



LIFE 13 NAT/CY/000176



Improvement of lowland forest habitats for birds in Cyprus



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The project "Improvement of lowland forest habitats for birds in Cyprus" is implemented under the LIFE+ programme of the European Union (EU). The LIFE programme is among the most important funding tools of the EU for biodiversity conservation, Natura 2000 network protection and environmental conservation in general.

General Project Information

- Partners: Department of Forests (coordinating beneficiary), Game & Fauna Service, FREDERICK University and Cyprus Forest Association.
- Start date: 1st October 2014, Completion date: 31st December 2017.
- Project budget: 978.717 , (50% EU – 50% national funds).

Project goals:

- Implementation of management measures aiming at the substantial improvement of habitat conditions (food, water, refuges) for 11 targeted bird species of the EU Birds Directive in 3 Natura 2000 sites (Special Protection Areas - SPAs). The aim is to increase by 10 % the number of nesting pairs of birds in the 3 project sites.
- Contribution towards alleviating the problem of illegal bird trapping, carried out mainly with mist nets and limesticks, through public awareness measures and law enforcement actions, aiming at a 30% reduction of trapping in-



Common kingfisher



Eurasian stone-curlew

cidents in the 3 sites.

- Demonstration to Cypriot foresters and staff of other competent authorities, the advantages of adopting a holistic management approach in forest management fostering, among others, bird needs.



European nightjar

The project sites

- The project sites
- Kavο Gkreko (CY3000005)
- Koshi – Pallourokampos (CY6000009) and
- Stavrovouni – Potamos Stazousas (CY6000007).



Red-backed shrike



Lesser grey shrike

The main actions – measures

- Finalisation of locations and technical details of conservation measures to be implemented
- Elaboration of a Management Plan for the Koshi Natura 2000 site
- Assessment of population levels and estimation of favorable reference values for targeted bird species
- Creation of 5 traditional orchards which they were common in forest in the past, but they gradually vanished owing to farming intensification and water scarcity. These small farm lands were a heaven for avifauna offering food, water, cover and nesting sites for birds and other wildlife. The orchards will comprise fruit trees, dry stonewalls, a small pond, sown areas, water points, feeding points and a water tank.
- Improvement of food, water and nesting conditions across the 3 sites through management measures including cereal – legume seeding, dry stone walls, artificial nests, water



Pallid harrier



European roller



Cretzschmar's bunting



Cyprus Warbler



Masked shrike



Cyprus wheatear

points, guzzlers collecting and storing rain water, weir of 1300 tons at Abdellero village, removal of alien/invasive woody species and restoration of natural habitat types.

- Setting up and operation of a Consultation Committee for supporting the awareness campaign and combating bird crime – trapping in the project sites.
- Limiting vehicular access at selected forest roads and installation of cameras to monitor possible trapping activities.
- Acquisition of services of a communication expert - consultant.
- Installation of 25 information/warning signs.
- Intensification of patrols by Game & Fauna Service



for combating bird crime.

- Awareness TV spots.
- More than 10 information / awareness actions and dissemination of project results: birdwatching competitions among school children, lectures in schools, articles in local press, training of officers, leaflets, posters, participation in local exhibitions, a documentary on the 3 sites, website operation, information kiosks, final info day etc.
- Networking with other LIFE and non-LIFE projects, operation of a project management team, project scientific committee, preparation of a layman's report for the project, monitoring of the impact of project actions etc.





Red-backed shrike trapped on limestick



Bee-eater trapped in mist net



The Natura 2000 network is an EUwide network of nature protection areas for plant species, fauna species and habitats.

The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats



The project is co-funded by EU and it is implemented within the framework of the LIFE programme.

The LIFE programme is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout the EU.

More information:

www.lifeforbirds.eu & www.facebook.com/groups/lifeforbirds

Project partners:



Photos by: Birdlife Cyprus, Game & Fauna Service, Christodoulos Makris, Haris Nicolaou, Konstantinos Dimitrakopoulos