

Nature protection in military areas

International conference of the
Eastern-Bakony (LIFE07 NAT/H/000321) and
the Hungarian Little Plain (LIFE08 NAT/H/000289)
LIFE+ projects



EasternBAKONY



**Hungarian
Little Plain**

14-16 May, 2014
Veszprém, Hungary

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EDITORIAL

The Ministry of Defence of Hungary and the Hungarian Armed Forces make an effort to pay attention to the protection of the environment during the execution of military training, exercises and other tasks related to defence.

The defence of the nation cannot mean the destruction of nature.

Our basic intention is to execute military tasks without an ecological footprint during national and international military activities.

The Ministry of Defence of Hungary has been paying increased attention to handling environmental problems since 1994 in order to establish the conditions for applying the best available technique in environmental protection related to military activities.

The Hungarian Armed Forces has to fulfil strict environmental regulations since the beginning of the NATO and EU membership.

From thematic sub-actions referring to the third planning phase of the National Environmental Programme the conservation of biological and landscape diversity deserves highlighted interest. This is nothing else but the implementation of tasks related to the conservation of natural values occurring at the shooting ranges, and exercise areas of the Hungarian Armed Forces.

More cautious, sustainable utilisation of the ecosystem is an emphasized task for the sake of the conservation of biological diversity and landscapes.

Contrary to opinions existing in common knowledge - being acknowledged by the national nature conservation - it was proved in the last some years that in many cases there are still natural values existing in military exercise areas which far surpass the flora and fauna of similar areas treated by the civil sphere. The enclosure of shooting ranges and exercise areas, as well as the usage order considering zonality have also contributed to this.

This fact has been proven by documented surveys, which were focusing on the natural values of more important shooting ranges and exercise areas during the designation of Hungarian areas of the Natura 2000 Ecological Network of the European Union thus deserving protection by the EU.

The Hungarian Armed Forces is committed to finding the answer to the key question of how it could be possible to satisfy the needs of the present generation in a way that does not deprive future generations from the possibility of harmonious coexistence with nature and how it could be possible to protect our common environmental-natural heritage from irreversible damage.

Based on the experiences gained during the past few years, the key to matching the military training and nature protection regulations/expectations, or in other words, the key to a successful reconciliation of interests is the preparation of conservation management plans and Natura 2000 management plans by the Ministry of Defence of Hungary.

The above means the establishment of an optimal balance between nature protection related and military use of sites within the property management portfolio of the Ministry of Defence, that is a compromise-based consensus and dialogue of the defence and conservation aspects.

In order to meet the challenges of our objectives the Ministry of Defence – in close collaboration with the competent ministries, national park directorates and the forest management companies responsible for the silvicultural activities of the sites – pays particular attention to avoiding nature damages during military practices on shooting ranges and exercise areas and to restoring and rehabilitating such areas.

The two LIFE+ projects hosting this conference – Eastern Bakony and Hungarian Little Plain – were planned and are being implemented due to the close collaboration of the organisations.



Eng. Col. József Cseppentő
Infrastructure Director
Defence Economic Office
Ministry of Defence of Hungary



EasternBAKONY

The project proposal with the title “Restoration and conservation of priority habitats and species in the Eastern Bakony area” submitted to the funds of the Call of the LIFE+ Programme of the European Union was announced as a successful application on 27th October 2008.

The objectives of project Eastern Bakony (LIFE07 NAT/HU/000321) are to ensure the long term conservation of priority habitats and species, to secure the sustainability of the concrete conservation actions implemented by the project in Eastern Bakony and to promote the implementation of similar actions within habitats of Sub-Pannonic steppic grasslands (6240), Medio-European calcareous scree of hill and montane levels (8160), Pannonic woods with *Quercus petraea* and *Carpinus betulus* (91G0) and Pannonic woods with *Quercus pubescens* (91H0) or affecting species of *Serratula lycopifolia* and *Falco cherrug*.

The implementation of the five-year long project commenced on 2nd February 2009. The concrete conservation actions of the project are being elaborated from 2.2 million euros. In the course of the rehabilitation of natural habitats invasive plant species conquering the affected parts of the project area were cleared off from more than 600 hectares, recultivation works were carried out in approximately 720 hectares to liquidate or transform abandoned military objects. In order to control fires resulting from the shooting practices of the military, a quick and effective firefighting system was created. The elements of this system are a mobile fire extinguisher purchased in the course of the project, an altogether 6 km long fire break zone network created in three locations of the project area, and the water catchment pool. In order to restore indigenous plant stocks placing acorns and planting seedlings of *Quercus pubescens* and *Quercus cerris* were carried out as part of the transformation of *Pinus nigra* stocks.

The most important results of the project are summarized as follows:

- Restoration of 600 ha degraded Pannonic steppe by the elimination of shrubs
- Placing 5 artificial nests to support the re-locating of *Falco cherrug*, repatriating 600 ground squirrels to the project area
- Recultivation of 35 illegal waste dumps, mining pits, abandoned military objects in the project area
- Transportation of altogether 6.422 tons of waste from the project area
- Creation of fire break zones, altogether 6 km
- Creation of a water catchment pool with a capacity of storing 9.300 m³ water
- Reconstruction of service roads – altogether 34,5 km length
- Transformation of *Pinus nigr* stocks to *Quercus pubescens* in 35,5 ha
- Development of an educational trail with 13 resting places
- Altogether 4 guided tours with almost 400 participants
- Three trainings for the military personnel involving 109 persons, further 1 occasion for 12 foreign (Dutch) military people
- Continuous monitoring of the conservation actions

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

Project ID: LIFE07 NAT/H/000321

Project duration: 2 Feb 2009 – 31 July 2014

Project area: Várpalota Military Training Centre, Veszprém and Fejér Counties, Hungary

Total budget: € 2.238.642

Share of the aid of the European Commission: 74,98%

Co-financing partner: Ministry of Rural Development

Consortium partners: Ministry of Defence of Hungary Defence Economic Office, VERGA Forestry Veszprém, Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate, Aquaprofit Engineering, Consulting and Investment Co.

www.keletibakony.hu



Hungarian Little Plain

With the lead of the predecessor of the Ministry of Defence of Hungary Defence Economic Office, Budapest Forestry Co., Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate and Aquaprofit Co. together developed a project idea. Implementation of the project “Restoration and conservation of priority-listed Pannonic sand land habitats in military owned area of the Hungarian Little Plain” (LIFE08 NAT/HU/000289) aims to preserve the natural resources characterising the military owned areas of the Hungarian Little Plain, by restoring previously degraded sand land habitats and population of valuable species, this way preserving biodiversity. One of the most important goals of the project is to find an optimal balance between nature conservation and military use that leads to the sustainability of conservation actions performed in the course of the project, by strengthening the cooperation between these institutions.

The conservation actions target the priority-listed habitats of the Gönyű Shooting Range, 6260 Pannonic sand steppe and 91N0 Pannonic inland sand dune thicket (*Junipero-Populetum albae*), furthermore to consolidate population of the community interest species appearing on the area, especially *Carabus hungaricus* and *Iris arenaria*, with the improvement of the habitats' condition. The Gönyű Shooting Range was incorporated into the Natura 2000 network as part of HUFH20009 Gönyű Sand Land in 2010.

Natural grassland habitats of the project area are primarily endangered by the dispersion of invasive species (*Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Ailanthus altissima*, *Asclepias syriaca*, *Solidago gigantea*, *Eleagnus angustifolia*, *Calamagrostis epigeios* etc.), accumulation of nutrients, illegal motor vehicle traffic and illegal waste deposition. During the former military training activities several landform obstacles were created and buildings were made that are no longer used. Besides that their debris visually damage the landscape, at some parts of this disturbed area invasive species such as *Solidago gigantea* have proliferated. Other invasive species also settled in the project area which serves as a 'seed area' for them to infect other, natural habitats. Illegal waste has also accumulated in the area mostly near roads. Illegal waste dumps are disrupting natural land cover, pose the hazard of contamination on the environment and degrade the visual value of the project area.

The interventions are performed on an area of 248 ha. In the conservation actions mechanical and chemical methods are used to remove all heads of *Robinia pseudo-acacia*, *Ailanthus altissima* and *Elaeagnus angustifolia*, only chemical method is used to repel *Asclepias syriaca* and only mowing to remove *Solidago gigantea*, and *Calamagrostis epigeios* (C.1 action). The removal of the accumulated grass litter happens mainly on the degraded patches with mosaic burning (C.2 action). One of the most significant tasks is the demolition of the non-used military buildings and the modification of military objects such as paved surfaces and artificial terrain. On the fractured surfaces the natural terrain is restored, on which swarding is in progress, new grassland is established on a 15,6 ha area (C.4 action). The illegally disposed waste on the area and the material from the demolition of buildings are delivered from the area into a safe landfill (C.5 action). Communication and dissemination actions are fulfilled under the D actions.

Restoration and conservation of priority-listed Pannonic sand land habitats in military owned area of the Hungarian Little Plain

Project ID: LIFE08 NAT/H/000289

Project duration: 1 Jan 2010 – 31 Dec 2015

Project area: Győr-Gyórszentiván Military Training Field, Győr-Moson-Sopron County, Hungary

Total budget: € 1.737.400

Share of the aid of the European Commission: 75%

Co-financing partner: Ministry of Rural Development

Consortium partners: Ministry of Defence of Hungary Defence Economic Office, Budapest Forestry Co., Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate, Aquaprofit Engineering, Consulting and Investment Co.

www.kisalfoldilife.hu



Ministry of Defence of Hungary Defence Economic Office

Homepage: www.honvedelmibeszerezes.kormany.hu

The military and environmental protection activities of the Ministry of Defence of Hungary Defence Economic Office and the Hungarian Armed Forces are well-known for almost 30 years. The results verify that the military personnel of the Hungarian Army act environmentally conscious way when completing their tasks, and pay special attention to the protection of the environment and nature conservation.

The environmental protection tasks of the Ministry of Defence of Hungary Defence Economic Office are being implemented Hungary-wide and they cover all environmental aspects. Besides the general environmental activities (waste management, noise control, water conservation, air quality protection, etc.) performed in military installations or other properties managed by the MoD, special attention is being paid to nature conservation (16% of the Natura 2000 sites of Hungary belong to the property management of MoD), soil and groundwater decontamination, remediation as well as to ensure the maximum attention to the aspects of environment consciousness and environment protection during military activities.

Environment protection and nature conservation tasks of the MoD are performed by MoD Defence Economic Office.

Major tasks:

- Providing efficient and centralised implementation and support to the financial and accounting duties of military organisations and personnel serving abroad with separate titles.
- Implementing procurement activities based on national legislation and ministerial regulations.
- Performing military technical research and technological development together with relevant ministerial tasks.
- Implementing procurement activities in the framework of the NATO Security Investment Program.
- Providing military quality assurance activities, implementing system certification procedures.
- Providing owner representation of real estates in the property management of the MoD in defined matters, implementing infra-structural development and restoration activities.
- Carrying out tasks related to the development and formation of location facilities of military organisations.
- Exercising definite order rights based on Service Contracts concluded in order to operate and manage real estates and houses in the property management of the MoD, carrying out certain defrayal activities.
- Keeping the analytic and synthetic records of real estates in the property management of MoD.
- Organising, implementing and supervising the tasks of MoD environmental and nature protection programmes under the National Environment Protection Programme and of those related to absorbing EU funds.
- Participating in the implementation of the sectorial tasks of the environment protection and nature conservation as part of their management support activities, coordinating the implementation of the remediation as well as the development and the implementation of the sectorial sub-programmes of the National Environment Protection Programme.



VERGA Co.

Homepage: www.verga.hu

VERGA Zrt. manages state forests of 47,000 hectares, with 7,2 million m³ live wood. More than half of the areas, i.e. 26,500 hectares, serve military purposes.

30% of the company's area belongs to the South Bakony Mountains, 60% to the High Bakony Mountains and 10% to the East Bakony Mountains.

90% of the forests managed by the company are natural forests consisting of native tree species (oak, Turkey oak, beech, hornbeam, etc.). Here silvicultural activities complying with the corresponding forestry plans are carried out. 10% of the forest area is planted forest (Scots and Austrian pine) that has come into being on the rocks around Veszprém as a result of the present afforestation started after World War I. The company carries out game management activities in an area of 17,460 hectares, where through deliberate professional efforts and by scheduled maintenance of the various habitats it ensures the trophy quality improvement of the big game stock. The profit centred hunting programmes organised for domestic and foreign guests are important business activities. Such programmes are arranged by the hunting and tourism office operated within the company.

The Hungarian economy considers public welfare activities as top priority. Foresters can help our children familiarize themselves with our forests and the activities carried out there. For this purpose, educational paths and rest areas are created, look-out towers, playgrounds for children, rain shelter and fire pits are built.

Two areas of the forest territory managed by VERGA Zrt. are under environmental protection. The yew forest in Szentgál (215 hectares) and Burok Valley, the ravine of the East Bakony Mountains (1 030 hectares) which is an area not affected by human influence for more than 100 years. The yew forest in Szentgál, which has been protected since 1951, aims at protecting a relict species which can be found only here in Hungary in such great numbers under natural conditions.



Balaton-felvidéki
National Park

Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate

Homepage: www.bfnp.hu

The Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate is an independent legal entity, partly financed by state budget, independently managed, and operates under the direction of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Operational area: Veszprém county; 6 settlements in Győr-Moson-Sopron county; Zala county, except the areas of 5 settlements; the areas of the settlements belonging to the Lake Balaton Outstanding Resort Area in Somogy county.

Main tasks:

- Organises and operates the Nature Conservation Guard of the Directorate.
- Fulfils tasks related to state research on nature conservation, maintenance and restoration of habitats.
- Maintains and operates demonstrational, educational and touristic establishments.
- Fulfils tasks related to the management of state property.
- Fulfils tasks related to the management of protected and strictly protected natural values, protected and strictly protected natural areas, Natura 2000 sites, natural areas and values protected by international agreements values.
- Pays attention on the condition of nature and natural values.



AQUAPROFIT

AQUAPROFIT Co.

Homepage: www.aquaprofit.com

AQUAPROFIT Engineering, Consulting and Investment Company is a Hungarian SME established in 1996, based in Budapest, Hungary and with branch offices in Romania, Brussels and China. Due to its excellent staff composition made up of water engineers, hydrologists, hydrogeologists, geologists, landscape architects, environmental and civil engineers, economists, Aquaprofit Co. is an acknowledged company in the environmental and water sector in Hungary. The company has more than 65 full-time employees and over 30 consultants on part time contracts, offering expertise in drinking & thermal water supply and protection, waste water treatment, geothermal utilisation, hydrogeological modelling and flood prevention. Moreover, it holds experience in urban and rural development and green and blue infrastructures design.

Aquaprofit Co. is offering an extensive range of highly specialised services, including engineering, planning, design and implementation (including construction). Moreover, has substantial experience in developing, managing and assisting international collaborative projects (Europaid, IPA, CIP-IEE, LIFE, GEF, HORIZON 2020 etc.).

Within the confines of EU-funded national and international environmental projects, the company has gained experience of stakeholder involvement and achieved recognition for managing dissemination and communication work packages.

Our mission is to protect public health and enhance the sustainable environment by providing drinking water quality protection and improvement, wastewater conveyance, treatment, and flood management services for the state and federal regulators, non-governmental organizations, local units of government and the private sector.



Budapest Forestry

Homepage: www.bp-erdo.hu

The Budapest Forestry Company manages approx. 38 000 hectares, which areas are parts of the Hungarian Defence Forces' parade grounds and shooting ranges and their buffer zones. On 31 000 hectares of the whole area are weak aptitude forest, because paramilitary territories have usually weak productivity. The areas settle in the north part of

Hungary, in 6 bigger, strongly various natural blocks - which sizes are between 1500-7000 hectares - and several smaller wooded areas. Due to various production sites all of the forest-assortment presents itself on the Company's sites: 40% Turkey oak, 14% black locust and 18% oak forests.

The basic task of the Company is the management of these forests. Logging and forestation happens usually through regenerative cutting, when the old forest is lumbered above the new forest by more steps in more years' time. Lot of the timber - cc. 85% - is firewood; just the black locust and poplar forests together with the few pine and beech forests give better quality timber. The logging provides the budget for the protective and social welfare work of the Company.

Another fundamental task is game management. Approx. 2000 big games are bagged per year on all of the 3 managed hunting areas, of which size is 22 000 hectares together. The most of the hunter guests are paying-guests. The possibility of small game hunting - pheasant and rabbit - is limited, the yearly bag is about 100.

Important task of the Company is energy production, which is fulfilled by using biomass (waste wood and wood chips), because the Company provides heating and domestic hot water for a military school with a highly environment friendly way.

Nature and environment protection plays a major role among the aims of the Company. The 2 most important processes for the restitution, rehabilitation and protection of natural environment are the two „LIFE+” projects, which are carried out on the parade grounds and shooting ranges of intensely used paramilitary areas near Győr and Táborfalva.

The social welfare work of the Company - that is ecotourism, forest pedagogy, preservation and exhibition of values according to forest culture and history - becomes more and more important, requires increasing tasks and ends in ever more results.



**Fertő-Hanság
Nemzeti Park**

Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate

Homepage: www.ferto-hansag.hu

The Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate is an official body of the Hungarian State for nature conservation with a centre in Sarród called Kőcsagvár. It fulfils the tasks derived from the law and its deed of foundation within its range of action which is mainly the region of Győr-Moson-Sopron county. The Directorate fulfils management tasks in protected areas of state importance (Fertő-Hanság National Park, landscape protection areas, nature protection areas) as a conservation management body appointed by the law.

Apart from the custody of the protected areas (Ranger Service), collection of data about protected natural values (monitoring, research) and registry (TIR - Nature Conservation Information System) the most important task is to maintain or restore the good ecological status of the habitats, primarily on the areas owned by the Hungarian State and in the trusteeship of the Directorate. In these areas extensive farming provides the maintenance of natural habitats while degraded or intensively used habitats are being restored (with the help of partners). Among conservation actions the presentation of natural values and the education of environmentally responsible behaviour already in childhood is extremely important. Our information and education centers are visited by tens of thousands of people each year, registration to the programmes of the nature school is far beyond our capacity. Our experts give a helping hand to partner authorities, NGO-s and individuals not only in questions of conservation, but also in fields of agricultural subsidies and farming matters.

Nature protection in military areas

Programme of 14 May 2014

9:00–10:00	REGISTRATION	
10:00–10:25	Official welcoming – Ministry of Defence of Hungary & Associated Beneficiaries of the Projects	
10:25–12:00	Plenary Session	
10:25–10:40	The new LIFE Programme (2014 – 2020) - András Demeter PhD, European Commission, DG Environment, Directorate B-Natural Capital, Brussels-Belgium	
10:40–10:55	LIFE Programme in Hungary - Éva Sashalmi, Nature Conservation Expert, LIFE National Contact Point, Department of Nature Conservation, Ministry of Rural Development, Hungary	
10:55–11:10	LIFE+ Programme - examples and best practices - Lucie Trokanová, Nature & Biodiversity Expert, LIFE Programme Communications Team, ASTRALE GEIE – AEIDL, Brussels–Belgium	
11:10–11:35	Eastern Bakony LIFE+ Nature project (LIFE07 NAT/H/000321) - Rita Gyovai-Balogh, Deputy Head of Estate Development and Environmental Protection Department, Ministry of Defence of Hungary Defence Economic Office, Hungary	
11:35–12:00	Hungarian Little Plain LIFE+ Nature project (LIFE08 NAT/H/000289) - Gábor Takács, Local Project Coordinator, Lead Expert in Nature Conservation, Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate, Hungary	
12:00–13:30	LUNCH BREAK	
13:30–17:00	Section Nature Conservation	Section Military Aspects
13:30–13:45	Botanical monitoring of the Hungarian Little Plain LIFE+ project - methods, dataset, scientific and practical outputs (LIFE08 NAT/H/000289) - Dr Gergely Botond Király, Forest Engineer, University of West Hungary, Institute of Forest- and Wood Protection, Hungary	LIFE project versus military activities - Major Zoltán Molnár, Health and Safety Officer, Hungarian Defence Force Bakony Combat Training Centre (HDF BCTC), Hungary
13:45–14:00	Zoological monitoring of the Hungarian Little Plain LIFE+ project - methods, dataset, scientific and practical outputs (LIFE08 NAT/H/000289) - Dr Csaba Szinétár, Arachnologist Expert, University of West Hungary, Hungary	The experiences from military aspect of the LIFE program in the Pannonic sand land habitats of the Hungarian Little Plain - Adrienn Török, OF-1 (first lieutenant), Hungarian Defence Forces SAM-WING 12 'Arrabona', Hungary
14:00–14:15	Habitat monitoring in the Eastern-Bakony (LIFE07 NAT/H/000321) - Dr Judit Cservenka, Research Officer, Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate, Hungary	NATO Environmental Protection related to nature in military areas – Cdt Johan Laire, Chairman of EPWG's Environmental Training Specialist Team, Belgium
14:15–14:30	Bat research and monitoring in the Eastern-Bakony Natura 2000 area (LIFE07 NAT/H/000321) - Dávid Kováts, Expert, Vénic Nature Conservation Foundation, Hungary	The nature conservation projects implemented in the military districts of the Slovak Republic – Milota Kustrová, University Lecturer, Armed Forces Academy of General M. R. Stefanik, Slovakia
14:30–14:45	Habitat restoration of a former Soviet military training site in the Hortobágy National Park – Dávid Bogyó, Ecological Rapporteur, Hortobágy National Park Directorate, Hungary	Planning of specific structural installations for training purposes in a Natura 2000 area - Dr Harald Kilias, Policy Advisor, Federal Ministry of Defence, Germany
14:45–15:00	Q&A	Q&A
15:00–15:30	COFFEE BREAK	
15:30–15:45	Restoration and long-term conservation of pannonic sand steppes in the Nyírség region – Csaba Bereczki, Ecological Rapporteur/Biologist, Hortobágy National Park Directorate, Hungary	Manoeuvre Training Capability and NATURA 2000; Management and Sustainability of Open Grasslands at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Ge – Colleen Bergmanis, GTA ITAM Coordinator, US Army
15:45–16:00	Habitat restoration and bird protection in Military Training Area and Natura 2000 site “Adazi” during two successive LIFE Nature projects - Laura Jukame, Project manager, LIFE+, State Centre for Defence Military Objects and Procurement, Latvia	Goal Oriented Management of Red Deer in the Grafenwöhr Training Area, Germany – Ulrich Maushake, Chief of the Federal Forestry Office, Federal Forestry Office Grafenwoehr, Germany
16:00–16:15	The importance of active and former military places for the management of nutrient-poor habitat types in Natura 2000-sites in Germany – Dr Axel Szymank, Head of Unit "Natura 2000/Habitats Directive", Bundesamt für Naturschutz (German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation), Germany	Biodiversity restoration and conservation of remarkable military lands in southeast France – Perrine Paris-Sidibe, Project Manager, CEN Rhône-Alpes, France
16:15–16:30	Nature Values in Finnish Military Areas – Antti Below, Conservation Biologist, Metsähallitus, Finland	Military Energy and Carbon Management LIFE11 ENV/GR/938/MECM – Elena Papazoglou, Department of Infrastructure and Environment/ Environmental Protection & Energy Efficiency Office, Ministry of Defence, Greece
16:30–16:45	Restoration and conservation of the Pannonic salt steppes of Pász-tó grassland with sustainable management – Dóra Rideg and Géza Molnár, Nimfea Environmental and Nature Conservation Association Member of IUCN, CEEWeb for Biodiversity and Friends of the Earth Hungary	Q&A
16:45–17:00	Q&A	
17:00–18:00	Conclusions and closing remarks	
18:30-	DINNER	



Eastern**BAKONY**

**15 May (Thursday) –
Field visit to the Eastern Bakony LIFE+ Project area
(LIFE07 NAT/H/000321) –
Location: Várpalota Military Training Centre**

07:30-08:30	BREAKFAST in the hotel
08:30-12:30	Field visit I.
12:30-13:15	LUNCH on site
13:15-16:40	Field visit II.
16:40	Return to the hotel



Hungarian Little Plain

**16 May (Friday) –
Field visit to the Hungarian Little Plain LIFE+ Project area
(LIFE08 NAT/H/000289) –
Location: Győr-Gyórszentiván Military Training Field**

07:00-08:00	BREAKFAST in the hotel
10:00-14:00	Field visit
14:00	Return to the hotel

Conference speakers



Colonel Ing. József CSEPPENTŐ

Infrastructure Director

Ministry of Defence of Hungary Defence Economic Office

Colonel Ing. József Cseppentő graduated in 1991 at the Kossuth Lajos Military College as a civil engineer and in 2006 he received a degree as a construction engineering inspector. In 2009 he graduated as a Military Logistic Manager MSc at the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University, Bolyai János Engineering Faculty. He began his military career in 1991 at the 36. Gábor Áron Páncéltörő Tüzérdandár of the Hungarian Defence Forces. He has worked for the predecessor organisations of the Defence Economic Office of the Ministry of Defence since 1996 in the infrastructural field in different positions, including maintenance chief officer, deputy head of department and head of department. Proof of his excellent work is that he is currently the leader of this field of expertise and is active as infrastructural director.

As part of his responsibilities he oversees different tasks related to the real estate properties in the portfolio of the Ministry of Defence, including maintenance, management, operation, guarding, renovation and administration of these properties, as well as activities related to economic and legal procedures, housing management and environment protection.

As leader of the environment and nature protection sector of the defence force, he is an active participant of the environment and nature protection activities of the Ministry of Defence, in relation to which, the currently running environmental remediation and protection projects funded from EU funds are important to mention, as he takes an important role in the practical implementation of these as well. Through the defence force nature protection tasks with his day-to-day work he contributes to not only using the numerous nature protection and NATURA 2000 sites in the portfolio of the Ministry of Defence in an environmentally friendly way throughout military practices, but also to the protection of the environment.



András DEMETER PhD

Advisor

European Commission Directorate-General for the Environment
Directorate B – Natural Capital, Brussels-Belgium

András Demeter, PhD, is advisor in the Directorate for Natural Capital, Directorate-General for the Environment, European Commission, where he has been working since 2003 on implementation of the EU nature directives and EU biodiversity policy.

Formerly, he was head of a nature conservation department in the environment ministry in Hungary from 1996 to 2002. During this period he led the nature conservation negotiations for Hungary's accession to the European Union.



Éva SASHALMI

Nature Conservation Expert, LIFE National Contact Point

Natura 2000 Unit, Department of Nature Conservation,
Ministry of Rural Development, Hungary

Ms Sashalmi graduated as an ecologist from the University of Debrecen. Since 2003 she has been working for the Ministry of Rural Development mainly dealing with the coordination of the Nature and Biodiversity strand of the LIFE programme and with the establishment and implementation of Natura 2000 network in Hungary. She is a LIFE national contact point and the member of the LIFE Committee. Concerning Natura 2000 currently she is involved especially in the elaboration of Natura 2000 management plans. Besides she is responsible for the German-Hungarian bilateral cooperation in the field of nature conservation.



Lucie TROKANOVA

Nature & Biodiversity Expert

LIFE Programme Communications Team, ASTRALE GEIE –
AEIDL, Brussels-Belgium

As Nature & Biodiversity expert, Lucie is responsible for the active dissemination of the results of successful LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects to relevant stakeholders in order to ensure their wide distribution and uptake.



Rita GYOVAI-BALOGH

Deputy Head of Estate Development and Environmental Protection Department

Ministry of Defence of Hungary Defence Economic Office,
Hungary

Mrs Gyovai-Balogh graduated as a Chemist (MSc) from the University of Szeged. She has been working for Ministry of Defence of Hungary since 2000. She has achieved significant results in environment and nature protection investments, securing complete environmental protection of military task execution, the national introduction of NATO environment protection regulators and the enforcement of NATURA 2000 directives. She performs ministerial representation in the working groups of the North Atlantic Council, Military Committee, the NATO Standardization Agency Joint Standardization Board, NATO EPWG and EU DEFNET. Providing the necessary professional background for the implementation of currently 5 EEOP remediation and 3 LIFE+ Nature projects is also a field where her work is of crucial importance.



Gábor TAKÁCS

Local Project Coordinator,

Leader Expert in Nature Conservation, Botanist

Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate, Hungary

Mr Takács has been working at the Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate since 1998. Initially, he led the researches of the National Biodiversity Monitoring System, but with passage of time he also did some botanical researches and prepared some conservation areas to be protected. He took part in the preparation of the Natura 2000 network. In the last few years, he participated in the preparation of management plans of the conservation areas and also in the planning and implementation of nature conservation restorations as a leading expert.



Gergely Botond KIRÁLY

Forest Engineer

University of West Hungary, Institute of Forest- and Wood Protection, Hungary

Mr Király lives in a small village, Völcsvej in NW Hungary. He finished MSc studies as forestry engineer at the former University of Forestry and Wood Sciences in Sopron, Hungary in 1996, and completed his PhD at the University of West Hungary in forest and wildlife sciences in 2002. He is an author of numerous geobotanical and floristic studies in Hungary and Central Europe, and editor of the Red List and the newest field flora of vascular plants for Hungary, respectively. In recent works he mainly focuses on botanical and ecological aspects of forestry and nature conservation management.

Botanical monitoring of the Hungarian Little Plain LIFE+ project – methods, dataset, scientific and practical outputs

Based on a preliminary monitoring plan, a habitat map of the project area was prepared in 2012. For each patch ANÉR and Natura 2000 categories, naturalness values and the typical plant species were determined. During the mapping 24 ANÉR habitat types were recorded in the project area 33.5% of the area are covered by forests (including shrublands). Both the proportion (65.5%) and nature conservation significance of grasslands is large, several unique communities and protected species are present. The area is covered on approx. 55-45% by near natural or secondary habitats. Currently 42,8% of the area is covered by Natura 2000 habitats of sand steppes and forests; and further 20-30% can pass into Natura 2000 habitat on the long term as a result of proper management. In the project area 24 protected plant species have ever been recorded, 11 of them as indicator species were assigned for further survey and detailed mapping. The degradation of the natural state of the study area is caused mainly by the spreading of alien invasive species that could establish themselves on one hand due to the disturbance caused by the earlier military use, on the other hand due to the change in land use. The degree of the invasion shows particularly in the case of five species (*Ailanthus altissima*, *Asclepias syriaca*, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Solidago gigantea*).



Csaba SZINETÁR

Arachnologist Expert

University of West Hungary, Institute of Forest- and Wood Protection, Hungary

Mr Szinetár is zoologist and associate professor of the Biological Institute of University of West-Hungary, in Szombathely. His major field of research is faunistical, taxonomical and ecological research of spiders in Hungary. His projects and publications are strongly connected to nature protection. He has been studying the fauna of Hungarian sandy grassland for more than a decade.

Zoological monitoring of the Hungarian Little Plain LIFE+ project - methods, dataset, scientific and practical outputs

Cs. Szinetár, A. Ambrus, R. Dankovics, Z. Kenyeres, L. Kozma, P. Kovács, A. Szabadfalvi and G. Takács

The zoological monitoring group of the project is responsible for the survey of the basic state of the typical sandy grasslands of the Hungarian Little Plain and for monitoring of the restoration activities. Our aim is to create proposals for preserving the zoological values. In 2012 and 2013 the survey of the basic state was executed with taxon specific standardized methods. From the indicator groups 103 spider, 66 beetles, 24 ants, 34 orthopterans; 357 macro-moths, 10 amphibians, 3 reptiles and 33 birds were registered. Almost half of the 630 species found are protected, and many of them are typical habitat specialist. Since the spring of 2014 we have been monitoring the effects of the different types of habitat management – reconstruction of natural landforms, forest and grassland treatments. The removal of invasive species (e.g. *Robinia pseudoacacia*) is obviously in favour of the steppe species, a positive change can already be observed. The decrease in wetland habitats results in the decrease of the biodiversity of the project area and thus the measurements to preserve these wetland habitats should be given a careful consideration. Significant positive changes are expected not sooner than a few years after finishing the project.



Dr Judit CSERVENKA

Research Officer

Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate, Hungary

Ms Cservenka is a Hungarian native, she lives in Veszprém, near to Lake Balaton. She completed her PhD at the University of Sciences in Szeged, Hungary in 2004, in environmental sciences specializing in conservation ecology. She has been working for the Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate (BUNPD) since 2002, mainly deals with research on nature conservation, biodiversity monitoring and conservation management. She has also been involved in climate change related issues related to the biodiversity of habitats. She has been taking part in some EU-founded projects, like LIFE, LIFE+ and she was a project manager in an Interreg IVB project (HABIT-CHANGE) from the side of BUNPD. Beside raising her two children, a 14-year old boy and a 9-year old daughter, she has a long history in long-distance running at national level.

Habitat management and botanical monitoring in the Eastern Bakony

Norbert Bauer – Judit Cservenka

The presentation summarises results of coenological surveys carried out with changeless quadrates method. Within Action C.10 we examine Pannonian pubescent oak forest stands having strong disturbances of games (Hajmáskér: Tobán Hill, Márkó: Márkói-erdő, 20 sites with 400 square metre-sized quadrates). We research regeneration of degraded forest stands in a large experimental area from which the games have been excluded (2012). Action C.2 of the project follows changes in dry grasslands scrubbed in different degrees and described patches of them (Várpálotta: Fajdas Hill, Bakonykúti: Hajagos 70 sites with 4 square metre-sized quadrates). Our study is not a succession-monitoring after one-shot action the changes are examined in the mirror of an intensive habitat-reconstruction programme (e.g. grazing, occasional cutting). In the first years we recorded large density and high species number of therophytes and after that quick regression of them. Rescrubbing of the described patches at different level has started in clearly. Quadrate-groups are characterised by different scrub-species compositions, the current species composition in every case based on species composition of the cut scrub and the regeneration speed of the species. We found that the most important variables in the background of the changes are: 1) meteorological parameters (mainly the rainfall and distribution of that) of the given year; (2) intensity and quality of the land use: 2.1) intensity of the grazing, 2.2) presence of other mechanical treatment against scrubbing.



Dávid KOVÁTS

Expert

Vénic Nature Conservation Foundation, Hungary

Mr Kováts is a Hungarian native, he lives in Budakalász approx. 15 km far from Budapest, close to the Danube and the Pilis Mts. He has passed the PhD final exam and presently, the thesis is before saving in biological sciences at the University of Debrecen. Currently, he coordinates the Dunazug Bat Research Project specializing in bat research activities and on for the Natura 2000 network, respectively. He is a caver and mostly inquire about wintering behavior of bats in vertical caves.

Bat research and monitoring in military areas of the Eastern-Bakony Natura 2000 site

New records of several common and rare bat species are providing from the military area of the Eastern-Bakony Natura 2000 site in the framework of LIFE+ E.4. project. Until recently, comprehensive research has not been initiated here. Thus, the aim of our field work was to investigate and interpret the presence of bats in variant locations (netting sites and bunkers). Bats were mist-netted (monofilament and „hair” nets) at different small water bodies (ponds and sumps) in forested habitats from mid-June to late August in 2013. All individuals were forearm measured with digital calliper and weighed with Pesola spring-balance. The reproduction status of females was identified. After measurements bats were released into the wild.

In total, 149 individuals of 17 species were recorded. The most frequent was *Myotis bechsteinii* (24.2%), *M. alcaethoe* (18.8%), *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (14.8%), followed by *Plecotus auritus* in 8.1% and *Barbastella barbastellus* in 7.4%, respectively. Further, new record of *P. nathusii* as non-typical mountainous species was also discovered.

Consequently, the relatively high proportion of *M. bechsteinii* and *M. alcaethoe* indicates that habitats are in well condition in majority of the study area. However, low presence of *B. barbastellus* highlights that current proportion of the primary importance old-growth forests consist of dead trees should be increased, but further research is needed. In addition, sumps as significant feeding and drinking sites for bats should permanently be refilled if dry.



Dávid BOGYÓ

Ecological Rapporteur

Hortobagy National Park Directorate, Hungary

Mr Dávid Bogyó is a Hungarian native, he lives in Debrecen, Hungary. He graduated as a biologist in 2007. He worked at the University of Debrecen, University of Vienna and started his PhD studentship at the University of Debrecen. Since 2011 he is working for the Hortobágy National Park Directorate (HNPD) in the fields of nature conservation, biodiversity monitoring and conservation management. In his free time he spends as much time in the mountains around Europe as possible practicing rock climbing and mountaneering as well as trail running and hiking.

Habitat restoration of a former Soviet military training site in the Hortobágy National Park

Hortobágy is the largest continuous natural grassland in Europe. The Hortobágy National Park, established in 1973 is the country's largest protected area of 82 000 hectares. Hortobágy has outstanding landscape features and is a unique example of the harmonic coexistence of people and nature. The Hortobágy National Park has been inscribed to the World Heritage List by UNESCO on 1st December 1999. Between 2012 and 2014 the Hortobágy National Park Directorate conducts two large scale habitat restoration projects at former Soviet military training site in the Hortobágy National Park. The former training site is located around Nádudvar, Nagyiván, Kunmadaras and Karcag with more than 7000 hectares. The training ground is used by military aircrafts since the 1940's and was used mainly by the Soviet air forces and by the „Warsaw pact” countries. The regular aerial bombing partially destroyed the natural grasslands and marshes. From 1991 to 2004 the training site was used by the Hungarian army and since 2004 the trustee of the area is the Hortobágy National Park Directorate.



Csaba BERCZKI

Ecological Rapporteur / Biologist

Hortobágy National Park Directorate, Hungary

Mr Berczki graduated as a biologist/ecologist from the University of Debrecen and now has been working for Hortobágy National Park Directorate (HNPD) since 2013. His main duty is to contribute and take part in the governmental nature conservation issues, providing e.g. data of protected species' occurrences for Inspectorates. Besides, he has to take part or elaborate and coordinate nature conservation actions and management projects.

Restoration and long-term conservation of pannonic sand steppes in the Nyírség region

The Hortobágy National Park Directorate is planning to propose a LIFE+ Nature project in 2014 with the Ministry of Defence and HDF 5th 'István Bocskai' Infantry Brigade as co-beneficiaries. The project aims the restoration and long-term maintenance of the natural habitat of Community interest, pannonic sand steppes (6260*), and the conservation and protection of the plant species of Community importance, hungarian pasque flower (*Pulsatilla flavescens/Pulsatilla pratensis* subsp. *hungarica*). The nature conservation problems of the species and the habitat are mainly common, thus the treatments and solutions should be implemented together. The following treatments could be implemented during the projects: chemical and mechanical extermination of invasive plant species; disposal of non-used military and civil constructions and edifices (dikes, banquettes, roads, buildings, concrete blocks); grazing, mowing and grass restoration.



Laura JUKAME

Project Manager, LIFE+

State Centre for Defence Military Objects and Procurement, Latvia

Laura Jukame is an ornithologist working for State Centre for Defence Military Objects and Procurement as manager of LIFE+ Nature project “Improving of the conservation status of specially protected bird species in *Natura 2000* site „Adazi” that was started on the 1st of November 2013. She has studied biology in Faculty of Biology in University of Latvia and received her master degree in 2007. Before this project she has been working mostly with project related matters in various nature protection institutions in Latvia.

Habitat restoration and bird protection in Military Training Area and Natura 2000 site “Adazi” during two successive LIFE Nature projects

Presentation gives introduction to Military Training Area and Natura 2000 site “Adazi”. The area has been used for military training purposes for almost 100 years. Rich and outstanding compositions of nature values have been concentrating in the area due to constant disturbances and lack of traditional agriculture and forestry. The area holds largest open heath territories in the Baltic region. At the same time the area also has raised bog habitats, Western taiga and wet forests along riverbanks. Natura 2000 site “Adazi” also holds status of Important Bird Area. Many rare bird, insect, amphibian and other species are living in the area.

Area is threatened by overgrowing because of reduction of intensity of military training. Therefore, habitat management activities are necessary as well as integrated planning directing military training activities to locations where nature values would benefit from it. LIFE Nature ADAZI was carried out from 2006 to 2009 and large areas of heath and other habitats were restored. Now another grant has been received from LIFE+ Nature Programme and nature protection activities, mainly protection of rare bird species in the area, are being carried out from 2013 to 2017. Project LIFE Birds in Adazi is targeting species like *Coracias garrulus* European Roller, *Anthus campestris* Tawny Pipit, Tetrao tetrix Black Grouse, *Lullula arborea* Woodlark and other rare bird species. Presentation gives overview of both projects, completed and planned activities, successes and conclusions and interesting examples.



Dr Axel SSYMANK

Head of Unit “Natura 2000 / Habitats Directive”

Bundesamt für Naturschutz (German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation), Germany

Dr Ssymank studied Geobotany/Vegetation Science at Freiburg University in southern Germany. He is currently the head of the department “Habitats Directive/ Natura 2000” in the BfN (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation). He conducted several research projects, including ATBI and is a German expert of the Red Data books for Habitats in Germany. He is responsible at national level for the national technical and scientific implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives in Germany including the national reporting and negotiation at EU level in Brussels. He has international experience as expert in EU-twinning projects on the Natura 2000 implementation.

The importance of active and former military training areas for the management of nutrient-poor habitat types in Natura 2000-sites in Germany considering the results of the Art. 17 national report

The German Natura 2000 network includes in total 5.266% sites, covering 15,4% of the terrestrial area and 45% of the marine areas in the North Sea and Baltic Sea. Under the Habitats Directive are listed 4.617 sites with 9,3% terrestrial cover. 187 SCI's are completely or partly in active or former military training areas (as of 2012). Germany has to protect 92 Annex I-habitat types and 137 Annex II-species in its sites. Especially some of the nutrient-poor open habitats such as Calluna-heath (4030) and inland sand dunes (habitats 2310, 2330) have their largest and/or best occurrences on active or former military training areas. This is also true for a number of species both of the Habitats and the Birds Directive. The wolf (*Canis lupus*) for example started to recolonize eastern Germany mainly from military training areas and mining territories. Former military training areas often quickly lose their high nature conservation value for these open habitats due to succession but also changes in military use have led to management concern there. Management of open habitats is often difficult to arrange depending on contamination with explosives and military use, different management practices such as special mowing practices, grazing regimes or fire management were tested in a number of projects. Besides management also reporting under Art. 17 has to be done and agreements/contracts have been signed between Länder-governments and military services how to fulfil the Natura 2000-obligations. Also on other military areas not under German Defense authorities such as US forces, regulations and standard procedures for Natura 2000 management are applied. The presentation will give an overview on the importance of military training areas for Natura 2000 and give examples of management and reporting, highlighting the specific needs based on actual assessments of their conservation status in the 2013 national report according to Art. 17 Habitats Directive.



Dóra RIDEG

Program Manager

Nimfea Environment and Nature Conservation Association,
Hungary

Ms Rideg graduated from the University of Debrecen in 2011. She has a university degree in nature conservation. She works at the Nimfea Environmental and Nature Conservation Association as a program manager.



Géza MOLNÁR

Program Manager

Nimfea Environment and Nature Conservation Association,
Hungary

Mr Molnár graduated from the University of Debrecen as a geographer in 2007. He works at the Nimfea Environmental and Nature Conservation Association as a program manager. He is interested in environmental education, GIS, environmental guidance.

Restoration and conservation of the Pannonic salt steppes of Pásztó grassland with sustainable management (LIFE10 NAT/HU/000018)

The project will target priority habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, namely, Pannonic salt steppes and salt marshes. The salinity of the target area is increasing due to a drainage system. As water away is removed from the surface, water from deeper layers also evaporates. These habitat types are partly of natural origin and partly created by cattle grazing. The area is an important stepping stone between Hortobágy and the Kőrös-Maros region and is home to some rare and protected species. Invasive species, however, are also present and must be eliminated. The area is locally protected and has been identified as an SAC. Activities focused on grazing, mowing, repatriation of the European ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*), installation of nest boxes etc.

The main aim of the project is the restoration and protection of the saline Pannonian steppe *1530 of Pasztoi-legelo Natura 2000 site, focusing on the following plant species: yellow-star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), thistle (*Cirsium brachycephalum*), and grass vetching (*Lathyrus nissolia*), as well as the large copper butterfly (*Lycaena dispar*). The project also aims to establish a traditional and sustainable extensive grassland management system, a water management system, and to increase public awareness of the role of traditional landscape management in the conservation of biodiversity.



Major Zoltán MOLNÁR

Health and Safety Officer

Hungarian Defence Force Bakony Combat Training Centre
(HDF BCTC),

Hungarian Armed Forces, Hungary

He was born in 1975, in Budapest. He graduated as a mechanical engineer in 1998 from the Szolnok Military Air Force College. From 1998 to 2004 he served as a helicopter maintenance engineer at the HDF 87th Bakony Combat Helicopter Regiment. Between 2002 and 2006 he gained the degree in environmental engineering. Since 2004 he has been the environmental officer of the HDF Bakony Combat Training Centre. Since 2007 he has been leading the department of the unit that is responsible for the work safety, fire protection and environmental protection.

LIFE project versus military activities

The military area at the Bakony-hills is the largest shooting range in Eastern Europe. The Hungarian and foreign units use this actively. The conversation interests are significantly different from the military ones. The presentation deals with the coordination and difficulties between tasks of the LIFE project and military usage from the military site.

Hungarian Defence Force Bakony Combat Training Centre (HDF BCTC):

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Adrienn TÖRÖK

Environmental Officer, OF-1 (first lieutenant)

Hungarian Defence Forces SAM WING 12 'Arrabona',
Hungarian Armed Forces, Hungary

Ms Török graduated from the Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University on the faculty of Logistics of Military Operations and Disaster Defence. When her unit was reorganised from brigade level to regiment one in 2007, she was promoted and trained to serve as an environmental officer. Her tasks are to cooperate with National Parks in NATURA 2000 and LIFE+ programs and organise the regiment's environmental trainings.

The experiences from military aspect of the LIFE program in the Pannonic sand land habitats of the Hungarian Little Plain

The SAM WING 12 'Arrabona' has a special military area which is located on the Hungarian Little Plain and has a lot of environmental values. Our task has been to synchronize the military and environmental interests. The presentation shows how the cooperation between two parties was and represents the executed works on the project area.

Hungarian Defence Forces SAM WING 12 'Arrabona'

SAM WING 12 'Arrabona' is the only ground based air defence unit of today's Hungarian Defence Forces. The primary mission of the WING is to provide air defence coverage for the designated military facilities, vital industrial installations and power stations of outstanding importance as well as for specified formations of manoeuvring land forces. In 2005 the Unit integrated all the weapon systems in its organisation (SA-6, MISTRAL and SA-16) into a Task Force configuration and conducted live firing in Poland- which was evaluated in accordance with the NATO Tactical Evaluation program.



Milota KUSTROVÁ

University Lecturer

Armed Forces Academy of General M. R. Stefanik, Slovakia

Eng. Kustrová Milota, PhD. was born on August 31, 1965 in Liptovský Mikuláš. She graduated at the Faculty of Chemical Technology Slovak Technical University in Bratislava and doctoral studies in the field of Food and Environmental Hygiene at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Košice. Currently she works as an assistant professor at the Armed Forces Academy gen. M. R. Stefanik in Liptovský Mikuláš, Department of Management. The main areas of investigation are selected aspects of military logistics, environmental economics and environmental safety. She is the author and co-author of several monographs, textbooks and many articles published worldwide.

The nature conservation projects implemented in the military districts of the Slovak Republic

The presentation deals with nature conservation in military districts in the Slovak Republic. The first part describes the military districts in Slovakia both in terms of their military use, as well as nature conservation. The second section presents nature conservation projects that have been implemented in the military districts of the Slovak Republic. Attention is focused mainly on military training area Záhorie, which is included in the list of protected sites of European importance of Natura 2000. There are priority habitats of European importance - Continental Pannonian sand dunes and heaths, which are characterized by the occurrence of several critically endangered plant and animal species. This is also the location where the “Restoration and management of Sand Dunes Habitats and Revitalization Záhorská lowland wetlands” project was carried out.



Colleen BERGMANIS
GTA ITAM Coordinator
US Army

Ms Bergmanis is a California native, she moved to sunny Hawaii to complete her education and received her Master's of Science degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in Natural Resources and Environmental Management, specializing in soils. Now in Bavaria, Germany, she enjoys the incredibly varied climate and beautiful natural environment, rollerblading and cycling in the summer and in the winter, building snowmen and learning to snowboard and ski with her son.

Incorporating EU Natura 2000 high value biotope grasslands into sustainment strategies at military training areas; best management practices and lessons learned from Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr, Germany

Since the 1970's, management of US Army training areas in Europe has evolved as a tandem effort between the German Bundesanstalt für Immobilienaufgaben and the United States Department of Defense. Together training land is sustained to support several concurrent missions. In December 2011, 63% of the total US Army training area footprint in Europe was placed within the Natura 2000 network. This combined with changes in doctrinal military training requirements demand that land managers identify new cost-efficient sustainment strategies to ensure continued mission success; this presentation to discuss these challenges.



Perrine PARIS-SIDIBE

Project Manager

CEN Rhône-Alpes, France

She is an engineer, but she has always worked on water and environment projects (consultant, head of office). At present, she has managed the Life « defense nature 2 mil » project in the CEN Rhône-Alpes, an ONG of biodiversity protection, for one year and half. One part of the job is to realize concretely the European protected habitats restoration on Chambaran Camp with the 7th Battalion of Alpine Hunters (7thBCA). The difficulties are that intensive training is going on this camp. And the other part of the job is to manage transversal actions (communication, educational program) and coordinate technical, financial and administrative management of the project with 5 partners.

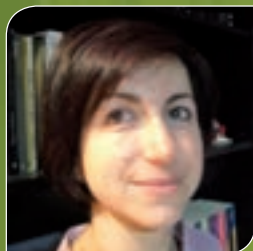
Biodiversity restoration and conservation of remarkable military lands in southeast France

Military sites preserved from urbanization and agriculture since the beginning of last century are reservoirs of biodiversity. Of the 250 000 ha of Ministry of Defence property, 42 000 ha are included in the European network Natura 2000 site.

“Life defense nature 2 mil” is the first French project to work on biodiversity military sites.

The aim is to better combine military activities (military drill, fire...) and biodiversity management. Different actions are experimented on four sites located in southeast France: restoration of protected habitat near a shooting range in the camp de Chambaran, restoration of pasture on a training area in the Camp des Garrigues, transmission of the management from the Ministry of Defence to the biodiversity manager in the Mont-Caume and restoration of a nesting site localised on a sea wall in the naval base Aspretto.

The project initiates and guarantees a durable management of these particulate sites. But it also deploys new methods and know-how at a national level.



Elena PAPAZOGLOU

*Department of Infrastructure and Environment/ Environmental Protection & Energy Efficiency Office
Ministry of Defence, Greece*

Ms Elena Papazoglou is a Captain of the Hellenic Air Force Academy. After graduating the Engineering Department of the Airforce Academy as a civil engineer, worked for 9 years on public works, procurements and supervising. Due to transfer, the last couple of years her object of work has been environmental protection and energy efficiency. Moreover, she is a diver specialized on the maintenance of underwater infrastructure. She always enjoys a good book, hanging out with friends and, of course, recreational diving. She resides in Athens with her husband John and their dog Danny.

Military Energy and Carbon Management, LIFE11 ENV/GR/938/MECM

The Greek Ministry of Defence is one of the largest public bodies in Greece. Its military installations are major consumers of energy and, therefore, offer great potential for energy saving, which could lead to a significant reduction in Greece's greenhouse gas emissions. Although military installations and the organizations under the jurisdiction of the MoD generally perform their activities in accordance with the principles set out in the defence ministry's environmental policy, there has not been a specific and recognisable framework for integrating energy efficiency into their management practices. Therefore, there is a need for a single, harmonized standard across the MoD, with a logical and consistent methodology for identifying energy saving opportunities and implementing energy efficiency improvements.

In line with national goals for reducing energy consumptions and GHG emissions, the MECM project implements an Energy management System (EnMS) in three main military facilities: the naval station at Souda Bay, The Larissa airbase and the Triantafilidi army camp in Xanthi.

The objectives of the proposed project are:

1. To improve the environmental and energy performance of the Greek Military services and installations through the development and monitoring of an Energy Management System.
2. To promote energy management best practices and reinforce good energy management behavior within the Greek Defence ministry.
3. To offer guidance on measuring, benchmarking, documenting and reporting energy intensity improvements and their projected impact on GHG emissions reductions.
4. To provide a framework for promoting energy efficiency throughout the MoD supply chain.
5. To contribute to the promotion of sustainable development principles within the military, and help facilities to evaluate and prioritize the implementation of new energy efficient technologies.
6. To explore ways to improve the energy and environmental performance of Military Services.
7. To demonstrate the potential contribution of Military Services to green business and sustainable development within Greece and abroad (other EU armed services, public bodies in general, citizens that live near the three facilities and NGOs).

Various actions will result in pragmatic, well-considered steps to apply EU climate change and RE policy in the Greek Military Services. For the Greek Military premises: maximising energy conservation, promotion of energy saving and rational use of energy, minimisation of direct and indirect environmental impacts (raising form services provided and of its everyday activities).

Notes

Notes





LIFE+ programme (2014-2020)

A LIFE+ (L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement) programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental policy and legislation by co-financing pilot or demonstration projects with European added value.

The LIFE programme will contribute to sustainable development and to the achievement of the objectives and targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the 7th Union Environmental Action Programme and other relevant EU environment and climate strategies and plans.

The 'Environment' strand of the new programme covers three priority areas: environment and resource efficiency; nature and biodiversity; and environmental governance and information. The 'Climate Action' strand covers climate change mitigation; climate change adaptation; and climate governance and information.

The programme also consists of a new category of projects, jointly funded integrated projects, which will operate on a large territorial scale. These projects will aim to implement environmental and climate policy and to better integrate such policy aims into other policy areas.

The new regulation also establishes eligibility and the criteria for awards as well as a basis for selecting projects. The programme is open to the participation of third countries and provides for activities outside the EU. It also provides a framework for cooperation with international organisations.



Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is the centrepiece of EU nature & biodiversity policy. It is an EU wide network of nature protection areas established under the 1992 Habitats Directive. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. It is comprised of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by Member States under the Habitats Directive, and also incorporates Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which they designate under the 1979 Birds Directive. Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves where all human activities are excluded. Whereas the network will certainly include nature reserves most of the land is likely to continue to be privately owned and the emphasis will be on ensuring that future management is sustainable, both ecologically and economically. The establishment of the network of protected areas also fulfils a Community obligation under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

Natura 2000 applies to Birds Sites and to Habitats Sites, which are divided into biogeographical regions. It also applies to the marine environment. 21% of Hungary belongs to the Natura 2000 network.



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www.keletbakony.hu



www.kisalfoldlife.hu

With the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community.