



## Project Partners



**Deliverable:** Report on the 1<sup>st</sup> visit of networking with LIFE projects

**ACTION F.3:** *Networking with other LIFE and/or non-LIFE projects*

Frederick University

May 2016, Nicosia

### *Networking between the LIFE projects LIFE-FORBIRDS and ForOpenForests.*

This is the report from the visit of the project LIFE-FORBIRDS (LIFE13 NAT/CY/000176) to the ForOpenForests project (LIFE11 NAT/GR/1014), between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2016. The visit brought together the project's members with scientists and authority representatives involved in a LIFE project in Greece.

The project lasted for 63 months (01-09-2012 to 30-11-2017) and was implemented in two mountainous Natura 2000 sites of Central Greece, in the Region of Sterea Ellada: "ETHNIKOS DRYMOS OITIS" (GR2440004) and "OROS KALLIDROMO" (GR2440006). The project aims to implement management in forests and forest openings for the conservation of biodiversity at species, habitat and landscape level. The project's objective is to achieve by setting specific goals for maintaining forest openings in order to conserve the mountain grasslands and temporary ponds, as well as restore the targeted habitats and the habitat for targeted plant species, including *ex situ* conservation of the target habitats and plant species. Besides, the project aimed towards population enhancement, expansion of the area of occurrence and protection of the five Annex I bird species and the population of the Brown Bear.

The LIFE-FORBIRDS team visiting the LIFE project abroad consisted of: Mr. Haris Nicolaou (Department of Forests - Coordinating Beneficiary), Mr. Constantinos Perikleous (Cyprus Forest Association), Mr. Petros Anagiotos (Game & Fauna Services) and Mr. Nicolas Eliades (Frederick University).

#### **Day 1: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

During the first day the LIFE-FORBIRDS project team was hosted at the office of the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature, which is the coordinating beneficiary of the ForOpenForest project. This first meeting, which was attended by 10 individuals, (see Annex A) focused on presenting the objectives and activities of both projects. Further, the participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas on the project's implementation, as well as to exchange experience and scientific knowledge on topics of common interest. More specifically, from the ForOpenForests project the Scientific Coordinator (Prof. Kyriakos Georgiou) presented the project ForOpenForest, while Mr. Miltos Gletsos presented the project's actions that are relative to the management of fauna species within the targeted Natura 2000 sites in Greece. From the LIFE-FORBIRDS Mr. Nicolas Eliades and Mr. Haris Nicolaou presented their project's

objectives and implementation status, while Mr. Petros Anagiotos presented the relative Cyprus Law for management and protection of birds and fauna species.

After the presentations the participants spent time discussing the conservation measures already implemented or to be implemented through both projects, while Mr. George Lyritzis (Institute for Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems) presented the activities that focus on grazing capacity and grazing management within the targeted Natura 2000 sites, as well as the activities for the woody vegetation clearing for the restoration of mountain grasslands (6210\*, 6230\*).



**Figure 1:** Networking meeting during the 1<sup>st</sup> day, at the office of the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (project's Beneficiary Coordinator).



The first day concluded with the travel of the research teams of both projects to the project areas at Ethnikos Drymos Oiti. On its way to Oiti area, the LIFE-FORBIRDS team visited the Oros Kallidromo, where the team of ForOpenForest works in the field. There, the latter team demonstrated the methodology of how to determinate the vegetation structure of flora and fauna composition and phenology in the Mediterranean temporary ponds (3170\*), together with some

of the activities on grazing management for the restoration of temporary ponds (3170\*) and mountain grasslands (6210\*, 6230\*).



**Figure 2: Mediterranean temporary ponds (3170\*) on Mt Kallidromo.**

## **Day 2: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The second day included visits to Ethnikos Drymos Oiti (GR2440004) where the actions on population status for five Annex I Greek resident mountain birds' species are being implemented. The first stop was at the office of the Management Body of Mt. Oiti National Park (<http://www.oiti.gr/?q=en>) where its scientific staff members presented the aim and goals of the Management Body and its efforts on the sustainable management of Mt. Oiti nature (participants on the second day - see Annex B). In addition, Mr. Lazaros Georgiadis (Coordinator of Brown Bear actions from Arcturos organization) met with the team from LIFE-FORBIRDS and briefly presented the study and methodology for verifying the presence of the Brown Bear (\**Ursus arctos*), and for evaluating its population status in Mt. Oiti, as well as the activities that the project has adopted in order to expand the area of the Bear's occurrence and to minimize



conflicts and confrontations with local stockbreeders and beekeepers. As presented by Arcturos, the priority conservation actions for *\*Ursus arctos* have been achieved by the application of new forestry practices aiming towards preservation of protected corridors for the species, by the conservation and enrichment of food resources (native fruit trees), by an extensive educational campaign aimed at local stakeholders (mainly stockbreeders and beekeepers, but also loggers and hunters) to increase awareness and knowledge on the value of bears, and by providing, free of charge, electrified fencing for apiaries and Hellenic Livestock Guarding Dogs to stockbreeders.



**Figure 3: Meeting of project's representatives with the Management Body of Mt Oiti National Park.**

The second stop was at the Mt Oiti where the ForOpenForest project implemented numerous conservation actions focusing on fauna and birds, flora and habitats. The team of LIFE-FORBIRDS witnessed the implementation of different conservation activities in the field, aimed towards increasing population size and expanding the area of occurrence for the targeted bird species (*Alectoris graeca*, *Dryocopus martius*, *Dendrocopos leucotos*, *Picus canus* and *Aegolius funerus*) that are included in the ForOpenForests project. This was achieved directly by the installation of artificial nests for the woodpeckers and the owl and indirectly by the application of new forestry practices aiming towards preservation of nesting, feeding sites and food resources, as well as by the management of mountain grasslands and of selected rocky sites for *Alectoris graeca*. In addition, the team of LIFE-FORBIRDS had the opportunity to visit locations where conservation interventions for the conservation and enrichment of food resources (planting of 100 fruit trees) for Brown Bear were carried out. Furthermore, the team of LIFE-FORBIRDS in Mt. Oiti witnessed the actions focusing on the enhancement of the population of *\*Veronica oetaea*

(local endemic plant species of Mt. Oiti) and woody vegetation clearing for the restoration of temporary ponds (3170\*) and mountain grasslands (6210\*, 6230\*).



**Figure 4: Outcomes from the woody vegetation clearing using fire burning in order to restore the mountain grasslands (6210\*, 6230\*).**



**Figure 5: Installed artificial nests for woodpeckers and owls in the field.**

**Figure 6: Upon completion of the networking meeting.**







## Έργο LIFE+ "ForOpenForests" LIFE11 NAT/GR/1014

Θέμα: Δικτύωση με το έργο LIFE13 NAT/CY/000176 LIFEforBirds (1<sup>η</sup> Ημέρα)

Αθήνα, 16.05.2016, ώρα 10:00'

A/A	ΟΝΟΜΑΤΕΠΩΝΥΜΟ	ΙΔΙΟΤΗΤΑ	ΦΟΡΕΑΣ	ΤΗΛ	E-MAIL	ΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΗ
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## Έργο LIFE+ "ForOpenForests" LIFE11 NAT/GR/1014

Θέμα: Διεύθυνση με το έργο LIFE13 NAT/CY/000176 LIFEforBirds (2<sup>η</sup> Ημέρα)

Εν. Δρ. Ν. Δ. Ο. Ι. Τ. Η. Σ.

Αθήνα, 17.05.2016, ώρα 10:00'

A/A	ΟΝΟΜΑΤΕΠΩΝΥΜΟ	ΙΔΙΟΤΗΤΑ	ΦΟΡΕΑΣ	ΤΗΛ	E-MAIL	ΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΗ
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