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**Integrated conservation management of priority habitat type 9590\* in the  
Natura 2000 site “Koilada Kedron-Kamos”**

**(LIFE15 NAT/CY/000850)**

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DELIVERABLE:

MINUTES OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

(ACTION F.1.2)

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MAY 2019  
NICOSIA

BENEFICIARIES:



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<b>ACTION F.1: Project Management</b> <b>DELIVERABLE F.1.2: Scientific Committee</b>
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## **A. Introduction**

The project “Integrated conservation management of priority habitat type 9590\* in the Natura 2000 site Koilada Kedron-Kampos” (LIFE-KEDROS; LIFE15 NAT/CY/000850), which is implemented within the framework of the LIFE program of the European Union, organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Committee (SC) meeting, on the 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2019. The SC meeting is one of the commitments of the project and part of *Action F.1 - Project Management*.

The purpose of the SC meeting was:

1. The evaluation of the scientific quality of the deliverables that have already been completed.
2. The review of the Conservation Monitoring Protocol (Action D.1).
3. The review of the Project Monitoring Protocol (Action F.2).

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> SC meeting, the relevant agenda was prepared and disseminated to all participants (Annex I).

Participants included the following (Annex II):

### Members of the SC present:

1. Dr. Andreas Christou, Project Coordinator & Scientific Coordinator (Department of Forests - Chair)
2. Dr. Nicolas-George Eliades, Project Manager (Frederick University)
3. Dr. Constantinos Kounnamas (Representative of Frederick University)
4. Mr. Constantinos Pericleous (Representative of Cyprus Forest Association)
5. Dr. Thomas Boivin (External expert on Insects)
6. Dr. Elias Milios (External expert on Silviculture)

### Consortium Members present:

7. Mr. Kostas Papageorgiou (Department of Forests)
8. Mr. Constantinos Nikolaou (Department of Forests)
9. Mrs. Areti Christodoulou (Department of Forests)
10. Mr. Soteris Soteriou (Department of Forests)
11. Mrs. Iro Kouzali (Frederick University)
12. Mr. Constantinos Constantinou (Frederick University)

*Dr. Gavriil Xanthopoulos (External expert on Forest Fires), member of SC, did not participate in the third meeting due to last-minute cancellation for personal reasons. However, he will be informed about the meeting's progress and at the same time it will be considered whether to arrange a visit for him to the Project area at a later stage.*

## **B. Meeting of the SC**

### First day of SC meeting (Office meeting)

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2019, the SC meeting took place at the premises of the Department of Forests (DF) where all SC members were present and had the opportunity to be informed on the theoretical and technical progress of the project.

### **A. Presentation of the project's progress (particularly Actions A and C)**

#### Welcome and Presentation of the LIFE-KEDROS project activities from its beginning until now (09/2016 – 05/2019)

Dr Andreas Christou [Project Coordinator and Scientific Coordinator, DF] welcomed the members of the SC and gave a presentation about the project's progress. Dr Christou explained that all preparatory actions are completed and presented their deliverables, which were significant for the implementation of the concrete conservation actions. He presented in detail the progress of the running concrete conservation actions and, at the same time he demonstrated, using tables, the "Foreseen end date" and the "Actual end date" for each of the project's actions and deliverables. In addition, he presented the milestones and the goal of each action and how these have been implemented. During his presentation he asked the external experts as well as the representatives of DF who were involved in each Action C to contribute to the discussion and provide the know-how regarding each action's implementation and results.

In continuation, Dr Eliades [Project Manager, FU], presented Actions E – F and the way in which these actions have been carried out until now. He presented in detail the Actions D and F, as well as the two monitoring protocols, namely the *Conservation Monitoring Protocol* and the *Project Monitoring Protocol*. Finally, Dr Eliades gave details on the deliverables of Actions E.

After the completion of the presentation, the members of SC discussed on the project's implementation as follows:

- Action C.1: Silvicultural interventions in Cedrus stands

Dr. Milios highlighted that the outcome of the deliverables from the preparatory actions (Action A.1) was significant towards a deeper scientific understanding of *Cedrus brevifolia*'s ability to compete other species such as *Pinus brutia* and *Quercus alnifolia*. The marking guides which were specifically elaborated for habitat 9590\* are the tool for the implementation of silvicultural interventions in both *Cedrus brevifolia* stands plantation and natural stands.

The Project Management Team presented the results from the silvicultural intervention in the following plantations: Exo Milos, Nouros, Livadi, as well as in specific spots within natural stands. The silvicultural intervention will continue during the last three months of 2019, but with lower intensity, most likely focusing on the pruning of *Q. alnifolia* branches that cover **young cedar trees**, in order to allow them to grow above the shrub layer in natural stands.

- Action C.2: Restoration and expansion of the habitat type \*9590

The establishing of plantlets was completed and their watering during the summer season needs to be ensured. More about the measures implemented and their results was discussed during the second day of the SC in the field since the experts visited the areas where restoration and expansion took place (see #Second day of meeting – Field visits).

- Action C.4: Measures for improving the resilience of habitat type 9590\*

Dr Boivin explained that there exists no prior knowledge regarding insect fauna in cedar stands and the current project is significant in order to collect as much data as possible for the initiation of the implementation of measures for the control of *Megastigmus schimitscheki* (seed wasp) and *Orthotomicus erosus* (wood beetle).

In the case of *C. brevifolia*, seed infestation rates are low (17 – 18 %) and consequently the species is a moderate danger for the forest, contrary to the case of *Cedrus atlantica* in France, where the specific insect destroys 90% of the cedars' seed production. This fact could support that in Cyprus, the population of seed wasps might be controlled by natural enemies like other insects, or [could be explained by that?] that the life cycle of *C. brevifolia* whose cone production is not the same every year. Thus, Dr Boivin pointed out that the experimental use of yellow sticky insect traps which were established in natural stands of *C. brevifolia* at the beginning of winter should be repeated in the summer as well. The reason of the use of these traps is to collect specimens and provide information about the biodiversity of insect fauna, as well as to show evidence if there is/are species that might be natural enemy/ enemies for seed wasps.

Mr. Konstantinos Nikolaou added some information regarding the wood beetle (*O. erosus*) saying that from their observations and the specimens collected from the slit traps with pheromones, it is obvious that there is an increased presence of the insect in mixed stands of *P. brutia* + *C. brevifolia* (vegetation type C) and in reforestations (vegetation type D). Thus, in these stands, DF changed the initial position of the traps without any change in their total number, in order to continue mass trapping with particular interest in these two vegetation types. For better results, the experts agreed that these measures must be repeated for several years.

- Action D.1: Evaluation of Conservation Monitoring Protocol

The PM confirmed that he will forward the CMP to all SC members by email and allow them some time (until 10th June 2019) for comments and suggestions. During the visit in the field and the discussion about the implemented measures for the restoration and expansion of the habitat (Action

C.2) and their outcomes, the experts supported that the indicators included in CMP regarding sowing and planting are in line with what is usually followed and scientifically accepted for monitoring of such conservation actions.

- Action E.2: Technical dissemination

The PM informed the SC members about the dissemination activities of the project and especially about those that have already been carried out, as well as about the project's networking with other similar projects from Cyprus and abroad. Dr. Eliades will send to the members of the SC the *Table of Contents* of the "Technical guide for the sustainable management and the long-term conservation of narrow endemic habitat type in a limited area of occupancy: The case of the 9590\* habitat type", which is a deliverable of *Action E.2.2*.



Figure 1: Photographs taken during the first day of the SC meeting.

- Action F.2: Evaluation of Project Monitoring Protocol

The PM reminded the SC about the evaluation of the project's progress using the Project Monitoring Protocol (PMP) which is a deliverable of *Action F.2 - Project Monitoring and Compilation of information*. The PM confirmed that he will forward the CMP to all SC members by email and allow them some time (until 10th June 2019) for comments and suggestions.

Second day of SC meeting – Field visits

On the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019, the members of the SC visited the Natura 2000 sites: "Koilada Kedron-Kamos" (CY2000008) in order to be informed about the progress of the LIFE-KEDROS project. More specifically, the SC saw how the concrete conservation actions are being implemented in the field,

based on the outcomes from the preparatory actions. Thus, the members of the SC had the opportunity to observe activities carried out as part of the actions:

- Silvicultural interventions in *Cedrus* stands: Sites where thinning of competitive *Pinus brutia* trees or pruning of *Quercus alnifolia* stems were implemented for the advantage of specific cedar trees.
- Restoration and expansion of the habitat type 9590\*: Sites where sowing of cedar seeds took place and where there is a significant number of cedar seedlings from successful regeneration as a consequence of the measure.
- Protection of the habitat type 9590\* against forest fires: The installation of information/warning signs, the permanent closure of selected roads using heavy duct bars and the removal of dry herbaceous plants along roads, as well as the patrolling of DF staff at the area of habitat 9590\*.
- Measures for improving the resilience of habitat type 9590\*: The installation of 24 insect traps for bark-beetle mass trapping for controlling of harmful species and also the installation of yellow sticky insect traps for the study of insect fauna in cedar stands, after a suggestion from Dr. Boivin (#Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of SC), in order to detect a possible natural enemy of the *Megastigmus schimitscheki* seed wasp.

In addition, the SC members saw the measures implemented for the control of soil erosion and improvement of water conditions, such as log erosion barriers, gabions and dry stone terraces.

#### Third day of SC meeting

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of SC meeting, the External Experts (members of SC) met with the staff members from the Department of Forests, in order to discuss in detail several scientific aspects of the project's Actions implementation and organize the next steps of Actions, based on the decisions made during the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the SC meeting.

## **Annexes**

*Agenda of the 3rd meeting of the Scientific Committee*









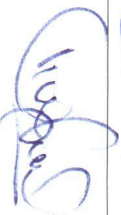


*List with the participants in the 3rd meeting of the Scientific Committee*


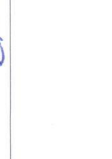

**TABLE OF PARTICIPANTS**

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of project's Scientific Committee

14/05/2019







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3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of project's Scientific Committee





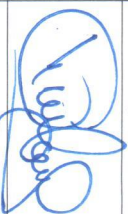

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**TABLE OF PARTICIPANTS**  
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