



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

(LIFE15 NAT/CY/000850)

DELIVERABLE:

MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

(ACTION F.1.2)



NOVEMBER 2020
HYBRIT MEETING

BENEFICIARIES:



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

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 4th Scientific Committee (SC) meeting. 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).

Due to the global Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and the rules (Legal Declarations) that Cyprus adopted for passengers from abroad, the 4th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of LIFE-KEDROS had a hybrid character. Thus, the meeting will be implemented as follows:

- *First phase* - Dr. Elias Milios (Silviculture specialist) visited the project area for monitoring the progress of Action C.1, since it is the only concrete conservation action that is still running, as a sequence of the extension of the project’s extension. Dr. Milios was hosted by the Project Management Team (PMT) for a two-day fieldtrip (27 & 30 October 2020).
- *Second phase* – The meeting in the office was carried out as an e-meeting (via internet) on 13th November 2020, and included a review of the deliverables, consultation and feedback on the project’s implementation and completion.

The list of participants in this e-meeting is as follows:

Members of the SC present:

1. Dr. Andreas Christou, Project Coordinator & Scientific Coordinator (Department of Forests; Chief Conservator of Forests - Chair)
2. Dr. Nicolas-George Eliades, Project Manager (Frederick University)
3. Dr. Constantinos Kounnamas (Representative of Frederick University)
4. Mrs. Anastasia Matoli (Representative of Cyprus Forest Association)
5. Dr. Gavriil Xanthopoulos (External expert on Forest Fire)
6. Dr. Elias Milios (External expert on Silviculture)
7. Dr. Thomas Boivin (External expert on Insects)

Consortium Members present:

1. Dr. Petros Petrou (Department of Forests; Conservator of Forests A')
2. Mr. Soteris Soteriou (Department of Forests; 1st Grade Forest Officer)
3. Mr. Theodoros Theodorou (Department of Forests; 1st Grade Forest Officer)
4. Mr. Petros Anastasiou (Department of Forests; Forest Officer)
5. Mr. Marinos Christodoulou (Department of Forests; Forest Officer)
6. Mr. Kyriakos Pitharides (Department of Forests; Forest Officer)

B. Meeting of the SC

First Phase of SC meeting (Field visits)

This phase of the meeting was carried out in two days, and focused on the field trip and observation of the project's progress in the field. On 27 October 2020 the local members of the SC and the external member of SC, Dr. Elias Milios (Silviculture specialist), visited the area where *the ex situ* conservation action was implemented. The members of SC visited both the Seed Bank and the new plantation of *Cedrus brevifolia* in Amiantos asbestos Mine. In this visit the SC was informed about the total amount of seeds stored in the Seed Bank (200 kg) and the procedures followed for their storage. In addition, the members of SC visited the seven spots (total area of 8.5 ha), where the 6500 plantlets were planted for the purposes of *ex situ* conservation.



Photographs taken during the first day of the visit of SC's members in Amiantos Mine for observation of Action C.5

On 30 October 2020, the same members of the SC that attended the 1st phase of this meeting visited the project area in Pafos Forest, for observing the progress of Action C.1, in two levels. The SC observed the silvicultural treatments in the plantation of Nouros area and within the natural area of habitat 9590*, as well as the spots where silvicultural treatments will be implemented in November - December 2020 (in Elikes area, in selected mixed stands of *C. brevifolia* with *Quercus alnifolia* etc.). The SC members also observed the spot where the plantlets were planted using water boxes.

Finally, the Committee members discussed about the possibilities for proposing, through the current project, a number of selected locations of habitat 9590*, as a *Nature Reserve*. Based on the Forest Law in 2012, a *Nature Reserve* is defined "... as natural area that is designated solely for scientific research and no human intervention or even access is allowed". For this purpose the SC members proposed three locations (Gk?remos tis Pelis, Konizi, Koilada Kedron), for the PMT to consider and take the final decision.



Photographs taken during the second day of the SC meeting in Pafos Forest in the area where habitat 9590* occurs.

Second Phase of SC meeting (Office meeting)

The second phase of the SC meeting was implemented via Zoom Video Communications on 13 November 2020. In this meeting all members of the SC participated, including local representatives and the three external expert members of the SC. For efficiently organizing the meeting, the PMT sent an e-mail to all SC members, several days before the meeting, which included the following:

1. Meeting's agenda (see Annex I)
2. The link with the project's deliverables

3. The link for the project's film
4. The Project Monitoring Protocol
5. The Conservation Monitoring Protocol

These links and documents were sent to the SC earlier in order for the members to have enough time in advance to read and watch the deliverables, the monitoring protocols and the project's film.

In the beginning of the meeting Dr. Andreas Christou (Project Coordinator) welcomed the members of the SC and gave a presentation about the project's progress and the reason that the project submitted an *amendment request of project duration extension* for five months.

In continuation, the External Expert of SC (EE-SC) presented the project in overview. In general, the outcome from all the EE-SC members was that the project is being implemented successfully, since all the targets have been met, with the quality of the project's outcomes (deliverables and outside-of-the-project activities) being high. Dr. Xanthopoulos mentioned that this success on the project's implementation is related to the fact that the PMT has remained personally engaged during the entirety of the project's duration. Thus, the 4th meeting of the LIFE-KEDROS' SC confirmed the outstanding work that has been conducted by the project's coordinators and beneficiaries. The EE-SC also made suggestions that could be adopted by the PMT for the post-project period:

Dr. Gavriil Xanthopoulos, suggestions:

- Collect and send a seedlot of *C. brevifolia* to Svalbard Global Seed Vault (Seed Bank) in Norway.
- The increase of high-density forest, elimination of open spaces and low-density forest, reduces chances to stop a wildfire. This should be recognized and considered.
- In the post-project period, to include monitoring of the evolution of vegetation density, capacity of travel on foot through the newly established vegetation, and potential firefighting difficulties in order to plan and execute corresponding measures (clearing of trails, dead fuel removal, thinning, etc.).
- The documentary should be promoted for broadcasting by TV channels outside Cyprus (e.g. on ERT 3 in Greece).
- The work carried out in the frame of the project is commendable. A very good presentation on the achievements should be prepared for the next Panhellenic Forestry Congress in Greece (provisionally planned for 2021). Further, a second presentation should be prepared for the same Congress in 2023, that would present the long-term results of the interventions that were made on flora and fauna.

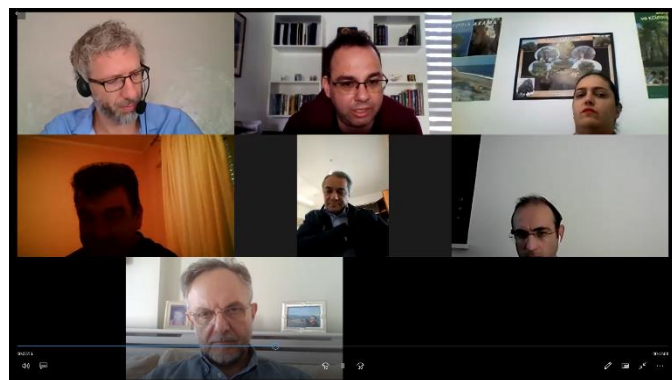
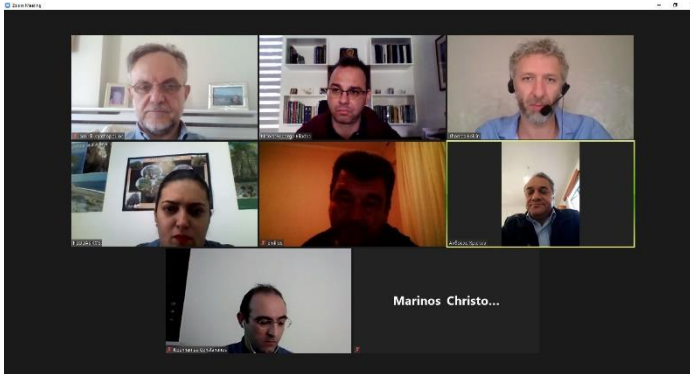
Dr. Elia Milios, suggestions:

- The implementation of silvicultural treatments in natural and artificial formations of *Cedrus brevifolia* are recommended to continue. A critical point is that the time of application of the new silvicultural interventions will depend on the conditions and needs of each formation.
- In the areas in which a first treatment has taken place, the new interventions must be applied after at least 7 years from the implementation of the initial treatments.

Dr. Thomas Boivin, suggestions:

- Maintenance of a field-monitoring strategy of both cedar diebacks and *Orthotomicus erosus* populations, which have been identified as the most potentially harmful insect species for cedars.

- In line with the monitoring of overall tree health status in the cedar population, monthly monitoring of the Multi Wit bark beetle slit traps baited with both ethanol and the Erosowit® aggregation pheromone lure is highly recommended during the flight period of the *O. erosus* (May-October).
- In case of increasing tree decline/dieback observations, the identified dead trees are recommended to be cut and systematically debarked if they cannot be removed from the site. Along with mass trapping with baited slit traps, this may help limiting the risk of *O. erosus* population outbreaks that could be more harmful to the cedar population.
- During the project's implementation, it was observed that pre-dispersal predation by insects may not be a limiting factor for *C. brevifolia*, and that further work on the monitoring of the post-dispersal phase may be more critical. Identifying key areas in the habitat where seed germination and seedling growth was successful, and protecting those areas against herbivore pressure could be a priority. This could be of critical importance in those areas where silvicultural interventions during the project has favored cedar individuals in the habitat type 9590*.



Photographs taken during the e-meeting via the zoom platform.

Annexes

Annex I: Agenda of the 4th meeting of the Scientific Committee



INTEGRATED CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY HABITAT TYPE 9590* IN THE NATURA 2000 SITE “KOILADA KEDRON-KAMPOS”

09 October 2020
Nicosia

To: Members of Scientific Committee (Action F.1.2) of the project LIFE-KEDROS.

- Dr. Andreas Christou [Project Coordinator - achristou@fd.moa.gov.cy]
- Dr. Nicolas-George Eliades [Project Manager – res.en@frederick.ac.cy]
- Mrs. Anastasia Matoli [Representative of CFA - matolianastasia@outlook.com]
- Dr. Constantinos Kounnamas [Representative of FU – res.kc@frederick.ac.cy]

External experts:

- Dr. Thomas Boivin [External expert - thomas.boivin@inra.fr]
- Dr. Elias Milios [External expert - emilios@fmenr.duth.gr]
- Dr. Gavriil Xanthopoulos [External expert - gxnrct@fria.gr]

4th Meeting of the Scientific Committee

INVITATION & AGENDA

The members of the Scientific Committee of the project LIFE-KEDROS (LIFE15 NAT/CY/000850) are invited to the 4th Meeting of the Committee that will take place in two phases. Due to the global Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and the rules (Legal Declarations) that Cyprus adopted for passengers from abroad, the 4th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of LIFE-KEDROS will have a hybrid character. Thus, the meeting will be implemented as follows:

- ***First phase*** - Dr. Elias Milios (Silviculture specialist) will visit the project area for monitoring the process of Action C.1, since it is the only concrete conservation action that is still running, as a sequence of the extension of the project's extension. Dr. Milios will be hosted by the PMT for a two-day fieldtrip (29-30 October 2020).
- ***Second phase*** – The meeting in the office will be carried out as an e-meeting (via internet), and will include a review of the deliverables, consultation and feedback on the project's implementation and completion (during November 2020).



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4th Meeting of LIFE-KEDROS Scientific Committee

FIRST PHASE – AGENDA

Tuesday – 27/10/2020

8:00	Departure from the hotel
09:30	Arrival at Amiantos Mine
10:00 – 11:30	Visit to the spots of the new population (plantation) of <i>C. brevifolia</i> in Amiantos Mine
11:30 – 12:30	Visit to the seed bank of Department of Forests
12:30 – 13:30	Visit to the Troodos Forest (Growth observation of the cedar trees that were planted in the past in this area)
14:00 – 15:30	Departure from the Troodos area and arrival to the hotel

Friday – 30/10/2020

8:00	Departure from the hotel	
10:00 – 13:30	Arrival at habitat 9590* <i>[Visit to the locations where Action C.1 has been implemented until now]</i>	
	10:00 – 10:30	Overview observation of Nouras plantation and discussion
	10:40 – 12:00	Visit to spots/plots within Tripylos site where: - silvicultural interventions were implemented - cedar plantlets were planted for habitat restoration purposes
	12:10 – 12:40	Visit Elikes spot where silvicultural interventions will be carried out in November 2020
	13:00 – 13:30	Visit the location in Psilo site, where cedar plantlets were planted for habitat expansion purposes



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13:45-14:45	Detailed discussion on scientific aspects of the implementation of Action C.1, between the Scientific Committee's external expert and the Project's staff.
17:00	Arrival at the hotel

4th Meeting of LIFE-KEDROS Scientific Committee

SECOND PHASE – AGENDA

Friday – 13/11/2020

10:30 – 12:30	Meeting of Scientific Committee (at the premises of the Department of Forests – Coordinating beneficiary)	
	10:30 – 11:30	<p>Welcome & Presentation of the activities of the LIFE-KEDROS project up to this point [Dr. Andreas Christou, Project Coordinator]</p> <p><i>The implementation & Outcomes of the project's actions</i></p> <p>Preparatory action, elaboration of management plans and/or if action plans (Actions A)</p> <p>Concrete conservation actions (Actions C)</p> <p>Monitoring of the impact of the project actions (Actions D)</p> <p>Public awareness and dissemination of results (Actions E)</p> <p>Project management (Actions F)</p>
11:30 – 12:30	Discussion	
12:30 – 12:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
12:45 – 13:15	<p>Approval of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project monitoring protocol - Conservation monitoring protocol <p>[Dr. Nicolas Eliades; Project Manager]</p>	
13:45 – 14:00	Overall discussion	



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14:00 – 15:00

Review of deliverables, consultation and feedback on the project's implementation and on the project's completion.