



LIFE Project Number
LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

PROGRESS REPORT No. 2
Covering the project activities from 01.08.2008 to 30.09.2009.

Reporting Date
20/12/2009

LIFE PROJECT NAME
Conservation of Falco cherrug in the Carpathian basin

Data Project	
Project location	Hungary and Slovakia
Project start date:	01/10/2006
Project end date:	30/09/2010
Total Project duration (in months)	48 months
Total budget	€ 2 152 042
EC contribution:	€ 1 606 715
(%) of total costs	74,66
(%) of eligible costs	74,66

Data Beneficiary	
Name Beneficiary	Bükk National Park Directorate
Contact person	Mr. József Fidlóczky
Postal address	3301 Eger, Pf. 113.
Visit address	Sánc u. 6. H-3304 EGER
Telephone	+ 36-30-3495664
Fax:	+ 36-36-412791
E-mail	fidlojo@gmail.com
Project Website	www.sakerlife.mme.hu



1. List of Contents and Annexes

2. List of key-words and abbreviations.....	6
i. Key-words.....	6
ii. Abbreviations	6
3. Executive Summary	7
4. Technical development.....	16
<u>A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or of action plans.....</u>	16
A1. Assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies and related habitat management practices on <i>Falco cherrug's</i> habitat.....	16
A2. Elaboration of habitat rehabilitation & management methods for grasslands in pilot areas and proposal for appropriate subsidies to stimulate proper farming on the protected <i>S. citellus</i> habitat.....	17
A3. Population modelling.....	21
A4. Training of project participants.....	21
A5. Acquisition of equipment (in compliance with public-procurement regulations).....	21
<u>C. Non-recurring management.....</u>	23
C1. Production and installation of nest boxes and artificial nests.....	23
C2. Repatriation of <i>S. citellus</i> on Natura 2000 habitats where it is missing.....	25
C3. Location and insulation of dangerous electric pylons.....	26
C4. Tagging and ringing juveniles to collect migratory and immigration data and feather collection for analysis.....	28
<u>D. Recurring management.....</u>	29
D1. Inspection and maintenance of nest boxes and artificial nests.....	29
D2. Efficiency control of dangerous electric pylon's insulation.....	29
D3. Monitoring of repatriated <i>S. citellus</i> population.....	30
D4. Guarding of endangered nests.....	32
D5. Keeping and breeding of disabled birds and repatriation of juveniles.....	32
D6. Chemical analysis of addled eggs and disseminate the result.....	33
D7. Monitoring of population and impacts of different project actions.....	34
D8. Collection and evaluation of migratory and immigration data by satellite telemetry, and bird ringing.....	35
D9. Managing BirdLife European <i>F. cherrug</i> Conservation Taskforce to co-ordinate the conservation efforts and gather information from wintering grounds, migrating routes and immigrating juveniles by establishing and operating an international mailing List.....	36
<u>E. Public awareness and dissemination of information.....</u>	38
E1. Changing of hunters opinion through raising their awareness.....	38
E2. Test the efficiency of Agri-environment Advisory based on project findings on a pilot area.....	39
E3. Erecting information signs at project sites.....	40



E4. Design and operation of project web site.....	41
E5. Securing public support for conservation efforts.....	41
E6. Informing media about project's aims, activities and achievements.....	42
E7. International conference to share and evaluate results and experience of the project.....	44
E8. Layman's report.....	44
<u>F. Overall project management.....</u>	<u>46</u>
F1. Project planning, management, administration, monitoring and reporting.....	46
F2. Held Steering Committee meetings.....	47
F3. Financial monitoring and reporting.....	47
F4. After-LIFE Conservation Plan.....	48
5. Problem encountered.....	49
6. Financial Situation.....	50
7. Planned project progress.....	51

Tables:

Table 1: Summary of technical progress on project actions by 31/07/2008.....	8
Table 2: Site management activities (A2).....	19
Table 3: Location of installed nest boxes (C1).....	24
Table 4: Result of <i>S. citellus</i> repatriation up to 31 July 2008 (C2).....	26
Table 5: Result of repatriated <i>S. citellus</i> monitoring up to 31 July 2008 (D3).....	31
Table 6: Distribution of breeding population according to nest condition.....	35
Table 7: Status of the fulfilment of deliverable products and milestones by 31.07.2008.....	49
Table 8: PROJECT COSTS INCURRED BY COST CATEGORIES.....	50
Table 9: Planned project progress.....	51

(are in the attached CD according to your suggestion on 06.02.2009)

Annex A1/1: 1:30000 scale false colour picture of Apaj in spring 2008	
Annex A1/2: 1:30000 scale true colour picture of Apaj in spring 2008	
Annex A1/3: 1:30000 scale false colour picture of Apaj in autumn 2008	
Annex A1/4: 1:30000 scale true colour picture of Apaj in autumn 2008	
Annex A1/5: 1:10000 scale false colour picture of Apaj in spring 2008	
Annex A1/6: 1:10000 scale true colour picture of Apaj in spring 2008	
Annex A1/7: 1:10000 scale false colour picture of Apaj in autumn 2008	
Annex A1/8: 1:10000 scale true colour picture of Apaj in autumn 2008	
Annex A1/9: 1:30000 scale land use map of Apaj in 2008	
Annex A1/10: 1:10000 scale land use map of Apaj in 2008	
Annex A1/11: 1:10000 scale land use map of Apaj incl. weeds in 2008	
Annex A1/12: 1:50000 scale pictures of Csákvár in spring 2008	
Annex A1/13: 1:50000 scale pictures of Csákvár in autumn 2008	
Annex A1/14: 1:50000 scale land use map of Csákvár in 2008	
Annex A1/15: 1:30000 scale false colour picture of Hevesi sík in spring 2008	
Annex A1/16: 1:30000 scale true colour picture of Hevesi sík in spring 2008	
Annex A1/17: 1:30000 scale false colour picture of Hevesi sík in autumn 2008	
Annex A1/18: 1:30000 scale true colour picture of Hevesi sík in autumn 2008	
Annex A1/19: 1:30000 scale land use map of Hevesi sík in 2008	
Annex A1/20: 1:10000 scale land use map of Hevesi sík in 2008	
Annex A1/21: 1:10000 scale land use map of Hevesi sík incl. weeds in 2008	



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

- Annex A1/22: 1:320000 scale land use map of the 50 nests area in 2008
- Annex A1/23: Letter of Agriculture and Rural Development Office to provide MePAR data
- Annex A1/24a-b: Survey of Falco cherrug's prey density in HUBN10004 Hevesi-sík
- Annex A1/25: Survey of Falco cherrug's prey density in HUKN10001 Felső Kiskunság
- Annex A1/26: Survey of Falco cherrug's prey density in HUDI30001 Zsámbéki medence
- Annex A1/27: Advising farmers
- Annex A1/28: MARD letter about the revision of RDP
- Annex A1/29: Habitat structure of the Saker Falcon pair of the project area, detailed monitoring, year 2008 in Kuchyna
- Annex A1/30: Habitat structure of the Saker Falcon pair of the project area, detailed monitoring, year 2008 in Zohor
- Annex A1/31: Habitat structure of the Saker Falcon pair of the project area, Lehnice - simplified monitoring
- Annex A1/32: Habitat structure of the Saker Falcon pair of the project area, Raca - simplified monitoring
- Annex A1/33: Corine land cover codes
- Annex A1/34a-d: Memos & lists of participants about meetings with agriculture companies
- Annex A1/35: Results of the analysis of food remains collected in 2008 in Slovakia
- Annex A1/36: Prey species identification, density and site preference of prey population at home range of Saker pair in Stupava.
- Annex A2/1: Revision of N-Cserehát's & Bodroghöz's ESAs (presentation)
- Annex A2/2-6: Memos & lists of participants about meetings with agriculture companies
- Annex A2/7: Pictures of grassland management of HUBN10002, HUBN10003 and HUBN10004
- Annex A2/8: Pictures of grassland management of HUDI10003 and HUDI10004
- Annex A2/9: Pictures of grassland management of HUH10001 and HUH10005
- Annex A2/10: Pictures of grassland management of HUKM10001 and HUKM10002
- Annex A2/11: Pictures of grassland management of HUKN10007
- Annex A2/12: Pictures of grassland management of HUDI30002
- Annex A2/13: Pictures of grassland management of SKCHVU014 and SKCHVU017
- Annex A5: Inventory documents of bird cages
- Annex C1/1: Installation of "Type 1" nest box on tree in Hungary
- Annex C1/2: Installation of "Type 2" nest box on pylon in Hungary
- Annex C1/3: Installation of "Type 2" and "Type 3" nest boxes in Slovakia
- Annex C1/4: Installation of nest boxes and nests in West Slovakia (map)
- Annex C1/5: Installation of nest boxes and nests in East Slovakia (map)
- Annex C2/1: Pictures about catching *S. citellus* in Tököl airport in summer of 2008
- Annex C2/2: Pictures of repatriation *S. citellus* from HUBN10003 to HUBN10002.
- Annex C2/3: Pictures of repatriation *S. citellus* in HUH10002
- Annex C2/4: Repatriated *S. citellus* in Slovakia in summer of 2008
- Annex C2/5: Repatriated *S. citellus* in Slovakia in 2009
- Annex C2/6: Site of release of *S. citellus* in SKCHVU014 Malé Karpaty SPA
- Annex C3/1: Summary of the 2009 year's middle voltage power line pylons' survey
- Annex C3/2: Survey sheet
- Annex C3/3: Agreement of insulation between HNPĐ and E.On
- Annex C3/4: Insulation in HUAN10001
- Annex C3/5: Insulation in HUAN10002
- Annex C3/6: Insulation in HUBN10002 & HUBN10005
- Annex C3/7: Insulation in HUDD10005
- Annex C3/8: Insulation in HUFH10001, HUFH10004, HUFH30004 and HUFH30005
- Annex C3/9: Insulation in HUH10002
- Annex C3/10: Insulation in HUH10003
- Annex C3/11: Insulation in HUH10005



- Annex C3/12: Insulation in HUDI30001 & HUDI30002
- Annex C3/13: Pictures of insulations
- Annex C3/14: Meeting with electric company
- Annex C3/15: Insulation in SKCHV016
- Annex C4/1: Ringing juveniles
- Annex C4/2: PTT tagged juveniles
- Annex C4/3: MoU with Laboratory of Cardiff University about genetic analysis
- Annex C4/4: Feather samples packed for genetic analysis
- Annex D1: Collecting food remains during maintenance of nest boxes
- Annex D3/1: Pictures of *S. citellus* monitoring
- Annex D3/2: Site of release of suslik in skchvu017 Muránska Planina SPA
- Annex D5: Disabled birds
- Annex D6/1: Result of chemical analyses of addled eggs
- Annex D6/2: Result of evaluation of chemical analyses data
- Annex D7/1: 2009 year's Hungarian monitoring data
- Annex D7/2: 2009 year's Slovak monitoring data
- Annex D8/1: Roaming juveniles appoint the potential target areas for the expansion of the species
- Annex D8/2: Roaming of PTT tagged birds still active in the reporting period
- Annex D8/3: Breeding of PTT tagged Dóra
- Annex D/9: Record of mailing on mailing list
- Annex E1/1: Photos of International Press Conference
- Annex E1/2: Photos of meetings with hunters
- Annex E1/3-5: Memos & lists of participants about meetings with hunters
- Annex E1/6: List of media presence of the bird crime issues
- Annex E1/7-11: Video clips
- Annex E1/12: Project activities in Newspapers
- Annex E1/13: Coloured A4-size 16 pages brochure for Hunters
- Annex E2/1: Photos of the advising activities
- Annex E2/2: Power point presentation about the agri-environment subsidies 2009-2014
- Annex E2/3: List of participants
- Annex E3: Destroyed and replaced signboards
- Annex E4: List of visitors of the web by countries
- Annex E5/1: Photos of the presentation of the project in Serbia
- Annex E5/2: Programme of the specialist meeting on the conservation of the saker falcon in Abu Dhabi
- Annex E5/3: Conclusion and recommendation of the specialist meeting in Abu Dhabi
- Annex E5/4: Pictures of the President's visit
- Annex E5/5: Shooting the project film
- Annex E6/1: Photos of the Press Conference
- Annex E6/2-16: Press releases
- Annex E6/17-19: Articles
- Annex E6/20: Presence in the media in Hungary
- Annex E6/21: Presence in the media in Slovakia
- Annex F1: Placement agreement of French intern
- Annex F2: Minutes of 24.09.2008 Steering Committee meeting



2. List of key-words and abbreviations

i. Key-words

aerial photos, agriculture, Argos
Beneficiary
chicks, conservation
disabled
Falco cherrug, F. cherrug
habitat, handbook, Hungary
insulation, insulator
juveniles
management, Media, monitoring
nest-box
power-line, press, pylon
repatriation, ringing, roaming
subsidies, satellite, Slovakia, Spermophilus citellus, S. citellus

ii. Abbreviations

ANPD	-	Aggtelek National Park Directorate
BfNPD	-	Balaton-felvidéki National Park Directorate
BNPD	-	Bükk National Park Directorate
CAP	-	Common Agriculture Policy
DDNPD	-	Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate
DINPD	-	Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate
DVD	-	Digital Video Disc
EC	-	European Commission
EMISSZIÓ	-	E-misszió Environmental Association
EU	-	European Union
FHNPD	-	Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate
GIS	-	Geographic Information System
HA	-	Hunting Association
HNPD	-	Hortobágy National Park Directorate
HUAN, HUBN etc.	-	Code letter of the Hungarian SPAs
KMNPD	-	Körös-Maros National Park Directorate
KNPD	-	Kiskunság National Park Directorate
LPIS	-	Land Parcel Information System of Slovak Republic
MARD	-	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Hungary
MePAR	-	Land Parcel Information System of Hungary
MEW	-	Ministry of Environment and Water of Hungary
MME	-	MME/BirdLife Hungary
MoE	-	Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organisation
PIT	-	Passive Integrated Transponder
PROVÉRTES	-	PRO VÉRTES Public Foundation for Nature Conservation
pSCI	-	proposed Site of Community Importance
PTT	-	Platform Transmitter Terminals
RPS	-	Raptor Protection of Slovakia
SC	-	Steering Committee
SKUEV...	-	Code letter of Slovak SPAs
SNC	-	State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic
SOS	-	SOS/BirdLife Slovakia
SPA	-	Special Protected Area
VSE	-	Eastern Electric Utility Company
ZSE	-	West-Slovak Electric Company
4 WD	-	four wheel drive



3. Executive Summary (max 1 page)

Project objectives:

Overall goal: Favourable conservation status of *Falco cherrug* is restored in the Carpathian Basin (Hungary and Slovakia)

Verifiable indicator of overall goal: The *F. cherrug* population will be 210 pairs in Hungary and 40 pairs in Slovakia in 2020.

Project purpose: Increase of *F. cherrug* population with 20% for 2010 through improving nesting sites and food sources and reducing mortality.

Verifiable indicator of project purpose: The *F. cherrug* population will be 180 pairs in Hungary and 35 pairs in Slovakia in 2010.

List of key deliverables and outputs:

Key deliverables and outputs of the project include a GIS containing map files of habitats as a detailed knowledge base on the exact effect of specific agricultural practices and subsidy systems on *F. cherrug* habitats (A1), proper *S. citellus* and *F. cherrug* habitat management practice for the different type of grassland and a proposal for the relevant authorities (MEW & MARD) (A2), population model (A3), 540 artificial nests/nest boxes will be installed in Hungary and 105 in Slovakia (C1), *S. citellus* population will increase by 8% up to the end of the project period (C2, D3), 7400 pylons (6600 in Hungary & 800 in Slovakia) will be insulated and 95% less electrocuted birds on identified and insulated sections of the electric power-lines (C3, D2), 40 juveniles in Hungary and 6 in Slovakia will be tagged by satellite transmitter (C4), all artificial nests installed under Action C1 controlled and maintained annually (D1), annually 16 guarded nests from where juveniles fledge successfully (D4), repatriated chicks of disabled birds strengthen the population (D5), chemicals responsible for contamination will be identified if there is any (D6), sufficient data will become available to understand the spatio-temporal dynamics of the *F. cherrug* population in the Carpathian Basin (D7-D9), more tolerant hunters (E1), best agri-environment advisory methods on shared *F. cherrug* habitat identified and published (E2), large scale publicity of the conservation status of *F. cherrug*, project aims and activities and its support by LIFE (E3), 20000 visitors on project website (E4), 2500 posters and 500 copies of 30' DVD (E5), adequate public support will be attracted to the necessary conservation measures (E6), contribution to the global success of *F. cherrug* conservation (E7), 4000 copies of Layman's report (E8), proper project management and book-keeping (F1-F3), auditor's report (F3), After-Life Conservation Plan (F4).

Summary of progress during reporting period (01.08.2008-30.09.2009):

- Land use maps of 4 sites are ready, data collection are going on (A1),
- site management of 2700 ha was going on (A2),
- 219 nest boxes installed (C1),
- 1659 *S. citellus* repatriated (C2),
- 1371 dangerous electric pylons insulated (C3),
- 463 juveniles are marked by ornithological rings and out of them 13 by PTT (C4),
- 2 cages for disabled birds were completed (D5),
- 20 added ages were chemically analysed (D6),
- 516 juveniles were fledged from 193 breeding pairs (D7),
- 500 copies of a colored A4-size 16 pages brochure (E1),
- 5 destroyed signboards were replaced (E3),
- web was visited 53591 times from 22789 address of 94 countries (E4),
- 54 times presented in the media (E6)

Table 1: Summary of technical progress on project actions between 1/08/2008 – 30/09/2009

Action	Deadline	Status	Description
A1. Assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies and related habitat management practices on <i>Falco cherrug's</i> habitat	31.10.2010.	ongoing	<p><u>In Hungary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial photography: last shot was done in Sept. 2008. • Field data collection: Field data collected in 2008 and 2009. Prey survey was going on in each of the 3 pilot area in 2009. • Analyses of aerial photos and satellite images: Four sets interpreted, mapped and analysed. Based on this field data collection was adjusted. Based on field checks maps were corrected and finalised. MePAR (Agriculture Parcel Identification System) data were enquired for the agriculture authority and analysis of land use comparing to it is proceeding. • Land use preference data collection: 3 PTT adult male's data collected. • Data collection from prey: Food remains were collected from 20-30 nests in the sites and sent to analysis. Prey data collection for prey density analysis is going on along transects with special reference to plots frequently visited by tagged males. • Providing information & advice to farmers: 900 leaflets for farmers have been distributed. <p><u>In Slovakia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satellite image from pilot area were enquired by MME and handed over on a CD in August 2008. However the second recording was unsuccessful. The aerial images of the sites for simplified monitoring has been analysed, maps of two sites was prepared, other maps are under preparation. • Land structure data: Detailed survey of the land structure in site Stupava was carried out. • Detailed map of habitat use was prepared for 2008 for the areas under the detailed monitoring, map for 2007 and



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

Action	Deadline	Status	Description
A2. Elaboration of habitat rehabilitation & management methods for grasslands in pilot areas and proposal for appropriate subsidies to stimulate proper farming on the protected S. <i>citellus</i> habitat	31.07.2010.	Ongoing	<p>2009 is under preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prey density analysis</i> is being carried out by regular monitoring of the site. • <i>The food remains</i> were collected during ringing and after the breeding season. The remains were analysed by the expert. • The preferences of F. cherrug pairs have been analysed <p><u>In Hungary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of 2590 ha on 15 sites is going on according to the site management plans. Different grassing and mulching techniques are used and combined. • Cooperation with the other steppe grassland projects is going on. The external assistant working for Grasshabit project too and make a personal link between the two projects. • MEPAR data were enquired for the agriculture authority and analysis of land use comparing to it is proceeding in the grassland within the three pilot areas. <p><u>In Slovakia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 meetings took place with land users about suitable management on the suslik repatriation sites. • Management of 110 ha on 2 sites is going on.
A3. Population modelling	31.08.2010.	Pending	Scheduled for 2010 only!
A4. Training of project participants	31.12.2006.	Completed	
A5. Acquisition of equipment (in compliance with public-procurement regulations)	31.01.2007.	Ongoing	<p><u>In Hungary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All remaining insulators are purchased, last contract is scheduled for the beginning of October. • Automatic trap is under procurement. It is scheduled for October 2009. (MME) • Acquiring of Software (Ramas Landscape) was cancelled because Partner obtained it from BirdLife International. (MME) <p><u>In Slovakia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 PTTs were purchased

LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

Action	Deadline	Status	Description
C1. Production and installation of nest boxes and artificial nests (Third batch of artificial nest installed)	31.12.2009.	ongoing	<p><u>In Hungary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Type 1” nest boxes 91 items (38%) installed. • “Type 2” nest boxes 93 items (31%) installed. <p><u>In Slovakia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Type 2” nest boxes 34 items (40%) purchased, 21 items (25%) installed. • “Type 3” artificial nests 14 items (70%) installed
C2. Repatriation of <i>S. citellus</i> on Natura 2000 habitats where it is missing Third batch of <i>S.citellus</i> repatriated	15.08.2008.	completed	<p><u>In Hungary:</u> 1187 <i>S. citellus</i> (33%) repatriated from 5 sites to 10 sites</p> <p><u>In Slovakia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 457 <i>S. citellus</i> (21,8%) were repatriated from 3 sites (Bratislava airport, Košice airport & SKCHVU017) to 2 sites (SKCHVU014, SKCHVU017), o 15 <i>S. citellus</i> (0,8 %) were taken to ZOO Bojnice
C3. Location and insulation of dangerous electric pylons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third batch of electric pylons are insulated 	31.12.2009	ongoing	<p><u>In Hungary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project partners signed an agreement for the LIFE projects’ work with the third electric company (E.On) in 2009. • about 500 km electric line surveyed • insulators for 674 pylons (10%) procured. • 1305 pylons (20%) insulated <p><u>In Slovakia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • insulators for additional 66 pylons purchased • 100 km electric power line surveyed • 66 pylons are insulated on West Slovakia
C4. Tagging and ringing juveniles to collect migratory and immigration data and feather collection for analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third batch of young birds are marked 	. 15.06.2009	completed	<p><u>In Hungary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 juveniles (22%) marked with PTT • 364 juveniles (260%) marked by ornithological rings, • 51 juveniles marked by PIT <p><u>In Slovakia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 juveniles (50%) marked with PTT • 99 juveniles (247%) were marked by ornithological rings, and feather collected from 44 chicks in 13 nests

LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

Action	Deadline	Status	Description																				
D1. Inspection and maintenance of nest boxes and artificial nests	30.11.2009.	ongoing	This activity is going on in both countries. Nest boxes & artificial nests are regularly checked, cleaned and food remains are collected for analyses.																				
D2. Efficiency control of dangerous electric pylon's insulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd year's monitoring report • 3rd year's monitoring report 	30.11.2008 30.11.2009.	completed ongoing	This activity is going on in both countries. <u>In Hungary:</u> 1349 pylons about 500 km (41%) of insulated lines surveyed during the reporting period <u>In Slovakia:</u> 103 pylons (12%) of the insulated ones were checked during the reporting period.																				
D3. Monitoring of repatriated <i>S. citellus</i> population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd year's monitoring report • 3rd year's monitoring report 	30.11.2008 30.11.2009.	completed ongoing	<u>In Hungary:</u> Traditional monitoring did not function, due to the extremely hot and dry weather. Therefore, a new monitoring system was developed. The monitoring justified that nearly 50% of the repatriated population is survived and there are an about 50% progeny. <u>In Slovakia:</u> Monitoring of both project sites is showing that the population of <i>S. citellus</i> is increasing and is stable now on both sites.																				
D4. Guarding of endangered nest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd year's guarding 	30.07.2009 .	Completed	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Site</th> <th style="text-align: center;">year</th> <th style="text-align: center;">number of females with juveniles</th> <th style="text-align: center;">number of juveniles</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SKCHVU017</td> <td>2008</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SKCHVU017</td> <td>2009</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40</td> <td style="text-align: center;">117</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SKCHVU014</td> <td>2008</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SKCHVU014</td> <td>2009</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">34</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>In Hungary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nest guarding was not necessary in 2009. <p><u>In Slovakia</u></p> <p>2 nest boxes were guarded in 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nest box in Stupava was guarded by the project staff and by the volunteers • nest box in Abrahám was guarded by the chairman of 	Site	year	number of females with juveniles	number of juveniles	SKCHVU017	2008	15	28	SKCHVU017	2009	40	117	SKCHVU014	2008	7	18	SKCHVU014	2009	15	34
Site	year	number of females with juveniles	number of juveniles																				
SKCHVU017	2008	15	28																				
SKCHVU017	2009	40	117																				
SKCHVU014	2008	7	18																				
SKCHVU014	2009	15	34																				

Action	Deadline	Status	Description
D5. Keeping and breeding of disabled birds and repatriation of juveniles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cages for disabled birds erected 	31.10.2007.	completed ongoing	<p>hunting association Dudváh in Abrahám</p> <p><u>In Hungary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cage construction: 2 cages were completed in 2008. 2 cages constructed in 2009 <p><u>In Slovakia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 rehabilitated adult bird released 20 added eggs were analysed Lab results were evaluated
D6. Chemical analysis of added eggs and disseminating the results	31.07.2010.	ongoing	<p><u>In Hungary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 214 territories, 163 breeding pairs (76% of total pairs), 135 successful breeding (82,8% of breeding pairs) 421 fledged juveniles were identified (3, 1 juv./suc.br.pair) <p><u>In Slovakia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33 territories checked 33 breeding pairs (5 new pairs recorded) 26 successfully breeding pairs 95 fledglings (3,6 juv./ successfully breeding pairs)
D7. Monitoring of population and impacts of different project actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd annual monitoring report 	30.11.2009	ongoing	<p><u>In Hungary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argos data are continuously purchased and evaluated information of high value was collected: 3 birds (1 male & 2 females) wintered in Sicily, the male second time Barbabás returning from Sicily moved as far as Samara in Russia and returned to wintering again into Sicily in 2008. 3 birds wintered in Serbia 2 birds visited Africa, and one of them is currently there. Piros visited Spain and Portugal before left Europe to Morocco and continue to Mauritania. Ványa one of the 2008's male moved to Kazakhstan and died there. Hungarian horse rider recovered it. These birds already connected all saker populations within
D8. Collection and evaluation of migratory and immigration data by satellite telemetry, and bird ringing.	31.12.2009.	Ongoing	

LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

Action	Deadline	Status	Description
D9. Managing BirdLife European F. cherrug Conservation Taskforce to co-ordinate the conservation efforts and gather information from wintering grounds, migrating routes and immigrating juveniles by establishing and operating an international mailing List	30.09.2010.	ongoing	<p>Europe and Asian.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tagged birds are closely monitored by partners in concerned countries. We are getting useful information day by day.. <p>Mailing list is used to exchange information and share the result of the project. Thanks to the mailing list and the Task Force work we got useful information from sites visited by PTT tagged birds abroad. (See above.) 238 letters were sent to the list within the reporting period</p>
E1. Changing of hunters opinion through raising their awareness	15.12.2009.	Ongoing	<p><u>In Slovakia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 meetings at headquarters level • 3 meetings at regional level • 11 meetings with local hunting associations representatives • 9 articles were published on hunters web site • 5 Press Releases concerning bird crime was prepared, submitted to media and presented, most of them also on hunters web site • 4 press releases with the reference to the Saker conservation project published on hunters web sites • 5 reports on television about bird crime • 4 articles in newspapers about bird crime • draft of the brochure for hunters prepared • 500 copies of a colored A4-size 16 pages brochure was produced and is being distributed among hunters on meetings in cooperation with Slovak Hunters Association
E2. Testing the efficiency of Agri-environment Advisory based on project findings on a pilot area (Site selected)	31.12.2008.	Completed ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Csákvár pilot area was selected for this action because this is the new Zámolyi-medence High Natural Value Area where the agri-environment program of RDP 2009-2014 started on 01.09.2009. • Assisting farmers to apply for agri-environment subsidies in



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

Action	Deadline	Status	Description
			<p>May-June 2009. (4 times, 6 farmers.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start up farmers meeting for 17 farmers
<p>E3. Erecting information signs at project area</p>	<p>30.09.2007.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>5 destroyed signboards were replaced in Hungary.</p>
<p>E4. Design and operation of project web site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web is operating 		<p>ongoing</p>	<p>Web is operating at www.sakerlife.mme.hu, www.kerecsensolyom.mme.hu and www.dravce.sk/sokolratoh continuously updated. More than 262000 times downloaded from 94 countries until the end of Sept. 2009..</p>
<p>E5. Securing public support for conservation efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30' Video prepared 	<p>31.11.2009</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p><u>In Hungary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project was introduced in the specialist meeting on the conservation of the saker falcon in Abu Dhabi Visit of the president of Hungary Project film is under preparation. <p><u>In Slovakia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual meeting of RPS, 15.11.2008 Raptors and Owls journal Earth Day – organized ZSE, 22.4.2009
<p>E6. Informing media about project's aims, activities and achievements</p>	<p>30.09.2010.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p><u>In Hungary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 press conference was organised to introduce the satellite tagging. 1 article and 1 scientific paper was published 6 Press releases circulated. 1 TV, 3 radio, 4 printed, 22 online <p><u>In Slovakia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Press releases circulated. 9 articles were published 4 TV spot, 4 printed, 15 online,



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

E7. International conference to share and evaluate results and experience of the project	20.09.2010.	ongoing	Preparation has begun
E8. Layman's report	31.05.2010.	Pending	Scheduled for 2010 only!
F1. Project planning, management, administration, monitoring and reporting Project management	30.09.2010.	ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project management and administration system is functioning. • The monthly reporting system is functioning. • Project manager and project administrator visiting a partner together every month to help them to improve the project administration. • French intern was received • Good cooperation with External Monitoring Team
F2. Steering Committee meetings	24.09.2008	completed	Minutes of the 5 th SC meeting is ready
F3. Financial monitoring and reporting	30.09.2010	ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly financial reporting. • Concerned partner instructed according to the mid year's auditor report's finding. • Hungarian intern was received
F4. After-LIFE Conservation Plan	30.09.2010.	Pending	Scheduled for 2010 only!



4. Technical development

A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or of action plans

ACTION A.1:

Name of the action: Assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies and related habitat management practices on *Falco cherrug*'s habitat

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2007 – September 2010

Expected results:

A GIS will be established containing map files of habitats incorporating up to date land cover data. A detailed knowledge base will be established on the exact effect of specific agricultural practices and subsidy systems on *F. cherrug* habitats. The results will make it possible to further specify the measures beneficial for *F. cherrug* and incorporated this into the subsidies. It will help to elaborate the management plans of the SPAs.

Project staff and specialists will be in close contacts annually with an estimated 360 farmers on the sites during this action, providing information and advise.

Achievements:

- 4th shot of aerial photography was taken from the 3 pilot areas in Hungary
- Analyses of aerial photos and satellite images completed
- MePAR (Agriculture Parcel Identification System) data were enquired from the agriculture authority and analysis of land use comparing to it is proceeding.
- Food remains were collected from 20-30 nests in the sites and sent to analysis.
- Prey data collection for prey density analysis is proceeding along transects with special reference to plots frequently visited by tagged males.
- 900 leaflets for farmers have been distributed.

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

The fourth shot of aerial photography was taken from the three pilot areas on 05.09.2008 covering the same area than the third shot in the spring of 2008. (**Annexes A1/1-8, A1/12-13, A1/15-18**)

The interpretation of the aerial photos and satellite images were completed with the correction by ground truth information collected on reference points.

Two sets of maps were prepared from the 3 pilot areas and about the large area covering about 50 nests.

1. Land use maps including the parcels (**Annexes A1/9-10, A1/14, A1/19-20, A1/22**)

2. Land use maps with parcels including weeds (**Annexes A1/11, A1/21**)

MePAR data were received from the Agriculture and Rural Development Office and it was added to the database for evaluation (**Annex A1/23**).

Food remains were collected from 20-30 nests in the sites and sent to examine by the expert of the Mátra Museum.

Prey density survey was carried out in the Pilot Areas and data were forwarded for analyses (**Annex A1/24a-26**).

The leaflets were distributed among the farmers during meetings and site visits by the partners (**Annex A1/27**). About 900 leaflets were distributed.

We approached MARD about the schedule of the mid term review of the RDP to be prepared to provide them with a preliminary result of the project to be considered during the mid term



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

review. However we were informed that MARD is not planning any modification of RDP before 2013 (**Annex A1/28**). Having this information we decided not to prepare any preliminary document but concentrate on the final proposal what can be considered during the preparation of the next RDP from 2014.

In Slovakia:

During the period, based on analysis of historic financial mechanisms (State Budget, SAPARD Programme, Rural Development Plan 2004-2006) survey of historical land use of Saker pair's home range was carried out in Stupava. Based on the analysis of existing financial mechanisms (State Budget, Rural Development Programme 2007-2013) survey of present land use of Saker pair's home range in Stupava was carried out as well.

This work has included regular mapping of habitat conditions and analysis of vegetation cover on agriculture land. The satellite images of the sites for simplified monitoring has been analysed, maps of two sites was prepared, other maps are under preparation. Detailed map of habitat use was prepared for 2008 for the areas under the detailed monitoring, map for 2007 and 2009 is under preparation. The preferences of Saker pairs have been analysed (**Annexes A1/29 – A1/33**). To identify subsidies and farming practices on agriculture land, negotiations were held with several agriculture companies („Družstvo podielnikov Devín“ Záhorská Bystrica; „Firstfarms Mast Stupava a.s.“, Malacky; „BIOVAM AK s.r.o., Vysoká pri Morave; Gestüt Güther Hof, s.r.o. Kuchyňa) working on the area (**Annex A1/34a-d**).

To improve farming at Saker habitats, an agriculture consultancy was provided companies stated above.

Food remains analysis (**Annex A1/35**), prey species identification, density and site preferences of prey population were carried out (**Annex A1/36**) at home range of Saker pair in Stupava.

Comments on Commission's requests:

1. Referring to the request to harmonize the completion and submission of the documents before the mid-term review of the Rural Development Programme (A1. in Annex of Commission's letter of 03.09.2008.) we got confirmation from MARD that there will not be any modification during the mid term review of RDP (**Annex A1/28**) therefore there is not any importance to submit a preliminary report in 2009. The Final Report will used as the background document for planning the next phase of RDP after 2013.

2. Referring to the request to improve the quality of the land use maps (A1 in Annex of Commission's letter of 06.02.2009) is fulfilled because the maps were adjusted according to the field checks information (**Annexes A1/9-11, A1/14, A1/19-22**).

3. Referring to the request that in case of the Slovak partners the preliminary results of the data collection of the field and their evaluation should be submitted with this report is fulfilled (**Annex A1/35 - 36**).

ACTION A.2:

Name of the action: Elaboration of habitat rehabilitation & management methods for grasslands in pilot areas and proposal for appropriate subsidies to stimulate proper farming on the protected *S. citellus* habitats

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2007 – September 2010

Expected results:

Proper *S. citellus* and *F. cherrug* habitat management practice will be developed for the different type of grassland.



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

A proposal will be prepared for the relevant authorities (MEW & MARD) how to distribute the National reserve part of the agricultural subsidies' quota to support nature conservation especially *S. citellus* and *F. cherrug*.

Achievements:

In Hungary:

- Management of 2590 ha on 15 sites

In Slovakia:

- 6 meetings with land users took place about suitable management on the suslik repatriation sites.
- Management of 110 ha on 2 sites.

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

In 2009 the designed site management schemes were implemented. Management of the sites are carried out with the coordination of Mr. Gyula Fülöp external assistant and presented in the **Table 2** below.

ANPD has prepared a proposal to extend the ESAs of HUAN10001 & HUBN 10001 SPSs with 35000 ha what were approved by MARD. The extension was exclusively proposed for grass land protection and management and it was applied already in 2009 (**Annex A2/1**).

MEPAR data were enquired for the agriculture authority and analysis of land use comparing to it is going on in the grassland within the three pilot areas.

In Slovakia:

5 meetings took place with land users about suitable management on the suslik repatriation sites.

SOS/BirdLife Slovakia together with RPS organized an official meeting with the AGRODRUŽSTVO Revúca Company in Muranska planina and Stolicke vrchy SPA (**Annex A2/2**). The meeting was aimed to evaluate the cooperation in relation with the site management of the suslik's habitat. Due to economic crisis, the AGRODRUŽSTVO – S Revúca company was not able to carry out management activities (sheep grazing and mowing) on project area in full extent. There were reduced financial and personal capacities in the company. To overcome this temporary unfavourable situation, the management of the project area has been secured by mowing of permanent grasslands with Suslik occurrence with help of volunteers. It was arranged that the AGRODRUŽSTVO – S Revúca company will only mulch the rest of permanent grasslands with mulching machine this autumn. According to the forecast the situation should be improved next year and the management of the project area by sheep will continue. AGRODRUŽSTVO – S Revúca company has already joined agri-environment measure within the RDP 2007-2013 ("Organic farming"), which could have positive influence on the Suslik habitat. Our agricultural consultancy played an important part in the company joining the agri-environment measure. Despite the bad economic situation of AGRODRUŽSTVO – S Revúca company this year, management of the Suslik habitat has been secured.

SOS/BirdLife Slovakia organized four meetings with the Gestüt Güther Hof s.r.o. Kuchyňa Company in the second pilot area of Male Karpaty SPA. Meetings were aimed to evaluate the cooperation in relation with the site management of the suslik's habitat (**Annex A2/3-A2/6**). The company started goat breeding (160 goats) in the area. The aim of the goat breeding is to maintain the original vegetation on the pastures. This method is suitable for management of suslik habitat. We have provided consultations and information on organic farming and agri-environment measures according to RDP 2007 – 2013 to the representatives of Gestüt Güther Hof s.r.o. The project area is being grazed by cattle, horses and goats therefore it is



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

suitable as a suslik habitat. The cooperation between the company, RPS and SOS is regular and successful.

Management of the sites is presented in the **Table 2** bellow.

Table 2: Site management activities

Partner	SPA	Site	Area (ha)	Management	Annex
ANPD	HUAN10002	Putnoki Domság	80	The ownership of the area was changed this year, and co-operation with new owners just started, therefore any planned management was not done	
BNPD	HUBN10002	Borsodi Mezőség, Mezőcsát	400	About 3000 sheep are grazing in smaller flocks in different blocks.	A2/7 Photo 1.
BNPD	HUBN10002	Borsodi Mezőség, Mezőnagymihály	100	800 sheep are grazing continuously.	A2/7 Photo 2.
BNPD	HUBN10003	Cserépfalu grassland of Hidegkút	100	60 Hungarian grey cattle including the progeny were grazing on the site since the end of April.	A2/7 Photo 3.
BNPD	HUBN10003	Tard, Bála-rét	150	Clearing shrubs, cutting grass and grazing	A2/7 Photo 4-5
BNPD	HUBN10004	Hevesi-sík, Jászivány	130	1200 sheep and 230 beef cattle were grazing on the site since the end of April. The southern part of the area was closed by electric fence and was clipping to make hay in the middle of May.	A2/7 Photo 6
BNPD	HUBN10004	Hevesi-sík, Sarud	200	400 sheep are grazing.	A2/7 Photo 7
DINPD	HUDI 10003	Gerecse, Süttő, Bikolpuszta	100,5	4500 sheep and 370 goats are grazing on the site.	A2/8 Photo 1
DINPD	HUDI 10004	Jászkarajenő, Tiszakécske	99	39 ha leased for grazing. 400 sheep are grazing about 50 ha area.	A2/8 Photo 2
HNPDP	HUHN10002	Hortobágyi NP Kecskés-puszta I. Kettős-tanya	50	600 sheep are grazing.in 2007.	A2/9 Photo 1
HNPDP	HUHN10002	Hortobágyi NP Kecskés-puszta II. Peti-hát	200	230 cattle are grazing and 140 calves are grazing besides them that part of the area where grass was mowed before.	A2/9 Photo 2
HNPDP	HUHN10005	Közép-Tiszai TK Jászberény	60	600 sheep grazing on the area every year	A2/9 Photo 3
KMNPD	HUKM10001	Kigyósi puszta	160	The site is managed by the national park but it is rented by a farmer to graze 450 sheep on it. S. citellus were repatriated in the highest 20 ha part of it in 2009.	A2/10 Photo 1.
KMNPD	HUKM10002	Kis-Sárrét, Szalonta	125,4	The tenant's mowing half of the area and its herd about 1000 sheep is grazing on the total	A2/10 Photo 2



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

Partner	SPA	Site	Area (ha)	Management	Annex
				area. Beside of this area the National Park converted 17,5 ha arable land to grassland.	
KMNPD	HUKM10002	Kis-Sárrét, Kis-Gyanté	300	400-450 cattle are grazing on it in smaller groups.	A2/10 Photo 3
KNPD	HUKN10007	Pusztaszeri TK	55	This site suitable for S.citellus is inside of a 200 ha large grassland within a Nature Conservation area. 7-8 ha area on Rontószél was mulched by external assistant in 9 April where repatriated S. citellus were living. Another mulching was done in 15 ha in June. Mulching was done also in 5 ha of Hosszúhát too in May. 250 sheep were grassing on the total area. 260 grey caws were grassing on Rontószél from mid April to mid May. Mower of KNPD mowed the grass on 10 ha of S. citellus in May too.	A2/11 Photo 1-2.
PRO VÉRTES	HUDI 30002	Zámolyi-medence	630	320 ha were mowed in Csákberény on 26-29 June 350 sheep were grassing in Vértésboglár In Csákvár 120 ha were mowed in Pogácsás on 17 June and 40 ha in Százados Tanya on 24-26 June. 400 Grey cattle were grassing in Pogácsás.	A2/12 Photo 1-2.
SOS	SKCHVU014	Malé Karpaty Kuchyna	50	160 goats were grazing there.	A2/13 Photo 1.
SOS	SKCHVU017	Muranska Planina Muran "Biele vody"	60	The area was mowed by volunteers.	A2/13 Photo 2

Comments on Commission's requests:

The Commission asked us to network with LIFE05 NAT HU 0117 Grasshabit and LIFE04 NAT HU 0119 Egyek-Pusztakocs projects. However we are networking with these projects from the beginning of our work. Mr. Gyula Fülöp the external assistant of our project is working also for Grasshabit project and HNPDP is networking with the other mentioned project.



ACTION A.3:

Name of the action: Population modelling

Proposed start and end of the action: July 2010 – September 2010

Expected results:

It will be understandable how the different conservation measures affect the *F.cherrug* population and how the population will grow and spread in the Carpathian Basin and Europe. It will be confirmed whether the *F.cherrug* population in the Carpathian Basin is the core population of Europe where all conservation measures have an important effect on the entire European population.

Achievements:

None

Action status: pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

Non

Modifications:

Non

ACTION A.4:

Name of the action: Training of project participants

Proposed start and end of the action: 18-19 December 2006

Action status: completed in 2006

ACTION A.5 :

Name of the action: Acquisition of equipment (in compliance with public-procurement regulations)

Proposed start and end of the action: October 2006 – March 2010

Expected results:

Contractors and suppliers providing the most cost-effective services are selected.

Achievements:

Most of the equipment has been purchased in compliance with public-procurement regulations.

Action status: ongoing



Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary

- 2 cages ongoing construction were completed by MME,
- and construction of another two are going on by Provértes
- 10 PTTs were purchased in 2009 (MME).
- Procurement of automatic trap is going on.

In Slovakia:

- 3 PTTs were purchased in 2009
- Software was purchased after mid-term payment was received

All purchased equipment registered by the concerned partner equipment roster of the books (**Annex A5**).

Modifications:

- Procurement of an automatic trap is going on according to the approval of EC but it is going slowly.
- Software (Ramas Landscape) rescheduled to 2009 won't be purchased because MME obtained it from BirdLife International already

**C. Non-recurring management****ACTION C.1:****Name of the action: Production and install nest boxes and artificial nests****Proposed start and end of the action: July 2007 – June 2010****Expected results:**

Altogether 540 artificial nests/nest boxes will be installed in Hungary and 105 in Slovakia in priority within SPAs or immediate proximity of the SPA (about within 25 km range from SPA) except two small pSCI (Marcal medence & Kenyeri repülőtér). These two areas in West-Hungary would have a very important role to be able to extend *F.cherrug* population towards west and connect the very fragile Austrian population with the stronger population in East-Hungary. Only 9 nest boxes will be installed in these pSCIs. There will be 3 durable artificial nests/nest boxes in each *F.cherrug* habitat at the end of the project, what would provide a sufficient number of safe breeding sites for the increasing population.

Achievements:**In Hungary:**

- “Type 1” nest boxes 91 items (38%) installed.
- “Type 2” nest boxes 93 items (31%) installed.

In Slovakia:

- “Type 2” nest boxes 34 items (40%) purchased,
21 items (25%) installed.
- “Type 3” artificial nests 14 items (70%) installed

Action status: ongoing**Description of the progress during the reporting time:****In Hungary:**

91 items of “Type 1” wooden nest boxes (38%) were installed on trees during the reporting period.

(Table 3; Annex C1/1)

93 items of “Type 2” aluminium nest boxes (31%) installed on electric pylons. **(Table 3; Annex C1/2)**

In Slovakia:

34 items (40%) of Type 2 nest boxes purchased and 21 items (25%) installed **(Table 3; Annex C1/3)**.

14 items of “Type 3” (basket) installed on trees.

(Table 3; Annex C1/3)

The remaining 34 “Type 2” nest boxes were purchased and 17 items are installed in Western Slovakia, and 4 items in Eastern Slovakia during the reporting period. In 2008 only two pairs were nesting in the aluminium nesting box of Type 2, in 2009 it was already 11 pairs.

14 items of Type 3 (basket) was installed on trees and pylons. The nests and nest boxes are placed on the sites where the *F. cherrug* with PTTs have spent a long time, as those areas are potential nesting sites for the species with good habitat conditions.

As the nests situated on trees are highly endangered (in 2007 two pairs, one nest destroyed by shooting, one nesting unsuccessful due to the forestry works, in 2008 one unsuccessful breeding due to the forestry work), most of the nests are installed on pylons.



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

The cooperation with the responsible Company is very good, the necessary works on the pylons took place according to the recommendations of RPS to avoid any disturbance during the nesting period.

Table 3: Location of installed nest boxes

Partner	Region	Type1	Type2	Type3
BNPD	HUBN10006 Mátra		1	
ANPD	HUAN10001 Aggteleki karst Cserehát		1	
ANPD	HUAN10001 Aggteleki karst Hernád völgy		3	
ANPD	HUAN10001 Aggteleki karst Bodva völgy		1	
ANPD	HUAN10002 Putnoki-dombság Sajó völgy		3	
ANPD	HUBN10007 Zemplén-hegység		4	
ANPD	HUBN10001 Bodrogzúg Taktaköz		4	
DDNPD	HUDD10005 Kiszékelyi-dombság, Tolna County		7	
FHNPD	HUBF20015 Marcal medence		1	
HNPDP	HUHN10002 Hortobágy	2	5	
HNPDP	HUHN10003 Bihar	6	1	
HNPDP	HUHN10003 Bihar, Hajdúság	1	2	
HNPDP	HUHN10005 Jászság		1	
KMNPD	HUKM10001 Kígyós puszták	5		
KMNPD	HUKM10003 Dévaványa, Dévaványai-Ecsegi puszták	7		
KMNPD	HUKM10004 Hódmezővásárhely környéki		17	
KNPD	HUKN10001 Felső Kiskun	8	3	
KNPD	HUKN10002 Kiskunsági Szikes	12	2	
KNPD	HUKN10004 Alpár-bokrosi	8	2	
KNPD	HUKN10007 Alsó-Tisza	8	2	
KNPD	HUKN10008 Balástya	8	2	
KNPD	HUKN30001 Csongrád-B	5	3	
KNPD	HUKN30002 Gátéri	3	1	
KNPD	HUKN30003 Izsáki	7	2	
EMISSZIÓ	HUHN10001 Szatmár-Bereg	3		
MME	HUBN10006 Mátra	3		
MME	HUKN10001 Felső Kiskunság, South of Pest County		25	
Pro Vértes	HUDI30001 Vértes	4	1	
RPS	West Slovakia		17	14
RPS	East Slovakia		4	
	Total:	91	114	14

Modifications:

None

Comments on Commission's requests:

There was a mistake in a map submitted with the Interim Report (Annex C1/2 in the IR), which we apologize for. The mistake was caused by a wrong interpretation of GIS data – in the source file the data about nest boxes of Type 2 and old wooden nest boxes were mixed, therefore both types were marked on the map. We prepared new corrected maps (**Annex C1/4 and C1/5**).

**ACTION C.2:**

Name of the action: Repatriation of *S. citellus* on Natura 2000 habitats where it is missing

Proposed start and end of the action: March 2007 – September 2010

Expected results:

5700 *S. citellus* will be repatriated into about 28 habitats in 15 SPAs and by this the *S. citellus* population will increase by 8% up to the end of the project period.

Achievements:

In Hungary:

In August 2008:

72 *S. citellus* (2%) repatriated from Tököl airport to HUDI30001 site.

In 2009:

1115 *S. citellus* (31%) repatriated from 4 sites (HUBN10003, HUHN10002, Dunaegyháza 022 site and Szeged airport) to 10 sites in (HUBN10002, HUHN10002, HUKM10001).

In Slovakia:

In 2008:

- 103 *S. citellus* (5%) were repatriated from Bratislava airport to SKCHVU014.
- 4 *S. citellus* (0,2%) were taken to Bojnice ZOO

In 2009:

- 354 *S. citellus* (16,9 %) were repatriated from 3 sites (Bratislava airport, Košice airport & SKCHVU017) to 2 sites (SKCHVU014, SKCHVU017),
- 11 *S. citellus* (0,5 %) were taken to ZOO Bojnice.

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

In 2008:

72 *S. citellus* were repatriated from Tököl airport to HUDI30001 site. This time we used the Slovak trapping with apple method and traditional watering systems parallel in the airport. The trapping was more efficient and animal friendly (**Annex C2/1**).

In 2009:

BNPD did some repatriation from Szárasztó and Bála rét of its area in HUBN10003 to 5 of its area. 650 inds were repatriated to sites near to stables and human settlements where predators are not frequent. The apple trap method were used (**Annex C2/2**).

HNPDP repatriated *S. citellus* from the Danube dam in Dunaegyháza where they created danger to Angyalházi-puszta where a tiny population was strengthened with them in April.

In July they repatriated *S. citellus* from unprotected land to Malomháza and Kecskés-puszta II. protected areas. Every time the repatriation site were fenced around by mesh and guarded for two weeks (**Annex C2/3**).

KMNPD hired an external assistant to implement the work.

Results are given in **Table 4**.

In Slovakia:

In 2008:

140 individuals were captured at Bratislava airport during the reporting period in 2008. 1 individual has escaped, 3 individuals died during the capturing and 6 individuals were found dead and taken for autopsy in Košice, which was negative. 103 individuals were released in Malé Karpaty SPA, 4 individuals were taken to ZOO Bojnice (**Annex C2/4**).



In 2009:

354 *S. citellus* (16,9 %) were repatriated from 3 sites (Bratislava airport, Košice airport & SKCHVU017) to 2 sites (SKCHVU014, SKCHVU017), 11 *S. citellus* (0,5 %) were taken to ZOO Bojnice (**Annex C2/5-C2/6**).

Results are given in **Table 4**.

Table 4: Result of *S. citellus* repatriation between 01.08. 2008 and 30.09.2009

Partner	SPAs	Area (ha)	Quantity alive (ind.)	Dead*	From where?
BNPD	HUBN10002 Borsodi Mezőség, Ároktő, Káptalani-kistanya	2	150	0	HUBN10003 Szárasztó
BNPD	HUBN10002 Borsodi Mezőség, Ároktő, Baromállás	2	100	0	HUBN10003 Szárasztó
BNPD	HUBN10002 Borsodi Mezőség, Mezőnagymihály, Csorda-legelő	4	150	0	HUBN10003 Bála rét
BNPD	HUBN10002 Borsodi Mezőség, Mezőnagymihály, Farkas tanya	3	100	0	HUBN10003 Bála rét
BNPD	HUBN10002 Borsodi Mezőség, Mezőkeresztes	5	148	2	HUBN10003 Bála rét
HNPDP	HUHN10002 Hortobágy, Angyalházi puszta	2	74	1	Dunaegyháza
HNPDP	HUHN10002 Hortobágy, Malomháza	2	60	0	HUHN10002 Hortobágy
HNPDP	HUHN10002 Hortobágy, Kecskés Puszta II.	4	130	0	HUHN10002 Hortobágy
KMNPD	HUKM 10001 Kétegyháza	2	197	3	Szeged airport
PROVÉ RTES	HUDI30001 Csákberény	2	72	2	Tököl airport 2008
SNC	SKCHVU 014 Male Karpaty	40	257	9	Bratislava airport 2008 & 2009
SNC	SKCHVU017 Muranska planina, Biele Vody	25	200	8	Košice airport & SKCHVU017
SNC	Bojnice ZOO		21		Bratislava airport 2008-2009

* most of the death happened during the capturing due to the extreme hot weather.

Modifications:

- Capturing techniques were changed from watering to trapping by apple.

ACTION C.3:

Name of the action: Locate and insulate dangerous electric pylons

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2007 – July 2010

Expected results:

Information will be available on the most dangerous electric pylons around breeding and foraging sites. 7400 pylons (6600 in Hungary & 800 in Slovakia) will be insulated primarily within the SPAs but partly outside of them, on those potential habitats where artificial nests will be installed. The number of birds electrocuted on identified and insulated sections of the



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

electric power-lines will decrease by 95 % compared to baseline data (D2) while the breeding success and individual survival increases. Numerous other important, protected and strictly protected species, including ones listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive, benefit from the action (e.g. *Coracias garrulus*, *Falco tinnunculus*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Tyto alba* etc.).

Achievements:

In Hungary:

- Project partners signed an agreement for the LIFE projects' work with the third electric company (E.On) in 2009.
- about 500 kms electric line surveyed
- insulators for 674 pylons (10%) were purchased and distributed.
- Procurement of last batch insulators for 1606 pylons (24%) has been proceeding.
- 1305 pylons (20%) insulated

In Slovakia:

- insulators for additional 66 pylons purchased
- 100 kms electric power line surveyed
- 66 pylons are insulated on West Slovakia

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

Survey of dangerous power lines was carried out. Some lines were double checked where the insulation was delayed (**Annex C3/1-C3/2**).

Insulators for 674 of the most dangerous pylons were purchased and distributed among the concerned partners who forwarded it to the responsible electric companies (ÉMÁSZ, DÉMÁSZ).

After long negotiations partners could sign agreement with the third but largest electric company (E.On) about the insulation work (**Annex C3/3**). Based on this agreements tender for procurements of insulators for 1606 pylons was issued by the beneficiary but was unsuccessful. The repeated tender was successful but the procurement process is still going on. It is foreseen that goods will be delivered in November 2009 only.

The insulation work was going on however it was hampered by the insulation work of LIFE05 NAT/H/000122 project what got first priority this year since it was the last year of that project. About 1305 pylons were insulated during the reported period. (**Annex C3/4 – C3/12**)

In Slovakia:

East Slovakia:

One meeting was held with VSE on 19th August 2008 where the technical solutions was consulted. Another meeting with VSE was held on 10th March 2009 (**Annex C 3/13**), where SNC and RPS was also present. The technical issues of insulation were discussed here, as well as the location of the most dangerous power lines of East Slovakia prepared by RPS and SNC. VSE gave information about the progress of the insulation and promised to provide data of the insulated power lines in GIS system.

West Slovakia:

Insulators for additional 66 pylons were purchased.

106 pylons were insulated in SKCHVU016 Morava (**Annex C3/14**). The insulation work is completed.

Modifications:

None

**ACTION C.4:**

Name of the action: Tagging and ringing juveniles to collect migratory and immigration data and feather collection for analysis

Proposed start and end of the action: March 2007 – June 2010

Expected results:

40 juveniles in Hungary and 6 in Slovakia will be tagged by satellite transmitter before fledging. These birds will be marked by annually differently coloured rings with serial number and also colour rings on the other leg, numbered differently by regions.

About another 140 chicks in Hungary and 40 in Slovakia will be marked annually by rings with serial number and numbered colour rings.

Achievements:

- 13 PTT (28%) purchased

In Hungary:

- 17 juveniles (22%) marked with PTT
- 364 juveniles (260%) marked by ornithological rings
- 51 juveniles marked by PIT

In Slovakia:

- 3 juveniles (50 %) marked with PTT
- 95 juveniles (237 %) marked by ornithological rings
- Feathers collected from 44 chicks in 13 nests

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:**Marking by ordinary ornithological rings:****In Hungary:**

86 % of the flagged juveniles (364 birds) in discovered nests were ringed by official ornithological rings during the breeding season. (**Annex C4/1**).

In Slovakia:

95 juveniles were marked by ornithological rings. During ringing feathers have been taken from the chicks for the DNA analysis, altogether 44 feather samples from 13 nests were collected.

Marking by PIT tag:

51 juveniles were marked by PIT tags in Hungary.

Satellite tagging:**In Hungary:**

The last 10 juveniles were tagged by PTT this year (**Annex C4/2**).

In Slovakia:

3 juveniles were tagged with PTT.

Modifications:

1. One PTT was stored in the box from last year therefore it was not transmitting when it was tested. This transmitter will be repaired and installed next year .
2. Feather analysis was excluded from the project as a research activity. However the genetic information is very important for specifying future conservation strategy and modeling. Therefore we signed an MoU with Cardiff University's laboratory to co-operate in this issue. The analysis of the feather samples collected by the project will be done by the Cardiff University's laboratory with the found of the Environmental Agency Abu Dabi. (**Annex C4/3-C4/4**).

**D. Recurring management****ACTION D.1:****Name of the action: Inspection and maintenance of nest boxes and artificial nests****Proposed start and end of the action: May 2008 – September 2010****Expected results:**

All artificial nests installed under Action C1 will be controlled and maintained annually.

	In Hungary	In Slovakia	Total
2008	270	50	320
2009	538	105	643
2010	538	105	643

Average lifetime will be for:

Nest box Type1 8-10 Years

Nest box Type2 15-18 Years

Wicker basket Type 3 5- 8 Years

Achievements:

This activity is going on in both countries. Nest boxes & artificial nests are checked, cleaned and food remains are collected for analyses.

Action status: ongoing**Description of the progress during the reporting time:**

The monitoring protocol has been completed and included in the Project Handbook.

In Hungary:All the nest boxes installed in 2007 and 2008 (about 520 items)¹ and also some old aluminium trays were checked and the occupied nest boxes were cleaned and food remains were collected (**Annex D1**). Food remains were sent to the specialist for analysis.**In Slovakia:**

28 nest boxes and nests were checked in 2008 and 33 nest boxes or artificial nests were checked in 2009. The food remains were collected for analysis. The nest boxes and nests has been cleaned and prepared for the next breeding season. The wooden and the broken nest boxes have been repaired. Added eggs were also collected during the inspection.

Modifications:

None

ACTION D.2:**Name of the action: Efficiency control of dangerous electric pylon's insulation****Proposed start and end of the action: June 2007 – June 2010**

¹ Nest boxes installed in 2009 will be checked in 2010 first time.

**Expected results:**

Repeated survey on the same sections of electric lines what were surveyed under Action C3 will justify the efficiency of the insulation.

Data from the Action together with data gathered during other actions (C4, D1, D7 and D8) will be compiled and analysed under D7 and used for population modelling (A3).

Achievements:

Monitoring protocol completed.

In Hungary:

1349 pylons (41% of the insulated ones) were checked in several sections in the length of 500 kms.

In Slovakia:

About 103 pylons (12% of the insulated ones) were checked in several sections in the length of 10 kms .

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:**In Hungary:**

This work is going on following the insulation of the endangered electric pylons. However it is a work what is mainly scheduled after the breeding season. During the reporting period 1349 pylons (41% of the insulated ones) were checked in several sections in the length of 500 kms according to the monitoring protocol. Survey sheets were sent to the Monitoring Centre of MME for compilation and data processing (**Annex C3/1**). The insulation of the most dangerous pylons have just started. 38 killed birds were found under insulated pylons. These pylons are in the category of "most dangerous pylons" which were partly insulated before. The killed birds number was reduced with 95% by insulation.

In Slovakia:

During the monitoring period about 10 kms of the power lines were checked in SKCHVU012 Lehnice by the representatives of hunting association in Lehnice and RPS staff.

Modifications:

None

ACTION D.3:

Name of the action: Monitoring of repatriated *S. citellus* population

Proposed start and end of the action: March 2007 – September 2010

Expected results:

Status and dynamics of *S. citellus* populations will be known. Populations for repatriation can be easily selected. Effects of applied management and conservation measures can be evaluated. All this information will help to identify potential location of nest boxes or artificial nests for *F. cherrug*.

Achievements:

- Monitoring protocol completed
- Monitoring shows that the repatriated *S. citellus* population is increasing and stable.

Action status: ongoing



Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

Monitoring of all repatriated *S. citellus* populations were carried out in 2009. Monitoring sheet was filled out from the visual observation (**Annex D3/1**). Results are given in **Table 5**.

In Slovakia:

Monitoring of both project sites shows that the population of *S. citellus* is increasing and is stable on both sites (**Annex C2/6 & D3/2**).

The results of monitoring in Slovakia can be seen in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Result of *S. citellus* monitoring

Partner	Site (SPAs)	Repatriated individual	Estimated Adult	Estimated Progeny
BNPD	HUBN10002 Borsodi Mezőség, Mezőcsát-Sulymos	148	70	80
BNPD	HUBN10002 Borsodi Mezőség, Ároktő, Káptalani-kistanya*	150	80	-----
BNPD	HUBN10002 Borsodi Mezőség, Ároktő, Baromállás*	100	65	-----
BNPD	HUBN10002 Borsodi Mezőség, Mezőnagy Mihály, Csorda-legelő*	150	100	-----
BNPD	HUBN10002 Borsodi Mezőség, Mezőnagy Mihály, Farkas Tanya*	100	100	-----
BNPD	HUBN10002 Borsodi Mezőség, Mezőkeresztes*	148	70	-----
BNPD	HUBN10003 Bükk és peremterületei Cserépfalú-Hidegkúti legelő	155	80	90
BNPD	HUBN10004 Hevesi sík, Jászivány	184	30	30
BNPD	HUBN10004 Hevesi sík, Sarud	174		-----
DINPD	HUDI10003 Gerecse, Süttő	187	30	30
DINPD	HUDI10004 Jászkarajenő	197	80	90
HNPD	HUHN10002 Hortobágy, Tiszacsege, Kecskés-puszta I.	200	120	100
HNPD	HUHN10002 Hortobágy, Tiszacsege, Kecskés-puszta II.*	130	80	-----
HNPD	HUHN10002 Hortobágy, Darassa.	184	90	80
HNPD	HUHN10002 Hortobágy, Malomháza*	60	40	-----
HNPD	HUHN 10005 Jászság, Jászberény	200	100	30
KMNPD	HUKM 10002 Kis-Sárrét	197	60	30
KNPD	HUKN10007 Alsó Tiszavölgy, Pusztaszeri TK, Rontószél	178	70	80
KNPD	HUKN10007 Alsó Tiszavölgy, Pusztaszeri TK, Hosszúhát	114	<10	0
SNC	SKCHVU014 Malé Karpaty, Kuchyňa site	551	120*	34
SNC	SKCHVU017 Muranska planina, Biele Vody site	588	260*	117
SNC	Bojnice ZOO	65	30	7

*/ Repatriation is done in 2009.

*According to the last counting on the site

Based on our former experiences we are aware that the first two years is the accommodation period of the repatriated population. The population usually starts to increase from the third year.



Modifications:

None

ACTION D.4:

Name of the action: Guarding of endangered nests

Proposed start and end of the action: February 2007 – July 2010

Expected results:

It is foreseen that about 16 nests will be guarded during the project period. Chicks will fledge successfully from guarded nests.

Achievements:

In Hungary:

- Nest guarding was not necessary in 2009.

In Slovakia:

- 2 nest boxes were guarded in 2009 :

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

Nest guarding was not necessary.

In Slovakia:

Two nests were guarded.

The nest in Stupava was guarded by project staff and volunteers.

The nest in Abrahám was guarded by the chairman of hunting association Dudváh in Abrahám.

The juveniles fledged successfully (4 juveniles in Stupava, 5 juveniles in Abrahám). During the guarding the behaviour of the birds and other important information has been recorded.

Modifications:

No guarding was necessary in Hungary.

ACTION D.5:

Name of the action: Keeping and breeding of disabled birds and repatriation of juveniles

Proposed start and end of the action: April 2007 – September 2010

Expected results:

Disabled birds will breed in captivity and their chicks will strengthen natural population.

Achievements:

- chicks were successfully repatriated from a pair of disabled birds
- 3 cages constructed
- 3 rehabilitated adult bird released

Action status: ongoing

**Description of the progress during the reporting time:****In Hungary:**

Two cage was completed by MME in Abaujszántó and Sarród in 2008.

A broken winged male *F. cherrug* with Hungarian ornithological ring returned from Slovakia was accommodate in the cage of Sarród in September 2008.

Constriction of another 2 cages were going on by PROVÉRTES in Vértesboglár.

Both in Góré-s-tanya (HNPD) and in Dunakeszi (MME) a disabled pair laid eggs but the breeding was unsuccessful (**Annex D5**). There was no juveniles to repatriate this year.

In Slovakia:

A broken winged male *F. cherrug* with Hungarian ornithological ring was found and returned to Sarród in Hungary in September 2008.

On 28th of June 2009 an injured Saker was found. It was a juvenile from the nest in Stupava. The vet confirmed the fracture of a wing (**Annex D5**). The surgery was successful and the Saker was placed in the rehabilitation station in North Slovakia.

During the ringing in Opoj, one chick was found in the nest, which was much weaker than the other four chicks. Even if there was a very slim chance to rescue the chick, we took it to the expert in a rehabilitation station. The chick was kept in good conditions and was fed but did not grow enough. After 2 weeks the chick was placed back to the nest, but the female didn't feed it and finally the chick was found dead in the nest.

Our experience shows that there is a lack of qualified rehabilitation station or there is not enough place and financial capacity to look after the birds. The technical support and the equipment is insufficient for the rehabilitation of injured birds on a professional level. We try to solve this problem within the new LIFE+ project.

Modifications:

Non

ACTION D.6:

Name of the action: Chemical analysis of addled eggs and disseminate the result

Proposed start and end of the action: May 2007 – June 2010

Expected results:

Effects on *F. cherrug* by way of accumulation in the food chain will be known. Chemicals responsible for contamination will be identified if there is any.

A comprehensive list about the chemicals effecting fertility of *F. cherrug* by accumulation in the food chain will be available and published. Authorities, manufacturers and consumers will be aware of this threat. Some of these chemicals might be withdrawn from the market or special users' regulations will be issued.

Achievements:

- 20 addled eggs were chemically analysed.
- Lab results were analysed.

Action status: completed

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

20 selected addled eggs were chemically analysed out of the 43 collected in 2008. There were different chemicals found in 17 out of the analysed 20 eggs (**Annex D6/1**).



The results of the chemical analyses were evaluated in the National Veterinary Institute (**Annex D6/2**).

Most of the chemicals are DDT remains what is not used since some decades now. However there were some others like karbofuran what is a very serious poison which is not a long lasting chemicals in contrary of DDT and it is illegally used. Further investigation was recommended.

Modifications:

Non

ACTION D.7:

Name of the action: Monitoring of population and impacts of different project actions

Proposed start and end of the action: February 2007 – September 2010

Expected results:

Monitoring will be carried out in priority within SPAs or in the immediate proximity of the SPAs. Number of shot *F. cherrug* will be documented as well. Well-founded information will be available from time to time for reports to the Steering Committee and to the Commission. Project will be transparent for participants, donors and for the general public.

The result of the monitoring will be used for population modelling (A3) and will be incorporated into the After-LIFE Conservation Plan (F4).

Sufficient data will become available to understand the spatio-temporal dynamics of the *F.cherrug* population in the Carpathian Basin. The knowledge acquired by the action is vital for future conservation management planning.

Achievements:

Monitoring protocol endorsed

Monitoring is going on.

In Hungary:

In 2009:

- 214 territories,
- 163 breeding pairs (76% of total pairs),
- 135 successful breeding (82,8% of breeding pairs)
- 421 fledged juveniles were identified (3,1 juv./suc.br.pair)

In Slovakia:

In 2009:

- 33 territories checked
- 33 breeding pairs (5 new pairs recorded)
- 26 successfully breeding pairs
- 95 fledglings (3,6 juv./ successfully breeding pairs)

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

The following monitoring activities were carried out in both countries:

At the beginning of the breeding season the possible number of *F. cherrug* pairs was identified during their display flight in the entire project area. It was followed by the identification of the occupied territories and occupied nests.



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

During the breeding season all breeding pairs were checked while at the end of breeding season the breeding success, i.e. successfully fledged juveniles including the breeding success of guarded nests, kept birds and success of the repatriation of juveniles.

After the breeding season monitoring the survival of the fledged juveniles and the relation of fledged juveniles and adults are started and going on.

Project staffs of the partners together with volunteers carried out a systematic and comprehensive monitoring up to now. Technical coordinators of MME & RPS filtered the monitoring data and sent it to the Monitoring Centre of MME for data processing. Result of breeding population monitoring is given in **Table 6**. Result of population monitoring in Hungary is given in **Annex D7/1**. Register of *Falco cherrug* pairs in Slovakia is given in **Annex D7/2**.

Data gathered during the population monitoring will be combined with data collected during the other activities (D2, D3, D6, D8, D9) and analysed together.

Modifications:

Non

Table 6: Distribution of breeding population according to nest condition

	on tree			on pylon				nest was not found
	in other birds nest	in nest box type 1	in artificial nest type 3	in other birds nest	old wooden or aluminium tray	in nest box type 2	in artificial nest type 3	
In Hungary:								
nesting pairs	11	38	4	9	38	60	0	
successful breeding	8	34	3	7	31	49	0	3
aborted breeding	3	4	1	2	7	11	0	
fledged juveniles	26	102	7	17	92	172	0	5
fledged/successful br	3,2	3,0	2,3	2,4	3,0	3,5	0	1,7
In Slovakia:								
nesting pairs	0	0	0	0	20	11	2	
successful breeding	0	0	0	0	16	8	2	
aborted breeding	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	
fledged juveniles	0	0	0	0	59	31	5	
fledged/successful br	0	0	0	0	3,7	3,9	2,5	

ACTION D.8:

Name of the action: Collection and evaluation of migratory and immigration data by satellite telemetry and bird ringing.

Proposed start and end of the action: May 2007 – June 2010

Expected results:

Wintering sites, migratory survival rate and new habitats where juveniles settle will be identified and possibly the reason of the loss would be also identified. Based on this information a better population model can be developed for the population of the Carpathian basin and Europe.

Sufficient data will become available to understand the spatio-temporal dynamics of the *F. cherrug* population in the Carpathian Basin. The knowledge acquired by the action is vital for future conservation management planning.

**Achievements:**

- Argos days are continuously purchased and evaluated
- Valuable information collected:
 - Dóra successfully bred.
 - 3 birds (1 male & 2 females) wintered in Sicily, the male second time Barnabás returning from Sicily moved as far as Samara in Russia and returned to wintering again into Sicily in 2008.
 - 3 birds wintered in Serbia
 - 2 birds visited Africa, and one of them is currently there. Piros visited Spain and Portugal before left Europe to Morocco and continue to Mauritania.
 - Hungarian horse rider recovered Vanya carcasses and brought the PTT home.
 - Tagged birds are closely monitored by partners in concerned countries. We are getting useful information day by day.

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

Argos data are continuously purchased and evaluated. 10 PTT were transmitting at the end of the reporting period. We already got and continuously getting a lot of valuable information. There are some tagged birds – we got evidence – which are still alive but the PTT is out of function. The PTT tagged birds can be followed on the web page of the project www.sakerlife.mme.hu

1. We got strong evidence that the juveniles are roaming mainly southeast direction visiting Romania, Serbia and Bulgaria very often. These areas are the potential target areas for the expansion of the species (**Annex D8/1**).
2. Another two female juveniles migrated to Africa. Viera the “Slovak” female spent the last winter in Niger along the Niger river in the south. On 6th of September 2008 the Slovak colleagues traveled to Serbia her on the way from a Conference in Bulgaria. The PTT was transmitting from Serbia for more than a month. Thanks to the exact coordinates of the PTT they found Viera immediately and observed her for a few hours. The other female was Piros, which was travelling across whole Europe than crossed the Mediterranean Sea at Gibraltar and went to Mauritania (**Annex D8/2**).
3. We recognised that Italy is an important wintering site for our birds. 5 birds were spent last winter there.
4. The first PTT tagged bird Dóra has bred successfully in Hungary (**Annex D8/3**).

Modifications:

One PTT will be installed next year due to technical problem.

ACTION D.9:

Name of the action: Managing BirdLife European *F. cherrug* Conservation Taskforce to co-ordinate the conservation efforts and gather information from wintering grounds, migrating routes and immigrating juveniles by establishing and operating an international mailing list

Proposed start and end of the action: January 2007 – September 2010

Expected results:

The number of recoveries increases thanks to the fluent information flow and providing sufficient data for a more precise determination of wintering locations or new habitats of the *F. cherrug* population breeding in the Carpathian Basin. The mailing list will also provide the



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

means for swift information exchange and consultation between international experts, if imminent threats emerge at either wintering or breeding areas.

Achievements:

Mailing list is used to collect information from sites visited by PTT tagged birds abroad and share information about the project progress. 238 letters were sent to the list within the reporting period

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

The mailing list is used to collect valuable information from the sites which are visited by the PTT tagged F. cherrug and providing good information for partner organisation. The BirdLife European F. cherrug Conservation Taskforce was working intensively using the mailing list. However we could involved much broader target group in the communication. BirdLife partners, scientists and conservationist helped to monitor the migrating birds in 17 countries. They provided information about the birds and the habitat and possible prey species there. 238 letters were sent to the list within the reporting period (**Annex D9**)

Modifications:

None

**E. Public awareness and dissemination of information****ACTION E.1:****Name of the action: Changing of hunters opinion through raising their awareness****Proposed start and end of the action: March 2007 – September 2010****Expected results:**

- Co-operation with hunter societies improved.
- 5 hunter societies or individual hunters awarded.
- Number of shot birds will be reduced by 40% in Slovakia.
- 10 - 12 articles on the website operated by hunter associations and on the website operated by RPS.
- Regular communication with local hunter's association at the F. cherrug localities (twenty meetings yearly).
- Active participation of hunters on guarding the nest.
- Several meetings at headquarters level are planned in the first year of the project implementation.
- Posters and DVDs (E5) will be distributed to hunters during all meetings.
- At least 15 press releases and 5 articles for hunter's journals will be published yearly.
- Active participation at the annual national meeting of hunters

Achievements:**In Slovakia:**

During the reporting period:

- 11 meetings with local hunting associations took place. We met with the representatives of most of the hunting associations the operating area of which overlap with the nesting sites of sakers in West Slovakia,
- We were invited for 2 meetings of the hunting associations on the regional level, where we presented the project, our work and the importance of raptors in the nature,
- 1 meeting at headquarters level took place,
- 10 articles within the serial "Raptors of Slovakia" were published on hunters web site,
- 1 International Press Conference concerning the poisoning of the birds with connection to the massacre near Jaslovské Bohunice
- 6 press release concerning the Bird Crime
- 5 spots in TV
- 4 articles in newspapers
- 500 copies of a coloured A4-size 16 pages brochure was produced and is being distributed among hunters in cooperation with Slovak Hunters Association

Action status: ongoing**Description of the progress during the reporting time:****In Slovakia:**

During the reporting period we've recorded the biggest massacre of birds of prey ever, when 22 birds were found dead on one site in March 2009. The cause of the death was a poison – carbofuran. By this massacre also 4 Sakers were killed. We organized an International Press Conference, where besides RPS the representatives of Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Interior were present as well as representatives of NGOs from Hungary and Czech



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

republic. During the conference the importance of international cooperation was stressed and the LIFE project was mentioned as an example (**Annex E1/1**).

During the reporting period 11 meetings with local hunting associations took place. We met with the representatives of most of the hunting associations operating in the nesting sites of sakers in West Slovakia (**Annexes E1/2-E1/3**). We were invited to 2 meetings of the hunting associations on the regional level, where we presented the project, our work and the importance of raptors in the nature (**Annexes E1/4-E1/5**). There was a meeting at headquarter level too.

Ten articles were published within the serial "Raptors of Slovakia" on hunters web site (**Annex E1/6**).

There were six press release concerning bird crime and 5 spots in TV (**Annexes E1/6-E1/11**).

Four articles were published in newspapers (**Annexes E1/6 & E1/12**).

500 copies of a coloured A4-size 16 pages brochure was produced and is being distributed among hunters in cooperation with Slovak Hunters Association (**Annex E1/13**).

Modifications:

None

ACTION E.2:

Name of the action: Test the efficiency of Agri-environment Advisory based on project findings on a pilot area

Proposed start and end of the action: October 2008 – September 2010

Expected results:

Best agri-environment advisory methods on shared *F. cherrug* habitat identified and published. On the pilot area, the number of farmers committed to environment sensitive land use and management will increase by 20%. Habitat of the pilot area will be improved to the benefit of *S. citellus* and *F. cherrug* in harmony of *O. tarda* preference.

Achievements:

- Pilot area was selected in Csákvár
- Assisting farmers to apply for agri-environment subsidies in May-June 2009. (4 times, 6 farmers.)
- Start up farmers meeting for 17 farmers

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

Csákvár pilot area was selected for this action because this is the new Zámolyi-medence High Natural Value Area (HNVA) where the agri-environment programs of RDP 2009-2014 started on 01.09.2009. These programmes contains most of those elements and regulations what are important for *F. cherrug* and *S. citellus*. It is the first time that the farmers of the area can join such kind of programmes, therefore the advising methods and the reactions of the farmers can be tested. This situation is well comparable with the planned initiation and implementation of the potential *F. cherrug* favour agri-environment programme.

The test will be continued also in the Hevesi sik where the *Otis tarda* favour agri-environment programme has been running for years.

In the frame of this action the external assistant and PROVÉRTES together provided advice and assistance to the farmers of Zámolyi-medence in applying for agri-environment subsidies



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

in May-July 2009. At the beginning we provided information on Farmers Forum for 17 peoples (**Annex E2/1-E2/3**). During this period assistance were provided for farmers four times on sites, regularly on telephone and email in collecting information, documents, replying questions and finding the best options for six farmers.

Data collection about the applied advisory techniques in relation with agri-environment and agriculture subsidies is proceeding. Data collection of used nature conservation advisory techniques is also going on. Selection of site specific methods for the two pilot sites (Zámolyimencede and esi-sík) are in process.

We are preparing to contact the winners of agri-environment programme of the RDP 2009-2014.

Modifications:

None

ACTION E.3:

Name of the action: Erecting information signs at project

Proposed start and end of the action: September 2007 – March 2008

Expected results:

Large scale publicity of the conservation status of *F. cherrug*, project aims and activities and its support by LIFE.

In Hungary 24, in Slovakia 3 information signs will be erected along main roads near the most populated area and the pilot area

Achievements:

5 destroyed signboards were replaced in Hungary.

Felsőtárkány HUBN10003 (BNPD)

Jászkarajenő HUDI10004, Tata HUDI30001 (DINPD)

Tiszaalpár HUKN10004 (KNPD)

Csákvár HUDI30002 (PROVÉRTES)

Action status: completed

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

Five signboards were destroyed out of the 24 signboards erected in Hungary. One was destroyed by storm four by vandals. Upon the request of the Commission we replaced all of them.

Modifications:

5 destroyed signboards were replaced in Hungary.

Comments on Commission's requests:

5 destroyed signboards were replaced in Hungary.

**ACTION E.4:****Name of the action:** Design and operate project web site**Proposed start and end of the action:** December 2006 – September 2010**Expected results:**

An accessible and up-to-date web site informing the general public and technical staff working on similar projects about the project. Hence, it will promote networking with past and future LIFE projects dealing with the conservation of *Falco spp.* We expect 20,000 visitors over the project period to visit the site.

Achievements:

- Web is operating in three languages.

Action status: ongoing**Description of the progress during the reporting time:**

The project web page is accessible for the general public in three languages English, Hungarian and Slovak and also on three addresses: www.sakerlife.mme.hu, www.kerecsensolyom.mme.hu or www.dravce.sk/sokolraroh . It is regularly updated.

Modifications:

None

Reactions/feed-back:

During the reporting period it was visited 53591 times from 22789 address of 94 countries (**Annex E4**). Press and public often approaching us in connection with information accessed on the web page.

Comments on Commission's requests:

The sub link "Monitoring" is completed with the Slovak version.

ACTION E.5:**Name of the action:** Secure public support for conservation efforts**Proposed start and end of the action:** June 2007 – September 2010**Expected results:**

Disturbance of *F. cherrug* breeding will be reduced by 50% as public awareness increases.
A2 size posters: 2500 copies in Hungarian and Slovak languages
BETA cassette: 2 copy
DVD: 400 copies in Hungarian and 100 copies in Slovak

Achievements:**In Hungary:**

- Remaining copies of the posters were displayed.
- Presentation of the project for the Serbian Electric Companies
- Project was introduced in the specialist meeting on the conservation of the saker falcon in Abu Dhabi
- Hungarian Television (M2) prepared and broadcasted a film from the project.



- Visit of the president of Hungary
- Project film is under preparation.

In Slovakia:

The project aims and results were presented on different occasions and the project posters were distributed also in these meetings

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

In Hungary:

The remaining 750 copies of the trilingual A2 size posters were displayed.

The project work was introduced for the Serbian Electric Companies in the Fruska Gora National Park with the permission of the Commission on 29.01.2009 (**Annex E5/1**).

The project work was also introduced in “the specialist meeting on the conservation of the saker falcon” in Abu Dhabi (**Annex E5/2-E5/3**). Project staff took part in this meeting during their vacation. No costs were charged on the project.

Hungarian Television (M2) prepared and broadcasted a film about the project under the title of “Több mint egy madár” (more than a bird) at the end of 2008.

H.E. Dr. László Sólyom the President of Hungary visited the Bükk National Park in September 2009. The project’s work and achievements were introduced him too (**Annex E5/4**).

The project’s activities were continuously recorded in both country to prepare a film from the project (**Annex E5/5**).

In Slovakia:

During the reporting period:

The results of the project were presented on the Annual meeting of RPS in November 2008.

The preliminary results of the use of PTTs were presented in Journal of RPS „Raptors and Owls“ in November 2008.

The project and its results were presented during the „Earth Day“ organized by ZSE, focusing on the cooperation with ZSE in insulation and in using the PTTs.

Modifications:

- The project work was introduced for the Serbian Electric Companies in the Fruska Gora National Park with the permission of the Commission on 29.01.2009.
- Project was introduced in the specialist meeting of the conservation of the saker falcon in Abu Dhabi but not in project costs.

Reactions/feed-back:

It was well received by the public. We got a lot of enquiry.

ACTION E.6:

Name of the action: Informing media about project’s aims, activities and achievements

Proposed start and end of the action: October 2006 – September 2010

Expected results:

The conservation problems of *F. cherrug* and the results of the LIFE project will be brought to the attention of the general public, decision-makers and interest groups. As a result, adequate public support will be attracted to the necessary conservation measures, and



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

information on subsidies available through CAP and the Natura 2000 network will be widely distributed.

- Two Press Conferences will be organised one at the start and one at the end of the project.
- At least two press releases will be circulated annually to local & national newspapers.
- Two articles will be submitted annually to local & national newspapers to magazines for farmers and on the main web sites of relevant hunters associations.
- Two scientific papers will be produced during the project period.
- Two site visits will be organised for the media.

Achievements:

In Hungary:

- One press conferences was organised in the occasion of tagging the last juveniles within the project.
- Six press releases circulated.
- One article was submitted and published
- One scientific paper were published

In Slovakia:

- Nine Press Releases circulated
- Nine articles were published,

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

Press Conference:

In Hungary:

A Press Conference was organised in the occasion of tagging the last juveniles within the project on 6th June 2009 (**Annex E6/1**).

Press release:

In Hungary:

Six press releases were released by the project about the tagged birds (**Annexes E6/2-E6/7**).

In Slovakia:

Nine press releases were released about the project activities (**Annexes E6/8-E6/16**).

Articles:

In Hungary:

Special importance of Hevesi-sík for conservation of *Falco cherrug*. *Based on the preliminary results of EU LIFE supported "Conservation of Falco cherrug in the Carpathian basin" project* Published in Hunters' Magazine of Heves County (**Annex E6/17**).

In Slovakia:

Nine articles were published in different newspapers and magazines (**Annex E6/18**).

Scientific paper:

In Hungary:

Heliaca 2008 issue: Saker (*Falco cherrug*)-conservation Working group 2008 year's annual report (**Annex E6/19**).

Field visits:

Press conference was organised in the countryside including a field visit.

Others:

In Hungary:

Several interviews were given by different project staff about the project activities.

In Slovakia:

Some interviews were given by project staff about the project activities.



Modifications:

Non

Reactions/feed-back:

In Hungary:

30 media presences (**Annex E6/20**):

- Több mint egy madár (more than a bird) film broadcasted on M2 TV
- 22 online, 4 printed, 3 radio.

In Slovakia:

24 media presences

15 online, 4 TV spot, 4 printed (**Annex E6/21**)

ACTION E.7:

Name of the action: International conference to share and evaluate results and experience of the project

Proposed start and end of the action: April 2010 – September 2010

Expected results:

Evaluation of the work and achievements of the project with the participation of international experts will contribute to the global success of *F. cherrug* conservation. The personal contacts established at the conference will improve future conservation activities of *F. cherrug*.

Achievements:

Date of the conference were set.

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

The date of the conference were set to 15-19 September 2010. The location will be in Eger according to the decision of the director of BNPD. Selection of the venue is going on.

Modifications:

None

ACTION E.8:

Name of the action: Layman's report

Proposed start and end of the action: April 2010 – June 2010

Expected results:

4000 items of paper copies of 8-12 pages report and PDF format on the web in English, Hungarian and Slovakian languages.

Achievements:

None

Action status: pending



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

None

Modifications:

None

**F. Overall project management****ACTION F.1:**

Name of the action: Project planning, management, administration, monitoring and reporting

Proposed start and end of the action: October 2007 – September 2010

Expected results:

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

Having an effective project management structure in place will ensure that the activities described in this application will be implemented on time and within budget. If unexpected problems arise, necessary steps will be taken. Therefore, this action is essential to ensure the effective implementation of the project.

Achievements:

- Project management system is functioning.
- Project administration system is functioning.
- The monthly reporting system is functioning.
- Good cooperation with external assistant.

Action status: ongoing

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

Project manager and Project Administrator are working well together in the project management and all communication is shared between them. They visit the partners regularly to assist the partner coordinator and the partner administration. Project manager is representing the project and negotiating with “the outside world”. The Project Manager is briefing the director of the Beneficiary weekly. There is a regular and efficient cooperation with the external assistant. Project Manager is giving interviews also for the press. We had a French intern in the project in the beginning of 2009 (**Annex F1**).

Modifications:

- **Dr. Zoltán Hegyi** returned to his partner coordinator position in DINPD from 01.07.2009.

Reports have been delivered since the start of the project:

- Progress report of 2006 for State secretary of Nature Conservation
- 4 progress reports for Jan Sliva the external assistant.
- 4 progress reports for the Steering Committee
- 1st Progress Report
- Interim Report

**ACTION F.2:****Name of the action:** Held Steering Committee meetings**Proposed start and end of the action:** October 2007 – March 2010**Expected results:**

Regular, timely, scheduled meetings, held with good attendance, which will help secure the high priority of the project work for project staff and their leaders.

Achievements:

- Minutes of the 5th SC meeting is ready (**Annex F2**).

Action status: ongoing**Description of the progress during the reporting time:**

One meeting was held according to the original schedule in September 2008.

In 2009 there was not any Steering Committee meeting held due to the global economic crises and considering the smooth project implementation. The director of the beneficiary briefed partner directors about the progress in the directors' meeting in MEW.

Modifications:

There were not any Steering Committee formal meeting organised due to the global economic crises but a meeting of the directorates of partners and the beneficiary was held instead..

ACTION F.3:**Name of the action:** Financial monitoring and reporting**Proposed start and end of the action:** October 2007 – September 2010**Expected results:**

Appropriate financial reports produced on time, correctly and to budget, accompanied by report(s) from independent auditor.

Achievements:

- Regular monthly financial reporting.

Action status: ongoing**Description of the progress during the reporting time:**

Partners are sending monthly financial reports to the Project Office. Project Administrator registers and checks it. She prepares a "list of requested corrections" if she finds any mistake or any missing documents. Financial reports are accepted only if all requested corrections are completed and missing documents submitted and accepted. A register is maintained about the status of each partner's monthly financial status. All partners accepted costs are reimbursed until the LIFE advance payment covered them.

Modifications:

None



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

ACTION F.4:

Name of the action: After-LIFE Conservation Plan

Proposed start and end of the action: April 2010 – June 2010

Expected results:

After-LIFE Conservation Plan delivered with the final report.

Achievements:

None

Action status: pending

Description of the progress during the reporting time:

None

Modifications:

None



LIFE06 NAT/H/000096

Table 7: Status of the fulfilment of deliverable products and milestones between 01.08.2008 – 30.09.2009.

(*PRNr2=Progress Report Nr.2)

Deliverable or Milestone	Number of the associated action	Deadline	Status	Evidence of reaching them	Sent to the EC (Report*/Annex)
Second batch of <i>S. citellus</i> are repatriated	C2	15.08.2008	Completed	Timesheet photos	C2/1
Minutes of autumn Steering Committee Meeting	F2	07.09.2008	Completed	minutes	F2
Autumn media release	E6	30.09.2008	Completed	Published articles	E6/2, E6/8-13
Annual monitoring report Nr.2.	(D1),D2,D3, D6, D7	31.11.2008	Completed	Timesheet photos 2 nd MR	A1/24-26, C3/1, D3/1-2, D6/1-2, D7/1-2, E6/19
Second batch nest boxes are installed	C1	31.12.2008	Completed	Timesheet, photos, 2ndMR	C1/1-5, E6/19
Second batch of dangerous electric pylons insulated	C3	31.12.2008	Completed	Timesheets maps & pictures	C3/1-14
Pilot area for agri-environment advisory test selected	E2	31.12.2008	Completed	Selected sites Presentation	E2/1-3
Articles submitted for newspapers and magazines	E6	31.03.2009	Completed	Published articles	E6/17-19
Spring media release	E6	30.04.2009	Completed	Published articles	E6/3 E6/14-15
Third batch juveniles are ringed & tagged	C4	15.06.2009	Completed	Argos data	C4/1-4
Third batch of <i>S. citellus</i> are repatriated	C2	15.08.2009	Completed	Reports, photos	C2/2-6
Autumn media release	E6	30.09.2009	Completed	Published articles	E6/4-7 E6/16

5. Problems encountered

- Project Administrator is pregnant and will go to maternity leave from 01.11.2009. Problem was discussed during EC's mission to the project, and solution was fined.
- Public tender procedure slowed done procurement of third batch of insulation materials.



6. Financial issues

Table : 8. PROJECT COSTS INCURRED BY COST CATEGORIES

	Cost category	Total cost according to the Commission's decision*	Total costs incurred from the start date to 30.09.2009	%**
		EUR	EUR	EUR
1.	Personnel	785 975	543 849 €	71,66%
2.	Travel	219 942	136 038 €	61,85%
3.	External assistance	243 503	227 643 €	93,49%
4.	Durables: total cost	368 917	306 802 €	83,16%
5.	Land purchase	0	0€	
6.	Consumables	388 048	232 514 €	59,92%
7.	Other costs	10 833	5 842 €	53,47%
8.	Overheads	134 824	82 291 €	61,04%
	SUM TOTAL	2 152 042	1 534 998 €	72,52%

7. Planned project progress (Table 9.)

Deliverable or Milestone	Number of the associated action	Deadline	Responsible
Hunters awarded	E1	15.12.2009	RPS
Third batch nest boxes are installed	C1	31.12.2009	MME – Raptor Programme manager All partners coordinator
Third batch of dangerous electric pylons insulated	C3	31.12.2009	MME – Raptor Programme manager All partners coordinator
Report on satellite tracking	D8	31.12.2009	MME – Raptor specialist
Minutes of spring Steering Committee Meeting	F2	31.03.2010	BNPD – Project manager
Articles submitted for newspapers and magazines	E6	31.03.2010	MME – Project communication manager
Spring media release	E6	30.04.2010	MME – Project communication manager
Layman's report	E8	31.05.2010	BNPD – Project manager
Last batch juveniles are ringed	C4	15.06.2010	MME – Raptor program manager DDNPD, FHNDP, HNPD, KNPD, partner coordinators, RPS Scientific coordinator
Proposal for adjustment of agri-environment subsidies	A1, A2, E2	31.07.2010	MME – External assistant
Last batch of <i>S. citellus</i> are repatriated	C2	15.08.2010	ANPD, DINPD, KNPD, RPS, SNC partner coord.
Annual monitoring report Nr. 4.	(D1),D2,D3, D7	15.08.2010	MME – Head of Monitoring Centre RPS – Scientific coordinator
Last batch nest boxes are installed	C1	31.08.2010	MME – Raptor Programme manager All partners coordinator
Last batch of dangerous electric pylons insulated	C3	31.08.2010	MME – Raptor Programme manager All partners coordinato
Population model	A3	31.08.2010	MME - director
After-LIFE Conservation Plan	F4	30.09.2010	BNPD – Project Manager and all partner coord.
International Conference organised	E7	30.09.2010	BNPD- Project manager & administrator MME – Project communication manager
Press conference	E6	30.09.2010	MME – Project communication manager