

LIFE Project Number
LIFE20 NAT/AT/000063

Mid-term Report
Covering the FHNPD project activities from 01/09/2021¹ to
31/12/2024

Reporting Date²
<31/03/2024>

Introduction of the status of the project actions:

A.2.4 Action: Technical Planning of waterway infrastructure in Erebe islands area

- Foreseen start date: 09/2021 Actual start date: 09/2021
Foreseen end date: 10/2022 Actual (or anticipated) end date: 12/2023
- Regarding the preparation action of water construction activities in Erebe-islands:

The technical plan of the Erebe-islands wetland restoration has finished in the early weeks of 2023. After that the FHNPD start a very serious process to make all the plan accepted by the joint Slovak-Hungarian Border Rivers Committee. For the interest of the success FHNPD produced a brief summary of the technical plan in Slovak language too. One of our strategic partner in the project called North-Transdanubian Water Management Directorate (ÉDUVIZIG) (whose representatives are belonging to this transboundary SK-HU Committee) helped us very intensively.

The relevant Nature Conservation Department in the Regional Governmental Authority have accepted the documentation of Natura 2000 feasibility study made for the interest of the acceptance of our Technical Plan of Erebe-islands Waterway Reconstruction.

After we got the “green sign” from the joint SK-HU committee and from the Nature Conservation Department in the Regional Governmental Authority we were able to submit our technical plan documentation to the relevant Regional Water-management Authority in May of 2023.

Unfortunately the Regional Water-management Authority did a big delay with the acceptance of our technical plan. Nobody understand what was the reason of it. Instead of the legal 60 days they decided during 130 days about our technical plan. Finally we were able to get the permit from them in September of 2023 only.

Immediately FHNPD has started and implemented a successful opened public procurement process for the interest of the implementation of the wetland reconstruction activities in the Erebe-islands region.

The public procurement process has done successfully in early December of 2023.

¹ Project start date

² Include the reporting date as foreseen in part C2 of Annex II of the Grant Agreement

The so called “working area” has given to the water constructor firm Globe Aqua immediately in December 2023 when the implementation of C.2.4. Action has started

FHNPD also successfully obtained engineering service for the C.2.4 Actiona water construction period.

A.2.4 Milestones:

Milestone name	original deadline	real deadline
finished water construction tender plan (C.2.4. Erebe islands)	12/2021	03/2023
permits and licences for relevant authorities (C.2.4. Erebe islands)	03/2022	09/2023
awarding of construction services (C.2.4. Erebe islands)	10/2022	12/2023

A.2.4 Deliverables:

Deliverable name	original deadline	real deadline
water construction tender plan documentation (C.2.4. Erebe islands)	12/2021	03/2023



meeting (14.11.2022) with the architects and water managers before finalizing the technical plan of waterway reconstruction in Erebe islands

A.4.3 and A.4.4 Action: preparation activities of IAS elimination management in Erebe islands

- Foreseen start date: 12/2022 Actual start date: 01/2023
- Foreseen end date: 06/2023 Actual (or anticipated) end date: 12/2025
- Regarding the preparation action of IAS elimination management in Erebe islands:

Within the frame of these action FHNPD successfully did an exact assessment about the extension of invasive tree species in the area altogether on 105 hectares territory. This assessment was part of the activities of D.1.3 action which has finished in 03/2023.

Thanks for the baseline survey our colleagues did active working on the implementation plans and consulting not only with the Nature Conservation Department in the Regional Governmental Authority but with the Hungarian nationwide Forest Reservoir Committee. It is also important, because the whole forest stands of the Erebe-islands area is belonging to the Hungarian Forest Reservoir Network with its complete 105 hectares area.

Because of the FHNPD has used almost the 70% of its project budget till the end of 2024 it must wait the successful mid-term project reporting to continue these actions. Hopefully after the successful reporting the FHNPD will able to get the next project financing resource to finish not only these actions but the C.4.3 and C.4.4 actions too.

A.4.3 and A.4.4 Milestones

Milestone name	original deadline	proposed deadline
obtaining regulatory approvals (Natura 2000 effect study and permits) (C.4.3, C.4.4 actions)	09/2022	08/2025
awarding of IAS elimination services (C.4.3 and C.4.4 actions)	06/2023	12/2025

A.4.3 and A.4.4 Deliverables:

Deliverable name	original deadline	real deadline
Technical plan for elimination of IAS (C.4.3 and C.4.4 actions)	07/2022	06/2025

C.2.4 Action: Optimisation of waterway infrastructure for WILDIsland restoration (Upper, Middle Danube), Erebe islands resoration

- Foreseen start date: 10/2022 Actual start date: 12/2023
- Foreseen end date: 12/2025 Actual (or anticipated) end date: 03/2025
- Regarding waterway reconstruction in Erebe islands area:

The FHNPD contracted with the Globe Aqua Kft (Ltd) for the waterway reconstruction activities in the Erebe islands area after the A.2.4 action has successfully finished with public procurement process.

Till the end of 2024 (12/2024) almost the whole activities (action has finished). The enterpriser Globe Aqua Kft. was able to finish more than 80% of the works (dredging and cutting groynes). Only the big Danube flooding in early autumn of 2024 was the reason of some delay. Because of this reason the FHNPD extended the contracting deadline of the water-construction activities from the 12/2024 to 03/2025. It seems that the enterpriser will able to finish the activities till that deadline.

During the activities everything were done by the water-construction plan approved by the necessary authorities during the A.2.4 action activities. Thus with opening the groynes in two places and dredging the Erebe island side-arm system on 5 km-s long taking out more than 22 000 m³ of gravel ensure the inflow from the main Danube riverbed and ensure the flowing water in the side arms in the Erebe islands area.



in some area the dredging was organised from the riverbanks



in some areas they used the so called hydromechanization technology during the dredging with 3 km-s pipe system



picture of one of the more dozens technical consultations in the spot



cutting through the groyne

C.2.4 Milestones

Milestone name	original deadline	proposed deadline
finalization of C.2.4 action (reconstruction of waterway in Erebe islands area)	12/2025	03/2025

A.4.3 and A.4.4 Deliverables:

Deliverable name	original deadline	real deadline
Ready so called “water construction technical implementation documentation” for waterway reconstruction in Erebe islands area.	12/2025	03/2025

C.4.3 and C.4.4 Action: IAS elimination activities in Erebe and Véneki islands

- Foreseen start date: 07/2023 Actual start date: 01/2026
Foreseen end date: 01/2027 Actual (or anticipated) end date: 01/2027
- Regarding the elimination of IAS elimination tree species in Erebe and Véneki islands:

Because of the FHNPD has used almost the 70% of its project budget till the end of 2024 it must wait the successful mid-term project reporting to start these actions. Hopefully after the successful reporting the FHNPD will be able to get the next project financing resource to start these actions in 2025 and finish them till the original deadline 01/2027.

C.4.3 and C.4.4 Milestones

Milestone name	original deadline	proposed deadline
IAS management finished in Erebe and Véneki islands (C.4.3, C.4.4 actions)	01/2027	01/2027

D.1.1. Action Baseline survey of hydrology in the area of Erebe islands:

- Foreseen start date: 10/2022 Actual start date: 01/2023
Foreseen end date: 12/2024 Actual (or anticipated) end date: 03/2025
- Regarding the Baseline survey of hydrology in the area of Erebe islands:

This Action is still ongoing by the FHNPD. Using the automatically produced data-s of the so called “hydrology wells” in the Erebe islands area managed by the ÉDUVIZG (North Transdanubian Water Management Directorate) the FHNPD is able to follow the past hydrological data-s of them. During the reporting process it is important to determine baseline average data of the low water periods (f.e. Winters and Summers) and periods of better waterflows (Springs and Summers)

D.1.1 Milestones

Milestone name	original deadline	proposed deadline
Detailed monitoring concepts of hydrology	12/2022	03/2025

D.1.1 Deliverables :

Deliverable name	original deadline	real deadline
baseline hydrology report about the Erebe islands area.	12/2024	03/2025

D.1.2. Action Baseline survey of river morphology in the area of Erebe islands:

- Foreseen start date: 10/2022 Actual start date: 10/2022
Foreseen end date: 12/2024 Actual (or anticipated) end date: 03/2025
- Regarding the Baseline survey of river morphology in the area of Erebe islands:

This Action is done by the architects during the A.2.4 action (Technical planning of the waterway reconstruction in Erebe islands). The results of their measurement (geodetic survey) of the river morphology (riverbed) is part of the technical plans of the C2.4. action and this is the base of the dredging activities.

D.1.2 Milestones

Milestone name	original deadline	proposed deadline
Detailed monitoring concepts of geomorphology	12/2022	06/2022

D.1.3 Deliverables :

Deliverable name	original deadline	real deadline
baseline geomorphology report about the Erebe islands area (part of technical plan)	12/2024	03/2023

D.1.2. Action Baseline survey of river morphology in the area of Erebe islands:

- Foreseen start date: 10/2022 Actual start date: 01/2023
Foreseen end date: 12/2024 Actual (or anticipated) end date: 03/2025
- Regarding the Baseline survey of distribution of IAS tree species in the area of Erebe islands:

This action successfully finished on the 105 hectares area of the Erebe islands. The results of this action are part of the A.4.3 and A.4.4 actions. The implementation of the IAS tree species' elimination will be started hopefully in 01/ 2026.

D.1.3 Milestones

Milestone name	original deadline	proposed deadline
Detailed monitoring concepts of IAS tree species in Erebe islands area	12/2022	12/2022

D.1.3 Deliverables :

Deliverable name	original deadline	real deadline
baseline report about the distribution of IAS tree species in the the Erebe islands area (part of technical plan)	12/2024	03/2023

D.3. Action Baseline socio-economic survey of the effects of the FHNP C.2.4 actions:

- Foreseen start date: 10/2022 Actual start date: 01/2023
Foreseen end date: 09/2024 Actual (or anticipated) end date: 09/2024
- Regarding the Baseline socio-economic survey:

FHNP took part in the joint socio-economic survey on project level organized by the Croatian Kopacki Rit partner on project level. Looking the results of it FHNP saw that the knowledge among the local population about the Erebe islands (FHNP's project area) and about the project itself is very low. Thus together with a big campaign among the local inhabitants the FHNP organized a very exact socio-economic monitoring activity. FHNP informed via online and offline all people who live in the two villages around the Erebe-islands (2500 households with a bit more than 6 000 people in Gönyű and Nagyszentjános villages). And after that we organized a big consultancy via online and offline questionnaire. These survey activity was very successful among the public. The FHNP will be able to use the experiences of this survey later during the implementation of its C.2.4, C.4.3 and C.4.4. and E actions.

D.1.3 Milestones

Milestone name	original deadline	proposed deadline
Local baseline survey	-	09/2024

D.1.3 Deliverables :

Deliverable name	original deadline	real deadline
baseline report about socio-economic effects of the FHNP project activities	-	09/2024

E.1. Actions Public awareness and dissemination of results

E.1.1 Action: LIFE WILDisland project website

The FHNP operates an own website to offer daily information about the FHNP activities and results and about the project to the public. This website is the following:
<https://wildisland.ferto-hansag.hu/>

E.1.2 Action: LIFE WILDisland social media campaign by the FHNPDP

The FHNPDP last year have started a social media campaign about the project and its results especially for the local and regional Hungarian public via facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/erebe.fhnp/>) and via Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/erebe.fhnp/>) too. Till the end of 2024 more than 10 000 people have reached on these ways about the project. This campaign was part of the local socio-economic monitoring (D.3 Action) too
FHNPDP is also active in the Youtube surface via they colleagues and via such well known nature-movie maker like Szendőfi Balázs with more than 4 000 reaches (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4w-sby2uk_Y).

E.1.7. Action: Promotion Materials:

In 2023 the FHNPDP produced some dissemination/promotion materials (500 T-shirts for adults and kids, 100 rain coats for kids, and 50 pieces of special magnifying plastic glasses which were distributed in the FHNPDP nature education field centres which receive thousands of kids per year. This materials will be used by them during the project period.

In 2024 the FHNPDP produced 250 pieces of metal mug within the project which were distributed among the public during the online and offline campaign of the socio-economic baseline survey activities as special gifts.

E.1.8. Action: Presentation and representations, press work:

The FHNPDP together with other Hungarian project partners like the DINPID and DDNPDP have taken part on a successful two days conference and workshop in Esztergom(HU) in 04/2024 organised by one of the strategic partner of the project called WWF Hungary. The topic of the event was the Danube and protection of natural sites of this river. We were able to introduce our project and project activities by presentations too and did successful consultation with the participants who represented not only the NGO-s but the Governmental and Municipality sector too.

FHNPDP do and did good press activities to promote their project results among the public via regional online press (Kisalföld and Új Szó Nálunk). See the following sample. FHNPDP estimate that via the press they were able to get at least 50 000 people till the end of 2024.

<https://www.kisalfold.hu/helyi-kozelet/2024/10/sziget-erebe-viz-duna>

<https://nalunk.ujsoz.com/regio/erebe-sziget-a-dunan-megujulas-elott>

E.2. Actions WILDisland campaign: public events

FHNPDP have represented on the following public events organised by other project partners:

- LIFE WILDisland kick-off conference (Vienna) (04/2022)
- WILDisland festival (Mohacs) (07.2022)
- Danube Public Event in Velky Lel (09/2023)
- LIFE WILDisland public event (Tulcea) (09/2024)

E.3 Action: Transfer and replication, policy work

E.3.1 Action: Sharing WILDisland with other large rivers in Europe:

FHNPD has represented also on the study visit to the upper Rhine river last year (04/2024)

E.3.4 Action: Sharing WILDisland with cross-sectoral partners:

FHNPD organised some smaller cross sectoral (water managers, forestry managers nature conservation experts together) site visits to the Erebe islands area. And last year FHNPD organised study visit for university students too from the Sopron University. Altogether the FHNPD have contacted 60 experts and students in these site visits till the end of 2024.

F.1 Action: Project Management

F.1.1 Action: Project Management and Coordination:

Fersch Attila project manager coordinate and harmonize all project activities with other colleagues (organizing the activities, organising procurement and contracting processes, reporting and etc...). As his graduation is forestry, this is the reason why he is able to take part in the forestry actions himself too. Other specialist experts of FHNPD helped and help the project implementation activities (Szabó Csaba, Gunics Zoltán, Felber Péter, Husveth Béla, Sipos Stefania). These colleagues have accounted for in the project. Occasionally other colleagues from the FHNPD staff are also help the activities who originally are not accounted for in the project (Magyar Linda, Dorogman Csilla, Tankó Ervin).

F.1.2 Action: Financial Management and Auditing:

The financial management activities are also organised by Fersch Attila project manager but helped by those financial colleagues of the FHNPD who are not accounted for in the project (Ősze Renáta, who organize the money transfer activities).

F.1.3 Action: Network Communication:

The FHNPD is actively take part in the Networking activities of the project. It means that FHNPD take part not only in the online networking but very active to organize and take part on site visits both in the Erebe islands area and both in the neighbouring project partner's sites. Thus the NPDA was take part on a site visit in the FHNPD project sites in 04/2022. The NPDA received FHNPD's contracted architects in their area for a study visit also in 05/2022 helping to produce the best solution in the A.2.4 technical planning action.

The FHNPD also received colleagues form the other Hungarian partners (DINPID and DDNPD) many times in the years of 2022-2024. And experts of FHNPD also visited these other HU partner's areas and previous results in the topic of waterway reconstruction in river Danube areas during these years.

As it was proposed the FHNPD together with the project partner BROZ(SK) have successfully organized and implemented a project partner meeting combined with study

visits in 2024. The meeting was organized in Lipót(HU) village and the study visits were done in the Danube area (Erebe-islands(HU) and Velky-Lel island(SK)).



NPDA colleagues site visit in the Erebe islands in 04/2022 together with the contracted architects

F.1.4 Action: Steering Committee:

Fersch Attila project manager had took part on all Steering Committee settings every year.

Main deviations, problems and corrective actions implemented

Some of the external costs are a bit over the original budget. The reason of it is mainly the general inflation experienced last year. It seems that the problem can be managed by a small modification (probably some money must be taken from the Personnel line to the external services in the budget at the first time when it is possible). It seems that the C.4.3, C4.4. and D.1.1., D.1.3 and D.3 actions need a bit more financing (from the Personnel line) than proposed in the project in the case of FHNPd. FHNPd would like to split some budget from the Personnel line to find solution to clean the Erebe islands from the human garbage taken to the islands by the floodings in the last few decades.

Analysis of benefits

Environmental benefits

- a. **Direct / quantitative environmental benefits:** waterflow is reconstructed on 5 kms long in the side arm system of Erebe islands area. The flowing water is reconstructed and directly contacted to the water in the main Danube riverbed by cutting of the groynes on two places.

b. Qualitative environmental benefits: the wildlife of the flowing water habitats (special fishes, insects, otter etc...) would be in better situation in the Erebe islands area. The heronlike birds, eagles etc... will be able to get more peaceful breeding area, as the human disturbance will be decreased (because of the reconstructed flowing water situation the noisy cross-motors will not be able to go into the area).

Social benefits Because of the reconstructed flowing waterway situation in the Erebe islands the bank of the river Danube would be more popular for smaller recreation activities (the people prefer for recreation the close water surfaces).

Replicability, transferability, cooperation: The C.2.4 action results are good not only for the natural values but also for local people and stakeholders as possibilities of recreational fishery will be increased, as the possibilities of simply recreation will be also increased.

Best Practice lessons: The C.2.4 action is a good sample of joint successful activity of nature conservation and water management sectors.

Policy implications: The local mayors of Gönyű and Nagyszentjános villages are very satisfied with the project results as the representatives of local communities too. The results of C.2.4 action in the Erebe islands have got very good message for the policy makers as the two sectors like nature conservation and water management must find the way to work together for clear natural aims.

Envisaged progress until next report

A.4.3 and A.4.4 actions finished	06/2025
C.2.4. action 100%-ly finished:	03/2025
C.4.3 action finished	01/2027
C.4.4 action finished	01/2027
D.2. actions finished	06/2027
E.1.5 action (new study trail in Nagyszentjános finished	12/2025