LIFE Project Number  
LIFE14 PRE/UK/002

Progress Report¹  
Covering the project activities from 01/04/2015² to 15/03/2016

Reporting Date³  
31/03/2016

LIFE PROJECT NAME or Acronym  
Coordinated Efforts for International Species Recovery  
LIFE EuroSAP

Data Project

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<td>Project location:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project start date:</td>
<td>01/04/2015</td>
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<td>30/09/2018</td>
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<td>Total budget:</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU contribution:</td>
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<td>(%) of eligible costs:</td>
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Data Beneficiary

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name Beneficiary:</td>
<td>BirdLife International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact person:</td>
<td>Mr Iván Ramírez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address:</td>
<td>BirdLife International, The David Attenborough Building, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>+44 1223 277318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ivan.ramirez@birdlife.org">ivan.ramirez@birdlife.org</a></td>
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<td>Project Website:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/project/life-eurosap">http://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/project/life-eurosap</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Progress Report without any payment request (for Progress Reports with payment request, use the Mid-term Report template)  
² Project start date in the case of the first Progress Report, otherwise date since the last reporting period  
³ Include the reporting date as foreseen in part C2 of Annex II of the Grant Agreement
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2. List of key-words and abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AEWA</td>
<td>Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE</td>
<td>BirdLife Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLI</td>
<td>BirdLife International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMS</td>
<td>Convention of Migratory Species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACE</td>
<td>European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>Grant Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOS</td>
<td>BirdLife Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOD</td>
<td>BirdLife Lithuania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPO</td>
<td>BirdLife France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAVA</td>
<td>MAVA Foundation for nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Management Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSAP</td>
<td>Multi-species Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NABU</td>
<td>BirdLife Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NADEG</td>
<td>Expert Group on the Birds and Habitats Directives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>North West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Partnership Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSPB</td>
<td>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAP</td>
<td>Species Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAP TT</td>
<td>Species Action Plan Tracking Tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCC</td>
<td>Scientific Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEO/BirdLife</td>
<td>BirdLife Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOF</td>
<td>BirdLife Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPEA</td>
<td>BirdLife Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ToR</td>
<td>Terms of Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VBN</td>
<td>BirdLife Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCF</td>
<td>Vulture Conservation Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG</td>
<td>Working Group</td>
</tr>
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</table>
3. Executive summary

3.1 General progress

LIFE EuroSAP focuses on the delivery of new or revised Species Action Plans (SAP) for some of Europe’s most relevant wild bird species. It will also produce state-of-the-art tools ready to be used by different groups of stakeholders well beyond the project’s expected duration, laying the foundation for better cooperation and effective delivery of Species Action Plans.

The overall project objective is to halt the population decline of the threatened bird species listed on Annex I and II of the Birds Directive and to achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their status. This will be fulfilled by:

- creating conditions for **effective coordination among the European Union, EU Member States**, the international conventions and non-governmental organisations involved in international bird conservation efforts;
- reviewing the implementation and **update of six existing SAPs and EU Management Plans** (Gypaetus barbatus, Aegypius monachus, Pelecanus crispus, Streptopelia turtur, Melanitta fusca and Oxyura leucocephala) and developing **two new plans** for species of greatest urgency (Puffinus yelkouan and Hydrobates monteiroi);
- developing a **pilot multi-species action plan** for 8 European lowland grassland waders (Haematopus ostralegus, Vanellus vanellus, Calidris alpina, Calidris pugnax, Gallinago gallinago, Numenius arquata, Limosa limosa and Tringa totanus) taking into account priority needs across their flyway.

In order to achieve the above mentioned objectives, the project actions reflect the recommended steps proposed for SAPs elaboration (see Annex 1). A first phase will focus on the review or elaboration of species status reports, followed by a second phase addressing the compilation of SAPs. Both phases will be led by species experts and will follow extensive consultation with all relevant stakeholders, both in person (during workshops) and on-line (through the SAP Tracking Tool). The SAP Tracking Tool will be developed as web-based platform for gathering and collating data on species populations, conservation status, threats and information gaps and will become the base for discussion, approval and publication of SAPs.

With regards to the reporting period covered by this report, we can confirm that LIFE EuroSAP is being implemented smoothly, though some specific delays are identified for particular species. The coordinating and associated beneficiaries’ project teams are in place and effectively working on the delivery of the project’s objectives. The identified (minor) delays in some of the actions were caused mainly by multilateral discussions (including AEWA) on the need to broaden the species ranges covered by the SAPs (ex. for M. fusca, O. leucocephala, and St. turtur). Enlarging the range coverage of the SAPs immediately meant an increase of the number of involved countries and representing stakeholders, as well as an increase of the number of participants in the planned consultations and its associated travel costs. Significant effort has been made by the associated beneficiaries to advance the implementation of the actions, and by the coordinating beneficiary to provide additional funding (from AEWA and the MAVA Foundation) to support the involvement of a higher number of stakeholders and truly apply a flyway approach to most targeted species.
In total, 6 out of 9 ToRs have been written and adopted, two are drafted (*Oxyura leucocephala* and *Pelecanus crispus*) and one is in preparation (*Aegypius monachus*) (A.1, A.2). Most of the national focal points have been contacted by species leaders, and feedback has been collected in order to perform evaluation of the implementation of the existing SAPs (A.3) and to prepare draft species status reports (A.4 to A.6). All species teams have set the dates for the first SAP workshops (A.11), while one workshop was already organized in November 2015 in Corsica, resulting in a first draft SAP for *G. barbatus*, in preparation (A.12). A tender procedure for the development of the web based platform SAP Tracking Tool has been conducted, service provider has been chosen in December 2015 and the preparation of the beta-version of the tool has been initiated (A.7). Project web site has been developed (B.1), maintained and continuously updated with information provided by the project partners. More than 50 publications in on-line media have been published within the current reporting period (B.3). To ensure the vast dissemination of the project actions, a project communication plan has been prepared and agreed by the partners (B.3). Two Steering Committee meetings (C.1) have been organized in September and November 2015. Minutes were taken and distributed to all project partners. Participants of the project Scientific Committee (SCC) have been identified and agreed by the Steering Committee members. Invitations have been sent and final composition of the SCC has been agreed. Organization of the first SCC (C.2), back-to-back with the third Steering Committee meeting has been initiated. Project management and implementation (C.3) is being executed without major problems, and the leading beneficiary is successfully coordinating the associated beneficiaries work on the project actions implementation.

3.2 Assessment as to whether the project objectives and work plan are still viable

The Project team can confirm the outlined project objectives are viable and have addressed minor adjustments and updates of the project’s work plan wherever needed. Most of the minor adjustments made were related either to the species’ new proposed timelines or the increase of the geographical coverage of the SAPs. Some of the project partners have responded better than others for delivering their expected actions in time, and the Project Management team remains vigilant of any major causes of concern. Overall, we strongly believe this project will deliver its planned outputs in time and in top quality.

3.3 Identified deviations, problems and corrective actions taken within the reporting period

The already mentioned delays in the initial stages of some of the species’ actions are described in detail below. Yet we can confirm we do not expect any changes in the deadlines and quality of the produced deliverables:

- *Oxyura leucocephala*: Following the recommendations given by both the Project Steering Committee and AEWA, the entire species range was proposed to be covered in the revised SAP, (initially, only the western part of the range had been considered). In order to accommodate the extra costs linked to bigger stakeholder groups during the consultation process, SEO/BirdLife will be granted additional funding from AEWA. Both SEO/BirdLife and AEWA have identified lack of accurate data from some parts of the species range, therefore major attention will be given to addressing these information gaps during the consultation phases. It is proposed that a slightly revised implementation timeline is approved for this species (please see section 4.2, *O. leucocephala*).
• **Melanitta fusca**: The ongoing discussions with AEWA are expected to provide decision on whether the Black Sea population of the species should be covered by the SAP or not. If so, an additional set of 3-5 countries should be represented during the consultations. If confirmed, supplementary funds will be provided by AEWA to implement this action. No other delays or timeline changes are foreseen.

• **Aegypius monachus**: The implementation of the first project actions for this species was postponed (upon agreement with the EC and CMS) for 2016-2017. Meanwhile, a proposal to the CMS was submitted by the VCF, with the aim to include the entire species range into the revised SAP. VCF is trying to secure funding for the organization of a workshop covering this broader range (not initially foreseen in the project). No other delays or timeline changes are foreseen.

• **Gypaetus barbatus**: Lack of complete population datasets from Turkey and the Caucasus were identified as limiting factors. The involvement of all relevant experts from the species range will guarantee the proper assessment and identification of conservation actions. No other delays or timeline changes are foreseen.

• **Streptopelia turtur**: RSPB proposed to organize two instead of three workshops within the initially planned budget, with the aim to increase the effectiveness of the consultations and to get together larger number of experts representing the Western and Eastern range of the species. No other delays or timeline changes are foreseen.

• **Puffinus yelkouan**: Because of the involvement of the LPO team in the completion of other LIFE project, a time constraint in the early stages of the LIFE EuroSAP caused a delay in the start of some of the actions. The action implementation was condensed in order to follow the project deadlines. A lack of species experts in some of the countries, representing *P. yelkouan* range was identified, but additional effort is being made to tackle this problem. No other delays or timeline changes are foreseen.
4. Administrative part

BirdLife International, as coordinating beneficiary, has maintained a permanent contact with all project partners and key stakeholders. Remote meetings using skype or telephone have occurred on a weekly basis. Whenever needed face-to-face meetings were held with key stakeholders. A clear set of protocols was also established internally to ensure adequate financial and administrative monitoring within BLI.

The coordinating beneficiary project team consists of Project Coordinator, Head of Conservation, Financial Officer and Communications Officer. The Project Coordinator Ms. Christina Ieronymidou conducted the overall project management between April 2015 and January 2016; she maintained the communications with the project partners, as well with the European Commission and other relevant bodies; organized and chaired the 1st and 2nd Steering Committee meetings; prepared and distributed to the partners minutes from the meetings, templates for the elaboration of the project deliverables, the Partnership Agreements (see Annex 4), and other relevant documents; she also represented the project during the NADEG meeting in October 2015, as well as discussed the project reporting with the External Monitor Mr. John Houston. On January 15th 2016, Ms. Christina Ieronymidou decided to pursue other professional paths and resigned from her role as Project Coordinator. By February 8th she was replaced by Ms. Anna Staneva. Meantime the Head of Conservation at BirdLife International Mr. Ivan Ramirez, fulfilled the tasks of the Project Coordinator and ensured a smooth transition period.

A Project Assistant, Ms. Sofia Capellan, was also hired by 8th of February by BirdLife International. Both positions are based in BLI headquarters in Cambridge, UK. Between February 8th and March 15th, the new Project Coordinator and the Project Assistant have communicated with all project partners and progressed the organization of the joint 3rd Steering Committee and 1st Scientific Committee meeting (21-22 April 2016, Bonn). They also prepared the project Progress Report, following the advice of the external monitoring team after the second visit of Mr. John Houston in Cambridge on March 8th and 9th.

In August 2015, the Financial Officer of the project Ms. Adriana Gawrysiak (BLI), was replaced by Mr. Michael Lewis. During the first months of the project Ms Elodie Cantaloube dedicated time to the project as Communications officer, but since October 2015 Ms. Sanya Khetani Shah was appointed as the LIFE EuroSAP project Communications Officer for BLI; she is responsible for the development and update of the project web site and the Communications Plan, and currently prepares project-related news in collaboration with both coordinating and associated beneficiaries’ staff.

During the reporting period, all the associated beneficiary’s project teams were set in place. The species Team Coordinators were appointed (see table 1), and administrative and financial, as well communications support was provided by additional or permanent staff in the associated beneficiaries’ offices. All project staff is aware of their roles and obligations for completing the project.
Tab. 1. List of team leader responsible for the delivery of each of the SAPs and MSAP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action plan</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Species Team Coordinator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Pelecanus crispus</em></td>
<td>HOS</td>
<td>Fran Vargas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Melanitta fusca</em></td>
<td>LOD</td>
<td>Mindaugas Dagys</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Puffinus yelkouan</em></td>
<td>LPO</td>
<td>Bernard Deceuninck</td>
</tr>
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<td><em>Waders</em></td>
<td>NABU</td>
<td>Jutta Leyrer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Streptopelia turtur</em></td>
<td>RSPB</td>
<td>Tara Proud</td>
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<td><em>Oxyura leucocephala</em></td>
<td>SEO</td>
<td>Jorge Orueta</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>hydrobates monteiroi</em></td>
<td>SPEA</td>
<td>Nuno Oliveira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aegypius monachus</em></td>
<td>VCF</td>
<td>Jovan Andevski / José Tavares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Gypaetus barbatus</em></td>
<td>VCF/SEO BirdLife</td>
<td>Alex Llopis, Franziska Lörcher Josef Tavares/Jorge Orueta</td>
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5. Technical part

5.1 Progress of the project by group of actions

A actions: Implementation actions

The overall progress of the implementation actions is summarized in Annex 2.

- **A.1 and A.2 Start-up phase for the preparation of SAPs and MSAP.**
  These actions consisted mainly on contacting stakeholders in every range country, present the project and identify the components of the species Working Group. It also included desk-study and assessment of existing information and the preparation of the Terms of Reference documents (ToR). The ToR provides details on how the action planning team works and how different stakeholders should be incorporated into the development of the plans. It also states roles and responsibilities, decision making, objectives, timelines, methodologies, actions, deliverables, outputs and resources. During the reporting period, all team coordinators were appointed, species teams were set in place, key experts and stakeholders were identified and invited to join the species WGs. Six out of nine ToRs for species working groups were prepared (including ToR for the MSAP working group), two were drafted and one is in preparation (Annexes A1/1, A1/2, A1/4, A1/5, A1/6, A1/8, A1/9, A2/1).

*Draft ToR for O. Leucocephala attached*
*ToR for the M. fusca WG attached*
*Draft ToR for the P. crispus WG attached*
*ToR for the G. barbatus WG attached*
*ToR for the St. turtur WG attached*
*ToR for the P. yelkouan WG attached*
*ToR for the H. monteiroi WG attached*
*ToR for the waders WG attached*
- **A.3 Evaluation of the implementation of the existing SAPs**
  Under this action, a full evaluation of the pre-existing action plans for the targeted species will be conducted. This includes: the *M. fusca* and *St. turtur* EU Management Plans; the *O. leucocephala* and *P. crispus* plans, which do not cover the entire flyway used by the European populations; and the *A. monachus* and *G. barbatus* Species Action Plans. The evaluation will be based on reviewing the work done and addressing those information gaps that should improve the status report for the species. This action is progressed by all project partners.

- **A.4 to A.6, A.8 and A.10 Update, preparation of first and second draft, and finalization of species status reports.**
  The purpose of these actions is to gather in one synopsis the available (and identify missing) information about the species status and population trends, as well as to gather any relevant scientific new evidence on the species. This action includes the elaboration of status reports for all targeted species - in total 9 status reports. As result of these actions, the first draft species status report for *H. monteiroi* was completed (Annex A4/1), as well as the second draft of the *G. barbatus* status report (A8/1). The status reviews for the *O. leucocephala*, *M. fusca*, *St. turtur*, *P. yelkouan* and the lowland breeding waders are in preparation. The compilation of the status reports for *P. crispus* and *A. monachus* is to be started.

  *First draft H. monteiroi status report attached*
  *Second draft G. barbatus status report attached*

- **A.11 Planning workshops.**
  All project partners have already started the planning and organization of the species-dedicated workshops, even though the planned start date for this action is 1st July 2016. The *G. barbatus* workshop was already organized in November 2015 by VCF. The preliminary dates and places of all workshops are indicated below in Table 1.

Tab. 1. Preliminary place and date of the SAP workshops to be organized under action A.11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowland Grassland Breeding Waders</td>
<td>NABU</td>
<td>7-10 November 2016</td>
<td>Tönning, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Puffinus yelkouan</em></td>
<td>LPO</td>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Melanitta fusca</em></td>
<td>LOD</td>
<td>3-6 October 2016</td>
<td>Vilnius, Lithuania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Oxyura leucocephala</em></td>
<td>SEO/BirdLife</td>
<td>26-30 September 2016</td>
<td>Spain or Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hydrobates monteiroi</em></td>
<td>SPEA</td>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Ilha Graciosa, Azores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aegypius monachus</em></td>
<td>VCF</td>
<td>Autumn 2016</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Gypaetus barbatus</em></td>
<td>VCF/SEO BirdLife</td>
<td>23-24 November 2015</td>
<td>Corsica, France</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The SAP Tracking Tool will be a collaborative web based platform for collecting and sharing information on bird species action plans. The functions of the SAP Tracking Tool will follow the model of the SAPs elaboration process shown in Fig. 1, providing opportunities for all stakeholders to actively participate in the SAP preparation. The tool will contain all the relevant basic information to be used for the elaboration of the SAPs: the existing action plans, global and European summaries for each species, range information and IBA maps where the species had triggered the IBA criteria. Any registered user with a valid email address will be able to access the SAP TT, but there will be three different levels of access: species leaders, contributors (stakeholders, experts), and general users.

A call for tenders was launched in November 2015, with deadline 1st December 2015. Two tenderers applied and interviews held with each of the candidates. After evaluation of the proposals, the project team selected the bid presented by Wave Developments SPRL representative Mr. Giorgio Zanetti in December 2015. The contract was signed in January 2016.

During the first and second Steering Committee meetings (September and November 2015) it was agreed that the beta version would be available for use and testing in April 2016, with a final version completed by September 2016. This will allow the members of the Steering and Scientific Committee to provide feedback about the SAP TT during the 3rd SC meeting on 21st of April 2016, in Bonn (Germany). A working document with the technical description of the functionalities (Annex A7/1) and a brief overview of the SAP
TT were prepared and distributed among project partners, Steering and Scientific Committee members.

**Problems and changes:** This action is delayed by 5 months. The project team understood it is best to postpone the initial launch of the tool to ensure all functionalities are present and workflow is agreed before opening the tool to external audiences. This delay will not affect the consultations process and delivery of the SAPs. Once the SAP TT is launched, webinars and training sessions will be provided, also at each of the planned dedicated workshops (A.11). This will guarantee the proper understanding and active use of the tool by experts and stakeholders involved in the elaboration of SAPs.

**B actions: Actions for communication and for dissemination of project lessons**

- **Action B.1 Project’s website**
  
  **Status of action: in progress**
  
  Foreseen start date: April 2015  
  Actual start date: May 2015  
  Foreseen end date: March 2018  
  Anticipated end date: March 2018  

  The project aims and results are promoted through on-line media – the project web site and social media. The project website [http://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/project/life-eurosap](http://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/project/life-eurosap) (Annex B1/1) was launched on 18.08.2015, and is hosted on the BirdLife’s web site. This site is fully functional and continuously updated with partners’ news and events. From August 2015 till March 11th 2016, there were 2164 visits from 1353 individual visitors on all EuroSAP pages (Google Analytics).

  The action is being implemented with no delay. The project partners are regularly requested to contribute with news and materials to the web site’s contents. All the relevant documents produced within the project’s timeframe (brochures, reports or publications) will be uploaded on the project web site to promote the project actions and objectives. The project website will be kept for at least 5 years after the end of the project (in accordance with Article II.7.1 of the General Conditions), and will promote the SAP Tracking Tool.

  *Print screen of the LIFE EuroSAP web site attached*

- **Action B.2 International cooperation**

  **Status of action: in progress**
  
  Foreseen start date: April 2015  
  Anticipated start date: April 2015  
  Foreseen end date: March 2018  
  Anticipated end date: March 2018  

  This action was implemented without major delays or problems. BLI and its partners have actively used its international links to promote LIFE EuroSAP within national and international fora and this has resulted in a wide promotion of the project and its expected outputs. Being such a wide consortium already including the most relevant species-experts, the project team focused on reaching other associations and bodies currently working on one or more of the targeted species. Specific meetings and species-related discussions were held with PECMBS (Pan European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme), the EBCC (European Bird Census Council), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) and the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS). At all these meetings, specific references to the
species management platform we envisage to create through the SAP TT were made, as long as calls for relevant experts to participate in the working groups, planned workshops and events foreseen within this project.

A more detailed plan outlining the main events where LIFE EuroSAP will be featuring will be presented for approval during the third Steering Committee Meeting (planned for mid-April 2016).

**Expected results:**
- International networking plan presented at 3rd Steering Committee meeting.
- Presentations/posters given at events available on the website.

**• Action B.3 Communication plan and dissemination of activities**

**Status of action: in progress**

| Foreseen start date: April 2015 | Anticipated start date: April 2015 |
| Foreseen end date: March 2018   | Anticipated end date: March 2018   |

The project communication plan (Annex B3/1) was developed by BLI communication’s department and is being regularly updated by the project’s team. Sanya Ketanhi Sah was appointed as the focal communications point within BirdLife International (Sanya is based in SBE, BirdLife Europe) and supported by both the Head of Communications and other relevant members of the team. During the reporting period, 10 news items were published on the LIFE EuroSAP web site, 2 news were published on BirdLife International’s main web site, and more than 60 news were published on the official web sites of the partner organisations (mainly VCF and SEO/BirdLife, in their national languages) (Annex B3/2).

The action is being implemented with no delays.

*Communication plan attached*

*List of media dissemination attached*

**• Action B.6 Networking with other LIFE projects**

**Status of action: in progress**

| Foreseen start date: April 2015 | Anticipated start date: April 2015 |
| Foreseen end date: March 2018   | Anticipated end date: March 2018   |

This action is being implemented without major delays or problems. Both the Project’s core team and that of the partners have maintained regular meetings with relevant LIFE projects addressing conservation problems for one or more of the targeted species. Some of the submitted and/or approved projects where direct links were made include: Bright Future for Black Vulture, LIFE14 /NAT/BG/000649; Egyptian Vulture and Bonelli’s Eagle Conservation in Douro/Duero Canyon, LIFE14/NAT/PT/000855; Conservation of Black and Griffon Vultures in the cross-border Rhodope mountains, LIFE14 NAT/MT/000991 (where BLI Malta is the coordinating beneficiary); Stabilisierung von Kern-Populationen der Uferschnepfe und Schutz von Alpenstrandläufern und Kampfläufern, LIFE11 NAT DE 353; LIFE GypHelp – Bearded Vulture in the French Alps, LIFE13/NAT/FR/000093; GypConnect - connecting Bearded Vultures in the Alps and the Pyrenees, LIFE14 NAT/FR/000050; LIFE Under Griffon wings – Implementation of best practices to rescue Griffon Vultures in Sardinia, LIFE14/NAT/IT/000484.
A specific EBCC/BLI meeting was held in November 2016 in Brussels, Belgium, and LIFE EURO SAP linkages with EBCC relevant projects, including the now recently approved LIFE preparatory project on the European Bird Portal. It is envisaged that synergies will also benefit both projects.

To date, the members of LIFE EuroSAP have been maintaining contact with other LIFE projects mainly remotely via telephone or Skype, or by bilateral meetings happening at other ongoing workshops. VCF is constantly visiting other LIFE projects related to vulture conservation. A more detailed plan for LIFE networking interaction and visits will be discussed at the 3d and 4th steering committee meetings planned for 2016.

**Expected results:**
- Meetings with relevant LIFE projects.
- At least two site visits to LIFE teams.

**C actions: Project management and monitoring of the project progress**

- **Action C.1 Project’s Steering Committee**
  
  **Status of action: in progress**

  Foreseen start date: April 2015  
  Anticipated start date: August 2015

  Foreseen end date: March 2018  
  Anticipated end date: March 2018

  The 1st Steering Committee meeting of the project took place in Brussels on September 4th 2015, with 16 participants representing 13 partners (see minutes Annex C1/1). During the SC some deadlines were amended, and noted by the Commission as non-substantial changes in its letter of 29/10/15. A tender for the SAP TT was prepared. The need of expanding the geographical scope of the SAPs was raised by some of the partners, as a result, meetings between AEWA Secretariat and SAP leaders from SEO/BirdLife, LOD and HOS, to discuss additional funding for workshops, were agreed. BLI developed and circulated model documents for: evaluation of implementation of existing plans, species status reports, planning workshops essentials and action plan format. Background information factsheets for each species were circulated. In terms of project management, it was confirmed that there is no need for financial reporting from co-funders.

  The 2nd meeting was a Skype conference call on November 19th 2015. The 15 participants represented 10 partners (see minutes Annex C1/2). The purpose and composition of the Scientific Committee was discussed. AEWA representative proposed to facilitate three species-workshops. A draft communication plan was presented, as well as a summary of results of the first meeting with the External Monitor. Finally, the replacement of the Project Coordinator was announced.

  1st and 2nd Steering Committee minutes attached

- **Action C.2 Project’s Scientific Committee**
  
  **Status of action: started**

  Foreseen start date: April 2015  
  Anticipated start date: August 2015

  Foreseen end date: March 2018  
  Anticipated end date: March 2018
The list of proposed members of the SCC was agreed during the 2nd SC meeting in November 2015. A total of twelve members were invited by e-mail in December 2015, and soon as invitations were accepted, the SCC members were informed about the date and place of the 1st SCC meeting. The first Scientific Committee meeting will take place on 22nd April 2016, in Bonn (Germany) back-to-back with the 3rd Steering Committee meeting, and the CMS meeting. After, the meeting minutes will be distributed amongst all partners and participants.

The dates of the 2nd and 3rd SCC meetings were proposed and agreed with partners through e-mail, for 23rd May 2017 and autumn 2017 respectively (Table 2, see agenda Annex C2/1).

Table 2. Date and place of the Steering and Scientific Committee meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Steering Committee</th>
<th>Scientific Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th Sep 2015, Brussels</td>
<td>1st meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th Nov 2015, on-line</td>
<td>2nd meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st-22nd Apr 2016, Bonn</td>
<td>3rd meeting</td>
<td>1st meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Nov 2016, on-line</td>
<td>4th meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd May 2017, in person</td>
<td>5th meeting</td>
<td>2nd meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Nov 2017, on-line</td>
<td>6th meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn 2017, in person</td>
<td>3rd meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agenda for the joint 3rd Steering Committee and Scientific Committee meeting attached

- **Action C.3 Project implementation, management and monitoring**
  
  **Status of action: started**
  
  Foreseen start date: April 2015 Anticipated start date: August 2015
  
  Foreseen end date: June 2018 Anticipated end date: June 2018

  All Project staff, both coordinating beneficiary project team (Project Coordinator, Head of Conservation, Financial Manager, Financial Assistant and Communication Assistant) and associated beneficiary’s project teams are appointed and aware of their roles and obligations for completing the Project. The project management is functioning smoothly; the coordinating beneficiary effectively coordinates the work of partnering beneficiaries.

  **Problems and changes:** As mentioned above, on January 15th the Project Coordinator Ms. Christina Ieronymidou left the project. By February 8th she was replaced by Ms. Anna Staneva. Sofia Capellán was also hired as part-time project assistant, (Species Conservation Assistant) by BirdLife International. The half-time position is based in Cambridge together with the new Project Coordinator. The Head of Conservation at BirdLife International Mr. Ivan Ramirez ensured the transition was successful and maintained contacts with both project partners and the EU Commission.

- **Action C.6 Indicators**
  
  The project specific indicators are listed in Annex C6/1.

Table of Project Specific Indicators attached

**Note:** Actions A.12 to A.18 have not been started yet, thus their description is not applicable for the current reporting period.
5.2 Progress of the project following species by species summaries

White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) – led by SEO/BirdLife

The White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), listed as Endangered (IUCN Red List), has a global population of 5,300-8,700 mature individuals. There are four separate sub-populations: Central Asia (c.5–10,000 birds), Pakistan (near extinct), North Africa (400–600 birds), and Spain (c. 2,500 birds). Under the LIFE EuroSAP project the existing International Single Species Action Plan for the species (Hughes et al. 2006) will be updated, taking into consideration the entire species range.

- **Action A.1 Start-up phase for SAPs**
  
  **Status of action: in progress**
  
  Foreseen start date: 1st April 2015  
  Actual start date: 1st June 2015  
  Foreseen end date: 30th Nov 2015  
  Anticipated end date: 15th April 2016

The team coordinator has been appointed. The core team of the species working group was constituted by members of SEO/BirdLife and AEWA secretariat representatives. National focal points were agreed with AEWA Member States. In addition, BirdLife partners have been included as key stakeholders. A ToR draft (Annex A1/1) has been written and circulated to potential members of the WG, and will be adopted in the first half of April. Experts and stakeholders have been identified, and meetings with potential stakeholders have taken place. LIFE EuroSAP was discussed during the experts meeting (December 2015) of the implementation of the Action Plan for the eradication of Ruddy Duck in Europe. This meeting was attended by representatives from Spain, France, Netherlands, Belgium and United Kingdom. Moroccan representatives also met with SEO/BirdLife in January 2016.

**Problems and changes:** The original scope of the project – focussing on the western range of the species (mainly Spain), including other countries with significant numbers *O. leucocephala* (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia), or countries that could be responsible for concrete actions, such as Ruddy Duck control (United Kingdom, France, Netherlands and Belgium), is to be changed according to the recommendations of AEWA. The first International SAP of *O. leucocephala* was agreed in 1996 and included the above mentioned territories. Nevertheless, the subsequent review of the SAP (2007) was done under the AEWA domain and included the whole range of the species. In order to be coherent with the last SAP review, the update to be done under the LIFE EuroSAP project will also cover the entire species range. With this perspective, the river basin authorities and regional agencies will be targeted too, allowing a deep involvement of the responsible water and territory management bodies. In consequence, the number of stakeholders will be increased, which will require a proportional increase of available funds. Following several meetings held with SEO/BirdLife, AEWA and BLI, AEWA has agreed to financially support the broadening of the SAP. Because of this decision, it is envisaged that the actions will suffer a slight delay, to ensure a wide number of stakeholders are contacted.
Draft ToR for O. leucocephala attached

- **Action A.3 Evaluation of the implementation of the existing action plan**
  **Status of action:** in progress
  Foreseen start date: 30th Nov 2015  Actual start date: 1st Oct 2015
  Foreseen end date: 31st Mar 2016  Anticipated end date: 1st May 2016

  A methodology for the SAP evaluation has been adopted, based on the template proposed by AEWA, which follows the same criteria used in the previous review. The evaluation of the implementation of the existing SAP for *O. leucocephala* has been done for Spain, and a questionnaire (Annex A3/1) has been sent to stakeholders from the most important range countries. All replies are expected to be received and summarized in April, and an evaluation review to be completed by May 1st.

  **Problems and changes:** The action is delayed by one month due to the broader species range to be covered by the SAP.

*Questionnaire on the evaluation of existing SAP for O. leucocephala attached*

- **Action A.6 Update of the status report**
  **Status of action:** in progress
  Foreseen start date: 1st April 2016  Actual start date: 1st October 2015
  Foreseen end date: 1st May 2016  Anticipated end date: 1st May 2016

  The draft status report of *O. leucocephala* is in preparation. Questionnaires on the species status have been sent to stakeholders from the most important range countries, and replies will be incorporated into the draft status report in early April. The first draft report will be circulated among stakeholders according to the planned schedule. No delays are expected.

- **Action A.8 Elaboration of the species status report and consultation with stakeholders**
  **Status of action:** started
  Foreseen start date: 1st April 2016  Actual start date: 15th January 2016
  Foreseen end date: 1st May 2016  Anticipated end date: 31st May 2016

  The status report of *O. leucocephala* will be prepared, considering the comments of the stakeholders from the range countries.

  **Problems and changes:** Slight delay in the implementation of the action due to the enlargement of the range to be covered by this project is expected. The lack of accurate data for the whole range of the species may also cause difficulties in the elaboration of the species status report. To tackle this problem, the species leader will dedicate extra time to contact all stakeholders that can contribute to the proper assessment of the species status.

- **Action A.9 Providing feedback from the consultation of the draft status report**
  **Status of action:** not started
  Foreseen start date: 1st May 2016  Anticipated start date: 1st June 2016
  Foreseen end date: 31st July 2016  Anticipated end date: 31st July 2016
This action will be undertaken after the completion of action A.8. Feedback from the consultations will be provided to the stakeholders within shorter period, in order to compensate the delay in the precedent actions and to meet the initially planned deadline.

**Problems and changes:** Due to the delay in implementation of action A.7 (development of the SAP TT), the feedback on the draft status report will be provided through email and personal meetings, thus not through the web-based platform.

- **Action A.10 Finalisation, publication and dissemination of the status report**
  **Status of action:** not started
  - Foreseen start date: 31st July 2016
  - Actual start date: 31st July 2016
  - Foreseen end date: 31st August 2016
  - Anticipated end date: 31st August 2016

The status report for *O. leucocephala* will be finalized and published on the SAP tracking Tool. The action will be completed after the implementation of A.9 action. No delay is expected.

- **Action A.11 Planning workshop**
  **Status of action:** started
  - Foreseen start date: 1st July 2016
  - Actual start date: 1st October 2015
  - Foreseen end date: 31st December 2016
  - Anticipated end date: 31st Dec 2016

The workshop dedicated to *O. leucocephala* SAP is planned for the last week of September 2016. The place of the workshop is to be agreed. A list of potential participants is in preparation. Invitations will be sent in due time.

**Problems and changes:** The number of participants in the workshop is expected to increase by 15-20 participants, due to the global range of the species to be covered by the SAP, instead of the initially planned western part. Supplementary funds will be provided by AEWA in order to cover the travel costs of the additional participants.

**Velvet Scoter (Melanitta fusca) – led by LOD**

The Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) is listed as Vulnerable on the global IUCN Red List, with a global population estimate of 300,000 mature individuals. Under the LIFE EuroSAP project, the existing Species Management Plan (2007-2009) will be used as a basis for the development of an International Species Action Plan, considering the rapid species decline of 30-49% over the last three generations.

- **Action A.1 Start-up phase for SAPs**
  **Status of action:** completed
  - Foreseen start date: April 2015
  - Actual start date: 1st Sep 2015
  - Foreseen end date: 30th Nov 2015
  - Anticipated end date: 30th Nov 2015

The initial steps towards the updated SAP have been carried by Mr. Liutauras Raudonikis, CEO at LOD, and by a newly hired Species Officer (Mr. Mindaugas Dagys).
Consultations with potential representatives from the key species' range states were made to ensure their participation in the M. fusca SAP working group.

A ToR for the M. fusca working group (Annex A1/2) has been developed, incorporating detailed information on the process of SAP elaboration, the objectives and scope of the SAP, the main contributors and stakeholders, the consecutive steps and timeline of the SAP development, as well as the consultations and communications mechanisms.

The action is completed with no delays.

ToR for the M. fusca WG attached

- Action A.3 Evaluation of the implementation of the existing action plan

  Status of action: in progress
  Foreseen start date: 30th Nov 2015  Actual start date: 1st Sep 2015
  Foreseen end date: 31st Mar 2016  Anticipated end date: 31st March 2016

A Management Plan for M. fusca was prepared and adapted for the Member States in 2007, which defined a number of objectives needed to restore the species population to a favourable conservation status in the EU. It also set appropriate actions to achieve these objectives, related to policy and legislative issues, management of breeding, staging and wintering populations, management of potentially dangerous human activities, international co-operation and research.

An evaluation of such plan is ongoing, aiming to assess how successfully this management plan was implemented in different MS and whether the objectives, defined in the plan, have been achieved. The relevant existing information on M. fusca (publications, reports, databases) was compiled and updated. A questionnaire (Annex A3/2), addressing all the objectives and actions foreseen in the existing MP, as well as other issues related to the conservation of M. fusca in the MS, was prepared and distributed among representatives of the countries. The compilation of the feedback (from the questionnaires) is in progress.

The report on the evaluation of implementation of M. fusca MP will be completed according to the project timeline – by 31st March 2016.

Questionnaire on the evaluation of existing MP for M. fusca attached

- Action A.6 Update of the status report

  Status of action: in progress
  Foreseen start date: 1st April 2016  Actual start date: 1st October 2015
  Foreseen end date: 1st May 2016  Anticipated end date: 1st May 2016

Since the M. fusca SAP will be developed as an AEWA plan as well, all the activities related to the preparation of this SAP were closely coordinated with the AEWA Secretariat. A selection of countries to be involved and/or consulted during the process was also carried out, following AEWA’s "Guidance on defining the action plan spatial scope for species with a wide geographical range". 12 countries were defined as principal range states, with additional 15 countries identified as survey or consultation range states. It has to be mentioned that the world population of the M. fusca consists of two
biogeographical distinct populations – the Western Siberia & Northern Europe/NW Europe population, which comprises the absolute majority of birds; and a very small Black Sea & Caspian population, which also presents big information gaps and is thought to be of very small size (from few hundred to 1,500 individuals). There is still some uncertainty whether the *M. fusca* SAP will cover also the Black Sea & Caspian population – discussions on this issue are still ongoing in AEWA and a final decision is expected in early April 2016. The inclusion of this population into the SAP would result in additional 3–5 countries to be involved in the SAP elaboration process. A questionnaire on the status of *M. fusca* (Annex A6/1) was prepared and distributed to the representatives from the range states in order to compile the up-to-date information on the current status and recent changes for the species across its breeding, migration and wintering range. Collection of feedback is ongoing. The first draft of the *M. fusca* Status Report is expected to be ready by 1st May 2016.

**Questionnaire on M. fusca status attached**

- **Action A.8 Elaboration of the species status report and consultation with stakeholders**
  
  **Status of action: not started**
  Foreseen start date: 1st April 2016 Anticipated start date: 1st April 2016
  Foreseen end date: 1st May 2016 Anticipated end date: 1st May 2016

  The elaboration of the *M. fusca* Status Report will follow the preparation of the first draft of the report under action A.6. No delays are expected.

- **Action A.9 Providing feedback from the consultation of the draft status report**
  
  **Status of action: not started**
  Foreseen start date: 1st May 2016 Actual start date: 1st May 2016
  Foreseen end date: 31st July 2016 Anticipated end date: 31st July 2016

  This action will be undertaken after the completion of action A.8. No delay is expected.

- **Action A.10 Finalisation, publication and dissemination of the status report**
  
  **Status of action: not started**
  Foreseen start date: 31st July 2016 Actual start date: 31st July 2016
  Foreseen end date: 31st August 2016 Anticipated end date: 31st August 2016

  The finalisation, publication and dissemination of the *M. fusca* Status Report will be carried out upon the completion of all the previous steps, related to the preparation of this report. No delay is expected.

- **Action A.11 Planning workshop**
  
  **Status of action: started**
  Foreseen start date: 31st July 2016 Actual start date: 15th January 2016
  Foreseen end date: 31st Dec 2016 Anticipated end date: 31st Dec 2016

  The preliminary date for the *M. fusca* SAP was discussed with the AEWA Secretariat and set for 3-6 October 2016 in Vilnius, Lithuania.
The LOD Species Officer participated in the Species Action Planning training session on 19 January 2016, conducted by Boris Barov from BirdLife Europe via Skype.

**Dalmatian Pelican (Pelecanus crispus) – led by HOS**

The Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) is listed as Near Threatened on the global IUCN Red List, with a global population estimate of 6,700-9,300 mature individuals. Under the LIFE EuroSAP Project, the existing Action Plan for the Dalmatian Pelican in Europe (1997) will be revised, following the same methodology used during the review process in 2007 (AEWA). Eventually, a global approach of the new species action plan will be followed after the AEWA recommendations.

- **Action A.1 Start-up phase for SAPs**
  
  **Status of action:** in progress

  Foreseen start date: 1st April 2015
  
  Actual start date: 8th Jan 2016

  Foreseen end date: 30th Nov 2015
  
  Anticipated end date: 30th April 2016

  The core species team was set in place and a team coordinator was appointed. Potential members of the *P. crispus* WG were identified and letters of invitation were sent (Annex A1/3). A draft ToR (Annex A1/4) was written and will be finalized after receiving a positive reply from all invited WG members. A list of national focal points was drafted and a request for collaboration was sent to the Chair of the IUCN Pelican Specialist Group – Mr. Giorgos Catsadorakis, in order to receive advice in the completion of the list. Team meetings and meetings with stakeholders will be started immediately after completion of the contact list.

  *Invitation letter to the P. crispus WG members attached*  
  *Draft ToR for the P. crispus WG attached*

- **Action A.3 Evaluation of the implementation of the existing action plan**
  
  **Status of action:** not started

  Foreseen start date: 30th Nov 2015
  
  Anticipated start date: 1st May 2016

  Foreseen end date: 31st March 2016
  
  Anticipated end date: 31st July 2016

  The evaluation of the existing *P. crispus* SAP will be initiated after the completion of A.1 and the approval of the list of national focal points by the IUCN Pelican Specialist Group.

  The action is delayed by 3 months, following the delay in action A.1.

- **Action A.6 Update of the status report**
  
  **Status of action:** not started

  Foreseen start date: 1st April 2016
  
  Anticipated start date: 1st May 2016

  Foreseen end date: 1st May 2016
  
  Anticipated end date: 31st July 2016

  The update of the *P. crispus* status report will be finalized after the completion of A.1 and the approval of the list of national focal points by the IUCN Pelican Specialist Group.

  The action is delayed by 3 months, following the delay in action A.1.
- **Action A.8 Elaboration of the species status report and consultation with stakeholders**
  
  **Status of action: not started**
  
  Foreseen start date: 1st April 2016  
  Anticipated start date: 1st Aug 2016
  
  Foreseen end date: 1st May 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 31st Aug 2016
  
  The second draft *P. crispus* status report will be finalized after the completion of A.6.
  
  The action is delayed by 4 months, following the delay in action A.6.

- **Action A.9 Providing feedback from the consultation of the draft status report**
  
  **Status of action: not started**
  
  Foreseen start date: 1st May 2016  
  Anticipated start date: 1st Sep 2016
  
  Foreseen end date: 31st July 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 30th Sep 2016
  
  This action will be implemented after the completion of A.8; the action will be condensed in order to compensate the delay in the previous actions.

- **Action A.10 Finalisation, publication and dissemination of the status report**
  
  **Status of action: not started**
  
  Foreseen start date: 31st July 2016  
  Anticipated start date: 1st Oct 2016
  
  Foreseen end date: 31st Aug 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 31st Oct 2016
  
  This action will be implemented after the completion of A.9. The action will be completed with 2 months delay.

- **Action A.11 Planning workshop**
  
  **Status of action: started**
  
  Foreseen start date: 31st July 2016  
  Anticipated start date: 31st Jan 2016
  
  Foreseen end date: 31st Dec 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 31st Dec 2016
  
  The *P. crispus* workshop date has been set with AEWA, and will be held on 21st-25th November 2016, in Greece.
  
  No delays are expected.

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**Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) led by VCF**

The Cinereous Vulture is listed as Near Threatened on the global IUCN Red List, with a global population estimate of 14,000-20,000 mature individuals (1,700-1,900 pairs in Europe (BirdLife International 2004; Anon. 2004) and 5,500-8,000 pairs in Asia (Anon. 2004)). Under the LIFE EuroSAP, the existing Action Plan for the Cinereous Vulture in Europe (1996) will be revised, following the same methodology used during the review process in 2000 (Gallo-Orsi, 2001), 2004 (Nagy & Crockford, 2004) and 2010 (BirdLife International). Eventually, a global approach of the new species action plan will be followed after the CMS recommendations.
• **Action A.1 Start-up phase for SAPs**

**Status of action: in progress**
Foreseen start date: 1st April 2015  Actual start date: 1st April 2015
Foreseen end date: 30th November 2015  Anticipated end date: 31st May 2016

A team leader has been appointed by VCF - Jovan Andevski. The SAP working group (and the respective ToR) has not yet been formally established, as this will depend on the scope of the action plan (see below). Nevertheless, as coordinator for the delivery of the *A. monachus* SAP, the VCF has been in touch all relevant stakeholders and informed them about the plans to update the existing SAP.

**Problems and changes:** During the 1st SC, the VCF asked to postpone the actions on the *A. monachus* SAP to 2016 (see Annex C1/1), so they could concentrate on the *G. barbatus* SAP (see below) during 2015-2016, and then tackle the *A. monachus* plan in 2016-2017.

The VCF is currently implementing 5 other LIFE projects (including 3 in which *A. monachus* is a direct or secondary target - 1. Bright Future for Black Vulture, LIFE14/NAT/BG/000649; 2. Egyptian Vulture and Bonelli’s Eagle Conservation in Douro/Duero Canyon, LIFE14/NAT/PT/000855; 3. Conservation of Black and Griffon vultures in the cross-border Rhodope mountains, LIFE14/NAT/NL/000901) and has informed all related stakeholders about the black vulture SAP.

Further, the VCF has been contacted by the CMS with the possibility to enlarge the scope of the *A. monachus* SAP from European to global. This would require much more work and more meetings and stakeholders involved, as the current plan within LIFE EuroSAP only covers Europe – Portugal to Greece, while the species range goes all the way across the Middle East and Central Asia to China.

The VCF has submitted a proposal to CMS, and expects an answer in short time. If it is approved, the workshop and the scope of the SAP will cover the entire species range – at the same cost for the EU, so a considerable added value. If it is not, it will then cover the original plan – the European range.

In any case, the workshop will take place in Spain in autumn 2016, and will be co-financed by a regional government, following some contacts by VCF.

The action is delayed by five months.

• **Action A.3 Evaluation of the implementation of the existing action plan**

**Status of action: not started**
Foreseen start date: 30th Nov 2015  Anticipated start date: 1st April 2016
Foreseen end date: 31st March 2016  Anticipated end date: 31st August 2016

The evaluation of the implementation of the existing *A. monachus* SAP will be implemented following the changes described under action A.1. The VCF is experienced in evaluation of SAPs, which guarantees the smooth implementation of the action.

• **Action A.6 Update of the status report**

**Status of action: not started**
Foreseen start date: 1st April 2015  Anticipated start date: 31st July 2016
The *A. monachus* status report will be updated according to the decision of the CMS on the European or global coverage of the SAP, following action A.1. VCF’s data base contains all the actual information on the European status of the species, and in case of global approach the relevant information will be added.

- **Action A.8 Elaboration of the species status report and consultation with stakeholders**
  - **Status of action: not started**
    - Foreseen start date: 1\(^{st}\) Apr 2015  
      Anticipated start date: 1\(^{st}\) Sep 2016
    - Foreseen end date: 1\(^{st}\) May 2016  
      Anticipated end date: 30\(^{th}\) Sep 2016

  The second draft of the *A. monachus* status report will be prepared after the completion of action A.6.

- **Action A.9 Providing feedback from the consultation of the draft status report**
  - **Status of action: not started**
    - Foreseen start date: 1\(^{st}\) May 2015  
      Anticipated start date: 1\(^{st}\) Oct 2016
    - Foreseen end date: 31\(^{st}\) July 2016  
      Anticipated end date: 31\(^{st}\) Oct 2016

  The feedback from the consultations on the second draft status report will be provided within one instead of three months in order to compensate the delay in the previous actions.

- **Action A.10 Finalisation, publication and dissemination of the status report**
  - **Status of action: not started**
    - Foreseen start date: 31\(^{st}\) July 2015  
      Anticipated start date: 1\(^{st}\) Nov 2016
    - Foreseen end date: 31\(^{st}\) Aug 2016  
      Anticipated end date: 30\(^{th}\) Nov 2016

  The *A. monachus* status report will be finalized after action A.9.

- **Action A.11 Planning workshop**
  - **Status of action: started**
    - Foreseen start date: 31\(^{st}\) July 2016  
      Anticipated start date: 1\(^{st}\) Dec 2016
    - Foreseen end date: 31\(^{st}\) Dec 2016  
      Anticipated end date: 31\(^{st}\) Dec 2016

  Even though not initially foreseen in the project, an *A. monachus* workshop will be organized by VCF in Spain, in autumn 2016. The VCF has applied to Spanish governmental institutions for funds to cover the workshop costs, and informal positive reply was already obtained. Representatives from only 5 European countries will participate in the workshop in case of European scale of the SAP, but significantly higher number of participants is expected, if a global approach of the SAP will be agreed with the CMS.
Bearded Vulture (Gypaetus barbatus) – led by VCF and SEO/BirdLife

The Bearded Vulture is listed as Near Threatened on the global IUCN Red List, with a global population estimate of 1,300-6,700 mature individuals. Under the LIFE EuroSAP Project, the existing European Union Species Action Plan for the Lammergeier (Gypaetus barbatus) (1997) will be revised, following the same methodology used during the revision in 2010 (BirdLife International).

- **Action A.1 Start-up phase for SAPs**
  
  **Status of action: completed**
  
  | Foreseen start date: 1st April 2015 | Actual start date: 1st April 2015 |
  | Foreseen end date: 30th Nov 2015   | Actual end date: 30th Nov 2015    |

  The team leaders were appointed – Alex Llopis and Franziska Lorcher for VCF, Jorge Orueta for SEO/BirdLife. A working plan was developed, and a ToR was written (Annex A1/5).

  The action was completed on time.

  *ToR for the G. barbatus WG attached*

- **Action A.3 Evaluation of the implementation of the existing action plan**
  
  **Status of action: in progress**
  
  | Foreseen start date: 30th Nov 2015 | Actual start date: 1st July 2015 |
  | Foreseen end date: 31st March 2016 | Anticipated end date: 30th April 2016 |

  A questionnaire (Annex A3/3) was drafted and sent to relevant stakeholders from across the species range. Replies are still being collected. Based on the information received, an evaluation of the implementation of the existing SAP will be prepared by the end of April 2016.

  *Questionnaire on the evaluation of existing SAP for G. barbatus attached*

- **Action A.6 Update of the status report**
  
  **Status of action: completed**
  
  | Foreseen start date: 1st April 2016 | Actual start date: 1st October 2015 |
  | Foreseen end date: 1st May 2016    | Actual end date: 30th November 2015 |

  A questionnaire on the status of G. barbatus (Annex A6/2) was distributed amongst experts, and first draft status report for the species with all the updated information on the species was prepared and sent to relevant stakeholders across the species range before the workshop, organized under action A.11.

  **Problems and changes:** The data from some countries, particularly in the margins of the EU distribution range (Turkey & the Caucasus) is very poor and incomplete.

  *Questionnaire on G. barbatus status attached*
• Action A.8 Elaboration of the species status report and consultation with stakeholders

**Status of action: completed**

Foreseen start date: 1st April 2016  
Actual start date: 30th November 2015  
Foreseen end date: 1st May 2016  
Actual end date: 15th March 2016

The second draft of the G. barbatus status report (Annex A8/1) was prepared after the workshop, organized under action A.11.

*Second draft G. barbatus status report attached*

• Action A.9 Providing feedback from the consultation of the draft status report

**Status of action: in progress**

Foreseen start date: 1st May 2016  
Actual start date: 15th March 2016  
Foreseen end date: 31st July 2016  
Anticipated end date: 1st June 2016

Feedback from the consultations on the second draft status report is being provided with anticipation to the experts and stakeholders.

• Action A.10 Finalisation, publication and dissemination of the status report

**Status of action: not started**

Foreseen start date: 31st July 2016  
Actual start date: 1st June 2016  
Foreseen end date: 31st August 2016  
Anticipated end date: 30th June 2016

The status report will be finalized and published by the end of June 2016.

• Action A.11 Planning workshop

**Status of action: completed**

Foreseen start date: 31st July 2016  
Actual start date: 15th May 2015  
Foreseen end date: 31st Dec 2016  
Actual end date: 30th Nov 2015

The G. barbatus workshop, organized by the VCF, was held on 23-24 November 2015 in Corsica (Annexes A11/1, A11/2, A11/3, A11/4), back-to-back with the Annual Bearded Vulture meeting. The latter event was also organised by the VCF and European experts on the species attended to discuss current progress of the project and conservation priorities for the species. From a total of 80 participants in the Annual Bearded Vulture meeting, 31 experts from 10 countries stayed for the SAP workshop (see http://www.4vultures.org/2015/11/29/working-together-to-update-the-international-species-action-plan-for-the-bearded-vulture-life-eurosap/). The representatives of Greece and Turkey were absent, but the respective stakeholders (government and conservation NGOs) will be sent the SAP first draft (action A.12).

The action is completed with anticipation.

*Invitation to the G. barbatus workshop attached*  
*Agenda for the G. barbatus workshop attached*  
*List of participants in the G. barbatus workshop attached*  
*Photos from the G. barbatus workshop attached*
• **Action A.12 SAP first draft**  
**Status of action: in progress**  
Foreseen start date: 31\(^{st}\) Dec 2016  
Actual start date: November 2015  
Foreseen end date: 30\(^{th}\) April 2017  
Anticipated end date: 30\(^{th}\) April 2016

The first draft of the SAP, with the conclusions from the workshop, is in preparation.

The action will be completed with anticipation.

• **Action A.14 Follow-up consultation on the first draft SAP**  
**Status of action: not started**  
Foreseen start date: 30\(^{th}\) April 2017  
Anticipated start date: 15\(^{th}\) April 2016  
Foreseen end date: 30\(^{th}\) Sep 2017  
Anticipated end date: 30\(^{th}\) Sep 2016

The iterative consultation with stakeholders – both those present at the workshop and others – will start in April, after the completion of action A.12.

The action will be completed with anticipation.

• **Action A.16 SAPs second draft**  
**Status of action: not started**  
Foreseen start date: 30\(^{th}\) Sep 2017  
Anticipated start date: 30\(^{th}\) Sep 2016  
Foreseen end date: 30\(^{th}\) Oct 2017  
Anticipated end date: 30\(^{th}\) Oct 2016

The _G. barbatus_ SAP second draft will be prepared in October 2016, one year earlier than initially planned.

The action will be completed with anticipation.

• **Action A.18 Follow-up consultation on the second draft and SAPs finalization and publication**  
**Status of action: not started**  
Foreseen start date: 30\(^{th}\) Oct 2017  
Anticipated start date: 1\(^{st}\) Nov 2016  
Foreseen end date: 28\(^{th}\) Feb 2018  
Anticipated end date: 31\(^{st}\) Dec 2016

The final version of the _G. barbatus_ SAP will be presented during the Annual Bearded Vulture meeting in Austria in November 2016.

The action will be completed with anticipation.

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**European Turtle Dove (Streptopelia turtur) – led by RSPB**  
The European Turtle Dove (_Streptopelia turtur_) is listed as Vulnerable on the global IUCN Red List, with a global population of 13,000,000-48,000,000 mature individuals, with a significant and continuous decline. Under the LIFE EuroSAP Project the existing Management Plan for Turtle Dove (2007-2009) will be updated, extending the geographical approach from EU to global.
• Action A.1 Start-up phase for SAPs

**Status of action:** in progress  
Foreseen start date: 1st April 2015  
Actual start date: 15th August 2015  
Foreseen end date: 30th Nov 2015  
Anticipated end date: 30th April 2016

The *St. turtur* SAP WG (core planning team plus representatives of the key stakeholders and experts) was set in place. A team coordinator – Ms. Tara Proud (RSPB) – was appointed. A core planning team was established; it is composed of eight people representing eight partner organisations. The members of this team represent the geographic range of the species and are authoritative experts and practitioners. A ToR for the *St. turtur* WG (Annex A1/6) was defined. Meetings with stakeholders and experts have been taking place since August 2015.

Due to the very large geographic range of European Turtle Dove, criteria have been defined to select principle range countries. The criteria yielded a list of 27 countries (of which ten are in Africa, rest being in Europe). The process of appointing national focal points is in progress for each of these countries and a draft list of focal points (Annex A1/7) has been compiled. It is anticipated that all national focal points will be appointed by the end of April 2016.

*ToR for the St. turtur WG attached*  
*Draft list of national focal points for St. turtur*

• Action A.3 Evaluation of the implementation of the existing action plan

**Status of action:** in progress  
Foreseen start date: 30th Nov 2015  
Actual start date: 4th January 2016  
Foreseen end date: 31st March 2016  
Anticipated end date: 30th April 2016

FACE and the RSPB have been working together and realised a recent review of all EU Management Plans for the species have been done in 2013. It was then agreed to review only the progress towards the implementation of such plans from that date onwards.

A questionnaire on the evaluation of the existing Management Plan was distributed among experts and stakeholders. On February 3rd a consultation with the members of Expert Group on the Birds and Habitats Directives (NADEG) was initiated via e-mail. BirdLife partners have been also contacted. It is expected that the completed questionnaires will be received by the beginning of April, and so it is anticipated that this action will be completed by the end of that month.

• Action A.6 Update of the status report

**Status of action:** in progress  
Foreseen start date: 1st April 2016  
Actual start date: 2nd February 2016  
Foreseen end date: 1st May 2016  
Anticipated end date: 1st May 2016

Preliminary ‘fact finding’ to collate the *St. turtur* status report has been initiated. This action is on track to complete a first draft status report by the deadline of May 1st.

• Action A.8 Elaboration of the species status report and consultation with stakeholders

**Status of action:** not started  
Foreseen start date: 1st April 2016  
Anticipated start date: 1st May 2016
Foreseen end date: 1st May 2016                Anticipated end date: 1st June 2016

The second draft of the *St. turtur* status report will be prepared after the completion of action A.6.

- **Action A.9 Providing feedback from the consultation of the draft status report**
  
  **Status of action: not started**
  
  Foreseen start date: 1st May 2016                Anticipated start date: 1st June 2016
  
  Foreseen end date: 31st July 2016                Anticipated end date: 31st July 2016

  Feedback from the consultations on the second draft status report will provided following the implementation of action A.8.

  No delay is expected.

- **Action A.10 Finalisation, publication and dissemination of the status report**
  
  **Status of action: not started**
  
  Foreseen start date: 31st July 2016                Anticipated start date: 31st July 2016
  
  Foreseen end date: 31st Aug 2016                Anticipated end date: 31st Aug 2016

- **Action A.11 Planning workshop**
  
  **Status of action: started**
  
  Foreseen start date: 1st July 2016                Actual start date: 11th January 2016
  
  Foreseen end date: 31st Dec 2016                Anticipated end date: 31st Dec 2016

  Planning for the workshops has started. A preliminary list of 27 priority countries with two representatives from each country was prepared. It is anticipated that invitations to attend the workshops will be sent to invitees by the end of March 2016.

  It is planned that the first workshop will take place in Dakar\(^4\), Senegal, in October 2016 back-to-back with the Pan-African Ornithological Congress (16-21 October 2016), and the second one in Romania, in October/November 2016. These dates are yet to be confirmed depending upon venues and availability of key people.

**Problems and changes:** In the original grant agreement there are three workshops foreseen for the *St. turtur* SAP due to the large geographic scope of the project. The species leader would prefer to use the allocated budget for just two workshops, since this will be more efficient from the point of view of finance and people involved. One of these workshops will focus on the western *St. turtur* flyway and the other will focus on the central and eastern flyways.

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**Yelkouan Sherwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*) – led by LPO**

The Yelkouan Sherwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*) is listed as Vulnerable on the global IUCN Red List, with a global population estimate of 46,000-92,000 individuals. Under the LIFE EuroSAP Project an International Single Species Action Plan for the species will be produced.

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\(^4\) Pending approval from EU Commission as it is beyond EU borders.
• Action A.1 Start-up phase for SAPs

**Status of action: completed**

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The core team of the WG on *P. yelkouan* SAP elaboration was built and a team coordinator was appointed, Bernard Deceuninck. The ToR for the WG (Annex A1/8) was written and adopted, and a timeline for the planning process was agreed with the identified key experts and stakeholder representatives. A list of national focal points was prepared.

Team meetings and meetings with stakeholders are not foreseen before the start of action A.11 (*planning workshop*). Nevertheless, some members of the WG have met in Malta 23-25th November 2015 as attendants to the workshop organised by BirdLife International on “Protecting Seabirds in the Mediterranean: advancing the Marine Protected Area Network”, where Thierry Micol (LPO) have presented the *P. yelkouan* work under the LIFE EuroSAP project.

The action was completed on time.

**Problems and changes**: Due to time dedication to other delayed LIFE project ("LIFE + CAP DOM – Conserving French overseas threatened bird species and their habitats using demonstrative conservation tools" LIFE09 NAT/FR/000582), ended in September 2015, the start-up phase for the *P. yelkouan* SAP began in late August 2015, or three months later than scheduled. Another problem encountered was the difficulties found to identify species experts in some countries, which inevitably took more time than expected.

These two reasons for a delayed start-up phase did not affect the deadline of the production of the *P. yelkouan* ToR report by the end of November, thanks to a better time allocation in that month. Nevertheless, the following phase – the preparation of the status report (actions A.6 and A.8) did start later and a slight delay in its completion is expected.

**ToR for the P. yelkouan WG attached**

• Action A.6 Update of the status report

**Status of action: started**

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<tr>
<td>1st April 2016</td>
<td>28 January 2016</td>
<td>1st May 2016</td>
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The status report aims at describing the current situation of *P. yelkouan*. It will be based on information from available recent literature and from the questionnaire, distributed amongst experts and relevant stakeholders, so unpublished information is also gathered.

An exhaustive inventory of the up-to-date bibliography on the *P. yelkouan* was conducted. The collected information will be submitted to experts for validation or amendment. The questionnaire (Annex A6/3) was submitted to the WG members, and replies are being collected.

A summary of population, conservation status and protection measures for the species was prepared. The content of the up-coming status report was planned (see ToR). The draft
status report will cover all countries hosting significant numbers of the *P. yelkouan* at any time of the annual cycle. The geographical range of the draft status report is widely reflected in the list of experts who form part of the working group.

**Problems and changes:** LPO will allocate more time to this action in February-April 2016, so previous delays can be tackled. In Feb 2016, LPO informed the project team that a new team coordinator would be hired (following a change of role of Bernard Deceuninck), we would expect the new person to be announced along the first weeks of May.

*Questionnaire on the *P. yelkouan* status attached*

- **Action A.8 Elaboration of the species status report and consultation with stakeholders**
  **Status of action:** not started
  Foreseen start date: 1st May 2016  
  Actual start date: 1st May 2016
  Foreseen end date: 30th June 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 30th June 2016

  This action is planned to start after the completion of action A.6. No delays are expected.

- **Action A.9 Providing feedback from the consultation of the draft status report**
  **Status of action:** not started
  Foreseen start date: 1st July 2016  
  Actual start date: 1st July 2016
  Foreseen end date: 31st July 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 31st July 2016

  This action is planned to start after the completion of action A.8. No delays are expected.

- **Action A.10 Finalisation, publication and dissemination of the status report**
  **Status of action:** not started
  Foreseen start date: 1st July 2016  
  Actual start date: 1st July 2016
  Foreseen end date: 31st Aug 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 31st Aug 2016

  This action is planned to start after the completion the action A.9, which will not be launched before July 2016. No delays are expected.

- **Action A.11 Planning workshop**
  **Status of action:** started
  Foreseen start date: 31st July 2016  
  Actual start date: 1st February 2016
  Foreseen end date: 31st Dec 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 31st Dec 2016

  The planning of the organisation of the *P. yelkouan* workshop has been initiated. The workshop will take place in France in September 2016. The office of LPO in Paris has been considered as eventual venue for the workshop, even though the exact location will be confirmed in April/May. The workshop agenda and invitations are also in preparation. No delays are expected.
Monteiro’s Storm Petrel (Hydrobates monteiroi) – led by SPEA

The Monteiro’s Storm Petrel (Hydrobates monteiroi) is listed as Vulnerable on the global IUCN Red List, with a global population estimate of 250-1,000 mature individuals. The species is endemic to the Azores Islands, Portugal. Under the LIFE EuroSAP project a Species Action Plan will be produced.

- Action A.1 Start-up phase for SAPs
  **Status of action: completed**
  Foreseen start date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015
  Actual start date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015
  Foreseen end date: 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015
  Actual end date: 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015

The *H. monteiroi* working group and its leader (Nuno Oliveira) were appointed. The identified stakeholders were contacted and later on some other identified experts were invited. They constitute the “Monteiroi Task-force” (see Annex A1/9- ToR). ToR is written and adopted and timeline of planning process is agreed; experts and stakeholder representatives are appointed. Team meetings and meeting with stakeholders have started. From the early stage of the current project, SPEA involved all relevant stakeholders to reach a solid and strong outcome. Each member of the "Monteiroi Task-force" has played a fundamental role from the early stages of the process. Skype and e-mail discussions were the main tools to collate data and produce the first results. A kick-off meeting (Annexes A1/10, A1/11, A1/12) took place from April 20-22.2015, including a visit to Praia Islet, one of the main breeding colonies of the species. This meeting was crucial to reach agreement on some conservation and methodological aspects related to the ToR for the SAP and to guarantee full involvement from all participants. A public presentation for the local community was also organized to disseminate the LIFE EuroSAP and the Monteiro’s SAP process.

No delays or problems happen during this phase of the project and the action ran as expected. However future deadlines are quite tight and the WG leader is expected to make sure all deadlines are well known by WG members and well achieved.

*ToR for the H. monteiroi WG attached*
*Minutes from the Monteiro’s kick-off meeting attached*
*Photos for the Monteiro’s kick-off meeting attached*
*List of participants in the Monteiro’s kick-off meeting attached*

- Action A.4 H. monteiroi draft status report
  **Status of action: completed**
  Foreseen start date: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015
  Actual start date: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015
  Foreseen end date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016
  Anticipated end date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016

As stated in the project proposal, *H. monteiroi*, being a recent taxonomic split, does not have any previous species action plan or draft documents that could be evaluated under action A4. This action was used to prepare the first draft status report for the species (Annex A4/1). Great advantage was taken by the personal meeting of April 2015 (see Action A.1) and much information was collected from the WG members and stakeholders. Some more one to one meetings took place on Graciosa, Flores and Corvo Island in order
to present the project to relevant stakeholders, and to collect information from them. An e-
mail group was also created and used to share information and clarify any coming up
doubts. Due to the restricted range of *H. monteiroi* to the Azores Islands, SPEA aims to
involve more local stakeholders than expected for a regular SAP process.

The action was completed on time.

*First draft *H. monteiroi* status report attached*

- **Action A.8 Elaboration of the species status report and consultation with stakeholders**
  
  **Status of action:** not started
  
  Foreseen start date: 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2016  
  Anticipated start date: 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2016
  
  Foreseen end date: 1\textsuperscript{st} May 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 1\textsuperscript{st} May 2016

  This action is expected to start as soon as the first draft *H. monteiroi* status report is ready. No delays are expected.

- **Action A.9 Providing feedback from the consultation of the draft status report**
  
  **Status of action:** not started
  
  Foreseen start date: 1\textsuperscript{st} May 2016  
  Anticipated start date: 1\textsuperscript{st} May 2016
  
  Foreseen end date: 31\textsuperscript{st} July 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 31\textsuperscript{st} July 2016

  This action is expected to start after the completion of action A.8. No delays are expected.

- **Action A.10 Finalisation, publication and dissemination of the status report**
  
  **Status of action:** not started
  
  Foreseen start date: 31\textsuperscript{st} July 2016  
  Anticipated start date: 31\textsuperscript{st} July 2016
  
  Foreseen end date: 31\textsuperscript{st} August 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 31\textsuperscript{st} August 2016

  This action is expected to start after the implementation of action A.9. A Portuguese
  version of the draft status report and all foreseen documents will be produced in order to
  guarantee a higher involvement of the relevant stakeholders (namely the local
  organizations, e.g. tourism operators and fisherman associations).

- **Action A.11 Planning workshop**
  
  **Status of action:** started
  
  Foreseen start date: 31\textsuperscript{st} July 2016  
  Actual start date: 31\textsuperscript{st} Jan 2016
  
  Foreseen end date: 31\textsuperscript{st} Dec 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 31\textsuperscript{st} Dec 2016

  One planning workshop with experts and stakeholders will be organised in support of the
  *H. monteiroi* SAP elaboration. This workshop is foreseen to be host on Graciosa Island in
  July or September 2016, depending on participants’ availability. Personal and phone
  meetings will target the stakeholders outside the species WG. The workshop will follow
  the design already defined by BLI. Late during the workshop day, a public presentation
  for the local community is also foreseen in order to disseminate the LIFE EuroSAP and
  the Monteiro’s SAP process.
European lowland grassland waders – led by NABU

Under the LIFE EuroSAP, one International Multi-Species Action Plan for all 8 species of lowland grassland waders will be produced, considering their breeding populations. The species to be included in the MSAP are: *Haematopus ostralegus* (NT), *Vanellus vanellus* (NT), *Calidris alpine* (LC), *Calidris pugnax* (LC), *Gallinago gallinago* (LC), *Numenius arquata* (NT), *Limosa limosa* (NT) and *Tringa totanus* (LC).

- **Action A.2 Start-up phase for MSAP**
  **Status of action:** completed
  Foreseen start date: 1st April 2015  
  Actual start date: 15th May 2015
  Foreseen end date: 30th Nov 2015  
  Actual end date: 30th Nov 2015

A team coordinator for the MSAP was appointed. The team, consisting of members from NABU, RSPB, VBN and SOF was formed, and regular meetings have taken place, predominately by phone, email and Skype. The Annual Conference of the International Wader Study Group in Iceland in October 2015 was used to have a face-to-face meeting among some of the team members. The ToR for the waders WG (Annex A2/1) was written and adopted. Key experts were contacted, as well as key representatives of stakeholders were appointed (see ToR for details).

The action was completed on time.

*ToR for the waders WG attached*

- **Action A.5 Eurasian lowland wet meadow breeding waders draft status report**
  **Status of action:** in progress
  Foreseen start date: 1st April 2015  
  Actual start date: 1st October 2015
  Foreseen end date: 1st April 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 1st April 2016

Experts were appointed; information on the species population status was collected through electronically distributed questionnaires (Annex 5/1). The questionnaire was sent to the experts and stakeholders listed in the appendices of the ToR (Annex A2/1); replies are being received. The first draft of the status report is in preparation and will be written by due date. The action implementation will proceed unchanged, and information for the species status report will be gathered through literature research and expert consultations. All available platforms will be used in order to identify and fill in data gaps.

No problems are identified so far; both experts and stakeholders respect deadlines and feel committed to the project.

*Questionnaire on the waders status attached*

- **Action A.11 Planning workshop**
  **Status of action:** started
  Foreseen start date: 31st July 2016  
  Actual start date: 1st Dec 2015
  Foreseen end date: 31st Dec 2016  
  Anticipated end date: 31st Dec 2016
The international lowland grasslands waders workshop for the elaboration of the MSAP will take place on 7-10 November 2016, in Tönning, Germany, close to the Wadden Sea National Park. The invitations to the workshop will be sent to the experts and stakeholders before the summer holidays in order to guarantee their participation.

No delays or changes are expected in the implementation of the action.
6. Envisaged progress until next report

We expect a significant advance in the implementation of many project actions from now until the conclusion of the next reporting period (16th March 2016 – 31st March 2017). All ToRs will be written (A.1). The evaluation of the existing species action plans for the European Turtle Dove, Velvet Scoter, Dalmatian Pelican, White-headed Duck, Cinereous Vulture, Bearded Vulture, *P. yelkouan* and Eurasian lowland wet meadow breeding waders will be completed (A.3). Status reports for the Monteiro’s Storm Petrel (A.4) and waders (A.5) will be drafted, or updated in the case of the species already covered by SAPs (A.6). After finalizing the species status reports, they will be published (A.8) and subjected to consultations with the previously identified stakeholders (A.9). The final reports will be published (A.10) and presented during the relative species dedicated workshops (A.11) until the end of 2016. As result of the consultations during the workshops, as well as on-line through the fully functioning web based platform SAP Tracking Tool (A.7), first drafts of the 8 SAPs and one MSAP will be progressed until end of March 2017 (A.12 and A.13).

The dissemination of the project actions will be continued through the project web site (B.1), partner organizations web sites and social media (B.3). International cooperation is foreseen through participation in at least 1 conference in September (Birds in a Changing World, Halle, Germany) and one BirdLife International Conservation workshop in November (Conservation Priorities for the Caucasus and Central Asian region, Georgia). Networking with relevant LIFE Projects will be also continued as outlined in the project proposal.

Project management will be implemented according to the agreed work plan (C.3). Two Steering Committee meetings (C.1) and one Scientific Committee meeting (C.2) will be organized in support to the successful project implementation. The achievement of the project indicators will be updated and uploaded in the newly created on-line data base of the LIFE Programme (C.6).

*Gantt chart of the overall project progress attached*

### 6.1 Impact

**Nature & Biodiversity:** The actions, developed in the early phases of the SAPs elaboration, did not have impact on the populations of the targeted species, nor on other/species/habitats present where the species occurs. The SAPs aim to promote conservation actions adapted for the priority species. The SAPs, which will be produced in early 2018 are supposed to produce this expected positive impact on the targeted species and their habitats through international implementation.

**Indirect impacts:** The actions, developed in the early phases of the SAPs elaboration, did not have indirect impact on the populations of the targeted species, nor on other/species/habitats present where the species occurs. Nevertheless, the project implementations induced practical collaboration between different stakeholders.

In regards to the *P. yelkouan*, the local initiatives of censuses of marine bird colonies are led by people invited to contribute to this action plan. This gives an opportunity to exchange common issues on site management concerning the whole Mediterranean coast. It is also an opportunity to make a link between local working groups inside the frame of this international project. This creates a dynamic respected by relevant local authorities, who are expected to
follow a similar approach when join in adopting the AP approach: designation of protected sites, funding site management, take in charge recurrent tasks like rat or cat control.

As per *H. monteiroi*. The visits made by the working group focused on the islands and colonies of Graciosa, Flores and Corvo where *H. monteiroi* was suspected to breed, namely the islets near the north coastline of Graciosa Island (Baleia Islet) and the ones off Flores Island (Alagoa Islets). *H. monteiroi* was heard in good numbers which means breeding is very likely. SPEA and the others participants on the working group are working to confirm the breeding on those sites. The Graciosa Natural Park has been working continuously to restore one of the main breeding sites of *H. monteiroi* – Praia Islet. The start of the LIFE EuroSAP was an extra source of motivation to keep the work on wheels. The park, together with the Department of Fisheries (DOP) and SPEA team are monitoring the breeding colonies located on Baixo and Praia islets, and evaluating the main threats *in situ*.

**Policy implications:** Consultations to the NADEG members and the Member States, are conducted by the EC, and materials presenting the LIFE EuroSAP project have already been promoted. During these consultations and further collaboration with the Member States, it is expected that the LIFE EuroSAP project will present in clear and understandable way the process of elaboration of species action plans, the possibilities for the Member States to participate in the process of consultation, as well as to engage in the approval, implementation and update of species action plans after the project end.

It is expected that the active collaboration of the Member States will benefit also the CMS and AEWA as the action plans developed or endorsed under the international environmental agreements require voluntary implementation by all contracting parties.

Soon after the meeting of the Monteiro’s working group on Graciosa Island, the Graciosa Natural Park came up with a plan to regulate the visits on Praia Islet. The first draft was presented to the working group and discussed openly. The Azorean Regional Government has great expectations from this; several meetings have taken place in a coordinated way to ensure high conservation impact of this project. SPEA and its partners are currently considering the possibilities of drafting a more ambitious conservation proposal which could be submitted to EU funding.

The Project Specific Indicators table was completed (Annex C6/1), and the output and impact indicators will be transferred into the new web-based database (access code received) by 30th April 2016, following the instructions from the EC letter of 02/03/2016 and the external monitor’s letters of 07/03/2016 and 04/04/2016.

*Project Specific Indicators table attached*

### 6.2 Outside LIFE

The MSAP project benefits tremendously form the experts unified in the International Wader Study Group IWSG. The IWSG provides a platform where all experts on shorebird ecology and biology meet and exchange knowledge. The majority of data and knowledge on grassland breeding waders has been compiled within this group for many decades and lays now the groundwork for the MSAP.
All BirdLife Partners within the MSAP projects have collected a tremendous wealth of knowledge and data within local and national projects for many decades, which now also lay the groundwork for the MSAP.

Large part of the *P. yelkouan* breeding colonies is present in protected areas and benefits from conservation actions, including actions developed in the frame of other LIFE projects. Such actions will feed the AP in the way that WG members will have the opportunity to share their experience for a common strategy for a better conservation of the *P. yelkouan*.

During last year SPEA was developing a small project targeting the conservation of *H. monteiroi* breeding colonies of the islets located of Graciosa Island (Baixo and Praia islets). The *H. monteiroi* Project (phase I) was funded by BirdLife International through the Preventing Extinctions Programme (PEP). From June 2014 to May 2015, new data on breeding population size and the impact of main threats was collected. Data is being analysed and results will feed the foreseen Status Report.

Also under the aim of the European Atlas of the Breeding Birds and the Portuguese Atlas of the Breeding Birds some visits were made to the islets located off Flores and Graciosa Islands. Despite during those visits *H. monteiroi* is not present at the breeding colonies, some actions targeting the species were put in place, namely the prospection and maintenance of the artificial nests and searching for dead birds potentially predated by gulls by the end of the last breeding season. Also an automatic recording unit, left on the Alagoa islets (located off Flores Island) to record the vocal activity of *H. Monteiro* is during the last breeding season, was recovered and data is being analysed in order to estimate the population size.
7. Financial part

7.1 Costs incurred

A summary of the incurred costs for the reporting period by cost category are presented in the summary table below. The real expenditure is expected to be slightly higher as for some of the incurred costs justification documents still have to be provided. The total incurred costs of €130,300.29 represent 87% of the first pre-financing payment. It is expected that the threshold of at least 100% of the first pre-financing payment (€150,000.00) will be achieved by the end of April 2016.

As significant part of both personnel and travel costs of the project are related to the organization of species-dedicated workshops, the elaboration of the species status reports and first drafts action plans (A.8-123), significant increase in expenditures is expected within the last trimester of 2016 and the beginning of 2017, thus in the second half of the next reporting period. These costs will be reported under the Mid-term Report by 31st March 2017.

No budget modifications are expected so far.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget breakdown categories</th>
<th>Budgeted costs in €</th>
<th>Costs incurred from the start date to 15/03/2016 in €</th>
<th>% of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Personnel</td>
<td>493,702.00</td>
<td>90,799.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Travel and subsistence</td>
<td>158,765.00</td>
<td>12,432.20</td>
<td>7.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. External assistance</td>
<td>83,560.00</td>
<td>19,417.64</td>
<td>23.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Durable goods</td>
<td>1,200.00</td>
<td>199.10</td>
<td>16.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>1,200.00</td>
<td>199.10</td>
<td>16.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prototype</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Land purchase / long-term lease</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Consumables</td>
<td>35,760.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Other Costs</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Overheads</td>
<td>53,008.00</td>
<td>7,452.00</td>
<td>14.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>837,995.00</td>
<td>130,300.29</td>
<td>15.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It should be mentioned, that both the coordinating partner and the associated beneficiaries are reporting personnel costs by action. The Project Coordinator keeps track of the action by action costs using a modified budget table, incorporating the project timeline (work plan and budget), as well as time sheets reflecting the time dedicated to each action by the project staff. The action by action table will be submitted with the Mid-term Report.

The AEWA additional financial support (apart from the stated in the Grant Agreement co-financing) for organizing the *O. leucocephala* and *M. fusca* workshops is expected to be directly transferred to the corresponding associated beneficiaries’ accounts.
8. Annexes and Deliverables

Annexes

Annex 1 Elaboration of species action plans workflow
Annex 2 Overall progress of the implementation actions
Annex 5 Gantt chart of the overall project progress
Annex A1/1 Draft ToR for *O. leucocephala*
Annex A1/2 ToR for the *M. fusca* WG
Annex A1/3 Invitation letter to the *P. crispus* WG members
Annex A1/4 Draft ToR for the *P. crispus* WG
Annex A1/5 ToR for the *G. barbatus* WG
Annex A1/6 ToR for the *St. turtur* WG
Annex A1/7 Draft list of national focal points for *St. turtur*
Annex A1/8 ToR for the *P. yelkouan* WG
Annex A1/9 ToR for the *H. monteiroi* WG
Annex A1/10 Minutes from the Monteiro’s kick-off meeting
Annex A1/11 Photos for the Monteiro’s kick-off meeting
Annex A1/12 List of participants in the Monteiro’s kick-off meeting
Annex A2/1 ToR for the waders WG
Annex A3/1 Questionnaire on the evaluation of existing SAP for *O. leucocephala*
Annex A3/2 Questionnaire on the evaluation of existing MP for *M. fusca*
Annex A3/3 Questionnaire on the evaluation of existing SAP for *G. barbatus*
Annex A4/1 First draft *H. monteiroi* status report
Annex A5/1 Questionnaire on the waders status
Annex A6/1 Questionnaire on *M. fusca* status
Annex A6/2 First draft *G. barbatus* status report
Annex A6/3 Questionnaire on the *P. yelkouan* status
Annex A7/1 Technical description of the SAP Tracking Tool
Annex A8/1 Second draft *G. barbatus* status report
Annex A11/1 Invitation to the *G. barbatus* workshop
Annex A11/2 Agenda for the *G. barbatus* workshop
Annex A11/3 List of participants in the *G. barbatus* workshop
Annex A11/4 Photos from the *G. barbatus* workshop
Annex B1/1 Print screen of the LIFE EuroSAP web site
Annex B3/1 Project Communication Plan
Annex B3/2 List of media dissemination
Annex C1/1 Minutes from the 1st Steering Committee meeting
Annex C1/2 Minutes from the 2nd Steering Committee meeting
Annex C2/1 Agenda for the 3rd Steering Committee meeting and 1st Scientific Committee meeting
Annex C6/1 Project Specific Indicators table
**Deliverables**

Draft ToR for *O. Leucocephala*
ToR for the *M. fusca* WG
Draft ToR for the *P. crispus* WG
ToR for the *G. barbatus* WG
ToR for the *St. turtur* WG
ToR for the *P. yelkouan* WG
ToR for the *H. monteiroi* WG
ToR for the waders WG

**Dissemination material**

Not produced yet