

## LIFE - Nature



*Projects-Projekten-Projets-Projectos-Proyectos-Projecten-Progetti-Projektit-Projekte-Proje  
Projektien-Projets-Projectos-Proyectos-Projecten-Progetti-Projektit-Projekte-Projects-Proje*

2004



European Commission

## Introduction to LIFE-Nature projects 2004

---

### **LIFE Nature: the Commission supports 77 nature conservation projects with 76 millions Euro**

In 2004 the European Commission approved funding for 77 nature conservation projects under the LIFE financial instrument.

All the projects selected for funding will contribute to the establishment of the EU-wide Natura 2000 network of areas safeguarding important wildlife habitats and threatened species.

The projects will restore protected areas and their fauna and flora, establish sustainable management structures and strengthen public awareness. Of the selected projects, 75 will be carried out in EU Member States and two in Romania.

LIFE Nature is one of three funding strands under the EU's environmental financial instrument LIFE whose goal is to support the implementation of EU environmental policies and legislation. Funding under LIFE approved in 2004 totals 160 million of euro.

#### **LIFE Nature in 2004**

The 77 projects were selected among 250 proposals submitted for LIFE Nature funding. Together, they represent a total investment of 140 million of euro in nature conservation, of which the EU will cover 76 million of euro. The remaining funding will come from the beneficiaries, project partners and co-financers.

Most of the selected LIFE Nature projects will directly target the conservation or restoration of particular Natura 2000 sites or networks of sites.

Others aim to protect threatened or vulnerable animal or plant species.

The most common project activities deal with the development and implementation of management

plans; management of watercourses; land purchase (especially in northern Europe); grazing management; elimination of alien species; and site restoration and improvement. Part of all the projects are measures to disseminate the results and lessons learnt to stakeholders and the general public. If relevant, the projects will also monitor and document the impact of their actions.

#### **Background**

Established in 1992, LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU, in candidate countries and in some neighboring regions. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the development and implementation of EU environmental policy by financing specific actions.

The two other components of LIFE, LIFE Environment and LIFE Third Countries, focus on innovative environmental protection measures, and environmental protection in a number of countries neighbouring the EU.

Since 1992, some 2400 projects have received EU funding under the LIFE programme, representing an EU contribution of 1,4 billion of euro to the protection of the environment.

More information about each project is available at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/project/index.htm>.

More about the Natura 2000 network can be found at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/home.htm>

## Index of projects selected in 2004

Location	Project number	Title
België	LIFE04NAT/BE/000010	Habitat restoration in Landschap De Liereman
Cyprus	LIFE04NAT/CY/000013	Conservation management in Natura 2000 sites of Cyprus
Czech Republic	LIFE04NAT/CZ/000015	Restoration of thermophilous habitats in the Moravian Karst
Danmark	LIFE04NAT/DK/000020	Restoration of Dry Grasslands in Denmark
	LIFE04NAT/DK/000022	Regional Actions to Improve Nature in River Odense and Odense Fjord
Deutschland	LIFE04NAT/DE/000025	Living Rhine floodplain near Karlsruhe
	LIFE04NAT/DE/000028	Management of fire-bellied toads in the Baltic region
Ellas	LIFE04NAT/GR/000101	Conservation management of an Island SPA
	LIFE04 NAT/GR/000104	A pilot network of plant micro-reserves in Western Crete
	LIFE04NAT/GR/000105	Actions for the conservation of Mediterranean temporary ponds in Crete
España	LIFE04NAT/ES/000031	Dune regeneration on Laida beach (Urdaibai)
	LIFE04NAT/ES/000033	Conservation of <i>Margaritifera auricularia</i> in Aragón
	LIFE04NAT/ES/000034	Adaptation of the electric power lines in the SPAs of Aragón
	LIFE04NAT/ES/000035	Conservation of <i>Aphanius iberus</i> genetic stocks (Murcia)
	LIFE04NAT/ES/000036	Conservation and management in the Natural Park "Duratón River Canyon"
	LIFE04NAT/ES/000043	Conservation of threatened chiropters of Extremadura

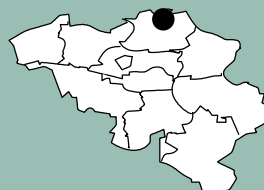
	LIFE04NAT/ES/000044	Recovery of the littoral sand dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp. In Valencia
	LIFE04NAT/ES/000048	Recovery of a priority habitat in l'Albufera natural Park
	LIFE04NAT/ES/000049	Important bird areas for seabirds (marine IBAs) in Spain
	LIFE04NAT/ES/000056	Preliminary actions and reintroduction of the bearded vulture
	LIFE04NAT/ES/000059	Recovery of the habitat of amphibians and <i>Emys orbicularis</i> in the Baix Ter
	LIFE04NAT/ES/000064	Restoration <i>Juniperus</i> spp. forests inTenerife
	LIFE04NAT/ES/000067	Measures for the conservation of the canarian egyptian vulture ( <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> ssp. <i>majorensis</i> ) in SPAs of the Fuerteventura island (Canary Islands, Spain)
<b>Estonia Eesti</b>	LIFE04NAT/EE/000070	Protection of <i>Triturus cristatus</i> in Eastern Baltic Region
	LIFE04NAT/EE/000072	Arrangement of spotted eagles and black stork conservation in Estonia
	LIFE04NAT/EE/000073	Management of Natura 2000 habitats of the Kopu Peninsula
<b>Finland Suomi</b>	LIFE04NAT/FI/000076	Restoration and maintenance of valuable aquatic bird habitats of Pirkanmaa
	LIFE04NAT/FI/000078	Natural Forests and mires in the "Green Belt" of Koillismaa and Kainuu
<b>France</b>	LIFE04NAT/FR/000079	LIFE 'Nature and Territories' in the Rhône-Alpes Region
	LIFE04NAT/FR/000080	Conservation of 3 cave-dwelling bats in Southern France
	LIFE04NAT/FR/000082	Headwater streams and faunistic Heritage associated
	LIFE04NAT/FR/000083	Programme for the conservation of the Rhône-Apron ( <i>Zingel asper</i> ) and its habitats
	LIFE04NAT/FR/000086	Conservation of the Aquatic Warbler in Brittany
	LIFE04NAT/FR/000087	Conservation of the most remarkable habitats and species of the Poitevin Marshes
	LIFE04NAT/FR/000091	Reinforcement of the migratory breeding populations of the Little Bustard, <i>Tetrax tetrax</i> in France
<b>Hungary Magyarország</b>	LIFE04NAT/HU/000109	Conservation of <i>Otis tarda</i> in Hungary

	LIFE04NAT/HU/000116	Establishing the background of saving the Hungarian meadow viper ( <i>Vipera ursinii rakosiensis</i> ) from extinction
	LIFE04NAT/HU/000118	Complex habitat rehabilitation of the Central Bereg Plain, Northeast Hungary
	LIFE04NAT/HU/000119	Grassland restoration and marsh protection in Egyek-Pusztakócs
<b>Ireland</b>	LIFE04NAT/IE/000121	Restoring raised bog in Ireland
	LIFE04NAT/IE/000125	Farming for conservation in the Burren
<b>Italia</b>	LIFE04NAT/IT/000126	Conservation and breeding of Italian cobice endemic sturgeon
	LIFE04NAT/IT/000144	Improving coexistence of large carnivores and agriculture in S. Europe
	LIFE04NAT/IT/000153	Actions to preserve the NATURA 2000 sites in Alta Tuscia Viterbese
	LIFE04NAT/IT/000159	Requalification interventions of SIC Ganna's Lake
	LIFE04 NAT/IT/000167	Aurora System - active presentation of <i>Salamandra atra aurorae</i> and other amphibians
	LIFE04NAT/IT/000172	Tuscan Islands: new actions towards sea birds and habitat
	LIFE04 NAT/IT/000173	Protection of habitats and raptors in M. Labbro and Upper Albegna Valley
	LIFE04NAT/IT/000177	Safeguard and showing off of the peat-bogs in Danta (Cadore)
	LIFE04NAT/IT/000182	Preservation and extension of priority habitats damaged from agriculture activity
	LIFE04NAT/IT/000187	A network for the conservation of sea turtles in Italy
	LIFE04NAT/IT/000190	Conservation actions in NATURA 2000 sites managed by the State Forest Service
	LIFE04NAT/IT/000191	Conservation of Apennine beech forests with <i>Abies alba</i> SIC Pigelleto - M. Amiata
<b>Latvia Latvija</b>	LIFE04NAT/LV/000196	Implementation of mire habitat management plan for Latvia
	LIFE04NAT/LV/000198	Restoration of Latvian floodplains for EU priority species and habitats
	LIFE04NAT/LV/000199	Protection of habitats and species in Nature Park "Razna"

<b>Nederland</b>	LIFE04NAT/NL/000201	Amphibian Biotope Improvement in the Netherlands
	LIFE04NAT/NL/000202	Tiengemete, restoration of freshwater tidal area in the Haringvliet estuary, the Netherlands
	LIFE04NAT/NL/000203	Habitat improvement for <i>Microtus oeconomus</i> in Alde Feanen
	LIFE04NAT/NL/000206	From degraded to active raised bogs pSCI Bargerveen
<b>Österreich</b>	LIFE04NAT/AT/000001	Lafnitz - habitat cross-linking on an Alpine pannonical river
	LIFE04NAT/AT/000002	Pannonic Steppes and Dry Grasslands
	LIFE04NAT/AT/000003	Alluvial and slope forests of the Upper Danube Valley
	LIFE04NAT/AT/000006	Donau- Ybbs Linkage
<b>Poland Polska</b>	LIFE04NAT/PL/000208	Conservation of baltic raised bogs in Pomerania, Poland
<b>Portugal</b>	LIFE04NAT/PT/000212	Species and habitats conservation in Portuguese Western Coast
	LIFE04NAT/PT/000213	Important bird areas for seabirds in Portugal
	LIFE04NAT/PT/000214	Management and conservation of the sites of S. Mamede and Nisa/Laje de Prata
<b>Romania</b>	LIFE04NAT/RO/000220	Improving wintering conditions for <i>Branta ruficollis</i> at Techirghiol
	LIFE04NAT/RO/000225	The forests with <i>Pinus nigra banatica</i> - part of NATURA 2000
<b>Slovakia Slovensko</b>	LIFE04NAT/SK/000244	Conservation of habitat diversity in Slovenský Raj National Park
<b>Slovenia Slovenija</b>	LIFE04NAT/SI/000234	Conservation of otter population ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) in Goricko - phase 1
	LIFE04NAT/SI/000240	NATURA 2000 in Slovenia - management models and information system
<b>Sverige</b>	LIFE04NAT/SE/000230	Improvement of habitat for wetland birds in Askö-Tidö
	LIFE04NAT/SE/000231	Freshwater Pearl Mussel and its habitats in Sweden
<b>United Kingdom</b>	LIFE04NAT/GB/000245	Small Cetaceans in the European Atlantic and North Sea
	LIFE04NAT/GB/000250	Conservation of Atlantic salmon in Scotland

# Restoring a habitat mosaic in Flanders

LIFE04NAT/BE/000010



## Official Title

*Habitat restoration in Landschap De Liereman*

## Background

De Liereman is a complex area of habitats laid out in a mosaic pattern which includes wet depressions and steep continental dunes. The ecological gradients between sandy, loamy and peaty soils and the associated vegetations makes this a truly unique landscape. Here, after the deforestations of the Middle Ages, heathland developed, in combination with small-scale grasslands and arable fields which were used exclusively as small-scale farming units. However, in order to better exploit the area, the depressions were drained and the dunes were afforested with pine (in the 19th century, timber was urgently needed for the shafts in the coal mines nearby).

In the 20th century, the agricultural intensification further affected the heathlands and semi-natural grassland, which only survived as relicts inside a nature reserve. Most of the oligotrophic lakes disappeared or were turned into fishponds; small wet heathlands, mire vegetations (small raised bogs and *Cladium mariscus* vegetations) and brook forests remained but suffered from desiccation and increased fertilisation.

The former important *Nardetalia* grassland now remains as small relicts along road verges. Over time, the area lost most of its conservation value because of habitat fragmentation, conifer plantations, changes in the natural hydrology of the area and lack of appropriate land use or management.

## Project Objectives

Already since the early 1980s the beneficiary has made efforts to restore and manage parts of the Liereman but a large-scale coordinated action programme is needed to bring its natural values back.

This is what the LIFE project sets out to achieve. A comprehensive management plan will be drawn up and in order to reduce fragmentation and start restoration works, about 75 ha will be bought. Large conifer plantations (30 ha) will be cleared so that heathlands can develop.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO

### Name of beneficiary

Natuurpunt Beheer vzw

### Postal address

Kardinaal Mercierplein 1

B - 2800 Mechelen

België

Tel.: +32 15 297220

Fax: +32 15 424921

Email: joost.dewypelaere@natuurpunt.be

### Name of contact person

Mr. Joost Dewypelaere

## Duration of project

From 01 January 2004 to 30 September 2009

## Total budget in euro:

3,042,700.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,521,350.00 (50%)

Locally, cleared areas will be sod-cut: in wet depressions to restore fen vegetations of wet heathlands, and on hillslopes to restore the rare *Nardetalia* vegetations. Filled and drained oligotrophic lakes will be restored. The beneficiary will follow this up by launching the recurring management and channelling the visitors to the site away from the more fragile areas.

# Managing Natura 2000 in Cyprus

LIFE04NAT/CY/000013



The project involves the whole country and/or involves numerous sites

## Official Title

*Conservation management in Natura 2000 sites of Cyprus*

## Background

Cyprus proposed the acquisition of a management planning tool for its SCIs and SPAs, as well as implementing urgent actions in five threatened SCIs (three of which are also SPAs).

The five SCIs comprise Kavos Gkreko located at the SE end of the island; Diarizos valley located at the W-NW part of Troodos peak; Vouni Panagias at the eastern border of the Pafos District; Troodos National Forest Park in the centre of Troodos massif and; Alykes Larnakas in the south of Larnaka.

A number of factors are exerting pressure on the aforementioned SCIs due to past and present human activities, including recreation, fisheries, wildfires, water management, exotic species plantations and expansion of cultivations. These factors have been degrading and/or shrinking the extent of priority habitats *Posidonia beds\**, *Zizyphus matorral\** and Vernal pools\* in Kavos Gkreko, and contributed to the decline of *Alnus orientalis* riparian woodland\* in Koilada Diarizou, degradation of *Quercus infectoria* woodland\* in Vouni Panagias and of *Pinus nigra* forest\*, etc. Cyprus faces the challenge to adjust its conservation and management strategies to the concepts, priorities and procedures arising from the EU obligations.

## Project Objectives

The first LIFE-Nature project to be financed in Cyprus aims at implementing immediate actions in five pilot pSCI in order to secure a favourable conservation status for certain habitat types and species, which will set standards and create experience in the management of Natura 2000 sites in Cyprus. The elaboration of specific management plans is foreseen, as well as the elaboration of national management guidelines. Effective conservation and pilot preservation of all targeted habitats and species is expected (e.g. expansion of *Zizyphus lotus matorral\**, through removal of exotic species and plantings, detailed mapping and signposting of Vernal pools\* and Serpentinophilous grasslands, installation of a floating anchoring system for vessels for

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

National authority

### Name of beneficiary

Environmental Service, Ministry of Agriculture  
Natural Resources and Environment

### Postal address

CY - 1411 Nicosia  
Cyprus  
Tel.: +357 2230 3883  
Fax: +357 2277 4945  
Email: rocperiv@cytanet.com.cy

### Name of contact person

Mr. Antonis Antoniou

## Duration of project

From 01 November 2004 to 30 April 2008

## Total budget in euro:

2,551,277.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,530,766.00 (60%)

the protection of *Posidonia beds\**, etc). The preparation and maintenance of a systematic monitoring and data storage scheme is also predicted, as well as the generation of experience in the competent administration units and raising of awareness amongst site users and the general public.



# Grazing and tourism management in the Moravian Karst

LIFE04NAT/CZ/000015



## Official Title

*Restoration of thermophilous habitats in the Moravian Karst*

## Background

In several new member states of Central Europe, the protection of wilderness traditionally received more attention from nature conservationists than the protection of semi-natural habitats. Indeed, contrary to the fate of semi-natural grassland in Western Europe, where intensifying agriculture destroyed many of the species-rich pastures and hay meadows, these extensively managed grasslands were sometimes maintained quite well in Central Europe.

However, recently many small agricultural holdings have decided to stop farming and farmers are leaving the countryside in search of other jobs. These developments also affected the rupicolous (stone substrate) grasslands of the Moravian Karst, prompting local nature conservationists to take action.

To the northeast of Brno, the second largest city of the Czech Republic, the limestone of the Moravian Karst represents one of the most interesting areas, botanically speaking, of the country; a little to its north is a large cave area with the largest cave in Central Europe, the Amaterska Cave. Both areas are included in the circa 9000 hectare Moravian Karst Protected Landscape and are an important tourist destination.

## Project Objectives

The project targets 150 ha of natural and semi-natural vegetation, 85% of which (130 ha) is already proposed for NATURA 2000, and which harbours very rare plants such as *Echium russicum* and *Pulsatilla grandis*.

Restoration and sustainable management of sub-Pannonic steppic grasslands, Pannonic white oak woods, Pannonic oak-hornbeam forests, lime-alder forests of slopes, screes and ravines, and calcareous scree is foreseen.

First the most endangered privately-owned land sections with unique flora and fauna will be safeguarded. Next, some 50 ha of abandoned pastures featuring sub-

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO

### Name of beneficiary

Pozemkový spolek Hády (CSOP) ( Land Trust Hády -Czech Union for Nature Conservation)

### Postal address

Panská 9  
CZ - 60200 Brno  
Czech Republic  
Tel.: +420 543 216483  
Fax: +420 543 211264  
Email: rupicolous@seznam.cz

### Name of contact person

Mr. Izák Václav

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 31 December 2007

## Total budget in euro:

549,675.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

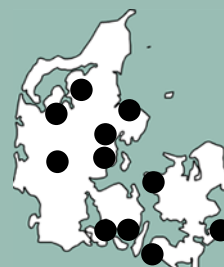
412,256.00 (75%)

Pannonic steppic grasslands will be restored and the traditional grazing re-established.

In practical terms, restoration actions include the removal of invasive tree species (black locust, Robinia pseudacacia, in particular) and scrub, and the instalment of an appropriate grazing management. Because of the high visitor load, hiking trails will be restored and a CD will be produced to disseminate information about the fauna, flora and management of these biotopes.

# Launching a Danish national dry grasslands restoration strategy

LIFE04NAT/DK/000020



## Official Title

*Restoration of Dry Grasslands in Denmark*

## Background

As in most parts of Europe, dry grasslands and the specific flora and fauna values linked to these habitats have largely disappeared, due to the combined effects of lack of grazing, scrub encroachment and invasion of non-native species.

Through this LIFE project, the Danish Ministry of Environment will launch a national strategy to restore the most valuable Danish grassland sites within Natura 2000 to a favourable conservation status, and to secure their long-term management.

The project includes 11 sites harbouring around 70% of the xeric and calcareous grasslands, 25% of semi-natural dry grasslands and 20% of species-rich *Nardus* grasslands in Denmark.

One of the project sites, Mols Bjerger on Jutland, is also selected as a pilot site for developing a national model for national parks in Denmark.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

National authority

### Name of beneficiary

Ministry of Environment, Danish Forest and Nature Agency

### Postal address

Fussingø Statsskovdistrikt - Vasevej 7

DK - 8900 Randers

Danmark

Tel.: +45 8645 4500

Fax: +45 8645 4036

Email: sra@sns.dk

### Name of contact person

Mr. Søren Rasmussen

## Duration of project

From 01 July 2004 to 31 December 2008

## Total budget in euro:

4,244,625.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

2,151,316.00 (50,68%)

## Project Objectives

The project's target is to increase the area of these rare habitats from 715 ha to 983 ha. This will involve the conversion of 178 ha of plantations and arable land back to grasslands, thereby helping to counteract habitat fragmentation. It will also require the clearing of overgrowth and encroaching scrub on over 900 ha. Grazing will be introduced to 599 ha, so that by the end of the project over 1780 ha in total will be managed for conservation.

Considering that 53% of the project area is in private ownership, co-operation with the land-owners is an essential prerequisite for its final success. The project will thus place a lot of emphasis on stakeholder dialogue and

awareness-raising, as well as activities to encourage landowners to sign agri-environmental agreements.

Finally, to ensure the dissemination of experiences from the project, a workshop aimed at conservation experts will be held in late summer 2006.

# Odense River: a Water Framework Directive pilot project

LIFE04NAT/DK/000022



## Official Title

*Regional Actions to Improve Nature in River Odense and Odense Fjord*

## Background

The Odense River (Odense Å) is one of the largest river systems in Denmark. Between 1944 and 1960, important sections, around 20 km in total, were canalised and straightened to provide greater areas of farmland.

This, however, had serious consequences for the wildlife, both in and beside the river, which declined rapidly thereafter. Despite these losses, it is still the only river in Denmark that hosts a population of the thick-shelled river mussel (*Unio crassus*), a large freshwater mussel which has disappeared over much of its European range, as well as rare fish species like spined loach (*Cobitis taenia*) and brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*).

Where the river drains into the Odense Fjord there is also an area of Atlantic sea meadows and mudflats of equally high conservation potential.

Within the framework of national programmes, originally based on HELCOM objectives, extensive efforts have been made to reduce the point source outlets of pollution.

Nevertheless, the river and its surrounding habitats still suffer from the combined effects of a lack of hydrological interplay, due to the rigid canalisation system, and of leaching from sources of diffuse pollution.

## Project Objectives

The overall objective of this LIFE project is to improve the ecological conditions of species and habitats along the river and in the fjord. The main action will be to restore a meandering course to 12.2 km of straightened riverbed.

All landowners along the river (79 in total) have been contacted and have agreed to compensation for the partial loss or alteration of their land use, within the framework of a land consolidation process.

Around 350 ha of riparian wetlands and meadows will be recreated, which will help to reduce the nutrient load of Odense Fjord by some 5%. Management agreements will be signed to help restore 155 ha of neglected coastal meadows along the fjord. This LIFE project will also

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

### Name of beneficiary

Fyn County - Department of Environmental Protection

### Postal address

Ørbaekvej 100  
DK - 5220 Odense SØ  
Danmark  
Tel.: +45 6556 1837  
Fax: +45 6556 1039  
Email: cpa@anv.fyns-amt.dk

### Name of contact person

Mr. Claus Paludan

## Duration of project

From 01 April 2004 to 30 September 2009

## Total budget in euro:

3,852,367.00

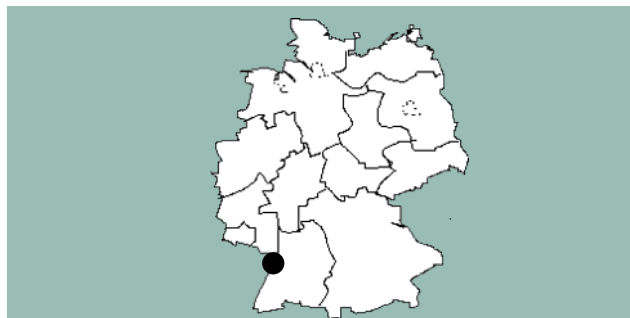
## EC contribution in euro with %

1,926,184.00 (50%)

explore the synergies between Natura 2000 designation and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, as the Odense River is, in fact, one of 13 pilot river basins selected by the European Commission to test new WFD guidelines.

# Hydrological and recreational management of the Karlsruhe floodplain

LIFE04NAT/DE/000025



## Official Title

*Living Rhine floodplain near Karlsruhe*

## Background

The river Rhine is a very busy shipping route and flows through densely settled country, so regulation of its hydrology began long ago and has continued until today. Some impacts of these interventions on the natural river and floodplain ecosystems are immediate and obvious; others, such as desiccation and stagnation, are long-term and insidious.

Along the upper Rhine around Karlsruhe, about 7500 hectares of floodplain still has enough nature values such as former tributaries and side channels of the Rhine as well as wet meadows, calcareous marshes and woodland subjected to summer floods, to qualify for Natura 2000. However, the hydrological regulation of the river has reduced dynamics to the point where pioneer communities are disappearing and standing waters are terrestrialising. Land use changes are affecting the woodlands and wet meadows. Besides these threats to the habitats, the recreational demands of the inhabitants of the Karlsruhe urban area are causing increasing disturbance to wildlife.

## Project Objectives

The beneficiary has assembled no less than 16 partners, from municipalities and district authorities to angler associations and nature conservation NGOs. This should ensure broad local support. Although river dykes have to remain in place, the project aims at a substantial improvement to the hydrological dynamics of the area which, after the initial work, can be left to its own devices. Particular attention will go to reversing the silting up of former river channels, and to boosting water flow through the extensive ditch system so that it will act as an interconnecting network linking floodplain wetlands. The gradual disappearance of the white willow and black poplar, two crucial elements of the alluvial forest vegetation, is one of the main problems

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

Bezirksstelle für Naturschutz und  
(Regierungspräsidium Karlsruhe)  
Landschaftspflege Karlsruhe

### Postal address

Kriegstrasse, 5a  
DE-76137 Karlsruhe  
Deutschland  
Tel.: +49 721 9264350  
Fax: +49 721 926379899  
Email: peter.zimmermann@rpk.bwl.de

### Name of contact person

Mr. Peter Zimmermann

## Duration of project

From 01 December 2004 to 31 May 2010

## Total budget in euro:

7,000,000.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

3,500,000.00 (50%)

this project wants to deal with. Allowing more natural flooding is one aspect, but others include planting trees and preparing appropriate sites for natural germination of the seeds. Other plants like *Cladium mariscus* and its habitat of calcareous fens and wet grasslands, *Marsilea quadrifolia* and *Trapa natans* will also be nursed back to a healthy conservation status, in part even by employing free-range pigs. Due to the huge recreation demands, a significant part of the project focuses on new information and visitor guidance strategies like an electronic mobile nature guide, besides equipment for guided tours such as boats and bikes. Live broadcasting from the project area into schools and the on-site information centre will be undertaken, to bring a special live 'LIFE' element.

# Conserving fire-bellied toads in the Baltic region

LIFE04NAT/DE/000028



The project involves North Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Latvia

## Official Title

*Management of fire-bellied toads in the Baltic region*

## Background

The fire-bellied toad, *Bombina orientalis*, was once a regular inhabitant of the agriculture-dominated landscape around the Baltic Sea, but the latest round of intensification and land consolidation in the arable fields did not spare this amphibian. The sunny little ponds it vitally needed were filled in to make productive land, or else the fields they were in were abandoned so that the ponds became overgrown and shaded. Natural protection for the toads' hibernation during the wet and cold wintertime was cleared away, so these rather helpless small creatures became an easy prey for any predator.

During the last decades, numbers of fire-bellied toads overall underwent a severe decline, but not all populations have suffered to the same degree. The individual circumstances on site gave no clear indication for these different population developments. A previous LIFE project focusing on *Bombina orientalis* in Denmark brought some progress towards solving these puzzles, but at the same time exposed the remaining weaknesses of current toad management. This is thus one of the main objectives to be addressed by this project.

## Project Objectives

To tackle this transnational problem in an appropriate way, the German beneficiary assembled active toad conservation groups in Denmark, Sweden and Latvia to find best-practice solutions. A genetic analysis will shed more light on the different populations and their behaviour. Its results will also be used to introduce genetically appropriate animals from captive breeding to rejuvenate certain selected wild populations.

On site, there will be a range of habitat improvement actions like new ponds and hibernation sites. Cattle and horses will be deployed to secure and maintain unshaded ponds in grassland habitats.

Another important part will be the international networking between the partners through annual

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO

### Name of beneficiary

Stiftung Naturschutz Schleswig-Holstein

### Postal address

Eschenbrook 4  
DE-24113 Molfsee  
Deutschland  
Tel.: +49 431 2109055  
Fax: +49 431 2109099  
Email: drews@sn-sh.de

### Name of contact person

Mr Hauke Drews

## Duration of project

From 01 April 2004 to 31 December 2009

## Total budget in euro:

2,266,293.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,064,233.00 (46,96%)

workshops around the Baltic Sea, which should result in several outputs useful for anyone interested in amphibian conservation. The project's use of the latest techniques of genetic analysis to further nature conservation procedures may also yields results worth disseminating.

# Protecting raptors in Tilos

LIFE04NAT/GR/000101



## Official Title

*Conservation management of an Island SPA*

## Background

Tilos, situated between Kos and Rhodes, is one of the smallest islands of the Dodecanese (63 km<sup>2</sup>). Due to the island's large variety of habitats, which include rocky islets, relic woodland, a number of small but abandoned springs, natural and human-made grasslands, the island supports a variety of rare and protected bird species.

Tilos is very important for the two raptor species *Hieraetus fasciatus* and *Falco eleonorae*, and important for the shag, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*. During the last decades Tilos' natural environment has changed due to anthropogenic influences such as tourism development, land-use changes and other small infrastructure development. All these are threatening the island's traditional agricultural landscapes, its biodiversity and consequently its important avifauna.

## Project Objectives

This LIFE project aims setting a basis for the SPA management of Tilos, by implementing management measures for Bonelli's Eagle, Eleonora's Falcon and Shag. The project will set up an effective surveillance of the breeding populations of the 3 target species, in order to increase/maintain their breeding success.

In addition, the increase of prey availability for the two raptors will be targeted via the enhancement/maintenance of invertebrates (insects), bird (partridges), reptile (lizards) and (micro)mammal populations. The project foresees also the creation of an information center, guided tours and surveillance. Further project objectives are upgrading the capacity of the local Services for environmental management, and enhancing the collaboration among local, regional and central

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

Municipality of Tilos

### Postal address

Megalo Chorio

GR-85002 Tilos

Ellas

Tel.: +30 2246 70885

Fax: +30 2246 044320

Email: dimtilos@otenet.gr

### Name of contact person

Mr. Konstantinos Metzelopoulos

## Duration of project

From 01 November 2004 to 28-FEB -2008

## Total budget in euro:

824,212.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

618,159.00 (75%)

authorities for future projects (elaborating proposals for future management of the species targeted and proposals for boosting traditional farming).

# Protecting vulnerable plants in Crete

LIFE04NAT/GR/000104



## Official Title

*A pilot network of plant micro-reserves in Western Crete*

## Background

The aim of this LIFE project is the creation of a pilot plant micro-reserves network in Western Crete (Chania Prefecture). The network will comprise 7 reserves, all situated within the boundaries of 3 pSCI, namely: Imeri-Gramvousa-Tigani-Falassarna-Podikonisi (project area 10 ha) Elafonisos-Beach from Chryssoskalitisa to Akrotirio Krios (project area 6ha) and Lefka Ori which is also an SPA (project area 25ha).

Amongst the 7 micro-reserves in the Chania Prefecture, 6 were proposed for the conservation of priority plant species of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, namely:

*Androcymbium rechingeri*, *Anthemis glaberrima*, *Bupleurum kakiskalae*, *Cephalanthera cucullata*, *Hypericum aciferum* and *Nepeta sphaciotica*. The 7th reserve covers a large extent of priority habitat type 9370 (*Phoenix* palm groves) in the Elafonisos SCI.

The main threats for the plant micro-reserves are sheep and goat grazing, unrestrained tourism and uncontrolled access resulting in trampling and plant collection, fires, habitat alteration through deforestation and drainage, genetic erosion due to the limited geographical distribution of numerous plant species and lack of apprehension and appreciation of the species and habitats from the public.

## Project Objectives

This LIFE project aims at protecting and managing a network of Pilot Plant-Micro reserves through enclosures, wardening and on-site management measures. An information system of quantitative data for the future sustainable management and enlargement of the network is also foreseen with the establishment of permanent plots and automatic monitoring stations. An information campaign will complement the network through the dissemination of project's results and through promoting public awareness. Target groups for public awareness actions include local authorities and administrators, shepherds, hikers, nature lovers,

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Research institutions

### Name of beneficiary

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Special Account for Research Grants

### Postal address

Christou Lada str. 6

GR-10561 Athens

Ellas

Tel.: +30 210 7275078

Fax: +30 210 7275010

Email: rc@elke.uoa.gr

### Name of contact person

Mr. Costas Thanos

## Duration of project

From 01 September 2004 to 31 December 2007

## Total budget in euro:

931,650.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

698,738.00 (75%)

ecotourism operators and ecotourists, environmental education instructors, school children, etc.

The project operators intend to extend the micro-reserve network towards other Greek regions of high ecological interest, beyond the island of Crete.

# Conservation of Mediterranean temporary ponds in Crete

LIFE04NAT/GR/000105



## Official Title

*Actions for the conservation of Mediterranean temporary ponds in Crete*

## Background

Mediterranean Temporary Ponds (MTPs) are a priority habitat of the 'Habitat Directive' 92/43/EEC. Being a particularly vulnerable and dynamic habitat, MTPs are frequently threatened from anthropogenic activities and the concurrent lack of natural dynamics.

This LIFE project will focus on a number of M.T.P. on the island of Crete, all located within four different pSCIs. The MTPs of the first site are found in the areas of Imeri and Agria Gramvousa-Tigani kai Falasarna-Podikonisi (112 ha) 2.5 km south of the Falasarna beach of the western coast of Crete; the second is Nisos Elafonisos and its opposite beach from Chrysoskalitissa to Akrothrio Krios (87 ha); the third is Drapano (NW coasts)- Georgioupolis beach-Limni Kourna (3ha); and the fourth the islands of Gavdos and Gavdopoula (45 ha).

The total surface of the MTPs in the project area extends thus to 247 ha. Although these four sites are still in a relatively good state, they are increasingly affected by human activities, including water overextraction, artificial drainage and recharge, overgrazing, water eutrophication, solid waste disposal and high visitor pressure.

## Project Objectives

The aim of this LIFE project is restoring the MTPs habitat in Western Crete to the favourable status that existed prior to human interference in the area. This will be done through the set-up of an adequate management system, restoring the habitats' natural hydroperiod and reducing the negative impact of overgrazing by re-establishing the original grazing management system.

The impact of polluted run-off from unsustainable agricultural practices will be quantified through a water quality survey and the creation of a monitoring system. Actions will then be carried out to improve the ponds water quality. To diminish visitors' pressure on the sites,

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Research institutions

### Name of beneficiary

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research Institute of Inland Waters

### Postal address

Mavro Lithari, Anavissos

GR-19013 Attikis

Ellas

Tel.: +30 229 1076389

Fax: +30 229 1076323

Email: thakis@ncmr.gr

### Name of contact person

Mr. Ierotheos Zacharias

## Duration of project

From 01 November 2004 to 01 November 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,275,000.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

956,250.00 (75%)

public awareness and environmental education activities, through participatory approaches, will be promoted, along with the designation of non-access area.



# Dune regeneration on Laida beach (Urdaibai)

LIFE04NAT/ES/000031



## Official Title

*Dune regeneration on Laida beach (Urdaibai)*

## Background

On the Atlantic side of the northern Iberian Peninsula lies the Urdaibai Natural Reserve, a large natural expanse comprising 1.033 hectares shared between the capes of Matxitxako and Ogoño. The site consists of a saline and brackish tidal coastal estuary around the mouth and the lower reaches of the Rivers Guernika and Mundaka. Due to the diversity and importance of the habitats and species found, Urdaibai is both SPA and SCI. With sandy beaches, regularly and intermittently inundated saltmarshes, intertidal mud and sand flats, and sedge and reed beds, the site is also considered an important wintering and resting place for migratory birds. The dune habitats, common in the past in the northern Iberian coast and dramatically reduced, are well represented by the shifting dunes that can still be found in this SCI, mainly in the Laida beach. Typical dune vegetation can be found in this location, with species such as *Ammophila arenaria*, *Medicago marina* and *Suaeda albescens*.

The main threats to the dune systems come from the intensive tourist pressure suffered mainly during the summer period. Once the dune is destroyed and the vegetation is lost, the natural regeneration is almost impossible. Dumping of silt dredged on the supra-tidal beach area for the maintenance of navigation routes is another threat of human origin if it is done in places not adequate for the dune formation.

## Project Objectives

The project aims at the recovery of 60.000 m<sup>2</sup> of the coastal dune habitats found formerly in the Laida beach and the regeneration of its shoreline habitats through the implementation of restoration techniques. To this end, the beneficiary counts on a pilot experience carried out since 1999, thanks to which the basis of the restoration works has been set up and tested, with positive results. The actions to be implemented through this project consist basically in the establishment of sand barriers over linear unit distances and the setting up of perimeter protections for the maintenance of sand. Silt dredged from the area will be properly managed and used for

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

### Name of beneficiary

Patronato de la Reserva de la Biosfera de Urdaibai  
Departamento de Ordenación del Territorio y  
Medio Ambiente del Gobierno Vasco

### Postal address

Udetxea jauregia  
130  
ES-48300 Gernika-Lumo, Bizkaia  
España  
Tel.: +34 94 6257125  
Fax: +34 94 6257253  
Email: urdaibai@ej-gv.es

### Name of contact person

Mr. Xabier Arana

## Duration of project

From 01 May 2004 to 30 April 2007

## Total budget in euro:

522,568.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

261,284.00 (50%)

dune consolidation and typical dune vegetation species will be planted. Information, awareness raising and recreational activities are planned with the aim to integrate the conservation of the restored dunes in the public use of the site.

# Conservation of *Margaritifera auricularia* in Aragón

LIFE04NAT/ES/000033



## Official Title

*Conservation of Margaritifera auricularia in Aragón*

## Background

*Margaritifera auricularia* is a large bivalve mollusc (measuring up to 20 cm) belonging to the group of freshwater mussels. Once common in the large rivers of western Europe and northern Africa, its area of distribution has been drastically reduced to the point that it was considered largely extinct by the 1930s. Fortunately, some populations were rediscovered in the River Ebro, in Spain, in the mid-1980s. Today, 99% of the known World population dwells in the Medium and Lower Ebro river; the 1% left remains in the Loire River, in France, where a small population was found in the late 90's.

The life cycle of the mussel depends on certain fish species such as the sturgeon or the freshwater blenny, which it parasitizes in the larval stages, fixing itself on to the fishes' gills until it has metamorphosed into a small bivalve.

The species' situation is critical. No hints of breeding activity have been recorded in any of the existing populations, so no recruitment of youngsters has taken place for decades. The host fishes are also scarce, with populations being fragmented and unconnected with the mussels. Destruction of the habitat caused by canalisation and contamination of the rivers is another important factor affecting the species' status.

## Project Objectives

This LIFE project aims at improving the conservation of 60-80% of the World population of the freshwater river mussel *Margaritifera auricularia*.

A set of measures will be started, ranging from habitat conservation practices and control and conservation of the wild populations, to an ambitious plan for captive stocking and breeding. This is important requisite for the species' critical fate, since reinforcement and reintroduction programs must start as soon as possible. The plan also involves acting over the host fish species *Salaria fluviatilis* (freshwater blenny), for which management and breeding protocols will be designed as well. The future conservation of the two species will be sought through the drawing up of recovery plans for

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

### Name of beneficiary

Gobierno de Aragón. Departamento de Medio Ambiente. Dirección Gral del Medio Natural

### Postal address

Edificio Pignatelli, Paseo de María Agustín, 36  
ES-50071 Zaragoza

España

Tel.: +34 976 715766

Fax: +34 976 714817

Email: malcantara@aragob.es

### Name of contact person

Mr. Manuel Alcántara de la Fuente

## Duration of project

From 01 January 2004 to 31 December 2007

## Total budget in euro:

860,016.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

430,008.00 (50%)

them and the implementation of awareness raising campaigns among the stakeholders and scholars.

# Making electric power lines safe for birds

LIFE04NAT/ES/000034



## Official Title

*Adaptation of the electric power lines in the SPAs of Aragón*

## Background

Located in the North East of the Iberian Peninsula, Aragón is one of the biggest and less populated regions in Spain. Three different geographical units can be distinguished within its territorial limits - the central Pyrenees in the north, the Ebro plain in the centre and the Iberian System in the south - hosting interesting bird communities representative from alpine, steppe and Mediterranean habitat types. To protect this rich ornithological assembly, the regional government of Aragón has designated a total of 50 SPAs, covering a surface of 874.676 hectares, which represents 18,2% of the region's surface area. Among the threatened species found in the SPA network, 6 are considered as priority for LIFE funding: *Botaurus stellaris*, *Falco naumanni*, *Gypaetus barbatus*, *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, *Otis tarda* and *Tetrax tetrax*. The Ornis Committee has approved community Action Plans for all of them in which electrocution and/or collision with power lines have been identified as a key threat to mitigate.

Aragón is also a region that produces and exports hydroelectric and thermal energy, for which an extensive power line network has been developed that runs across the SPA network. Bird species from steppe, riparian and wetland areas are affected but also breeding and nesting areas for raptors and waterfowl. In previous inventory works carried out, the need to intervene in about 829 km of power lines affecting 30 SPAs has been identified.

## Project Objectives

The project intends to implement the strategy devised by the Government of Aragón for the adaptation of the electric power line network to the conservation needs of 16 SPAs of the Natura 2000 regional network. To this end, correction measures to avoid electrocution and collision risks to threatened bird species will be carried out on 352,2 km of power lines (994 pylons and 1.331 spans). Regional legislation will be devised and implemented to ensure the integration of preventive measures in the design and installation of new power lines. Finally, through a series of information activities to

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

### Name of beneficiary

Gobierno de Aragón. Departamento de Medio Ambiente. Dirección Gral del Medio Natural

### Postal address

Edificio Pignatelli, Paseo M. Agustín, 36  
ES-50071 Zaragoza  
España  
Tel.: +34 976 714000  
Fax: +34 976 714817  
Email: jainsausti@aragob.es

### Name of contact person

Mr. Jesús Antonio Insausti López

## Duration of project

From 01 January 2004 to 31 December 2007

## Total budget in euro:

2,082,923.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,249,754.00 (60%)

be implemented in the course of the project, an increased awareness is expected in the public opinion in general but also among promoters, technical planners and environmental officers responsible for the implementation of aerial power lines.

## Conservation of *Aphanius iberus*

LIFE04NAT/ES/000035



### Official Title

*Conservation of Aphanius iberus genetic stocks (Murcia)*

### Background

The Iberian toothcarp *Aphanius iberus* is a small fish species (< 5cm) that dwells typically in extremely variable environments, such as the ecotones between the inland and the marine environments, river mouths, etc. It is endemic to the Spanish coastline, and presents two discrete and quite different populations, one in the Mediterranean coast (from N Cataluña to Almería) and the other one in the Atlantic west of the Gibraltar Strait. The Mediterranean population, probably a single species itself, presents a discrete distribution made up of several populations with different genetic identities.

The overall regression has caused the disappearance of 40% of the 30 nuclei that once were recorded, a situation that is affecting the Murcian variety of the species as well, dividing its range into smaller and smaller subpopulations. It is necessary to act upon the reasons for this decay, namely the destruction of the species' habitat or the implementation of unsuitable land uses and practices, the proliferation of exotic species that compete or predate it, and the absence of specific knowledge about the species, which impedes on proper management and awareness raising activities.

### Project Objectives

The aim of this LIFE project is to preserve the individual populations of the Iberian toothcarp present within the Murcia region, covering its entire regional distribution range. Both "in situ" and "ex situ" conservation measures are foreseen in the project. The "in situ" conservation involves habitat management and the eradication of competing alien fish species in the Upper Chícamo River and the restoration of some saltpans as important habitats for the toothcarp. For "ex situ" conservation, some facilities will be arranged and a protocol will be drafted and executed for the stocking and captive breeding of the toothcarp. Training courses for managers and awareness raising to stakeholders will

### Beneficiary

#### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

#### Name of beneficiary

Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio.

Region de Murcia.

#### Postal address

C/ Catedrático Eugenio Ubeda, 3 - 3º

ES-30071 Murcia

España

Tel.: +34 968 228848

Fax: +34 968 228922

Email: [juanf.martinez@carm.es](mailto:juanf.martinez@carm.es)

#### Name of contact person

Mr. Juan Faustino Martínez Fernández

### Duration of project

From 01 January 2005 to 31 December 2008

### Total budget in euro:

1,148,668.00

### EC contribution in euro with %

574,334.00 (50%)

complement the drawing up and adoption of the species' recovery plan, ensuring the continuity of this conservation programme in the future.

# Conservation of the "Duratón River Canyon"

LIFE04NAT/ES/000036



## Official Title

*Conservation and management in the Natural Park "Duratón River Canyon"*

## Background

With its close meanders and steep cliffs, the Natural Park 'Duratón River Canyon', in the North-western end of Segovia province (Castilla y León), includes a large variety of habitats ranging from the aquatic and riparian environments linked to the Duratón River, to the steppe areas up in the plateau crowning the cliffs. Endangered bird species like Golden Eagle, Egyptian Vulture and Peregrine Falcon find refuge in this biodiversity spot proposed for inclusion in the Natura 2000 network both as SPA and pSCI.

A management plan is being drafted to ensure the long-term conservation of this popular nature reserve, for which sensitive tourism use is also sought by the site managers. However, visitors are not a threat for the site, where the pattern of smallholding ownership, the past substitution of native riparian woodland by alien vegetation, soil erosion and the ploughing of optimum habitat for the lark *Chersophilus duponti* are some of the main conservation problems.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

### Name of beneficiary

Consejería de Medio Ambiente. Junta de Castilla y León.

Servicio de Espacios Naturales y Especies Protegidas

### Postal address

C/ Rigoberto Cortejojo, 14

ES-47071 Zaragoza

España

Tel.: +34 983 419988

Fax: +34 983 419933

Email: arrsanjo@jcyL.es

### Name of contact person

Mr. José Angel Arranz Sanz

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 30 September 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,237,532.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

618,766.00 (50%)

## Project Objectives

This LIFE project aims at developing a management system that should become a reference for other Natura 2000 sites in the region of Castilla y León, by means of restoration of degraded habitats and conservation of strategic breeding areas for species of Community interest. To achieve this, direct management by the site's authority will be targeted through the acquisition of a total area of 64 ha spread on different habitat types. Management measures implemented to restore *Alnion glutinoso-incanae* riparian woodland, to control erosion on the steep slopes of open *Juniperus* woodland, and to restore the habitat of *Chersophilus duponti*, aim at demonstrating suitable practices in nature reserves. Side-

measures such as the control of *Mustela vison* to favour the populations of *Lutra lutra*, and the control of disturbance during the birds' breeding season are also planned. A wide dissemination campaign will spread knowledge on the site's natural assets, which will be disseminated by improving the contents of visitor facilities and guided visits.

# Conservation of threatened chiropters of Extremadura

LIFE04NAT/ES/000043



## Official Title

*Conservation of threatened chiropters of Extremadura*

## Background

The region of Extremadura presents a high diversity of Chiropterans. Some of the 23 species present in the region are highly endangered in Europe and have their largest populations in this southeastern Spanish territory. Indeed, the largest known breeding colonies in Europe for *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Rhinolophus mehelyi* and *Myotis emarginatus* place the project area as one of the most important spots for bat conservation in Western Europe. Based on the abundance of these and other bats, 23 pSCIs have been designated in Extermadura, all of which are target sites of the project.

Curiously, most of the breeding habitat features for cave-dwelling species in the area are man-made (e.g. old mines and tunnels), since natural cavities are scarce. The knowledge of forest-dwelling species is still limited, but important findings have also been made in the large forest areas of the region. Bat breeding colonies are mainly threatened by direct destruction (refuge dereliction and/or forestry), but direct prosecution and disturbance to colonies does also exist. Bats are also affected by the use of non-specific chemicals in forestry and agriculture.

## Project Objectives

With the overarching objective of preserving and increasing the bat populations of the Natura 2000 network of Extremadura, this LIFE project also aims at improving knowledge on all bat species by intensifying monitoring of cave-dwelling and forest-dwelling populations.

Moreover, a study on habitat use and bio-chemicals effects will be conducted, and management plans will be approved for key endangered species. The protection of high-priority refuges for cave-dwelling species will also be ensured, and habitat features like boxes for forest-dwelling bats and ponds will be set up.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

### Name of beneficiary

Consejería de Agricultura y Medio Ambiente.  
Junta de Extremadura

### Postal address

Avenida de Portugal, s/n  
ES-06800 Mérida  
España  
Tel.: +34 924 002342  
Fax: +34 924 002443  
Email: atanasio.fernandez@aym.juntaex.es

### Name of contact person

Mr. Guillermo Crespo Parra

## Duration of project

From 01 January 2005 to 31 December 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,315,893.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

657,946.00 (50%)

A handbook on bat conservation, a specialised seminar and specific training to wardens will be undertaken to increase awareness on the conservation needs of bats. In addition, a web page, a DVD and other materials will support an educational campaign for schoolchildren with the same aim.

# Recovery of the littoral sand dunes in Valencia

LIFE04NAT/ES/000044



## Official Title

*Recovery of the littoral sand dunes with Juniperus spp. In Valencia*

## Background

On the eastern Mediterranean coast of the Iberian Peninsula, the Albufera de Valencia Natural Park is one of the last sites hosting a well preserved dune system. With chains of shifting and stabilised dunes, it is a natural barrier between a shallow lagoon and the adjacent sea. The most representative species on stabilised dunes and pre-forest vegetation is the sea juniper, *Juniperus oxycedrus* subsp. *macrocarpa*. Junipers are dioecious, ie. individual juniper trees are either male or female. As a result of past habitat destruction, only 52 natural Juniper specimens remain dispersed over a 1-hectare surface. Due to the elimination of the first and second chain of sand dunes, the remaining chains have become greatly exposed to sea spray, which causes serious alterations, especially when it is polluted by surfactants. Moreover, some individuals Junipers find themselves in suboptimal sites, isolated from their complementary sex.

For decades, the main threat to the site has been urban pressure. Some of the negative effects of the urban development that affected the site during the period 1960–1970 have been reversed thanks to the past implementation of a first LIFE Nature project (LIFE/2000/NAT/E/7339) on the site. But action is still needed for the recovery of the second chain of sand dunes, and of the plant formations that were degraded, including temporary pools that were typical for the area, but have been lost. Today, the main problem is the high visitor pressure on those areas with natural vegetation, including both circulation of thousands of vehicles and excessive trampling.

## Project Objectives

The main objective of this LIFE project is the recovery of 55 hectares of sand dunes, including the sea juniper habitat and the restoration a large network of temporary ponds.

To that end, the geomorphology of the area will be reconstructed. Once the restoration is concluded, 2 fish species will be introduced in the permanent pools created. On the dunes, reproduction and planting of the sea juniper and associated species is foreseen to achieve a self-sustained population.

Finally, an awareness raising campaign will be conducted, contributing to a qualitative change of attitude among locals and tourists, as regards the preservation of these habitatd.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

### Name of beneficiary

Ayuntamiento de Valencia Concejalía de Dehesa-Albufera

### Postal address

CV 500, km 8,5, margen izquierda  
ES-46012 Valencia  
España  
Tel.: +34 96 1610347  
Fax: +34 96 1610037  
Email: odevesa@ayto-valencia.es

### Name of contact person

Mr. Antonio Vizcaino Matarredona

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 31 December 2007

## Total budget in euro:

3,278,216.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,639,108.00 (50%)

With the implementation of this second phase of regeneration, initiated by a former LIFE Nature project, the complete restoration of the area will be accomplished.

# Recovery of a priority habitat in l'Albufera natural Park

LIFE04NAT/ES/000048



## Official Title

*Recovery of a priority habitat in l'Albufera natural Park*

## Background

L'Albufera de Valencia is one of the biggest lagoons on the Western Mediterranean seaboard. Like other littoral wetlands, it has suffered from intense human disturbance. However, l'Albufera has also suffered from a series of natural processes and hence, it has undergone a continued landscape transformation that was negative for the most valuable habitats. Lagoon waters suffer from a progressive transformation from saline to fresh, due to the simultaneous inflow of freshwater from inland tributaries and the setting of sluices at the inlets, blocking seawater inflow and favouring agricultural use. Up to 70 % of the original lagoon surfaces have hence been reclaimed for rice cultivation.

The intensification of agricultural practices, leading to an artificialisation of the hydrological system, and the inflow of urban and industrial wastewaters are currently the main threats for the site. A further problem is the uncontrolled influx of visitors and vehicles into the area, especially during the nesting season. Still though, several priority bird species are still found breeding in the project area, among which *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, *Fulica cristata* and *Aythya nyroca*.

This project does also focus on natural freshwater sources, locally known as "ullals", which used to hold the richest species assemblages in the past. *Cladium mariscus* fens surround these sources, but these priority habitat do also harbour the best populations of the Annex II plant species *Kosteletzkya pentacarpa* in Western Europe.

## Project Objectives

This LIFE project aims at recovering the two most important permanently flooded freshwater pools within the lagoon, known as "Ullal de Baldoví" and "Ullal dels Sants". To that end, 5,6 hectares of paddy fields will be purchased and incorporated to the reserve area of the natural park. Optimal environmental conditions will be created for the establishment of the most representative species, notably for *Kosteletzkya pentacarpa*. In order to ensure the conservation of the site, a long-term management plan for the reserve will be designed and

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

### Name of beneficiary

Consellería de Territorio y Vivienda. Dirección General de Planificación y Ordenación

### Postal address

Francisco Cubells, 7  
ES-46011 Valencia  
España  
Tel.: +34 96 3865066  
Fax: +34 96 3865090  
Email: antonio.ballester@cma.m400.gva.es

### Name of contact person

Mr. Antonio Ballester Potenciano

## Duration of project

From 31 October 2004 to 30 September 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,061,972.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

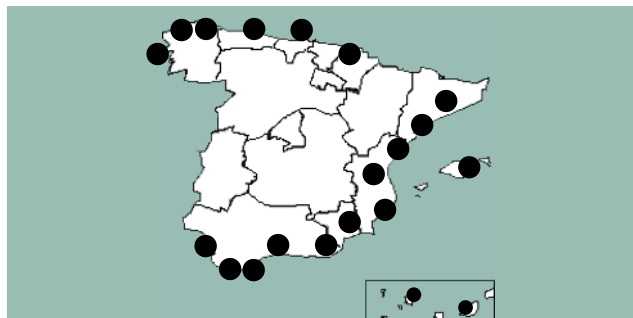
796,479.00 (75%)

implemented. Finally, the project also intends to improve the public facilities in the reserve area, in order to better promote the natural values of the restored habitats.



# Important Bird Areas for seabirds in Spain

LIFE04NAT/ES/000049



## Official Title

*Important Bird Areas for seabirds (marine IBAs) in Spain*

## Background

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are sites that are essential to ensure the long-term viability of bird populations, particularly of those species that are of conservation concern. BirdLife International's IBA inventories are used, amongst others, to analyse whether the current SPA network is adequate or not.

Whereas the terrestrial breeding colonies of marine birds are generally well protected, there is still an overall lack of identification of the most adequate offshore sites. The level of quantitative data on bird populations and their distribution rapidly decreases with increasing distance from shore. Not surprisingly thus, the definition of marine SPAs is still a major gap of the Natura 2000 network.

The current LIFE project is strategic, insofar as it contributes to the implementation of the Birds Directive in the marine environment and to the future designation of Special Protected Areas (SPAs) in coastal and pelagic waters. The methodology proposed for this project by BirdLife, already applied in the North and Baltic seas, will be tested in the Mediterranean.

## Project Objectives

The project will carry out a detailed inventory, using objective methodological criteria, to determine Important Bird Areas (IBA) at sea for those seabird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive that live in Spanish marine waters. The inventory will include a characterisation of each IBA, with GIS geo-referenced cartography, and a description of the main threats affecting it. Monitoring of certain species will be carried out through satellite and radio tracking, analysis and mapping of ringed seabirds in Spain, survey of coastal waters, observers on fishing vessels and the creation of a data base of stranded birds. The identification and generic sampling of the most favourable areas will also be carried out.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO

### Name of beneficiary

Sociedad Española de Ornitología, SEO/BirdLife

### Postal address

Melquiades Biencinto 34

ES-28053 Madrid

España

Tel.: +34 91 4340910

Fax: +34 91 4340911

Email: seo@seo.org

### Name of contact person

Mr. Carles Carboneras

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 01 October 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,091,910.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

779,910.00 (71,43%)

Once marine IBAs are identified, management actions will be proposed. At the same time, a standard methodology for the identification and delimitation of IBAs at sea will be developed and disseminated so that it can be applied in other countries. The project will work in co-ordination with a very similar project in Portugal.

# Reintroduction of the bearded vulture

LIFE04NAT/ES/000056



## Official Title

*Preliminary actions and reintroduction of the bearded vulture*

## Background

With ca. 120 breeding territories for the whole European Union, the bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) is the most endangered vulture species in Europe. *Gypaetus barbatus* is a highly specialised and territorial scavenger, associated with mountaineous areas possessing steep rocky cliffs for breeding.

The European bearded vulture population has suffered a strong decline during the last two centuries. It has disappeared from many of the mountains where it used to live (the Alps, the Balkans, the Carpathians, Cyprus and Sicily). It also disappeared from Andalusia in the 80s, mainly due to the illegal use of poison, collisions with power lines, lack of feeding resources, mortality from shooting and illegal hunting.

This LIFE project will be implemented in the SPA Network of the 8 provinces of Andalusia and also in the neighbouring SPAs of Ciudad Real and Albacete (Castilla la Mancha) and Murcia. The actions will be mainly carried out in Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas SPA, where a reintroduction programme will be implemented.

## Project Objectives

The main objective of this LIFE project is to establish a viable population of bearded vultures in the Andalusia region. To achieve this aim, the necessary preparatory actions for guaranteeing the success of the reintroduction will be undertaken, and the release of individual birds will be initiated.

Preparatory actions include the elaboration of viability studies and the identification of the best areas for "hacking" (a reintroduction method in which young birds are reared and released at designated sites) and for locating supplementary feeding stations. A naturalised population will be created by releasing at least 25 young bearded vultures over 5 years. All of them will be born in

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

### Name of beneficiary

Fundación Gypaetus

### Postal address

Plaza de Santa Maria, s/n

ES-23470 Cazorla (Jaén)

España

Tel.: +34 953 012404

Fax: +34 953 012509

Email: msimon@gypaetus.org

### Name of contact person

Sr Don Miguel Angel Simón Mata

## Duration of project

From 01 November 2004 to 31 October 2009

## Total budget in euro:

1,649,250.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,236,937 (75%)

the Captive Breeding Centre of Guadalentín, located in the Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas Natural Park. Controlling the use of poison throughout the big project area will be one of the core project actions and will include close monitoring of the production, distribution, sale and presence in the field of poisons, in co-ordination with the environmental law enforcement bodies. Likewise, a large awareness raising campaign will be pursued to increase the knowledge about the species in the area and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in species conservation.

# Recovery of the habitat of amphibians in the Baix Ter

LIFE04NAT/ES/000059



## Official Title

*Recovery of the habitat of amphibians and *Emys orbicularis* in the Baix Ter*

## Background

The Baix Ter wetlands are the natural southward extension of the Empordà wetland system. Today, out of the once extensive marshes, only a few lagoons remain. One saline lagoon (La Pletera) and one freshwater lake fed by the river system (Ter Vell) are the largest vestiges of this system.

Nevertheless, the site is still hosting an extensive dune ecosystem and a population of the endangered Iberian toothcarp does also persists. This rare fish species has already been the subject of recent conservation efforts. The project area as such has also been enhanced recently, by improving freshwater quality and creating new saline lagoons.

Other valuable assets that once contributed to the site's ecological wealth, such as a local population of *Emys orbicularis* and a variety of habitats of Community interest, are however still undergoing significant regression, not least due to the massive public use of the area.

After the first urgent measures, supported by a previous LIFE programme, promoted a shift in land use favourable to the conservation requirements of Natura 2000, a wider objective has thus now been defined, in order to further continue the ecological improvement of this interesting coastal ecosystem.

## Project Objectives

The main objective of this LIFE project is the recovery of the populations of various amphibian species and of the pond terrapin, *Emys orbicularis*, in the area, by means of improving their natural habitat: the temporal or permanent freshwater wetlands.

The measures proposed include the recovery of freshwater wetlands in the Ter Vell floodplain, the restoration of riparian and floodplain habitats and the reinforcement of local populations of *Emys orbicularis* at their natural locations in the area. The improvement of freshwater quality and an increased control of public

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

### Name of beneficiary

Ayuntamiento de Torroella de Montgrí

### Postal address

Plaça de la Vila n° 1  
ES-17257 Torroella de Montgrí (Girona)  
Espanña  
Tel.: +34 972 758112  
Fax: +34 972 751749  
Email: testsl@inatrica.com

### Name of contact person

Mr. Joan Ribas i Xargay

## Duration of project

From 01 January 2005 to 31 December 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,398,300.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

699,150.00 (50%)

access to prevent habitat degradation resulting from human disturbance will also be addressed.

# Restoration of *Juniperus* spp. forests in Tenerife

LIFE04NAT/ES/000064



## Official Title

*Restoration of Juniperus spp. forests in Tenerife*

## Background

Thermophilous forests once covered vast areas on the Canary Islands. These forests include several habitats of Community interest, including Macaronesian juniper woods, which is the Canarian variety of priority habitat \*9560. This habitat is important for some birds of Community interest, such as the laurisilva pigeons.

These unique habitats were once deforested to provide farmland to humans, and more recently to develop most of the contemporary infrastructure and urban constructions. The sparse remaining areas with juniper woodlands on the Island of Tenerife were depleted due to human activity and overgrazing. Today, only a few remains of this singular forest are still found on Tenerife, barely covering 1% of its original extent.

The main threats for this target habitat are, beyond the deforestation already described, the erosion risk and the invasion of alien species. Therefore, it is necessary to start sound conservation actions, which means, for the target habitat, increasing the forest cover through a restoration plan.

## Project Objectives

The aim of this LIFE project is starting the restoration of the priority habitat, establishing a pilot experience and generating the necessary capacity for the continuation of a forest recovery programme beyond the end of the project period.

During the project, 53.5 ha of land within the SCI of Teno (Tenerife) will be subject to a restoration procedure involving studies of the botanic composition and structure of the habitat, the production of plants, the restoration itself and the implementation of a monitoring plan. A protocol for best practice implementation will be produced in order to allow a further application of the

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

### Name of beneficiary

Area de Medio Ambiente y Paisaje. Exmo. Cabildo de Tenerife. Servicio Técnico de Gestión Territorial y Ambiental

### Postal address

Diego Almagro, 1  
ES-38071 Santa Cruz de Tenerife  
España  
Tel.: +34 922 239058  
Fax: +34 922 239191  
Email: Jalberto@cabtfe.es

### Name of contact person

Mr. José Alberto Delgado Bello

## Duration of project

From 01 January 2005 to 31 December 2008

## Total budget in euro:

373,295.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

279,971.00 (75%)

know-how gained by the project, and some dissemination activities will also be implemented.

# Conservation of the canarian egyptian vulture in Fuerteventura island

LIFE04NAT/ES/000067



## Official Title

*Measures for the conservation of the canarian egyptian vulture (Neophron percnopterus ssp. majorensis) in SPAs of the Fuerteventura island (Canary Islands, Spain)*

## Background

The Egyptian vulture, *Neophron percnopterus*, is currently declining in its entire European distribution range, but particularly so in Spain, Portugal, Greece and Southern France. In Spain, the last 2 decades witnessed a loss of about 70% of the formerly occupied territories. Still though, 80% of the European population remain in this country alone! Similarly worrying declines have recently been recorded (2001) for the Canarian subspecies of the Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus ssp. majorensis*), the southernmost population of this species in the EU, which deserves particular attention as it presents clear distinctive features as compared to the continental specimens. Once widely present in the Canary Islands, today's occurrence of this bird is restricted to Fuerteventura Island (25 territories), and to a residual population (2 territories) on Lanzarote. The main threats for this small population are the risk of collision and electrocution on power lines, poisoning by hunting plumb (and other illegal practices for controlling species competing with human activities) and, increasingly, disturbance from tourism. In the future, the implementation of strict health controls for livestock carrion might create a further reduction of available food resources.

## Project Objectives

This LIFE project aims at improving the conservation status of the Canarian Egyptian vulture, stopping its regressive population trends, improving its breeding success and preserving the habitat in optimal conditions within the SPA network of Fuerteventura.

The introduction of corrective measures in the island's power lines aim at a net reduction of adult mortality through electrocution by 50%. An increase of the breeding success by 20% will be achieved through a reinforced surveillance of nesting areas and the control of disturbing activities around the nests during the most

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

### Name of beneficiary

Fundación Canaria Instituto de Investigación y Ciencia de Puerto del Rosario

### Postal address

Calle Tenerife, 35  
ES-35600 Puerto del Rosario (Fuerteventura)  
España  
Tel.: +34 928 859152  
Fax: +34 928 852796  
Email: domingoinipro@hotmail.com

### Name of contact person

Mr. Domingo Montañez Domínguez

## Duration of project

From 01 September 2004 to 31 August 2008

## Total budget in euro:

829,937.00

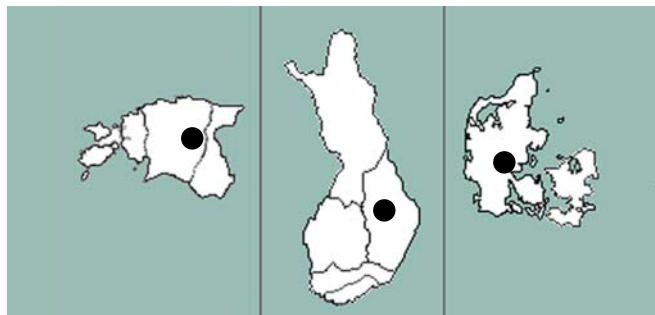
## EC contribution in euro with %

414,968.00 (50%)

critical periods for breeding. Surveillance and awareness raising measures will be implemented with the aim of reducing the illegal use of poison. Finally, to avoid the potential threat of famines, 3 controlled middens will be created with the collaboration of local livestock breeders. Additionally, a regional recovery plan for the subspecies will be elaborated and adopted, thus allowing for the continuity of the conservation actions after the project's end.

# Conserving great crested newts in the Baltic

LIFE04NAT/EE/000070



## Official Title

*Protection of Triturus cristatus in eastern Baltic Region*

## Background

The great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) has a wide-spread distribution in Europe but has suffered from habitat decline over large parts of its range, which is why the species is listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive. The problems include the loss or overgrowth of ponds as well as the introduction of fish (which feed on newt eggs and larvae). For hibernation, the newt is dependent on terrestrial habitats which may be negatively affected by commercial forestry and intensive agriculture.

In various parts of Europe (including Denmark), programmes to protect and restore amphibian habitats have been launched. This experience can be of considerable use to other countries, such as Estonia and Finland, which have yet to start a coordinated recovery programme for *Triturus cristatus*. These two countries harbour small and isolated populations, along the north-eastern border of the species' range, so it will be important to adjust the management and restoration techniques to their regional and local conditions. In Western Europe a main threat is the impact from intensive farming, whilst in north-eastern locations it is the lack of appropriate management of semi-natural grasslands and forest habitats which is the main cause of the species' decline.

## Project Objectives

Main objective is to assure the long-term viability of the small and fragmented population of *Triturus cristatus* in Estonia and Finland, and its specific genetic traits. The project will concentrate on restoring and protecting a network of suitable habitats targeting 95-97% of the populations in these two countries. The main action will be to ensure there is a sufficient number of ponds; thus around 240 of them will be restored or created in Estonia and another 28 in Finland. Hibernation habitats will be safeguarded by the restoration of surrounding semi-natural grasslands (650 ha in total in Estonia) and forest habitats.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

National authority

### Name of beneficiary

Keskkonnaministeerium (Ministry of the Environment)

### Postal address

Toompuiestee 24

EE - 15172 Tallinn

Estonia Eesti

Tel.: +37 2 62 62889

Fax: +372 62 62901

Email: riinu.rannap@ekm.envir.ee

### Name of contact person

Mrs. Riinu Rannap

## Duration of project

From 01 June 2004 to 31 December 2008

## Total budget in euro:

736,190.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

368,095.00(50%)

In Estonia this will have an important regional socio-economic aspect as over 150 landowners will be involved in implementing management agreements on their land. The work will build on previous experience from habitat restoration for newts and other amphibian species in Denmark. To this end, the restoration of 12 "demonstration ponds" in Vejle County, Denmark, is foreseen. On the basis of experiences gained during the project, a best-practice guide and country-specific action plans will be prepared. The dissemination activities will also involve experts from Latvia and Lithuania.

# Spotted eagles and black stork in Estonia

LIFE04NAT/EE/000072



## Official Title

*Arrangement of spotted eagles and black stork conservation in Estonia*

## Background

Estonia hosts significant proportions of the European populations of lesser spotted eagle (*Aquila pomarina*, 500-600 pairs) and the even rarer greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*, 20-30 pairs). In fact, 3% of the European population of each species is to be found in Estonia. Further, Estonia is a key area for the black stork (*Ciconia nigra*, 100-115 pairs), with around 1% of the world population and 1.5% of the European stock.

The three species depend on large old trees for nesting and on patches of open landscape, such as meadows and floodplains, for foraging. Thus they are linked to a mosaic landscape and consequently suffer when there are changes to such rural landscapes and consequent declines in the appropriate habitats. The situation has now become particularly precarious for the greater spotted eagle. Its population is so low that hybridisation with the closely-related lesser spotted eagle poses an additional problem. This can only be prevented by reversing its population decline.

## Project Objectives

The aim of this project is to enhance the conservation status of these three bird species in Estonia. The project will purchase a minimum of 65 ha of forest land in order to assure the long-term protection of a selection of nesting sites. Furthermore, restoration and management of foraging habitats such as floodplain meadows and hay fields will be initiated. In order to strengthen the institutional basis for the long-term work and co-ordinate at national and European levels, an "Eagle Centre" will be established.

For 350 private landowners with spotted eagles or black stork breeding on their land, specific guidelines will be prepared.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO

### Name of beneficiary

Eesti Ornitoloogiaühing (Estonian Ornithological Society)

### Postal address

Veski, 4

PO Box 227

EE - 50002 Tartu

Estonia Eesti

Tel.: +37 2 7 422195

Fax: +372 7 422180

Email: andres.kalamees@eoy.ee

### Name of contact person

Mr. Andres Kalamees

## Duration of project

From 01 April 2004 to 31 May 2008

## Total budget in euro:

846,618.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

634,963.00 (75%)

Through this work, the Estonian Ornithological Society hopes to encourage the governmental institutions to take action in favour of the necessary management and preservation of the three species. Activities will be concentrated to Soomaa National Park in central Estonia, but individual actions will be done in other parts of the country as well.

# Sustainable tourism in the Kopu Peninsula habitat mosaic

LIFE04NAT/EE/000073



## Official Title

*Management of Natura 2000 habitats of the Kopu Peninsula*

## Background

Kõpu Peninsula, on the westernmost tip of Hiiumaa Island in Estonia, boasts a complex and highly diverse range of habitat types in a relatively small area, making it a biodiversity hotspot. It has no less than 23 habitat types, including eight Annex I priority habitats such as grey dunes, Baltic coastal meadows, bog woodlands, western taiga and wooded meadows. In order to ensure the long-term protection of these important nature values, a process was initiated in 2000 to establish a national park on Kopu Peninsula (45,000 ha, of which 9,800 ha is land).

Because of its scenery, Kopu is under increasing pressure from tourists and recreationists (around 60,000 visitors per year). There are however few or no facilities available to channel these visitors away from sensitive areas. Moreover, the habitats suffer from a range of other threats. The forests are for instance under constant pressure due to their commercial value. The meadows and grasslands are becoming overgrown and neglected, now that they are no longer used for hay-making and grazing.

## Project Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to ensure a favourable conservation status for the various habitats on the peninsula. Finding ways to guide the large number of visitors to attractive sites without damaging nature values is one of the main challenges to be tackled within the project.

The first step will be to draw up a detailed management plan and zoning scheme for visitor guidance, and then begin to implement this through the project. Thus some basic facilities will be provided to redirect visitors away from the most sensitive areas. This will be further supported by various dissemination activities aimed at the local community and visitors, such as a permanent

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Park-reserve authority

### Name of beneficiary

Hiiumaa Protected Areas Administration

### Postal address

Vabrikuväljak 1  
EE - 92411 Kärkla  
Estonia Eesti  
Tel.: +37 2 46 22101  
Fax: +372 46 32169  
Email: andres.onemar@hiiloodus.ee

### Name of contact person

Mr. Andres Onemar

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 30 September 2007

## Total budget in euro:

412,891.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

176,304.00 (42,7%)

exhibition, a seminar room and a nature trail at Ristna Nature School.

The management plan will also elaborate other activities required to ensure the favourable conservation status of the complex mosaic of habitat types present at Kopu. Some of these will already be implemented during the LIFE project: for instance 292 ha of meadows and grasslands will be cleared of overgrowth before re-introducing regular management such as grazing and mowing.



# Bird lakes in Pirkanmaa: restoration and predator control

LIFE04NAT/FI/000076



## Official Title

*Restoration and maintenance of valuable aquatic bird habitats of Pirkanmaa*

## Background

Many bird lakes in Finland suffer from the combined effects of conflicting land uses, overgrowth and predation resulting from increasing numbers of small predators, such as mink and raccoon dogs. This project will address these issues in four SPAs in the region of Pirkanmaa. Although the lakes are not large (they total 391 hectares), together they form an important resting, feeding and breeding area for many birds listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive, such as the horned grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), the whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), the crane (*Grus grus*) and the wood sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*).

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

### Name of beneficiary

Pirkanmaan ympäristökeskus (Pirkanmaa Regional Environment Centre)

### Postal address

Rautatienkatu 21 B, 7 krs.

PO Box 297

FI- 33101 Tampere

Finland Suomi

Tel.: +358 3 2420111

Fax: +358 3 2420266

Email: kirjaamo.pir@ymparisto.fi

### Name of contact person

Mrs. Marita Saksa

## Duration of project

From 01 December 2004 to 30 November 2008

## Total budget in euro:

568,766.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

284,383.00 (50%)

## Project Objectives

The project will start by obtaining up-to-date information on the fauna of the lakes and the quality of the water. This will ensure the correct orientation of actions. Management plans will be prepared for each area in cooperation with landowners, stakeholder organisations, authorities and other interested parties, while restoration plans will be prepared for three target areas (159 hectares).

The project will then restore the mosaic of open water and flora by dredging shallows, cutting bushes and building breeding islets.

In addition, land will be purchased and compensation paid for hunting rights. The support of the local hunters will also be enlisted to help control the populations of small predators in all target areas.

Eventual conflicts of interest between various groups of users will be reduced by disseminating information and establishing permanent cooperation between landowners, authorities and other stakeholders. The media will be approached to report regularly on the progress of the project and meetings will be organized to inform the public of the benefits of Natura 2000.

# Forest and mire stepping stones to Russia

LIFE04NAT/FI/000078



## Official Title

*Natural forests and mires in the "Green Belt" of Koillismaa and Kainuu*

## Background

The project will target the conservation of forests and mires of 13 Natura 2000 sites in Koillismaa and Kainuu in eastern Finland that form part of the regional "green belt" – an extensive network of forests, mires and fells in Finland, Russia and Norway. The close proximity of these 13 sites to the Russian border is particularly important, as they can provide a vital stepping stone to allow species which are still abundant in Russia to recolonise areas in Finland once their habitats have been restored to a favourable condition. In this respect, the project will complement the work currently underway in a number of other on-going Finnish LIFE-nature projects on boreal forests and aapa mires in the far north of Europe.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Park-reserve authority

### Name of beneficiary

Metsähallitus, Pohjanmaan-Kainuun luontopalvelut

### Postal address

Torangintaival 2  
FI - 93600 Kuusamo  
Finland Suomi  
Tel.: +358 205 646810  
Fax: +358 205 646801  
Email: Arto.Ahokumpu@metsa.fi

### Name of contact person

Mr. Arto Ahokumpu

## Duration of project

From 01 January 2004 to 31 May 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,174,348.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

587,174.00 (50%)

## Project Objectives

Forests will be restored by encouraging the development of natural features and processes. This will involve periodic controlled burnings, simulations of storm damage or other controlled damage to increase the amount of decaying wood, etc... Mires will be restored by blocking ditches and removing trees to increase water retention.

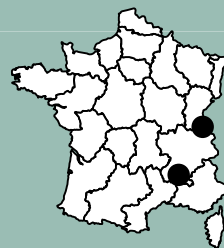
For each site, a detailed restoration plan will be drawn up in order to best orient the restoration work. In total it is expected that 362 ha of mires will be restored as well as some 600 ha of forests (123 ha of which is to be restored by controlled burning). Three forest roads will also be replanted (total length 4 km) and two gravel pits will be

restored (2 ha). Finally, the project will construct four eyries for the golden eagle.

Guidance to promote sustainable use will be provided through e.g. brochures, photo exhibitions, a film on DVD, a nature trail and signposts. People's awareness of Natura 2000 areas, restoration methods and natural habitats will be promoted. The project will also encourage active exchange of information between different countries (especially Finland and Russia) and organisations on the restoration and sustainable use of the forest and mire habitats.

# LIFE 'Nature and Territories' in the Rhône-Alpes Region

LIFE04NAT/FR/000079



## Official Title

*LIFE 'Nature and Territories' in the Rhône-Alpes Region*

## Background

So far, the development of Natura 2000 in the Rhône-Alpes region (and the rest of France) has not been as successful as was initially hoped. Indeed, there is a tendency amongst stakeholders to reject it both because of a lack of knowledge of the overall objectives and because of misunderstandings concerning tools to be used to protect the network. In addition, several examples of ongoing habitat deterioration (such as overgrowth of high mountain pastures or wetlands with shrubs) show how urgent it is to set up efficient programmes to manage Natura 2000 sites.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Public enterprise

### Name of beneficiary

Office National des Forêts (ONF) Rhône-Alpes

### Postal address

36, boulevard du Mail - BP.136

F - 01306 Belley CEDEX

France

Tel.: +33 479 810371

Fax: +33 479 812191

Email: [fabrice.gallet@onf.fr](mailto:fabrice.gallet@onf.fr)

### Name of contact person

Mr. Fabrice Gallet

## Duration of project

From 01 July 2004 to 30 June 2008

## Total budget in euro:

2,793,814.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,396,907.00 (50%)

## Project Objectives

This LIFE project aims at integrating Natura 2000 into existing rural development policies at local level in the Rhône-Alpes Region. Project actions conducted on spot by local authorities will demonstrate how species and habitats can be protected efficiently, without blocking the overall development of the targeted sites.

In the Rhône-Alpes, 16 sites from the Natura 2000 Network have been selected to participate in the LIFE project, offering a wide range of situations.

The following conservation actions will be carried out at a local level, keeping in mind that they have to be in line with existing development strategies:

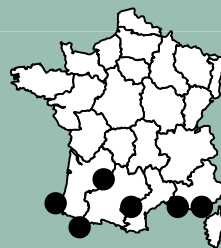
- pastoralism aimed at preserving grasslands habitats in the mountains;

- forestry aimed at preserving Natura 2000 species and habitats in mountain forest;
- water resources management in aquatic and riparian habitats (including wetlands);
- tourism management (through appropriate equipment and communication processes), in order to highlight the value of sites and to prevent negative side effects (habitat degradation etc.).

The project will also set up an important communication structure, to inform stakeholders about the positive potential of Natura 2000. Communication will take place both on a site-by-site basis and at the project level. Emphasis will be given to demonstrative and reproducible aspects of the various actions undertaken.

# Conservation of 3 cave-dwelling bats in Southern France

LIFE04NAT/FR/000080



## Official Title

*Conservation of 3 cave-dwelling bats in Southern France*

## Background

Bats are considered as being good indicators of optimal biodiversity. They are also amongst the most endangered mammals. Out of the 33 French bat species, 31 are present in the southernmost part of the country, pointing out the great richness of the area. However, as in many other parts of the world, spectacular declines in bat populations have also been observed here. Three cave-dwelling bats are particularly threatened: the Mediterranean horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus euryale*), the Long-fingered bat (*Myotis capaccinii*) and Scheiber's bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*), whose distribution in France is restricted to the south.

The disturbance of roosts by humans and the overall deterioration of their natural habitats are the main threats explaining this decline. Moreover, there is a lack of basic knowledge of bat ecological requirements and a lack of education.

The 13 Sites of Community Importance (pSCI) targeted by the project support 26 bat roosts and host more than 56% of the *Rhinolophus euryale* breeders and 45% of the hibernating individuals, about 30% of the *Myotis capaccinii* breeders and 38% of the hibernating individuals, and about 15% of the *Miniopterus schreibersii* breeders and 2% of the hibernating individuals.

## Project Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to improve the conservation status of the French populations of the three cave-dwelling bat species *Rhinolophus euryale*, *Myotis capaccinii* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*, but other bat species occurring in the same habitats will also benefit from the planned actions.

The LIFE project aims at:

- protecting 13 breeding, hibernation or transitional roosts (12 by physical protection and 1 by legal protection), purchasing 2 roosts and globally ensure the maintenance of favourable conditions of all roosts of the network;
- improving the knowledge of the ecological requirements of the 3 species, particularly in terms of foraging habitats, by

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Société Française pour l'Etude et la Protection des Mammifères (SFPEM)

### Postal address

c/o I.R.G.M.,  
BP 27  
F - 31326 Castanet-tolosan cedex  
France  
Tel.: +33 561 732672  
Fax: +33 561 285500  
Email: nemoz@toulouse.inra.fr

### Name of contact person

Mme Melanie Némoz

## Duration of project

From 01 April 2004 to 01 May 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,163,389.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

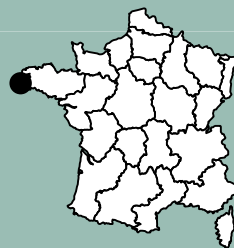
581,694.00 (50%)

studying the diet and habitats of the 3 target species in 6 demonstration sites;

- implementing management measures to improve foraging habitats;
- conserving foraging habitats for bats in at least 2 pSCIs, by carrying out experimental actions such as wetlands restoration or ecological corridor creation;
- creating a network of bats specialists in the south of France;
- raising public awareness of local people and speleologists in the conservation of bats.

# Headwater streams and faunistic Heritage associated

LIFE04NAT/FR/000082



## Official Title

*Headwater streams and faunistic Heritage associated*

## Background

The ecological key role of cold headwater streams is often underestimated or ignored. Four major species of community interest covered by the Habitats Directive are linked to this habitat type: the white-clawed crayfish, *Austropotamobius pallipes*, the freshwater pearl mussel, *Margaritifera margaritifera*, the brook lamprey, *Lampetra planeri* and the bullhead, *Cottus gobio*. White-clawed crayfish and the freshwater pearl mussel are two highly endangered species, and their number are seriously decreasing due to habitat degradation and introduction of non-native species.

This LIFE project will take place in the two French regions of Bourgogne and Franche-Comté, where 10 Natura 2000 sites are targeted, altogether covering approximately 54 kilometres of headwater streams.

## Project Objectives

The aim of this LIFE project is to test different techniques in order to preserve, to restore or to improve the quality of the headwaters and their associated habitats, and to manage species associated with headwater streams. Restoration works, both at the river bed level of the floodplain one, removal of migration barriers, protection against cattle trampling and mitigation of damages caused by forestry work are the main actions foreseen to restore the physical integrity of targeted streams. These actions will benefit to all species of aquatic flora and fauna within the 10 pSCIs.

The project also foresees the control of invasive alien species and the re-introduction of the native white-clawed crayfish on two sites.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

### Name of beneficiary

Parc Naturel régional du Morvan

### Postal address

Maison du Parc

F - 58230 Saint-Brisson

France

Tel.: +33 386 787900

Fax: +33 386 787422

Email: laurent.paris@parcdumorvan.org

### Name of contact person

Mr Laurent Paris

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 30 September 2009

## Total budget in euro:

3,224,142.00

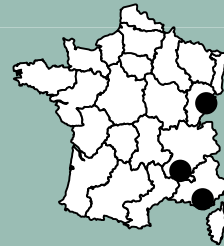
## EC contribution in euro with %

1,612,071.00 (50%)

In addition, information meetings addressed to the general public and education towards professionals are also foreseen: communication actions will help to develop the collective concern about the fragility and highlight the biological and hydrological key roles of small rivers and their value as a natural heritage.

# Programme for the conservation of the Rhône-Apron (*Zingel asper*) and its habitats

LIFE04NAT/FR/000083



## Official Title

*Programme for the conservation of the Rhône-Apron (Zingel asper) and its habitats*

## Background

The "Apron" (*Zingel asper*) is a small bottom fish listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive. It only occurs in the Rhône river basin. It is about 15 to 20 cm in size and thrives in clear, oxygen-rich waters with clean gravel bottoms. The aprôn's behaviour is sedentary and territorial. At daytime, it remains hidden amongst riverbed stones, remaining almost invisible due to its excellent camouflage.

At the onset of the 20th century the aprôn occurred throughout the entire Rhone catchment, i.e. over a length of 1.700 km. At present, its distribution only covers 380 km at most and the total population is estimated ranging between 2.000 and 4.000 individuals, divided into various genetically isolated sub-populations. The main reasons for this decline are linked to hydraulic engineering works such as dams, which are impassable barriers to the aprôns and isolate sub-populations from each other. River pollution and flow changes due to water abstraction for agricultural purposes have also led to a severe degradation of the aprôn's habitat.

A first three-year LIFE-Nature project (1998-2001) for the aprôn has considerably improved the knowledge on its ecological requirements, but has also conducted to a feasibility study for rearing this species for re-introduction purposes and the definition of a long-term conservation strategy.

## Project Objectives

The general aim of this second LIFE project on *Zingel asper* is to implement the measures proposed in the "Guidelines for Management and Conservation of the Aprôn", produced by the former LIFE project.

There are three main operative objectives:

- 1)improving a genetic exchange and increase population size through the construction of fish passes at impassable dams (13 fish passes suitable for the aprôn are planned);
- 2)determining the feasibility of re-introducing the species through trials in several test sites, using both hatchery and wild-born fish;
- 3)improving the knowledge on populations by field surveys to find unknown populations and to estimate the

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Conservatoire Rhône-Alpes des Espaces Naturels (CREN)

### Postal address

La maison forte - 2, rue des Vallières

F - 69390 Vourles

France

Tel.: +33 472 318450

Fax: +33 472 318459

Email: cren.rhonealpes@wanadoo.fr

### Name of contact person

Mr. Hervé Coquillart

## Duration of project

From 01 April 2004 to 30 September 2009

## Total budget in euro:

3,508,289.00

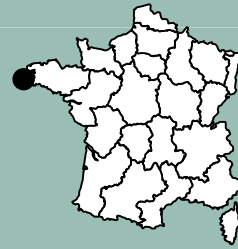
## EC contribution in euro with %

1,578,730.00 (45%)

size of known populations and the extent of adequate habitat.

# Conservation of the Aquatic Warbler in Brittany

LIFE04NAT/FR/000086



## Official Title

*Conservation of the Aquatic Warbler in Brittany*

## Background

The Aquatic Warbler, *Acrocephalus paludicola*, is by far the rarest European warbler. Its breeding population, estimated at 12.500-20.000 individuals, is essentially distributed over Poland and Bielorusia. Its wintering zone is not very well known, but appears to be mostly in western tropical Africa.

During the last decades, it was found that the main stopover and fattening areas during the post-breeding migration are located in north-western France, along the Channel coast, and further down along the Atlantic. This region is characterised by a string of coastal marshes which are currently suffering from a lack of adequate management. This is further aggravated by the secretiveness of this little warbler and the lack of knowledge on behalf of site managers about its ecological requirements.

Other threats on wetland zones (degradation of the hydraulic functioning, natural filling-up, water pollution, and man-made changes...) have also led to a loss in diversity of Frances coastal marshes, and hence to a decline of their ecological value as feeding and resting habitat for the Aquatic warbler.

## Project Objectives

The main objective of the LIFE project is to increase the area of favourable habitat for migrating Aquatic Warblers in the Atlantic coastal marshes of France. Two specific aims can be distinguished:

- the ecological maintenance or rehabilitation of 3 important stopover marshes in Brittany, all known to be important staging areas for Aquatic Warblers;
  - the promotion of the management know-how acquired during the project.
- Further project actions include:
- improving the knowledge on the species and its habitat through a radio-tracking;
  - making an inventory of additional spring migratory stop-over sites;

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Bretagne Vivante - SEPNB

### Postal address

186, rue Anatole France

BP 63121

F - 29231 Brest cedex 3

France

Tel.: +33 298 490718

Fax: +33 298 499580

Email: [bretagne-vivante@bretagne-vivante.asso.fr](mailto:bretagne-vivante@bretagne-vivante.asso.fr)

### Name of contact person

Mr. Luc Raoul

## Duration of project

From 01 January 2004 to 31 December 2008

## Total budget in euro:

965,139.00

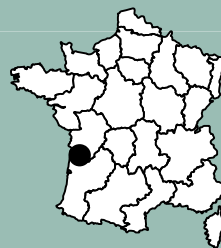
## EC contribution in euro with %

723,854.00 (75%)

- protecting the most important stop-overs by controlling management and property status on 30 hectares, through management agreements or land purchase;
- managing 265 ha of marshes to transform them into optimal warbler habitats; this management will consist in rehabilitation (clearing out, digging ditches, installing gates), maintenance work and in management of water levels;
- promoting the importance of these zones among the local population (through films, meetings, brochures and activities for the general public and school children);
- organising technical workshops and publishing the management know-how gained.

# Conservation of the most remarkable habitats and species of the Poitevin Marshes

LIFE04NAT/FR/000087



## Official Title

*Conservation of the most remarkable habitats and species of the Poitevin Marshes*

## Background

Spanning over 2 regions in western France, the Poitevin marsh is a major wetland, designated both as pSIC on 68.023 ha and SPA on 62.115 ha and a wetland of international importance according to the Ramsar convention.

Once contiguous, the marsh is now divided into three main areas because of the spread of intensive agriculture. The coastal zone is characterised by mud flats, salt meadows and dunes, the core area by flooded salt meadows («marais mouillés» or «wet marshes»), non-flooded salt meadows («dried marshes») and an important network of waterways. The «green Venice» is an area under exclusive fresh water influence, characterised by alluvial forests and hedged farmlands with ash-alder stands, and locally alkaline fens and bogs.

The site is seriously endangered by intensive agriculture, lack of adequate water management, absence of traditional management of meadows, alluvials forest and streams, disturbance, and collision with vehicle (collisions being the main threat for the otter, *Lutra lutra*).

## Project Objectives

This objective of this LIFE project is to increase the carrying capacity of species on site and listed on the Birds directive's annexe I and the habitats directive's annexe II, and to conserve the habitat of community interest existing in the Poitevin Marshes. This is to be achieved through the following actions:

- restoring 317 ha of natural grasslands, 10.280 meters of the hydrographic network;
- purchase of 65 ha of land, to carry out specific species/habitat restoration works;
- improving knowledge of the marsh and its species, in order to improve management techniques;

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

### Name of beneficiary

Syndicat Mixte du Parc Interrégional du Marais Poitevin

### Postal address

2, rue de l'Eglise  
F - 79510 Coulon (Deux Sèvres)  
France  
Tel.: +33 549 351520  
Fax: +33 549 350441  
Email: parc.marais.poitevin@wanadoo.fr

### Name of contact person

Mr. Philippe Sauvage

## Duration of project

From 15 July 2004 to 15 July 2008

## Total budget in euro:

3,106,322.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

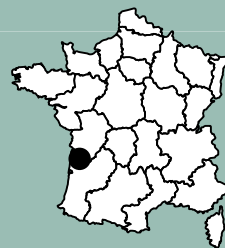
1,553,161.00 (50%)

- drawing up a management plan for 1700 ha of marshes used as a collective pasture;
- setting-up a technical protocol to convert cultivated lands into grasslands;
- implementing an existing action plan for the European otter;
- carrying out an awareness campaign at local, national and European level about the ecological value of the site.



# Reinforcement of the migratory breeding populations of the Little Bustard, *Tetrax tetrax* in France

LIFE04NAT/FR/000091



## Official Title

*Reinforcement of the migratory breeding populations of the Little Bustard, Tetrax tetrax in France*

## Background

The little bustard, *Tetrax tetrax*, was originally dependent on steppic environments, but has since adapted to various kinds of traditional agricultural landscapes, ranging from sheep pastures to extensive cereal farms. However, during the last decades, the species has been undergoing a serious decline - it has already disappeared from several countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

In France, the current species occurrence is subdivided into two main populations. One is migratory, breeding in the vast cultivated plains of west and central France, and the other, considered to be sedentary, is found in the sub-steppic grazing ranges on the Mediterranean plains. The 5 target sites of the LIFE project are hosting between 102 and 119 displaying Little Bustard males, or 35% of the migratory populations of this species in France in 2001. Since 2000, the population has declined by 41%, and to such a level that global extinction within the next 30 years appears plausible. The causes for decline are now well understood, thanks notably to a previous LIFE Project: the lack of food resources and nest destruction during harvesting were shown to be the main threats. Furthermore, chicks' survival is very low. Since 2002, agri-environmental measures are progressively being implemented on these 5 sites (500 – 600 ha) but the rate of decline of the species has become so rapid that it appears now to be necessary to take further conservation actions

## Project Objectives

This LIFE project aims at preventing the extinction of the Little Bustard in 5 target areas, by increasing its population size through the release of captive-bred individuals. Three main actions are planned:

1. the release of birds on 3-4 sites from eggs collected in Spain and France, and eggs from a stock of captive-breeding birds, to be set up as part of the LIFE project;
2. the speeding up of implementing agri-environmental measures in the project sites, to improve the breeding habitat of the Little Bustard;

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux

### Postal address

La Corderie Royale,

BP 263

F - 17305 Rochefort cedex

France

Tel.: +33 546 821234

Fax: +33 546 839586

Email: christophe.jolivet@lpo.fr

### Name of contact person

Mr. Christophe Jolivet

## Duration of project

From 01 September 2004 to 30 June 2009

## Total budget in euro:

1,691,000.00

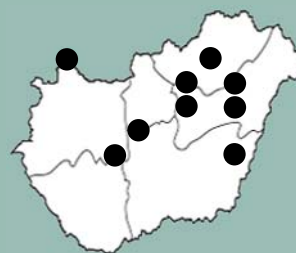
## EC contribution in euro with %

930,050.00 (55%)

3. the monitoring and assessment of project results for the conservation of the French migratory population of the Little Bustard (the last of this kind in the world), entirely based on arable land. A national public awareness campaign will also be organised, particularly for those people who are living in and around the project sites (farmers, hunters and others).

## Nationwide effort to boost *Otis tarda* numbers in Hungary

LIFE04NAT/HU/000109



### Official Title

*Conservation of Otis tarda in Hungary*

### Background

The Hungarian population of the globally threatened great bustard (*Otis tarda*) has decreased dramatically over the last forty years: from 8,557 in 1941 to 1,100-1,300 individuals by 1988. Yet it is still a very important population in the European context.

However, at present this population is stagnating, which poses a risk to its long-term conservation. The LIFE project aims to increase great bustard numbers in Hungary by 10% within its duration and 50% within the next 10 years.

This target can only be reached through the cooperation of five national parks, four NGOs, a university and the Ministry of Environment, and by dovetailing actions with those already ongoing at national level for the species.

### Beneficiary

#### Type of beneficiary

Park-reserve authority

#### Name of beneficiary

Kiskunsági Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság (Kiskunság National Park)

#### Postal address

Liszt F. u. 19  
HU-6001 Kecskemét  
Hungary Magyarország  
Tel.: +36 76 482611  
Fax: +36 76 481074  
Email: mail@knp.hu

#### Name of contact person

Mr. András Bankovics

### Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 30 September 2008

### Total budget in euro:

4,349,471.00

### EC contribution in euro with %

1,929,024.00 (44,35%)

### Project Objectives

This project will focus on habitat conservation measures in 9 sites (Mosoni-síkság, Kiskunsági szikes puszták, Solti-síkság, Dévaványai-sík, Kis-Sárrét, Bihari-síkság, Hortobágy, Borsodi-Mezség and Hevesi-sík); all to be classified as Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive. Within the framework of the project, management plans will be drawn up for these SPAs and land will be purchased at key locations, such as display and wintering grounds, to complement earlier efforts by Hungarian nature conservation organisations.

The land purchased will become strict preservation zones and will be managed to create favourable habitats with good feeding opportunities year-round and limited disturbance during the most critical periods of the bustard's life-cycle. The project will undertake actions to reduce key factors of mortality, notably through the set-up of a national network of regional field officers, in charge of locating and

safeguarding nests threatened by agricultural work. Egg and chick mortality will also be reduced by putting in place and implementing a common national predator management plan. Adult mortality will be reduced by removing dangerous sections of power line crossing traditional display or wintering grounds. Finally, winter mortality will be reduced by growing oilseed rape and alfalfa and clearing snow from foraging areas in emergency situations, when the population would otherwise starve.

An intensive communications programme is expected to increase awareness among the targeted groups and create support for conservation measures for the great bustard, including the designation under Natura 2000 of sites that are important for the species. Finally, a comprehensive monitoring programme will record changes in population parameters, habitats and the number of key predator species.

# Last-ditch effort to save Hungarian meadow viper from extinction

LIFE04NAT/HU/000116



## Official Title

*Establishing the background of saving the Hungarian meadow viper (Vipera ursinii rakosiensis) from extinction*

## Background

This LIFE species conservation project covers 95% of the global population of the Hungarian meadow viper (*Vipera ursinii rakosiensis*), a small venomous snake on the verge of extinction. Its dramatic decline is largely the result of increasing agricultural pressures and a shift towards intensive cultivation. Over the last 50 years it has already disappeared from Austria, Romania and Bulgaria. Even in Hungary, only small and isolated populations remain: one very small population survives in the north-western Hanság region on 9 ha, whilst another 11 isolated populations, counting altogether no more than 450-950 individuals, can be found in the Kiskunság region between the Danube and Tisza rivers. If this species is to be rescued from extinction, emergency actions are needed immediately.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO

### Name of beneficiary

MME BirdLife Hungary

### Postal address

Költo 2  
HU-1121 Budapest  
Hungary Magyarország  
Tel.: +36 1 2756247  
Fax: +36 1 2756267  
Email: balint.halpern@axel.ero.hu

### Name of contact person

Mr. Bálint Halpern

## Duration of project

From 01 January 2004 to 31 December 2007

## Total budget in euro:

649,000.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

324,500.00 (50%)

## Project Objectives

The project builds on parallel efforts to bring all areas harbouring the vipers into public ownership, considered to be the only way of ensuring their effective conservation. Where land is secured, the LIFE project will recreate grassland habitats in some areas and cut down forests planted next to key viper habitats. Ecological corridors will be created along elevated areas between these habitats. This will not only reconnect isolated populations but also provide the snakes with a safe environment in which to hibernate, above the high groundwater levels of winter.

At the same time, the snake population itself has to be re-inforced through captive breeding. This is because long-term studies have shown that the small isolated populations

in the wild are under a constant risk of inbreeding, and may thus become unable to reproduce effectively despite best management efforts. The semi-natural habitat conditions at the captive breeding centre to be built by LIFE will help to minimise predation and maximise food abundance, thereby ensuring that sub-adult individuals can be bred and released in the areas which will in the meantime be restored by the project.

Additionally, information tables, leaflets and public fora will help the local community to understand and accept the conservation of this rare yet unpopular snake.

# Restoration of the Bereg wetland complex

LIFE04NAT/HU/000118



## Official Title

*Complex habitat rehabilitation of the central Bereg Plain, northeast Hungary*

## Background

The endangered wetlands of the central Bereg Plain, located in the least developed region of Hungary, next to the border with Ukraine, host a complex mosaic of habitats. These include 7 different Annex I habitat types: active raised bogs, alkaline fens, transition mires, lowland hay meadows and several forest habitats... The raised bogs are of special importance since they have evolved under very specific microclimatic conditions in the Hungarian Great Plain, and represent the southernmost relict of this type of ecosystem in Central Europe.

The LIFE project area has suffered long-term degradation by human activities, which resulted in a dramatic loss of its natural values over the last decades. The main causes are desiccation from agricultural drainage during the socialist era, increasing eutrophication caused by agricultural chemicals, sediments eroded from surrounding arable areas and a lack of renewal of the tree stocks in the woodlands.

## Project Objectives

Emergency actions have been ongoing since the 1980s, but a concerted effort is needed to restore priority habitats to a favourable condition.

Over 430 ha of wetlands will be restored by closing ditches and eliminating drainage channels. Ecologically valuable grassland and forest habitats in the surrounding areas will also be restored. This will not only provide a buffer zone for the wetlands within the 1,500 ha project area, but also provide valuable habitats for the many Annex I birds which are present here.

By the end of the project, the restored hydrology should provide the ideal microclimatic conditions to help these wetlands recover in the harsh and dry Pannonic climate. At the same time, scientific monitoring will have laid the

### Beneficiary

#### Type of beneficiary

Park-reserve authority

#### Name of beneficiary

Hortobágyi Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság (Hortobágy National Park Directorate)

#### Postal address

Sumen u 2  
HU-4024 Debrecen  
Hungary Magyarország  
Tel.: +36 52 529920  
Fax: +36 52 529940  
Email: hnp@www.hnp.hu

#### Name of contact person

Mr. Béla Kiss

### Duration of project

From 01 January 2005 to 31 December 2008

### Total budget in euro:

1,226,178.00

### EC contribution in euro with %

858,325.00(70%)

basis for the long-term maintenance of the rehabilitated areas. Last but not least, the local population will be informed about the natural values of the Natura 2000 habitats and farmers and foresters will be trained to manage their resources in a wetland-friendly way.

# Pannonic marsh and grassland restoration in Egyek-Pusztakócs

LIFE04NAT/HU/000119



## Official Title

*Grassland restoration and marsh protection in Egyek-Pusztakócs*

## Background

The Egyek-Pusztakócs area is a mosaic of dry and wet grasslands, marshes and arable land. River regulations and drainage for intensive agricultural practices in the 19th century resulted in the desiccation and fragmentation of much of the area. As a result, the valuable Pannonic loess steppic grasslands have almost completely disappeared. Although the largest marshes were revitalised after a watering system was constructed between 1976 and 1997, the restoration of grasslands has been neglected to date, due to lack of funds. Besides the effects of fragmentation, grasslands and marshes are also threatened by runoff and infiltration of chemicals (fertilisers and pesticides) from arable lands, the damaging effects of goose farms, and even partly by inadequate management.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Park-reserve authority

### Name of beneficiary

Hortobágyi Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság (Hortobágy National Park Directorate)

### Postal address

Sumen u 2  
HU-4024 Debrecen  
Hungary Magyarország  
Tel.: +36 52 529920  
Fax: +36 52 529940  
Email: hnp@www.hnp.hu

### Name of contact person

Mr. Szabolcs Lengyel

## Duration of project

From 01 September 2004 to 31 December 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,040,000.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

700,302.00 (67,34%)

## Project Objectives

The LIFE project brings a holistic approach to the restoration of the characteristic mosaic of Pannonic grasslands and marshes in the area. Active restoration actions - transformation of arable land to Pannonic loess and salt steppes, grazing with grey cattle and racka sheep, reedbed management - will be carried out to restore Annex I priority habitats over a total area of 1,500 ha.

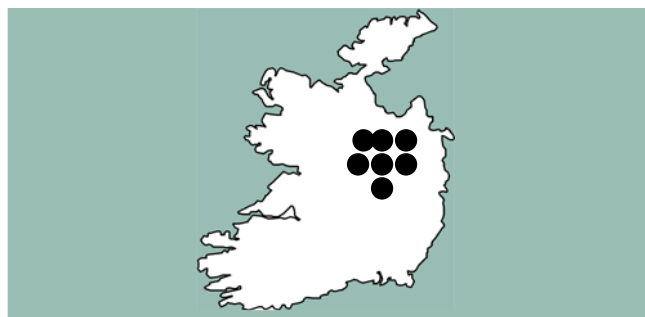
It is expected that the overall conservation impact of this work will also be felt over a much larger area (5,000 ha), thanks to the establishment of ecological corridors and buffer zones. In addition, important "island blocks" of

woodland will be fostered in order to protect marshes from agricultural contaminants.

In the long run, grasslands and marshes are expected to reach a favourable conservation status. The successful implementation of the project should also lead to greater public awareness of conservation and of the role of the Natura 2000 network.

# Removing impact of afforestation on Irish bogs

LIFE04NAT/IE/000121



## Official Title

*Restoring raised bog in Ireland*

## Background

The peatlands of the Irish Midlands are among the most important raised bog systems remaining in Europe. Raised bog habitat was once extensive in Ireland, covering an estimated 310,000 ha, but this has been reduced to a mere 18,000 ha of high conservation value, 10,000 ha of which has been proposed for Natura 2000 designation. Most of the loss has been through the harvesting of peat for household fuel, electricity production and the manufacture of horticultural products. Afforestation has also resulted in habitat loss, but on a smaller scale, with about 2% of the original area planted.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Public enterprise

### Name of beneficiary

Coillte Teoranta

### Postal address

The Irish Forestry Board  
1st Floor Unit 3  
Woodford Business Park  
Santry  
Dublin 17  
Ireland  
Tel.: +353 1 86 28462  
Fax: +353 1 8427028  
Email: philip.murphy@coillte.ie

### Name of contact person

Mr. Philip Murphy

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 30 September 2008

## Total budget in euro:

2,500,000.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,875,000.00 (75%)

## Project Objectives

The project focuses on the removal of forestry plantations within 14 pSCIs across five counties and will be carried out by the Irish Forestry Board (Coillte Teoranta), in line with its objectives to manage 15% of its estate for biodiversity. Within a total project area of 571 ha the project will remove 450 ha of plantations and block drains to restore raised bog habitat in the fourteen Natura 2000 sites. These sites were selected as examples of the largest and best raised bog areas owned by the Irish Forestry Board. The Board will also work closely with the statutory agency on securing the control of peat-cutting rights.

The project will build on the restoration techniques pioneered in earlier LIFE-Nature projects in the UK and

Ireland (including LIFE02NAT/IRL/8490) and, as the largest single raised bog restoration project to be undertaken in Ireland, it will have a key demonstration element. Two sites will be used as demonstration sites for restoration techniques and for general awareness raising. The project sites will be incorporated into the Irish Forestry Board's biodiversity programme and will continue to be managed with nature conservation as the primary objective.

# Farming for conservation in the Burren

LIFE04NAT/IE/000125



## Official Title

*Farming for conservation in the Burren*

## Background

Located along Ireland's Atlantic coastline, the Burren region is one of the most remarkable limestone areas in Europe. Within its overall area, five pSCIs now cover 47,000 ha. These host five priority Annex I habitats including limestone pavements, orchid-rich grasslands, petrifying springs, turloughs and *Cladium* fens.

Agricultural use of the area can be traced back over 6000 years and the exploitation of the land by generations of farmers has ensured that large areas of limestone pavement have remained free of scrub, creating a dramatic landscape. In spite of this long tradition of agriculture in the Burren, recent years have seen the withdrawal, restructuring and reduction of farming activity. This has led to the slow degradation of priority habitats through under-grazing, abandonment and the loss of land management traditions.

The area does have its own agri-environment scheme through the Burren Rural Environment Protection Scheme but there is an opportunity through the recent CAP reforms to design a new model for 'conservation agriculture' in the Burren.

## Project Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to develop a new model for the sustainable agricultural management of the priority habitats of the Burren. With the support of the Burren Irish Farmers Association, agricultural advisers and local communities, the project will run pilot schemes on 2000 ha of the Burren. Project actions will include the use of new feeding systems, the redeployment of existing livestock and targeted scrub removal.

When fully tested, the project prescriptions will be used to develop new support mechanisms through the revision of existing agri-environment schemes. A pilot project of this nature requires a considerable amount of preparation and monitoring to be confident that the new prescriptions are transferable to the whole 30,000 ha of

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

National authority

### Name of beneficiary

National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

### Postal address

7 Ely Place, Ely Court

Ireland Dublin 2

Ireland

Tel.: +353 1 6472360

Fax: +353 1 6620283

Email: jkelly@duchas.ie

### Name of contact person

Mr. Jim Kelly

## Duration of project

From 01 September 2004 to 31 August 2009

## Total budget in euro:

2,230,487.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,672,865.00 (75%)

the Burren farmland. Studies addressing the impact of the prescriptions on habitat quality, soils, and water quality will be matched with data on the condition of livestock and the costs of management.

In the end, support for new initiatives must come from the farmers themselves and the project will work closely with the farming community to develop a pragmatic scheme which satisfies environmental, economic and social criteria.

# Conservation of the Adriatic sturgeon

LIFE04NAT/IT/000126



## Official Title

*Conservation and breeding of Italian cobice endemic sturgeon*

## Background

The Adriatic sturgeon (*Acipenser naccarii*), a fish present only in the north-eastern Adriatic sea basin, spends its life between rivers and the sea: it migrates every year from seawaters to the Po, Adige, Piave and Brenta river basins, which are the largest part of its distribution range and the main reproductive areas.

The limited distribution, the particular life cycle and the specific ecological requirements put the species at risk of extinction. An excessive capture and the environmental changes have led to a severe decline throughout its distribution area. This negative trend is worsened by the fact that low densities reduce the breeding performances of the sturgeon populations.

A first important step for the protection of the species in the area has been taken by declaring off limits fishing of the sturgeon, with the adoption of regional laws in Veneto, Lombardy and Emilia Romagna, in compliance with article 12 of the Habitats Directive. But this is not sufficient to protect *Acipenser naccarii*. Other actions to face the main negative factors are urgently needed.

## Project Objectives

The overall objective of the project is the establishment of a long term conservation strategy of the Adriatic sturgeon throughout its Italian area of distribution. The starting point of this strategy will be the preparation of the Action Plan for the species, which will be adopted by the competent authorities, all of which involved in the project.

A large-scale restocking programme aimed at restoring viable populations of *Acipenser naccarii* will be carried out: about thirty thousand specimens will be released in ten rivers. Considering the normal mortality levels, more than two thousands sturgeons are expected to reach sexual maturity.

Reinforcement of two existing breeding centres in Lombardy and Veneto will be carried out, to adapt the structures to the

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

### Name of beneficiary

Ente Parco Delta del Po

### Postal address

Via G. Marconi, 6  
I-45012 Ariano nel Polesine (Rovigo)  
Italia

Tel.: +39 0426 372202

Fax: +39 0426 373035

Email: info@parcodeltapo.org

### Name of contact person

Mr. Stefano Danieli

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 30 September 2007

## Total budget in euro:

2,288,402.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,258,621.00 (55%)

production of the sturgeons and to ensure steady supply of specimens for future restocking.

Genetic characterization will be performed on the fishes and the results, together with the those of the restocking operation, will be included in two data banks that will be available through the Internet.

Before the release in the wild, individuals will be equipped with electronic tags to ensure a proper follow-up of the restocking operation. Tracking of specimens will be made by a network of provincial guards, volunteers, fishermen, both inland and at sea.

Awareness-raising activities will be carried out targeting stakeholders and schoolchildren to reinforce a positive attitude and gain the support of the local population.



# Improving coexistence of large carnivores and agriculture in Southern Europe

LIFE04NAT/IT/000144



The project involves the whole country and/or involves numerous sites

## Official Title

*Improving coexistence of large carnivores and agriculture in S. Europe*

## Background

Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, and Croatia have been involved in the past in pilot projects dealing with actions aimed at reducing the conflict between large carnivores and human activities. Now, for the first time, these countries have joined together in a coordinated effort to save their bear and wolf populations.

The population size of these predators in the five Mediterranean countries has experienced a dramatic decline over the last century, mainly due to human persecution and habitat loss. As a result, although once present throughout most of the region, bears and wolves are now characterized by small and fragmented populations, some of which (i.e. bears in central and north-eastern Italy and in central and eastern Pyrenees, and wolves in France), are so reduced in number as to risk extinction.

Notwithstanding this decline, large carnivores are still accused by farmers of causing damage to livestock and agriculture. Traditional atavistic antagonism and fears in rural areas also contribute to a negative public attitude towards the two predators.

## Project Objectives

The project is aimed at the development of the necessary legal and socio-economic conditions for the conservation of bear and wolf, reducing actual and potential conflict situations through a number of measures implemented within a coordinated strategy. As a first step, studies on bear and wolf population size and distribution, will be carried out with the support of a Geographic Information System. Studies on damage caused by carnivores, damage prevention methods and causes of vulnerability of agricultural activities will be also carried out, together with surveys on public perception toward large carnivores. Other actions include the implementation of effective damage prevention methods, such as traditional and electric fences and use of guarding dogs, the improvement of damage compensation and insurance systems and monitoring actions aimed at verifying the effectiveness of these measures and how to fit them to local conditions.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Istituto di Ecologia Applicata

### Postal address

Via L. Spallanzani, 32

I-00161 Roma

Italia

Tel.: +39 06 4403315

Fax: +39 06 4403315

Email: [iea@ieaitaly.org](mailto:iea@ieaitaly.org)

### Name of contact person

Mr. Annette Mertens

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 30 September 2008

## Total budget in euro:

5,036,611.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

2,985,699.00 (59,28%)

Actions and studies targeting stray dogs, whose recurring damages on livestock are often ascribed to other wild carnivores, will be also carried out (i.e. development of a specific management plan and implementation of vaccination campaigns).

The project foresees also a wide information campaign directed to the general public and to the rural communities, aimed at raising awareness on ways to improve the coexistence between large carnivores and human activities, emphasizing the potential economic benefit of conserving carnivores, for instance developing eco-tourism.

# Managing Natura 2000 sites in the Viterbo Province

LIFE04NAT/IT/000153



## Official Title

*Actions to preserve the NATURA 2000 sites in Alta Tuscia Viterbese*

## Background

The Alta Tuscia Viterbese, in central Italy, is characterised by a volcanic landscape with a unique mosaic of valuable habitats included in seven proposed Sites of Community Importance, target of the project. The Rupicolous grasslands of the *Alyssosedion albi*, the Semi-natural grasslands with orchids of the *Festuco-Brometalia*, the pseudo steppe of the *Thero-Brachypodietea* and the Apennine beech forests with *Taxus* and *Ilex* are only a few examples of the priority habitats, sensu Habitats Directive, present in the area. The sites are also important for amphibians and bats.

The natural or semi-natural habitats are, however, located in an agricultural context which represents the main threat to their conservation. The agricultural practices in the area, consisting in periodical fires of the riparian vegetation, the use of chemical fertilisers, the sowing of selected exotic species, contributed to the reduction of the surface of the habitats of EU interest and to the pollution of local streams and of a lake, Mezzana. On the other hand, the abandonment of traditional practises, such as the periodical mowing of the pasturages and the maintenance of the channels, caused the expansion of shrubs and of generalist species inside the priority grasslands and the disappearance of suitable habitats for the *Bombina variegata* and *Rana dalmatina*.

Another human activity which is affecting the area is the exploitation of the woods for the furniture industry, which caused the degradation of the beech forests with *Taxus* and *Ilex*.

## Project Objectives

The Viterbo Province has started a process for the correct eco-sustainable management of the Alta Tuscia Viterbese. For this purpose, the management plans of six proposed Sites of Community Importance have already been prepared and the last one will be prepared during the LIFE project. Actions to minimise the impact of agriculture and of industrial exploitation of the woods on the natural habitats will also be carried out.

An intense awareness raising campaign will be implemented to inform the farmers on the naturalistic value of the sites and on the best agricultural practises. In parallel, the restoration of the riparian vegetation, of the habitats for the amphibians and the periodical mowing of the grasslands will be carried out.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

Amministrazione Provinciale di Viterbo Ass.to Ambiente

### Postal address

Via Saffi, 49  
I-01100 Viterbo  
Italia  
Tel.: +39 0761 313356  
Fax: +39 0761 342924  
Email: settore06@provincia.vt.it

### Name of contact person

Ms Mara Ciambella

## Duration of project

From 01 July 2004 to 30 June 2007

## Total budget in euro:

658,738.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

322,782.00 (49%)

The monitoring of the Mezzano lake and the creation of a phyto-depuration plant will address the water pollution problem, while silvicultural works will be carried out in order to improve the ecological conditions of the woods publicly managed. In addition, the Province will promote the adoption of the Pan European Forest Certification criteria for the exploitation of the woods.

# Requalification of the Ganna lake habitats and species

LIFE04NAT/IT/000159



## Official Title

Requalification interventions of SIC Ganna's Lake

## Background

The Ganna lake is located in the Varese province, Lombardia, along the Valganna, a valley carved out by ancient glaciers during the last ice age. The peculiar weather conditions characterised by low temperatures and high precipitations favours the presence of six habitat types of Community importance, two of which are priority for conservation: the alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*, and the Calcareus fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the Caricion davallianae. These habitats make the site suitable for some 240 species of plants, some of which very rare in Italy, plus a number of crustaceans, amphibians, bats and birds, seven of which of Community importance. The site is particularly interesting for species such as *Rana latastei*, for which it represents the altitudinal limit within its range, and *Pipistrellus nathusii*, which here occurs with the only Italian known breeding population.

Notwithstanding the good quality of the water, mainly due to the absence of human settlements in the entire hydro-graphic basin, the habitats and species of the site are threatened by the silting up of the water body, the decrease of water level, the isolation from other water courses and the human disturbance.

The area, protected at the regional level, has a surface of about 100 ha and is considered a Site of Community Importance included within the Alpine biogeographical region.

## Project Objectives

The project is aimed at improving the environmental quality of the site, applying naturalistic engineering techniques on the whole ecosystem. The main actions focus on the restoration of the hydraulic system, through the realisation of thresholds, the removal of sediments and the reduction of solid transport from the lake tributaries.

Monitoring activities will allow to a sound management of the water level taking into account the ecological needs of the aquatic fauna (fish, amphibians and crustaceans) and the plants occurring in the area. Actions targeting amphibian species and the white clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) will be implemented

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

### Name of beneficiary

Consorzio di gestione del Parco regionale Campo dei Fiori

### Postal address

Via Trieste, 40

I-21030 Brinzio ( VA)

Italia

Tel.: +39 0332 435386

Fax: +39 0332 435403

Email: info@parcocampodeifiori.it

### Name of contact person

Mr. Giancarlo Bernasconi

## Duration of project

From 01 November 2004 to 30 November 2007

## Total budget in euro:

826,500.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

342,700.00 (41,46%)

with the aim of creating and restoring their reproductive sites. The barriers obstructing the passage for fish will be also eliminated.

The future management of the area will be guaranteed by the realisation and the enforcement of specific management plans targeting aquatic fauna.

The realisation of structures for visitors, together with a specific information campaign, will contribute to raise public awareness and to reduce the human impact on habitats and species in the most sensitive areas.

# Conservation of *Salamandra atra aurorae* and other amphibians in the Italian Alps

LIFE04NAT/IT/000167



## Official Title

*Aurora System - active conservation of Salamandra atra aurorae and other amphibians*

## Background

The Italian Alps between Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia host several sites important for amphibians of EU Importance, among which the endemic Aurora's salamander *Salamandra atra aurorae*, priority species, as well as the southern crested newt *Triturus carnifex*, the yellow-bellied toad *Bombina variegata* and the Lataste's frog *Rana latastei*.

The Aurora's salamander is a local form of alpine salamander, with a very restricted range, localized in the northern part of the Vicenza province. This amphibian spends all its life out of the water, living in crevices and burrows of meadows and woodlands, coming out at night or during rainy days. It gives birth to fully developed offspring. The area where it lives includes also many small wetlands where the three other amphibians lay their eggs for breeding.

Threats like habitat loss and fragmentation play a crucial role for the local decline of the amphibian populations. Unsustainable grazing and tourism, insufficient public awareness, road killings and collecting of specimens are the main negative factors affecting amphibians in the area. They underline the lack of a proper land management, which should take into account the amphibians' conservation needs.

## Project Objectives

The project aims at establishing a long-term working team, acting in the Vicenza and Treviso provinces, that will guarantee the protection of *Salamandra atra aurorae*, *Triturus carnifex*, *Bombina variegata*, *Rana latastei*. The team will include local authorities (5 mountain communities, 2 municipalities and stakeholders) under the supervision of a state university to promote conservation-oriented measures involving direct participation of the socio-economic actors.

The project foresees the preparation of action plans for each species, as well as guidelines for the management of Natura 2000 sites and the establishment of a strict protection reserve for *Salamandra atra aurorae*.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

Comunità Montana delle Prealpi Trevigiane

### Postal address

Via Vittorio Emanuele II, 67  
IT-31029 Vittorio Veneto (TV)  
Italia

Tel.: +39 0438 554788

Fax: +39 0438 552332

Email: prealpitrevigiane@libero.it

### Name of contact person

Mr. Lorenzo Traina

## Duration of project

From 01 January 2005 to 01 January 2008

## Total budget in euro:

841,784.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

420,892.00 (50%)

In order to increase the number and distribution of the targeted species, 59 potential reproductive sites of amphibians will be restored and 10 new ones will be created. A water-collecting pool will be built as specific drinking source for livestock to prevent damage to the wetlands used for reproduction by amphibians. Sustainable management practices will be implemented on 36 ha of forests and 35 ha of meadows and pastures, also for experimental and demonstration purposes, and promoted at local level.

An informative and awareness raising campaign will be carried out through the organization of meetings with the stakeholders and the production of CDs, leaflets, maps and a video.

# Conservation of sea birds in Tuscany

LIFE04NAT/IT/000172



## Official Title

*Tuscan Islands: new actions towards sea birds and habitat*

## Background

In the Tuscan archipelago, the main threats affecting marine birds, especially the shearwater (*Calonectris diomedaea*), the storm petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*), the Audouin's gull (*Larus audouinii*) and the Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*), are: the presence of alien species, such as rats, which have a negative impact on the breeding performance, and human disturbance, mostly related to tourism activities.

Audouin's gull population dynamics show also trends, such as movements of colonies and the withdrawal of traditional breeding grounds, for reasons still not known but apparently related to human activities. Moreover the increase of the Yellow-legged gull *Larus cachinnans* population has a negative impact on the Audouin's gull through the competition for breeding sites and the predation of nests.

Tuscany Region already carried out a LIFE Nature project in 1998-2001 aimed at halting the impact of alien animal and plant species in the Capraia Island and implementing conservation actions for endangered marine birds.

The eradication of the rats from a small island nearby Capraia, with an increase in the breeding success of the shearwaters colony was a relevant success of the project

## Project Objectives

The aim of this project is to apply the successful conservation techniques, implemented with the previous LIFE project, in order to guarantee the conservation of marine birds colonies in all the islands of the national park.

Scientific research will allow to understand the reasons for the seeming unpredictable movement of Audouin's gull colonies and to identify potential breeding sites, which have to be managed and protected from human impact.

Conservation plan for the species in the national park will be elaborated and implemented by the management authority.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Park-Reserve authority

### Name of beneficiary

Ente Parco Nazionale Arcipelago Toscano

### Postal address

Via Guerrazzi, 1  
IT-57037 Portoferraio (LI)  
Italia

Tel.: +39 0565 919411

Fax: +39 0565 919428

Email: parco@isoleditoscana.it

### Name of contact person

Ms Francesca Giannini

## Duration of project

From 01 September 2004 to 31 December 2007

## Total budget in euro:

566,000.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

283,000.00 (50%)

Alien species will be removed (rats from the Giannutri island, cats from the Pianosa island), with the aim of increasing the breeding performance of marine birds. Monitoring of tourists will be carried out in order to establish a better management of their movements, and reducing their disturbance.

Scientific monitoring of breeding colonies of marine birds will be carried out to verify the success of the conservation activities and an awareness campaign directed both at residents and tourists will be implemented to establish a favourable cultural attitude towards nature protection issues in the area.

# Protection of habitats and raptors in southern Tuscany

LIFE04NAT/IT/000173



## Official Title

*Protection of habitats and raptors in M. Labbro and Upper Albegna Valley*

## Background

Monte Amiata is a massif located in the southern part of Tuscany, whose western slopes include the proposed site of Community Importance of Monte Labbro and Alta Valle dell'Albegna, a wide area of more than 6.000 hectares where a LIFE Nature project has been successfully concluded in 2003 (LIFE99NAT/IT/006229). That project aimed at a wide conservation improvement of the numerous habitats and species of EU importance present in the site, including dry grasslands on calcareous substrate (*Festuco-Brometalia*), which is a priority for conservation as an important orchid site, and the *Juniperus* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands. One of the outcomes of the project was the designation of the site as a Special Protection Area for the presence of birds like the lanner (*Falco biarmicus*), the red kite (*Milvus milvus*) and the Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*), which nest in the project area. A wide range of actions was carried out in the first phase, such as removal of invasive shrubs and alien trees, fencing of overgrazed grasslands, restoration of reproductive sites for amphibians and the management plan for the pSCI. The measures carried out gave positive results and significantly reduced or eliminated existing threats. Now the present beneficiary, the Amiata Grossetana mountain community, intends to extend these actions to other areas within the same site and to implement a series of measures directed to the protection of bird species.

## Project Objectives

To reach its objective, the beneficiary will carry out a series of specific measures including the removal of infesting exotic species from the priority habitat - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (important orchid sites) - and from the habitat of Community interest - *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands -, in order to preserve these habitats and recreate wide feeding areas for birds of prey. Conservation of *Falco biarmicus* and *Circus pygargus*, and of other birds of prey included in the Annex I of the Birds Directive, will be obtained through: monitoring and surveillance of the most important nesting sites, the setting in safety of the power lines, the creation of feeding areas and the restoration of nesting sites. A breeding centre for

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

Comunità Montana Amiata Grossetano

### Postal address

Località San Lorenzo

IT-58031 Arcidosso (GR)

Italia

Tel.: +39 0564 969628

Fax: +39 0564 967093

Email: a.coppi@cm-amiata.gr.it

### Name of contact person

Mr. Aldo Coppi

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 30 September 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,109,000.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

443,600.00 (40%)

*Milvus milvus* will be created, in order to support its restocking.

Other actions include the restoration and the creation of small ponds for amphibians.

The Mountain community will continue to carry out an extensive public awareness raising campaign targeting the different users of the area, the local communities and especially the school population. Didactic routes for visitors will be created in order to increase public knowledge of the NATURA 2000 network.

# Conservation of peat-bogs in the Dolomites

LIFE04NAT/IT/000177



## Official Title

*Safeguard and showing off of the peat-bogs in Danta (Cadore)*

## Background

The territory of Danta di Cadore, in the heart of the Dolomites, is covered mostly of conifers woods, interspersed with peat bogs of high naturalistic value, subject to a strong tourist pressure, both in the summer and winter seasons.

Natural and human threats are seriously affecting the survival of several habitats in the Site of Community Importance where the actions will be carried out. These include six bogs, two of which (bog woodland and active raised bogs) listed as priority in the Habitats Directive, the *Nardus* grasslands and the acidophilus mountain forests of *Vaccinio-Picetea*.

The invasion of the bogs and the surrounding grasslands both by the reed bed and the wood is causing the draining of the soil and the progressive transformation of the humid areas into dry habitats.

The salt, spread in winter along the road that crosses the bogs, in order to melt the snow, is altering the chemical composition of the water, while the lack of maintenance of the tributaries is affecting the bogs hydraulic balance. Unregulated passage by visitors represents another direct threat: trampling of soil causes, in fact, the increase of its denseness and the consequent change in the floristic composition of the habitats. Finally, the concrete basis of an old ski-lift facility, no longer used, has a negative ecological and landscape impact on the bogs.

## Project Objectives

With this project the municipality of Danta di Cadore intends to define and implement a coordinated strategy for the conservation of the bog complex. The actions will also benefit several plants, birds and other animals of EU interest, such as brown bog-rush (*Schoenus ferrugineus*), Tengmalm's owl (*Aegolius funereus*) and yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*). The reed beds and the conifers invading the bogs will be cut, and the resulted material be removed to avoid the silting of the wetland.

Two small canals will be created along the road to collect the salt water and to channel it downstream of the bogs. In parallel, naturalistic engineering works will be carried out on the tributaries to guarantee an optimum inflow of freshwater to the wetland.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

Comune di Danta di Cadore

### Postal address

Via Roma, 19

IT-32040 Danta di Cadore (BL)

Italia

Tel.: +39 0435 650072

Fax: +39 0435 659191

Email: ut.danta@cmcs.it

### Name of contact person

Mr. Marco Borca Casanova

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 01 October 2008

## Total budget in euro:

841,650.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

504,990.00 (60%)

The passage of visitors will be re-directed with the creation of a trail and tourists will be adequately informed on the importance of the bogs through dissemination of leaflets and the creation of a visitors centre. The cement basis of the old ski-lift facility will be removed and the area re-naturalised in order to restore the continuum of the bogs.

# Conserving habitats in the Agrigento Province

LIFE04NAT/IT/000182



## Official Title

*Preservation and extension of priority habitats damaged from agriculture activity*

## Background

*Aster sorrentini* is a small plant of the daisy family, endemic to Sicily, where it is known only in eight sites. It is a priority species for conservation under the Habitats Directive. One of the most important sites where it is present is the "Macalube di Aragona" pSCI, 15 km North of Agrigento, in South-Western Sicily.

The area is characterised by a rare geological phenomenon, sedimentary volcanism, and by several habitats of EU importance, among which Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*), Halo-nitrophilous scrubs (*Pegano Salsoletea*); Mediterranean temporary ponds and Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals (*Thero-brachypodietea*).

During the last decades, the site has been affected by fire and human activities, in particular agriculture practices and livestock breeding, which have led to land erosion and habitat fragmentation and reduced by 20% the surface of the steppe habitats.

The pSCI is partially protected by a regional reserve, managed by the Agrigento provincial administration, which promoted the LIFE project.

## Project Objectives

The project aims at conserving and restoring the habitats of EU importance and the population of *Aster sorrentini* through the active management of the main causes of degradation.

This objective will be achieved by purchasing plots of land (for a total of 67,5 ha) within the core area of the natural reserve and establishing a nursery for *Aster sorrentini* and other local plant species that will be used in the habitats restoration work.

Fences will be placed to protect from livestock grazing *Aster sorrentini* specimens and the habitats of EU interest, as well as other endemic plant species found in the site such as *Allium agrigentinum*, *Puccinellia gussonei*, *Salsola agrigentina* and *Scabiosa dichotoma*. Fire belts will be realised around the fenced area.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

Provincia Regionale di Agrigento

### Postal address

Piazza Aldo Moro, 1

IT-92100 Agrigento

Italia

Tel.: +39 0922 401542

Fax: +39 0922 594247

Email:

### Name of contact person

Mr. Dino Barone

## Duration of project

From 01 July 2004 to 01 July 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,725,162.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

910,885.00 (52,8%)

An important aspect of the project will be the involvement of the local stakeholders, farmers and livestock breeders. They will participate to a formation course to adopt sustainable land management practices within the pSCI and in the surrounding area and to be directly involved in the management of the site.

Six new jobs will be created for the management of the site and of the LIFE project, a relevant result since the area is affected by development problems and is characterized by a strong trend toward young workers's emigration due to unemployment.

An awareness raising campaign and the realization of educational structures and tools (paths, signs, visitor's centre, booklets, etc.) will be aimed at the development of the site as a tourist and educational destination.



# A network for the conservation of sea turtles in Italy

LIFE04NAT/IT/000187



## Official Title

*A network for the conservation of sea turtles in Italy*

## Background

The population of the sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), a priority species under the Habitats Directive, has been under a severe threat in recent years in the entire Mediterranean basin, reflecting the negative trend of the species in the world. The main problems are related to the impact of by-catch fishing and the loss of nesting beaches due to human disturbance. In Italy, in the last 30-50 years, the number of nesting sites and of egg deposition has been drastically reduced (in Italy, in Linosa and Lampedusa in the Pelagian islands, south of Sicily, two certain nesting sites are present). However, sea turtle captures in the Italian seas are regularly registered. The average is about 9,8 captures/per day/per boat. CTS, Centro Turistico Studentesco e Giovanile, an Italian NGO, has been a partner since 1999, in the management of LIFE Nature projects directed at conserving the sea turtle in two proposed Sites of Community Importance, Lampedusa and Linosa. Rescue centres for the turtles and a veterinary laboratory were set up in Linosa, modified fishing gears at sea to reduce *Caretta caretta* by-catch were tested, awareness raising campaign, aimed in particular at local fishermen, was carried out. The second project, aimed also at identifying, through satellite data, important (*Tursiops truncatus*) areas, monitor their population and analyse its interaction with fishing activities.

## Project Objectives

CTS is now the beneficiary of a project, co-financed by the Italian Ministry of the Environment, which enlarges the geographical scope of the action to protect the sea turtle in the Italian seas.

The project aims at setting up a *Caretta caretta* conservation network, through five new rescue centres within national parks and marine reserves, identified on the base of their importance for the presence of the sea turtle along the Italian coasts (Regional Park of Maremma, in the Tuscany Region; Marine Protected area of Punta Campanella, in the Campania Region; and National Park of Asinara, in the Sardinia Region).

A Turtle First Aid service will be established, with a nationwide toll-free number for reporting accidental catches and coordinate recovery efforts.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Centro Turistico Studentesco e Giovanile (CTS)

### Postal address

Via Andrea Vesalio, 6

IT-00161 Roma

Italia

Tel.: +39 06 44111470

Fax: +39 03 44111400

Email: ambiente@cts.it

### Name of contact person

Mr. Stefano Di Marco

## Duration of project

From 01 November 2004 to 31 October 2008

## Total budget in euro:

3,032,175.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,819,305.00 (60%)

The project will also promote at the national scale the use of artificial baits, following the positive results gained during the previous project, to reduce the impact of by-catch on priority marine species such as dolphins and turtles and the use of the TED system (Turtle Excluded Device).

Elaboration of a national plan, based on the indications of the Mediterranean Action plan (UNEP/MAP) to reduce negative interactions with fishing activities (including regulatory and legislative issues), creation of a web site and a data bank to exchange experience and data are further actions foreseen by the project.

Awareness raising activities directed at local fishermen, started with the previous projects, will be continued and reinforced. Fishermen will follow a course aimed at promoting correct fishing practices with a low impact on protected species.

# Conservation actions in NATURA 2000 sites managed by the Italian State Forest Service

LIFE04NAT/IT/000190



The project involves the whole country and/or involves numerous sites

## Official Title

*Conservation actions in NATURA 2000 sites managed by the State Forest Service*

## Background

The Italian Forestry Corps is responsible for the management of an important network of State Natural Reserves, which in many cases are included, or include, Natura 2000 sites. These protected areas are scattered over the Italian peninsula from the Alps to Calabria and host many habitats of EU importance such as mountain forests, lowland woodlands, Mediterranean forests and scrubland and coastal lagoons. Many species of high naturalistic interest live in these territories, and among them, wolves, brown bears and lynxes.

These sites have been historically managed with a pure forestry approach. Today, considering the objective of the Habitats Directive, conservation of species and habitats of EU interest, need a change of approach that will be faced also through this LIFE project.

The main threats are the abandonment of traditional agricultural and livestock breeding activities, with a consequent loss of habitat diversity, the lack of specific actions to manage the rarest and more endangered habitats and species and the increasing tourist pressure. Presence of alien species is a further threat that needs to be urgently faced.

## Project Objectives

The main goal of this project is to guarantee a long term, satisfactory conservation status of the biodiversity heritage in 34 Natura 2000 sites managed by the State Forest Service.

The actions are tailored according to the specific environmental conditions of the sites.

The ecological functionality of forest and the conservation of the related biological communities will be significantly improved by means of thinning, planting of autochthonous species and diversification of the woods structure.

Actions include also interventions in lowland forest aimed at the elimination of invasive alien species and the opening of clearings in canals and ponds excessively covered by reed beds in the coastal lagoons.

The fauna will benefit of the improved conditions of the habitats, whose management is the core of this project. In

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

National authority

### Name of beneficiary

Ministero delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali Corpo forestale dello Stato - Gestione ex-Azienda di Stato Foreste Demaniali

### Postal address

Via Carducci, 5

IT-00187 Roma

Italia

Tel.: +39 06 46657104

Fax: +39 06 4820665

Email: m.panella@corpoforestale.it

### Name of contact person

Mr. Marco Panella

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 30 June 2009

## Total budget in euro:

2,505,297.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,252,648.00 (50%)

particular predators will take advantage from the restoration of trophic chains based on the increased productivity of pastures.

Bears will benefit from the planting of autochthons fruit trees and the pruning of the existing ones. Bats will profit of the improved environmental conditions for their reproduction, resulting from the creation of breeding sites.

In four areas, a description of the environmental features and the monitoring of environmental parameters will make it possible to draw up specific management plans, two of which will be Natura 2000 management plans.

The field actions will be accompanied by education and public awareness campaigns supported by the distribution of informative material.

# Conservation of Apennine beech forests in Tuscany

LIFE04NAT/IT/000191



## Official Title

Conservation of Apennine beech forests with *Abies alba* SIC Pigelleto - M. Amiata

## Background

During the Roman age, the Apennine beech forests with *Abies alba* were present from the Amiata mountain to the Maremma plain. Today, in Tuscany they are limited to small isolated areas, between 600 and 900 m. of altitude.

The proposed Site of Community Importance "Foreste del Siele e Pigetello di Piancastagnaio" includes one of the remaining beech forests with autochthonous silver fir and another habitat which is rare in the Apennine, the beech forests with *Taxus baccata* and *Ilex aquifolium*.

The lack of maintenance of the beech forests with *Abies alba* opened the way to the diffusion of pathogen fungi, such as *Heterobasidium* and *Armillaria*, which affected the conifer and reduced its natural renovation. In addition, the presence of exotic silver firs, recently planted in the area, represents a serious risk of genetic erosion of the relict autochthonous population of this species.

The past exploitation of the beech woods with *Taxus* and *Ilex* caused the drastic decrease of the yew, which is now present only in isolated trees or in small groups of two/three individuals with a scarce reproductive capacity. Finally, the *Salamandrina terdigitata* (spectacled salamander), one of the amphibians listed in the Habitats Directive, has been recently recognized in the area, where it is threatened by the reduction of its breeding habitat.

## Project Objectives

The LIFE project has three main objectives. The first one, is the conservation of the autochthonous silver fir inside the beech wood through the implementation of specific silvicultural works, aimed at the elimination of diseased plants, at the reduction of the risk of further infections and at the restoration of suitable conditions to favour the natural renovation of the species. At the same time, the exotic population of the silver fir will be gradually eliminated to reduce the risk of genetic pollution. The second goal of Comunità Montana Senese, beneficiary of the project, is the increase of the diffusion of the yew inside the beech forests. This will be obtained through the ex situ reproduction of at least 3.000 plants of yew and their placement inside the wood. The last

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

Comunità Montana Amiata Senese

### Postal address

Via Grossettana, 1

IT-53025 Piancastagnaio

Italia

Tel.: +39 0577 787168

Fax: +39 0577 787763

Email: amiatasenesese@cm-amiata.siena.it

### Name of contact person

Mr. Piergiuseppe Montini

## Duration of project

From 01 July 2004 to 31 December 2007

## Total budget in euro:

700,000.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

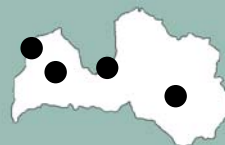
350,000.00 (50%)

objective of the project is the preservation of the presence of the spectacled salamander and the increase of its diffusion inside the Site of Community Importance. For this purpose, the beneficiary will implement small works to slowdown water flow in the streams of the area and to restore abandoned old drinking troughs and springs.

In order to guarantee a long term maintenance of habitats and species targeted by the project, the management plans of the targeted woods will be prepared.

# Restoring Latvia's four most threatened mires

LIFE04NAT/LV/000196



## Official Title

*Implementation of mire habitat management plan for Latvia*

## Background

Since 2003, the Latvian environment ministry has been in possession of a mires management plan outlining the priority areas in urgent need of management. Four of the sites identified in this plan have now been put forward for restoration in a new LIFE-Nature project. These are amongst the most valuable and extensive mire complexes in Latvia, covering over 9900 ha and containing 4 different priority habitat types as well as 28 bird species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive.

All mires suffer from the same problems, the most serious being their gradual drying out. This is caused by the extensive drainage ditches dug in the past to make way for forestry and peat extraction. These ditches are estimated to stretch over 45 km and are sometimes up to 3 metres deep. In addition many of the mires are being invaded by scrub and used illegally for a variety of destructive activities.

## Project Objectives

This project has set itself the ambitious task of blocking all major ditches around these four sites according to the management plan to be developed, and removing the invading scrub. It will also help restore the western taiga forests around the bogs by removing planted spruce undergrowth.

All this will be done in partnership with the forest authorities and the 8 municipalities concerned. Indeed, this innovative partnership will become the project's main driving force and should help to raise the public profile of mire conservation in Latvia.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO

### Name of beneficiary

Latvian Fund for Nature

### Postal address

Kronvalda blvd. 4  
LV-1010 Riga  
Latvia Latvija  
Tel.: +37 1 7034875  
Fax: +371 7830291  
Email: mara@lanet.lv

### Name of contact person

Mrs Mara Pakalne

## Duration of project

From 01 September 2004 to 01 December 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,055,682.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

791,762.00 (75%)

To this end, the project will also run a concerted information and public awareness campaign aimed at the general public, including such things as an international bog day, guided walks, school outings etc... Finally, in order for other conservation bodies to benefit from its experiences, the project will also draw up a set of guidelines for mire conservation and management in Latvia.

# Latvian programme for floodplain restoration and management

LIFE04NAT/LV/000198



The project involves the whole country and/or involves numerous sites

## Official Title

*Restoration of Latvian floodplains for EU priority species and habitats*

## Background

This large and strategic project targets no less than 16 floodplain areas in Latvia covering altogether 14,085 ha. These harbour the best floodplain meadows in the country, including 50% of the national resource of Fennoscandian wooded meadows and over 6530 ha of alluvial forests. They also host the highest breeding densities of the Annex I bird species *Crex crex* (400-685 individuals) and *Aquila pomarina* (59- 120 individuals) as well as a third of the Latvian *Gallinago media* population (59-120 individuals).

The main threat to these floodplains comes from a lack of management and fragmentation; most have been abandoned and are gradually being invaded by scrub. Changes in the water regime from past drainage works are also taking their toll, as is the overall lack of awareness about the natural and socio-economic value of these areas.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO

### Name of beneficiary

Latvian Fund for Nature

### Postal address

Kronvalda blvd. 4  
LV-1010 Riga  
Latvia Latvija  
Tel.: +37 1 7 034894  
Fax: +371 7 830291  
Email: inga@lanet.lv

### Name of contact person

Mrs Inga Racinska

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 30 June 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,600,366.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,144,184.00 (71,5%)

## Project Objectives

This project seeks to initiate a coordinated nationwide programme for the restoration and long-term management of these important floodplains. Management plans will be prepared for 15 sites in close consultation with stakeholders. Urgent restoration works will be undertaken on 2400 ha of meadows. Since long-term management is highly dependent on agricultural stakeholders, the project will also promote the new agri-environment schemes in Latvia. Over 400 farmers will be contacted and study tours, educational seminars as well as one-to-one discussions organized, as appropriate, to incite interest and active participation. Farmers can be further assisted in the preparation of applications for agri-environment support.

The project will be run in partnership with 19 municipalities as well as NGOs and national agencies. This will ensure a coordinated and coherent approach to floodplain management which is accepted and supported locally. It will also provide valuable capacity building: for management plan preparation, use of agri-environmental support, understanding the conservation management needs of floodplain species and habitats. This experience will be used to write up a comprehensive best practice manual on grassland management.

# Sustainable use in Lake Razna Nature Park

LIFE04NAT/LV/000199



## Official Title

*Protection of habitats and species in Nature Park "Razna"*

## Background

Covering 53,000 ha, the recently established Razna Nature Park is the second largest protected area in Latvia and contains a wetland complex of significant conservation value. The area has 125 lakes, one of which is Lake Razna, the largest lake in Latvia which accounts for a fifth of the country's freshwater resources and 90% of its freshwater fish population.

Until 2003, the lake and its surroundings were not adequately protected. This gave free rein to a number of unsustainable activities, including industrial and illegal fishing, uncontrolled housing development along the lakes' shorelines as well as increased recreational pressures both on the lake (motor boats) and along the shore (car parks, camp sites, picnic spots etc..).

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

University

### Name of beneficiary

Daugavpils University

### Postal address

Vienibas iela, 13  
LV-5400 Daugavpils  
Latvia Latvija  
Tel.: +37 1 5425297  
Fax: +371 5422890  
Email: juris@dau.lv

### Name of contact person

Mr. Juris Soms

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 31 March 2008

## Total budget in euro:

678,740.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

339,370.00 (50%)

## Project Objectives

The aim of the LIFE project is to draw up a comprehensive management plan for the whole Nature Park, in close collaboration with all key interest groups and stakeholders. First, it will carry out a detailed inventory and habitat mapping of the Park to identify the most sensitive areas and the location of key threats. Then it will create a database of all landowners in the area, in order to be able to involve them in the management planning process.

For the five largest lakes individual management plans and water regulations will also be drawn up and some initial restoration work carried out.

One of the project's targets is to reduce illegal fishing by 50% by the end of the project and to regulate the

recreational activities along the lake shores. This will require a massive public awareness-raising effort aimed at both the local communities and recreational visitors. Numerous activities are foreseen to draw their attention to the need to protect the area's valuable resources and to enlist their support in using the lake areas sustainably over the long term.

# Amphibian recovery in the Netherlands

LIFE04NAT/NL/000201



## Official Title

*Amphibian biotope improvement in the Netherlands*

## Background

Amphibians rely on the presence of small wetlands and small landscape features such as hedges, ditches and small pockets of woodland. Recent large-scale rural land re-allotment and consolidation schemes have done away with many of these habitats, with the result that the amphibians, too, are rapidly disappearing. This project tackles the conservation of five particularly vulnerable amphibian species.

*Triturus cristatus* (crested newt) lives in mesotrophic to eutrophic water (pools, ditches, ...) and needs scrubby vegetation near its reproduction areas. *Bombina variegata* (yellow-bellied toad) is a sun-loving species and reaches its northern limit in the Netherlands. It prefers to reproduce in shallow temporary waters (puddles in forest tracks, ...). Between 1999 the number of 5-km squares on the national grid where the species occurs dropped from 21 to 5 units. *Alytes obstetricans* (midwife toad) prefers stony substrates for overwintering but needs small wetlands to reproduce; here again the number of km-squares where the species occurs dropped from 44 to 21. Finally, the tree frog (*Hyla arborea*) which was once a familiar sight in the eastern Netherlands, is now limited to only 50 km<sup>2</sup>.

National recovery plans have been designed for the midwife toad and the tree frog and a four-step approach has been developed to restore the populations of these species and improve the state of conservation of their habitats: (1) to protect the existing populations, (2) to enlarge the habitat sizes around the core areas, (3) to provide ecological corridors between the populations, and finally (4) to create meta-population structures.

## Project Objectives

Partnership is particularly important in this project: the beneficiary (Staatsbosbeheer) collaborates with provincial foundations for landscape protection (Overijssel, Gelderland, Limburg), an NGO with great expertise in herpetology (RAVON) and the largest conservation NGO in the Netherlands, Natuurmonumenten. In total 14 subsites have been selected and in each of these, the partners will carry out small-scale conservation works to protect the existing populations and to increase their habitats. Pools will be dug, ditches will be restored, depressions will be created, hedges will be planted (or removed where they are detrimental to the target species). A website, dubbed "AMBITION", will be

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Public enterprise

### Name of beneficiary

Staatsbosbeheer

### Postal address

Princenhof Park, 1  
NL-3972 NG Driebergen  
Nederland  
Tel.: +31 30 6926111  
Fax: +31 30 6922978  
Email: a.hees@sbb.agro.nl

### Name of contact person

Mr. A.F.M. van Hees

## Duration of project

From 01 May 2004 to 31 December 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,302,539.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

651,270.00 (50%)

set up to promote collaboration between the partners and exchange information. Special measures will also be elaborated to inform the public at large.

# Creating a wilderness island in the Haringvliet estuary

LIFE04NAT/NL/000202



## Official Title

*Tiengemeten: restoration of freshwater tidal area in the Haringvliet estuary, the Netherlands*

## Background

Tiengemeten is an island in the Haringvliet estuary in the Dutch Rhine-Maas delta. As a result of the barrier built across the Haringvliet in 1970, the tidal fluctuations in the estuary have nearly ceased, which had serious consequences for its vegetation and fauna. The intertidal zone with its characteristic mud flats and salt marshes shrank as the ecological gradients disappeared. However, bringing back the tidal movements in the Haringvliet to revive this important estuary has again become a policy goal since 1990. Returning the island Tiengemeten to natural dynamics is now the most important restoration project in the delta. At the moment, the island is still largely used as farmland (700 ha) surrounded by ca 300 ha of reed and shrub vegetation. It is much visited by tourists arriving by ferry from the Rotterdam area, by yachtsmen and other water sporters.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Public enterprise

### Name of beneficiary

Dienst Landelijk Gebied

### Postal address

Postbus 3010  
NL-2270 JB Voorburg  
Nederland  
Tel.: +31 70 3371200  
Fax: +31 70 3694485  
Email: a.w.sleeking@minlnv.nl

### Name of contact person

Mr. Albert Sleeking

## Duration of project

From 01 November 2003 to 31 December 2007

## Total budget in euro:

6,378,552.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,722,209.00 (27%)

## Project Objectives

The restoration project focuses on the 700 ha farmland. As part of the LIFE-project, the current polders will be turned into a 100 ha tidal estuarine landscape with creeks, reedlands, brushwood and tidal forests - the so-called Wildernis ('wilderness') area. Parallel to the LIFE project, the eastern part of the island will be restored as a cultural landscape, called Weemoed ('nostalgia'). In order to create the "wilderness" area, the Mariapolder will be excavated into large shallow depressions and the dike will be pierced to connect this area with the Haringvliet and allow the tides to further shape it. The ground level of the other polders, Middenpolder and Benedenpolder, will be lowered so as to create open water areas; here the surrounding dike will be locally lowered to allow flooding at high-tide events. Alder forests will establish themselves on the island and the

islets in the open water will provide the right habitats for the root vole (*Microtus oeconomus*). Additional target species of the project are the sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio* - to be re-introduced at a later stage), the corncrake (*Crex crex*) and the bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*). Tiengemeten will become a nature island on which nature-based recreation, for which there is a great demand from Rotterdam and the southern Netherlands, will still be possible. LIFE-Nature will therefore also contribute to the visitor guidance measures in this large Natura 2000 site.



## Habitat improvement for *Microtus oeconomus* in Alde Feanen

LIFE04NAT/NL/000203



### Official Title

*Habitat improvement for Microtus oeconomus in Alde Feanen*

### Background

The root vole *Microtus oeconomus* var. *arenicola* occurs only in the Netherlands and is listed as a priority species in Annex II of the Habitats Directive. This endemic species inhabits wet reedlands and grasslands along lakes and rivulets. It has a precarious existence and can only survive where the common vole (*Microtus arvalis*) and the field vole (*Microtus agrestis*) are absent - it cannot compete with these more assertive species. The project aims at increasing the optimal habitat of the root vole in its core area in the province of Friesland on a site called the Alde Feanen (the old peatlands). Here, the species still occurs but is vulnerable because of its limited population size.

### Beneficiary

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO

#### Name of beneficiary

Provinciale Vereniging voor Natuurbescherming It Fryske Gea

#### Postal address

Postbus 3  
NL-9244 ZN Beetsterzwaag  
Nederland  
Tel.: +31 512 381448  
Fax: +31 512 382973  
Email: h.j.de.vries@fryskegea.nl

#### Name of contact person

Mr. H.J. de Vries

### Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 31 December 2006

### Total budget in euro:

1,218,500.00

### EC contribution in euro with %

609,250.00 (50%)

### Project Objectives

The aim of the project is to strengthen and develop a healthy core population, by creating a suitable habitat on recently acquired farmlands, and by installing a variable water level management regime in the already existing reserve which is managed by It Fryske Gea. This cyclic water management will allow the beneficiary to lower the water level inside one area (Jan Durkspolder) where it is currently too high, whilst raising it in another area (Wolwarren) so that competition from the field vole can be excluded. In practical terms, this involves significant structural engineering works such as excavation, filling in ditches, reconstruction of a microtopography,

strengthening of the canal banks in the surrounding area and securing roads and buildings.

A secondary objective is to enable other rare species to benefit from the project. This applies mainly to the animals found in marshland vegetation, such as the bittern. The beneficiary will also provide ample publicity (signposting, an exhibition, publications) for the project and the plight of this small endemic rodent threatened with extinction.

# Restoration of Bargerveen raised bog

LIFE04NAT/NL/000206



## Official Title

*From degraded to active raised bogs in pSCI Bargerveen*

## Background

Bargerveen is located in the south-eastern part of the Province of Drenthe and is the most important remnant of the former large bog complex Boertangerveen, which formed the natural border between the Netherlands and northern Germany. Although the bog still harbours important areas of active raised bog and species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, most of it nowadays consists of degraded bogs which can still however be restored. The area is home to more than 15 species of *Sphagna*, including the very rare *Sphagnum pulchrum*, and rare habitats such as *Rhynchosporion* (type 7150), wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (type 4010) and European dry heaths (type 4030). Additionally, the area is of great significance for birds, with 15 species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive.

Large areas of the Boertangerveen were drained in the past, so that the residual bog now lies like an island above the surrounding land, thus constantly losing water. Simultaneously, as a wetland, the site is managed to absorb excess water in the event of heavy precipitation. These opposing dynamics (desiccation and inundation) result in too great a fluctuation in water levels for the bog and wet heathland habitat types. The fluctuation is also a threat to the amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates living in the project area. It indirectly has a great impact on the structure of the site, and with that on the composition of the bird population and use of the area by wintering birds.

## Project Objectives

As the preliminary studies are already completed, the implementation of the actual restoration works can start immediately.

The project involves the construction of dikes and water storage reservoirs on the northern edge of the Bargerveen. This will have a direct positive effect on the hydrology of 1309 hectares within the entire 2089 hectare Bargerveen complex. The construction of the dikes and water storage reservoirs will provide protection against dehydration and internal eutrophication in the project area. The increase in water levels will re-humidify the peat and allow peat formation to take place even

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Public enterprise

### Name of beneficiary

Staatsbosbeheer Regio Groningen - Drenthe

### Postal address

Postbus 111

NL-9400 AC Assen

Nederland

Tel.: +31 592 305130

Fax: +31 592 305199

Email: b.jenster@sbb.agro.nl

### Name of contact person

Mr. B. Jenster

## Duration of project

From 01 November 2003 to 01 November 2006

## Total budget in euro:

3,222,510.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

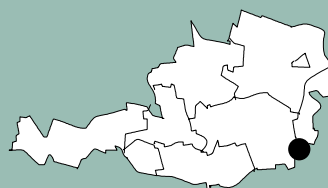
1,933,506.00 (60%)

during periods of low rainfall. By the end of the project, the beneficiary expects an increase of over 20% in the area of active raised bog, an increase of over 47% in the *Nardus* grasslands, and an increase of 67% for wet heathlands.

Bargerveen is situated in the middle of the former peat-colonies, an economically deprived area in the Netherlands. As eco-tourism is one of the most important sectors in the region (> 100,000 people visit the bog per annum), the beneficiary is also planning to deploy the necessary activities to inform the visitors of the uniqueness of this area.

# Restoring free flow to the Lafnitz river

LIFE04NAT/AT/000001



## Official Title

*Lafnitz - habitat cross-linking on an Alpine Pannonic river*

## Background

This transboundary project targets the river Lafnitz over almost its entire length of 112 km, starting upstream in the Styrian mountains and continuing all the way down to the lowlands in Hungary. As such it follows the approach of the Water Framework Directive in adopting a holistic approach to its management over the whole catchment area.

The Lafnitz is one of the last Austrian rivers not to have been totally canalised in the past (it is still meandering along 75% of its length) and as such hosts numerous Annex II fish species, amphibians and Annex I birds in and around its meander loops, side arms and alluvial forests. However, a number of weirs are interrupting the free-flowing sections of the river and constraining the migration possibilities for the isolated fish populations. Banks and riverbed have been altered into uniform sections on a number of stretches, and many side channels have been separated from the main river course and have filled up with sediments.

## Project Objectives

The aim of the project is to remove obstacles to migrating fish in the river and its old side channels, to interconnect the meanders and to regenerate the desiccated alluvial forests. More precisely, the project will construct 9 fish bypasses and modify 6 weirs to allow migration. It will also restore the riverbed along 300 metres to bypass a fixed weir 3.5 metres tall, and remove the bank protection in order to widen the river course at 14 locations over 15 kms of river length. Furthermore, 6 oxbows and inlets will be revitalised over a total length of 17 km, and three former side channels will be reconnected with the main water course again. In so doing, a free-flowing water continuum will be ensured over the whole river length.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO

### Name of beneficiary

Weideverein Ramsargebiet Lafnitztal

### Postal address

Loipersdorf 127f  
A - 7411 Loipersdorf  
Österreich  
Tel.: +43 3359 254019  
Fax: +43 3359 254014  
Email: info.zentrum.lafnitztal@gmx.at

### Name of contact person

Mr Wolfgang Pelikan

## Duration of project

From 01 November 2003 to 31 December 2007

## Total budget in euro:

4,567,454.00

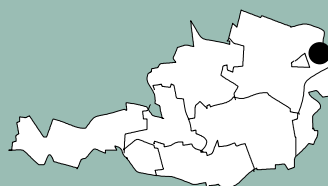
## EC contribution in euro with %

2,000,000.00 (43,79%)

As a result, isolated populations will be brought together again and new habitats will be created as spawning grounds for fish, breeding habitats for amphibians and foraging habitats for birds. The project will also enable the floodplain area to again develop its own characteristic, but currently rare, mosaic of flowing and standing waters, muddy banks, pioneer vegetation and floodplain forests. A strong partnership of no less than 13 organisations (NGO, public and private) will work together on this ambitious project. Extensive public awareness work and networking will help to promote the project as a model for other small semi-natural rivers in Europe.

# Restoration and management of Pannonic dry grasslands

LIFE04NAT/AT/000002



## Official Title

*Pannonic steppes and dry grasslands*

## Background

This project is situated in the north-eastern corner of Austria, where the warm continental climate favours delicate crops, orchards and vineyards on gently undulating hills. On steeper hills, extreme conditions as a result of the dry climate, minimal development of soil and barren locations, favour highly specialised animal and plant communities. Sadly, the former traditional pastures and hay meadows have been mostly abandoned and thus the essential management for these typical but now extremely rare plant and animal communities is lacking. Additionally, afforestation, overgrowth with exotic trees, eutrophication and biocide drift from intensively used arable land nearby, have all taken their toll on these habitats.

The project aims to restore these last remaining patches in eastern Austria of the priority habitat Pannonic steppes and dry grasslands. These sites, now very isolated, have an important stepping stone function, also for highly specialised and endangered species in the neighbouring countries Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary (which will benefit from this project through its extensive international networking).

## Project Objectives

LIFE will safeguard and restore the small remnants of steppe habitats left in selected areas in Lower Austria, bringing them back to a state fit for application of agri-environmental measures. This project could serve as model and give a practical boost to steppe grasslands conservation in Austria and part of the neighbouring countries.

Management plans will be prepared for 11 areas and monitoring systems established (priority setting, indicator species). Two nature reserves will be enlarged by purchasing additional land. The bulk of the project is however the non-recurring management activities, including the removal of trees and undergrowth and the clearing of small areas.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

### Name of beneficiary

Amt der Niederösterreichischen Landesregierung -  
Abteilung Naturschutz

### Postal address

Landhausplatz 1  
A - 3109 St. Pölten  
Österreich  
Tel.: +43 2742 900515235  
Fax: +43 2742 900515220  
Email: post.ru5@noel.gv.at

### Name of contact person

Mr. Erwin Neumeister

## Duration of project

From 01 June 2004 to 30 November 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,459,000.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

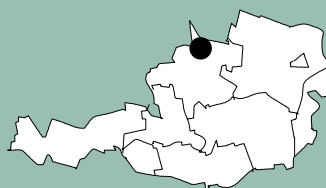
875,400.00 (60%)

Recurring management (grazing by livestock and mowing) follows on from these actions on steep, rough terrain. The beneficiary also aims to change farmers' and landowners' attitudes towards dry habitats for the better and to incite their participation in securing their long term management.

Extensive public awareness work, including information about the importance of these habitats for biodiversity, plus international networking, will also be undertaken. Site management will be closely monitored and indicator species evaluated. At the end of the project, several hundred hectares are to be restored and included into agri-environmental programmes.

# Forest conservation along the upper Danube

LIFE04NAT/AT/000003



## Official Title

*Alluvial and slope forests of the upper Danube valley*

## Background

On both sides of the Austrian-German border, the river Danube meanders picturesquely through rocky ranges with steep, wooded slopes. The views from the river are constantly changing from one interesting perspective to another within this deep winding valley. The forests on these slopes remained for a long time quite untouched, mainly due to their steepness and inaccessibility.

Consequently, they contain a wide variety of species, especially lime trees and maple, but also ash-alder and ash woodlands on the lower ground. Because trees of all ages occur, the area hosts animals specialised in old woodlands like the stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*).

Modern technology has brought new advantages to the forestry industry, making areas hitherto inaccessible for machines and dangerous for foresters to work in, attainable and financially interesting for timber exploitation. The trees on the Danube slopes are of great value for the timber industry, as well as for the tiny beetles.

## Project Objectives

To prevent the harvesting of the trees, 440 ha of mature forests will be taken out of use by either land purchase or by special agreements with the landowners in which they give up any timber harvest in the future in exchange for compensation.

In addition, many individual trees outside the core areas will be safeguarded against felling so that they can continue to host birds and insects in the future.

As the forests are sometimes infiltrated by non-native spruce trees, thanks to previous forestry practices, clear cutting of spruce followed by replanting of appropriate native species will improve the conservation value of these sections. Traditional, low-key forestry practices will

### Beneficiary

#### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

#### Name of beneficiary

Land Oberösterreich

#### Postal address

Klosterstrasse 7

AT - 4010 Linz

Österreich

Tel.: +43 732 772011877

Fax: +43 732 772011899

Email: n.post@ooe.gv.at

#### Name of contact person

Mrs Anita Matzinger

### Duration of project

From 01 July 2004 to 30 June 2009

### Total budget in euro:

3,750,000.00

### EC contribution in euro with %

1,500,000.00 (40%)

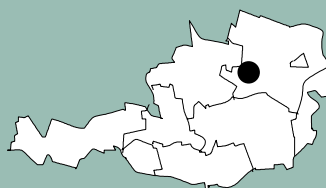
be re-introduced and new sylvi-environmental schemes tested.

Flanking actions are foreseen to improve the breeding situation for stag beetles by providing more dead wood, while actions around forest margins will restore natural forest boundaries, convert intensive grassland to hay meadow and dig new ponds to host Annex II amphibians.

Information and awareness-raising measures such as excursions, a mobile exhibition, panels and a folder will target locals, but also the numerous visitors to this area.

# Restoring Danube fish migration and river habitats

LIFE04NAT/AT/000006



## Official Title

*Donau- Ybbs Linkage*

## Background

This project seeks to reconnect the river Danube with its most important tributaries in the Lower Austrian Alpine foothills (Ybbs, Pielach, Melk and Erlach). Up to now, the Melk hydroelectric power station is interrupting the river continuum of the Danube and no longer allows the fish living downstream to reach their traditional spawning grounds in the tributaries. However, the recolonisation potential is promising: at the Melk power station, 39 fish species have been recorded, of which 11 are Annex II species and 5 are endemic to the Danube basin.

The main target of this project is therefore to enable the fish to migrate again past the power station along a river continuum of 22 km on the Danube and 13 km on the Ybbs. This will complement the work of two other LIFE-Nature projects which together target over 90 km of river. This strategic approach could act as a best-practice example for model river restoration, in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, which could be of use to other river managers across the EU.

## Project Objectives

The project has two main actions: the construction of a fish migration channel at the Melk hydroelectric power station and the restoration of typical but increasingly rare river habitats at the mouth of the river Ybbs (the second largest river in Lower Austria), such as gravel banks, gravel islands, natural river banks and lateral interactions.

All the key players have been involved in the preparation of the first action and the power plant company Austrian Hydro Power has agreed to become a key project partner, contributing ca 35% to the total cost.

In the case of the second action, a new approach will be tried out, involving only basic restoration work to enable

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

### Name of beneficiary

Amt der Niederösterreichischen Landesregierung,  
Abt. Wasserbau - Bundeswasserbauverwaltung

### Postal address

Landhausplatz 1 / Haus 4  
AT - 3109 St. Pölten  
Österreich  
Tel.: +43 2742 900514447  
Fax: +43 2742 900514325  
Email: norbert.knopf@noel.gv.at

### Name of contact person

Mr. Norbert Knopf

## Duration of project

From 01 July 2004 to 30 June 2009

## Total budget in euro:

3,150,771.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,575,386.00 (50%)

the two rivers to then shape the meanders through their own natural dynamics.

Both actions will be accompanied by intensive press and television work, information material, steering committee meetings and local public events. The fish monitoring will track both the functionality of the fish migration channel and the migration movement of the fish up to the mouth of the Ybbs 20 km away. The ultimate success of the project will be achieved when the Danube fish start using the gravel beds for spawning again.

# Conservation of baltic raised bogs in Pomerania, Poland

LIFE04NAT/PL/000208



## Official Title

*Conservation of baltic raised bogs in Pomerania, Poland*

## Background

The Baltic raised bogs have a very limited distribution next to the Baltic Sea. Typically ombrotrophic, oligotrophic and acidic, these natural peat producing areas are covered by a specific vegetation type, with several rare/endangered plant species. The Baltic raised bogs include several natural habitat types of European importance: these are active raised bogs, degraded raised bogs still capable of regeneration, and bog woodlands. The bogs are typically dome-shaped, with a flat treeless plateau covered by a microrelief of hollows and hummocks, and slopes covered by bog woodlands. However, Baltic bogs affected by past drainage activities are often densely covered with pine or birch trees.

80 Baltic raised bogs have been recorded in northern Poland. Among them, the 23 bogs found in the Pomeranian region are targeted by this LIFE project.

Until recently, passive management was the rule in Poland for this type of habitats, but it has been proved to be inappropriate for a successful long-term conservation. Active management, including removing of invasive trees and old draining systems, appears to be necessary in a number of cases.

## Project Objectives

The overall objective of this LIFE project is to maintain or restore active raised bogs and pine/birch bog forests in Pomerania, Poland. More precisely, the project aims at:

- 1) halting the process of drainage and subsequent water loss of peat bogs through the building of sluices and dams and through the filling of ditches;
- 2) eliminating local threats to biodiversity, such as the extension of birch, pine trees and spruce;
- 3) increasing the knowledge of the natural values, ecology and hydrology of each raised bog and adapting the management plans on the basis of the know-how gained;

## Beneficiary

**Type of beneficiary**  
NGO-Foundation  
**Name of beneficiary**  
Klub Przyrodników

**Postal address**  
1 Maja 22  
PL-66-200 Swiebodzin  
Poland Polska  
Tel.: +48 68 3828236  
Fax: +48 68 3828236  
Email: lkp@lkp.org.pl

**Name of contact person**  
Mr. Pawel Pawlaczyk

**Duration of project**  
From 02 November 2003 to 30 June 2007

**Total budget in euro:**  
968,337.00

**EC contribution in euro with %**  
681,080.00 (70,34%)

- 4) disseminating active raised bogs conservation, including inovative management techniques tested by the project;
- 5) increasing public awareness of Baltic raised bogs and their conservation needs, especially in the most influential stakeholders groups, but also in local communities and general public.

# Species and habitats conservation in Portuguese Western Coast

LIFE04NAT/PT/000212



## Official Title

*Species and habitats conservation in Portuguese Western Coast*

## Background

The project targets the pSCI Sintra/Cascais, West of Lisbon, which hosts a series of coastal habitats and endemic plants of community importance, some with very restricted distributional ranges and most facing regressive population trends, hence being in need of urgent conservation action. Among the target habitats that the project aims at restoring are priority fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes), priority dune juniper thickets, Thermo-atlantic grey dunes with *Crucianellion maritimae*, *Malcolmietalia* dune grasslands and dune sclerophyllous scrubs of *Cisto-Lavenduletalia*. The target species are 3 Portuguese endemic plants (*Ionopsidium acaule*, *Verbascum litigiosum*, a species with a very limited distribution area, and *Herniaria maritima*), and the rare fern *Asplenium hemionitis*, an otherwise Macaronesian species that has found shelter in some microclimatic refuges in Continental Portugal.

The main factors threatening all these species are the cleaning of walls that sustain terraces and changes in their construction techniques by the gradual replacement of traditional stone by brick and cement that has occurred along the years. The lack of awareness from the local population, the small size of the populations of some of the species (*A. hemionitis*, *H. maritima* and *V. litigiosum*) and the trampling of dunes by people and vehicles also affect their conservation.

## Project Objectives

This LIFE project aims at restoring 10 ha of dune habitats, stopping the regressive trend and increasing the distribution area and population sizes of *Verbascum litigiosum*, *Herniaria maritima* and *Ionopsidium acaule* and avoiding the isolation of populations of *Asplenium hemionitis* through increasing its population size and merging adjacent population nuclei. In order to achieve its objectives, the project foresees the preparation of an action plan for *A. hemionitis*, the collection of seed of the target plants and the creation of a plant nursery where their propagation will take place. The resulting seedlings will be used for plant reinforcements in situ, their survival rates evaluated and the wild populations monitored. These actions will be complemented with the fencing of especially sensitive areas, the building of

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

National authority

### Name of beneficiary

Instituto da Conservação da Natureza Parque Natural de Sintra/Cascais

### Postal address

R. Gago Coutinho, 21  
PT-2710-566 Sintra  
Portugal  
Tel.: +351 21 9247200  
Fax: +351 21 9247227  
Email: pnsn@icn.pt

### Name of contact person

Mr. Carlos Albuquerque

## Duration of project

From 01 August 2004 to 31 July 2008

## Total budget in euro:

399,162.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

199,581.00 (50%)

traditional stone walls, the reposition of sand in degraded dunes, the in situ seeding of *Juniperus turbinata* and associated species of the 2250 habitat, *V. litigiosum*, *H. maritima* and *I. acaule*, and monitoring of the dune ecosystems. The project also foresees a series of awareness raising measures aimed at the local population and public institutions, namely, the publication of a good practice guide regarding wall and terrace restoration (paper and CD-Rom versions), posters, brochures and leaflets on "*A. hemionitis* and its conservation" for land owners and users of the areas, awareness panels on the same theme to be displayed on site, a web page, a layman's report, leaflets on dune ecosystems and their conservation and awareness panels on the same theme to be displayed on site.



# Important bird areas for seabirds in Portugal

LIFE04NAT/PT/000213



## Official Title

*Important bird areas for seabirds in Portugal*

## Background

Marine bird species spend a considerable amount of time in marine areas, using them as feeding, resting and migrating/dispersing grounds. In fact, some species only spend time on land during the breeding season and even then not during the whole day.

Unlike many coastal areas where breeding colonies occur, which have been designated as SPAs, those vital marine areas are not protected at all. Marine birds living offshore are threatened by marine pollution, accidental death due to fishing activities, marine traffic and low food availability.

This project aims at overcoming the general lack of information and protection of marine areas in the Atlantic Ocean. In doing so, it will be targeting 5 priority species (in two cases the totality of the EU population) and it will be of strategic importance for 9 more non-priority species, most of them representing very high percentages of the total EU populations.

## Project Objectives

The project's objectives are to contribute to the implementation of the Birds Directive in the marine environment, to identify the most suitable areas for Annex I marine birds and regular migrating and wintering marine birds to be proposed as SPAs in coastal and pelagic areas under PT jurisdiction.

Radio-tracking of *Pterodroma feae*, *Bulweria bulwerii*, *Puffinus assimilis*, *Oceanodroma castro* and *Sterna dougallii*; tracking using data-loggers of *Calonectris diomedea borealis* and *P. feae*; aerial and marine census; in situ analysis of fishing activity, analysis of information obtained by the existing programme of observation of tuna fisheries and satellite images will be used to obtain the cartography of adequate areas for Annex I marine bird species in the marine environment. These areas will

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

NGO-Foundation

### Name of beneficiary

Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves

### Postal address

Estrada da Vitória, 53 - 3º esq.

PT-1100-618 Lisboa

Portugal

Tel.: +351 1 213220430

Fax: +351 1 213220439

Email: [spea@spea.pt](mailto:spea@spea.pt)

### Name of contact person

Mrs Manuela Nunes

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 01 October 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,515,182.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,136,386.00 (75%)

then be characterised and conservation measures will be proposed for each of them.

The project foresees the organisation of an initial workshop to standardise the methods that will be used with a similar Spanish Life project, external consultants and experts, RSPB, competent authorities and other partners. The project foresees as well a set of dissemination and awareness measures aimed at schools of coastal areas, the administration, fisheries' associations and fishing and shipping companies, apart from the participation in scientific meetings.

# Conservation of two Natura 2000 sites in Alentejo

LIFE04NAT/PT/000214



## Official Title

*Management and conservation of the sites of S. Mamede and Nisa/Laje de Prata*

## Background

This project is set up as a pilot for the future management of two Natura 2000 sites in the Northeast of Alentejo. This considerable area – both sites total more than 120.000 ha – hosts four priority habitats (\*Mediterranean temporary ponds, \*Southern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *E. tetralix*, \*semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates – *Festuco-Brometalia* and \*pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals – *Thero-Brachypodietea*) and a large variety of other habitats of Community importance, namely floating vegetation, rivers, riparian woods, *Juniper* formations, dry heaths, several types of *Quercus* forests and meadows. However, all this diversity is threatened by the absence of management plans, forest fires, inadequate agricultural, forestry and cattle-raising techniques, cutting of riparian vegetation and oak species, destruction of natural draining lines and creation of new ones, destruction of temporary ponds by ploughing, and expansion of exotic plants such as *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Pinus pinaster*.

## Project Objectives

In an attempt to ensure a good and effective management of the area, this LIFE project developed a good synergy with other community funds and partnerships with the national authority, a regional university and a regional association of forest producers.

The project will produce a management plan for both pSCIs and integrate it into the existing legal planning instruments, it will promote a sustainable management of the *Quercus* montados and associated priority habitats, minimise the impacts of recent forest fires and raising awareness of local stakeholders and the general public.

To achieve its objectives, the project will implement a series of pilot projects of sustainable use of *Quercus* habitats, update the existing habitats and species distribution cartography, delineate a protection plan of priority habitats against forest fires, prepare a management plan, build walls

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

Associação de Municípios do Norte Alentejano

### Postal address

Largo Professor Jaime Belém, 21

PT-7300-026 Portalegre

Portugal

Tel.: +351 2 45301440

Fax: +351 2 45301449

Email: amna@mail.telepac.pt

### Name of contact person

Mrs Maria do Rosário Rodrigues

## Duration of project

From 01 October 2004 to 30 September 2008

## Total budget in euro:

971,590.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

485,795.00 (50%)

and wood/vegetal barriers against erosion, plant riparian vegetation along water courses affected by forest fires, fence sensitive areas against human pressure and grazing, control herd and cattle density and agriculture and forest practices near sensitive areas, restore riparian habitats through stabilisation of water courses banks, elimination of exotics and plantation of native species. It will also include the removal of *Pinus pinaster* and the set up a surveillance to avoid *Juniper* cuts inside *Juniper* formations, the removal of *Acacia* and *Eucalyptus*, controlled grazing and scrub cover inside grasslands and a set of awareness raising measures aimed at the local population (web page, video, initial and final workshops, layman's report, brochures and book on the site's habitats and species).

# Improving wintering conditions for *Branta ruficollis* at Techirghiol

LIFE04NAT/RO/000220



## Official Title

*Improving wintering conditions for Branta ruficollis at Techirghiol*

## Background

Techirghiol Lake is located on the Black Sea coast, 15 km south of Constanta, occupying an ancient marine gulf, at present separated from the sea by a narrow belt of sand. It is a key wintering roosting site for *Branta ruficollis*, one of the rarest goose species in the world, included in Annex I of the Birds Directive and considered priority for LIFE funding.

*Branta ruficollis* nests in tundra and currently 80-90% of birds winter at five roosting sites on the Black Sea, in Bulgaria and Romania, including Techirghiol lake, where on average 11,800 individuals (13,4 % of the world population) are concentrated in January. The brackish water conditions at this lake are of vital importance for geese during the coldest months of the winter because it is the only wetland area in the region that does not freeze. The population is vulnerable in the wintering area and the main threats that require urgent action are: hunting and disturbance from other human activities at roosting sites and feeding grounds, deterioration of the key roosting sites, and poor availability of food resources during the coldest winter months.

## Project Objectives

The project aims at maintaining and protecting the *Branta ruficollis* population at Lake Techirghiol and its vicinity, including the designation of the lake as a Special Protection Area. Farming 30 ha with winter wheat and maize will ensure suitable feeding conditions on wintering grounds. The brackish water conditions will be maintained by ensuring an effective and efficient evacuation of the freshwater from the lake. Efficient lobby to increase penalties will be undertaken to prevent deliberate poisoning of feeding geese. Training courses will be given for hunters to reduce the incidence of accidental shooting of *Branta ruficollis* when flying in mixed flocks with *Anser albifrons* (a huntable species).

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

### Name of beneficiary

National Administration of Romanian Water  
Department of Water Dobrogea Litoral

### Postal address

127 Mircea cel Batran street  
RO-8700 Constanta  
Romania  
Tel.: +40 241 672089  
Fax: +40 241 673025  
Email: relatii@waterct.ro

### Name of contact person

Mrs Jenica Bujini

## Duration of project

From 01 July 2004 to 31 December 2007

## Total budget in euro:

657,028.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

492,771.00 (75%)

A National Action Plan will be prepared to guarantee long-term conservation of the species in the wintering area in Romania and conservation efforts will be co-ordinated with other countries by organising an international workshop. A comprehensive monitoring programme will provide information on presence and population size of the species, water quality, water levels and potential changes of land use in the wintering area. Public awareness will be raised both at a local and national level and there will be a wide dissemination of project results.

## The forests with *Pinus nigra banatica* - part of NATURA 2000

LIFE04NAT/RO/000225



### Official Title

*The forests with Pinus nigra banatica* - part of NATURA 2000

### Background

Sub-Mediterranean Pine Forests with endemic black pines are a priority habitat of the Habitats Directive. In Romania, this habitat type is represented by the "*Pinus nigra banatica*" forest, which has its main area in the Domogled-Valea Cernei National Park.

The main threats to the conservation of this habitat type stem from tourism and forest fires. Tourism is the main human activity developed in this area. Tourists and the local population living near the National Park usually cut trees for firewood. Uncontrolled tourism is also causing the degradation of the natural habitats. Moreover, the high temperatures reached in the last summers caused fires that destroyed some important forest areas. For example, 90 hectares of *Pinus nigra banatica* forests were burnt in 2000, on steep and rocky slopes that made very difficult the intervention with the limited means available.

Furthermore, the Domogled-Valea Cernei National Park has not a management plan and the forest area targeted in the project is lacking specific conservation measures.

### Project Objectives

This LIFE project aims at the long-term conservation of the sub-Mediterranean forests with *Pinus nigra banatica* in the Domogled-Valea Cernei National Park. The actions proposed to achieve this objective include the assessment of the conservation status of natural habitats and species and the implementation of an integrated monitoring system, setting up the management plan of the site, as well as the improvement and development of the warding system. In order to recover an area that has been highly degraded by forest fires during the last years, the restoration of 25 ha of *Pinus nigra banatica* forest will also be undertaken. The project also intends to set up appropriate paths and visitor facilities in order to foster sustainable tourism, as well as to develop an information

### Beneficiary

#### Type of beneficiary

PUBLIC

#### Name of beneficiary

Caras-Severin Environment Protection Agency

#### Postal address

Caminelor street, 5-9  
RO-320176 Resita, Caras-Severin County  
Romania  
Tel.: +40 255 223053  
Fax: +40 255 226729  
Email: apm@resita.rdsnet.ro

#### Name of contact person

Mr. Ilie Odorescu

### Duration of project

From 01 July 2004 to 01 July 2007

### Total budget in euro:

814,770.00

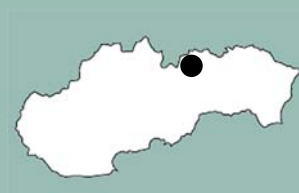
### EC contribution in euro with %

611,078.00 (75%)

centre to inform the visitors. Moreover, informative materials (leaflets, newspaper articles, radio and TV news, booklets and CDs) will be produced to raise awareness and promote the site and the Natura 2000 network

## Managing the Slovenský Raj Natura 2000 values

LIFE04NAT/SK/000244



### Official Title

*Conservation of habitat diversity in Slovenský Raj  
National Park*

### Background

The Slovenský Raj National Park (Slovak Paradise National Park) is possibly the most valuable area of the western Carpathians. Exceptionally rich in both species and habitat diversity, this national park is characterised by its karstic landscape, a dissected relief and several narrow valleys and canyons in between well-preserved plateaus. Two rivers and numerous smaller tributaries drain the territory and have eroded the narrow canyons which slice deeply into the karst. This makes this landscape very appealing to tourists with over 1000 visitors per day in the canyons..... Because of its extraordinary natural and aesthetic value, the Slovensky Raj was declared a national park in 1988. The major part of the area (89%) is covered in forests, mainly coniferous, dominated by spruce, fir and, on karstic outcrops, pine and Polish larch. Beech occurs in the central part of the park. Durmast oak occurs in the warmest and lowest locations. The flora has a distinctive Carpathian character and many Carpathian endemics occur here. At this moment, the national park is in need of an updated management plan. The current plan no longer reflects the new legal situation, foreseeable effects of recreation pressure, new forest management challenges (bark beetle infestation) and new possibilities offered to farmers to join in the management of the semi-natural grasslands.

### Project Objectives

This LIFE project aims at uniting all relevant stakeholders as partners and jointly developing a framework that will integrate all current and planned activities into a new, comprehensive management plan.

The most important are the local landowners and land users, the NGO DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology, the Forest Research Institute, the Association of Villages of Slovenský Raj, the municipality of Hrabusice and even the Slovak Scouting movement, in collaboration with the National Park authorities and the State Nature Conservancy.

The new management plan shall focus on yet unsolved problems such as restoration and sustainable

### Beneficiary

#### Type of beneficiary

National authority

#### Name of beneficiary

Statna Ochrana Prirrody Slovenskej Republiky  
(State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic)

#### Postal address

Lazovna, 10  
SK-974 01 Banska Bystrica  
Slovakia Slovensko  
Tel.: +421 48 4155027  
Fax: +421 48 4155027  
Email: kassa@soprsr.sk

#### Name of contact person

Mr. Martin Kassa

### Duration of project

From 01 September 2004 to 15 December 2008

### Total budget in euro:

500,244.00

### EC contribution in euro with %

250,122.00 (50%)

management of the forest habitats, grasslands management, visitor guidance and the production of information material to promote the conservation of the habitats and species inside the Natura 2000 site. Additionally, training shall be given to land managers to increase their awareness of sustainable land management practices and to make them familiar with the possible EU funds.

Visitor trails in the two most visited sites in the park shall be reconstructed so as to prevent damage to valuable rocky habitats. Finally, public information (brochures, leaflets, a mobile exhibition on Natura 2000) will highlight and explain the new conservation actions associated with Natura 2000.

# Conservation of otter population in Slovenia

LIFE04NAT/SI/000234



## Official Title

*Conservation of otter population (Lutra lutra) in Goricko - phase 1*

## Background

The Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), listed in Annex II of the Habitats directive, used to be widespread throughout Europe. Today, its distribution is scarce as a result of pollution and habitat loss, due to canalisation of rivers, removal of river bank side vegetation and draining of wetlands.

The north-eastern part of Slovenia, along the border with Austria and Hungary, is one of the areas in Europe where there is still a significant presence of the otter. According to past surveys this is the core area of the last viable *Lutra lutra* population in Slovenia, containing over 50% of the national population. Here the government has recently established the Goricko Landscape park, extending over 51.000 ha of hills, rivers, forests and traditional agricultural landscape.

A first initiative to protect the otter in this area, financed with the Phare Small Projects fund, was launched in 2003 by a local municipality. As a result, the main threats to the survival of a viable population of the species have been identified. They are related to river pollution, to past attempts to regulate and canalise rivers and, more recently, to the construction of a new railroad, which has created barriers along the otter migrating corridor.

Finally, lack of information and low public awareness of the ecological needs of *Lutra lutra* does not facilitate initiatives undertaken to protect the species and its habitat.

## Project Objectives

The main objective of the project, proposed by one local municipality, the Community Gornji Petrovci, together with other partners, including the Lutra Institute for conservation of natural heritage, is the conservation of a viable population of *Lutra lutra* in the Goricko Nature park, through the restoration of its habitats and the preservation of the main migrating and habitat corridors for the species. The main preparatory action will consist in a detailed survey of otter population, with qualitative analysis of its habitats and mapping of critical points of its main corridor. On the basis of the survey, a number of conservation measures, such as creating appropriate underpasses for the otter under bridges and replanting of

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Local authority

### Name of beneficiary

Community Gornji Petrovci

### Postal address

Gornji Petrovci 31/d  
SI-9203 Gornji Petrovci  
Slovenia Slovenija  
Tel.: +386 2 5569000  
Fax: +386 2 5569001  
Email: prosic.bojan@email.si

### Name of contact person

Mr. Bojan Prosic

## Duration of project

From 01 November 2004 to 31 October 2008

## Total budget in euro:

1,050,780.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

456,244.00 (43,42%)

vegetation along streams, will be carried out in ten different localities within the park's territory. A consistent part of the project will be dedicated to raising public awareness. An otter visiting center, together with a number of information points in the different towns within the park, and an educational path will be created. To reduce road killings of otter, special traffic signs will be placed and an "otter hot line" will be activated to provide information for the general public. Other information activities include the production of a film, the creation of a website, the organization of seminar, the production of a permanent exhibition.

# NATURA 2000 in Slovenia - management models and information system

LIFE04NAT/SI/000240



The project involves the whole country and/or involves numerous sites

## Official Title

*NATURA 2000 in Slovenia - management models and information system*

## Background

Slovenia, encompassing two biogeographical regions, Mediterranean and Alpine, has a significant value in biodiversity. This has led the Slovenian government to propose as Natura 2000 sites about thirty-five percent of the national territory.

However, as in the rest of Europe, newly introduced intensive farming practices, together with a gradual emigration of the younger generation from the countryside to the city, and the consequent abandonment of pastures and meadows, is having a direct negative impact on habitats and species whose conservation is considered as a priority by the Habitats and Birds directives.

Forests cover over one half of the national territory, the third most forested country in Europe. But past intensive afforestation practices with exotic conifers have resulted in a drastic reduction of native tree species and habitats for forest bird species.

The Slovenian government intends to address these problems and meet the challenge of contributing to the European network of protected areas. But Natura 2000 sites can be managed successfully only if local administrations are aware of the biodiversity values included in the territory they are responsible for and on the best way to protect and conserve these values.

## Project Objectives

The main objective of the project is to provide local administrations with a model on which to base the actions aimed at the conservation of habitats and species of EU interest.

The Institute for Nature Conservation of the Republic of Slovenia, beneficiary of the project, will prepare the official "Guidelines for preparation of management plans for Natura 2000 sites in Slovenia" and will produce and implement five specific management plans, covering a total area of over 67.000 ha. Three priority species and 19 habitats, 6 of which priority, according to the Habitats directive, two priority birds and 20 other species listed in Annex I of the Birds directive will be targeted through the project.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

Public enterprise

### Name of beneficiary

Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation

### Postal address

Vojkova, 1a  
1503  
SI-1000 Ljubljana  
Slovenia Slovenija  
Tel.: +386 1 2443500  
Fax: +386 1 2443522  
Email: nika.debeljak@zrsvn.si

### Name of contact person

Mr. Nika Debeljak

## Duration of project

From 01 January 2005 to 31 December 2007

## Total budget in euro:

1,686,077.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

843,039.00 (50%)

Specific actions will be carried out within all five Natura 2000 sites, including buying trees important for wood peckers, owls and other forest birds, so as to prevent their destruction, mowing of at least 100 ha of meadows, so as to prevent the disappearance of *Molinia* and lowland hay meadows, fencing of an area with *Pulsatilla grandis*, improving hydrological conditions, creating new educational trails, building of a bird watching tower. The beneficiary will carry out an ambitious information and awareness raising national campaign, including the setting up a Natura 2000 information system and the organization of numerous workshops, both at local and national level.

## Restoration of Askö-Tidö bird lake

LIFE04NAT/SE/000230



### Official Title

*Improvement of habitat for wetland birds in Askö-Tidö*

### Background

Located along the northern shore of Lake Mälaren, outside Västerås (around 110 km east of Stockholm), Asköviken is one of the classic bird-watching sites in Sweden. Despite its fame however, it has suffered similar problems to many other wetlands in Sweden, caused by a general lack of grazing, overgrowth and high nutrient loading from the surrounding areas. Some efforts were made in the 1980s to address these problems but as yet there has been no large-scale restoration programme for this important bird area.

Conscious of this situation, the authorities responsible for the lake area drew up a comprehensive management plan in 2003 and decided, in 2004, to apply for LIFE funds to help implement this plan.

### Beneficiary

#### Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

#### Name of beneficiary

County Administrative Board of Västmanland

#### Postal address

Västra Ringvägen, 1

SE-721 86 Västerås

Sverige

Tel.: +46 21 195166

Fax.: +46 21 195160

Email: jenny.nilsson@u.lst.se

#### Name of contact person

Mrs. Jenny Nilsson

### Duration of project

From 07 January 2004 to 30 June 2008

### Total budget in euro:

1,093,780.00

### EC contribution in euro with %

546,890.00 (50%)

### Project Objectives

Lake Mälaren is a core area for the bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) from both Swedish and European perspectives, with around 360 pairs, including 2-3 calling males, at the project site. The breeding bird fauna also includes black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), spotted crake (*Porzana porzana*) and marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*). Bean geese (*Anser fabalis*) are regular visitors during migration; in recent years also small numbers of lesser white-fronted geese (*Anser erythropus*) have been recorded.

The project will concentrate on restoring the conditions in the natural eutrophic lake and wet meadow habitats surrounding it. This will involve reducing the reedbeds back to the levels recorded in 1959 and establishing a zone of shallow water 20-200 metres wide along 4.5 km of shoreline. 34 ha of wet meadows will also be recreated and

brought up to a level where they can qualify for agri-environmental support in order to secure their long-term management.

The problem of nutrient loading from further afield will be tackled by establishing a voluntary programme for land-owners and other stakeholders to encourage them to join the agri-environment schemes and so reduce the level of nutrient leakage from their land.

Finally, as the site attracts around 20,000 visitors per year, including 6,000 children, efforts will be made to channel visitors away from the sensitive areas whilst still providing them with a positive and memorable experience of nature and Natura 2000.



## Pearl mussels in Sweden

LIFE04NAT/SE/000231



### Official Title

*Freshwater pearl mussel and its habitats in Sweden*

### Background

The freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) is generally restricted to nutrient-poor freshwater streams. It has a widespread but fragmented and declining distribution across Europe. In Sweden, the mussel has disappeared from around 40% of the rivers, and reproduction is low or failing in most of the remaining ones. The threats to the species are complex and either affect the mussels directly, or its hosts, brown trout and salmon, which carry the mussel larvae. These threats are changes to water quality (including acidification), inadequate regulation of water flow and habitat degradation (siltation etc.). Reflecting the precarious situation for the species in various countries, the pearl mussel has been the target of several LIFE Nature projects in Finland, Germany, Spain and Belgium and now, through this new project, in Sweden as well.

### Project Objectives

The main objective of this project is to develop and test methods to achieve a favourable conservation status for the freshwater pearl mussel in Sweden. The project sites have been selected with reference to viability and size of the populations, geographical location and options for success. Together they contain 5% of the Swedish population and will serve as "demonstration rivers". The restoration activities include the elimination of migration obstacles for host fish at ten watercourses, improvements to the river bottom at eight watercourses, and the management of the shoreline along two small rivers. Reintroduction of young mussels will also be tested in one stream.

Because water quality and thus the conservation status of any mussel population is largely dependent on external

### Beneficiary

#### Type of beneficiary

NGO

#### Name of beneficiary

Världsnaturfonden WWF

#### Postal address

Ulriksdals Slott  
SE-170 81 Solna

Sverige

Tel.: +46 8 6247449

Fax: +46 8 851329

Email: info@wwf.se

#### Name of contact person

Mr. Lennart Henrikson

### Duration of project

From 01 November 2004 to 01 November 2009

### Total budget in euro:

1,006,983.00

### EC contribution in euro with %

503,492.00(50%)

factors related to the land use outside and upstream of the mussel site, the project will also place a lot of emphasis on stakeholder consultation and dialogue. Both the regional nature conservation authorities and forestry authorities, who are partners in the project, will be actively involved in negotiating water rights with land owners across five counties.

In order to disseminate the results of a project, an international workshop is foreseen towards the end of the project.

# Estimating cetacean abundance in the European Atlantic and Baltic

LIFE04NAT/UK/000245



The project involves the EU Atlantic and Baltic countries

## Official Title

*Small cetaceans in the European Atlantic and North Sea*

## Background

The incidental capture and killing of small cetaceans in fishing activities is a major threat to their conservation. The species considered most at risk in northwest European waters are the harbour porpoise, *Phocoena phocoena*, caught in bottom set gillnet fisheries, and the common dolphin, *Delphinus delphis*, caught in pelagic trawl fisheries. Results from a number of studies indicate that the current levels of bycatch are unsustainable but there is a lack of up-to-date estimates of overall abundance of the species. The first comprehensive survey (LIFE92-2/UK/027) - Small Cetacean Abundance in the North Sea and adjacent waters (SCANS) - was completed in 1994 and the results have been widely used by the international community. However, it is important to repeat such estimates of overall abundance at ten-year intervals and for this reason EU Member States have supported the SCANS II survey.

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

University

### Name of beneficiary

The University Court of the University of St. Andrews

### Postal address

University of St. Andrews  
North Street  
St. Andrews  
UK-KY16 9AJ Fife  
United Kingdom  
Tel.: +44 1334 463222  
Fax: +44 1334 462632  
Email: psh2@st-andrews.ac.uk

### Name of contact person

Dr. Philip Hammond

## Duration of project

From 01 April 2004 to 31 December 2006

## Total budget in euro:

3,113,260.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

1,537,639.00 (49,39%)

## Project Objectives

The principal objective of the project is to update the current scientific estimates of small cetacean abundance in European Atlantic waters and feed this information into policy decisions over allowable bycatch levels. The development of improved methods for monitoring and a robust management framework will also help define a clear course of action to allow populations to recover and to maintain favourable conservation status.

The project will use both airborne and shipboard survey methods to cover all Atlantic shelf waters under European jurisdiction and will involve a pilot phase to test

equipment and methodologies before undertaking a full survey in July 2005. The key species to be surveyed are harbour porpoise, common dolphin and bottle-nosed dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*). In addition to providing up-to-date reliable estimates of the overall abundance of a number of cetacean species, the project will also develop the methodologies for more frequent monitoring activities to be undertaken between major surveys.

# Conservation partnership for salmon in Scotland

LIFE04NAT/UK/000250



## Official Title

*Conservation of Atlantic salmon in Scotland*

## Background

The population of the Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar*, has declined in many European countries as a result of threats from commercial netting, deteriorating water quality and barriers to migration. The species is still present in almost all rivers in Scotland but, even here, where water quality is generally good, there are many problems to be addressed. Scottish rivers such as the Dee, Tweed, Tay and Spey are ranked amongst the most famous salmon fishing rivers in the world and the conservation and sustainable exploitation of salmon stocks is the primary role of District Salmon Fisheries Boards.

In a unique partnership, eight of these Salmon Fisheries Boards, responsible for 40% of the wild salmon resource in Scotland, have come together with conservation agencies, hydroelectric companies and the Scottish Executive to tackle a suite of threats on several major salmon rivers in Scotland. Eight rivers have been chosen to demonstrate how a range of problems can be resolved through consensus with all parties concerned. The experience gained from the project will be widely disseminated.

## Project Objectives

The project aims to conserve the abundance and diversity of salmon in Scotland through a significant improvement of freshwater habitats, the development of management guidelines, and the promotion and demonstration of best practice in the removal of key threats through joint work and partnership.

The project will purchase netting rights to halt commercial salmon netting on two rivers, improve and restore access to rivers through the removal of 25 obstacles and undertake in-stream habitat improvement works to restore spawning and juvenile habitat.

The problems of siltation along eroded river banks will be addressed through fencing and stabilising structures. In some rivers, fish will be introduced to newly restored

## Beneficiary

### Type of beneficiary

National authority

### Name of beneficiary

Scottish Natural Heritage

### Postal address

12 Hope Terrace  
UK-EH9 2AS Edinburgh  
United Kingdom  
Tel.: +44 131 4474784  
Fax: +44 131 4462277  
Email: sandy.maclennan@snh.gov.uk

### Name of contact person

Mr Sandy Maclennan

## Duration of project

From 01 February 2004 to 31 July 2008

## Total budget in euro:

4,695,816.00

## EC contribution in euro with %

2,347,908.00 (50%)

sections and fish counters will be used to provide more information on the status of salmon in several pSCIs. The project will significantly improve the natural freshwater habitat for salmon on eight of the key salmon river pSCIs in Scotland and provide a major vehicle for raising awareness about the needs of the species, both to managers and to a wider audience. It will produce a range of management demonstration products which will feed into wider conservation strategies for the species and guidance for application throughout Scotland and beyond.

**Name** LIFE ("L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement" / The financial instrument for the environment)

**Type of intervention** co-financing of actions in favour of the environment in the twenty-five Member States of the European Union, in the candidate countries who are associated to LIFE and in certain third countries bordering the Mediterranean and the Baltic Sea.

LIFE is made up of three subject headings: "LIFE-Nature", "LIFE-Environment" and "LIFE – Third countries".

### Objectives

- > with a view to sustainable development in the European Union, contribute to the drawing up, implementation and updating of Community policy and legislation in the area of the environment;
- > explore new solutions to environmental problems on a Community scale.  
Beneficiaries any natural or legal person, provided that the projects financed meet the following general criteria:
- > they are of Community interest and make a significant contribution to the general objectives;
- > they are carried out by technically and financially sound participants;
- > they are feasible in terms of technical proposals, timetable, budget and value for money.

### Types of project

- > Eligible for LIFE-Environment are innovative pilot and demonstration projects which bring environment-related and sustainable development considerations together in land management, which promote sustainable water and waste management or which minimise the environmental impact of economic activities, products and services. LIFE-Environment also finances preparatory projects aiming at the development or updating of Community environmental actions, instruments, legislation or policies.
- > Eligible for LIFE-Nature are nature conservation projects which contribute to maintaining or restoring natural habitats and/or populations of species in a favourable state of conservation within the meaning of the « Birds » (79/409/EEC) and « Habitats » (92/43/EEC) Community Directives and which contribute to the establishment of the European network of protected areas – NATURA 2000. LIFE-Nature also finances "co-op" projects aiming to develop the exchange of experiences between projects.
- > Eligible for LIFE-Third countries are projects which contribute to the establishment of capacities and administrative structures needed in the environmental sector and in the development of environmental policy and action programmes in some countries bordering the Mediterranean and the Baltic Sea.

**Implementation** National authorities in the Member States or third countries send the Commission the proposals of projects to be co-financed (for LIFE-Environment preparatory projects, the applicants send their proposals directly to the Commission). The Commission sets the date for sending the proposals annually. It monitors the projects financed and supports the dissemination of their results. Accompanying measures enable the projects to be monitored on the ground.

**Period of involvement** (LIFE III) 2000-2006.

**Funds from the Community** approximately \_638 million for 2000-2004 and \_317 million for 2005-2006.

### Contact

European Commission – Environment Directorate-General  
LIFE Unit – BU-9 02/1 - 200 rue de la Loi - B-1049 Brussels – Fax: +32 2 296 95 56  
Internet: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/home.htm>

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2005

ISBN 92-894-9196-5

© European Communities, 2005  
Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.



*Europe Direct is a service to help you find answers to your questions about the European Union*

**New freephone number:  
00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11**

