduction of the accidentally immigrated big game by hunting and by construction of additional one-way gates and artificial exit hills.

C4 - Reconstruction of building complex for educational and ecotouristical purposes

Expected results:

- A properly developed and equipped building complex with its surroundings is completed for the implementation of action E3.
- reconstructed educational centre (one-storied, with employing hall, auditory and warming-up kitchen)
- ecological devices (solar cells, water recycling device, etc.)
- reconstructed outbuildings (public washrooms)
- open-air wood instruments and playground (tables, benches, bars, crossing gates, etc.)
- arrangement of camping site and sport grounds (tent plots, forest playground, outdoors recreational sites, forest sports ground together with, gardening, renovation of roads in the surroundings)

Achievements:

- Building complex, including outbuildings, and its surroundings is restored for the implementation of action E3.
- About 80 % of equipment is obtained
- Solar collectors provide heated water
- open-air wood instruments and playground (tables, benches, bars, crossing gates, etc.)
- arrangement of camping site and sport grounds

Action status: completed

Description

Premise: Pálfája Education Centre was established by reconstruction of a former camp building. The Centre was inaugurated on 05.06.2008. Majority of necessary equipment was purchased. For details, please refer to the MTR and PR2.

Due to the alarm system installed in 2008, like in previous years, vandalism not affected the Educational Centre.

Following equipment was purchased in the Centre in 2010:

- outdoor oven
- 8 tents for 4 persons each
- kitchen furniture
- camping mats
- kitchen equipment
- board games
- sport equipment
- handicraft equipment

The equipment purchased serves the more fluent run of summer camps and helps to broaden the range of educational activities of the Centre. In the first season of summer camps tents were borrowed by DINPI from other DINPI camps. As summer camps turned to be popular the Centre's own tents were to be purchased. Establishment of outdoor oven was foreseen (SEE Annex MTR C4-2) and getting convinced about the popularity of the Centre it has got constructed. Kitchen furniture was a need emerged from the experiences of summer camps as well. For photos on outdoor oven and tents, see **Annex PR3 C4-1/1-3**.

D1 - Treatment of herbaceous invasives, follow-up treatment of arboreal invasives

Expected results:

As a result of the action the removal of 99% of herbaceous invasives and arboreal invasive plants is expected on the whole project area (405 hectare).

Achievement:

80 % of herbaceous invasives are treated on 417 ha

90 % of arboreal invasives is eliminated

Action status: on-going, delayed

Description:

*Premise: in 2009, first season of follow-up treatment and treatment of *Asclepias syriaca* (milkweed) took place. *Robinia* root sprouts emerged in large amount.*

Last season of management was characterised with high precipitation. It is hard to estimate how much weather influenced the emergence of sprouts. Although at the start of the season

it seemed that sprouting was much less intensive, as season advanced significant amount has grown up. Due to the differences of 2009 and 2010 weather dynamics of sprouting was different. Although sprouting remains an on-going problem, setback for some extent is also noticeable. As latter appears in form reduced vitality of sprouts rather than in their number, ratio of setback is hard to assess and does not necessarily appear in the decreased number. Furthermore, amount of sprouts does not depend exclusively on treatment but also on actual weather conditions of a particular season in question.

Sprouting of Robinia seems to be a long-term problem and rather expensive to solve. This is the most important aspect of the advantages of stem injection. It may be more expensive in the first year of management but subsequent follow-up treatment is reported to be much cheaper by colleagues who gained experiences in stem-injection. Present project's experiences show that in 2010 nearly no sprouting was observed in Strázsa-hegy land stem-injected in 2009. However, for a more confident standpoint further experiences should be gained on both patches harvested in the reporting period (see Action C1) and patches without harvest in order to exclude the presence of living but dormant sections of the root system.

In 2010, mechanical treatment of sprouts was implemented on 370 ha (including forestations) on one occasion, with a similar method to that of 2009: it was accomplished by manhandled clearing saw and lopper in steppic oak patches. In respect of forestations, please refer to Action D2. Distinctive sprout treatment was not necessary, neither on Strázsa-hegy stem injected areas (10 ha), nor in forestations with total soil preparation (10 ha).

Extreme precipitation made chemical treatment of both sprouts and milkweed more difficult as it is to be applied in dry weather. Sprouts were sprayed in September and October on 370 ha (including forestations), milkweed populations were sprayed in July on 417 ha, but milkweed patches themselves spread on altogether 2 ha.

In PR2 we proposed early summer spraying, but nearly continuous rainfall in May and June forced cancellation of early spraying. In respect of 2011 consultations are going on about the opportunity of two chemical treatments and its financial aspects.

For a photo on chemical treatment, see **Annex PR3 D1-1** For the map of treated area, please see **Annex PR2 C1-C2-D1-D2**

D2 - Follow-up treatment of artificial forest regeneration

Expected results:

Artificial regeneration and transformation of invasive forest areas (88.5 hectare) is completed. The indigenous species of transformed forests ensures the connection between and within the priority habitat fragments.

Achievement:

- 55 ha of artificial forest regeneration areas were post-treated in 2010

- developed method of partial soil preparation has proved to be more solid in respect of sapling survival

Action status: on-going, delayed

Description:

Premise: follow-up treatment of 55 ha forestation took place in 2009. Spring drought and heavy Robinia sprouting had perished a significant portion of saplings in forestations with partial soil preparation.

As proposed in PR2 on 27 ha of partial soil preparation sites where survival of saplings was under expectations a developed method of partial soil preparation was applied: a 60 cm wide 50 cm deep so called seedbed with a rectangular profile was made. In order to secure the even depth of the seed bed, stumps were cut down to make the motion of the tractor more even. Saplings and acorns were planted into this seed bed by the middle of April. This method of soil preparation requires special machinery and a heavy-duty tractor to operate it.

Although Robinia sprouting was significant intensive repeated mechanical treatment secured that sprouting does not compete as much as in 2009. High precipitation helped saplings, too, but rotting roots occurred among saplings. Saplings planted into seedbed survived in a satisfactory amount.

On areas with partial soil preparation (45 ha) follow-up treatment included hoeing of sapling rows three times, mowing of the area between the rows two times by mowing machine. In most cases this all meant the cutting of Robinia sprouts. In September and October chemical spraying was applied on Robinia sprouts.

On areas with complete soil preparation (10 ha), follow-up treatment included hoeing of sapling rows three times and disking of inter line sections two times. As Robinia stumps were eliminated and the soil was deeply ploughed, Robinia sprouting was not significant, and consequently the survival rate of saplings was much higher (about 50-60%). Germinating Robinia seeds are common but removed within regular follow-up treatment.

Hoeing of rows of saplings and mowing of interline sections in the necessary measure will happen in 2011 like in 2010.

For the map of treated area, please see **Annex PR2 C1-C2-D1-D2**

E1 – Information to the general public – media work

Expected results:

- Increased interest on the issues targeted by the project and wide knowledge of the results achieved
- Wide media presence
- 4 press conferences with press trips held for the national media
- 1 press conference with a trip is organised for the international media
- Press releases are issued
- Press articles collected and filed in

Achievements

- 1 opening press conference and press trip for local and national media to introduce

the project, the problems to solve, goals to achieve, etc. was organized

- 1 press conference and press trip was organized for local and national media to the opening ceremony of the educational centre
- 1 press trip was organized for local and national media to the drive of game with volunteers
- Several press releases and articles were issued and sent out to the Hungarian media representatives
- Relatively high media coverage generated by the press trips and the press releases
- National and regional television channels broadcast about the project several times
- News and thematic articles were regularly published in the magazines, news papers and websites of the Beneficiary and Partners about the project goals and activities, the steppe oak woods, and the Natura 2000 network
- Articles were collected, filed in and made available on the project website

Action status: *On-going*

Description:

Premise: for the achievements of this Action by 31.12.2009, please refer to the MTR and PR2. In the latter negative media appearances were reported as well.

As reported in PR2, on 02.02.2010 WWF and DINPI with the cooperation of the local hunting society organized a big volunteer action, in order to drive game out from the biggest fenced site. Volunteers from all over the country were present and a local high school also participated with 100 students. To this event we invited local and national TV channels, and as a result there were broadcasts presenting the project in the national M1 TV channel and DUNA TV, as well as in the local Kecskeméti TV channel. For photos and media registration form **Annex PR2 E1-1, E1-2**, for dates of broadcast of footages, see **Annex PR3 E1-1**.

During this year we have continued to publish the project news in the local news paper. On one hand, we have given detailed information to the inhabitants about the forestry works, and on the other, the programs of the Educational Centre were continuously present. Apart from the local media this year we also have published articles in thematic magazines. We organized a nationwide photo contest on the forests of the Great Plain, in order to involve interested people to nature conservation more actively. We received over 45 artworks, and the best pictures were published in the Explorer Magazine and on the project website. For winners see **Annex PR3 E1-2/1-3**

Referring to negative media appearances reported in PR2, see **Annex PR3 E1-3** for a copy of published emendation by hunters' magazine.

A list of printed and electronic media appearances (articles, news, interviews, broadcasts) is attached in Annex PR3 E1-1) Selected articles (5 examples from 2010) are also attached (Annex E1-4/1-5). Articles from previous years were attached to PR1 in Annex PR1 E1-2, to MTR in Annex MTR E1-3/1-6 and to PR2 Annex PR2 E1-4/1-5.

Plans for continuation of this action in the next period:

In addition to the originally planned publications and communication activities in 2010 we decided to publish a special issue of the WWF Magazine project in 15.000 pieces, in order to give out more information to local people about the nature conservation activities. At the end, the publication of this brochure has been postponed to the beginning of 2011, because this way we could include into it the milestones and results achieved this year, as well. The brochure is published in February and will be distributed through post, together with the local

news paper, to all the households of Nagykőrös. Publication of articles and news in our own periodicals and the local news paper of Nagykőrös will be continued.

In the last year of the project we will organize a press conference and trip to the project site for the national and international media, parallel to the international conference on steppe woods (in Action E6).

E2 - Information to the general public – website

Expected results:

- An up-to date website in Hungarian and English version with an e-mail address, downloads, links to a number of other websites (LIFE, beneficiary, partners, other projects)
- Banners and links are established
- A certain amount of visitors (expected number of visitors 30,000 per year) and downloads

Achievements:

- A project website in Hungarian and English on www.pusztaitolgyesek.hu was created, and its content is maintained up-to-date: required logos, a direct e-mail address of the project, contact information, project description, news, maps, downloads, photo gallery, links to a number of other websites (LIFE, Natura 2000, beneficiary, partners, co-financiers, other LIFE projects, related sites), etc.
- Links to the project website were placed on the websites of the Beneficiary, the Partners and other LIFE projects.
- Banners were created and placed
- Total number of visits to the website till December 2010 was over 105,000
-

Action status: On-going

Description:

Premise: website was set up by 12.04.2007, including an on-line game, which was promoted by a competition. Links to the website were placed on other sites. For the details and usage data of previous years, please refer to the MTR and PR2.

In 2010 the number of visitors to the website has increased and stabilized over 32,000. For statistics see **Annex PR3 E2-1**. There was a clear peak in June, when the call for photo contest was published. On the other hand, visitors' interest was higher in September and October, at the beginning of the school year, what is evidently related to the continuously growing popularity of the Pálfája Educational Centre.

After a minor modification the on-line game was advertised again in the spring and summer, and attracted many visitors to the page.

Plans for continuation of this action in the next period:

At the beginning of 2011 an upgrade will be made to the software database that supports the website. Then we will be able to use it as an interface for the organization of the closing conference of the project, with on-line registration function.

The content of the website will be kept up-to-date with all the achievements, news, events and photos of the project. Continuous information before and after the programmes of the educational centre will be published on the website.

E3 - Development of programmes for the educational centre

Expected results:

- Preparation of the educational strategy for the area;
- Preparation of educational programmes for at least three main educational activities (min. 5 school class, min. 1 summer camp, min. 1 Nature Trail programme, with all necessary teaching materials and methods);
- Preparation of a 30 hours “Train the trainer programme”;
- Edition of a teaching aid book, in min. 500 copies;

Achievements:

- survey on environmental educational needs in the area
- exchange of experience with environmental educators
- collection of materials for the educational program
- educational programs worked out for the ‘outdoors school’ classes and the Nature Trail

Action status: completed

Description:

Premise: preparation of an educational strategy was started in 2007, going on in 2008. Syllabi of different programmes have been compiled in 2010. For the details of this activity, please refer to the MTR and PR2.

In PR2 contra-indication of Train the Trainer program was stated. In its letter dated on 09.06.2010 Commission accepted that implementation of a Train the Trainer program and relating materials would be against the principles of cost effectiveness and value for money. As a result, we consider it as cancelled activity.

E4 - Communication of the educational programme to target groups

Expected results:

- Brochure on the educational centre programmes, 15000 copies
- Three types of green events annually, with 100-150 participants each (in 3 years, altogether on min. 9 occasions)
- The educational section of the main web page is emphasized
- High levels of public awareness on the educational centre and its programs and parallel to this, related to steppe oak forests of Nagykőrös and the Natura 2000 network

Achievements:

- The educational part of our webpage is in operation and serves up-to-date information with maps, photos, downloads, etc.
- A children drawing competition was organized in order to raise public attention to the opening of the educational centre and collect drawings for its decoration
- Family day in the Pálfája Educational Centre in 2008 and 2009
- Conference presentation on the project with emphasis on Actions directly related to the educational activities.
- Participation with stand in events in town, like 'Nagykőrös Days' from 2007 on.
- many presentations in Action E6 and many actions of E1 notice the educational activities within the project

Action status: on-going

Description:

Premise: educational section of the project website was published and is in continuous operation. Drawing competition and volunteer work were parts of promotion of the Educational Centre. Minister of MEW participated in the opening ceremony of the Educational Centre, in the midst of nation-wide media attention. Participation in town events is a regular activity in promoting the educational programmes, as well as organizing our own events. For the details on activities of previous years, please refer to the MTR and PR2.

In 2010 the number of visitors to the educational section of the web-site increased to over 4500. Since the beginning of the programme visits to the educational section have exceeded 10,200. 2010 web-usage statistics of the educational section of the homepage is attached in **Annex PR3 E4-1**.

Steppic oaks project participated in yearly 'Nagykőrös Days' weekend event held in early autumn each year. Since launching the project staff has not missed a year. Materials on environmental education, steppic oaks project and DINPI were distributed and children were involved in nature relating games. The project stand was a station with tasks within a competition consisting of several stands. For a photo on the stand, see **Annex PR3 E4-2**.

However, promotion of project relating environmental education activities have become self-sufficient. Kinder gardens and schools in Nagykőrös have integrated these programs into their own yearly agenda and teaching program, and vice versa, these institutes support environmental education with additional suggestions. Close cooperation with 'Arany János Museum', Town Community Centre and its library assures as well that programs of the Educational Centre are getting round among town residents. As reported in PR2, it became an integrated part of cultural life in Nagykőrös, so promotion need was limited to scheduling the groups.

E5 - Starting up the educational programme and continuous operation of the educational centre

Expected participation of adult and children groups on the programmes (25 persons per group in average):

'Outdoors' school classes:

- 2008/2009 15 groups
- 2009/2010 25 groups
- 2010/2011 35 groups

Nature Trail programmes:

- 2008/2009 40 groups
- 2009/2010 60 groups
- 2010/2011 80 groups

Summer camps:

- 2008/2009 2 groups
- 2009/2010 3 groups
- 2010/2011 4 groups

Train the trainer programme:

- 2008/2009 1 group
- 2009/2010 2 groups
- 2010/2011 3 groups

Visitors on the education section of the web page:

- 2008/2009 2000 persons
- 2009/2010 3000 persons
- 2010/2011 5000 persons

Achievements:

'Outdoor' school classes:

- 2008-2010 36 groups

Nature Trail programmes:

- 2008-2010 102 groups, 3277 participants

Summer camps:

- 2008-2010 11 groups, 332 participants

Visitors on the education section of the web page:

- 01.01.2010-31.12.2010 4576 persons

Non-educational programs held

Action status: on-going

Description:

Premise: from the beginning of the project up to 31.10.2009, activities related to the educational program was responsibility of DINPI, while the reconstruction (see MTR Action C4), operation and maintenance of the Educational Centre was one of NKÖ. Following the opening ceremony, educational program started immediately with Nature Trail programs, followed by outdoor school classes in autumn. For the details, please refer to the MTR.

Approximately 5000 visitors have participated in programs organized by project environmental educator. Slightly less, than that in 2009, but regarding the unpredictable weather conditions in 2010 this is a good result. Many scheduled programs were cancelled due to rainy weather.

Programs in Pálfája start in April and lasts until October with a short break in August between summer camps and autumn school groups. In addition, environmental educator participates in programs held in town library before and after the outdoor season of Pálfája.

Most popular programs were the guided nature trail programs, which overlap with outdoor classes and summer camps, too. Most participants are residents of Nagykőrös and nearby settlements, but several groups from more remote parts of the country have visited Pálfája as well. More and more children participate who are familiar with the forest since they have participated in previous years, too. Comfortably, more complex programs could be provided for them. Age of participating students ranges from 5 to 17 years old.

Besides the project's own summer camp five other were set up by different local organizations and individuals. All the camps were organized with close cooperation of animators and included project related environmental education module.

For the statistics of registered visitors in 2010, see **Annex PR3 E5-1**, for some photos on programs, see **Annex PR3 E5-2/1-3**.

E6 - Mutual communication aiming at different groups of professionals and dissemination of scientific results

Expected results:

- Experts are continuously informed about achievements in the management tasks as well as they can provide feedback by their comments on these actions
- Approximately 75 scientific experts from all over Europe, as well as 20 Hungarian professionals, get acquainted with the results of the project
- NGOs active in the field of the Natura 2000 site management have the opportunity to learn from the experience of the project coordinators

Achievements:

- Experts are continuously informed about the goals, activities and insofar experiences of the project and have had the opportunity to provide feedback
- Project staff participated and presented the project at several thematic events (conferences, seminars and meetings)
- NGOs, active in the field of nature conservation were informed, got acquainted with the goals and learned about the insofar experiences of the project
- 1 field visit to the project site for representatives of NGOs was organized
- 1 fieldwork for volunteers and 1 field trip for NGO supporters were organized
- 1 field trip was organized for the colleagues of other National Park Directorates and green NGOs

Action status: on-going

Description:

Premise: for the list and description of several events referring to this Action by 31.01.2009, please refer to the MTR.

The new method of soil preparation (see Action D2) requires special machinery which is rather unique and not widespread in the country. For this reason dealer of this tool initiated two presentations of the machine in action on the project target site. Altogether, cca 30 forest managers attended in two events (27.03.2010 and 10.04.2010), getting information not only on this special tool, but on the LIFE project as well.

During 2010 we had reached such milestones in the project that the communication with the professional community could be intensified in order to present our results and experiences. In March we organized a second game drive event on the project site, with the participation of volunteers of WWF and members of green NGOs. They got deeper insight into the objectives and activities of the project, with the professional guidance of György Verő and Klára Kerpely. In July a field trip was organized for the members of the Panda Club, a team of supporting partners of WWF, in order to introduce them into our conservation work in the Nagykőrös woods. Mária Sápi and László Gálhidy guided the group. For a photo, see **Annex PR3 E6-1/1-2**.

In October we organized a field trip for the colleagues of the Hungarian National Park Directorates, members of green NGOs and the representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development. György Verő and Dénes Dobrosi guided the group through the project site and presented the experiences and results of the project, highlighting the achieved progress in the forestry works, the applied new technology and the difficulties and proven best practices in the elimination of the invasive plants. The trip was a good forum for experience exchange among the conservation experts. For photos and registration form see **Annex PR3 E6-2/1-2**.

Plans for continuation of this action in the next period:

In the last year of the project communication with the professional community will be intensified, in line with the original plans. An international conference on the steppe woods will be organized, and we will participate at conferences on conservation issues to present the results of the project.

A conference booklet, a steppe woods and sand steppe monograph and a CD-Rom with the project's results will be published and disseminated.

E7 - Development of a Nature Trail

Expected results:

- introduction of the nature value and role of 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' pSCI and Natura 2000 network through 10 stations of the Nature Trail, with 2200 m length
- establishment of the first Nature Trail within the area of Nagykőrös town together with the local government
- free-of-charge service of the educational program
- 8000 copies of A5 format Nature Trail guide
- 1000-1500 visitors per year

Achievements:

- introduction of the nature value and role of 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' pSCI and Natura 2000 network through 10 stations of the Nature Trail, with 1800 m length

- establishment of the first Nature Trail within the area of Nagykőrös town together with the local government
- free-of-charge service of the educational program
- 8000 copies of A5 format Nature Trail guide
- 317 guided visitors in 2008, 2433 guided visitors in 2009, and cca. 5000 non guided visitors (latter by guess)

Action status: on-going

Description:

Premise: after planning and preparing, the Nature Trail was inaugurated on 05.06.2008. For the details, including the description of the stations, the guide booklet, please refer to the MTR

For details on Nature Trail programs held see Action E5. Here we only add that estimating the number of visitors not having resort to guidance is a heavy task, but since the Pálfája forest stand is a traditional recreational forest of local residents, it is likely to have a significant number of such visitors.

E8 - The compilation of Layman's report

Expected results:

- 1000 copies of Layman's report in Hungarian and English languages (in A/4 format, on recycled paper, full colour, text with photos and figures)
- a publication documenting the aims, steps and goals of the project
- wider knowledge on the issues targeted by the project and increased awareness towards the Euro-Siberian steppic woods and Pannonic sand grasslands, threatening factors.

Achievement: none

Action status: not started yet

F1 - Project operation, organizing co-operation with the partners

Expected results:

Implementation of the project is proceeding effectively, organized and with expertise

Achievements:

- project staff works and cooperates
- local office is rented
- workshop was organized with project participants at the beginning of 2007, 2008, 2009

- thematic workshops with partners are held connected to certain actions throughout the year
- Advisory Board was convened once in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
- project equipment is in operation

Action status: on-going

Description:

Premise: regular meetings with project Partners, stakeholders and the Advisory Board of the project were held. Necessary equipment was purchased. For details, please refer to the previous report. For current organogram of project organization, please refer to PR2.

Advisory Board was informed on the state of the project on 14.04.2010. For list of participants, see **Annex PR3 F1-1**, for the memorandum, see, **Annex PR3 F1-2**.

There were some personnel changes during the reporting period what are given in table below.

Name	Position	Partner	comments
Beatrix Szabó	Educational program coordinator	Nagykőrös LG	Was replaced by Viktória Ecsedi from 01/04/2010

Since its launch in 2006 our Project has been confronted with several circumstances that prevent its implementing in accordance with the Grant Agreement. For these in detail, please refer to Action A4, A5, C1, C2 and 5. Problems encountered in present report.

Therefore, in accordance with the Article 13 of the Common Provisions, request on Commission's agreement with amendment of the Grant Agreement will be submitted by 28.02.2011. Request will concern topics below:

- Change in the Name of the Project Co-financer – Ministry of Environment and Water
- Prolongation of the project time
- Modification of project budget

F2 - Conservation management monitoring

Expected results:

- the result of the action is the detailed documentation and evaluation of the effects of habitat management actions, through structural variables and indicator organizations
- on the basis of the monitoring data the real effects of the project are determinable and quantifiable, such as the trend of decrease of invasive species (coverage decline during the project, seedling grown up during the project, etc.)
- the results of F2 are important for the long-term management plan (management plan of the Natura 2000 site (Action A5) for determining the necessary tasks

Achievements:

- detailed documentation on basic state of the management quadrants in 2007, 2008 and detailed documentation on the state of the quadrants during the first two years of management in 2009 and 2010
- pitfall trap samples were collected as basic state survey in 2007, 2008 and as survey on the state during the first two years of management in 2009 and 2010.

Action status: on-going

Description:

Conservational management monitoring - botanical part:

Premise: in 2007 and 2008 botanical part of the monitoring was carried out. For methods and sites please refer to the MTR. In 2009 a forestry expert was hired, for details, please refer to PR2.

In 2010 altogether 22 quadrants were sampled, same as in 2009. For their distribution map see **Annex PR2 F2-F3-1**

The detailed study of 2010 can be found **on DVD, in Annex PR3 F2-F3-1.**

Conservational management monitoring - zoological part:

Premise: in 2007 and 2008 zoological part of the monitoring was carried out. For methods and sites please refer to the MTR.

In 2010, the same sites were sampled as in 2008-2009. For a photo on pitfall trap management, see **Annex PR3 F2-F3-2**

F3 - Monitoring of biological status of habitat types of community importance

Expected results:

- the result of the action is the detailed documentation and evaluation of the natural values of the 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' pSCI, especially the qualitative and quantitative state and changes of reference habitat types and its species
- detailed lists of plant and animal species occurring, phyto-coenological records of reference habitat types and maps of the distribution of reference values utilized in editing the conservation management plan of the Natura 2000 site (Action A5).

Achievements:

- detailed documentation on basic state of the reference quadrants in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
- pitfall trap samples were collected as basic state survey in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
- taxa of weevils, longhorn beetles, moths, Orthoptera, spiders are collected, species lists are compiled
- dead wood material was investigated, species lists are available

Description:

Biodiversity monitoring - botanical part:

Premise: in 2007 and 2008 botanical part of the monitoring was carried out. For methods and sites please refer to the MTR.

In 2010 research took place on the same plots as in previous years. For their distribution map see **Annex PR2 F2-F3-1**

The detailed study of 2010 can be found **on DVD, in Annex PR3 F2-F3-1.**

Biodiversity monitoring - zoological part:

Premise: in 2007 and 2008 zoological part of the monitoring was carried out. For methods and sites please refer to the MTR.

In 2010 research took place on the same plots as in previous years.

F4 - Continuation of the activities after project completion and preparation of an After-LIFE conservation plan

Expected results:

- An after-LIFE conservation plan
- The successful conservation of the area and the enhancement of the favourable conservational status of the priority habitats are ensured.
- Over the priority habitats conservation disposes, consequently conservational management has priority importance
- The local stakeholders and the public, as well as professionals are continuously informed on the conservational issues on 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' pSCI
- Complex educational programs (with the emphasis on the Euro-siberian steppic oak forests and Pannonic sand steppes) operate in the areas.

Achievement: none

Action status: not started yet

5. Problems encountered

In 2010 extreme precipitation was experienced in the Carpathian Basin. Consequently, irrigation was not necessary and saplings developed. However, by the end of summer, root rotting has occurred among saplings. High precipitation has put back some activities: pit fall traps operated only from August to September, many scheduled nature trail programs were cancelled, and chemical treatment of sprouts was set back by frequent rainy days.

As reported at Action A4, a public tendering of tasks that need manual labour were launched on 20.07.2010. Call for applications allowed bids for four sub-sites. However, only two of the four sub-sites were applied. Consequently, a repeated procedure had been launched. Although this procedure was an invited tendering and call for applications were sent to potential subcontractors having experiences with management to be procured, no bids were handed in. In case of one sub-site (Strázsa-hegy land), tasks could have been rescheduled, but regarding the other one, subtask chemical treatment of root-sprouts was not possible to postpone. Considering the special circumstances sprout chemical treatment on one sub-site was implemented by DINPI staff.

As reported in all previous reports, preparation of land leasing contracts, public tendering, the state of Strázsa-hegy land have suffered delay out of the responsibility of the beneficiary and its partners. Difficulties of forestations with unconventional methods and those of treating heavy invasive *Robinia pseudoacacia* were reported as well. All the above circumstances (please refer to PR1: Action A4, B1, MTR: Action A4, PR2: Action A4, D1, D2) prevent implementing the project in accordance with the Grant Agreement. For the referring activities, please see Action A4, A5, C1, C2, F1. In order to do so, the modification of Grant Agreement and extension of project period to 31.01.2011 is proposed to be requested.

6. Financial issues

By the end of the reporting period 88,3 % of the total project period has passed. Accountings are in HUF.

In previous reports net costs were accounted on LIFE contribution excluding VAT for whole project period, however, from 2008 on the new national tax legislation excludes all LIFE projects' tax from VAT reimbursement. Hereby from 01/01/2008 gross costs are accounted (including VAT). In the Final Report necessary certificates will be provided.

In accordance with Commission's consent (31.08.2010) in present and future reports accounting is based on exchanges rate applied by the European Central Bank on the first day of the month in which the expenditure is incurred.

Change of the Hungarian VAT regulations mentioned above caused an unexpected increase of total incurred costs. By the end of reporting period expenditures in the category Durable goods exceed the foreseen budget already by 13% (or 41.879 €). Hence, in order to make all incurred costs eligible, we have to request the Commission for the modification of Grant Agreement (see Action F1). This modification request will be prepared and submitted by 28.02.2011.

Evaluation of expenditure according to cost categories:

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED BY COST CATEGORIES

	Cost category	Total cost according to the Commission's decision*	Total costs incurred from the start date to 31/01/2011	%
		EUR	EUR	
1.	Personnel	238 872	224 918	94 %
2.	Travel	52 056	17 589	34 %
3.	External assistance	636 500	615 218	97 %
4.	Durables: total cost	329 600	371 479	113 %
5.	Land purchase	490 000	463 350	95 %
6.	Consumables	42 400	33 349	79 %
7.	Other costs	21 880	12 615	58 %
8.	Overheads	51 928	35 496	68 %
	SUM TOTAL	1 863 236	1 774 014	95 %

Personnel costs:

This budget category is overspent. Regarding our proposed request on the extension of project period, beneficiary and partners state that in case of approval, personnel costs of the extended 4 months will be part of their own contribution.

There was a change in personnel during the reporting period what are given in table below.

Name	Position	Partner	comments
Beatrix Szabó	Educational program coordinator	Nagykőrös LG	Was replaced by Viktória Ecsedi from 01/04/2010

Travel costs:

The Travel costs are under spent, so it is a source of reallocation into overspent budget categories.

We are calculating with the km unit costs of the previous year.

Log books or travel claims are matching the time sheets.

External assistance:

We transferred 3380 € of architectural plans and 610 € of information boards from Durables to External assistance.

This budget category will certainly exceed the 35% limit of total project budget stated in Common Provisions. Request for modification of Grant Agreement is inevitable.

Durables:

The Infrastructure part is going to be higher, than proposed, due to both the extra cost of Action C4 and C3. Heightening these factors, the VAT legislation mentioned above makes it likely to increase more, than 10 % of the budget category. Please refer to the VAT-related comment above.

Great mass of equipment is purchased, except some furniture and educational equipment for the Pálfája Educational Centre.

Consumables:

It is basically in line with the plans and budget.

Other costs:

It is basically in line with the plans and budget.

Overheads:

It is under spent at the moment but expected to be higher with the running of the Educational Centre, and it is a source of reallocation into overspent budget categories.

Evaluation of expenditure according to sources:

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED BY SOURCES

	Sources	Total	Incurred	%
		EUR	EUR	
1	Partners	146 741	154 129	105 %
2	MEW / MRD	319 068	302 666	95 %
3	LIFE	1 397 427	1 317 219	94 %
	SUM TOTAL	1 863 236	1 774 014	95 %

Partners' contribution:

Regarding the reporting period it is including Personnel costs, part of Travel costs, part of Overheads and extra costs of reconstruction of Educational Centre.

MEW / MRD co-financing:

State treasury is transferring MEW (MRD) contribution yearly by instalments according to the annual work plan and budget.

Following 2010 parliamentary elections and establishment of new government, former MEW merged with former Ministry of Agriculture forming the new Ministry of Rural Development. So, name of co-financing organization has changed, which makes a modification of Grant Agreement inevitable.

LIFE advance payment:

First and second instalment (70 % of total budget) is already spent.

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED BY PARTNERS

	Cost category	Total cost according to the Commission's decision*	Total costs incurred from the start date to 28/02/2010	%
		EUR	EUR	
1.	DINPI	1 612 925	1 565 760	97 %
2.	Nagykőrös LG	167 400	169 794	101 %
3.	WWF	82 911	38 460	46 %
	SUM TOTAL	1 863 236	1 774 014	95 %

7. Planned project progress

Following schedule is without consideration of the approval of request for modification of Grant Agreement.

A4 - Preparation of the conservational management actions

Permissions of forestry work in Strázsa-hegy land will be applied.

Procurement of 2011 forestry works

A5 - Elaboration of the conservational management plan of 'Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek' Natura 2000 site

Conservational management plan will be ready..

C1 - Removal of arboreal invasive species using mechanical and chemical methods

Stem injection in Strázsa-hegy and Pálfája stand will go on.

C2 - Artificial forest regeneration with indigenous species

Plantations will take place in 2011 on Strázsa-hegy and Pálfája stands

C3 - Natural forest regeneration with the exclusion of game

Permanent control of both the condition of fences, especially of the electric ones and the presence of big game within the fenced areas. We continue to eliminate the big game present.

We will establish fence around the Strázsa-hegy land.

D1 - Treatment of herbaceous invasives, follow-up treatment of arboreal invasives

Third season of treatments of herbaceous invasives and follow-up treatment of arboreal invasives will take place.

D2 - Follow-up treatment of artificial forest regeneration

Third season of follow-up treatment of artificial forest regeneration will take place, including new technology of soil preparation, irrigation, if necessary.

E1 - Information to the general public - Media work

Publication of articles and news in our own periodicals and the local news paper of Nagykőrös will be continued, as local people are a primary target group. Continuous presence on the websites and blogs of project beneficiary and partners will be continued. Photo competition will be organized, special volume of WWF Magazine will be published.

Press releases will be issued at the important milestones of the closing year of the project.

E2 - Information to the general public - Website

The website will be kept up-to-date with all the achievements, news and photos of the project. Continuous information on the programmes of the educational centre will be published on the website.

We will continue to follow with attention the web usage statistics.

E4 - Communication of the educational programme to target groups

We will carry on presenting programs on the website's educational part.

In the next 6 month we will organize weekend events.

E6 - Mutual communication aiming at different groups of professionals and dissemination of scientific results

We will receive colleagues from other National Park Directorates who deal with similar issues like forestation on dry production sites of Hungarian Plain to attend in presentation of the seedbed making machine.

An international conference on the steppe woods will be organized.

A conference booklet, a steppe woods and sand steppe monograph and a CD-Rom with the project's results will be published and disseminated.

E7 - Development of a Nature Trail

Continuous operation of Nature Trail will keep going.

E8 - The compilation of Layman's report

Compilation of Layman's report will be ready.

F1 - Project operation, organizing co-operation with the partners

Partners will meet when project implementation requires personal discussion.

We plan to convene the Advisory Board for visiting the project target area.

F2 - Conservation management monitoring

Vegetation monitoring in the 22 management quadrants will be launched by 30.06.2011. Pitfall traps will be deposited in the project area during spring (the timing is dependent on weather conditions).

F3 - Monitoring of biological status of habitat types of community importance

Vegetation monitoring in the 10 biodiversity quadrants will be launched by 30.06.2010. Pitfall traps will be deposited in the project area during spring (the timing is dependent on weather conditions).

F4 - Continuation of the activities after project completion and preparation of an After-LIFE conservation plan

AfterLIFE agreements will be signed with forest managers.

Annexes

- A1-1: Distribution of project launch brochure**
- A2-1: Distribution list of promotional materials**
- A4-1/a: Decree on forest management plan of Strázsa-hegy land**
- A4-1/b: Content of forest management plan of Strázsa-hegy – on DVD**
- A4-2: Decree of government on public tendering**
- A4-3/1-11: Summaries of procurement procedures**
 - A4-3/1: Soil preparation**
 - A4-3/2: Saplings**
 - A4-3/3: Mid-level machinery**
 - A4-3/4: Manual labour on leased and NKÖ land (Pálfája stand)**
 - A4-3/5/a-b: Manual labour and mid-level machinery on NEFAG land**
 - A4-3/5/a: Summary of evaluation of bid**
 - A4-3/5/b: Minute of negotiation with bidder**
 - A4-3/6: Manual labour on Erdő Bt. Land**
 - A4-3/7: Mid-level machinery on Erdő Bt. Land**
 - A4-3/8: Chemicals**
 - A4-3/9: Controll of chemical treatment**
 - A4-3/10: Public tendering – first attempt**
 - A4-3/11: Public tendering – second attempt**
- C1-1: Map of clear cut on Strázsa-hegy land**
- C2-1: Photo**
- D1-1: Photo**
- C3-1: Photo**
- C4-1/1-3: Photos**
- E1-1: Media coverage 01.12.2008 - 31.01.2011**
- E1-2/1-3: Winners of photo contest**
- E1-3: Emendation in hunters' magazine**
- E1-4/1-5: Examples of media coverage**
 - E1-4/1: Önkormányzati Hírek 05.02.2010 / 1 p.**
 - E1-4/2: Önkormányzati Hírek 28.05.2010 / 1 p.**
 - E1-4/3: Önkormányzati Hírek 15.10.2010 / 1 p.**
 - E1-4/4: Önkormányzati Hírek 22.10.2010 / 1 p.**
 - E1-4/5: Földgömb 2010/3 1 p.**
- E2-1: Webusage statistics**
- E4-1: Webusage of education section of project website**
- E4-2: Photo on stand ('Nagykörös Days' 2010)**
- E5-1: Summary of visitors of educational programs 2010**
- E5-2/1-3: Photos**
- E6-1/1-2: Photos on Panda Club field trip**
- E6-2/1-2: Photos on National Park Directorates field trip**
- F1-1: List of participants – Meeting with Advisory Board 2010**
- F1-2: Memorandum – Meeting with Advisory Board 2010**
- F2-F3-1: Studies on 2010 vegetation monitoring – on DVD**
- F2-F3-2: Photo on pitfall trap operation**