



LIFE Project Number
LIFE12 NAT/HU/000593

MIDTERM Report
Covering the project activities from 01/09/2013 to 10/12/2015

Reporting Date
15/12/2015

LIFE+ PROJECT ACRONYM
KASZÓ-LIFE

Project Data

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Project location | Kaszó, Somogy County, South Transdanubia, Hungary |
| Project start date: | 01/09/2013 |
| Project end date: | 31/08/2018 Extension date: - |
| Total Project duration (in months) | 60 months (including Extension of 0 months) |
| Total budget | € 1.343.295,00 |
| Total eligible budget | € 1.325.502,00 |
| EU contribution: | € 994.126,00 |
| (%) of total costs | 74,00 % |
| (%) of eligible costs | 74,99% |

Beneficiary Data

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The basic threat to the project area is the decrease of the ground water level (threat 1), that is originated by three factors: a) decrease in total annual precipitation, b) past demolition of the natural water-retaining landforms and c) the forced drainage in order to avoid floods in case of heavy rain. With the drying out of the area, favourable conditions are created for Invasive Alien Species, which means a threat (threat 2) to the Natura 2000 site. Deriving again from the lowering ground water level threat, the *Melolontha melolontha* infection rate is increasing, causing another threat (threat 3) to the targeted habitat. Project KASZÓ-LIFE aims at improving the water supply of the forests, smaller swamps and grasslands of Szentai Forest area (HUDD20063) as well as retaining precipitation in the area and thus stabilising the favourable ecological state. Underground-water level controlled by such methodology will positively affect the existing swamps, woodland habitats. The project aims at supplanting biotic woodland depletes too.

The objective of the project is the “as-long-time-possible” retention of precipitation in the project area by enlarging the storage capacity of the project area (by reservoir creation, elimination of alluvion, enlargement of Kűvölgy Lake system, watercourse-retention). Suppressing invasive species of the project area provides the opportunity to enlarge the ground surface covered by Alluvial forests. All the actions are monitored and documented. To achieve the best acceptance the public is involved from the beginning. An educational trail will be set up and guided tours will be organised. Traditional communication activities (project website, installing information and notice boards, publication of informative materials, press conferences and public information meetings) serve as direct connection to the public.

As the first step of the implementation the management and administration of the project was set up, together with establishing the supervising body of the Consortium (Steering Committee). The beneficiaries started working on the preparatory actions of the project, the first mission of the monitoring experts was implemented.

Shortly after the start of the project activities the Consortium had to face three serious unforeseen obstacles:

- Change in the legal status of the Associated Beneficiary
- Significantly less amount of the mud to be dredged from the existing Kűvölgy Lakes than projected resulting in the substantial decrease of costs
- Increased technical requirements in the creation of the reservoir in forest Bükk, Lakes Kűvölgy to better support their sustainable operation

Partners jointly elaborated a suggestion to overcome the emerged problems. The solution required substantial changes in the project, therefore an amendment to the grant agreement was proposed. The request was accepted and the project amendment was confirmed by the letter of EC on 9th January 2015 (please refer to the letter of the EC, Ref.: ENV/E.3 LB/sp ARES (2015) 81897) sent together with the duly signed document (Amendment No. 1 to Grant agreement to project).

The management and administration of the project provides a proper framework and a professional background helping the partners with their administration and management of tasks. Beneficiaries work according to the principles set in the Partnership Agreement. The funding sources were allocated proportionally to the implementing partners, the received pre-financing was transferred in 2013 after the signature of the Partnership Agreement. The partners are well

aware of their duties and work towards to achieve their goals. Participants are also aware of the expertise and fields of competence within the project team. As a team, the Consortium operates well: partners are helping each other with professional assistance, consultation, with the transfer of knowledge on best practice issues. The SC holds their meetings regularly and facilitates good collaboration between the partners and also with the Commission. In general, the level of communication and flow of information is excellent in the project team. Contacts and comprehensive communication between the project team and the external monitoring expert provides good transparency for the project and a clear view of the project and its progress. A monitoring visit was implemented on 11th April 2014 and 6th July 2015 in Kasz3.

The elaboration of the tasks accelerated after obtaining the major permits (environmental permit in May 2015 and forest utilisation permit in August 2015) and the project is being brought back on track. Construction type conservation actions started immediately and are being performed as set in the service contract and will be completed in the 1st quarter of 2016. Beneficiaries are aware of the importance of keeping deadlines and in case of problems they immediately inform the Project Coordinator and the Coordinating Beneficiary.

The current minor challenges of the project implementation (i.e. recovering the website, repairing the breakdown of the meteorological station) are managed by the partners, and none of them impose threat for the accomplishments of the given actions, nor for the overall project. Changes in the organisation of the CB do not affect the day-to-day implementation of the project: Mr Mihály Szász left the company on 16th November 2015 and his tasks and responsibilities were taken over by Mr László Horváth who has been working as the project manager of the project since 1st November 2015. Mr Horváth, as the head of the forestry department, was responsible for the implementation of the conservation activities and as such has an update and thorough knowledge of the project progress.

The progress of implementing the foreseen and planned activities of the project needs to be speeded up. However, the completion of the construction works implemented in the course of the conservation actions before the end of the 1st quarter in 2016 ensures the timely project closure.

- Actions completed: A.1, A.2, A.4, E.2, F.3, F.7
- Actions in progress: A.3, C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5, C.6, C.7, C.8, D.1, E.1, E.4, E.6, F.1, F.2, F.4
 - *Actions in delay:* A.3, C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5, C.6, C.7, E.3, E.5
- Actions not started yet: D.2, E.3, E.5, E.7, E.8, E.9, E.10, F.5, F.6

Action A.1 Procurement procedures

Procurement procedures were implemented as per required by the project activities. By the reporting date of the MTR all services and the vast majority of the equipment have been purchased. The items not yet procured will be purchased in 2016. Almost all milestones were met (procurement expert selected and subcontracted, contract signed for action F.1 and A.2, signature of the contract for construction works), the deadline for finishing all procedures shall be extended.

Action A2 Technical planning

All foreseen technical plans, including final construction drawings are ready and support the permit procedures and the implementation of the construction works of conservation actions.

Action A3 Permit procedures

Water right permits, environmental permission and forest utilisation permits are available. The operating licence (water right implementation permit) of the created lakes (Lake Bükk and

extended Lake Kűvölgy system) will be requested after the completion of the construction works in the 1st quarter of 2016.

Action A4 Stakeholder consultations

Altogether 17 meetings were organised and held with the identified stakeholder groups by the reporting date. The milestone of the action was met and the deliverable set for the action is accomplished. The action is completed.

Action C1 Reservoir in forest Bükk

Due to the dragging permit procedures the action are in a one-year delay. Works have started right after the technical handover of the construction area and most of them has finished by the reporting date (logging, topsoil stripping, hollowing, removal of old structures, creating the new structures, refilling and heightening the embankment). The creation of the water reservoir is expected to be completed in the 1st quarter of 2016.

Action C2 Conservation of Lake Baláta

Due to the dragging permit procedures the action are in a one-year delay. Building in the bypass will start in December 2015 and will be completed by the end of January 2016.

Action C3 Eliminating Alluvion of Lakes Kűvölgy #1 and #2

Although the dragging permit procedures caused a one-year delay in dredging mud from the lake, by the reporting date of the MTR, the foreseen activities are completed (dredging, depositing and drying of mud, topsoil stripping of Lake Kűvölgy #2, demolition of old structures and creation new structures, refilling, heightening and wave-protection of the embankment).

Action C4 Enlargement of Lakes Kűvölgy (Lake #3) and Action C5 Enlargement of Lakes Kűvölgy (Lake #4)

Due to the dragging permit procedures the action are in a one-year delay. The foreseen works started right after the technical handover of the construction area and will be completed by the end of January 2016. The majority of the works are finished by the reporting dates (logging, topsoil stripping, removing old structures and creating the new structures, refill and heightening the dam).

Action C6 Retention of watercourses

Due to the dragging permit procedures the action are in a one-year delay. Building in the bottom thresholds starts in December 2015 and will be completed by the end of January 2016.

Action C7 Reconstruction of service roads

Since the action is closely linked to the activities of Action C.3 (using the mud dredged from Lake Kűvölgy #2), the dragging permit procedures caused delays in reconstructing the service roads. By the date of the MTR the reconstruction works are completed, only eventual repairs in the forthcoming years of the project implementation are likely to be performed.

Action C8 Suppression of invasive species

Altogether 64 forest parts involving 200,35 ha has been treated in the reporting period (from the beginning of March 2014 until the end of November 2015). Some forest parts required "multiple" treatment. The elimination of Robinia pseudoacacia, Prunus serotina, Acer negundo, Ailanthus altissima and Solidago gigantea species was performed by applying mechanical methods (scything, motoric saw).

Elimination works were carried out on the project area as follows:

Action D1 Monitoring of the impact of project actions on priority habitats

Monitoring activities are performed as set in the monitoring plan. The baseline survey, including the digital registration and archiving of the data gained during the on-site collections has been completed, the evaluations are currently being performed.

Action E1 Online Communication

The project website (www.kaszo-life.hu and www.kaszo-life.eu) is operational both in Hungarian and English and is regularly updated with news and progress of the project actions.

Action E2 Installation of gates, informational and notice boards

8 gates were installed at main road crossings and frequently used entryways to the project area. 3 information boards and 17 notice boards were installed at the main entryways to the project area. Activities in the forthcoming years include the checking of the gates and boards and in case of damages their repairs or replacement shall be performed.

Action E4 Media work

Two press conferences were held, aiming to introduce the project and its progress to the media and the public. There are 2 press releases, 3 national newspaper and 10 internet articles delivered. 4 TV news and 1 radio news were made so far. The communication plan was revised taking into account the speed up of the communication simultaneously with the acceleration of the conservation actions. The publication of press releases, the specialised articles (elaborated by the beneficiaries) were also rescheduled.

Action E6 Public information meetings

In accordance with the project proposal, there were two information meetings implemented in the reporting period, both in the village of Kaszów. The 2nd event was organised together with the 2nd press conference. The third event will be implemented as foreseen.

Action F3 Training, workshops and meetings for the project beneficiaries' staff

Two training events were organised for the personnel of KASZÓ involved in the project. Their knowledge was refreshed and extended by the custom-tailored presentations made by the experts of NAIK-ERTI. Educational materials were provided to the participants.

Action F4 Networking with other LIFE and/or non-LIFE projects

Beneficiaries established contacts with several similar initiations either by direct contacts (i.e. proposed project LIFE FLUVIAL), or by participating in events organised by other relevant organisations. Project KASZÓ-LIFE was presented at almost all events.

Action F7 Potential synergy LIFE-EEOP

Both project aim at suppressing invasive plant species in the operating area of KASZÓ. In order to achieve the set objectives, the EEOP project applied different methods than the LIFE project. The results of the EEOP project contributed to the increase of the naturalness of the forest and the improvement of the health status of the valuable tree stocks, simultaneously with the decrease of reinfection of the areas by invasives species.

All actions remain feasible, the work plan remains valid; and the objectives of the project will be delivered on time. The overall project progress suggests a timely and successful project implementation.

3. INTRODUCTION

The objectives of project KASZÓ-LIFE (LIFE12 NAT/HU/000593) are:

- implement Community Environmental policy by its integration to silvicultural practice
- manage Natura 2000 sites the West-Inner-Somogy natural microregion (SW Hungary)
- rehabilitate degraded natural habitats by improving the water supply of the forests, smaller swamps and grasslands, and by retaining precipitation in the area and thus stabilising the favourable ecological state
- ensuring the long-term sustainability of priority-listed Alluvial forest habitats in the Szentai Forest area
- disseminate the long-term results and best practices applied during the project
- prevent harmful activities due to lack of information and understanding
- communicate positive message about Natura 2000 sites and the LIFE+ Programme

The site involved in the project is

- HUDD20063 Szentai Forest area

Targeted habitats

- 91E0* Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)
- 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds
- 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs
- 91L0 Illyrian oak-hornbeam forests (Erythronio-Carpinion)
- 91M0 Pannonian-Balkan turkey oak –sessile oak forests

Main conservation issues targeted

- Decrease of the ground water level (deriving from the decrease in total annual precipitation, past demolition of the natural water-retaining landforms and the forced drainage in order to avoid floods in case of heavy rain)
- Dispersion of the invasive plant species
- Increase of the *Melolontha melolontha* infection rate

Socio-economic context of the project

The almost immediate socio impact of the project is that with the suppression of certain invasive species the productivity of the forestry grows so it can employ more people on longer term. During the project implementation there is an immediate increase of employment in the small region while the activities are ongoing, but if the area becomes a touristic venue (as impact of the nature trails) the investment contributes to the economic improvement of the region. By the dissemination of the project the char (on short term) and employment (on longer term) expected from the project the population of the neighbourhood will become acquainted with the importance of the protection of forests and that of nature conservation. Familiarizing people with nature conservation in an indirect way as well as by direct training and environmental education will involve children learning about and loving nature.

Expected longer term results

- The groundwater level will increase by 10-20 cm
- The status of 91E0*, 3160, 7140 habitats will improve due to the proper water supply
- Stabilising, strengthening and the frequent crop-maturity of sensitive species, thus the natural composition of species will survive
- Risk factors of threats will be significantly lowered or eliminated
- Invasive species will be cleared off from the priority habitat area

4. ADMINISTRATIVE PART

4.1 Description of the management system

The beneficiaries established a well-operating project management system ensuring the smooth implementation of the project activities.

For the decision making and monitoring actions, a Steering Committee was established on 2nd September 2013, and consists of 3 representatives of the Coordinating Beneficiary and 2 representatives of the Associated Beneficiary. The SC is defined as a key decision making body of the Consortium. The original composition of the SC has changes in 2015 due to the changes in personnel of both beneficiaries. KASZÓ is represented by Mr Gábor Galamb – director, CEO, Ms Edit Szabó – deputy CEO responsible for the financial management and Mr László Horváth – head of forestry department (instead of Mr Mihály Szász – deputy CEO responsible for technical affairs and project manager who left the organisation on 16th November 2015). NAIK-ERTI is represented by Mr Attila Borovics – director and Ms Hajnalka Verebélyi – acting financial manager (substituting Mrs Krisztina Csatay Szabóné – financial manager during her maternity leave).

The project is coordinated by a subcontracted project coordinator (Mr István Lábodi, Lábodi Consulting Ltd.), whose work is supported by a project assistant of KASZÓ (Ms Kitti Szalai) and the financial manager of KASZÓ (Ms Edit Szabó) being also in charge of the project level financial issues. The tasks and responsibilities are clearly divided between the (subcontracted) Project Coordinator and the Project Manager of the CB. As a general rule, the Project Coordinator has a strategic project management function with contacting, communication, reporting and organising activities – which fall outside the scope of activities of the Beneficiaries. Therefore all personal meetings within the partnership and all communication with the EC and the External Monitoring Expert are organised, managed and administrated by the Project Coordinator.

Both Beneficiaries have nominated their in-charge project managers for the implementation of their technical activities. All other employees of the partners are under their supervision. All communication in between the partners goes through these managers involving also the project coordinator.

For the start of the project, a kick-off meeting was organised with the participation of all responsible managers and employees of the beneficiaries on 2nd September 2013. Here the partners defined and agreed on the exact tasks for the period of the first project year (until the end of 2014) and agreed on the communication procedures as well. At the beginning of each project year kick-off meetings (serving also as SC meetings) are held in the course of which workplans are discussed in order to thoroughly plan and harmonise the activities dedicated for the year. The kick-off meeting of 2015 was implemented on 28th January 2015.

Besides the SC meetings, the beneficiaries and their subcontractors had several bi- or trilateral meetings for the coordination of the different actions. Partners perform their project activities as per described in the PA (provided with the IncR). In case any challenges are foreseen beneficiaries immediately inform the Project Coordinator whose task is to contact the respective body in order to find the best solution. In order to minimize travel costs, regular online or telephone conciliations are held in between the consortium members. Beneficiaries had several bilateral meetings with the Project Coordinator where all important issues and crucial points of the project implementation process were discussed including financial reporting issues as well as

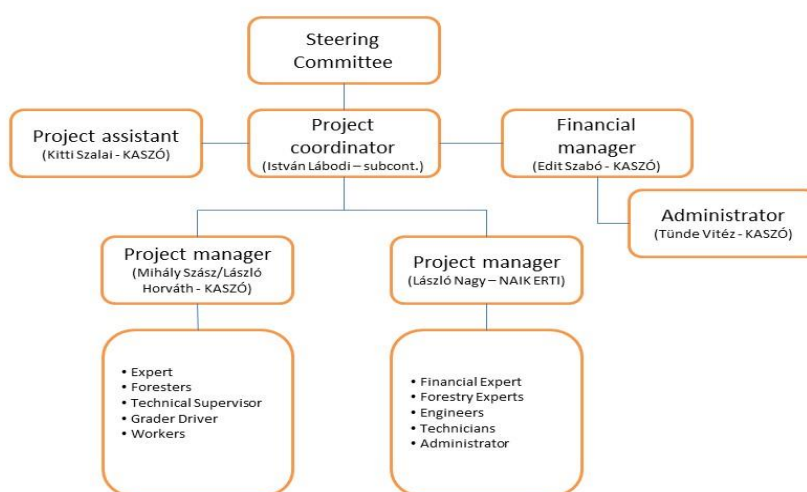
administration challenges or minor changes. Partners of such discussions, both the Beneficiaries and the Project Coordinator are convinced that all project members are aware of their tasks and responsibilities. The implementation of workplans including the day-to-day (professional) control of the technical activities are elaborated by the respective project manager. They are responsible for all on-site activities with special regard to conservation and monitoring actions. Back-office activities – including dissemination as well – are performed in the partners' headquarters and primarily are checked by the respective project manager. Information, reports, documents and draft materials are shared by the respective project manager with the project coordinator who is in a day-to-day contact with the CB. Beneficiaries keep contacts by using online tools (i.e. skype, email, dropbox, etc.) and mobile phones besides the traditional forms (meetings, letters, fax).

During the early implementation phase of the project realised that an amendment to the grant agreement should be requested due to several reasons (please refer to Chapter 3.3 of the IR and Chapter 4.2 of the MTR). The amendment request was submitted on 22nd July 2014 followed by a supplement on 9th September 2014. The request was accepted and the project amendment was confirmed by the letter of EC on 9th January 2015 (please refer to the letter of the EC, Ref.: ENV/E.3 LB/sp ARES (2015) 81897) sent together with the duly signed document (Amendment No. 1 to Grant agreement to project).

Changes in the organisation of the CB do not affect the day-to-day implementation of the project: Mr Mihály Szász left the company and was substituted immediately by Mr László Horváth. Mr Horváth, as the head of the forestry department, was responsible for the implementation of the conservation activities and as such has an update and thorough knowledge of the project progress. The EC and the monitoring expert were informed on the changes in official letters (please refer to the letters of the CB dated 11th November 2015 <sent on 13th November 2015>).

The legal status of the AB (ERTI) also changed: instead of ERTI – Erdészeti Tudományos Intézet - Forest Research Institute, the new name of the beneficiary is NAIK ERTI – National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre, Forest Research Institute. The amendment to the grant agreement included and manages this issue.

The organigramme below introduces the organisational structure of the project:



4.2 Evaluation of the management system

- Actions completed: F.3, F.7 (please refer to Chapter 5.1.14-5.1.15 of the MTR)
- Actions in progress: F.1, F.2, F.4
- Actions not started yet: F.5, F.6

The project management system established for the project is good, operates smoothly and has up-to-date information on the project progress and the identified challenges. Issues that require immediate answer are discussed via online means of communication (i.e. skype, emails, telephone). The project management and the performance of the activities are sound, although there are still some delays. The CB has the subcontracts with the external experts for Action F.1 valid and besides the personal meetings, has regular reporting from the assigned expert. The project development is monitored by reviewing the monthly reports of costs occurred at the beneficiaries. The administration of the project is according to the procedures set in the PA. Beneficiaries have a monthly reporting commitment which is fulfilled by sending a copy of their time sheets, travel sheets, and tables of other costs (external assistance, consumables, etc.). Beneficiaries also send a copy of their invoices, salary slips and other documentation that justify the reported amounts. The Project Coordinator checks these reports and adds the amounts in an excel table recommended by the EC. The attitude of Beneficiaries to financial monthly reporting is good. Partners – during meetings – discuss the financial progress and the technical issues. Challenges of compiling the IR and the MTR were also touched during the respective personal meetings.

Project partners have encountered some challenges during the project implementation that required interventions from project management aspects. (Please note that none of these impose threat for the accomplishments of the given actions, nor for the overall project.)

Need to request an amendment to the grant agreement

There were several challenges identified in the initial phase of the project implementation either requiring the amendment to the grant agreement (please refer to Chapter 3.3 of the IR and the text of the amendment request). The CB could start the public procurement only after the signature of the amendment documents by both parties (EC and CB).

Dragging permit procedures

As referred in Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR, in spite of the initial discussions the permit procedures required much more time than foreseen by the discussions. In order not to cause further delays in the commencement of the relevant conservation actions (Actions C.1-C.7) the CB and the Project Coordinator – based on the discussions with the relevant national park directorate (Duna-Dráva NPD) – initiated the division of the conservation actions into two categories based on the availability of the necessary permits. The procurement procedures were implemented successfully and the conservation actions (other than the elimination of invasive plants) could start.

Need of relocating the project website to another host

The project website started operating as per scheduled. However, in December 2014 the website became “infected” and was unavailable for a couple of weeks. The website was recovered and relocated. The current host ensures the smooth operation.

The Consortium has regular contacts and information sharing with the External Monitoring Expert (Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper), which we found very useful. The Project Coordinator discusses all challenges of the project implementation with the expert of the Team. Useful advice is frequently shared supporting the activities of the Beneficiaries. There were successful monitoring missions to the project area (on 11th April 2014 and 6th July 2015) including checks of the project administration. During the missions the locations of the conservation actions were

visited introducing the progress. Both missions were followed by a letter from the EC: (i) reference to the observations during the 1st mission were included in the evaluation letter of the EC on the IncR, and (ii) the 2nd mission was evaluated in a separate letter of the EC of 30th November 2015 (Ref. No.: ENV.E.3 LB/PR/ip Ares(2015)5455776)

Since the beginning of the project, an IncR – covering the project activities from 01/09/2013 to 30/04/2014 – has been delivered on 26/06/2014. In the IncR Beneficiaries reported the unforeseeable obstacles and proposed the modification of the project area and scope. The amendment request to the grant agreement was compiled and submitted to the EC on 22nd July 2014 followed by a completion on 9th September 2014. The amendment to the grant agreement was signed on 9th January 2015.

5. TECHNICAL PART

5.1. Technical progress, per task

- Actions completed: A.2, A.4, E.2, F.3, F.7
- Actions in progress: A.1, A.3, C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5, C.6, C.7, C.8, D.1
- Action not started yet: D.2

Being actions counting towards the “25% concrete conservation actions requirement” not only conservation actions but also preparatory (A), monitoring (D) and project operation related (F) actions are reported within this section.

The elaboration of the tasks in most cases did not follow the planned timeline. The leeway caused by the dragging permit procedures will be able to be made up in the coming months. However, all preparatory actions are completed (the procurement procedures finished, all technical plans are available, consultations with the stakeholders have finished) with the exception of the permit procedures (the water management license <vízjogi üzemeltetési engedély> will be submitted after the field works <landscaping> is completed). Conservation actions are performed with a one year delay but within the planned buffer-time. Despite the delays beneficiaries declare that all actions remain feasible, the work plan remains valid; and the objectives of the project will be delivered on time. The overall project progress – in spite of the above mentioned facts – suggests a timely and successful project implementation.

5.1.1. Action A1 Procurement procedures

The activities of the action are still *in progress*, since a foreseen equipment of the AB has not yet been procured.

The action started on 27th August 2013 (after the notification by the EC) by starting the procedure for assigning the public procurement expert by sending out the requests for bidding. There were three offers received out of which the offer of Magyar Közbeszerzési és Elektronikus Beszerzési Zrt. was successful. The contract with MKEB was signed on 5th September 2013. Due to the dragging permit procedures (please refer to Chapters 4.2 and 5.1.3 of the MTR) the construction works were procured in two phases, which required the modification of the contract signed with MKEB. The modified contract was signed on 27th July 2015.

In the course of the action the following procurement procedures of services were initiated by the subcontracted procurement expert:

| Action | Procurement start date | Winner | Date of contract signature |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Action F.1 | 16 th September 2013 | Lábodi Consulting Ltd. | 24 th October 2013 |
| Actions A.2 and A.3 | 18 th September 2013 | Dél-Dunántúli Vízügyi Igazgatóság | 25 th November 2013 |
| Actions C.3 and C.7 | 27 th May 2015 | Sziget-Melor Mélyépítő és Szolgáltató Kft. | 30 th June 2015 |
| Actions C.1, C.2, C.4, C.5 and C.6 | 7 th September 2015 | Sziget-Melor Mélyépítő és Szolgáltató Kft. | 14 th October 2015 |

Procurement of the equipment is also implemented within this action. The procedure started on 15th October 2013 by sending the requests for offers for the GPS for KASZÓ. Since the purchase of a GPS and the necessary software consumed all the budget of KASZÓ allocated for equipment, the laptop and the camera were not procured. However, due to the budget reallocation approved by the EC in the signed amendment no. 1 to the grant agreement allowed KASZÓ to buy a small bus to transport the workers and the tools and other materials to the locations of the works (mainly to the invasive elimination sites).

The procurement of the equipment purchased by NAIK-ERTI started on 21st November 2013 by sending out the requests for offers. Due to the availability of equipment that better meet the “value for money” requirement, NAIK-ERTI initiated some changes that were reported in the IncR and also approved by the EC in the amendment to the grant agreement. All the equipments were purchased by the reporting date of the MTR, except the tree ring density measurement equipment (with software bundle, increment borers) and statistical software. The procurement procedure of the statistical software is in progress. Since the tree ring density measurement activities and related data evaluations are scheduled for 2017, the equipment required by the activity will be procured during the 4th quarter of 2016.

As an item not foreseen in the amended proposal, a printer had to be also purchased since the former equipment became unserviceable. The new equipment will be used for printing the monitoring reports and other colour documents in the course of the project implementation. The purchase of Notebook RAM was not planned either but such equipment is required as accessories to the laptops used for the on-site data registration and archiving. We request the eligibility of the above mentioned equipment in the project.

All purchased equipment bear the Natura 2000 and LIFE+ logos as reported in Annex 3 to the IR and by the photodocumentation attached to the MTR.

The following table provides information on the purchased equipment:

| Beneficiary | Equipment | Status | Actual cost in EUR |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| KASZÓ | GPS + software purchase | planned / purchased | 3.599 |
| | Small bus (VW Transporter) | planned / purchased | 40.410 |
| NAIK-ERTI | 2 laptops | planned / purchased | 1.193 |
| | 2 notebooks for data entering during field work | planned / purchased | 1.837 |
| | GPS with software | planned / purchased | 1.339 |
| | 2 Canon Cybershot cameras + 2 Sony Scan Disk Extreme Plus memory card | planned / purchased | 627 |
| | Canon telezoom | planned / purchased | 428 |
| | Binocular | planned / purchased | 233 |
| | 4 memory cards | planned / purchased | 174 |
| | 4 mobile winchesters with USB | planned / purchased | 366 |
| | Projector | planned / purchased | 910 |
| | Laminar boxes for inoculation purposes | planned / purchased | 1.929 |
| | Meteorological station equipped with sensors, data collectors and software | planned / purchased | 4.984 |
| | Tree ring density measurement equipment, software bundle, increment borers * | planned / not purchased yet | 13.395 * |
| | Notebook RAM | not planned / purchased | 159 |
| | Colour printer (HP CLJ Enterprise M553X) | not planned / purchased | 1.084 |

* planned costs




There is a delay in completing the activities of the action. As per the amended project proposal all procurements were scheduled to be ended in the 3rd quarter of 2014. Since the missing equipment will be used only in 2017, the delay does not affect the project activities, nor the proposed project end date.

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| A.1 | 1 procurement expert selected and contracted | 15/09/2013 | 05/09/2013 | Done |
| | Contract signed for Technical planning (action A.2) | 15/11/2013 | 25/11/2013 | Done |
| | Contract signed for action F.1 | 15/11/2013 | 24/10/2013 | Done |
| | Contract signed for Construction works | 15/09/2014 | 30/06/2015 14/10/2015 | Done The construction works were contracted in two phases due to the dragging permit procedures |
| | Procurement procedures finished | 15/11/2014 | 30/10/2015 | Done The last planned procurement was completed on 14/10/2015 |

There were no deliverables planned in this action. Milestones were partly met: (i) the procurement expert was selected and subcontracted, (ii) the contract was signed for action F1 before the set deadline, the (iii) contract for Technical planning (action A.2) was signed some days after the set deadline, but (iv) the signature of the contract for construction works should be delayed, therefore (v) the procurement procedures have finished later than planned finished.

| Action | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------|--------|---------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

 planned in the modified proposal
 done
 planned

Annexes: Photos of the equipment purchased after 30/04/2014 (period covered by the IncR)

5.1.2. Action A2 Technical planning

The activities of the action are *completed*.

The implementation of the activities of the action commenced on 4th September 2013 with the detailed discussions of the preliminary technical survey with special regard to the planning process, obtaining the necessary permits and technical surveillance. There were three further meetings and discussions reported in the IncR (on 7th November 2013: the issues of the environmental impact study, on 9th December 2013: on the technical planning issues of actions C1, C3, C4, C5 and C7 together with the subcontractor of planning, 20th February 2014: the findings of the planning procedure).

DDVIZIG (the subcontracted technical planner) provided the KASZÓ with the documentation to be submitted for obtaining the necessary water right permits (vízjogi létesítési engedélyezési dokumentáció) for the restoration of the Kűvölgy Lakes and the creation of the reservoir in forest Bükk. At performing the technical planning activities, the detailed and thorough geodesic investigation of the subfluvial alluvion revealed that the amount of mud to be eliminated is significantly less (about 12.421 m³) than projected at the proposal phase of the project (50.000 m³). Therefore the plans for Action C.3 had to be revised and the amendment to the grant agreement had to be initiated (please refer to the amendment request documentation). Another meeting was held on 11th June 2014 during which the challenges set by merging the requests for the water right permits of Lake Bükk and Lakes Kűvölgy were discussed. Finally, the final construction drawings were delivered in July 2014. The EIC was completed by 30th April 2014.

There were no deliverables set for the action. The activities were implemented with delays due to (i) the need of preparing a more comprehensive EIC in which plant species were to be surveyed in more details, (ii) the less amount of the alluvion to be dredged the final construction drawings (kiviteli terv) had to be revised, and (iii) the merging of the requests for the operating licenses.

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| A.2 | Technical plans completed | 15/06/2014 | 30/07/2014 | Done. As per the 2 nd modification of the contract the deadline of the delivery was modified to 21/07/2014. Please note that although the dates in the plans refer to 30/06/2014, the actual date of delivery was 30/07/2014. |

The milestones set for the action were met: technical plans were completed slightly after the deadline set in the amended project proposal.

| Action | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A2 | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| | planned in the modified proposal |
| | done |
| | planned |

Annexes: Environmental Impact Study (in Hungarian)
Technical plans for Actions C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5, C.6
Final construction drawings for Actions C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5, C.6

5.1.3. Action A3 Permit procedures

The activities of the action are still *in progress*, although they were supposed to be completed by the date of the submission of the MTR.

As reported in the IR, the procedure started with the submission of the preliminary technical plans (előzetes terv) to the South-Transdanubian Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation Inspectorate (Dél-dunántúli Környezetvédelmi és Természetvédelmi Felügyelőség) on 3rd March 2014 to obtain the necessary water right permits (vízjogi létesítési engedély). The preliminary technical plans included the plans for the interventions in the Kűvölgy Lakes system (actions C.3-C.5) and the plans of the creation of the reservoir in forest Bükk (action C.1). The authority requested the completion of the plans by the findings of the detailed geodesic investigation (dredging only from Lake #2). The revised plans were submitted to the authority on 27th May 2014.

The submission of the revised plans was followed by requesting the merge of the two water right permit procedures on 28th May 2014 which was approved by the authorities on 13th June 2014.

KASZÓ was provided with the water right permits for the reconstruction and extension of Lakes Kűvölgy and the reconstruction of Lake Bükk on 21st August 2014. The notification on the permit being non-appellable and legally binding as of 5th September 2014 was received by KASZÓ on 1st December 2014.

As per the required by the Law XXXVII of 2009 on forests, forest protection and silviculture, KASZÓ has requested the contribution of the Ministry of Defence (the representative of the owner of the project area) to submit the forest utilisation permit request. Based on the approval of the Ministry of Defence, KASZÓ has submitted the forest utilisation permit request to the Forestry Directorate of the Sopron County Government Office (Somogy Megyei Kormányhivatal Erdészeti Igazgatóság) on 7th November 2014. Together with this, another request (a forestry plan modification request <erdőterv módosítási kérelem>) was also submitted to the same office concerning the forest parts affected by the creation of Lakes Kűvölgy #3 and #4. Both procedures were suspended until the end of the environmental impact assessment procedure.

The South-Transdanubian Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation Inspectorate (Dél-dunántúli Környezetvédelmi és Természetvédelmi Felügyelőség) – related to the forest utilisation permit procedure – initiated the implementation of an environmental permit procedure in December 2014. In order to start the procedure KASZÓ submitted the Environmental Impact Study that had been completed by 30th April 2014.

In order to speed up the progress of the project and not to lose more time with the start of the conservation actions, KASZÓ – on 26th January 2015 – requested the official opinion of DDNPD on the possibility of re-scheduling the proposed timing of the conservation actions. The experts of DDNPD had an on-site visit which resulted in allowing the start of certain activities before possessing all permissions (please refer to Chapter 5.1.1 of the MTR regarding the start of the procurement of the construction works and Chapters 5.1.5.-11. on the description of the respective conservation action).

The South-Transdanubian Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation Inspectorate (Dél-dunántúli Környezetvédelmi és Természetvédelmi Felügyelőség) called for a public hearing (közmeghallgatás) related to the environmental impact assessment on 9th March 2015.

The environmental permission was received by KASZÓ on 14th May 2015 which became non-appellable and legally binding as of 9th June 2015. The decree on the forest utilisation procedure was delivered on 17th August 2015.

The water rights implementation permit (operating license <vízjogi üzemeltetési engedély>) will be submitted to the relevant authority after the completion of the construction works, in the 1st quarter of 2016.

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| A.3 | Obtaining environmental permission | 31/07/2014 | 14/05/2015 | Done. The environmental permission is non-appellable and legally binding from 9 th June 2015. |
| | Operating licences for Kűvölgy #1 and #2 extended | 31/03/2015 | - | Not yet obtained. Permit request will be submitted in the 1 st quarter of 2016. |

There were no deliverables set for the action. The milestones of the action are partly met: the water rights implementation permit (operating license <vízjogi üzemeltetési engedély>) is not yet obtained. The permit is expected to be obtained by the middle of 2016 (please note that the request is scheduled to be submitted in February 2016). The acquisition of the water rights implementation permit has no influence on the implementation of any other actions.

| Action | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| A3 | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| | planned in the modified proposal |
| | done |
| | planned |

Annexes: Water right permits (vízjogi létesítési engedély)
Environmental permission (környezetvédelmi engedély)
Forest utilisation permit (erdőhasználati engedély)

5.1.4. Action A4 Stakeholder consultations

The activities of the action are *completed*.

The action started on 19th September 2013 with the implementation of the first stakeholder meeting with the representatives of Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate. There were altogether 4 meetings held before and reported in the IR (please refer to Chapter 5.1.4 and Annex 4 to the IR): 16th October 2013 (7 local farmers), 16th April 2014 (16 students) and 29th May 2014 (22 nature conservation engineering students).

Beneficiaries held altogether 17 stakeholders' meetings, all of them are properly documented: memos, attendance sheets and photos support the administration of the action. The following table summarises the stakeholder meetings:

| | Date | Stakeholder group | Number of participants |
|----|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 19/09/2013 | Representatives of Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate | 2 |
| 2 | 16/10/2013 | Local farmers | 7 |
| 3 | 16/04/2014 | Students (specialised in tourism management) | 16 |
| 4 | 29/05/2014 | Students (nature conservation engineering) | 22 |
| 5 | 10/06/2014 | Primary school pupils and their teachers | 18+ |
| 6 | 24/06/2014 | Kindergarten group and their attendants | 5+ |
| 7 | 09/07/2014 | Children of the employees of KASZÓ | 12 |
| 8 | 14/10/2014 | Tourists visiting KASZÓ attractions | 7 |
| 9 | 16/10/2014 | Professional hunters in Kaszó | 10 |
| 10 | 16/10/2014 | Secondary school pupils from Kaposvár | 32 |
| 11 | 22/11/2014 | Tourists visiting KASZÓ attractions | 8 |
| 12 | 12/12/2014 | Representative of a private forest in Somogyszob | 1 |
| 13 | 15/12/2014 | Representatives of Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate | 2 |
| 14 | 16/12/2014 | Folk dance group from Nagyatád | 7 |
| 15 | 19/12/2014 | Professional hunters (Kaszó and surrounding settlements) | 2 |
| 16 | 09/03/2015 | South-Transdanubian Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation Inspectorate | 4 |
| 17 | 09/10/2015 | Tourists visiting KASZÓ attractions | 8 |




In their letter following the monitoring mission in 2015, the EC requested to consult with the targeted stakeholders and if necessary, organise further meetings to reach the scientific community and technical experts as foreseen. Please note that as per the project proposal (pages 54-55), Beneficiaries planned consultations with the quoted stakeholders in the course of other dissemination actions, i.e. by providing information through newsletters or publications in scientific media. Such groups are interested in the results of the project (their question is: what has been done with what results and achievements?). They will be contacted as soon as the monitoring results are available (please refer to Chapter 5.1.13 of the MTR).

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| A.4 | Memo of 15 occasions / stakeholder consultation | 31/12/2014 | 19/12/2014 | Done. Further two meetings were implemented in 2015. |
| | 1st stakeholder consultation held | 31/12/2013 | 19/09/2013 | Done. |

The deliverable of the action was scheduled for 31.12.2014 (providing memos of 15 stakeholder meetings) and was met. The milestone set for the reporting period is met: the 1st stakeholder meeting was held (19.09.2013) well within the set deadline (12.31.2013).

| Action A4 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

 planned in the modified proposal
 done
 planned

Annexes: Documentation of 13 stakeholder meetings (attendance sheets, memo, photos)

5.1.5. Action C1 Reservoir in forest Bükk

The activities of the action are *in progress*.

As described in Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR, in order to avoid further delays in starting the conservation actions the CB requested the statement of the DDNPD on the possibility of re-scheduling the proposed timing of the conservation actions. Based on the findings during their on-site visit, the experts of DDNPD contributed to starting certain activities before possessing all permissions (please also refer to Chapter 5.1.1 of the MTR). As per agreed (please refer to the memorandum annexed to Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR) Actions C.3 and C.7 started in the first phase of the construction works (by procuring the construction services).

The activities of Action C.1 are implemented in the course of the second phase of the construction works.

The technical handover of the construction area took place on 26th October 2015. The subcontractor has to complete all works by 31st January 2016 as the latest.

By the date of the MTR the following activities were implemented in the course of the action:




- Official technical handover of the construction area
- Logging from the areas identified in the forest utilisation license
- Stripping the topsoil, hollowing and lifting out the old water-bar (áteresz), creation of the concrete base of the new water-bar, placing the new water-bar elements on the concrete base, refilling and heightening the embankment as per set in the technical plans (i.e. by using the dried mud dredged from Lake Kűvölgy #2 as per detailed in Chapter 5.1.7 of the MTR)
- Formworks and reinforcement of the horizontal element of the outlet tower (barátságilip)

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| C.1 | Water reservoir created | 31/12/2014 | - | Not met. Due to the dragging permit procedure, the water reservoir will be created only by 31/01/2016. |

There were no deliverables ste for the action. The milestone is not met: the water reservoir will be created only by the end of January 2016.

| Action C1 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

-  planned in the modified proposal
 done
 planned

Annexes: Overall map of the location of the action
Photodocumentation and video shots on the works performed

5.1.6. Action C2 Conservation of Lake Baláta

The activities of the action are *in progress*.

As described in Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR, in order to avoid further delays in starting the conservation actions the CB requested the statement of the DDNPD on the possibility of re-scheduling the proposed timing of the conservation actions. Based on the findings during their on-site visit, the experts of DDNPD contributed to starting certain activities before possessing all permissions (please also refer to Chapter 5.1.1 of the MTR). As per agreed (please refer to the memorandum annexed to Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR) Actions C.3 and C.7 started in the first phase of the construction works (by procuring the construction services).

The activities of Action C.2 are implemented in the course of the second phase of the construction works. The technical handover of the construction area took place on 26th October 2015. The construction works will start in December 2015 and have to be completed by 31st January 2016 as the latest.

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|---------------|---------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| C.2 | By-pass built | 31/12/2014 | - | Not met. Due to the dragging permit procedure, the by-pass will be built in only by 31/01/2016. |

There were no deliverables ste for the action. The milestone is not met: the by-pass will be built only by the end of January 2016. The delay has no effect on any other actions.

| Action C2 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| | planned in the modified proposal |
| | done |
| | planned |

Annexes: Overall map of the location of the action
Photodocumentation before the start of the works

5.1.7. Action C3 Eliminating Alluvion of Lakes Kűvölgy #1 and #2

The activities of the action are *in progress* and will be completed by the submission date of the MTR.

As described in Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR, in order to avoid further delays in starting the conservation actions the CB requested the statement of the DDNPD on the possibility of re-scheduling the proposed timing of the conservation actions. Based on the findings during their on-site visit, the experts of DDNPD contributed to starting certain activities before possessing all permissions (please also refer to Chapter 5.1.1 of the MTR). As per agreed (please refer to the memorandum annexed to Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR) Actions C.3 and C.7 started in the first phase of the construction works (by procuring the construction services).

The activities of Action C.3 are implemented in the course of the first phase of the construction works. The main activities were accomplished as follows:




- The official technical handover of the construction area took place on 30th June 2015
- Dredging the mud from Lake Kűvölgy #2 was performed in July and August 2015
- Depositing and drying of the mud started right after dredging
- The use of dried mud is continuous, linked to the implementation paces of Actions C.4-5
- Stripping the topsoil of the embankment of Lake Kűvölgy #2, demolition of the old wave-protection infrastructure and the old spillway, as well as the creation of the concrete base of the new spillway took place in August 2015
- During September and October 2015 the subcontractor placed the ready-made concrete items of the new spillway to the base structure, refilled and heightened the embankment as per set in the technical plans
- The wave protection of the new embankment was created in November 2015
- The accomplishment of the works scheduled within this action is planned to be finished by mid-December 2015.

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| C.3 | Lake Kűvölgy #1 dredged | 31/03/2014 | - | The Lake is not allowed to be dredged, the milestone is unaccomplishable. |
| | Lake Kűvölgy #2 dredged | 31/03/2014 | 15/12/2015 | Done. (By the date of submission.) |

There were no deliverables set for the action. The milestones are not met: although Lake Kűvölgy #2 was dredged as per set in the technical plans, the deadline for the accomplishment was not met. As per the detailed geodesic survey Lake Kűvölgy #1 cannot be dredged therefore the relevant milestone shall be declared obsolete. The changes have no effect on any other actions.

| Action C3 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

-  planned in the modified proposal
-  done
-  planned

Annexes: Overall map of the location of the action
Photodocumentation and video shots on the works performed

5.1.8. Action C4 Enlargement of Lakes Kűvölgy (Lake #3)

The activities of the action are *in progress*.

As described in Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR, in order to avoid further delays in starting the conservation actions the CB requested the statement of the DDNPD on the possibility of re-scheduling the proposed timing of the conservation actions. Based on the findings during their on-site visit, the experts of DDNPD contributed to starting certain activities before possessing all permissions (please also refer to Chapter 5.1.1 of the MTR). As per agreed (please refer to the memorandum annexed to Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR) Actions C.3 and C.7 started in the first phase of the construction works (by procuring the construction services).

The activities of Action C.4 are implemented in the course of the second phase of the construction works. The technical handover of the construction area took place on 26th October 2015. The subcontractor has to complete all works by 31st January 2016 as the latest.

By the date of the MTR the following activities were implemented in the course of the action:

- Official technical handover of the construction area
- The works started in November 2015 by cutting of the trees hindering the activities of the action, stripping the topsoil of the embankment, demolishing the old spillway and outlet tower
- The concrete base for the new spillway and outlet tower was completed by mid-November. The concrete items were already placed to the appropriate location
- Refilling and heightening the valley closing barrage (dam) was accomplished at the end of November (i.e. by using the dried mud dredged from Lake Kűvölgy #2 as per detailed in Chapter 5.1.7 of the MTR)

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| C.4 | Valley-closing barrage of Kűvölgy #3 built | 31/12/2014 | 30/11/2015 | Done. The delay was caused by the dragging permit procedure. |

There were no deliverables set for the action. The milestone is partly met: the valley-closing barrage was built almost one year later than planned, due to the dragging permit procedures. The delay has no effect on any other actions.

| Action C4 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| | planned in the modified proposal |
| | done |
| | planned |

Annexes: Overall map of the location of the action
Photodocumentation and video shots on the works performed

5.1.9. Action C5 Enlargement of Lakes Kűvölgy (Lake #4)

The activities of the action are *in progress*.

As described in Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR, in order to avoid further delays in starting the conservation actions the CB requested the statement of the DDNPD on the possibility of re-scheduling the proposed timing of the conservation actions. Based on the findings during their on-site visit, the experts of DDNPD contributed to starting certain activities before possessing all permissions (please also refer to Chapter 5.1.1 of the MTR). As per agreed (please refer to the memorandum annexed to Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR) Actions C.3 and C.7 started in the first phase of the construction works (by procuring the construction services).

The activities of Action C.5 are implemented in the course of the second phase of the construction works. The technical handover of the construction area took place on 26th October 2015. The subcontractor has to complete all works by 31st January 2016 as the latest.

By the date of the MTR the following activities were implemented in the course of the action:

- Official technical handover of the construction area
- The works started in November 2015 by cutting of the trees hindering the activities of the action and stripping the topsoil in the level of the embankement
- The concrete base for the new spillway and outlet tower was completed by mid-November. The concrete items were already placed to the appropriate location
- Refilling and heightening the valley closing barrage (dam) was accomplished at the end of November (i.e. by using the dried mud dredged from Lake Kűvölgy #2 as per detailed in Chapter 5.1.7 of the MTR)

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| C.5 | Valley-closing barrage of Kűvölgy #4 built | 31/12/2014 | 30/11/2015 | Done. The delay was caused by the dragging permit procedure. |

There were no deliverables set for the action. The milestone is partly met: the valley-closing barrage was built almost one year later than planned, due to the dragging permit procedures.

| Action | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C5 | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| | planned in the modified proposal |
| | done |
| | planned |

Annexes: Overall map of the location of the action
Photodocumentation and video shots on the works performed

5.1.10. Action C6 Retention of watercourses

The activities of the action are *in progress*.

As described in Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR, in order to avoid further delays in starting the conservation actions the CB requested the statement of the DDNPD on the possibility of re-scheduling the proposed timing of the conservation actions. Based on the findings during their on-site visit, the experts of DDNPD contributed to starting certain activities before possessing all permissions (please also refer to Chapter 5.1.1 of the MTR). As per agreed (please refer to the memorandum annexed to Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR) Actions C.3 and C.7 started in the first phase of the construction works (by procuring the construction services).

The activities of Action C.6 are implemented in the course of the second phase of the construction works. The technical handover of the construction area took place on 26th October 2015. The subcontractor has to complete all works by 31st January 2016 as the latest. The works of the action are scheduled for January 2016.

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| C.6 | First bottom threshold or step built | 15/10/2014 | - | Not yet. The bottom thresholds will be built before 31/01/2016. |
| | 100 bottom thresholds or steps built | 30/11/2014 | - | |
| | 230 bottom thresholds or steps built | 31/12/2014 | - | |

There were no deliverables for the action. The milestones are not yet met: the thresholds will be built only by the end of January 2016.

| Action C6 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| | planned in the modified proposal |
| | done |
| | planned |

Annexes: none

5.1.11. Action C7 Reconstruction of service roads

The activities of the action are *in progress* and will be completed by the submission date of the MTR.

As described in Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR, in order to avoid further delays in starting the conservation actions the CB requested the statement of the DDNPD on the possibility of re-scheduling the proposed timing of the conservation actions. Based on the findings during their on-site visit, the experts of DDNPD contributed to starting certain activities before possessing all permissions (please also refer to Chapter 5.1.1 of the MTR). As per agreed (please refer to the memorandum annexed to Chapter 5.1.3 of the MTR) Actions C.3 and C.7 started in the first phase of the construction works (by procuring the construction services).

The technical handover of the construction area took place on 30th June 2015. The mud dredged and dried out in the course of Action C.3 (please refer to Chapter 5.1.7 of the MTR) had been used during the reconstruction of the service roads in altogether 7.450 m (the planned and foreseen was 6 km). By the date of the MTR the reconstruction works are completed, KASZÓ will perform eventual repairs in the forthcoming years of the project implementation.

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| C.7 | Service roads reconstructed | 31/12/2014 | 15/12/2015 | Done (By the date of the submission.) |

There were no deliverables set for the action. The milestone is partly met: the service roads are reconstructed but the milestone was met almost one year after the set deadline.

| Action C7 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

planned in the modified proposal
 done
 planned

Annexes: Overall map of the location of the action
Photodocumentation and video shots on the works performed

5.1.12. Action C8 Suppression of invasive species

The activities of the action are *in progress*.

The elimination works of invasive plant species started on 3rd March 2014. The activities are carried out by the physical workers of KASZÓ supervised by the technical supervisors of KASZÓ. Experts of ERTI provided advisory support.

The elimination of invasive plant species was performed by applying mechanical methods: scything and the use of motoric saw were used in the elimination of Robinia pseudoacacia, Prunus serotina, Acer negundo, Ailanthus altissima and Solidago gigantea species.

Elimination works were carried out on the project area as follows:

- Altogether 64 forest parts involving 200,35 ha has been treated in the reporting period (from the beginning of March 2014 until the end of November 2015). Since some forest parts required “multiple” treatment, as per the calculations of the CB altogether 307,12 ha were treated (including 106,77 ha treated twice).
- Invasive species were eliminated from 152,91 ha in 2014. The forest parts and the plants treated are illustrated by a map annexed to the MTR. Those areas that required repeated treating cover 29,33 ha (meaning that altogether 182,24 ha was treated).
- In 2015 (until the end of November), elimination works were performed in 114,37 ha (please refer to the attached map) – including some areas that had been treated in the previous year as well. Out of the area treated in 2015, some 10,5 ha required repeated treatments (therefore – as per the calculations of the CB elimination works were carried out on altogether 124,88 ha).




As per the experiences gained so far, the intensity of the elimination works of the invasive species treated in the course of the project (Robinia pseudoacacia, Prunus serotina, Acer negundo, Ailanthus altissima, Solidago gigantea) shall be the same due to their good resprouting capabilities.

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|---------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| C.8 | IAS control started | 01/02/2014 | 03/03/2014 | Done. |
| | IAS cleared off | 31/12/2014 | 31/12/2014 | Done. |
| | IAS cleared off | 31/12/2015 | 15/12/2015 | Done (By the date of the submission.) |

There are no deliverables relating to this action. The milestones scheduled for the reporting period are met: although the IAS control started about a month later than planned in the project proposal, the subsequent milestones are met as per scheduled.

| Action | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------|--------|---------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C8 | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

 planned in the modified proposal
 done
 planned

Annexes: Overall maps of the locations where the elimination was performed
Photodocumentation on the works performed

5.1.13. Action D1 Monitoring of the impact of project actions on priority habitats

The activities of the action are *in progress*.

The action started on 11th October 2013 with the planning of monitoring. The planning phase of the monitoring system was completed as per scheduled in the project proposal. The monitoring plan was drafted by October 2013.

The selection of monitoring sample parcels and quadrates was implemented between 5-7th November 2013. As per the project proposal 10 sample parcels were assigned in areas with Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) habitats and 4 sample parcels with *Quercus robur* species were also selected. There were 2-2 sample areas designated for control purposes outside the project area. The monitoring is performed – as per set in the project proposal – by the own personnel of ERTI. The staff of KASZÓ provides assistance (i.e. in installing and taking the readings of groundwater observation wells).

The creation of the monitoring areas was completed in April 2014 by selecting and marking (numbering) 100-100 sample trees per sample parcel. The botanic quadrates were allotted and the groundwater observation wells were installed.

The level of the groundwater has been registered on a weekly basis since May 2014, as per planned and scheduled. The meteorological station was installed and has been operating since the end of October 2014. The weather parameters identified by the monitoring plan are registered on a 10-minute basis. The series are real-time available at <http://met.boreas.hu/erti/>. There was a smaller breakdown of the station in August 2015 resulting in a negligible data loss but having no threat to the daily interpretation of the registered figures.

Health status assessments of the 100-100 trees selected and individually identified in the sample areas have been implemented since the spring of 2014 by applying the ICP Forests methodology (www.icp-forests.org/Manual.htm), which is adopted both by the national Forest Protection Assessment and Monitoring System (EMMRE – Erdővédelmi Mérő- és Megfigyelő Rendszer) and project FutMon (LIFE07 ENV/D/000218 – Further Development and Implementation of an EU-level Forest Monitoring System). Assessments are performed twice a year: (i) at the end of May or beginning of June, and (ii) at the end of the vegetation period.

Botanical assessments in the sample areas (covering 400-400 m² ground-space) are implemented also by applying the above referred methodology. The dates assigned for coenological data collection and registration considers the period foreseen as the greatest possible coverage of the spring and summer aspectuses: it was performed at the end of April – beginning of May or the second half of July so far in the project (in 2014: 7-9th May and 28th July-1st August, in 2015: 4-8th May and 27-31st July). Due to the early spring presence of the bulbous and tuberous plants an additional data were collected for registration in the course of an on-site visit at the beginning of April 2015. With the aim of plant identification and documentation completing the on-site data collections NAIK-ERTI has started the elaboration of a reference-collection, which currently includes almost 90 herbarium pages.




Considering that the construction works have started in the second half of 2015, data collections for the baseline survey have finished. The digital registration and archiving of the data gained during the on-site collections, the evaluations are currently being performed. The results are scheduled to be available before the date of the next project report. The results of the baseline surveying were shared with the media and the general public in the course of the 2nd public information meeting (please refer to the description in Chapter 5.2.2.4 and 5.2.2.5 of the MTR).

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| D.1 | Monitoring plan | 31/10/2013 | 28/10/2013 | Done |
| | Elaboration of one monitoring plan | 15/10/2013 | 15/10/2013 | Done |
| | Sample parcels and quadrates defined | 15/11/2013 | 30/04/2014 (07/11/2013) | Done Although the designation of the parcels was completed by 07/11/2013, the creation of the monitoring area (selecting the sample trees) was finished later. |

The deliverable set for the action for the reporting period was met: the monitoring plan was ready by 28th October 2013. The milestones of the action were partly met: (i) the monitoring plan was elaborated by the deadline, but (ii) sample parcels and quadrates were defined 5 months later than planned. The delay does not influence the implementation of other activities of the action or other actions.

| Action D1 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

 planned in the modified proposal
 done
 planned

Annexes: Overall map of the project area indicating the locations of the groundwater monitoring wells
 Chart illustrating the groundwater level as a result of precipitation from May 2014 to November 2015 on the KASZÓ-LIFE project area
 Photodocumentation

5.1.14. Action F3 Training, workshops and meetings for the project beneficiaries' staff

The activities of the action are *completed*.

The action started on 27th November 2013 by starting the preparation of the presentations and the training materials.

The training and workshop for the staff of the CB was implemented by the experts of the AB and experts of NÉBIH EI. Besides the compulsory elements of such trainings custom-tailored solutions to the challenges of the CB were discussed. The action was completed as follows:

1. Training and workshop on 5th December 2013:

- Anikó HIRKA – Kinga ESZTÓ: National Register of the Forest Damages
- György CSÓKA: Typicalities and novelties of Ethnology in Hungary
- András KOLTAY: Impacts on climate changes on the health condition of forests
- Tamás KOLLÁR: Transformation experiments in Kaszó – results and experiences
- József KÁMPÉL: Modification of production capability to the impacts of “opening holes in forests” (Produkciós képesség változása a léknyitás hatására)
- László NAGY: Coenological investigations in Pro Silva sample areas in County Vas

2. Training and workshop on 21st March 2014:

- László NAGY: Nature values, Natura 2000 in the Kaszó forests

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| F.3 | Educational package | 31/01/2014 | 21/03/2014 | Done Reported in the IR. |
| | Training event administration report | 31/01/2014 | 24/03/2014 | |
| | First training event held | 31/12/2013 | 05/12/2013 | |
| | Last training event held | 31/01/2014 | 21/03/2014 | |

The deliverables set for the action are accomplished, the milestones are met, although both deliverables were completed only in March 2014 after the deadline set in the project proposal (31.01.2014), and the second milestone was met later than planned (the first milestone was met before the deadline). The delay in implementing the second training and workshop had no influence on performing other actions of the project.

The deliverables and documents supporting the completion of the action were annexed to the IR.

| Action | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------|--------|---------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F3 | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| | planned in the modified proposal |
| | done |
| | planned |

Annexes: none

5.1.15. Action F7 Potential synergy LIFE-EEOP

The activities of the action are *completed*.

The project of KASZÓ (ID: KEOP-7.3.1.2/09-11-2011-0037) received funds for the preparatory works of the project proposal that was submitted on 08.05.2013 (ID: KEOP-3.1.2/2F/09-11-2013-0026 „Szentai-erdő kiemelt jelentőségű természetmegőrzési terület élőhelyvédelme a KASZÓ Zrt. törzsterületén” – “Habitat development of SCI Szentai-erdő in the core area of KASZÓ Zrt.”. The notification on the award of grants was received on 16th October 2013 and the grant contract was signed on 12th December 2013.

After The public procurement for selecting the subcontractor implementing the project activities the elimination of invasive species from the respective EEOP-areas started on 1st August 2014. Suppressing *Prunus serotina*, *Robinia pseudoacacia* and *Ailanthus altissima* species was performed by applying both mechanical and chemical methodologies.

Activities of forest transformation commenced during the autumn of 2014 by logging *Pinus nigra* stocks followed by the removal of the trunks, rotation (mélyforgatás), soil disinfection and then planting *Quercus* saplings and building fences against game damages.

Unfortunately the autumn works were not successful everywhere in the treated areas: the decrease of the mixture ratio of invasive species to 3% was not reached in all treated plots. Therefore the treatment in the affected areas had to be repeated. The project ended on 15th June 2015, followed by an on-site check by the IB of the EEOP MA on 29th July 2015.

The support of growing indigenous arboreal species by the elimination of the rapidly growing invasive species involved altogether 333,12 ha, while the forest transformation activities were performed in 10,77 ha. The attached map clearly and unambiguously distinguishes the locations of the projects.




The works elements of the EEOP implementation project took place in forest parts that do not overlap, and fall outside the LIFE project area. The aim of both projects is to suppress invasives in the operation area of KASZÓ and prevent resprouting. The EEOP activities contributed to the increase of the naturalness of the forest and the improvement of the health status of the valuable tree stocks, simultaneously with the decrease of reinfection of the areas by invasives species.

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| F.7 | Report on synergies in the inception report | 31/05/2014 | 31/08/2015 | Done |

There are no deliverables set for the action. The milestone was not met in terms of deadline: the report on synergies in the inception report could not be drafted in time since the activities of the EEOP project have started much later than foreseen. The report is attached to the MTR.

| Action | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| F7 | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

 planned in the modified proposal
 done
 planned

Annexes: Report on the synergies of the EEOP and LIFE project (in Hungarian)
 Overall map of the EEOP and LIFE project areas
 Photodocumentation

5.2 Dissemination actions

5.2.1 Objectives

One of the most important objectives of project KASZÓ-LIFE is to disseminate the long-term results and present best practices applied during the implementation of the conservation and monitoring actions. The project aims at sharing information not only with the local inhabitants who might benefit directly from the project impacts, but also with the management of other LIFE+ projects, in order to raise their level of awareness and prevent harmful activities due to lack of information and understanding. This involves the active collaboration of the forestry and environment organizations. The nature conservation issues and natural habitat recultivation will be openly demonstrated to the public via the project website, flyers and public meetings. Additionally, the project aims to communicate positive message about Natura 2000 sites and the LIFE+ Programme.

Besides the “traditional” dissemination tools (i.e. project website, newsletters) several innovative communication actions serve the spread of the idea, results and achievements of the project. Forestry personnel – through a custom tailored training programme – and the general public – by the organisation and implementation of guided tours as well as the creation of an educational trail – will be educated on environmental protection practices, this way raising public awareness and acceptance. As the result of the awareness raising activities the number of trespassers and magnitude of illegal activities on the area is to decrease.

Exchange of best practice with LIFE+ initiatives taking place in other EU countries will be also supported by an international conference. Communication with the general public – besides the public information meetings and the implementation of guided tours – is planned via information tables, flyers, brochures, site maps, or short videos.

5.2.2 Dissemination: overview per activity

- Actions completed: E.2
- Actions in progress: E.1, E.4, E.6, F.4
- Actions not started yet: E.3, E.5, E.7, E.8, E.9, E.10

5.2.2.1 Action E1 Online Communication

The activities of the action are *in progress*.

The action started on 18th September 2013 by the registration of the domain of the website (www.kaszo-life.hu and www.kaszo-life.eu).

The tasks of creating and developing the bi-lingual official project websites, as well as the development of the project visual identity was subcontracted on 28th November 2013. The website is online with English and Hungarian information (in both domains) on the project area, the actions, partners, photo gallery and news, and is frequently updated with information on the

progress of the project. The project website became online and functional on 28th February 2014. The progress was reported to the LIFE Communication Team on 21st March 2014 and the link of the official project website is available on the LIFE project database (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=4714). The change in the contact person has also been updated (for details, please refer to Chapter 4.1 of the MTR.)

The project website started operating as per scheduled. However, in December 2014 it became “infected” and was unavailable for a couple of weeks. The website was recovered and the domain was relocated. The current host ensures the smooth operation.

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| E.1 | Internet domains registered | 15/09/2013 | 18/09/2013 | Done. |
| | Website development contracted | 15/09/2013 | 28/11/2013 | Done |
| | Website is in operation | 15/01/2014 | 28/02/2014 | Done |

There are no deliverables for the action set in the project proposal. Milestones were not met at their proposed deadlines: (i) the internet domains were registered on 18th September 2013 instead of 15.09.2013, (ii) the website development was contracted on 28th November 2013 instead of 15.09.2013, and (iii) the website was put in operation on 28th February 2014 instead of 15.01.2014, but still within the 6-month timeframe set in Article 13.4 of the Common Provisions.

| Action | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| E1 | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

planned in the modified proposal
 done
 planned

Annexes: none

5.2.2.2 Action E2 Installation of gates, informational and notice boards

The activities of the action are *completed*. However, based on experience of beneficiaries of other LIFE projects – we assume that there would be damages caused either by game or deliberately by humans in the coming years, and such damages shall be eliminated by repairing the assets or replacing them.

The action started on 3rd April 2014 by sending the requests for offers for manufacturing the informational and notice boards. 8 gates were installed in April 2014 at main road crossings and frequently used entryways to the project area. As per the project proposal the production of the gates was to be subcontracted. Based on the detailed calculations of KASZÓ the production of gates proved to be cheaper if produced by the beneficiary, therefore both manufacturing and installation was performed by the Beneficiary’s own staff.

Three information boards (size A1) and 17 notice boards (size A2) were installed at the main entryways to the project area. Information and notice boards were produced by a subcontracted manufacturer, the wooden framework was delivered by another manufacturer.




In 2015, KASZÓ had regularly checked the status of the gates and boards but no damages were registered. Activities in the forthcoming years include the checking of the gates and boards and in case of damages their repairs or replacement shall be performed.

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| E.2 | Notice boards and gates installed | 31/12/2013 | 30/04/2014 | Done |

The milestone set for the action was partly met: notice boards and gates were installed after the deadline in April 2014, instead of 31.12.2013.

| Action | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------|--------|---------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E2 | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

 planned in the modified proposal
 done
 planned




Annexes: none

5.2.2.3 Action E3 Development of an educational trail

The activities of the action *have not started yet*, they had to be re-scheduled due to the delay in the construction works (the educational trail will be created after the large-scale construction works). The forest utilisation permit is available, the technical plans will be ready to be submitted in the 1st quarter of 2016 in order to obtain the establishment licence. The creation of the trail (simultaneously with the removal of the old fences) is scheduled for the 2nd quarter of 2016.

There were no deliverables, outputs or milestones set for the reporting period.

| Action | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------|--------|---------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E3 | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

 planned in the modified proposal
 done
 planned

Annexes: Photos on the fences to be removed

5.2.2.4 Action E4 Media work

The activities of the action are *in progress*.

The action started with the preparation of the media contact list on 7th October 2013. KASZÓ has prepared a media contact list about relevant local, regional and national journalists and editors (nature protection, environmental issues, etc.). Direct contacts with media were established through phone calls.

The 1st press conference was organised at the beginning of the project by the beneficiaries in the settlement of Kaszó on the 4th December 2013. There were altogether 5 media represented in the event. The 2nd press conference was held also in the village of Kaszó. The event was linked to the progress of the construction works and was held on 27th October 2015 together with the 2nd public information meeting (please refer to Chapter 5.2.2.5 of the MTR).

Until the end of November 2015, the project was disseminated as:

- Press releases: 2;
- General article in national press: 2;
- General article in local press: 2;
- Internet articles: 14;
- TV news/reportage: 3;
- Radio news: 1.

The annexed documentation includes the media appearances (text of articles, films shot in the area, etc.)

Considering the progress of the activities, the communication plan of the project was revised taking into account the speeded up of the communication simultaneously with the acceleration of the conservation actions. The publication of press releases, the specialised articles (elaborated by the beneficiaries) were rescheduled to accomplish the deliverables as per set in the proposal.

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------|----------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| E.4 | 3 general articles in national press | 31/07/2015 | - | Not yet. |
| | First press conference held | 31/12/2013 | 04/12/2013 | Done. |

The deliverable set for the reporting period was not met yet: due to the delayed start of the conservation actions only 2 general articles were published in the national press by the set deadline. As per the revised communication plan, the 3rd article is scheduled to be published after the completion of the construction works in order to attract interest before the start of the guided tours and other dissemination activities. The milestone was met: the first press conference was held well within the set deadline.

| Action E4 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| | planned in the modified proposal |
| | done |
| | planned |

Annexes: Press dossier
Revised communication plan

5.2.2.5 Action E6 Public information meetings

The activities of the action are *in progress*.

The action started on 24th October 2013 with the compilation of the invitations to the public information meeting. The first public information meeting was held in Kaszó on 6th November 2013. The invitations to the event were published in the local cable tv broadcasts and were installed at the official information boards of the surrounding settlements. The information shared at the event included the introduction of the project activities besides the aims and objectives. The attendees were cooperative.




The 2nd public information meeting was implemented on 27th October 2015 together with a press conference. Information was shared with locals and inhabitants from the surrounding settlements on the progress of the project activities, on the first results of monitoring (baseline survey).

The status of deliverables, outputs and milestones is illustrated by the following table:

| Action | Name | Delivery date | | Comment |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------------|
| | | Planned | Actual | |
| E.6 | Report on the 1 st public information meeting | 15/12/2013 | 07/12/2013 | Done. Reported in the IR. |
| | Report on the 2 nd public information meeting | 15/10/2015 | 28/10/2015 | Done. |
| | First public information meeting held | 30/11/2013 | 06/11/2013 | Done. |

The deliverables set for the reporting period is performed: the reports on the public information meetings were delivered. The milestone set for the action was also met: the first public information meeting was held (06.11.2013) within the deadline (30.11.2013).

| Action E6 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

 planned in the modified proposal
 done
 planned

Annexes: Report on the 2nd public information meeting (deliverable of the action)
Documentation of the 2nd public information meeting (invitations, attendance sheet, photos, presentations)

5.2.2.7 Action F4 Networking with other LIFE and/or non-LIFE projects

The activities of the action are *in progress*.

The first contacts with LIFE+ projects were done by the participation of KASZÓ's expert in a conference held in the framework of project HUTURJAN (LIFE10 NAT/HU/000020) on 14-15th October 2013. After the event, the lessons learned by partners of other projects in the course of

the elimination of invasive species were shared and used during the implementation of Action C.8 of project KASZÓ-LIFE. (Documentation was attached as Annex 15 to the IR.)

The beneficiaries participated in the following further networking events:

- On 24th June 2014, the representative of KASZÓ participated in an on-site visit in Hajdúhadház as potential associated beneficiary of a future LIFE initiation
- The 12th Nature Protection Seminar (XII. Természetvédelmi Szeminárium) was held in Túrkeve on 24-26th March 2015, both beneficiaries participated. The representative of KASZÓ presented project KASZÓ-LIFE in the LIFE section of the event.
- Both beneficiaries participated in the event organised in the framework of project REDFOOT (LIFE11/NAT/HU/000926) in Tarnaszentmiklós on 24th April 2015. Valuable experiences were gained on the organisation of an international event, the creation of educational trails. Contacts with other LIFE initiations were also made.
- The initiator of project LIFE FLUVIAL (submitted to the 2015 call) contacted the project to start negotiations on possible future networking and cooperation. KASZÓ agreed with the objectives of the project proposal and provided their letter of support.

There were no deliverables and milestones set for the current reporting period.

| Action F4 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | |
|--------------|---------|------|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|
| | | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III |
| | planned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | actual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

planned in the modified proposal

done

planned

Annexes: Documentation of 4 networking events

5.3 Evaluation of project implementation

By the date of the preparation of the current report the following actions are completed: A.2, A.4, E.2, F.3 and F.7. Although Action A.1 is still in progress, the vast majority of the planned procurements were accomplished, therefore it is also evaluated.

The finished preparatory actions well base the conservation actions which are currently being carried out.

Since the conservation actions have not finished yet the applied methodologies cannot be evaluated in the framework of the MTR. However, the report prepared in the course of Action F.7 on the synergies of the EEOP and the LIFE projects partly evaluates this project as well.

The following table summarises the results of the actions completed so far.

| Task | Foreseen in the proposal | Achieved | Evaluation |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Action A.1 Procurement procedures | Procurement expert contracted | KASZÓ contracted MKEB as the procurement expert providing service for both service and equipment related procurements | The procurement expert performed the assigned activities in quality. |
| | Four service related procurements were planned to be contracted: (i) project management, (ii) technical planning and surveillance, (iii) construction, (iv) transportation | The planned services to be procured with the assistance of the procurement expert are finished. | There were no problems in the course of the procurement procedures (except the delays caused by the dragging permit procedures). |
| | Procurement of equipment: KASZÓ – GPS with softwares, small bus NAIK-ERTI: laminar boxes, laptops, telezoom and cybershot cameras, memory cards, binocular, notebooks, meteorological station, GPS with softwares, projector, tree ring density measurement equipment, groundwater level sensors, statistica software | All foreseen equipment were purchased (except the tree ring density measurement equipment). As a non-planned item, a color printer was procured by NAIK-ERTI to replace the dilapidated printer. | Services are implemented and equipment are used as per planned. |
| Action A.2 Technical planning | Landscape planning for the reconstruction of Lake Bükk (action C.1) | Landscaping plans were elaborated as per foreseen in the proposal. Detailed technical plans and final construction drawings are available. | There are no deviations from the technical plans. The elaborated plans serve as the basis of (i) obtaining permits, and (ii) performing C actions. Landscaping is implemented as per the plans. |
| | Landscape planning for the conservation of Lake Baláta (action C.2) | | |
| | Landscape planning for the reconstruction enlargement of Lake Kúvölgy #3 (action C.3) | | |
| | Landscape planning for the reconstruction enlargement of Lake Kúvölgy #4 (action C.4) | | |
| | Landscape planning for the retention of watercourses (action C.5) | | |
| Action A.4 Stakeholder consultations | 15 consultations with the stakeholders | Beneficiaries implemented altogether 17 stakeholder consultations with different groups (nature protection experts, local community, | Stakeholders were interested in the project topic, several questions were answered during the consultations. Emphasising the importance of water and wet habitats contributed to the awareness raising of the |

| Task | Foreseen in the proposal | Achieved | Evaluation |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | school groups, governmental officers, tourists, etc.) | younger generation. Meetings with nature protection experts, locals or surrounding settlements ensured that all interests are considered during the project implementation |
| Action E.2 Installation of gates, informational and notice boards | Installation of 20 notice boards and 8-10 gates resulting in significant reduction in the number of trespassers | 20 notice boards and 8 gates were produced. Out of them 17 notice boards and all 8 gates were installed in the project area. 3 notice boards serve as stand-by inventory in case any damages are observed. | Installed gates hinder illegal entrance to the project area and thus ensure the undisturbed implementation of conservation actions (i.e. construction works). Notice boards inform the public on the necessity of admission. The informational boards provide information on the project and the beneficiaries to the visitors of the project area. |
| Action F.3 Training, workshops and meetings for the project beneficiaries' staff | Implementation of a two-day training for all colleagues working on the project and for those, who are involved in the management of the project area | Two one-day trainings were provided by the experts of NAIK-ERTI | The training was unambiguously useful for the personnel of KASZÓ. They gained better knowledge on the wildlife of the kaszó forests which contributes to their higher level of environment consciousness and thus nature protection. |
| | 20 forestry personnel gain information and deeper knowledge on conservation issues | 43 and 38 forestry personnel attended the two trainings | |
| | 20 copies of educational packages are published | Educational packages were distributed among the participants | |
| Action F.7 Potential synergy LIFE-EEOP | The European Commission will be frequently informed on the status and the progress of the EEOP proposals | MTR is the first report in which the foreseen activities can be reported. | Invasive elimination in the EEOP project area close to the LIFE project area contributed to less possibility for the invasive plant propagation to get into the LIFE project area this way avoiding the re-infection of the treated forest parts. The impacts, however, will be observable only in the longer term. |
| | Sinergy between the actions of the two instruments and the added value of the complementary actions to LIFE will be registered to achieve a higher benefit. | The EEOP project was completed on 15 th June 2015. In the course of the project invasive arboreal species were treated chemically and mechanically on altogether 333,12 ha. | |

5.4 Analysis of long-term benefits

Since the completely closed actions of the project at this stage of the project implementation are preparatory, awareness raising and management-related actions, the project long-term benefits cannot be assessed in the current report.

6. COMMENTS ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT

7. ANNEXES

List of keywords and abbreviations used

| ABBREVIATION | DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KASZÓ | KASZÓ Forestry Stock Company – Coordinating Beneficiary (at the submission of the project proposal: Ministry of Defence Kaszó Forestry Stock Company) |
| NAIK-ERTI | NAIK ERTI - National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre Forest Research Institute – Associated Beneficiary (at the submission of the project proposal: ERTI – Erdészeti Tudományos Intézet - Forest Research Institute) |
| HUF | Hungarian Forint (national currency) |
| EUR | Euro |
| CB | Coordinating Beneficiary |
| AB | Associated Beneficiary |
| SC | Steering Committee |
| PA | Partnership Agreement |
| ha | hectare |
| DDNPI | Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate – relevant authority in nature conservation and Natura2000 sites |
| FM | Ministry of Agriculture |
| MKEB | Magyar Közbeszerzései és Elektronikus Beszerzési Zrt. – the company subcontracted for the public procurement (action A1) |
| DDVIZIG | Dél-Dunántúli Vízügyi Igazgatóság (South Transdanubian Water Management Directorate) – the subcontracted company for technical planning and surveillance (action A2) |
| EIC | Environmental impact study |
| EEOP | Environment and Energy Operational Programme |
| NÉBIH EI | Forest Management Directorate of the National Food Chain Safety Office |
| IncR | Inception Report with reporting date of 26 th June 2014 |
| MTR | Mid-Term Report (current document) |
| IB of the EEOP MA | Intermediary Body of the Environment and Energy Operational Programme Managing Authority |

7.1 Administrative annexes

Submitted with the Inception Report:

ANNEX 1

- Government Decision No. 1467/2013 (VII.24.) in Hungarian

ANNEX 2

- Partnership Agreement with annexes signed by both Beneficiaries

ANNEX 12

- Signed contract with the project management company (deliverable of the action)
- Travel report and photodocumentation of the international kick-off meeting of the successful East-European LIFE2012 projects

ANNEX 13

- Extract of the SC decisions

Submitted as annexes to the current report:

Annex F.2

- Extract of the SC decisions

7.2 Technical annexes

Submitted with the Inception report:

ANNEX 3

- Photos of the purchased equipment
- Letter of ERTI on 20.11.2013

ANNEX 4

- Memos of 4 stakeholder meetings

ANNEX 5

- Overall map illustrating the location of all activities (separately marking the activities that were carried out in the reporting period)

ANNEX 6

- Map illustrating the location of elimination works carried out
- Photo documentation

ANNEX 7

- Preliminary monitoring plan
- Monitoring Plan (deliverable of the action)
- Location monitoring parcels and control parcels
- Photo documentation

ANNEX 9

- Map with the location of gates and boards installed
- Design of the information board and the notice board
- Photo documentation

ANNEX 16

- Overview map on the area of the EEOP project and the LIFE project

ANNEX 17

- Declaration of KASZÓ on the accommodation costs of ERTI personnel

Submitted as annexes to the current report:

Annex A.1

- Photos of the equipment purchased after 30/04/2014 (period covered by the IncR)

Annex A.2

- Environmental Impact Study (in Hungarian)
- Technical plans for Actions C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5, C.6
- Final construction drawings for Actions C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5, C.6

Annex A.3

- Water right permits (vízjogi létesítési engedély)
- Environmental permission (környezetvédelmi engedély)
- Forest utilisation permit (erdőhasználati engedély)

Annex A.4

- Documentation of 13 stakeholder meetings (attendance sheets, memo, photos)

Annex C.1

- Overall map of the location of the action
- Photodocumentation and video shots on the works performed

Annex C.2

- Overall map of the location of the action
- Photodocumentation before the start of the works

Annex C.3

- Overall map of the location of the action
- Photodocumentation and video shots on the works performed

Annex C.4

- Overall map of the location of the action
- Photodocumentation and video shots on the works performed

Annex C.5

- Overall map of the location of the action
- Photodocumentation and video shots on the works performed

Annex C.7

- Overall map of the location of the action
- Photodocumentation and video shots on the works performed

Annex C.8

- Overall maps of the locations where the elimination was performed (separate maps for 2014 and 2015)
- Photodocumentation on the works performed

Annex D.1

- Overall map of the project area indicating the locations of the groundwater monitoring wells
- Chart illustrating the groundwater level as a result of precipitation from May 2014 to November 2015 on the KASZÓ-LIFE project area
- Photodocumentation

Annex F.7

- Report on the synergies of the EEOP and LIFE project (in Hungarian)
- Overall map of the EEOP and LIFE project areas
- Photodocumentation

7.3 Dissemination annexes

7.3.1 Layman's report

Not relevant yet.

7.3.2 After-LIFE Communication Plan

Not relevant yet.

7.3.3 Other dissemination annexes

Submitted with the Inception report:

ANNEX 8

- Document on the registration of the domain names
- Visual identity guide of the project

ANNEX 10

- Documents of the Press conference held on 04.12.2013 (attendance sheet, presentations, photos, memo)
- Media appearances of the project

ANNEX 11

- Report on the 1st public information meeting (deliverable of the action)
- Documentation of the 1st public information meeting (invitations, attendance sheet, photos, presentations)

ANNEX 14

- Educational package (deliverable of the action)
- Training event administration report (deliverable of the action)

ANNEX 15

- Documentation of the participation on the HUTURJAN conference on 14-15.10.2013

Submitted as annexes to the current report:

Annex E.3

- Photos on the fences to be removed

Annex E.4

- Press dossier
- Revised communication plan

Annex E.6

- Report on the 2nd public information meeting (deliverable)
- Documentation of the 2nd public information meeting (invitations, attendance sheet, photos, presentations)

Annex F.4

- Documentation of 4 networking events

7.4 Final table of indicators

Not relevant yet.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT AND ANNEXES

- Standard Payment Request and Beneficiary's Certificate
- Beneficiaries' Certificates for Nature Projects
- Consolidated Cost Statement for the Project
- Financial Statement of the Individual Beneficiaries
- VAT Declaration of NAIK-ERTI