



LIFE+



## **Nature & Biodiversity**

Projects 2007

*nature*



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION



environment

# LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity 2007: Commission funds 57 innovation projects in 21 countries with €93 million

The European Commission has approved funding for 57 new environmental innovation projects in 21 countries under the LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity programme 2007. These projects will demonstrate new methods and techniques for dealing with a wide diversity of Europe's environmental problems. The projects are led by 'beneficiaries', or project promoters, based in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. They represent a total investment of €165 million, of which the EU will provide some €93 million.

### LIFE-Nature in 2007

LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity projects improve the conservation status of endangered species and habitats. Of the 264 proposals received, the Commission selected 57 projects for funding from partnerships of conservation bodies, government authorities and other parties. Situated in 21 Member States, they represent a total investment of €165 million, of which the EU will provide over €93 million. The majority are Nature projects, contributing to the implementation of the Birds and/or Habitats Directives<sup>1</sup> and the Natura 2000 network.<sup>2</sup> There are also four Biodiversity projects, a new category of LIFE+ project for pilot schemes that tackle wider biodiversity issues<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm)

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Communication from the Commission COM (2006) 216 final "Halting the loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond" [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/index_en.htm)

### Background

LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU and in certain non-EU countries. Since 1992, LIFE has co-financed some 2 750 projects, contributing approximately €1.35 billion to the protection of the environment. LIFE+ is the new European financial instrument for the environment with a total budget of €2 143 billion for the period 2007-2013. During this period, the Commission will launch one call for LIFE+ project proposals per year.

LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity is one of three thematic components under the LIFE programme. The other two components, LIFE+ Environment Policy & Biodiversity and LIFE+ Information & Communications, focus respectively on supporting pilot projects that contribute to the development of innovative policy ideas, technologies, methods and instruments and on disseminating information and raising the profile of environmental issues or providing training and awareness-raising for the prevention of forest fires.

More information on each LIFE+ project is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.home&cfid=656029&cf\\_token=cab1cf8091752717-4430206A-E1CB-E45B-8COA15178EBFFE27](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.home&cfid=656029&cf_token=cab1cf8091752717-4430206A-E1CB-E45B-8COA15178EBFFE27)

It is also possible to contact the relevant national authorities: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/contact/nationalcontact/index.htm>

## Index of Nature & Biodiversity projects selected in 2007

Location	Project number	Title of project
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	LIFE07 NAT/A/000010 Mostviertel-Wachau	Living space in the rivers of Mostviertel-Wachau
	LIFE07 NAT/A/000012 Traisen	Living space in the estuary stretch of the river Traisen
<b>BELGIUM</b>	LIFE07 NAT/B/000024 Vlaams veldgebied	Restoration of Intermediate Atlantic heathland habitats in Flanders
	LIFE07 NAT/B/000039 PAPILLONS	Reconstituting a habitat network for threatened butterflies ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> , <i>Lycaena helle</i> , <i>Lycaena dispar</i> ) in the Walloon region (Belgium)
	LIFE07 NAT/B/000043 Hélianthème	Dry calcareous and rupicolous grasslands of lower and middle valleys of the Meuse basin
<b>BULGARIA</b>	LIFE07 NAT/BG/000068 BSPB LIFE+ SAVE THE RAPTORS	Conservation of imperial eagle and saker falcon in key Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria
<b>DENMARK</b>	LIFE07 NAT/DK/000100 REFLOW	Re-establishing a natural water flow level in the river system "Mølleåen"
<b>ESTONIA</b>	LIFE07 NAT/EE/000120 HAPPYFISH	Saving life in meanders and oxbow lakes of Emajõgi River on Alam-Pedja NATURA2000 area
<b>FINLAND</b>	LIFE07 NAT/FIN/000151 FINMARINET	Inventories and planning for the marine Natura 2000 network in Finland
<b>FRANCE</b>	LIFE07 NAT/F/000188 COREXERUN	Conservation, restoration and reconstitution of the semi-xerophilic habitats of the "massif de la Montagne" in Réunion
	LIFE07 NAT/F/000193 LAG'Nature	Creating an experimental and demonstrative network of lagoon and dune Natura 2000 sites on the mediterranean coastline of Languedoc-Roussillon
<b>GERMANY</b>	LIFE07 NAT/D/000213 Steppenrasen Thüringens	Conservation and development of the steppe grasslands in Thuringia
	LIFE07 NAT/D/000214 Bachtäler Arnsberger Wald	Rehabilitation of streams in the "Arnsberger Wald"
	LIFE07 NAT/D/000225 DONAUKEH	Hillsides and Floodplains in the Danube valley between Neustadt and Bad Abbach (DONAU KEH)
	LIFE07 NAT/D/000232 Limosa-Habitat Hetter	Habitat optimisation in a local breeding population of Black-tailed Godwits in the NATURA 2000 site "NSG Hetter-Millinger Bruch, mit Erweiterung"
	LIFE07 NAT/D/000233 ReHa Federseemoor	Restoration of habitats in the Federsee bog (ReHa Federseemoor)
	LIFE07 NAT/D/000236 Streuobstwiese Albvorland	Protection of Wild Birds in Traditional Orchards of the Central Swabian Alb Foothills and the Central Valley of the Rems River
<b>GREECE</b>	LIFE07 NAT/GR/000285 ConShagAudMIBAGR	Concrete Conservation Actions for the Mediterranean Shag and Audouin's gull in Greece including the inventory of relevant marine IBAs
	LIFE07 NAT/GR/000286 PINUS	Restoration of <i>Pinus nigra</i> forests on Mount parnonas (GR2520006) through a structured approach
	LIFE07 NAT/GR/000291 PINDOS/GREVENA	Demonstration of Conservation Actions for <i>Ursus arctos</i> * and habitat type 9530* in Northern Pindos N.P., Grevena Prefecture, Greece

Location	Project number	Title of project
<b>GREECE</b>	LIFE07 NAT/GR/000296 JUNICOAST	Actions for the conservation of coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp. in Crete and the South Aegean (Greece)
<b>HUNGARY</b>	LIFE07 NAT/H/000320 DANUBEISLANDFOREST	Conservation of alluvial habitats of community interest on the Szabadság Island and side channel in Béda-Karapanca pSCI
	LIFE07 NAT/H/000321 Eastern Bakony	Restoration and conservation of priority habitats and species in the Eastern Bakony area
	LIFE07 NAT/H/000322 CONVIPURSRK	Conservation of Hungarian meadow viper ( <i>Vipera ursinii rakosiensis</i> ) in the Carpathian-basin
	LIFE07 NAT/H/000324 HORTOBAGY SODIC LAKES	Restoration of sodic lake sub-type of the Pannonic salt steppe and marsh habitat in the Hortobágy
<b>IRELAND</b>	LIFE07 NAT/IRL/000341 CAISIE	Control of aquatic invasive species and restoration of natural communities in Ireland
	LIFE07 NAT/IRL/000342 IShannonSACLAEO	Restoration of the Lr.Shannon SAC for Sea lamprey, Atlantic salmon and European otter
<b>ITALY</b>	LIFE07 NAT/IT/000413 P.A.R.C.	Petromyzon And River Continuity
	LIFE07 NAT/IT/000426 M.As.Co.T.T.S.S.	Management Actions for Conservation of <i>Tetrax Tetrax</i> in Steppic Sardinia
	LIFE07 NAT/IT/000433 Water SCIs	Improvement of the conservation status of SCIs in the high appenine area and in the plain around Prato
	LIFE07 NAT/IT/000436 ANTIDOTO	A new strategy against the poisoning of large carnivores and scavenger raptors
	LIFE07 NAT/IT/000450 CENT.OLI.MED	Identification and conservation of the high nature value of ancient olive groves in the Mediterranean region
	LIFE07 NAT/IT/000498 S.T.A.R.	RECOVERY OF FORESTED WETLAND WITH HABITAT 91E0* Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> )
	LIFE07 NAT/IT/000499 Pianura parmense	Actions for the bird species of EU interest in the Natura 2000 sites in the lowlands of Parma (Italy)
	LIFE07 NAT/IT/000502 EX-TRA	Improving the conditions for large carnivore conservation - a transfer of best practices
	LIFE07 NAT/IT/000507 LIFE+ AVIFAUNA DEL LAGO S	Conservation actions for priority bird life in Lake Salso Oasis
	LIFE07 NAT/IT/000519 PROVIDUNE	Conservation and recovery of dune priority habitats among the sites of Cagliari, Caserta, Matera, Taranto provinces
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	LIFE07 NAT/LT/000530 WETLIFE	Restoring Hydrology in Amalvas and Žuvintas Wetlands
	LIFE07 NAT/LT/000531 White Stork Conservation	Conservation of White Storks ( <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> ) in Lithuania
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	LIFE07 NAT/L/000542 NATURA 2000-LUXEMBOURG	Contribution from local authorities to the implementation of NATURA 2000
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	LIFE07 NAT/P/000630 LAURISSILVA SUSTENTAVEL	Recovery, conservation and sustainable management of Tronqueira/Planalto dos Graminhais

Location	Project number	Title of project
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	LIFE07 NAT/P/000646 CETACEOSMADEIRA II	Identifying critical marine areas for bottlenose dolphin and surveillance of the cetaceans' conservation status in Madeira archipelago
	LIFE07 NAT/P/000649 SAFE ISLANDS FOR SEABIRDS	Safe islands for seabirds/ Initiating the restoration of seabird-driven ecosystems in the Azores
	LIFE07 NAT/P/000654 EstepÁrias	Conservation of Great Bustard, Little Bustard and Lesser Kestrel in the Baixo Alentejo cereal steppes
<b>ROMANIA</b>	LIFE07 NAT/RO/000680 PMH8310SN2000SCC	Preserving management of the habitat 8310 from the Site Natura 2000 Semenec - Cheile Carasului
	LIFE07 NAT/RO/000681 GREEN BORDERS	Cross-border conservation of <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> and <i>Aythya nyroca</i> at key sites in Romania and Bulgaria
<b>SLOVAK REPUBLIC</b>	LIFE07 NAT/SK/000707 Danube birds conservation	Conservation of Endangered Bird Species Populations in Natural Habitats of the Danube Inland Delta
<b>SPAIN</b>	LIFE07 NAT/E/000732 INDEMARES	Inventory and designation of marine Natura 2000 areas in the Spanish sea
	LIFE07 NAT/E/000735 Corredores oso	Corridors For Cantabrian Brown Bear Conservation
	LIFE07 NAT/E/000742 Priorimancha	Conservation of Mediterranean priority species in Castille-La Mancha
	LIFE07 NAT/E/000756 Reneix	Priority species' habitats restoration in the island of Menorca
	LIFE07 NAT/E/000759 Inagua	Restoration of Burnt Endemic Pine Woods and Recovery of its threatened Flora and Fauna
	LIFE07 NAT/E/000762 Campanarios de Azaba	Biodiversity conservation in western Iberia
<b>SWEDEN</b>	LIFE07 NAT/S/000902 MIA	Lake Mälaren Inner Archipelago - Restoration and Management
<b>THE NETHERLANDS</b>	LIFE07 NAT/NL/000571 Sand dynamics in inland dunes	Revival of dynamics by activation of sanddrift in inland dunes
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	LIFE07 NAT/UK/000938 TaCTICS	Tackling Climate Change-Related Threats to an Important Coastal SPA in Eastern England
	LIFE07 NAT/UK/000948 Anglesey and Llyn Fens	Restoring Alkaline and Calcareous Fens within the Corsydd Mon a Llyn (Anglesey & Llyn Fens) SACs in Wales

## Living space in the rivers of Mostviertel-Wachau

### Project background

Human activities over the past few decades have reduced the number of gravel banks and the amount of lateral flowing water in the project area. The site contains habitats that are crucial for spawning, reproduction and wintering of fish species. There is a functional connection between the Danube River and the tributaries of the Mostviertel region. Fast moving water fish species of the Danube migrate to the tributaries to reproduce at sites where gravel banks still exist. In the river itself, most of the fish species need lateral arms (side arms) particularly as wintering habitats. Moreover, juvenile fish are finding shelter in lateral waters, where they are protected against waves caused by ship traffic in the main river. The rivers within the project area are habitats for some 40 species, including 13 species listed in Annexes of the Birds and Habitats Directives.

### Project objectives

The project aims to improve the river habitats and the conservation status of threatened fish species included in the annexes of the Habitats Directive. It foresees extensive river restoration measures including the construction of new side arms and backwaters for the Danube and the creation of a new mouth for the River Pielach. Additional project objectives are to ensure free passage for fish between a tributary (the Lateiner) and the Danube, to designate a nature protection area (Naturschutzgebiet), and to implement river restoration measures at three locations of the River Ybbs.

In general, the newly created habitats are expected to improve the reproduction habitats for several fast flowing waters fish species of the Danube River and its tributaries Pielach and Ybbs. Willow dominated woods will develop along the flooded banks of the restored river sections.

LIFE07 NAT/A/000010  
Mostviertel-Wachau



#### Beneficiary:

##### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

##### Name of beneficiary

Amt der Niederösterreichischen Landesregierung  
Abteilung Wasserbau

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##### Name of contact person

Erhard Kraus

#### Duration of project:

66 months (01/01/2009 – 30/06/2014)

#### Total budget in euro:

6,685,000

#### EC contribution in euro with %:

3,342,500 (50.00%)

## Living space in the estuary stretch of the river Traisen

### Project background

The River Traisen, one of the largest Danube tributaries in Lower Austria, runs for 7.5 km as a regulated, straight-line channel through the Natura 2000 site, Tullnfelder Donau-Auen. This site is the largest alluvial forest in Austria. However, the River Traisen is a heavily modified water body following the construction of the hydropower plant, Altenwörth, in 1976. The regulated river is missing aquatic and terrestrial habitats that are usually found on flood plains. The connection between the river and the surrounding riparian forest is cut off. This situation leads to an unfavourable conservation status for the whole Natura 2000 site. High waters of the regulated Traisen rarely reach the surrounding habitats because of flood protection dams.

### Project objectives

The main project objectives are to:

- Create a new and dynamic river bed;
- Restore large-scale flooding zones to restore and maintain the alluvial forest priority habitat type 91E0 with typical white willow woods;
- Link numerous floodplain waters to the new main river;
- Create a free passage for fish and other water species.

The project is expected to implement its measures on a 12.5 km stretch of the meandering River Traisen with dynamic banks and natural riparian forest areas. It is also expected to create a new running water habitat at mean-flow of some 69 ha, where dynamic riparian development can take place. The project foresees the creation of:

- Various natural river structures in the riparian area between water and land;
- Some 82 ha of frequently flooded areas, which are suitable for the restoration of the priority habitat type of white willow woods (91E0). It will increase this habitat type in the target area from 6% to approximately 100%;
- Stagnant water zones to enrich the water variety of the floodplain by 12 ha;
- Fish passable cross-links on the floodplain area and various existing water bodies with the new River Traisen and the Danube. This will make permanent fish migration possible in the new River Traisen. At least 40 fish species will benefit from this measure, of which 25 species are listed in annex II of the Habitats Directive.

LIFE07 NAT/A/000012

Traisen



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

International enterprise

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Herfried Harreiter

### Duration of project:

72 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2014)

### Total budget in euro:

12,841,632

### EC contribution in euro with %:

5,297,173 (41.25%)

# Restoration of Intermediate Atlantic heathland habitats in Flanders

## Project background

The Bulskampveld, Maldegemveld and other open landscapes of mixed heathlands, nutrient-poor grasslands, forests and ponds, covered large areas of West and East Flanders until the mid 19th century, at which point the land was cleared to make way for agriculture. Some of the land later developed naturally into valuable oak and birch forests but a large part was planted with conifers. Small remnants of heath and *Nardus* grassland can now be found only along forest lanes, in 'non-developed' areas, but most of these areas are not protected nor properly managed. Other problems are the decreasing viability of the seed bank (after years in the ground, under trees or in agricultural fields); isolation and fragmentation of habitats; eutrophication; intensification of land use (agriculture and plantations of mainly larch and pine); artificial hydrology; and invasion by exotic plant species.

## Project objectives

The project aims to restore, develop, expand and preserve the intermediate Atlantic type of the following Annex I habitats in the project area: Atlantic wet heath (4010); European dry heaths (4030) and the priority habitat species-rich *Nardus* grasslands (6230\*); *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* dune grasslands (2330); psammophilous heathlands with *Calluna* and *Genista* species (2310); and fresh standing water habitats (*Nanocyperetalia* 3130). The project also aims to restore and connect a mosaic of these unique heathland habitats (4010, 4030, 6230\*, 2330, 2310) in combination with several woodland habitats (Atlantic acidophilous beech-oak forests [9120], old acidophilous oak woods on sandy plains [9190], and locally *Alnion glutinoso-incanae* [priority habitat 91E0\*]).

Another objective of the project is to increase the quality of woodland habitats (9190, 9120, priority habitat 91E0\*). For all these habitats, the beneficiary wants to introduce sustainable (grazing) management and mechanical management involving local volunteers. To achieve this aim, the project foresees the acquisition of 40 ha of land and large-scale restoration measures in around 200 ha. Measures will include:

- The removal of branchwood and sod-cutting to remove the nutrient-rich top soil and restore the original soil profile of former agricultural land (12ha);

LIFE07 NAT/B/000024  
Vlaams veldgebied



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Natuurpunt Beheer vzw

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### Name of contact person

Joost Dewyspelaere

## Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

## Total budget in euro:

3,602,364

## EC contribution in euro with %:

1,801,182 (50.00 %)

- The removal of soil for pond restoration;
- Eradication of alien invasive species (65 ha).

Fences will be erected and equipment acquired to restore and manage the area.

The large-scale restoration of these Annex I habitats in the project area is expected to lead to an increase of populations of several bird species, such as *Lullula arborea* and *Caprimulgus europaeus*. The socio-economic aims are related to nature-oriented recreation and integration of volunteers in nature management, informing local people and visitors and creating new partnerships as an example of good practice.



## Reconstituting a habitat network for threatened butterflies (*Euphydryas aurinia*, *Lycaena helle*, *Lycaena dispar*) in the Walloon region (Belgium)

### Project background

This project relates to three butterfly species listed in annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive (92/43/CEE): the Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*), the Violet Copper (*Lycaena helle*), and the Large Copper (*Lycaena dispar*). The first species, linked to unfertilised meadow habitats both dry and wet, has suffered a substantial decline in Wallonia and in most of Europe over the past few decades as a result of general fertilisation of meadows. The second is a species that is a relict of cold regions, rare in Western Europe where it is restricted to a few mountain ranges – for example, the Ardennes. However, the populations there are experiencing a strong decline owing to the deterioration of their habitats. The third species appears to be very sparsely distributed throughout Europe, just as it is in Wallonia, where it is restricted to the southernmost extreme of the territory and threatened by the development of farming practices and urbanisation. The main threats to their future survival are:

- isolation and fragmentation of populations;
- decrease of favourable habitat areas;
- direct destruction of individuals resulting from inadequate territorial management.

### Project objectives

The general objective of this project is to restore the three lepidoptera species to a favourable conservation status within the 25 Natura 2000 sites. A key specific objective is to reduce the isolation of surviving populations by recreating interconnected habitat networks, taking into account the needs of each of the species and ensuring their long-term viability objectives.

Expected results:

1. Restoration of a network of favourable habitats for Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*), Violet Copper (*Lycaena helle*) and Large Copper (*Lycaena dispar*) over an approximate area of 540 ha, including:

- A network of 150 ha of open habitats within forests (tracks and clearings);
- 150 ha of removed exotic plantations (conifers and poplars plantations);
- 290 ha restored by semi-deep grinding or topsoil removal and transfer;
- 80 ha of tree removal within meadows invaded by ligneous species;
- 80 ha of abandoned meadows restored by mulching.

LIFE07 NAT/B/000039

PAPILLONS



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Joëlle Huysecom

### Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

### Total budget in euro:

7,120,000

### EC contribution in euro with %:

3,560,000 (50.00 %)

2. Implementation of appropriate and long-term management, particularly by:

- Protecting 160 ha as nature reserves;
- Developing grazing management of 115 ha of wet meadows;
- Purchasing management equipment for professionals and volunteers;
- Developing a network of stakeholders;
- Drawing up a joint AFTER-Life action plan in co-operation with stakeholders.

3. Increased awareness among nature managers and the general public, particularly a result of:

- An attractive project website;
- A presentation brochure (5 000 copies);
- Three editions of a widely-distributed magazine;
- Information and educational boards for visitors;
- A range of discovery activities organised for nature managers and the general public;
- A trilingual layman's report (1 000 copies).

## Dry calcareous and rupicolous grasslands of lower and middle valleys of the Meuse basin

### Project background

This project relates to two priority habitats of Community interest: dry grasslands on calcareous substrates (6210\*) and rupicolous calcareous/basophilic grasslands (6110\*). These habitats are among the most species-rich and the most threatened natural habitats in Belgium. The sites targeted by the project, in the lower and middle valleys of the Meuse basin, are even more remarkable given their location at the northerly limit of the range of thermophilous communities.

These habitats, however, are subject to many threats, and have resulted in the very unfavourable conservation status of the project area. The major threats are: fragmentation; lack of appropriate management; increase in level of soil fertility; climate change; lack of public awareness about biodiversity issues; lack of inter-regional collaboration; insufficient availability of propagules; invasion by exotic species; and pressure from tourism/leisure.

### Project objectives

The project will restore dry grasslands to a favourable conservation status within a project area consisting of 23 Natura 2000 sites in Belgium. The project will focus on four main objectives:

- Recreating a dry grassland network with a sufficient number of individual sites, presenting a sufficient total habitat area that is adequately connected, in order to ensure long-term viability of the typical species of the target habitats;
- Restoring individual units of dry grasslands, by scrub and tree removal/control, restoration mowing, invasive exotic species control, land stripping and hay spreading;
- Setting up recurring management – mostly grazing – within restored sites;
- Raising awareness among the local population about these invaluable natural resources and providing visitor and interpretation facilities at the sites under strong tourism/leisure pressure.

Expected results:

1. The restoration of a network of some 150 ha of dry grasslands.
2. The development of appropriate recurring management structures. This will include placing 50 ha of great biological value under protection through

LIFE07 NAT/B/000043

Hélianthème



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Joëlle Huysecom

### Duration of project:

60 months (01/02/2009 – 31/01/2014)

### Total budget in euro:

4,827,036

### EC contribution in euro with %:

3,620,277 (75.00 %)

- land purchase/lease; and implementing grazing management on some 130 ha of dry grasslands.
3. Increased awareness among locals and visitors of the project area. The project will hold events, erect 77 information boards, distribute 50 500 brochures, make a 20-minute film about the project, create an attractive project website and publish a widely available trilingual layman's report.

# Conservation of imperial eagle and saker falcon in key Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria

## Project background

With its three bio-geographical regions and geographic position, Bulgaria is one of richest countries in Europe in terms of species and habitats. More than 30% of the country's territory is included in the Natura 2000 network. Nevertheless many species and habitats are threatened by rapid development throughout the country. Two such species are the imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) and saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*). Both species are listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive and are classified as endangered. In Bulgaria the two species share the same habitats, open hilly grasslands (mainly for foraging), and are considered as "flagship species" for these areas. Both species severely declined over the period 1970-1990, mainly as a result of habitat loss and degradation, electrocution by overhead power-lines, and direct persecution. Many of the open hilly grasslands were being cultivated, severely affecting the small animal populations associated with these grasslands and in particular the souslik (*Spermophilus citellus*). Currently, there are just 20 known nests of the imperial eagle in Bulgaria and none of the saker falcon.

## Project objectives

The LIFE project aims to:

- Reduce the impact of direct persecution of the imperial eagle and saker falcon;
- Reduce the impact of indirect threats to the imperial eagle and saker falcon;
- Maintain and enhance habitat for the imperial eagle and saker falcon in Natura 2000 sites designated for these species;
- Prevent further loss of imperial eagle and saker falcon nest sites and create new sites;
- Ensure best practice in imperial eagle and saker falcon conservation is mainstreamed into Natura 2000 site management;
- Create positive attitudes to the imperial eagle and saker falcon among key stakeholders.

Expected results:

- The Bulgarian population of saker falcon will be saved from extinction;
- Imperial eagle breeding numbers will be increased by at least 20% (four new occupied territories) in the project area and adjacent regions;
- Average breeding success of imperial eagles in the project area will be maintained at not less than 1.1 fledglings per nesting pair during the project period;

LIFE07 NAT/BG/000068  
BSPB LIFE+ SAVE THE RAPTORS



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/ BirdLife Bulgaria

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### Name of contact person

Nada Tosheva

## Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

## Total budget in euro:

2,045,756

## EC contribution in euro with %:

1,534,317 (75.00%)

- Some 20 ha of key breeding habitat (imperial eagle nest sites) and 50 ha of key feeding habitat (souslik colonies) will be purchased by BSPB and managed for conservation of the imperial eagle and saker falcon;
- The most dangerous power-line pylons within a 5 km radius of all imperial eagle nests will be insulated to prevent accidental electrocution;
- Key settlement areas of the imperial eagle in Bulgaria will be identified and basic conservation measures for them undertaken;
- Species action plans for the imperial eagle and saker falcon will be approved by the Bulgarian government, thus ensuring sustainability of the conservation of both species;
- A total area of 5 ha (10 plots) of imperial eagle breeding habitat (riverine forest with poplar trees) will be restored;
- Thirty artificial nests for imperial eagle and 80 artificial nests for saker falcon will be installed;
- At least six local support groups will be established to assist conservation action for the imperial eagle and saker falcon.

## Re-establishing a natural water flow level in the river system “Mølleåen”

### Project background

Four Natura 2000 sites are located within the Mølleåen river system situated just north of Copenhagen. The four Natura 2000 sites of the river system constituting the project area have a unique quality of regional, national and European importance: the river system contains 16 Annex I Habitat Directive listed species, of which five are prioritised by the Community, and six Annex II and/or IV species. However, the conservation status for several habitat types and species of Community importance is considered unfavourable or uncertain.

### Project objectives

The overall main objective is to contribute to a favourable conservation status of European river systems by demonstrating how to re-establish a natural water flow level by transporting sufficiently treated wastewater back to the river ecosystem. This demonstration project will document results and capture lessons learned. It will disseminate this valuable information to help address the challenge of re-establishing a natural flow regime in other European river systems near urban areas.

The specific objective of this demonstration project is to implement a concerted conservation action plan to restore and maintain a favourable conservation status of selected habitat types and species of the four Natura 2000 sites within the Mølleåen river ecosystem. The main aim will be to re-establish a natural water flow level of the river ecosystem to improve the conservation status of several habitat types and species. The other objectives are to address the threats of eutrophication, watercourse modification and encroachment. Finally, the project also aims to improve the conditions of the biodiversity in the project area in order to contribute to halting the loss of biodiversity.

LIFE07 NAT/DK/000100  
REFLOW



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

National authority

#### Name of beneficiary

Danish Forest and Nature Agency

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#### Name of contact person

Ida Dahl-Nielsen

### Duration of project:

30 months (01/01/2009 – 30/06/2011)

### Total budget in euro:

4,669,642

### EC contribution in euro with %:

2,334,821 (50.00%)

## Saving life in meanders and oxbow lakes of Emajõgi River on Alam-Pedja NATURA2000 area

### Project background

The Alam-Pedja Natura 2000 area is situated by the Emajõgi river in central Estonia and includes numerous oxbow lakes and meanders. All species of Estonian freshwater fish have been found in this area and for *Aspius aspius*, *Cobitis taenia* and *Misgurnus fossilis* this is the key habitat in Estonia. For the targeted species, additional conservation activities, appropriate planning and implementation of protection measures (action plans, guidelines) are necessary to guarantee their good conservation status.

### Project objectives

The project's main objectives are to:

- Guarantee the habitat preservation and population stability (or population increase) of European conservation priority fish species *Aspius aspius*, *Cobitis taenia*, *Misgurnus fossilis* and *Cottus gobio* in the Alam-Pedja Natura 2000 area;
- Arrange the management and preservation of *Aspius aspius*, *Cobitis taenia*, *Misgurnus fossilis* and *Cottus gobio* habitats/spawning grounds in accordance with the aims and priorities of planned protection measures;
- Promote public awareness of the habitat requirements and conservation needs of European conservation priority fish species and encourage more wildlife-friendly attitudes;
- Develop international cooperation in order to facilitate *Aspius aspius*, *Cobitis taenia*, *Misgurnus fossilis* and *Cottus gobio* conservation including public education initiatives;
- Elaborate the relevant species and habitat protection measures in order to assist the Ministry of the Environment's preservation of *Aspius aspius*, *Cobitis taenia*, *Misgurnus fossilis* and *Cottus gobio* habitats in Estonian Natura 2000 rivers;
- Promote the management and preservation of Natura 2000 biotopes (floodplains, river habitats, etc) in the Alam-Pedja Natura 2000 area to guarantee the presence and quality of spawning grounds for *Aspius aspius*, *Cobitis taenia*, *Misgurnus fossilis* and *Cottus gobio*.

Expected results:

- Estimate the quantity (extent of degraded area) and quality (identification of degradation causes and possible restoration prospects) of target species spawning grounds;
- Development of a spawning grounds register (GIS-based application) for *Aspius aspius*, *Misgurnus fossilis* and *Cottus gobio*;

LIFE07 NAT/EE/000120  
HAPPYFISH



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Meelis Tambets

### Duration of project:

46 months (01/02/2009 – 30/11/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

1,157,546

### EC contribution in euro with %:

573,615 (49.55 %)

- The creation of monitoring guidelines and guidelines for drawing up management plans for aquatic habitats. These will be used in a national monitoring programme and for water management plans;
- Reintroduction of 50 000 one-summer-old fry of the *Aspius aspius* into the Emajõgi river;
- Analysis of reintroduction principles for endangered fish species in Estonian conditions;
- A management plan for the Alam-Pedja Natura 2000 area to be partially implemented by reconnecting 10 meanders with a total length of some 17 km of the river;
- Improvement of 50 ha of spawning grounds (dependent on the water level in the river);
- Creation of a website on endangered fish species and their habitats;
- Publication of project booklets (500 copies in Estonian and 200 in English);
- Four study camps to take place;
- Verification of monitoring indicators and assessment of the efficiency of protection measures.

# Inventories and planning for the marine Natura 2000 network in Finland

## Project background

Marine habitats have greatly regressed in the Baltic Sea due to extensive eutrophication and the influence of increased amounts of toxic substances. The Finnish exclusive economic zone (EEZ) was established recently, after the designation of the Natura 2000 network, and only a few preliminary surveys of underwater habitat types have been made in these areas. Key marine habitat types need to be investigated to assist compliance with the Habitats Directive.

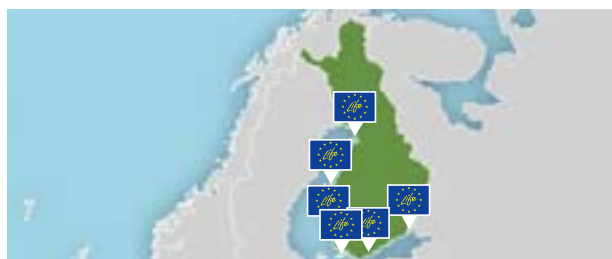
## Project objectives

The LIFE project aims to produce a coherent overview of the Habitats Directive marine habitat types in the target areas through field inventories. Project work will cover up to 1 000 km<sup>2</sup> and involve biological analysis of some 20 000 inventory points. Findings will be translated into habitat maps and GIS models featuring the sea floor and other habitat features.

Results will be used to inform the Ministry of the Environment vis-à-vis possible needs to extend the marine Natura 2000 network. Other anticipated outcomes include: an Internet-based information service providing marine spatial data for experts and the general public; an increase in the number of experts on marine nature in the Northern Baltic Sea; productive national and international networks of excellence in the field of marine nature survey; increased cooperation between these networks and experts; and improved awareness of Finnish marine nature.

Project sustainability is expected to be supported by continuing marine survey work with the Finnish Inventory Programme for the Underwater Marine Environment (VELMU).

LIFE07 NAT/FIN/000151  
FINMARINET



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

Research institution

### Name of beneficiary

Suomen ympäristökeskus

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### Name of contact person

Paisi Laihonen

## Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

## Total budget in euro:

3,408,950

## EC contribution in euro with %:

1,704,315 (50.00 %)

# Conservation, restoration and reconstitution of the semi-xerophilic habitats of the “massif de la Montagne” in Réunion

## Project background

Réunion is classified as one of the world's top 25 hotspots for land biodiversity. The semi-xerophilous (semi-dry, drought loving) habitats represent some of the most remarkable habitats of the island. Now completely disappeared from other areas of the Mascareignes, today these habitats are estimated to cover only 1% of their original area (56 800 ha) on Reunion. These last relics are subject to significant natural and man-made threats and are present today only in degraded form and in inaccessible areas (gullies and cliffs).

## Project objectives

The Massif de la Montagne, with approximately 255 ha of more or less sub-standard semi-xerophilous habitats, constitutes one of the final incidences of this type of vegetation on Réunion. With a view to assuring the ecological viability of these habitats, the LIFE project plans to:

- Restore and preserve approximately 30 ha of relic-type habitat, undergoing high anthropogenic and natural pressures, in order to ensure its ecological functionality;
- Restore 9 ha of unique semi-xerophilous habitats on Réunion to its original condition. This reconstituted area located on a small plateau between two gullies and resting on existing relic areas, will also create the possibility of restoring an ecological corridor;
- Combat the erosion of biodiversity by preserving the unique species sheltered by these habitats through the reinforcement of rare vegetation and protected species including some that face extinction, while avoiding the risk of genetic pollution. The project expects to reinforce the populations of at least 22 rare and endangered species;
- Define innovative protocols for the restoration and the reconstitution of semi-xerophilous habitats on Réunion that can be transferred to similar projects in the Southwest Indian Ocean area;
- Acquire detailed knowledge of the semi-xerophilous habitats;
- Exchange, share, raise awareness and communicate the importance of biodiversity and especially the conservation of this type of habitat. The project aims to create lasting networks for technical and scientific exchange for people working to preserve and restore semi-xerophilous habitats.

LIFE07 NAT/F/000188  
COREXERUN



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

### Name of beneficiary

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### Name of contact person

Olivier Robinet

## Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

## Total budget in euro:

2,571,548

## EC contribution in euro with %:

1,284,699 (50.00%)

# Creating an experimental and demonstrative network of lagoon and dune Natura 2000 sites on the mediterranean coastline of Languedoc-Roussillon

## Project background

The coastline of Languedoc-Roussillon is low, consisting of wetlands that cover some 40 000 ha. Along this coastline, a great number of Natura 2000 sites have a similar natural heritage: the same types of lagoon habitats, perilagoons and dunes of Community interest and the same species related to these habitats.

## Project objectives

The overall objective is to create a network of five lagoon and dune Natura 2000 sites. Such a network and other actions are expected to improve the management of each site.

The specific objectives are to:

- Directly improve the state of conservation of lagoon, perilagoon and dune habitats of Community interest, and indirectly improve the state of conservation of the species associated with these habitats. This will be done through restoration works, measures against invasive species and the management of human activities;
- Assess the effectiveness and the impact of these actions;
- Support the long-term protection of these habitats by launching a public awareness campaign;
- Share the results of the project.

LIFE07 NAT/F/000193

LAG'Nature



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

### Name of beneficiary

Conservatoire des Espaces Naturels du Languedoc-Roussillon

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### Name of contact person

Claudie Houssard

## Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

## Total budget in euro:

2,201,834

## EC contribution in euro with %:

1,100,915 (50.00%)



# Conservation and development of the steppe grasslands in Thuringia

## Project background

The project area comprises 13 sub-areas, which are part of designated Natura 2000 sites. These areas are situated in the Thuringian basin (Thüringer Becken), with hills of clay, gypsum and the Triassic limestone substratum (Keuper, Muschelkalk) and in the north-eastern part of the area from metalliferous Permian strata. Locally there are Pleistocene loess and alluvial sediments. The climate of all sub-areas is dry-warm (sub-continental/continental); the region is one of the driest in Germany.

This region harbours the main distribution of the sub-Pannonian steppe grasslands of Germany that are narrowly interspersed with other dry grassland types. The sub-Pannonian steppes and dry grasslands provide extreme habitat conditions, which result from the dry climate, the poor development of soil and the location's barren setting. They offer a habitat for many highly specialised animal and plant species and are characterised by high biodiversity. Among them numerous species are distributed, mainly in Mediterranean and Eastern areas; their populations in the Thuringian basin display the western range margin and are partially rated as national or European rarities.

The sub-Pannonian steppes and dry grasslands are home to botanical and animal treasures, including rare plant species such as stem-less milkvetch (*Astragalus exscapus*), viper's grass (*Scorzonera purpurea*), woolly milkvetch (*Oxytropis pilosa*), pheasant's eye (*Adonis vernalis*) and toothed orchid (*Orchis tridentata*), the butterfly *Chazara briseis*, the blue-winged grasshopper (*Oedipoda caerulescens*) and the land snail (*Trochoidea geyeri*).

## Project objectives

The project aims at the long-term conservation, development and enlargement of the Sub Pannonian steppe grasslands (\*6240), semi-dry grasslands and scrubland areas on calcareous substrates (order Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites \*6210) and Rupicolous calcareous or basophil grasslands of the alliance Alysso-Sedion albi (\*6110) of Thuringia, all of which are of nationwide importance.

Further aims of the project are the improvement of transhumance, restoration of habitat corridors, specific management actions for the protection of endangered species and promotion of acceptance of the Natura 2000 programme.

LIFE07 NAT/D/000213  
Steppenrasen Thüringens



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

National authority

#### Name of beneficiary

Thüringer Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, Naturschutz und Umwelt

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#### Name of contact person

Stephan Pfützenreuter

### Duration of project:

72 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2014)

### Total budget in euro:

4,999,444

### EC contribution in euro with %:

3,749,583 (75.00%)

The implementation of the project will take place over six years. It could serve as a model and give a practical boost to steppe grasslands conservation in Germany and some neighbouring countries. Management plans are being prepared for every project area and will include a grazing concept. The purchase of 220 ha has been foreseen.

The project will improve the sheep-farming infrastructure of the project areas. It is the intention that land users will become long-term partners for biotope management in the project areas, and comprehensive public relations activities will inform the public about the importance of the target habitats and the Natura 2000 network.

The management will be closely monitored and indicator species evaluated.

At the end of the project the restored steppe and dry grasslands will be protected through long-term management measures.

## Rehabilitation of streams in the "Arnsberger Wald"

### Project background

The forested area, Arnsberger Wald, is part of the Nordsauerländer uplands and located between the river Möhne and the Möhne reservoir in the north; and the Ruhr valley in the south. The large, continuous forest is structured by an extensive net of small and medium-sized streams. As a result of changes in forestry policy in the 19th century, there are today uniform spruce populations on about half of the sites that would be typical for beech, oak and alder. Within the project area, four areas are designated as Natura 2000 sites.

### Project objectives

The proposed project will allow the development of natural habitat types in the streams and stream valleys of the four sites. The project area spans 1 300 ha including 71 ha not yet included in the Natura 2000 sites.

The overall objectives of the project are to:

- Develop near natural habitat types in the stream valleys;
- Create a near natural water regime in the stream valleys;
- Establish near-natural stream dynamics;
- Increase structural diversity of the streams;
- Restore the linear connectivity in the streams;
- Improve the water regime of bog woodland.

The project foresees the extension of the priority habitat type "residual alluvial forests" (91EO) and habitat type "streams with aquatic vegetation" (3260) in the streams and stream valleys and the improvement of the water regime of "bog woodland" (91DO).

Forestry measures are planned on some 150 ha. Approximately 12 km of streams will be subject to hydraulic engineering measures. Through the combination of these two measures, a 33 km stretch of stream valleys will be comprehensively developed.

The rehabilitated streams will serve as network corridors, reaching beyond the borders of the project area into other areas of the Natura 2000 network. Aquatic species such as the bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) and brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*) will benefit from the project, as will the bird species, kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) and black stork (*Ciconia nigra*).

LIFE07 NAT/D/000214  
Bachtäler Arnsberger Wald



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Birgit Beckers

### Duration of project:

63 months (02/01/2009 – 31/03/2014)

### Total budget in euro:

1,110,816

### EC contribution in euro with %:

555,408 (50.00%)

Valuable species living in streams and wetlands will also benefit from the project including the golden-ringed dragonflies (*Cordulegaster boltonii* and *Cordulegaster bidentata*) and the very rare carabid beetle (*Carabus nodulosus*).

The measures have been planned on public land and have already been agreed with the relevant public stakeholders.

# Hillsides and Floodplains in the Danube valley between Neustadt and Bad Abbach (DONAU KEH)

## Project background

The (semi-)natural habitats in the Natura 2000 areas of the Danube valley in the County of Kelheim cover an area of 2 768 ha and belong to the pan-European Ecological Network along the Danube River. Of particular importance is the direct neighbourhood of dry slope forests and wet alluvial sites along the Danube banks.

The water level of the Danube is not regulated in this river section, and the natural flood dynamic allowed an alluvial forest to develop. In the southern part of the project area are cohesive white willow alluvial forests (91EO\*) and remains of mixed oak elm ash forests as well as oak-hornbeam forests (91FO, 9160).

Characteristic bird species of alluvial forests are breeding in the area, including *Ficedula albicollis* and *Picus canus*. Semi-natural water habitats such as 3270, 3150 and 3260 can be found in old arms and creeks, providing excellent conditions for *Zingel streber*, *Gymnocephalus schraetser* and *Zingel zingel*, as well as for *Rutilus pigus*, *Aspius aspius* and *Rhodeus sericeus amarus*. Temporary ponds are spawning habitats for *Bombina variegata*, *Buto viridis* and *Hyla arborea*.

## Project objectives

The proposed LIFE+ Nature project will help set up an ecological network along the Danube consisting of woodlands as well as of dry calcareous sites of high conservation value. The preservation of the biodiversity of these habitats is one of the main objectives of the project. Moreover, the project will demonstrate how to establish a coherent Natura 2000 network of closely connected habitats and their typical species.

The project aims to preserve 13 habitat types (including five priority habitats); and 10 species (including two priority species) included in the annexes of the Habitats Directive, and to improve their conservation status. Furthermore, the improvement of habitats will support populations of 16 bird species included in Annex I of the Birds Directive.

In the short term, the project is expected to introduce ecological forestry management practices in an area of 230 ha (including some 17 ha of purchased plots). In the medium and long-term, it foresees the creation of a network of natural succession woodlands on an area of nearly 45 km along the hillsides of the Danube and the Altmühl River with trees left to mature and rot.

LIFE07 NAT/D/000225  
DONAUKEH



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Harald Lippert

### Duration of project:

54 months (01/01/2009 – 30/06/2013)

### Total budget in euro:

829,500

### EC contribution in euro with %:

414,750 (50.00%)

The project will also aim to:

- Optimise some 5 ha of calcareous dry grasslands with extensive stands of orchids (habitat type 6210) and develop approximately 5 ha calcareous dry grasslands and species-rich shoulders;
- Secure and optimise (through clearing) calcareous grasslands (habitat type 6110\*), calcareous screes (habitat type 8160\*) and rocky slopes (habitat type 8210) in an area of some 3 ha between Kelheim and Matting;
- Create a network of sites on dry soils of high conservation value in an area of some 42 km along the hillsides of the Danube;
- Ensure the long-term conservation of potential breeding sites that will preserve the local populations of *Bubo bubo* and *Falco peregrinus*;
- Create thorny hedges and species-rich edges of 5 km length, which will benefit the populations of *Lanius collurio* and *Sylvia communis* and improve the conservation status of *Euplagia quadripunctaria*;
- Create 46 complexes of small water bodies, and stabilise and greatly increase the populations of *Bombina variegata*

# Habitat optimisation in a local breeding population of Black-tailed Godwits in the NATURA 2000 site “NSG Hetter-Millinger Bruch, mit Erweiterung”

## Project background

The Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Hetter-Millinger Bruch, is part of the Special Protection Area (SPA) Unterer Niederrhein, an area consisting of 21 000 ha. It is one of the largest and most important breeding, roosting and wintering sites in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). The project area covers 665 ha and comprises up to 20% of the black-tailed godwit's breeding population in NRW. Some 30 bird species of European interest as listed in appendix I and article IV of the Birds Directive inhabit the nature protection site Hetter-Millinger Bruch.

Bird species adapted to wetland habitats breed in the projected site, including shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), garganey (*Anas querquedula*), common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), redshank (*Tringa tetanus*), Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*) and Eurasian Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). Numbers of these breeding meadow birds and of resting birds, such as the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and the golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) are declining rapidly. This decline is caused by extreme changes in land-use practice, in particular intensification of agriculture. Draining leads to the loss of shallow waters in the grassland, winter flooding and high groundwater levels. Moreover, as a result of these impacts, mowing is beginning earlier in the year, the use of fertilisers is increasing, and the number of livestock in the fields is falling.

## Project objectives

The project aims to stop and reverse the negative trend of breeding bird populations and to improve food supply, especially for waders and meadow birds. An integrated water and farming management plan will be drawn up and implemented to optimise the meadow area within the project site. Land will be purchased to enable the creation of an area of connected grassland uninterrupted by private property.

The specific objectives are to:

- Purchase 21ha of grassland in the project area;
- Implement a system of connected ditches that optimises the water level within the breeding area of the black-tailed godwits;
- Remove 1 km of old mud deposits close to the banks of the Landwehr ditch;
- Optimise at least 300 m of banks of ditches, 10 single patches of grassland and 10 shallow depressions of

LIFE07 NAT/D/000232  
Limosa-Habitat Hetter



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

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### Name of contact person

Susanne Klostermann

## Duration of project:

66 months (01/01/2009 – 30/06/2014)

## Total budget in euro:

1,900,917

## EC contribution in euro with %:

950,458 (50.00%)

land that contain water when the groundwater-level is high and serve as a food reservoir until late spring;

- Ecologically optimise 13 shallow water pools in the grassland;
- Increase the number of breeding territories;
- Increase the number of successful breeders with juveniles;
- Re-colonise formerly occupied sites with black-tailed godwits (and other meadow birds);
- Prolong the time black-tailed godwits dwell at breeding sites.

## Expected results:

- Construction of shallow land depressions and optimisation of small water pools in the grassland;
- Removal of muddy wall close to the banks of Landwehr to improve food availability in the soil;
- Lowering of the banks of the Landwehr and construction of a corresponding circle of ditches to increase the area of grasslands optimised for meadow birds with the aim of extending breeding sites for Black-tailed Godwits south- and westwards;
- Purchase of 21 ha of wet meadows.

# Restoration of habitats in the Federsee bog (ReHa Federseemoor)

## Project background

The Federsee bog is situated in the district of Biberach in Baden-Württemberg. It covers an area of 2 920 ha designated as a Natura 2000 site (SPA and SCI.) The Federsee bog is the largest bog in south-west Germany and includes the following habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive: Molinia meadows on chalk and clay (6410), eutrophic tall herbs (6430), alkaline fens (7230), raised bogs suitable for restoration (7120), transition mires (7140), and bog woodland (\*91DO). It is also home to large populations of rare animal and plant species (e.g. the Annex II species: *Misgurnus fossilis*, *Cobitis taenia*, *Vertigo angustior*, *Vertigo geyerii*, *Euphydryas aurinia*, *Bombina variegata*, *Triturus cristatus* and *Liparis loeselii*, as well as ice-age relics such as *Pedicularis sceptrum-carolinum*, *Betula humilis*, *Formica uralensis*, *Limnephilus dispar* and *Thiasophila bercionis*).

The habitats are mostly healthy. On larger bog areas, however, there are considerable deficiencies caused by draining and intensive exploitation.

## Project objectives

The project focuses on the following objectives:

- Withdrawal of the gliding field situated in the middle of the bog and the Natura 2000 site, thereby eliminating a key factor disturbing water balance, valuable habitats and rare animal and plant species on a large scale;
- Restoration and re-irrigation of drained and intensively used meadows and establishment of valuable habitats such as alkaline fens, eutrophic tall herbs, Molinia meadows on chalk and clay, raised bogs and transition mires and bogwood land;
- Expansion and re-establishment of sites with endangered plants;
- Efforts to prevent the spread of invasive alien species in the Federsee bog;
- Improving the nature reserve scenery in the Federsee bog;
- Targeted measures for landscape preservation and development;
- Visitor guidance and awareness-raising activities.

Eliminating the existing gliding field will make it possible to directly restore an area of some 10 ha and to transform it into extensively used grassland.

LIFE07 NAT/D/000233  
ReHa Federseemoor



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

#### Name of beneficiary

Regierungspräsidium Tübingen

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#### Name of contact person

Stefan Schwab

### Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

1,304,960

### EC contribution in euro with %:

652,480 (50.00%)

In the medium- and long-run, it will be possible to re-irrigate some 100 ha of bogwood land, alkaline fens, Molinia meadows on chalk and clay and raised bogs suitable for restoration. Above all various bird species such as those breeding on meadows will benefit from the end of air and tourist traffic.

The registration of the 570-ha Steinhauser Ried nature reserve will see all of the Federsee bog under protection. This will establish a basis for the preservation of the area and its development according to the given objectives. Machinery and equipment will be acquired to implement rural preservation measures on wet areas that are difficult to work on. In the northern Federsee reeds a look-out tower will be an attractive destination for visitors that will inform them of the need to protect nature. The good views from this tower will also lessen the impact of visitors on the sites by reducing the need to venture onto the land.

# Protection of Wild Birds in Traditional Orchards of the Central Swabian Alb Foothills and the Central Valley of the Rems River

## Project background

For centuries orchards have been grown on grasslands. As well as containing fruit trees of varying ages, orchards often contain old trees with hollows that serve as breeding sites and living places for bats and different bird species, such as the Eurasian wryneck, the grey-headed woodpecker and the collared flycatcher. Orchards are generally managed in an environmentally friendly way without using pesticides. As a result, trophic levels are generally low. Furthermore, orchards have many structures, borders and other habitats that provide a living place for insects that form the diet of birds, bats and other mammals. For historic and cultural reasons, most orchards are privately owned or financed by municipalities.

Urbanisation, especially after the Second World War, has led to the disappearance of a vast proportion of these important habitats. Decreasing agricultural use and population shifts threaten the future of the remaining areas. The traditional orchards in the foothills of the Swabian Alb and in the Rems and Murr river valleys are among the largest connected orchards in central Europe. However, changing use has left partly destroyed, elderly trees in which the stand is lost and the breeding sites for birds disappear.

## Project objectives

The objective of the project is the conservation of the bird species collared flycatcher, Eurasian wryneck, woodchat shrike, grey-headed woodpecker, red-backed shrike and the corresponding biocenosis of the traditional orchards by means of sustainable and long-term revitalisation of the habitats and habitat requisites (fruit trees).

The threat to these bird species is closely linked to the economic and social conditions of the traditional orchards. The dramatic decrease of orchard areas requires a multi-layered strategy: Safeguarding existing habitats and integrating the objectives for protecting the environment, especially the objectives of Natura 2000, in the management and conservation of the remaining orchards is very important.

In order to conserve the targeted bird species, it is necessary to conserve and develop the overall "traditional orchard" habitat in a sustainable way, by means of a targeted focus on habitat trees in large areas and the creation of orchards that can be used well into the future. Furthermore, alternate habitat models will be created, e.g. lightly forested semi-natural landscapes for species mentioned in the Birds Directive. The multi-layered approach is supported by measures to simplify the manage-

LIFE07 NAT/D/000236  
Streuobstwiese Albvorland



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

### Name of beneficiary

Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart

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### Name of contact person

Heike Seehofer

## Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

## Total budget in euro:

5,183,264

## EC contribution in euro with %:

2,591,632 (50.00%)

ment of the orchards, by the communication of Natura 2000 and by further financial means.

## Expected results:

The combined effect of all actions will contribute to the conservation of the target species. Taking place on 245 ha of municipal orchards, the project will benefit some 5 900 habitat trees and habitat requirements for the target species (collared flycatcher, Eurasian wryneck, woodchat shrike, grey-headed woodpecker and red-backed shrike). Some 4 000 trees will be managed on privately-owned land. After the project, the actions will be replaced by corresponding measures within the "ecological account" or by standardised processes within the agro-environmental programmes of the region of Baden-Württemberg.

By creating lightly forested semi-natural landscapes on 55 ha, new habitats for the target species will develop. The municipalities are very interested in this measure and will continue the strategy after the end of the project. For this reason, knowledge of landscape conservation and protection will be widely transferred.

## Concrete Conservation Actions for the Mediterranean Shag and Audouin's gull in Greece including the inventory of relevant marine IBAs

### Project background

Seabird species in the Mediterranean are subject to different kinds of threats. Important common issues concern: insufficient knowledge and protection of seabirds in their marine environment; predation by introduced mammals, such as rats and cats; predation or competition for food and habitat with other bird species, such as the Yellow-legged gull (*Larus michaellis*); accidental capture and mortality by fishing activities, such as long-lining and gill netting; loss of breeding habitat quality; risk of oil spills and chemical pollution; and over-fishing of food sources.

### Project objectives

This LIFE project focuses on improving the conservation status of the Mediterranean shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*) and the Andouin's gull (*Larus andouinii*) in Greece.

Key project objectives include reducing threats from: predation; gull competition; and commercial fishing (which can cause accidental bird fatalities). Another objective is the identification of marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in order to promote their protection as a necessary step to avoid habitat loss and degradation. These LIFE actions aim to assist the implementation of the Birds Directive in the marine environment, as well as address priorities identified in both EU legislation and international action plans.

Expected results include:

- Improved breeding performance of the national population of the Mediterranean Shag by between 20 and 25%; and
- Improved breeding performance of the Andouin's Gull national population by between 10 and 15%.

These results will be achieved by project actions that help to:

- Completely remove all rats from five SPA island complexes;
- Modify fishing gear and/or fishing regulations to reduce accidental trapping problems; and
- Improve knowledge about control methods for the Yellow-legged gull in Greece.

Improving public awareness will also be prioritised and the LIFE project outcomes anticipate creating employ-

LIFE07 NAT/GR/000285  
ConShagAudMIBAGR



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Anastasios Dimalexis

### Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

2,357,922

### EC contribution in euro with %:

1,768,442 (75.00 %)

ment through a new marine IBAs European coordinator position. This job will have a remit that includes supporting effective networking between BirdLife International partners dealing with Marine IBAs and seabird protection in Europe.

## Restoration of *Pinus nigra* forests on Mount parnonas (GR2520006) through a structured approach

### Project background

The target black pine (*Pinus nigra*) habitat type consists of 3 845 ha, representing 6.9% of the total area of the site. Until the forest fires of 2007, the habitat type was consistently assessed as having excellent conservation status. Its status owed much to the sustainable forestry management by the Forest Service of Sparti since 1955. The prevailing silvicultural form of the forest is stratified per tree, a form that maintains a diverse forest landscape. These forests have unusually large populations of warblers, flycatchers and tits owing to the mild winters and the small period in which the forests are covered with snow.

The devastating wildfires that burst out in summer 2007 throughout Greece, but mainly in the Peloponnese, burnt huge areas of natural vegetation and affected thousands of people. They destroyed nearly all the areas where the target habitat type is found on the south of Mount Parnonas (426.5 ha in total). Some black pine forests were growing on very poor soils on calcareous substrate.

Black pine trees do not have serotinous cones (in which seed release is triggered by fire), and, because of the release of seeds in the winter, do not maintain a seed bank when summer wildfires occur. For this reason, this species has a very low potential for regeneration following wildfires.

### Project objectives

The project objectives are:

- The demonstration of the application of a structured approach to restore burnt areas of the priority habitat type, Mediterranean pine forests with endemic black pine;
- The restoration of 290 ha of the priority habitat type in the SCI GR2520006 "Oros Parnonas (kai periochi Malevis)".

The structured approach will be widely publicised and is applicable to other restoration activities throughout Greece and the Mediterranean.

LIFE07 NAT/GR/000286  
PINUS



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

The Goulandris Natural History Museum/ Greek Biotope Wetland Centre

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#### Name of contact person

Vasiliki Tsiaousi

### Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

3,113,233

### EC contribution in euro with %:

2,328,233 (74.79 %)



# Demonstration of Conservation Actions for *Ursus arctos*\* and habitat type 9530\* in Northern Pindos N.P., Grevena Prefecture, Greece

## Project background

The minimum estimated population size of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in the project site (Pindos National Park, Natura 2000 GR1310003) is five individuals. The main threats to the species include: mortality as a result of human activities; habitat degradation and loss; inadequate level of information and awareness in specific target groups; and uncontrolled influx of visitors in key areas. The most important habitat type (also in terms of surface occupation) in the project site is 9530\* (Sub-) Mediterranean pine forests with endemic black pine, which covers an important area of some 3 670 ha. This habitat type constitutes the main habitat for the resident bear sub-population. However, it is threatened by criminal and/or accidental forest fires, one-dimensional forestry management plans and over-exploitation based on inappropriate sivilcultural practices.

## Project objectives

- Improvement of 60 ha of priority forest habitat type 9530\* conservation status, through sustainable and innovative management practices in favour of global biodiversity levels and brown bear conservation status in the project area;
- Improvement of brown bear conservation status in terms of habitat condition and population trends by ensuring that core bear habitat units within the project area are undisturbed and by maintaining human-related mortality at a sustainable level;
- Improvement of the awareness level of specific groups of the added values of both the targeted species and related habitat type;
- Acquisition of know-how by all relevant local authorities on concrete monitoring and management tools dealing with the conservation and management of the species and habitat type targeted by the project;
- Introduction of guard dogs;
- Sustainable management of visitors to the national park.

### Expected results:

- Maintenance of the bear population of the project area at present viable levels;
- Maintenance of human caused bear mortality at less than 4% of the estimated minimum bear population of the project area. Maintenance of the number of the yearly reproductive females at no less than 10-12% of the minimum estimated bear population in the targeted areas (20 individuals within the SCI's targeted

LIFE07 NAT/GR/000291  
PINDOS/GREVENA



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

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### Name of contact person

Christos Georgiadis

## Duration of project:

42 months (01/01/2009 – 30/06/2012)

## Total budget in euro:

1,153,561

## EC contribution in euro with %:

865,170 (75.00 %)

by the project and 45 individuals in the area targeted by the project);

- Maintenance of between 10-15% of bear habitat area, within the pilot sectors of 9530\*, undisturbed from intensive sivilcultural practices and related infrastructure;
- Improvement of the target habitat type and species monitoring system as well as the forest road network control by the competent management authorities;
- Promotion of amendments in the sustainable management of 9530\* forests in terms of innovative sivilcultural practices by the Forestry Service;
- Improvement in detection and neutralisation mechanisms for criminal and/or accidental forest fires in habitat type 9530\*;
- Improvement of the information and awareness level of specific target groups;
- Control of visitor influx on well-defined itineraries based upon criteria drawn by estimation of carrying capacity and determination of the targeted species and habitat types' conservation needs;
- Promotion of the values of volunteering for nature conservation goals.

# Actions for the conservation of coastal dunes with *Juniperus* spp. in Crete and the South Aegean (Greece)

## Project background

Coastal dunes with *Juniperus* spp. (different species of juniper) are a priority habitat (code 2250\*) listed in the Habitats Directive. In Greece no conservation measures have been taken for the protection and restoration of this threatened habitat. The project sites have been selected because of their high ecological significance; the serious threats that demand an immediate response; their geographical distribution; and their suitability for demonstration actions. They represent the full range of habitat characteristics and threats found in all the habitat's locations in Greece.

## Project objectives

The project aims to promote and enable the long-term conservation of coastal dune habitats with *Juniperus* spp. in Greece.

Its specific aims are to:

- Contribute to the consolidation and dissemination of a knowledge base for the protection, restoration, monitoring and evaluation of coastal dunes with *Juniperus* spp. habitats in Greece;
- Understand, quantify and halt natural and anthropogenic threats that contribute to the long-term degradation of this habitat;
- Design and implement actions for the protection and long-term restoration of coastal dunes with *Juniperus* spp. habitats;
- Provide support for better environmental governance in Natura 2000 sites through stakeholder involvement and training.

Expected results:

At the national level, the project is expected to communicate knowledge of:

- The dune system and plant communities associated with *Juniperus* spp. along with population and structure information;
- The effect of anthropogenic threats on the habitat's ecological condition;
- Effective participation and governance methods for habitat conservation;
- Effective monitoring and conservation methods through the drawing up of habitat protection and restoration guidelines and monitoring protocols.

LIFE07 NAT/GR/000296  
JUNICOAST



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

Research institution

### Name of beneficiary

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### Name of contact person

Dany Ghosn

## Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

## Total budget in euro:

1,501,210

## EC contribution in euro with %:

1,125,908 (75.00%)

In Crete, the project is expected to improve the conservation status of the habitats and lessen the threats to their conservation through a series of actions, which will result in the following:

- Mapped, demarcated and 'cleaned' habitat areas that are protected from fire risks;
- Enhanced regeneration of Juniper species;
- In-situ and ex-situ conservation of *Juniperus* spp. and other important species found in the habitat;
- 'Primary/front' dune restoration;
- Minimisation of threats and negative impacts.

The long term sustainability of the project results will be ensured through the creation of European, national and local networks, as well as through after-LIFE conservation and communication plans.

## Conservation of alluvial habitats of community interest on the Szabadság Island and side channel in Béda-Karapancsa pSCI

### Project background

Within Hungary, up to 94% of the country's open floodplains on large rivers have been lost since the middle of the 19th Century. Alluvial forests in remaining floodplains are under considerable pressure all along the Danube, as well as on other rivers in Hungary, such as the Tisza, Drava, and Raba.

At present, there are very few opportunities to conserve these alluvial forests in an undisturbed condition for the long term. This is in part due to the forest management practices that are widely used on open floodplains. However, Szabadság Island is one of the very rare island-side channel systems in the Lower-Danube region of Hungary that provides potential for conservation measures in its alluvial habitats. The island is naturally isolated from the surrounding land by the river. This increases its utility as a pilot area for experimental conservation management measures, since the island can be 'left alone' after the initial habitat restoration works, and this should allow natural processes to take over on the site.

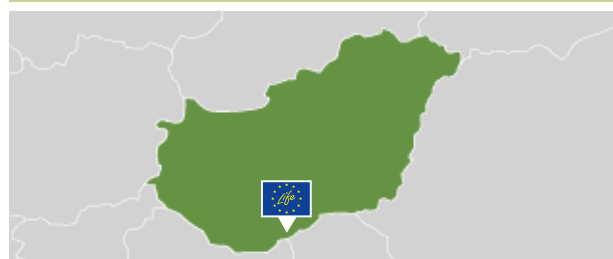
### Project objectives

The LIFE project's main objective is to demonstrate a long-term, sustainable conservation model for white willow (*Salix alba*) alluvial forests in Hungary. A core aim is to eliminate or mitigate the factors that threaten the habitats of Community interest.

Results are expected to: clear the project area at Szabadság Island of invasive species and non-native tree plantations; and restore the appropriate water flow in the side channel in order to improve water availability for white willow forests during low water periods. This is anticipated to facilitate an undisturbed ecosystem, where natural processes are predominant.

Partnership work and information dissemination will feature in the LIFE project, which also aims to help integrate its pilot conservation methodologies within Hungary's mainstream forest management policy.

LIFE07 NAT/H/000320  
DANUBEISLANDFOREST



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Viktoria Siposs

### Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

### Total budget in euro:

1,795,529

### EC contribution in euro with %:

1,075,896 (75.00 %)

## Restoration and conservation of priority habitats and species in the Eastern Bakony area

### Project background

Natural sites owned and used by the military often contain relatively undisturbed areas and valuable environmental habitats due to their isolation from the public. This is the case in Hungary's Eastern Bakony Mountains, which support EU priority habitats and species, as well as hosting military training areas.

Although the area's biodiversity has been relatively well conserved, gaps exist in the amount of quantitative information about priority habitats and species. This information is considered important to manage threats to priority habitats and species caused by both natural processes and military activities.

### Project objectives

This LIFE project's objectives focus on restoration and conservation of EU priority habitats (Sub-Pannonic steppic grasslands, Pannonian woods, Medio-European calcareous screes) and priority species (*Serratula lycopifolia* and *Falco cherrug*) in the Eastern Bakony military area. These goals will be achieved by integrating environmental policies within military land management practices.

Environmental, forestry and military experts, plus other stakeholders, will develop and adapt a Natura 2000 site management programme for the project site. This will include, inter alia: expanding grazing management; construction of a fast and effective fire service system to manage accidental fires; development of fire breaking buffer zones around military training and testing areas; scrub removal from a total of 600 ha in the project area (which will ultimately result in the rehabilitation of Sub-Pannonic steppe grasslands); and suppression of illegal waste dumping.

Anticipated conservation results cover: restoration of up to 750 ha of high-priority natural habitat; threats from invasive species to Sub-Pannonic steppic grasslands and Pannonian woods with *Quercus pubescens* habitats will be reduced; Pannonian woods with *Quercus pubescens* and Medio-European calcareous screes of hill and montane levels habitat will also be rehabilitated and protected from damage; the population size and seed production of priority species *Serratula lycopifolia* will increase in the project area; and the

LIFE07 NAT/H/000321

Eastern Bakony



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

National authority

#### Name of beneficiary

Ministry of Defence Infrastructure Agency

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#### Name of contact person

Miklos Szitty

### Duration of project:

66 months (02/02/2009 – 31/07/2014)

### Total budget in euro:

2,238,642

### EC contribution in euro with %:

1,591,442 (74.98 %)

population growth of saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*) and bats will be stimulated.

Awareness about appropriate environmental management methods will be increased across a range of stakeholders and a Post Project Management Plan will be elaborated to ensure continuity and permanence of the LIFE actions.

## Conservation of Hungarian meadow viper (*Vipera ursinii rakosiensis*) in the Carpathian-basin

### Project background

The Hungarian meadow viper (*Vipera ursinii rakosiensis*) is Hungary's most endangered vertebrate and Europe's most endangered venomous snake. Studies indicated that the species' total population has dropped to below 500 individuals in Hungary and these are only found in two small, isolated populations. One is in the Hanság (North-western region) and the other in the Kiskunság (plains between the Danube and Tisza rivers). Both areas have protection designations but, despite these, the species continues to experience declining population trends.

Some success at reintroducing the species has been gained from work carried out at the Hungarian Meadow Viper Conservation Centre.

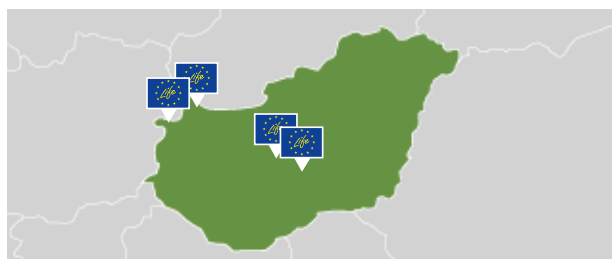
### Project objectives

This LIFE project intends to adopt direct actions to increase the population of Hungarian meadow vipers. Habitat sizes will be increased through grassland reconstruction resulting in 1 600 ha of continuous viper habitat in Hanság and 28.9 ha of new habitat in Kiskunság. A further 28 ha of grassland will be purchased in Peszéradacs.

At least 400 vipers will be released back to natural habitats and a large part of the project's activities will focus on a public awareness programme. This aims to reduce public concerns about the risks from reintroducing venomous snakes. Zoos will be used as partners to boost public support for the project and a documentary will be produced to increase understanding about the species among a wide audience. Attitude surveys will be used to gain feedback on the effectiveness of the publicity campaign.

Project work will also extend to identifying options for future introduction of the species into Austrian areas, where it became extinct last century.

LIFE07 NAT/H/000322  
CONVIPURSAK



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Bálint Halpern

### Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

### Total budget in euro:

2,260,886

### EC contribution in euro with %:

1,669,967 (73.86 %)

## Restoration of sodic lake sub-type of the Pannonic salt steppe and marsh habitat in the Hortobágy

### Project background

The soda lakes (with high concentrations of sodium carbonate) and their catchment areas in Hungary's Carpathian Basin support lowland Pannonic loess steppe grasslands (6250). These form part of the habitat type Pannonic salt steppes and salt marshes (1530),

Most of the lake and catchment sites in the Hortobágy area have been badly damaged or have deteriorated, and so have been designated as protected areas. So far no over-arching, basin-wide restoration programme for these soda lakes has been implemented. This is largely due to limited information and expertise vis-à-vis the complex and extremely vulnerable nature of the micro-ecosystem.

Useful experience about appropriate restoration methods for soda lakes has been gained in the Hortobágy area during the LIFENAT2002/H/8638 project. This knowledge could be applied on a site specific basis in areas that are rich in nature conservation value but vulnerable to a range of threats. Such sites include Nagy-szik and Magdolna-puszta.

### Project objectives

This LIFE project's primary objective is to promote the restoration of soda lake habitats and neighbouring steppic grasslands in the Hortobágy area at the Nagy-szik and Magdolna-puszta sites. Project actions will focus on eliminating unfavourable and detrimental processes that affect the project site. These problems include: inappropriate drainage; shrinking of seasonal water bodies; sewage run-off; decline in traditional grazing; and lack of environmental education.

Some 42.9 ha of land will be purchased in order to help restore hydrological regimes and improve the conservation status of lake bed features and natural shorelines. Methods will be applied to retain rain water, while urban and industrial water pollution will be eliminated through reconstruction of canal systems.

Other habitat rehabilitation work will involve clearing waste deposits and removing invasive plant species. Traditional grazing systems will be reintroduced to help sustain the soda lakes' improved conservation status. Public participation and awareness raising actions will also be applied to ensure a strong legacy

LIFE07 NAT/H/000324  
HORTOBÁGY SODIC LAKES



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Zoltán Ecsedi

### Duration of project:

52 months (01/01/2009 – 30/04/2013)

### Total budget in euro:

1,606,978

### EC contribution in euro with %:

1,205,234 (75.00 %)

from the LIFE project work, which is expected to provide a model for the restoration of soda lakes in the Carpathian Basin.

Project outcomes hope to lead to a bird population growth of 30%. This will be achieved by improving the breeding habitat for nearly 500 pairs of Annex I and 1 000 pairs of Annex II bird species. Furthermore the LIFE project will support the habitat of migrant bird species, including 29 000 individuals of Annex I and 308 000 individuals of Annex II species.

# Control of aquatic invasive species and restoration of natural communities in Ireland

## Project background

Lough Corrib and the Grand Canal and Barrow Line waterway are both sites of major conservation importance. Lough Corrib SAC and SPA includes 14 habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive as well as a range of Annex II species including sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) and the lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*). The Grand Canal and Barrow Line is a man-made watercourse supporting rich and diverse communities including such Annex II species as the white clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius palipes*) and the river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*). Aquatic invasive plant species have, in recent years, become a major threat to the biodiversity of these ecosystems and their adverse impact will continue to increase unless effective eradication and control methods are developed. In Lough Corrib, curly leaved waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*) is now spreading rapidly throughout the lake since first appearing in 2005 impacting both directly and indirectly on the biodiversity of the lake including many of the Annex I and II listed habitats and species. In the Grand Canal and Barrow Line waterway three highly invasive plant species Nuttall's pondweed (*Elodea nuttallii*), New Zealand pygmyweed (*Crasula helmsii*) and water fern (*Azolla filiculoides*) have also become established in recent years. Not only are they having a direct impact on native species of this site, but also carry the added risk of being easily spread by fragmentation to other linked water bodies of conservation importance.

## Project objectives

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to halting the loss of biodiversity in Irish freshwater ecosystems by preventing further impact on native biodiversity from high impact aquatic invasive species. This will be done through development and demonstration of effective control methods; a programme of stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising; and policy development and dissemination. Site-specific objectives are the eradication of *Lagarosiphon major* from Lough Corrib and the prevention of further spread of three aquatic invasive species by implementing control measures in a key dispersal corridor of the Grand Canal and Barrow Line.

LIFE07 NAT/IRL/000341  
CAISIE



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

Professional organisation

#### Name of beneficiary

Central Fisheries Board

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#### Name of contact person

Joe Caffrey

### Duration of project:

49 months (01/01/2009 – 31/01/2013)

### Total budget in euro:

1,533,466

### EC contribution in euro with %:

737,958 (50.00%)

The project also aims to:

- Collect data on effective control methods and develop guidelines for effective aquatic invasive species management;
- Engage stakeholders in an education and awareness programme;
- Exchange and disseminate information on control methods and progress through links with other such control teams and policymakers;
- Contribute to the protection of biodiversity in Ireland and the European target to halt biodiversity loss by 2010 by building capacity on invasive species control.

# Restoration of the Lr.Shannon SAC for Sea lamprey, Atlantic salmon and European otter

## Project background

The project will focus on the river Mulkear, which forms part of the Lower Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The site is important for sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), European otter (*Lutra lutra*), river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) and brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*) of which the first three species are being targeted by this project. The conservation status of the site has, over the years, come increasingly under pressure because of an extended period of mismanagement of both the river itself and its catchment. Since the 1850s, river modification has straightened the river channel and removed meanders resulting in a uniform channel with high embankments. The regular drainage maintenance continues to remove woody debris and other vegetative material likely to form pools and diverse habitats suitable for juvenile salmon. Other examples of river modification work include the installation of a series of weirs that act as impediments to the upstream passage of sea lamprey. Significant threats to the site and its species also come from years of decline of the riparian areas of the river. Contributing to this decline has been the planting of exotic conifers and the spread of invasive plants, such as giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) which, left unchecked, will have serious repercussions on native vegetation, river bank stability, sedimentation of spawning beds and ultimately on the habitat and food of salmon, sea lamprey and otter.

## Project objectives

The aim of the project is to bring about a significant and sustained enhancement of the Lower Shannon SAC and, in particular, Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey and European otter. More specifically the project aims to enhance the salmon and sea lamprey populations by restoring degraded habitat in river reaches along the river Mulkear using best practice techniques in 'instream' habitat rehabilitation. Obstacles to the upstream passage of sea lamprey will also be removed with the aim to open up most of the catchment for spawning and recruitment.

The project also aims to stop and reverse the damage caused by invasive exotic plants, such as giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan Balsam,

LIFE07 NAT/IRL/000342  
IShannonSACLAEO



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

Professional organisation

#### Name of beneficiary

The Shannon Regional Fisheries Board

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Email info@shrfb.com/igoe@shrfb.com

#### Name of contact person

Fran Igoe

### Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 01/01/2014)

### Total budget in euro:

1,740,818

### EC contribution in euro with %:

869,830 (49.97%)

as well as non-native conifers (Sitka spruce) in the river's riparian zone. The improvement of breeding, resting habitat and food supply of otters is another key objective that will be achieved through habitat assessment and the creation of artificial sites where considered necessary. Water quality problems caused by cattle accessing the river and its tributaries will also be addressed by working with local farmers to develop alternative solutions for watering cattle. Finally extensive advocacy and advisory work will aim to further develop strong community links as well as promote education and awareness of the issues at both local and national levels.



## Petromyzon And River Continuity

### Project background

The Montemarcello-Magra Park contains the only Italian rivers in which successful reproduction of the sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) has been seen: the Magra and Vara rivers.

These rivers host other important migratory fish species of Community interest, both diadromous - which regularly migrate between freshwater and sea water - and those migrating within the basin during the reproductive period. Examples include the twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*), Western vairone (*Leuciscus souffia*), South European roach (*Rutilus rubilio*) and the Italian barbel (*Barbus plebejus*).

Unfortunately, artificial obstructions - boulder dams - have interrupted the natural continuity of the river and fragmented fish populations. It has become impossible for some fish species to migrate to their natural reproduction areas when the river is low.

As the fish, such as the sea lamprey, are forced to reproduce in parts of the river unsuitable for the development of their eggs, successful reproduction has declined significantly. This represents an important threat to riverine fish species.

### Project objectives

The project aims to improve the conservation status of *Petromyzon marinus*, *Alosa fallax*, *Leuciscus souffia*, *Rutilus rubilio* and *Barbus plebejus*.

It plans to do this by restoring the fluvial and ecological continuity of the Magra and Vara rivers. The most significant measures will be the creation of nine fish passes to overcome significant obstructions to their migration. This will enable the fish to reach their natural reproduction areas, including those higher up the river basin, even during low flows.

The beneficiary plans to extend suitable migratory fish reproduction areas by 59 ha and increase the area of habitat specifically suitable for the development of sea lamprey ammocoetes (the burrowing blind larval stage) by nearly 15 ha.

LIFE07 NAT/IT/000413

P.A.R.C.



#### Beneficiary:

##### Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

##### Name of beneficiary

Ente Parco di Montemarcello-Magra

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##### Name of contact person

Patrizio Scarpellini

#### Duration of project:

36 months (12/01/2009 – 31/12/2011)

#### Total budget in euro:

1,511,286

#### EC contribution in euro with %:

755,500 (49.99%)

The project aims to identify examples of management best practice vis-à-vis the conservation of the project's target species and riverbed habitat. Finally, it seeks to promote increased awareness among the local population of the importance of conserving the project target species, the SCI and the Natura 2000 network.

## Management Actions for Conservation of *Tetrax tetrax* in Steppic Sardinia

### Project background

The little bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*) is a vulnerable species: it is listed as a 'priority species' in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive and Appendix 11 of the Bern Convention.

Sardinia is the home to several small populations - nuclei - of little bustard. Notably, important nuclei are to be found in six Sites of Community Interest (SCIs) and another six Special Protection Areas (SPAs) of the Natura 2000 network.

However, relatively recent changes have threatened these local populations, as well as other bird species of Community interest. The trend towards monoculture production, unsuitable livestock densities, farm mechanisation and hunting activities have all impacted negatively on the species. These activities have generally arisen through neglect, ignorance or carelessness on the part of farmers, hunters and other stakeholders.

In Sardinia, the species needs the application of several urgent conservation measures, involving public and private bodies, NGOs, and local economic entities such as crop and livestock farmers.

### Project objectives

The main objective of this project is to implement, in the field, an urgent protection strategy to safeguard the last small populations of little bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*) in Sardinia.

The project is to be based on a partnership between public authorities - municipalities, provinces and regional authorities - farmers, NGOs, tourism operators and other stakeholders. In particular, they will agree a process of sustainable use of the relevant land, including through specific local agreements and extensive communication activities with stakeholders.

The surveillance and monitoring activities will also cover other habitats and bird species of Community interest - particularly migratory birds - thus making the protection of these an indirect objective of the project. The project will also network with other EU experts and projects to further contribute to the broader objective of ecological protection in the whole Mediterranean region.

LIFE07 NAT/IT/000426

M.As.Co.T.T.S.S.



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

#### Name of beneficiary

Regione Autonoma della Sardegna

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#### Name of contact person

Paola Zinzula

### Duration of project:

36 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2011)

### Total budget in euro:

1,455,000

### EC contribution in euro with %:

970,048 (66.67%)

# Improvement of the conservation status of SCIs in the high appenine area and in the plain around Prato

## Project background

The scattered wetlands still remaining in the plain surrounding Florence, Prato and Pistoia between the Arno and Ombrone Pistoiese rivers represent what is left of the original natural ecosystem of this area. This important habitat has suffered from human activities and lack of protection.

Nowadays, the plain is the most densely populated area in Tuscany with more than 1 000 inhabitants per square kilometre. Human activities such as hunting, intensive farming and the expansion of buildings, industries and urban infrastructure - particularly roads - have both damaged and segregated the wetlands.

A key issue has been poor water-level management and the lack of protection status afforded to the wetlands, particularly in the western portion of the project area. The cumulative effect of these factors has been pronounced seasonal water lows and loss of ponds. There has been a significant negative impact on the conservation of these fragile ecosystems and their vulnerable species in the area.

## Project objectives

The project aims primarily to improve the conservation status of key species of Community interest that are inadequately represented or exposed to risks in the high Appennines area and in the plain surrounding Prato.

The project aims to reduce the above-cited threats by securing and increasing the wetland surfaces and expanding the Special Protection Area (SPA) to cover more wetland. It also seeks to mitigate the impact of urban infrastructure on bird species and endorse a Natura 2000 site management plan to regulate activities not compatible with conservation of the ecosystem.

These activities are designed to specifically improve the conservation status of:

- bird species covered by the Birds Directive (Annex I and regularly occurring migratory species);
- one amphibian species: Italian crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) - named in Annex II of the Habitats Directive;

LIFE07 NAT/IT/000433

Water SCIs



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

#### Name of beneficiary

Provincia di Prato

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#### Name of contact person

Carla Chiodini

### Duration of project:

60 months (15/04/2009 – 15/04/2014)

### Total budget in euro:

1,148,535

### EC contribution in euro with %:

574,268 (50.00%)

- one invertebrate priority species: white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius italicus* of the *Austropotamobius pallipes* species complex);
- and one fish species: European bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) included in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

# A new strategy against the poisoning of large carnivores and scavenger raptors

## Project background

Large carnivores such as wolves and bears are usually perceived as a dangerous problem. People living in or making a living from the area, such as ordinary citizens or farmers, see these animals as threats to themselves or their livelihoods.

The large carnivores in the project area have already benefited from the activities of an earlier LIFE project: COEX (LIFE04 NAT/IT/000144). This project managed to raise awareness about a more positive coexistence between local stakeholders and these animals in five European countries, including Italy and Spain.

However, large carnivores - as well as scavenger raptors such as the griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) and bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) - are still under serious threat, especially from poisoning, even in protected areas.

## Project objectives

The project's overall aim is to achieve effective preservation of large carnivores - wolves and bears - and of various species of scavenger raptor, in specific areas of Italy and Spain.

It seeks to develop an integrated strategy covering reduction in the risk of poisoning, mitigating conflict between large carnivores and farmers, and restocking key species in target areas.

The project will set up and manage Anti-Poison Units to directly oversee reductions in the use of poison on large carnivores and raptors in the Gran Sasso Park and Aragon and to encourage the adoption by Italian national bodies of measures to prevent such poisoning.

It plans to prepare a feasibility plan in cooperation with local stakeholders for re-stocking griffon vultures in both areas and to implement the plan. It intends to support this work with awareness-raising activities at national level on the threats to these species and the possibilities for harmonious coexistence.

LIFE07 NAT/IT/000436  
ANTIDOTO



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Federico Striglioni

### Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

### Total budget in euro:

1,411,144

### EC contribution in euro with %:

705,572 (50.00%)

# Identification and conservation of the high nature value of ancient olive groves in the Mediterranean region

## Project background

High Nature Value Farmland (HNVF) plays a crucial role in the protection of biodiversity. In the Mediterranean region, HNVF includes Ancient Olive Groves (AOGs). These are extensive crops – less than 50 trees per ha - that constitute one element in a mosaic of semi-natural and cultivated areas. The AOGs are typically intersected by small-scale structural elements or landscape features such as Mediterranean scrub, dry stone walls or woodland strips.

The high biodiversity of the AOGs is related to the genetic reservoir of ancient trees and their associated species. Typical of HNVF, there has been a prolonged system of extensive production that has allowed a wide range of species to flourish in AOGs. However, work to characterise HNVF, as well as assessing its condition and threats to it, is at an early stage of development throughout the EU.

## Project objectives

The project ultimately aims to enhance biodiversity in Ancient Olive Groves (AOGs). It seeks to gain recognition of AOGs as HNVF and to implement actions to halt the loss of biodiversity in these habitats.

The project intends to identify and assess the biodiversity in AOGs and to use this as the basis for the formulation and implementation of guidelines for their management. Concrete actions could include the planting of Mediterranean scrub, propagation of typical species of Mediterranean grassland, and the conservation of important genetic material and its propagation.

To support the eventual improvement in biodiversity in AOGs, the project will elaborate an innovative governance model for AOGs and define common policies for the protection of this habitat through an action plan for the Mediterranean area. The project team will also work to spread awareness of the conservation value of AOGs

LIFE07 NAT/IT/000450  
CENT.OLI.MED



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

University

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Damiano Petruzzella

### Duration of project:

39 months (01/02/2009 – 30/04/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

1,506,435

### EC contribution in euro with %:

703,135 (48.39%)

## RECOVERY OF FORESTED

## WETLAND WITH HABITAT 91E0\*

*Alluvial forests with **Alnus glutinosa** and **Fraxinus excelsior** (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)*

### Project background

Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) are a habitat of Community interest. However, in the flat plains of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region they are facing increasing threats.

Changes in the morphology and microdiversity of the plains; changes in irrigation systems and canalization; reduction in the level of the water table caused by industrial and agricultural activities; substitution of natural woods with more productive exotic trees; and the transformation of land use from forest to agriculture have all impacted on the natural environment. This has damaged the alluvial forests themselves and the biodiversity they are home to.

The regional government has already taken measures to try to stop the continued loss of these natural habitats. It elaborated the first regional urban plan in the period 1970-1978. This aimed to provide general guidelines for planning at a more local level and to characterize the habitats to be conserved. It created its own system of protected areas. All the remaining alluvial forests were identified as priority habitats.

### Project objectives

The overall objective of the project is better conservation of the priority habitat 91E0: Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae).

The river fringe and scattered plots that currently represent this habitat in the project area are to be extended and joined to enlarge and secure the presence of this habitat. Specifically, the project plans to purchase or lease 10 ha of agricultural land and convert it into woodland.

The project team also plans to improve the structure of the existing hygrophilous woods. This is to be realised through hydraulic and morphological interventions and silvicultural interventions on 23 ha.

LIFE07 NAT/IT/000498

S.T.A.R.



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Romina Venier

### Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

2,464,279

### EC contribution in euro with %:

1,848,209 (75.00%)

Finally, the project team aims to maintain the good relationship and communication developed between the beneficiary and the local population, to collect scientific data through monitoring activities and to widely disseminate all the knowledge and experience gained in the course of the project.

## Actions for the bird species of EU interest in the Natura 2000 sites in the lowlands of Parma (Italy)

### Project background

The Parmesan lowlands are home to several bird species of EU interest, particularly Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) and Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*). The birds are there because the lowlands have a rural landscape that, in comparison to the rest of the river Po plain, retains specific wildlife features. It is also tied to more traditional agricultural production.

However, the lowlands face specific threats from intensive agriculture, road development, urban expansion and other human activities. The management of the artificial water management network is not consistent with conservation objectives. Indeed there is a general lack of knowledge of the habitats of the target species by the territorial bodies. Nesting sites are particularly vulnerable.

This project covers six Natura 2000 sites in the Parmesan lowlands. These sites are dealt with because of their similarity in geographic, socio-economic, management and wildlife aspects.

### Project objectives

The primary objective of the project is to improve the conservation status of the target species: Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*) and Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*).

A secondary objective is to improve the conservation status of the present heron (*Ardeidae*) and common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) populations. Specific interventions were additionally foreseen for other species of EU interest or species of recent extinction in the six project sites, including the flora: four leaf clover (*Marsilea quadrifolia*) and summer snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*).

The project foresees the implementation of an Ecological Network covering the Parma lowlands for species of EU interest. The end result should be an increase in the habitats available for use by the target species and other species of conservation interest.

The results of the project will be disseminated effectively to stakeholders to make them active partners in the maintenance of the species and habitats.

LIFE07 NAT/IT/000499

Pianura parmense



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

#### Name of beneficiary

Provincia di Parma

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#### Name of contact person

Nicola Fusco

### Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

1,144,900

### EC contribution in euro with %:

572,450 (50.00%)

## Improving the conditions for large carnivore conservation - a transfer of best practices

### Project background

Large carnivores such as wolves (*Canis lupus*) and bears (*Ursus arctos*) are usually perceived as a dangerous problem. People who make a living from the land, such as farmers, and ordinary citizens, see these animals as threats to themselves or their livelihood.

The large carnivores in the project area had already benefited from the activities of an earlier LIFE project: COEX (LIFE04 NAT/IT/000144). This project managed to raise awareness about a more positive coexistence between local stakeholders and these animals in five European countries, including Italy and Spain.

However, the preservation of large carnivores - as well as scavenger raptors such as the griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) and bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) - is still under serious threat, even in protected areas.

### Project objectives

The project aims to transfer the best practice and lessons learned from the COEX project into new areas. It hopes to put in place the infrastructure, knowledge and awareness necessary in these areas to prevent conflicts and achieve the ultimate objective of improving the conservation status of the targeted large carnivore and scavenger raptor species.

It specifically seeks to strengthen cooperation between stakeholders around large carnivore conservation, develop the necessary capacity for the management of conflicts caused by bears, provide know-how for the control of stray dogs and ensure capacity for the management of more wild prey for maintaining the present wolf populations.

The project seeks to expand the use of demonstrated damage prevention tools - such as guard dogs and electric fences to protect livestock - and specifically to provide the relevant authorities with the necessary knowledge about conflict management. Local interest groups are also targeted to improve attitudes towards the conservation of wolves and bears.

Communication and relevant exchange of information and experience between project participants and management actors should be active in the project countries and beyond.

LIFE07 NAT/IT/000502  
EX-TRA



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Federico Striglioni

### Duration of project:

51 months (01/01/2009 – 31/03/2013)

### Total budget in euro:

2,580,802

### EC contribution in euro with %:

1,767,850 (68.50%)



## Conservation actions for priority bird life in Lake Salso Oasis

### Project background

The project area of the Lago Salso nature reserve covers a total of 1 016 ha, which includes 446 ha supporting organic agriculture and 540 ha of valleys. Some 20% of the reserve falls within the boundaries of the Gargano National Park.

The reserve is included in a Site of Community Interest (SCI), the Wetlands of Capitanata, and a Special Protection Area (SPA), the Mires in the Gulf of Manfredonia. These are two of the most important natural areas in the whole of the Mediterranean basin for water birds.

They provide important resting sites during migration, as well as wintering and feeding areas for birds, including the four priority bird species: pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*); great bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*); ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*); and slender-billed curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*). Furthermore, the first three of these species also nest in these sites, with one pair of pygmy cormorants nesting there since 2006.

However, these habitats are threatened, mainly by wetland reclamation, lack of buffer zones, silting of wetlands and changes to water levels.

### Project objectives

The purpose of the LIFE project is to achieve the conservation and increase numbers of the following bird species in the project area of the Lake Salso nature reserve: pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*); great bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*); ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*); and slender-billed curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*).

It seeks to achieve environmental restoration of natural habitats providing key resting, breeding and feeding grounds for the targeted species. It plans to develop scientific knowledge for better management of the sites. It also intends to raise public awareness of the natural value of the sites to reduce threats from human activity.

It will develop actions in accordance with the priorities set by the International Action Plans for the target species and, in the case of the ferruginous duck and slender-billed curlew, the Italian Action Plans.

LIFE07 NAT/IT/000507  
LIFE+ AVIFAUNA DEL LAGO S



#### Beneficiary:

##### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

##### Name of beneficiary

Oasi Lago Salso s.p.a.

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##### Name of contact person

Michele Ciuffreda

#### Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

#### Total budget in euro:

2,994,600

#### EC contribution in euro with %:

1,915,950 (75.00%)

More specifically, some 90 ha of the Mediterranean salt meadows habitat (1410) will be recovered from agricultural land, approximately 10 ha of open areas and channels will be restored inside the wetland and five islets (each 50 m<sup>2</sup>) will be installed for birds to rest on inside the wetland.

# Conservation and recovery of dune priority habitats among the sites of Cagliari, Caserta, Matera, Taranto provinces

## Project background

The Mediterranean dune habitats located along the coasts are characterised by the EU priority habitat coastal dunes with *Juniperus* spp. (2250\*); embryonic shifting dunes (2110); shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (2120 'white dunes'); wooded dunes with forests of *Pinus pinea* and/or *P. pinaster* (2270). These habitats face several threats, the most severe of which comes from increasing tourism that leads to a degeneration of the vegetation. These coastal habitats also play a crucial role in facing the new problems related to climate change, such as rising sea level and the quality of the water for the habitats behind the dunes.

## Project objectives

The project aims to achieve the following objectives:

- The application of best practices and demonstration actions to protect the EU priority habitat, coastal dunes with *Juniperus* spp. and the other related habitats within five Natura 2000 sites;
- The establishment of a common approach for the long-term protection of these habitats based on sound monitoring of biotic and abiotic characteristics;
- A decrease/elimination of the threats affecting these habitats in the identified sites, such as tourist pressure, coastal erosion, spread of allochthonous species (originating from elsewhere), lack of management and scarcity of information;
- An increase in the level of awareness of the local population (students, local inhabitants and tourists) and stakeholders of the importance of these habitats, not only for their landscape value, but also as a means to address climate change effects (e.g. rising sea level).

The project aims to contribute to the local implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) European recommendations.

LIFE07 NAT/IT/000519  
PROVIDUNE



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

Provincia di Cagliari

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### Name of contact person

Antonio Vacca

## Duration of project:

42 months (01/01/2009 – 30/06/2012)

## Total budget in euro:

3,352,392

## EC contribution in euro with %:

2,396,010 (71.47%)

# Restoring Hydrology in Amalvas and Žuvintas Wetlands

## Project background

Žuvintas biosphere reserve is situated in the southern part of the middle Lithuanian lowlands. It comprises the Žuvintas and Amalvas wetland areas, which were formed in a depression of the oval limnoglacial swampy plain, the Bukta forest and Žaltytis Lake.

An important feature of the area is a rich diversity of forest, bog, fen and aquatic plant communities. In total 1 058 species of plants are recorded in the Žuvintas biosphere reserve. Forests cover some 6000 ha: Bukta forest, located in the south-western part of the reserve, contains reference areas of broad-leaved forest with hornbeam and significant areas of swamp woods. The mires are made up mostly of bog woodland dominated by pine, while in open areas, habitats consisting of *Calluna vulgaris*, *Eriophorum vaginatum* and *Sphagnum* species are found. Large areas of reed marshes and sedge fens occur mainly in the south and south-east of the Žuvintas Lake. Lake vegetation is very dense – more than half of the lake surface is covered by aquatic plants (bulrush, reed etc.) forming floating islands very characteristic of the Žuvintas region.

The biosphere reserve, however, is best known for its bird species. Out of the 300 registered species in Lithuania, 257 species are found in the reserve and 134 breed in the area. Every year numerous flocks of migratory birds use the area as a stopover point. The area also includes 44 species of mammal, five reptiles and 11 amphibians. There are more than 2 000 registered insect species.

## Project objectives

The objectives of the LIFE project are to:

- Restore hydrological and ecological functions of the Amalvas and Žuvintas wetlands in order to achieve a favourable conservation status for the bog and swamp wood habitats of these pSCIs;
- Achieve an optimal balance between farming practices and wetland conservation in adjoining areas;
- Improve recognition of the importance of wetlands.

Expected results:

- Raise groundwater levels in more than 100 ha of the northern part of the Amalvas degraded raised bog (7120);

LIFE07 NAT/LT/000530

WETLIFE



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Vsl Gamtos paveldo fondas

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### Name of contact person

Argaudas Stoskus

## Duration of project:

39 months (01/01/2009 – 31/03/2012)

## Total budget in euro:

1,603,996

## EC contribution in euro with %:

801,998 (50.00%)

- Restore the water level to natural level (-0.3 m from the surface) in 340 ha and remove trees from 210 ha of degraded raised bog (7120) in the southern part of the Amalvas wetland;
- Establish conditions for the regeneration of active raised bog (7110\*);
- Improve hydrological conditions in 100 ha of bog woodland (91D0\*) and 90 ha of Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods (9080\*) in the eastern part of the Amalvas wetland;
- Block 5.5km of drainage channels in the Zuvintas wetland affecting active raised bog (7110\*) and bog woodland (91D0\*);
- Install a permanent 'overflow spill weir' and improve 2.2 km of dikes to ensure favourable hydrological conditions for hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara spp.* (3140) and habitats 91D0\* and 7110\*;
- Signing of agreements with local stakeholders to introduce more sustainable farming methods in Amalvas polder;
- Construction a viewing platform at Amalvas and install an exhibition on bogs in the Zuvintas Visitor centre.

## Conservation of White Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) in Lithuania

### Project background

The project will be implemented over the entire territory of Lithuania, including areas under different levels of protection. The European population of white stork is more than 180 000 pairs, with the Lithuanian population estimated at 12 500-13 000 pairs (approximately 7% of the European population). Lithuania has the third largest white stork population in the EU (after Poland and Spain) and as a result has an important role to play in its conservation.

Specific Natura 2000 sites have not been designated for this species in Lithuania because it is so widespread. At present, the number of breeding pairs in SPAs established for other species of birds is unknown. Therefore, species-based conservation measures should be implemented for the white stork.

### Project objectives

The project aims to:

- Prepare a white stork species action plan for Lithuania;
- Carry out a detailed inventory of white stork nests in the whole of Lithuania and create a GIS-based white stork nest database;
- Erect at least 1 760 nesting platforms for white storks on electricity pylons as replacements for existing nests;
- Erect at least 500 nesting platforms on building roofs in place of nuisance nests;
- Evaluate the level of protection for the white stork and identify the most valuable areas for the species;
- Increase public awareness of white stork conservation.

Expected results:

- Completion of a detailed white stork inventory covering the entire country, with data stored in a GIS database for easy management, activity planning, data analysis, updating and presentation. The database will also be made accessible to the public online;
- Analyse and solve legal issues related to white stork nest conservation, thereby enabling nest protection measures to be improved;
- Drawing up of a white stork species action plan to be officially approved by the Ministry of Environment before the end of the project;

LIFE07 NAT/LT/000531  
White Stork Conservation



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

Asociacija Lieutuvos ornitology draugija

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#### Name of contact person

Mantas Jancevičius

### Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 21/12/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

2,425,168

### EC contribution in euro with %:

1,212,584 (50.00%)

- Examination of the current level of white stork protection in Lithuania and identification of the areas most important for white storks;
- Management of at least 2 260 white stork nests by installing artificial nesting platforms on electricity pylons and roofs of buildings;
- Raise the general public's awareness of the species through the use of the mass media, project leaflets, a website, films, books, an on-line nest database and public events.

# Contribution from local authorities to the implementation of NATURA 2000

## Project background

Luxembourg is suffering from a general loss of biodiversity as a result of agricultural intensification and urbanisation pressure, particularly in the region of Luxembourg City. It is very difficult for the local authorities to impose conservation measures. The usual way is signing 'biodiversity contracts' with farmers, but this has not been as effective as expected. The best way to achieve high conservation status is to purchase the land, but, because land is expensive, the support of the LIFE+ programme has been requested.

## Project objectives

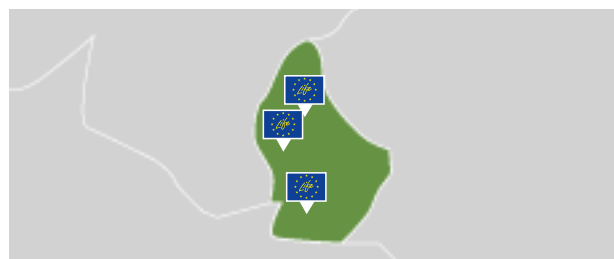
This LIFE project is focused on the restoration of a network of dry heaths (priority habitat 4030), molinia meadows (6410) and lowland hay meadows (6510). The project has four main objectives:

- Land ownership;
- Protection status for core areas;
- Involvement of local authorities; and
- Restoration of habitats.

Expected results:

1. Land purchase and 2. protection status for:
  - 55 ha of grasslands and heaths;
  - 15 ha of forest land.
3. Raise authorities' awareness of biodiversity issues and demonstrate the benefits of land purchase for nature protection.
4. Restoration measures:
  - Strengthening of the core zones of the local population of the great copper butterfly (*Lycaena dispar*);
  - Improvement of the situation and new sites for the great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*);
  - Stabilisation of the small corncrake (*Crex crex*) population.

LIFE07 NAT/L/000542  
NATURA 2000-LUXEMBOURG



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

Syndicat Intercommunal de l'Ouest pour  
la Conservation de la Nature

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### Name of contact person

Philippe Thonon

## Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

## Total budget in euro:

2,987,997

## EC contribution in euro with %:

1,493,998 (50.00%)

# Recovery, conservation and sustainable management of Tronqueira/Planalto dos Graminhais

## Project background

Control or eradication of exotic invasive species is especially difficult on islands, which often have unique habitats and species. Two of the difficulties for islands with a high degree of invasive exotic plants (for example, São Miguel) are the need for specially qualified teams and the availability of native flora to plant in the spaces left open by the control of exotic species.

Previous initiatives have resulted in several policy-related actions, management plans and new regional laws, but it is still difficult to find enough native plants for the restoration of habitats. It is also difficult to find workers who already have experience of invasive control. Independent funding allocated to the conservation of an area (SPA and SCI) is crucial for its long-term sustainability. Economic activities that depend on the maintenance of the rich local natural heritage can contribute to the continuity of the conservation efforts after the end of the LIFE project. It would also be beneficial to assist local producers in the development of products and services that could benefit the conservation of the area or support these efforts economically e.g. handicrafts, gastronomy, tourism, etc.

## Project objectives

This project aims to achieve the future management of native habitats and control of invasive alien species by providing the basic needs currently lacking, including a nursery dedicated to the production of native plants for conservation purposes and a qualified team that can launch a programme for alien species control. Sustainable management will also be ensured by the creation of a network of protected areas.

Expected results:

- New SCI designated to protect the priority habitats of the Pico da Vara/Serra da Tronqueira/Planalto dos Graminhais;
- A map of potential natural vegetation for the site;
- Drawing up and approval of a recovery and management plan for the priority habitat types within the site, including suggestions for the revision of policies and funding for its implementation;
- Establishment of a network of enterprises for the promotion of eco-tourism in the SPA/SCI;
- Local enterprises supporting the conservation actions in the site through the introduction of a trademark on their tradable goods/services;

LIFE07 NAT/P/000630  
LAURISSILVA SUSTENTAVEL



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves

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### Name of contact person

Luis Costa

## Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

## Total budget in euro:

2,297,598

## EC contribution in euro with %:

1,642,323 (71.48 %)

- A team of specialised fieldworkers able to control exotic invasive plant species in all protected areas of the Azores in the future;
- Establishment of a nursery that will ensure the production of more than 25 000 endemic plants/yr;
- Exotic plant species clearance in an area of 2 ha of endemic Macaronesian heaths and the provision of conditions for its own dynamic reestablishment;
- Restructuring and removal of invasive plant species on 81 ha of active raised bogs;
- Increase in the cleared area of Macaronesian laurel forest in a 50 ha site, and removal of recently detected *Pittosporum undulatum* and *Acacia melanoxylon*;
- Better information made available on the priority habitat types located on footpaths and cycle trails;
- Establishment, for demonstration purposes, of a sootstrong Azorean Blueberry orchard;
- Increase in the information available to the general public and the local and regional authorities on the issue of biological invasive species and the most appropriate eradication methods;
- Dissemination of activities through a project logo and website, information panels, and supporting material and events on the priority habitat types in the SCI.

# Identifying critical marine areas for bottlenose dolphin and surveillance of the cetaceans' conservation status in Madeira archipelago

## Project background

The conservation status of the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) is considered of low concern in Madeira waters. This species of dolphin, however, is being found more frequently in the low-depth inshore area between the Madeira and Desertas islands and is subject to several threats resulting from human activities. The growing popularity of whale-watching and a rise in shipping traffic and recreational boats in the archipelago are increasing the pressure in the concerned area. These pressures may contribute, in the medium/long term, to a negative change in the conservation status of the bottlenose dolphin. To avoid whale-watching growing to an unsustainable level, it is important to establish operating areas and designate limits on the number of tours. All the cetaceans found in the Madeira archipelago are potentially subject to the negative impacts from this activity. The precautionary principle should be considered in order to maintain or halt eventual changes to their present conservation status.

The surveillance of the conservation status of cetacean species in Madeira has been conducted only in the inshore waters because of a lack of money. Therefore, there is a lack of knowledge of the offshore marine environment of the Madeira Exclusive Economic Zone. In order to fill this gap, evaluation of the potential threats (such as fisheries) to cetaceans acting in the offshore environment of the Madeira EEZ is needed.

Other areas in the archipelago may also be candidates for marine Natura 2000 sites for this species. The creation of the marine Natura 2000 sites for bottlenose dolphin should take into consideration a wider perspective of the Atlantic population of the species shared by Madeira, Azores and the Canary Islands, which will clearly contribute to the improvement of the ecological coherency and connectivity of the Natura 2000 network of marine sites in the Atlantic.

## Project objectives

The project aims to:

- Identify the areas of importance for the bottlenose dolphin in the coastal waters of the Madeira archipelago, with the aim of establishing adequate marine Natura 2000 sites for this species;
- Define areas of operation for the whale-watching boats in Madeira archipelago waters and establish the carrying capacity for this activity;

LIFE07 NAT/P/000646  
CETACEOSMADEIRA II



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

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### Name of contact person

Luis Freitas

## Duration of project:

49 months (01/06/2009 – 30/06/2013)

## Total budget in euro:

795,074

## EC contribution in euro with %:

397,537 (50.00 %)

- Monitor the conservation status of cetacean species in Madeira offshore waters.

## Expected results:

- A technical plan, draft guidelines, including methodology and field protocol for the identification of areas to be proposed as Natura 2000 marine sites and the establishment of areas for whale-watching and the definition of its carrying capacity;
- A technical plan, including methodology and field protocol, for the surveillance of the conservation status of cetacean species in offshore waters of the Madeira EEZ;
- Report on the critical areas for bottlenose dolphin in the Madeira archipelago to be considered for Natura 2000 marine sites;
- Report on the proposed areas for whale-watching and its respective carrying capacity;
- Report on the results related to the surveillance of conservation status of cetaceans in offshore waters of the Madeira EEZ.

## Safe islands for seabirds/ Initiating the restoration of seabird-driven ecosystems in the Azores

### Project background

The populations of most species of Procellariiform sea birds (e.g. petrels, albatrosses, shearwaters, diving petrels) in the Azores have been reduced in the last 500 years by several orders of magnitude.

The population crashes have been caused by three factors: over-harvesting; the introduction of predators; and habitat destruction.

Despite these losses, the archipelago remains of critical importance for the conservation of several Annex 1 petrel species and several actions to conserve the remnant populations of petrels in the Azores have been carried out. These have mainly been seabird monitoring, colony identification and characterisation, and conducting of censuses. Active management of sites has been limited to a small-scale experiment that has included habitat restoration, predator removal and deployment of artificial nests on one small islet in Graciosa. This was largely successful, showing the great potential for large-scale management and restoration of seabird colonies.

### Project objectives

The project's aim is to demonstrate the potential of, and to prepare for, the full restoration of habitats for seabirds on Corvo – the smallest of the nine uninhabited islands in the Azores, and the one that offers the best potential and conditions for sea bird recolonization. The project will implement innovative approaches and methodologies to increase the number, density and distribution range of sea birds on Corvo, including predator-free enclosures, exotic vegetation control, and seabird monitoring and management. A complete alien mammal's operational plan for Corvo will also be prepared, in collaboration with, and with the full support of all local stakeholders. Alien mammal eradication techniques will be fully applied, tested and demonstrated at Vila Franca do Campo islet, the most visited Azores islet.

The eradication of rats and cats from Corvo would be the largest – and most challenging – exercise of its type to be carried out in Europe. This project will achieve and secure the first essential steps towards this.

It is expected that :

Vila Franca do Campo (VFC) islet will be rat-free by the end of the project and will have biosecurity systems in

LIFE07 NAT/P/000649  
SAFE ISLANDS FOR SEABIRDS



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

Sociedades Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves

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#### Name of contact person

Luis Costa

### Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

1,057,761

### EC contribution in euro with %:

507,118 (50.00 %)

place preventing future rat recolonisation. The islet will also be free of rabbits and feral goats and at least 50% of its area will be cleared of cane grass and other detrimental invasive plant species. At least 400 nest boxes and 200 dummy birds will be placed on VFC islet, as well as on the island of Corvo. Some 10% of the nest boxes will be occupied by the end of 2012.

On Corvo, a rat-free sea bird haven of circa 10-20 ha will be established and actively managed. Cats on the island will be neutered and tagged and an operational plan produced for the future eradication of feral goats, feral sheep, cats and rats. A map of invasive plants on Corvo will be drawn, and exotic invasive plants cleared across at least 10 ha with the assistance of volunteer groups who will be trained in invasive species eradication.

Dissemination activities will include: a small-scale interpretation centre and visitor trails on Corvo; publication of maps. DVDs and brochures about Corvo wildlife; and the creation of a web-based virtual Azores sea bird resource.



# Conservation of Great Bustard, Little Bustard and Lesser Kestrel in the Baixo Alentejo cereal steppes

## Project background

The three priority steppe bird species – great bustard (*Otis tarda*), little bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*) and lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) – are highly vulnerable to changes in farming practices, which in recent years have caused habitat loss and fragmentation – the major factors for their extremely unfavourable status in Europe.

In Portugal, the disappearance of extensive farming systems (through intensification of agriculture, afforestation, overgrazing, establishment of plantations, and other factors) means that these species are now almost entirely restricted to the Alentejo region. Furthermore, more than 70% of the great bustard and the lesser kestrel populations are concentrated in only one site, the Castro Verde Special Protection Area (SPA). Only five of the 19 Important Bird Areas (IBA) with habitat for steppe birds have been classified as SPAs, increasing the vulnerability of these species.

## Project objectives

The main goal of this LIFE project is to promote the long-term conservation of great bustard, little bustard and lesser kestrel in their main Portuguese distribution area by minimising existing threats in four SPAs with pseudo-steppes, and thus contribute towards Natura 2000 management.

### Expected results:

- The purchase of a great bustard "Lek" area (100-150 ha of ground-display habitat);
- Sustainable management of the purchased area for the conservation of the target species, by promoting extensive farming and grazing to maintain nesting and foraging habitat while mitigating disturbance;
- Protection of the most important areas for the target species during the breeding season through grazing management practices to minimize disturbance and nest trampling;
- Protection of the great bustard ground displays through 1-2 km of fence removal;
- Establishment of synergies between game activities and the conservation of target species especially during the post-breeding and wintering period;
- Increase productivity and breeding success of target species, by reducing predation through the promotion of alternative prey for generalist predators, control of sheep dogs and fences;

LIFE07 NAT/P/000654

EstepÁrias



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

Liga para a Protecção da Natureza

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#### Name of contact person

Rita Alcazar

### Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

1,604,021

### EC contribution in euro with %:

1,203,016 (75.00 %)

- Decrease of mortality of target species by recovering wounded and weak individuals and developing technical skills for the successful treatment and recovery of steppe birds;
- Provide advisory services to promote applications of farmers to agri-environment schemes and non-productive investments of rural development funding to assure pseudo-steppe habitat in the long term;
- Demarcate and reduce risks to the target species along 40 km of power lines in the Castro Verde SPA;
- Promote the re-colonisation of Mourão/Moura/Barrancos SPA by the lesser kestrel through the promotion of a new breeding site;
- Identification and dissemination of good practices for habitat management and awareness-raising among stakeholders and the general public.

# Preserving management of the habitat 8310 from the Site Natura 2000 Semenec - Cheile Carasului

## Project background

The site, Semenec – Cheile Carasului, contains some 600 caves (habitat 8310 Caves not open to the public) with a total length of 60 km. Some 3% of these are crossed by underground water flows and are interconnected with 11 sites of habitat 7220 - Petrifying springs with tufa (Cratoneurion). In total, 11 species of bat (chiropters) have been identified at the site.

The cave habitats 8310 and the bat communities have been badly damaged as a result of human activity (agriculture, farming, and forestry exploitation). Approximately 65 caves were closed with soil by local inhabitants. In addition, 55 caves were polluted with household waste, and 10 of these were severely damaged as a result of illegal deposition of animal waste, generating the most severe biological pollution of the region. Intensive forestry operations have resulted in the absence of dried trees in the forest and, consequently, food sources and refuge places for bats have been much diminished.

## Project objectives

The main objective of the LIFE project is to rehabilitate the habitat 8310 (Caves closed to the public) by restoring the cave entrances, cleaning up pollution of the habitat and of the neighbouring perimeters with significant pollution impact, and implementing a waste collection system that will considerably reduce potential pollution in future.

Expected results:

- Rehabilitation of the morphology, 'de-pollution' and protection of 65 caves of habitat 8310;
- A reduction of some 90% in habitat 8310 pollution;
- Returning bat species in the area to a favourable conservation status;
- Increase the bat population by 10% (at birth and hibernation);
- Installation of 76 information and publicity panels;
- Editing and distribution of two leaflets and five booklets;
- Broadcasting on regional TV channels, with a potential audience of 300 000 inhabitants, of two documentaries and two adverts;
- Sharing information on a website for 10 000 beneficiaries.

LIFE07 NAT/RO/000680  
PMH8310SN2000SCC



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

### Name of beneficiary

Regional Environmental Protection Agency Timisoara

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### Name of contact person

Ghizela Cepanariu

## Duration of project:

36 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2011)

## Total budget in euro:

546,159

## EC contribution in euro with %:

273,079 (50.00 %)

## Cross-border conservation of *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* and *Aythya nyroca* at key sites in Romania and Bulgaria

### Project background

The pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*) and the ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) are globally-threatened species that regularly occur in the European Union.

The maintenance or restoration of wetlands along the lower Danube is of vital importance for the breeding populations of both of these species.

The European breeding population of the pygmy cormorant is estimated at fewer than 39 000 pairs, with 11 500-14 000 pairs in Romania and 350-400 pairs in Bulgaria.

The species receives some protection within the Danube Delta's biosphere reserve, but is not protected throughout the rest of its range along the lower Danube. It uses the inland wetlands for breeding, feeding and wintering, and is dependent on the conservation of this natural habitat.

The ferruginous duck is considered vulnerable in Europe with fewer than 18 000 breeding pairs. The populations in Romania (6 500 breeding pairs) and Bulgaria (230 breeding pairs) are considered to be of international importance, especially in the context of the overall trend of the declining number of pairs.

### Project objectives

The project's main objective is to improve the conditions of *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* and *Aythya nyroca* in Romania and Bulgaria, and to maintain their favourable conservation status. This will be done through:

- Coordinated conservation efforts targeted at both species through improved, cross-border management of the Natura 2000 network sites along the lower Danube;
- Building the knowledge of stakeholders in both countries about the status of the species, and their ecological needs;
- Improving breeding and feeding conditions at key sites by implementing good management practices for fishponds, reed beds and forest areas, and by improving the ecological status of the wetlands used as breeding and feeding sites.

LIFE07 NAT/RO/000681  
GREEN BORDERS



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Anisoara Cismasu

### Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 30/12/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

1,318,765

### EC contribution in euro with %:

979,042 (75.00 %)

The cross-border approach taken by the project will allow effective implementation of the conservation measures, which will be reflected by the long-term self-sustainability of the populations of both species across key Natura 2000 sites.

# Conservation of Endangered Bird Species Populations in Natural Habitats of the Danube Inland Delta

## Project background

In the past, the Danube inland delta represented one of the largest and most diverse natural wetland complexes in central Europe. Large parts of it have been destroyed over the past few decades. Habitat loss and destruction is continuing as a result of earlier river regulation and poor area management. The decreasing habitat quality and several other factors (e.g. unregulated human disturbance) have led to major decreases in the populations of the typical floodplain bird species (black stork, night heron, little egret, sand martin etc.). Urgent actions are needed to recover or maintain the quality and quantity of the floodplain avifauna.

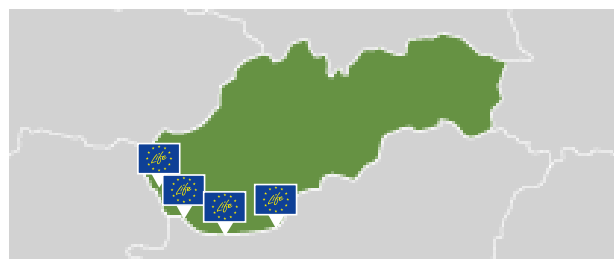
## Project objectives

The general objective is to improve the conservation status of the floodplain bird species that are protected in the Natura 2000 sites SPA Dunajské luhy (Slovakia) and SPA Szigetkoz (Hungary).

### Expected results:

- Improve the conservation status of target Annex I (and Annex II/1) bird species in SPA Dunajské luhy and SPA Szigetköz: *Alcedo atthis*, *Anas querquedula*, *A. strepera*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Asio flammeus*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *C. pygargus*, *Dryocopus martius*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Porzana parva*, and *Sterna hirundo*; and Annex II/2: *Tringa tetanus*;
- Restore or improve nesting habitats of these bird species in 270 ha and along 4.1 km of riverbank); improve their feeding habitats in 319 ha and along 16.4 km of riverbank);
- Restore recently dried-up river branches and oxbows (with renewed water supply);
- Restore river branch connectivity, water regime and flowing water conditions;
- Construct two fish passes at strategic places in the left-side river branch system between Dobrohošť and Sap;
- Restore at least 150 ha of lowland meadows and introduce regular management at three localities;
- Plant 15 000 saplings of native tree species on 35 ha of land;
- Construct of 10 new ramps and restriction of vehicle access in five places;

LIFE07 NAT/SK/000707  
Danube birds conservation



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development

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### Name of contact person

Tomáš Kušík

## Duration of project:

54 months (01/01/2009 – 30/06/2013)

## Total budget in euro:

4,577,663

## EC contribution in euro with %:

2,288,831 (50.00 %)

- Restore steep river banks at four sites, thereby creating nesting habitats for *Riparia riparia*;
- Significantly reduce human disturbance of sensitive species on at least 2 014 ha;
- Raise awareness about target bird species, river restoration and nature conservation issues through the creation of information and promotional materials (book, website, panels, etc) and through media coverage (local to international).

# Inventory and designation of marine Natura 2000 areas in the Spanish sea

## Project background

The biodiversity of Spanish waters is one of the highest within the EU, due to its biogeographic and oceanographic features. Its conservation is a priority for the Spanish government. Apart from marine reserves and coastal marine Natura 2000 sites, the only marine protected area in Spanish waters is El Cachucho, which was designated in 2008. The project will deal with 10 pre-selected marine areas covering 2.5 million ha. The Spanish government is the competent authority for the designation and appropriate management of these areas.

## Project objectives

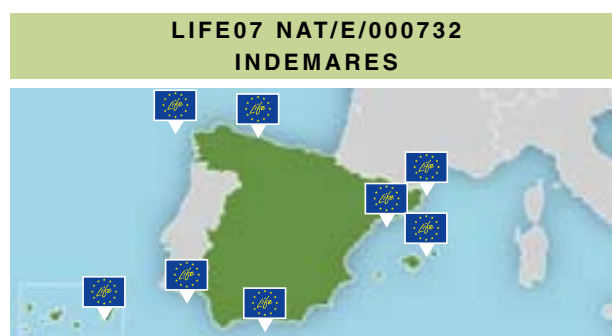
The main objective of this project is the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Spanish seas through the implementation of the Natura 2000 network. To this end, the project will ensure the necessary studies are carried out to complete the identification of the most representative marine areas around Spain. It also proposes to add at least 10 sites to the Natura 2000 network. The results will support any future revision of the Birds and Habitats Directives' annexes and will contribute to the implementation and reinforcement of the marine international conventions applied in Spain – OSPAR and the Barcelona Convention.

The project will follow a participatory approach including all the relevant institutions, NGOs and competent administrations. Eleven organisations will act in a co-ordinated way through scientific and steering committees to improve information on species, habitats and threats. All the data compiled will be included in a marine GIS, and guidelines for the management and sustainable use of the Natura 2000 network will be drafted.

The project foresees the involvement of stakeholders (mainly fishermen) from the initial stages of the implementation of Natura 2000 at sea. Increased social awareness of the importance of conservation and the sustainable use of marine resources and of Natura 2000 will be attained through a significant dissemination campaign.

Expected results:

- Increased scientific knowledge on habitats and species of the EU conservation directives (Habitats and Birds Directives) and regional marine conventions: size and location, characterization, threats and conservation status;



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Fundación Biodiversidad

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### Name of contact person

Ignacio Torres

## Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

## Total budget in euro:

15,405,727

## EC contribution in euro with %:

7,702,863 (50.00%)

- Acquisition of all necessary information to formalise the Spanish proposal for the marine Natura 2000 network. At least 10 proposals will be completed and sent to Brussels;
- Guidelines for the management and monitoring of the marine Natura 2000 sites proposed will be approved in accordance with the framework of the Heritage Law passed in November 2007;
- Collaboration agreements will be drawn up between coordinating and associated beneficiaries for the project implementation;
- Consensus will be built between the socio-economic sectors involved in the conservation and management of the natural resources of the sea;
- Increased social awareness of the importance of conservation and sustainable use of marine natural resources and Natura 2000;
- Spain will be in a position to update the Habitats Directive and regional convention annexes;
- There will be a proposal for new marine protected areas under OSPAR and the Barcelona Convention.

## Corridors For Cantabrian Brown Bear Conservation

### Project background

The Cantabrian Mountains (Cordillera Cantábrica) hold a reduced population of the Cantabrian Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*). The population's viability is under threat from diverse factors, in particular habitat degradation and fragmentation, poaching and poisoning, low social acceptance and low genetic variability. A Conservation Action Plan for this species was approved by the European Commission in 2000, and most of the bear distribution areas/sites are now part of Natura 2000. The demographic trend has been positive in the last decade, partly due to various conservation and dissemination projects and actions. Bear numbers were recently estimated at 105-130 individuals. These are distributed in two main sites that so far appear distinct, at least from a genetic perspective, despite the fact that bears sporadically use a 50 km wide 'corridor' between them. This corridor is in an acceptable conservation state and presents opportunities for improving bear habitat. However, the bear's ability to cross this corridor is hindered by obstacles such as roads, a ski resort, railways, etc. In addition, within the occidental population (the most important one, with 80-100 bears), it was observed in the last few years that the distribution range is steadily narrowing. This is the case especially in the 'Leitariegos Corridor', a crucial reproduction area at serious risk of habitat fragmentation.

### Project objectives

The overall objective is to contribute to the recovery of the brown bear in the Cantabrian Mountains by reducing specific risks and negative impacts on bear populations.

Expected results:

- Increase in the awareness of, and interest in, the brown bear by the people living in the inter-population corridor and appreciation of the importance of this corridor;
- Promotion of the role/image of the municipalities involved in both corridors in relation to the bears' conservation and connectivity;
- Elimination of risks to bear movements in the inter-population corridor;
- Decrease in the conflict between economic activity and bear presence in the inter-population corridor;

LIFE07 NAT/E/000735

Corredores oso



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

Fundación Oso Pardo

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#### Name of contact person

Guillermo Palomero

### Duration of project:

36 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2011)

### Total budget in euro:

1,100,000

### EC contribution in euro with %:

825,000 (75.00%)

- Increase in the wooded area (30 ha) and quality of the habitat in the Leitariegos corridor;
- Increase in the use of the inter-population corridor by the brown bear in the mid-term.

## Conservation of Mediterranean priority species in Castilla-La Mancha

### Project background

The Spanish imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*), the Bonelli's eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*) and the black vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) are priority species under EU conservation legislation. The majority of Europe's populations breed in Spain and are under serious threat mainly from habitat degradation, low availability of food resources, electrocution by power lines and poisoning or trapping in their breeding and feeding areas. The Iberian lynx, the most threatened carnivorous mammal in Europe, has populations that are also at risk as a result of habitat fragmentation and isolation of sub-populations, and scarcity of food resources (especially due to the decrease in rabbit populations). New sub-populations, however, have recently been detected in the project areas.

Many of the well-conserved areas suitable for the target species are private estates. Existing management plans and strategies are often not applied (or are only partially applied) in these areas, due to a lack of interest or cooperation with land owners. There is a great opportunity to improve the status of these populations through appropriate land management and implementation of specific measures in the region of Castilla-La Mancha, on both public and private land.

### Project objectives

The main aim of the project is to support and improve the conservation status of the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*), the Spanish imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*), the Bonelli's eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*) and the black vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) in Castilla-La Mancha, where a notable network of SPAs and SCIs is found. The project will be developed in private and public estates, promoting the food resources for target species (mainly rabbit), reducing the existing threats and applying official management plans and strategies.

#### Expected results:

- Acquire knowledge of the status of the Iberian lynx in Castilla-La Mancha;
- Guarantee the presence of Iberian lynx and habitat conservation in areas where the species has been recently found;
- Develop suitable management of 20 000 ha in the areas where the Iberian lynx is found, mainly through rabbit population and habitat management;

LIFE07 NAT/E/000742

Priorimancha



#### Beneficiary:

##### Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

##### Name of beneficiary

Organismo Autónomo de Espacios Naturales de Castilla-La Mancha

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##### Name of contact person

Ana Terol Palencia

#### Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

#### Total budget in euro:

3,699,135

#### EC contribution in euro with %:

1,625,400 (43.94%)

- To improve potential territories for future use by the Iberian lynx, through actions for habitat and rabbit population improvement, in order to maintain a wide viable habitat network for the possible reintroduction of individuals;
- Increase the number of breeding territories of the Spanish imperial eagle in Castilla-La Mancha from 73 to 90 (23% increase);
- Increase the breeding pairs of black vulture in Castilla-La Mancha from 340 to 400 (18% increase);
- Maintain the number of breeding pairs of Bonelli's eagle;
- Support rabbit populations through direct management actions in 2 000 ha of natural habitats.

## Priority species' habitats restoration in the island of Menorca

### Project background

The whole island of Minorca is a Biosphere Reserve. The project will be implemented in four SCIs and SPAs that hold some of the priority species of the flora of Minorca included in the Habitats Directive (*Anthyllis hystrix*, *\*Femeniasia balearica*, *Paeonia cambessedesii* and *\*Vicia bifoliolata*), as well as some of the most important clusters of endemics and plant diversity in the island. These areas were subject in the past to several attempts at urbanisation that resulted in the construction of infrastructure, such as roads or sports areas, which have subsequently been abandoned to uncontrolled public use. As a consequence, some habitats have been reduced in size and erosion is having a negative impact on threatened endemic species.

### Project objectives

This proposal aims to restore degraded habitats in areas with high ecological and biodiversity value. Preparatory actions will help to update information on the status of threatened flora in the project areas and to design the most suitable restoration actions. The restoration of habitats of Community interest and enhanced recovery of threatened endemic species will be addressed by removal of uncontrolled road access and abandoned infrastructure, restoration or construction of traditional stone walls, construction of bridges to allow a more natural flow regime, fencing of sensitive areas, installation of suitable barriers and re-vegetation of the disturbed areas.

In parallel, a wide range of activities will increase the awareness of the local population of the need to preserve these important habitats and species. A participatory approach will seek the involvement of relevant stakeholders in conservation activities. Also, networking and scientific dissemination will be specifically promoted. Overall, this proposal will contribute to the implementation and consolidation of the Natura 2000 network on the island, ensuring the conservation of biodiversity in the long term.

#### Expected results:

The impact of this project will be greater than simple habitat restoration. The development of the project itself will increase the knowledge of the conservation status of the target species. The practical actions will show how it is possible to achieve landscape restoration that allows for both the recovery of whole plant communities and also the increase of endangered plant populations.

LIFE07 NAT/E/000756

Reneix



#### Beneficiary:

##### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

##### Name of beneficiary

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##### Name of contact person

Juana de Franco

#### Duration of project:

52 months (01/09/2009 – 31/12/2013)

#### Total budget in euro:

1,574,713

#### EC contribution in euro with %:

787,356 (50.00%)

At the same time, social awareness-raising activities will highlight the importance of the habitats and how alterations and threats can be eliminated to return the land to its original condition:

- 1 800 m of dry stone walls will be reconstructed;
- 2 150 m of new dry stone walls will be built;
- 15-20 plant species will be selected to regenerate disturbed areas;
- 10-12 NGOs and landowners will be advised on how to raise funds for conservation purposes;
- 80 000 m<sup>2</sup> of land will be regenerated through restoration of geomorphology and re-vegetation;
- A coastal wetland will be recovered;
- There will also be four days of social participation events and two guided botanical tours.

Beyond the island of Minorca, the results and experiences from this project will have an added value for the whole European Union and especially for the Mediterranean region. On the whole, the project will demonstrate the compatibility of habitat/biodiversity preservation and local development, and will serve as an example of best practice that can be exported to other Mediterranean regions with similar environmental problems.



# Restoration of Burnt Endemic Pine Woods and Recovery of its threatened Flora and Fauna

## Project background

The SPA and SCI Ojeda, Inagua y Pajonales, is found within the protected nature reserve of Inagua. It is included in the Biosphere Reserve of Gran Canaria, which was designated in 2005. The reserve is entirely publicly owned and unoccupied (apart from the park staff and fire brigades), but it is used by the public and for scientific research. It represents an excellent example of Macaronesian pine woods. The area is highly ecologically vulnerable, with a high presence of endemic species and significant birdlife, including the Canarian blue chaffinch (*Fringilla teydea*), which is in danger of extinction. The area is home to 95% of the population of this species.

In 2007, the area was devastated by an intense fire. About 14% of the area was greatly affected, 80% was partially affected and only around 6% was untouched by the fire. The whole range of habitats for the Canarian blue chaffinch was affected. The species population declined to 48% of previous numbers and it is now severely threatened by habitat fragmentation and higher risk of predation. Endemic plant species, such as *Dendriopoterium pulidoi*, *Teline rosmarinifolia*, *Helianthemum bystropogophyllum* and *Isoplexis isabelliana*, were also badly affected. The recovery of the ecosystem needs close monitoring to check that suitable trends are establishing. Species with a small population need extra help to boost their conservation status and ensure their survival in the long term.

## Project objectives

The project intends to supplement the natural recovery of burnt areas of endemic Macaronesian pine woods in the protected area of Inagua. The conservation status of several threatened species of flora will be enhanced through specific management actions and the populations of blue chaffinch will be increased by restoration of its original habitat. The best pines still surviving will also be protected and restored to help their propagation. As precautionary measures, goat and rabbit populations will be controlled to allow natural regeneration. A fire plan will be established to prevent further risks and a specific plan put in place to assess the monitoring of habitat recovery.

An exchange of experiences between managers that have faced similar problems will be promoted. Also, a general awareness-raising campaign will be designed

LIFE07 NAT/E/000759

Inagua



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

#### Name of beneficiary

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Dirección General del Medio Natural

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#### Name of contact person

José Luis Martín Esquivel

### Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

1,169,369

### EC contribution in euro with %:

584,685 (50.00%)

for scholars, stockbreeders and the general public. This should increase awareness of fire problems, of the value of Macaronesian pine woods and of the Natura 2000 network.

### Expected results:

- Improvement of the conservation status of threatened species in the SCI;
- Recovery of blue chaffinch populations that dispersed after the fires through the restoration of their original habitats;
- Recovery and conservation of 'father' pine trees that allow for the regeneration of the original forest;
- Removal of wild goats inside the nature reserve of Inagua and decrease of herbivore pressure in the habitat of the SCI;
- Assessment of fire risk in the Inagua SCI and the establishment of a plan for fire defence;
- Design and implementation of a plan monitoring and assessing habitat evolution;
- Increased awareness of the project's aims and objectives.

## Biodiversity conservation in western Iberia

### Project background

The project site is located in a biodiversity hotspot in the Iberian Peninsula, which represents one of the best examples of Mediterranean ranges and foothills to be found in Spain and Portugal. The site includes well-preserved forests of holm oak, cork oak and Mediterranean scrub with a low density of human presence. It is home to important populations of imperial eagle, black vulture and black stork and held, until very recently, populations of Iberian lynx. The area is currently threatened by over-exploitation, unsuitable farming and forestry practices, and man-made forest fires.

### Project objectives

The aim of this project is the enhancement of biodiversity as a whole in some 133 000 ha of Mediterranean woodland ecosystems in the SCIs-SPAs Campo de Azaba, Campo de Argañán and Malcata (the first two in Spain, the latter in Portugal).

Expected results:

- Purchase of the Campanarios de Azaba estate (496.73 ha);
- The surface area of the habitats of Community interest in the estate acquired will be increased and their conservation status will be improved. This applies to temporary Mediterranean ponds (at least four new ones); endemic oro-Mediterranean heathland with gorse, evergreen meadows of *Quercus sp* (at least an additional 40 ha and improvement of 380 ha); thermophile ash tree groves of *Fraxinus angustifolia*, gallery forests of *Salix alba* and *Populus alba*;
- Increased breeding of black vultures and black storks within the estate;
- Increased presence of golden eagle, Iberian imperial eagle and Eurasian eagle owl in at least 20% of the Natura 2000 network area (Campo de Azaba, Campo de Argañán and Malcata) thanks to actions aimed at improving trophic resources;
- A 30% increase in the presence of *Cerambyx cerdo* and *Euphydrias aurinia* in the three Natura 2000 spaces as a whole;
- Biodiversity evaluation indicators and management protocols for Habitat 6310 developed and transferable to other areas of open Mediterranean woodland;

LIFE07 NAT/E/000762  
Campanarios de Azaba



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

Fundación Naturaleza y Hombre

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#### Name of contact person

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### Duration of project:

42 months (01/01/2009 – 01/07/2012)

### Total budget in euro:

3,869,850

### EC contribution in euro with %:

1,934,925 (50.00%)

- Increase in knowledge and raised awareness of the biodiversity of the environment among local residents living in the project areas (Spanish and Portuguese), and acceptance of project conservation measures.

# Lake Mälaren Inner Archipelago

## - Restoration and Management

### Project background

The archipelago of Mälaren is one of Sweden's most valuable regions for broadleaved woodlands, with oaks and the other old trees growing in a semi-open habitat. The region has a climate that is two-to-three vegetation zones more favourable than the surrounding area. This, together with less intensive forestry and agriculture, has resulted in an area dominated by deciduous trees, in particular lime (*Tilia cordata*), oak (*Quercus robur*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and other broadleaved trees. Changes in management during the 20th century have caused a severe decline in habitat quality and threaten the flora and fauna in the region. This is especially the case on islands, where management is more difficult due to infrastructural and economic complications.

The restoration of habitat quality in woodlands and semi-natural habitats in the region is therefore of very high importance for biodiversity at a regional, national and international level. There is also a great need to provide more information for the high number of visitors to the area. The project aims to minimise threats to species and habitats within the project areas and also for the region as a whole, by jointly focusing on species and habitats within the project.

### Project objectives

The main aim of the project is to create the right conditions for the long-term conservation of the habitat types and associated species in 42 Natura 2000 sites.

Expected results:

- Improved conditions for the Ortolan bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*); and for wetland organisms;
- Improved conservation status through land purchase;
- Positive effects on 29 sites covering a total of 1 334 ha (from cutting and ring barking in woodlands);
- Positive effects on 27 sites covering a total of 623 ha (from clearing scrub on meadows and pasture habitats);
- Positive effects on 13 sites covering a total of 156 ha of wetlands. At least 30 ha will be managed by mowing;
- Positive effect of the survival of 20 avenue trees and of the survival and regeneration of pollards in 154 ha over seven sites;
- Planting of 185 oak saplings in two avenues and on six sites covering a total of 93 ha, which will impact on the oak population and on the beetle *Osmoderma eremite*;

LIFE07 NAT/S/000902  
MIA



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

#### Name of beneficiary

The County Administrative Board of Västmanland /  
Länsstyrelsen i Västmanlands län

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#### Name of contact person

Jan-Inge Tobiasson

### Duration of project:

72 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2014)

### Total budget in euro:

8,053,801

### EC contribution in euro with %:

4,025,587 (50.00%)

- Expected positive effect on the aquatic plant *Alisma wahlenbergii* population carried out on three Natura 2000 sites;
- Improved conditions for management in 22 sites by the construction of a road, two animal crossings, seven ferry docking points, four corrals, six end sections of fences, 78 stiles, 48 gates/gateways, 66 km of fences and removal of 19km of old fences;
- Increased accessibility for visitors in 19 sites;
- Increased interest in nature by the production of five brochures, 27 original signs and 60-270 copies, 80-160 sign racks, texts for notice boards, website, a layman's report, two sets of roll-up displays;
- Increased knowledge of habitats and species by the creation of at least six demonstration sites in at least three Natura 2000 sites;
- Increased interest in nature conservation by conducting 30 excursions, 10 meetings, an initial seminar and five launches;
- Improved understanding and exchange of information through expert/final seminars, study tours and stakeholder meetings.

## Revival of dynamics by activation of sanddrift in inland dunes

### Project background

The Loonse and Drunense Dunes National Park in the south of the Netherlands is, in a European context, a very important area for inland drifting sands. More than 90% of the inland drifting sands in Europe are found in the Netherlands, and the Loonse and Drunense Dunes area is the second largest of this type in the Netherlands. The drifting sands in the nature reserve are surrounded by woodland, as a consequence of earlier planting, which was done to change the drifting sands environment. This planting decreased the size of the open areas, and diminishing dynamics in the remaining area increased the speed of vegetation succession in the surviving drifting sands. This process was further accelerated by nitrogen deposition.

In the past, Eurasian wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) and Tawny pipit (*Anthus campestris*) bred in the area, but they are now found only during the winter as migrants. The many visitors to the park are welcome, but they disturb the fringes of the drifting sands, where the species-rich transitions between drifting sands, heathland and woodland are found, including the habitats of rare breeding birds. As a consequence of these processes, the most important habitats in the National Park are under serious threat.

### Project objectives

The central objective of the project is to enlarge the area of drifting sands in the Loonse and Drunense Dunes nature reserve, and to raise its quality. This activity will thus deal with the habitats H2310 (Dry sand heaths with *Calluna* and *Genista*) and H2330 (Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands). The project will also aim to increase the breeding numbers of Eurasian nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) and Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) in the park, as well as creating the conditions for establishment of breeding Eurasian wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) and Tawny pipit (*Anthus campestris*).

In order to counter the disturbance caused to breeding birds, and to prevent damage to vulnerable vegetation, a plan will be made for the zoning of recreational areas within the park. The construction of a viewing platform for visitors will be part of this. This will contribute to visitors' appreciation of the nature reserve.

LIFE07 NAT/NL/000571  
Sand dynamics in inland dunes



### Beneficiary:

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

#### Name of beneficiary

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#### Name of contact person

Fen Van Rossum

### Duration of project:

60 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013)

### Total budget in euro:

1,761,757

### EC contribution in euro with %:

880,878 (50.00%)

### Expected results:

- The habitats H2310 and H2330 will be enlarged by 110 ha by removal of woodland including the top soil. The total surface of these habitats is expected to increase from 465 ha to 575 ha;
- Direct quality improvement of the habitats H2310 and H2330 across the total area of 575 ha, by taking steps to enhance the effect of the wind in the area, leading to increased drifting of sand. Also, the present monotonous structures in the vegetation will be broken up by small-scale removal of the top soil. These measures in combination will lead to vegetation growth that will be dominated by e.g. lichens and the grass *Corynephorus canescens*. This is the favourite habitat for many insects that are in turn the main food for *Anthus campestris*, *Oenanthe oenanthe* and many other birds;
- Indirect quality improvements by recreational zoning;
- Sustainable maintenance of the target habitats will be achieved by increasing the grazing pressure by sheep, which will ensure the small-scale diversity of the area and prevent dominant growth of trees and/or grasses.

# Tackling Climate Change-Related Threats to an Important Coastal SPA in Eastern England

## Project background

The coast of eastern England is one of the richest areas for birdlife in the UK. However, this part of the British coastline is also under considerable pressure from climate-induced sea-level rise, leading to what is termed 'coastal squeeze' – intertidal habitats are prevented from migrating landwards due to the presence of sea walls. Government policy on shoreline management now tends to favour management solutions that respect natural processes and adapt to coastal change. Allowing natural change along the coast has been shown in some areas to threaten the interests of freshwater habitats lying immediately inland. The RSPB reserve at Titchwell Marsh in north Norfolk is such a case where there is an imminent risk of habitat loss.

Titchwell Marsh is part of the North Norfolk Coast SPA and contains significant areas of freshwater reedbed (17 ha), freshwater marsh (12 ha) and brackish marsh (11 ha), which support such rare species as the bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) and avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*).

## Project objectives

The project has two main objectives. The first is to protect the freshwater habitats from destruction as a result of coastal erosion; the second is to mitigate and compensate for the inevitable loss of important brackish marsh. The project will implement a 'managed realignment' scheme at Titchwell Marsh in response to climate change. This will involve strengthening two seawalls to protect the freshwater habitats for at least the next 50 years, and also breaching a third, seaward wall with the loss of the brackish marsh. To compensate for the loss of 11 ha of this habitat, and, in particular, to provide breeding sites for avocet, several islands will be created within the freshwater marsh. New habitats will also be provided at the RSPB's Lincolnshire Washes reserve adjacent to the Wash SPA. The project is thus a good example of using mitigation and compensation in the context of Natura 2000. The RSPB will promote the project as a case study for raising awareness of the impacts of climate change on coastlines and their wildlife.

LIFE07 NAT/UK/000938  
TaCTICS



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

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### Name of contact person

Nick Folkard

## Duration of project:

48 months (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012)

## Total budget in euro:

2,009,660

## EC contribution in euro with %:

1,004,830 (50.00 %)

# Restoring Alkaline and Calcareous Fens within the Corsydd Mon a Llyn (Anglesey & Llyn Fens) SACs in Wales

## Project background

Fens are distinguished from bogs by having a source of water other than rainfall, being nutrient rich and being alkaline rather than acidic. In Europe these rare habitats are threatened by drainage, nutrient enrichment, fragmentation and climate change. The 467 ha Anglesey Fens SAC contains the most extensive area of fen in western Great Britain, supporting 42% of the total Welsh resource of alkaline fen (EU Habitat Type 7230) and 56% of the total Welsh resource of calcareous fen (EU Habitat Type 7210). The 284 ha Llyn Fens is the next most significant site in Wales supporting 13% of the Welsh resource of alkaline fen and 6.5% of the Welsh resource of calcareous fen. The sites lie at the western extremity of this habitat type in Europe and are a biogeographical stepping stone between the fens of East Anglia and the fens of the Atlantic fringes of Ireland.

The habitats are in an unfavourable condition as a result of the increased abundance of purple moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), under-grazing, drainage, increasing nutrient loads and inadequate burning management. Of these threats, under-grazing by cattle, ponies and sheep is considered the most severe.

## Project objectives

The objective of the project is to achieve 'favourable' or 'unfavourable-recovering' condition for some 750 ha of fen. The most important actions are:

- Tackling neglect and inappropriate management by mowing and harvesting vegetation on 114 ha; introducing a conservation grazing scheme on 446 ha; controlled burning on 168 ha; and controlling scrub encroachment on 60 ha;
- Reducing the input of nutrients to the wetlands by installing measures to reduce or remove nutrient input to the sensitive habitats;
- Blocking drains to raise water levels along 5 813 m of ditches and to prevent further damage to peat through shrinking and oxidisation, and re-establishing 3 479 m of hydrological pathways;
- Peat stripping (removal of the top layer of peat) on 15 ha of the most neglected sites ;
- Introducing management agreements with landowners on a minimum of 217 ha along with land purchase/agreement on 66 ha and an awareness-raising programme;

LIFE07 NAT/UK/000948  
Anglesey and Llyn Fens



## Beneficiary:

### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

### Name of beneficiary

Countryside Council for Wales

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### Name of contact person

Justin Hanson

## Duration of project:

59 months (01/02/2009 – 31/12/2013)

## Total budget in euro:

5,401,793

## EC contribution in euro with %:

2,678,560 (49.59 %)

- Preparing farm nutrient, biodiversity and diversification management plans for 40 farms;
- Mowing firebreaks on an area of 76 ha to reduce the likelihood of extensive fires.

The project will also consider the need to increase the resilience of the habitats to climate change through creating and expanding 'stepping stones' and ecological corridors between fragmented sites and by reducing water loss caused by a high cover of scrub and tall vegetation.



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