



**Integrated conservation management of priority habitat type 9590* in the
Natura 2000 site “Koilada Kedron-Kampos”
(LIFE15 NAT/CY/000850)**



DELIVERABLE:
**MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC
COMMITTEE**
(ACTION F.1.2)

DECEMBER 2016
NICOSIA

BENEFICIARIES:



ACTION F.1: Project Management DELIVERABLE F.1.2: Scientific Committee

A. INTRODUCTION

The first Scientific Committee (SC) meeting of the LIFE-KEDROS project (LIFE15 NAT/CY/000850), was organised according to the relevant provisions set out in the project's proposal (Action F1.2). The meeting was held from **30th November 2016 to 02nd December 2016** (see **Appendix I** for the agenda), with the participation of the members of the SC, as well as the personnel from associated beneficiaries directly involved in the project. For the first 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 (Department of Forests - Chair)
2. Mr. Takis Tsintides, Scientific Coordinator (Department of Forests)
3. Dr. Nicolas-George Eliades, Project Coordinator (Frederick University)
4. Dr. Marios Andreou (Representative of Frederick University)
5. Mr. Costantinos Pericleous (Representative of Cyprus Forest Association)
6. Dr Thomas Boivin (External expert on Seed wasps and bark beetles)
7. Dr. Elias Milios (External expert on Silviculture)
8. Dr. Gavriil Xanthopoulos (External expert on Forest Fires)

Consortium Members present:

9. Mr. Kostas Papageorgiou (Department of Forests)
10. Mr. Konstantinos Nikolaou (Department of Forests)
11. Dr. Petros Petrou (Department of Forests)
12. Mr. Soteris Soteriou (Department of Forests)
13. Mr. Michalis Makris (Department of Forests)
14. Mr. Ioannis Ignatiou (Department of Forests)

B. THE MEETING OF SC

B.1 Field trip - 1st DAY

On **30th November 2016** the participants had the opportunity to visit the Natura 2000 site "Koilada Kedron-Kampos" (CY2000008) and more specifically the area where the habitat 9590* grows. The trip aimed to give the chance to the external members of the SC (external experts) to become familiar with the habitat's ecological characteristics, landscape and general vegetation (Fig.1). For this reason, the SC members and the rest participants visited both natural and man-made

(plantations) stands of habitat 9590* where different ecological aspects were discussed and observed. Thus, the members of SC observed the: (i) different types of habitat vegetation and silviculture structure and (ii) infrastructure related to fire protection which is found within the targeted Natura 2000 site; while they had the opportunity to discuss on the field, regarding different aspects relevant with the project's objectives.



Figure 1: Field trip of project's SC in in the area of habitat 9590*

B.2 Description and Progress of Project – 2nd DAY

On the 1st December 2016 the members of SC had an office meeting (Fig.2), held at the premises of the Department of Forests (Coordinating Beneficiary).

- **Mr. Takis Tsintides, the Scientific Coordinator of the project**, welcomed the Scientific Committee. He gave a short presentation including a short description of the project's objectives, as well as some general information about the Natura 2000 site "Koilada Kedron – Kampos". He also mentioned the project's deliverable and he proposed the framework and the connections that needed to be created between each beneficiary and the SC, for optimising the outcomes from each deliverable (see Annex III for Mr. Tsintidis' presentation).
- Following the short welcome, a detailed overview of the project's Actions and their progress until the day of the SC meeting, was given by the **Project Coordinator, Dr Andrea Christou**, who provided details on the Actions' objectives and timeframe (see Annex IV for Dr. Christou's presentation).
- **Dr. Nicolas-George Eliades (Project manager)**, in his presentation, talked about the Conservation Monitoring Protocol and the Project Monitoring Protocol, which are going to be assessed by the members of the SC. First he presented the need for developing and monitoring this protocol and then he presented the general structure and monitoring indicator for each protocol. The members of the SC agreed that within 2 weeks they will send their comments and suggestions for both protocols.



Figure 2: Presentation of the project's objectives, activities and deliverables by members of the Project Management Team

Then an open discussion took place, coordinated by Dr. Christou (Project Coordinator). Based on the productive and useful discussion, the following outcomes / decisions resulted:

- **Action A.1: Composition and structure of habitat type 9590***

For the elaboration of marking guidelines for thinning and felling in *Cedrus* stands (habitat 9590*) the sampling plots that will be established, were decided to be for:

- Reforestation stands: 26 plots of 200 m² (in the proposal there were 5 plots of 500 m²)
- Natural stands: 44 plots of 500 m² (in the proposal there were 40 plots of 1000 m²)

This new strategy was decided since factors like the site quality, the stand structure and the terrain are very variable within the studied area and the smallest size and the increased number of sample plots are better suited for the particular sampling design. The data for the field need to be collected until June, 2017. Dr. Petros Petrou (Department of Forests) will be in close collaboration with the Project Manager Team and Dr. Elias Milios (External Member of SC) for the implementation of this Action.

- **Action A.2: Elaboration of a fire protection plan for the habitat type 9590***

For the elaboration of the *Fire Protection Plan* the following steps will be implemented until the summer of 2017:

1. Description of the Natura 2000 site "Koilada Kedron – Kampos".
2. Recognition of fuel types and the fire behavior in those areas.
3. Recording and mapping of past fires. Combining this recording with satellite imagery and in-situ observation will lead to the identification of points suitable for fire-fighting and escape of the personnel in case of danger.
4. Identification of the points where firefighters and visitors could be trapped in the case of a fire.

5. Identification of the visitor's and nearby population activities that can cause fires, and identification of possible starting points of those fires.

Mr. Kostas Papageorgiou (Department of Forests) will be in close collaboration with the Project Manager Team and Dr. Gavriil Xanthopoulos (External Member of SC) for the implementation of this Action.

- **Action A.3: Assessment of the health and vitality of the habitat type 9590***

For the assessment of the impact of insect pre-dispersal seed feeders and bark beetles on the health and vitality of the habitat 9590* the following steps will be adopted:

1. The corresponding conclusions for the percentage of the cedar seeds destroyed by the cedar seed wasp (*Megastigmus schimitscheki*) will be evaluated by the results of X-ray analysis which will be applied on the seed lots that will be/that were collected for this purpose. Based on these results and the suggestions from Dr. Thomas Boivin the Project Management Team will decide for the next steps.
2. Establishment of twenty four (24) pheromone/kairomone slit traps on the twelve (12) permanent plots (two traps per plot) for bark beetle monitoring and management purposes during the period of April – September/October 2017. With this method the following will be achieved:
 - Collecting information relative to the harmful species of bark beetles and the range of their population (i.e. density, census size etc.) within the range of targeted habitat 9590*.
 - Detection and definition of the most sensitive and vulnerable trees from the bark beetles activity.

Mr. Konstatinos Nikolaou (Department of Forests) will be in close collaboration with the Project Manager Team and Dr. Thomas Boivin (External Member of SC) for the implementation of this Action.

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

The restoration and expansion of the habitat type 9590* will be done applying both planting and sowing methods, as stated in the proposal and as Dr. Elias Milios (External expert on Silviculture) recommended. However, the decision regarding which method will be applied in each stand (restoration stands and expansion stands), will be carried out based on the micro-environmental conditions, since each method has different ecological advantages.

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

The final decision and the definition of the management control measures, that will be implemented through this action, will be based on the results of Action A.3.

B.3 Meeting and organising the next steps – 3rd DAY

On the 2nd December 2016 the External Experts (members of SC) met with the staff members from Department of Forests and the Project Manager, in order to organise the next steps of Actions, based on the decisions taken during the 2nd day of the SC meeting.