

Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”
(<https://darwinplus.org.uk/resources/information-notes>)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS141
Project title	Habitat restoration and wise use for Akrotiri and Cape Pyla
Territory(ies)	Cyprus - Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia
Lead Partner	BirdLife Cyprus
Project partner(s)	Terra Cypria - The Cyprus Conservation Foundation Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas Administration Environment Department (SBAA ED) RSPB (BirdLife in the UK)
Darwin Plus grant value	£342,150.00
Start/end dates of project	01/07/2021 - 30/06/2024
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2022-Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	April 2022 – March 2023, Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Martin Hellicar
Project website/blog/social media	https://visitakrotiri.cy/
Report author(s) and date	Martin Hellicar & Project Coordinator Phoebe Vayanou, 29/04/2023

1. Project summary

The DPLUS141 project “Habitat restoration and wise use for Akrotiri and Cape Pyla” aims to restore key wildlife habitats within the Cyprus SBAs, focusing on Akrotiri wetlands and native scrub on Cape Pyla (Dhekelia). It aims also to increase opportunities for the Akrotiri community to benefit from living in a protected natural area, specifically through supporting the long-term economic viability of cattle grazing, as a sustainable conservation tool and through the promotion of the area as a wildlife-friendly tourism destination.

Akrotiri peninsula and Cape Pyla are recognized and designated for their biodiversity importance. The effective management of these areas -something this project is designed to significantly enhance- can make a significant contribution to efforts to conserve biodiversity in Cyprus. Akrotiri peninsula has been identified as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area, following recognized BirdLife International criteria, and the wetlands on the peninsula enjoy protected status under SBA Ordinances. Cape Pyla is designated as protected for its habitat value and for key flora and fauna. The Akrotiri wetlands are also characterized as a RAMSAR site (wetlands of international importance).

Though enjoying legal protection, the reality on the ground is that both areas urgently need conservation action allied with management for wise use. Currently, there is increasing visitor pressure (especially at Akrotiri), insufficient practical conservation management and growing pressure for

development. Most areas are heavily disturbed by vehicle traffic -especially off-road- and excess amounts of litter. On the Akrotiri peninsula in particular, access and traffic need to be managed in order to protect important wildlife species and habitats. At the same time, the expansion of reeds at the marshes has resulted in loss of biodiversity and has obstructed the views for visitors and nature lovers. The need for a balanced management is identified both in the BirdLife Cyprus 2014 IBA inventory and in the SBAA management plans for the protected sites. Cattle grazing at the marsh can do wonders for managing the reeds, but its economic viability needs to be enhanced. At the same time, threatened plant species need targeted actions to boost their populations. Last but not least, invasive acacia remains hard-to-tackle, especially on Cape Pyla, where acacia thickets are also used by illegal bird trappers. Removal of Acacia will pave the way for the return of native scrub. Low, thorny and dense native scrub (Phrygana) is - unlike Acacia - entirely unsuitable for creation of ‘runs’ for the setting of illegal mist nets. Alien Acacia, on the other hand, which grows in dense, tall, soft-leaved thickets, is ideal for the creation of such net runs.

The project aims to address these problems through targeted habitat and visitor management actions and contribute to long-term sustainable management for key sites at Akrotiri and Cape Pyla. It will benefit the local Akrotiri community and the wider public in Cyprus, through biodiversity conservation actions allied with promotion of wildlife-friendly tourism on the peninsula (thus also enhancing ecosystem services). It will also promote this alternative tourism to the area during “quieter” touristic periods, i.e. early spring and winter.



Map 1: Location of the Project: Akrotiri Peninsula (*left*) and Cape Pyla (*right*)

2. Project stakeholders/partners

The project has involved, and continues to involve, all key partners for the implementation of its activities.

BirdLife Cyprus (BL) has been the lead partner of the project and responsible for the implementation of the majority of actions and for the overall project management, coordination and full overview of project implementation, while BL is also responsible for overseeing project spending and financial management. The organisation has been building on existing experience and knowledge both in project management related to the protection and restoration of wetlands, as well as on the knowledge and experience of the project area (threats, needs, opportunities) and related stakeholders.

Terra Cypria - The Cyprus Conservation Foundation (TC), through its long-term involvement in wetland inventory and efforts for the protection of the island's wetlands, has gained great experience on the wetlands of the island and especially the most important ones, including Akrotiri. In 2022, TC ran a MAVA-funded project focusing on management actions on Akrotiri Peninsula. This included reed clearances at Zakaki marsh (related to output 2 of the project), construction of a bird screen with bird species information signs in Zakaki marsh (related to output 5 of the project) and access management actions in Lady's mile (related to output 4 of the project). All these actions complement Darwin project's actions and help in the further implementation of key project activities, such as the access management plan and actions in Akrotiri Peninsula and the reed clearances in Zakaki Marsh.

The Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas Administration Environment Department (SBAA ED) has been acting as a link between the project and the local communities and stakeholders. Additionally, the statutory knowledge of processes within the SBAs, as well as the ecological understanding of the local areas contribute to more targeted implementation of actions within the legal, statutory and policy framework of the SBAs.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has extensive experience in wetland management in terms of ecology and conservation and has been contributing to these project outputs. RSPB experts visited the project site from the UK for a week at the end of October – beginning of November 2022. During this visit, field visits in the Akrotiri area, stakeholders' meetings and a Project Steering Committee meeting took place. This visit was very useful in terms of providing recommendations for the management of reeds at Zakaki Marsh (also known as Lake Makria) (output 2 of the project), as well as management of Akrotiri Marsh (output 3 of the project) and suggestions about the viewing screens in Lady's mile area (part of output 5 of the project).

All project partners have been involved in decision making and moving the project forward. Project partners in Cyprus (BL, TC and SBAA ED) have regular meetings – both formal, such as Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings and informal, such as one-to-one meetings for specific actions, as well as site and field visits to plan actions ahead and take decisions. The RSPB is involved through online meetings to update on the project progress, as well as through their onsite visit (see above), through which the RSPB provides advice and support in relevant project actions. Further to all the above, there is regular communication through emails and telephone, as well as online calls when necessary.

Other key stakeholders have also been involved in project planning and decision-making since the start of the project and continue to be involved in the project implementation process. This contributes to project progress and results, both during and after project, as stakeholders' involvement, agreement and cooperation is a key factor towards this direction. These stakeholders are:

- Forest Department (Republic of Cyprus) (FD)
 - Involved through numerous meetings and discussions for a number of project actions.
 - Specifically, input for planning and permissions on output 1 (Acacia management), output 3 (Akrotiri marsh) mainly on plant species protection actions and grazing needs.
- Agricultural Research Institute (Republic of Cyprus) (ARI)
 - Involved through a couple of meetings and discussions for planning output 1 (Acacia management) and providing support in the Cape Pyla field experiment (acacia seed counting and seed viability tests). Also, for output 3 (Akrotiri marsh) mainly on plant species protection actions (seeds storage).
- Department of Agriculture (Republic of Cyprus) (DA)
 - Involved through a systematic consultation schedule (together with other stakeholders, such as ARI, CUT, Graziers) for the support of the local Cyprus cow breed and specifically through promotion of its beef (output 3 of the project).
- Game and Fauna Service (Republic of Cyprus) (GFS)

- Involved through consultations (written and meetings) in action 5.6 (viewing screens) to decide on the best location/ design etc.
- Akrotiri Community Council (ACC)
 - The president of the ACC is kept informed on project actions and remains very supportive. Close cooperation has been established, mainly for output 5 (ecotourism actions), such as the Akrotiri Spring Festival.
- Sewerage Board of Limassol – Amathus (SBLA)
 - Involved through numerous meetings mainly for output 2 (Zakaki marsh) in order to achieve better coordination of actions related to reed clearances, as well as information on the hydrological regime of the lake. Their support is crucial during and after the project, in order to establish an agreed management regime for Zakaki Marsh.
- Cyprus University of Technology (CUT)
 - Involved through a systematic consultation schedule (together with other stakeholders, such as DA, ARI, Graziers) for the support of the local Cyprus cow breed and specifically through promotion of its beef (output 3 of the project). The CUT is running a program on the genetic analysis of the local cow breed, as well as on the qualitative characteristics of the beef. These will provide input to the beef marketing study of this project (output 3) during and after the project.
- Graziers in Akrotiri Marsh
 - Involved through very frequent communication (meetings, field visits, phone calls, etc) in all aspects relating to Akrotiri Marsh and beef marketing plan. The small group of active graziers are absolutely critical stakeholders to have ‘on side’ if we are to achieve sustainability for grazing management at Akrotiri marsh.

Additionally, a 2-day workshop, entitled “Akrotiri Peninsula - Biotic & Abiotic Monitoring, Status & Trends”, took place at the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre on the 8th and 9th of December 2022. The objective of the workshop was to share, through presentations and discussion, the monitoring activities that take place on Akrotiri Peninsula by different stakeholders, departments, scientists and experts. In the frame of this workshop, many actors in the area came together (please refer to section 3 and Annex 4 for a more detailed description on this event and the stakeholders involved). This event proved to be very important in bringing closer all the stakeholders and appreciating the need for improved information, knowledge sharing and coordination in order for the actors involved in research, protection, conservation and management efforts of the area to have a more comprehensive and holistic understanding of the environmental synergies and more efficiently identify any potential issues.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Horizontal Activities

Horizontal activities that have taken place during this period, are as follows:

1. Re-Structuring of the project team

- In accordance with the relevant Change Request approved on 11/2022, the recruitment of one full-time Scientific Officer under the leading partner BirdLife Cyprus, was applied as opposed to two part-time Project Scientific officers under BirdLife Cyprus and Terra Cypria. We also had an approved personnel change for Conservation & Communication Officer and Scientific Officer.
- The project team is now comprised of: Phoebe Vayanou – Project Coordinator under BirdLife Cyprus (since project start), Zoe Makridou - Conservation & Communication Officer

under Terra Cypria (since 1st September 2022), Athina Papatheodoulou - Scientific Officer under BirdLife Cyprus (since 1st November 2022)

- The above changes resulted in a more efficient communication and organisation amongst the project team members.
2. **3rd Project Steering Committee Meeting - 20/06/2022 & 4th Project Steering Committee Meeting - 03/11/2022:** All involved team members from the Project Partners participated. Progress update, discussion and exchange of ideas and thoughts on various project issues and next steps (more detailed information on Annex 5).
 3. **Scoping meetings** with project partners and/or stakeholders, **field visits** to the project target areas, etc, as described in the following paragraphs.
 4. **Financial organisation** of the project (templates, time sheets, expenses recording, monitoring, etc) within and amongst the Project Partners.
 5. **Organisation of a 2-day workshop**, titled: **“Akrotiri Peninsula - Biotic & Abiotic Monitoring, Status & Trends”**, at the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre on the 8th and 9th of December 2022 (more detailed information in Annex 4).

The workshop agenda included presentations about terrestrial and marine fauna and flora, habitats and ecosystems and abiotic parameters (groundwater, inland surface and marine water, rainwater).

The objective of the workshop was to share, through presentations and discussion, the monitoring activities that take place in Akrotiri Peninsula by different stakeholders, departments, scientists and experts. Various researchers, scientists and stakeholders attended the workshop and presented the research and monitoring projects and on-going monitoring work undertaken within the Akrotiri Peninsula terrestrial and marine area, such as:

- SBAA Environment Department, Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre, Joint Services Health Unit, British Forces Cyprus
 - Departments/Services from the Republic of Cyprus, such as the Department of Environment, the Department of Forests, Game and Fauna Service, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, the Water Development Department, the Sewerage Board of Limassol and Amathus, etc.
 - Academic & Research Institutes from National and International Universities and Research Centers and Environmental Consulting Companies, such as University of Cyprus, Cyprus University of Technology, the Cyprus Institute, Open University of Cyprus, Marine and Environmental Research (MER) Lab, CMMI Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute, Pedagogical Institute, etc.
 - Non-Governmental Organisations and other Scientific Groups, such as BirdLife Cyprus, Terra Cypria, Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre, Cyprus Environment Foundation, Cyprus Dragonfly Study Group, etc.
6. **Kerkini lake visit, 13-16 March 2023:** BirdLife Cyprus, with own funds and thanks to RSPB support, organized a trip to Lake Kerkini, Northern Greece. The aim of the trip was to visit a designated environmentally protected area in order to understand and to explore how this area has been promoted and has developed to become a top eco-tourism and birding destination. Lake Kerkini is an area with local small-scale businesses (accommodation, activities, restaurants, shops) benefiting from this type of tourism. The visit was also an opportunity for discussions with the Lake Kerkini Management Body regarding any management issues and conflicts between the different users of Kerkini lake (buffalo herders, fishermen, outdoor activities, birdwatchers, farmers, eNGOs, competent authorities). At the same time, it allowed exploration of how local meat products from water buffalo are promoted, which has many synergies with the effort that is being made for the promotion of Akrotiri marsh beef. The participants in this trip were two Akrotiri Marsh graziers, the

Mayor of nearby Ypsonas Municipality, two environment wardens of the SBAA ED and BirdLife Cyprus team representatives. This trip proved to very useful for all participants. Please refer to Annex 6 for more details.

Output 1. Support for sustainable management of invasive *Acacia saligna*, with a focus on post clearance habitat restoration on Cape Pyla

1.1 Literature Review: The literature review on the post Acacia clearance approaches and methods for restoring natural vegetation and limiting regrowth of Acacia has been completed (Reported in 1st Project Annual report).

1.2 Field trials: As reported in the project half-annual report (October 2022), during and after the completion of the literature review, various meetings/ discussions took place with relevant experts and stakeholders to share experience and thoughts on methodologies and experimental field trial plots design. At the same time, a number of meetings were held with SBAA to discuss permitting procedure for establishing experimental plots and with the local community, to ensure they are informed of the experimental field setting. Despite all the above groundwork, on 26th April 2022 an email was received from the SBAA Area Office, detailing the preconditions required in order to start the field experiment in Cape Pyla. One of these was the securing of Public Liability Insurance (PLI) cover worth £500,000 by BirdLife for this project action. This precondition was never mentioned either at the proposal stage, or during consultations during the first months of the project. To address this issue, a great effort was made by the Project Team to obtain the PLI through contacting a large number of insurance companies in Cyprus and abroad. We also discussed with the SBAA if it was possible to remove or change this precondition (lower PLI cover sum). This did not prove possible. After months of efforts, we were able to obtain the PLI in November 2022 from an insurance company based abroad, through a broker in Cyprus.

Due to this unexpected complication, during the months April to November 2022, no concrete progress was made on the ground on action 1.2. That said, since December 2022 - as soon as we got the PLI, the field experiment was set up, without seriously jeopardising its implementation schedule or expected results. Budget-wise, there might be relevant unspent costs within the financial year 2023-2024, but these will be calculated within the next couple of months and will be communicated with the Darwin team, through a possible change request form.

So, the experimental design for the trial plots was finalised, considering repeatability and robustness of collected data, but also practicality and achievability. The experimental design on Cape Pyla is presented in detail in Annex 7 of this Report.

- For Experiment A: "Investigation of 1- Effectiveness of grazing in Acacia post clearance management and 2- Effectiveness of revegetation combined with chemical treatment follow ups", 16 trial plots of 100m² (10*10m) each, were established, with a 5m buffer zone amongst them.

- For Experiment B "Investigation of 1- Effectiveness of Soil Solarisation (SH) with one and two plastic sheets and 2- Effectiveness of Soil Solarization (SH) without soil preparation", 16 trial plots of 16m² (4*4m), were established with a 5m buffer zone amongst them.

In December 2022, all trial plots were successfully established in-situ and suitably marked. A sign indicating the activities that will take place within the plots, the project details and contact details was put in place on site. Within each of the 32 trial plots, and prior to any treatment/activity, baseline vegetation surveys were conducted.

Experiment A:

- Chemical treatment: Chemical treatment of acacia seedlings was applied in March 2023 in 8 trial plots (4 chemical treatment plots & 4 revegetation and chemical treatment plots). To secure

eradication, the chemical treatment will be repeated every 4 months. Another application is organized for the first week of July.

- Overplanting: 200 indigenous plants were planted within four trial plots in an area of 400 m² in total. The plants will be systematically watered for the first years until establishment of a robust root system. Any plant failure will be replaced.
- Grazing: An agreement has been established with a local shepherd. In the last week of April 2023, about 500 goats and sheep will be led to graze within the area of the four selected trial plots. The number of acacia seedlings within the trial plots has been recorded before grazing, and will be recorded following each respective grazing action. The frequency and density of grazing will be fine-tuned, following the results of each respective grazing activity.

Experiment B:

- The experiment for soil solarization will run in the hot summer months (June-August 2023).

1.3 Recommendations for replication and/or further work: (action for later stage of project)

1.4 Monitoring of illegal mist netting levels: The programme for monitoring of illegal mist netting levels by BirdLife Cyprus with RSPB support continues. The autumn monitoring season was completed by mid-October 2022, the results are found in Annex 8.

Output 2. Reed management solutions successfully piloted at Zakaki Marsh (or Markia Lake)

2.1 Hydrological study & management recommendations: The hydrological study, elaborated by external consultants (I.A.CO Environmental & Water Consultants Ltd), was completed in February 2023, while an Interim Report was delivered in September 2022. The study provides a very clear identification and description of the hydrological regime of Makria Lake. Based on the results of the hydrological study, an ecological assessment and a review of management options was carried out by the Darwin Team and Partners (especially with the input of RSPB experts), with habitat restoration as a target, with the needs of target species as a key indicator. The full hydrological study can be found in Annex 9 of this report. During the elaboration of the study, meetings with the Sewerage Board of Limassol – Amathus took place to discuss the management of the Lake. The initial findings of the study were also presented and discussed in Project Steering Committee meetings. Within the next couple of months, a workshop with all relevant stakeholders will be organised to present and discuss the findings of the hydrological study and the management recommendations in order to agree on the way forward.

2.2 Mechanical reed clearance: Mechanical reed clearance in front of the existing hide at the marsh took place on February 2023. Photos can be found in Annex 10 of this report.

2.3 Monthly bird counts: Bird counts at Zakaki Marsh have taken place every month to monitor the occurrence and numbers of the priority species *Aythya nyroca* and *Himantopus himantopus* and also of other birds (resident or migrant visitors) using the wetland. Results can be found in Annex 11.

Output 3. Sustainability established for conservation cattle grazing at Akrotiri Marsh

3.1 Management of cattle grazing: Ongoing meetings, discussions and field visits continue to take place to discuss issues/ problems/ needs, while building/ renewing close cooperation with various stakeholders, such as Akrotiri Council President, Graziers, Forest Department, Water Development Department, SBAA, CUT. Based on the outcome of the above discussions, there is a clear need for better on-going management of the area in order to address various issues in Akrotiri Marsh. The site is suffering from an almost complete lack of active management, save that done by the cows and graziers. In order to facilitate the formulation and implementation of better management of this key site, the Darwin team drafted (at beginning of 2022), a proposal for priority site management actions as a tool for consultation with all involved stakeholders. However, the coordination of the management of the

site lies on the SBAA and although there seems to be some willingness to try to set up a management scheme structure, progress has been slow. The project team continues with actions that we can implement in the Marsh, but these alone will not ensure sustainable management in the long-term.

Aerial photos of the marsh using a drone were obtained in May 2022 (Annex 12 of this report), in order to provide quantitative input on the wet grassland and reed bed areas and update the grazing levels. The updated grazing capacity estimate for the area is under formulation and is expected to be finalised by June 2023.

3.2. Marketing plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef: This action is nearing completion. The plan is written in Greek for better communication with all stakeholders. The graphic design work for the Plan can be found in Annex 13 of this report. During the formulation of the marketing plan, a systematic consultation schedule (together with other stakeholders, such as DA, ARI, Graziers, CUT) for the support of the local Cyprus cow breed, and specifically through promotion of its beef has been taking place. It was decided, that the Marketing Plan will be drafted for the local Cypriot cow breed as a whole (not just Akrotiri Marsh cows), because in this way the product can be more recognisable to the market (more animals than only in the marsh). However, the plan includes a separate sub-section for the free range Akrotiri Marsh cows. The final Marketing Plan will be presented to the graziers within the next couple of months, although we have already been working in close cooperation with them on this, and then after their input, a meeting will be organised with all the relevant stakeholders to present the final Plan.

3.3 & 3.4 *Ex-situ* and *in-situ* actions for conservation of Akrotiri Marsh flora:

Suitable areas for planting our target plant species *in situ* to support existing population were identified based on consultations with involved parties and field visits. There was an existing fenced area for the protection of flora species in the marsh and two additional suitable areas were fenced in June 2022, with permanent fencing (a change request form was sent and approved 06/2022 for this action). *In situ* actions have been taking place for all four targeted species, with positive outcomes up to now, while managed grazing is practiced. The criteria that were considered for the new areas are: 1. Habitat suitability, 2. Grazing management, 3. Ongoing management (clearings of reeds and bramble, hydrology, monitoring, etc), 4. Access, 5. Educational and eco-tourism value.

A very fruitful cooperation between the all the key stakeholders of Akrotiri Marsh flora has been established and coordinated actions are taking place, as follows:

1) Vegetation surveys & monitoring: Vegetation surveys & monitoring takes place every 1-2 months. The surveys are scheduled according to various parameters, such as flowering period, and the need to avoid muddy conditions and disturbance of breeding birds, etc. The number of individuals of *Euphorbia hirsuta* and *Mentha aquatica* have been recorded in all plots. Individuals of *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* have not been recorded within the fenced plots, but surveys conducted in the marsh revealed small numbers and heavily grazed individuals. During the summer months, *S. tabernaemontani* seeds will be ready for collection. *Ipomoea sagittata* individuals were counted in April 2023, however a second count of the individuals while the species will be in flower –in June 2023- will result in a more precise count. Another red data plant -*Phyla nodiflora*- was found within the plots at Akrotiri marsh and seems to have benefited from the grazing and reed control. The species -a crawling plant- has established and increased its ground cover in the drier parts of the marsh.

Professional drone photographs of the Akrotiri marsh have been taken on three different occasions (baseline photos at the beginning of the project, prior and post vegetation removal works). The photos are a very useful tool to illustrate vegetation changes over time (pl. see Annex 14). The quality is sufficient to identify reed cover, *Rubus sanctus* and *Euphorbia hirsuta* cover within the plots. Additional drone photos are programmed for September 2023, in the marsh's most dry conditions.

2) Seed collection: Seeds of *Euphorbia hirsuta* (>5000) and *Ipomoea sagittata* (11) were collected and deposited at the already established seed bank of the Agricultural Research Institute, on May 2022 and October 2022, respectively. Seeds of *Euphorbia hirsuta* and *Mentha aquatica* have been dried and

preserved in silica gel. These seeds will be sent to the seedbank of the Agricultural Research Institute within April 2023. Both *Ipomoea sagittata* and *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* seeds will be collected in Summer 2023.

3) *In situ* actions: Cuttings of *Euphorbia hirsuta* and *Mentha aquatica*, as well as rhizomes of *Ipomoea sagittata* have been collected and submitted to the nursery of the Department of Forests for growing and conservation actions. More than 40 seedlings of each of *Euphorbia hirsuta* and *Mentha aquatica* have already been provided to the Forest Department Nursery in Akrotiri.

A number of *Euphorbia hirsuta* individuals from the Forest Department Nursery in Akrotiri will be planted around *Mentha aquatica* on site. *Mentha aquatica* is heavily grazed, in comparison to *Euphorbia hirsuta*, which is avoided by the animals and can therefore be planted to protect the mint species.

4) *Ex situ* actions: These actions are conducted in conjunction with the DPLUS171 fellowship project on “Conservation and awareness raising of the rare and endangered flora of the Red Flora Book of Cyprus and their pollinators within the SBA of Akrotiri Cyprus”. Seeds and saplings of *Euphorbia hirsuta* and *Mentha aquatica* were planted in April 2023 in a conservation area in the eucalyptus forest in Akrotiri. At this site, *Mentha aquatica* has already a well-established population. This initiative was undertaken with the support of the Department of Forests and the SBAA. Moreover, *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* saplings were collected to be planted in the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre (AEEC) to create a controlled successful *ex situ* population, in order to provide a source for plants for *in situ* re-plantings. Several areas have been suggested for suitability investigation, for ex-situ conservation. These will be checked in April 2023 and, if deemed suitable, will be planted in May 2023.

Photos from all the above actions are in Annex 14 of this report.

3.5 Increase engagement of local graziers: Increased engagement of local graziers in the management of the marsh and in maintaining Cyprus cows on the site is being facilitated through frequent meetings with the graziers in the field in order to discuss issues/ problems/ needs they have. Additionally, BirdLife Cyprus drew on own funds to cover urgent repairs to the fencing of the marsh (December 2021 – January 2022). This was done to support the graziers, as part of “bridge-building” efforts. In line with this, we also covered the cost of works for cleaning Marsh drainage channels from reeds (September 2022) to aid better drainage of the area. This action works in parallel to actions 3.1 Management of cattle grazing and 3.2. Marketing plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef.

Output 4. Reduced disturbance to key wildlife species, including birds and marine reptiles, through the implementation of an access management plan for sensitive Akrotiri habitats

4.1 Akrotiri Access Management Plan: A spatial mapping exercise including all the different layers needed for the Access Management Plan (i.e. sensitive wildlife areas, access routes, parking areas, recreational areas and facilities, administration boundaries, proposed developments, areas of interest, etc) has been finalised through initial consultations with SBAA stakeholders (Annex 15 of this report). Within the next 3-4 months of the project, this Plan will undergo further consultation with all involved stakeholders, aiming to reach agreement. At the same time, after consultation with all relevant stakeholders, a number of access management measures/ actions in the Lady’s mile area and eucalyptus forest area took place in February – March 2023 (installation of gate bars, creation of soil embankments) (Annex 15 of this report). These actions are very important for the protection of key habitats from access disturbance to species and habitats and for the prevention of littering.

4.2. Bird monitoring: Monitoring of birds (occurrence, numbers and breeding activity) is taking place on a monthly basis (Annex 11 for relevant results).

4.3 Turtle nesting monitoring: Monitoring of turtle nesting was done by the SBAA ED during the breeding summer-season 2022 (Annex 16 for relevant results for years 2020-2022).

Output 5. Eco-tourism opportunities enhanced within Akrotiri peninsula, benefiting in particular the approx. 900 local residents of Akrotiri community

5.1 Automatic visitor counters: Automatic visitor counters have been installed at the three bird hides in Akrotiri in July 2022 and results are been collected every month (pl. refer to Annex 17).

5.2 Website for visitors in Akrotiri: The Contract for the website development was signed in August 2022 and the website has been online since March 2023 (<https://visitakrotiri.cy>). The Greek version is under construction and is expected to be finalised April – May 2023.

5.4 Akrotiri Spring Festival: Organisation of Akrotiri Spring festival is well underway. It will take place in the weekend of 13-14 of May 2023. During this weekend, visitors will have the opportunity to participate in activities such as bird ringing, bird watching, fun educational games and crafts for families, hiking, basketry workshops, etc. at various locations on Akrotiri Peninsula. The program/ invitation etc of the Festival, which has been widely advertised, is on Annex 18 of this report.

5.5 Walking trails: Three potential hiking trails were identified by the Darwin Project team and sent to SBAA for consultation in May 2022. In July 2022, the SBAA informed the Darwin project team that it had been decided not to approve them because of security concerns raised by British Forces Cyprus. The Darwin team asked for re-examination based on ways to address safety challenges and identification of suitable areas that do not create safety issues. Through many consultations with the SBAA, it was decided that two of the three trails originally proposed are can go ahead. Through an approved financial change request in 11/2022, the relevant funds for the trails were moved in the 2023-2024 financial year. The planned trails are depicted in Annex 19. The implementation of this action will take place from June 2023 and onwards.

5.6 Bird viewing Screens: After many consultations within the project team/ partners, as well as with other stakeholders (SBAA, land owners, i.e. Merras Zakakiou, Game and Fauna Service), it was decided to design and construct one bird viewing & visitor information structure at the beginning (top, of N, end) of Lady’s mile road. The design has been finalised and construction of the wooden structure has begun. The onsite installation will be finalised in the summer months. (please refer to Annex 20 for location and design).

5.7 Production of Akrotiri visitors’ wildlife guide in form of a mobile application: The implementation of this action according to the project timeframe, is within 2023. However, after discussions with the project partners and team, we are considering changing this action. Use of an app for a specific site is not common or popular -at least in Cyprus- and because there is the website for the visitors of the area, which provides most of the information needed for Akrotiri Peninsula, we are thinking to change this action to a short video spot for the area. Project partners would then use this short video for promotional purposes, as could the RoC Deputy Ministry of Tourism, and other related stakeholders. This will be further considered and communicated formally with the Darwin Team through a change request form.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Baseline Condition	Change recorded by 31/03/23	Indicator	Source of evidence
Output 1. Support for sustainable management of invasive <i>Acacia saligna</i>, with a focus on post clearance habitat restoration on Cape Pyla			
There is information available on how to remove Acacia plants, mainly through chemical treatment protocols, but there is insufficient and scattered information on Acacia post clearance habitat restoration. <i>A. saligna</i> has naturalized in Cyprus and it is one of the most	All information available on acacia post clearance habitat restoration methodologies through published articles, as well as personal communication with experts, was included in the finalised literature review.	1.1 Practical post Acacia clearance restoration proposals drawn up based on review of up to date restoration techniques by December 2021.	Literature Review (reported in 1 st Project Annual Report)
	The experimental design for the trial plots in Cape Pyla has been set up and the trial plots were	1.2 Plots identified and trials (treatment & control) carried out for restoration activities	Experimental Design & Implementation (Annex 7)

Baseline Condition	Change recorded by 31/03/23	Indicator	Source of evidence
serious invasive species in Cyprus, threatening many natural habitats, invading forests, maquis, garigue, phrygana, marshy areas and agricultural land. Limited research and field trials have been made on how to restore habitats after Acacia clearance and prevent or minimise re-establishment of Acacia.	established in December 2022. Vegetation surveys, chemical treatment and revegetation activities already have taken place.	identified under 1.1 by December 2023. <i>1.2.1 Significant reduction of acacia re-growth on trial treatment plots compared with control plots by the end of the project.</i>	
	<i>N/A (Recommendations to be proposed by the end of project)</i>	1.3 Proposing recommendations on next steps and replicability for trialled acacia management methods by the end of the project.	
Until recently, Cape Pyla was among the worst bird trapping 'hot spots' on the island. Continued field monitoring carried out by BL shows that increased enforcement has significantly reduced the illegal bird killing on the cape in recent years.	The presence of project staff in the area for the restoration trials and communication/ interaction with local community might act as an added deterrent against the return of trappers to the Cape Pyla.	1.4 Support for ongoing efforts to prevent illegal bird trapping activity on Cape Pyla – trapping levels continue to decrease, by 5% per year compared to 2020 levels.	Field data from systematic monitoring of illegal bird trapping (from ongoing BirdLife Cyprus programme) (Annex 8)
Output 2. Reed management solutions successfully piloted at Zakaki Marsh			
The Marsh has been taken over by reeds in recent years and lost habitat diversity and the open pool area. No clear hydrological regime picture for both the quantity and quality of water draining into the marsh.	Hydrological study completed. It provides a good knowledge base on the hydrological regime of the marsh, that is used to provide recommendations for the reed management.	2.1. Comprehensive review of water management issues at the Marsh (including field testing of water quality and water flow assessment), with recommendations for long-term reed management by December 2022.	Hydrological study report and recommendations for long-term reed management (Annex 9)
	Mechanical reed clearance in February 2023 to maintain the open pool area.	2.2. By project end, reed-bed managed (reduced in extent by at least 20%) on target areas of the marsh by the end of the project.	Reed clearance photos – Annex 10
Site is dominated by reeds with little diversity, esp. for priority breeding bird species.	<i>N/A (change to be recorded by end of project)</i>	2.3. Increase in occurrence of priority breeding bird species at Marsh: <i>Aythya nyroca</i> & <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> by at least 20% by project end.	Monthly Bird counts at Zakaki Marsh (Annex 11)
Output 3. Sustainability established for conservation cattle grazing at Akrotiri Marsh, through expert input on grazing levels, preparation of a marketing study for Akrotiri March 'eco-beef' and both in situ and ex situ conservation actions for key marsh flora species, building on progress achieved under the DPLUS034 project (2015-2017).			
The economic viability of conservation grazing on Akrotiri Marsh needs support, because currently it is not a financially sustainable activity and is over-dependant on subsidies from the government.	Consultations are in process on the needs and specifications of the Marketing Plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef.	3.1. Marketing plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef drawn up and agreed with cattle herders by March 2023.	Marketing Plan has been almost finalised (Annex 13 – Graphic designing accompanying the marketing plan)
The storage of genetic material from key plant species in the marsh is desirable in order to help in future conservation actions.	Seeds of <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i> (>5000) and <i>Ipomoea sagittata</i> (11) have been collected and deposited at the already established seed bank of the Agricultural Research Institute on May 2022 and October 2022, respectively.	3.2. Seed bank established for key marsh plant species by March 2024.	Seed collection activities photos and forms for the deposited seeds (Annex 14)

Baseline Condition	Change recorded by 31/03/23	Indicator	Source of evidence
	Additionally, seed collection of <i>Euphorbia hirsute</i> and <i>Mentha aquatica</i> has already taken place in 2023. (overall change to be recorded by end of project)		
The target plant species population needs reinforcement and support in the marsh.	Vegetation surveys and seed collection have already started in March 2022. Replanting of targeted species <i>in situ</i> is ongoing. (overall change to be recorded by end of project)	3.3. By project end, cover of target plant species has increased in marsh (by 25-50%).	Vegetation surveys photos (Annex 14)
The current number of graziers in the marsh are 5 and cattle number is around 120.	Increased engagement, consultation and cooperation with local graziers in the management of the marsh and in maintaining Cyprus cows on the site has been taking place (change to be recorded by end of project).	3.4. By project end, increase number of graziers maintaining animals at the marsh from the current 5 to 7.	-
Output 4. Reduced disturbance to key wildlife species, including birds and marine reptiles, through the implementation of an access management plan for sensitive Akrotiri habitats			
The levels of disturbance to key wild life species and their habitats are high, due to uncontrolled access in most parts of Akrotiri Peninsula.	<i>Access management plan has been finalised according to initial consultations, Access management actions (gate bars and soil embankments) have been finalised in March 2023 & Monitoring Program for birds (change to be recorded by end of project)</i>	4.1 Phase I of management plan implemented by end of 2 nd project year (most sensitive sites protected through limitation of access), allowing for maintenance of numbers of key migrant and breeding bird species at key wetland sites by project end.	Access Management Plan to be the basis for consultation with all stakeholders (Annex 15) Access Management Actions Photos (Annex 15) Monthly Bird counts at Akrotiri Peninsula (Annex 11)
	<i>Access management plan has been finalised according to initial consultations, Access management actions (gate bars and soil embankments) have been finalised in March 2023 & Monitoring Program for turtle nesting (change to be recorded by end of project)</i>	4.2. Phase I of management plan implemented by end of 2 nd project year (most sensitive sites protected through limitation of access), allowing for maintenance of numbers of marine turtle nests on key beaches by project end.	Access Management Plan to be the basis for consultation with all stakeholders (Annex 15) Access Management Actions Photos (Annex 15) Turtle nesting monitoring program (Annex 16)
Output 5. Eco-tourism opportunities enhanced within Akrotiri peninsula			
The area offers great potential for ecotourism, but still this sector is largely unknown and has not been promoted for the Akrotiri Peninsula.	Automatic visitor counters have been installed at the three bird-hides in Akrotiri in July 2022 and results are been collected every month	Visitor counts for hides and other visitor infrastructure	Annex 17
	Website set and operation since March 2023	5.2. Dedicated Akrotiri eco-tourism website (set up by March 2022) has at least 2,000 visits by project end. <i>Please note that this indicator was mistakenly included in the logframe as March 2022 and not March 2023, when it was actually scheduled according to the project timeframe.</i>	https://visitakrotiri.cy/
	After an approved change request, this action was removed, because it turned out to be not possible for	5.3. Salt Lake wildlife camera in operation by September 2022.	-

Baseline Condition	Change recorded by 31/03/23	Indicator	Source of evidence
	reasons relating to the sensitive military status of the area and the complex and lengthy permitting process that would be involved.		
	Organisation of Akrotiri Spring festival is well underway for weekend 13-14 of May 2023.	5.4. Holding of two Akrotiri nature festivals, in Spring 2023 and Spring 2024 with at least 100 participants attend each.	Information Material for the festival (Annex 18)
	Two hiking trails were approved and will be implemented within 2023 (approved change request 11/202)	5.5. Three Akrotiri walking routes established by project end (first route set up by end September 2022).	Maps of the approved trails (Annex 19)
	One bird viewing & visitor information structure at the beginning of Lady's mile road. Location approved and design almost finalised.	5.6. Viewing screens set up for Lady's Mile Pools by end 2023.	Location and draft final design (Annex 20)
	N/A (change to be recorded at a later project stage)	5.7. Akrotiri visitors' wildlife guide produced (in mobile application form).	-

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Project Outcome: Key wetland and scrub habitat restored in Cyprus SBAs, with long-term nature conservation gains secured through enhanced, low-impact visitor use, with associated gains for wildlife tourism.

A review of indicators for measuring the intended Outcome, as well as an updated assessment of the likelihood of the project to achieve the Outcome have been made, and up to now the indicators are adequate for measuring the intended Outcome and the project will achieve the Outcome by end of funding. Please see the Table below.

Baseline Condition	Progress to date	Indicator	Source of evidence
Scrub habitat restoration in Cape Pyla: There is information available on how to remove Acacia plants, mainly through chemical treatment protocols, but there is insufficient and scattered information on Acacia post clearance habitat restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review on the post Acacia clearance approaches and methods for restoring natural vegetation and limiting regrowth of Acacia has been completed. - Vegetation surveys have been undertaken in all experimental plots. - Chemical treatment has been applied and a repeat application is scheduled for July 2023 - Planting and watering of 200 indigenous species has been taken place. 	Assessment of management & restoration methods for post Acacia clearance based on trial treatment plots and vegetation survey results at Cape Pyla with recommendations for replication and/or further work by the end of the project.	Annex 7
Wetland habitat restoration in Akrotiri: The Zakaki Marsh has been taken over by reeds in recent years and lost habitat diversity and the open pool area. No clear hydrological regime picture for both the quantity and quality of water draining into the marsh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hydrological study on the hydrological regime of the marsh and recommendations for the reed management have been finalised. - Within the next couple of months, a workshop with all involved stakeholders will be organised to present and discuss the findings of the hydrological study and the management recommendations in order to agree on the way forward. 	Zakaki marsh reed-bed management report agreed by key stakeholders by December 2022.	Annex 9
Wetland habitat restoration in Akrotiri: The economic viability of conservation grazing on Akrotiri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marketing Plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef is almost finalised. - <i>Ex-situ</i> and <i>in-situ</i> actions for conservation of Akrotiri Marsh flora. 	Sustainability for cattle grazing management at Akrotiri Marsh, through the achievement of the number of cattle to be within the	Annexes 12, 13, 14

Baseline Condition	Progress to date	Indicator	Source of evidence
Marsh needs support in order to be a sustainable activity in the marsh, because currently it is not a financially sustainable activity and is over-dependant on subsidies from the government.	- Renew close cooperation with graziers and other stakeholders.	limits recommended by grazing capacity study drawn up under the DPLUS034 project: 1–1.75 Eurostat Livestock Units (LSU) per ha by the end of the project.	
Wetland habitat restoration in Akrotiri: The levels of disturbance to key wild life species and their habitats are high, due to uncontrolled access in most parts of Akrotiri Peninsula.	- Access management plan has been finalised according to initial consultations - Access management actions (gate bars and soil embankments) have been finalised in March 2023	Agreed Akrotiri Access Management Plan by key stakeholders, including relevant map, by December 2023.	Annex 15
Enhance low-impact visitor use, with associated gains for wildlife tourism for Akrotiri.	- Automatic visitor counters have been installed at the three bird-hides in Akrotiri in July 2022 and results are been collected every month. - Preparatory actions are in process for ecotourism support and promotion, as described in sections 3.1 and 3.2.	Increased visitors within the range of 20-30% to Akrotiri wildlife-watching facilities (hides and paths) by project end. Baseline to be set by mid-2022 (as currently unknown). <i>The baseline for the above indicator above will be moved to July of 2023, since the automatic visitor counters were installed in July 2022. It took more time than anticipated for the equipment to be prepared and sent. It will be useful to have a year of data to set the baseline.</i>	Annex 17
There is not yet any agreed sustainability plan in place for target sites and project actions.	<i>At a later project stage</i>	Detailed sustainability plan in place and agreed by Cyprus SBAs for target sites and project actions with clear recommendations and course of future action by the end of the project.	-

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

The risks and assumptions described in the project application have been reviewed and are still considered valid.

4. Project support to environmental and/or climate outcomes in the UKOTs

The project is on the way to delivering sustainable conservation management at two very important biodiversity sites, as well as sustainable use of Akrotiri Peninsula (through facilitation of low-impact use by visitors). This will benefit biodiversity, ecosystems and Cyprus society in the long-term.

More specifically, the impact and change expected can be broken down as:

1. Invasive *Acacia saligna*: Practical management techniques are field tested for the restoration of natural habitats on Cape Pyla post *Acacia* removal, with benefits for biodiversity.
2. Reed management at Zakaki Marsh: Both diversification of the site's habitat with biodiversity benefits in the short-term (including increased occurrence of *Aythya nyroca* and *Himantopus himantopus*) and identification of solutions for long-term management, helping to enhance the ecological value of the marsh in the long-term (with added benefits for human visitors).

3. Sustainable long-term grazing management at Akrotiri Marsh: this will have benefits for the local economy (viability of traditional grazing at the marsh) in the medium-to-long-term and will build on and reinforce the biodiversity gains from the management regime set up under the DPLUS034 project, while broadening them to ensure priority marsh plants also benefit.

4. Reduced disturbance at key wildlife sites on Akrotiri peninsula, with benefits for wildlife (breeding birds, nesting sea turtles, with increased occurrence of *Charadrius alexandrinus* and turtle nests) in both the short and long-term and also for local tourism, as an access management plan draw up under the project will facilitate disturbance-free enjoyment of wildlife by visitors.

5. Increased eco-tourism opportunities on Akrotiri peninsula, with medium-to-long-term benefits for the local economy and knock-on benefits for nature conservation in the long-term (alternatives established to mass tourism and associated over-development).

Additionally, the project will contribute towards three Conventions (please refer to 1st Project Annual Report):

1. Convention on Biological Diversity
2. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
3. RAMSAR Convention

Regarding local legislation the project supports proper implementation of the provisions of the two nature SBAA ordinances: 'The Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance of 2007' and 'Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2008'. Specifically, the project supports proper management of sites designated under the provisions of the 2007 and 2008 Ordinances: Akrotiri peninsula (Akrotiri) and Cape Pyla (Dhekelia). The project will also contribute towards delivery of both Cape Pyla and the Akrotiri Management Plans developed by the SBAA, contributing to the Administration's stated aim to "...to encourage good ecological and conservation practice".

All of Project's Outcome, Outputs and Activities are designed to contribute to all the above. Within the last year 2022-2023, almost all actions/ activities of the project have made significant progress, even if there have been some obstacles and a few delays, as explained in Section 3 and 7 of this Report and with the evidence as indicated in Section 3 and relevant Annexes. Each activity contributes to better management, and/or conservation, and/or protection of these two very important protected sites (Akrotiri Peninsula and Cape Pyla) which are in line and contribute towards the above strategic long-term outcomes for the natural environment, conventions and local legislation/ management plans.

5. Gender equality and social inclusion

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	50%
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	100%

The project Steering Committee is made up of 10-12 individuals (some variation of participants for each partner) and 4-6 of these are women, which is a 50% representation. The lead partner, BirdLife Cyprus, currently has an office team of 16 full-time officers, 12 of whom are women (75%). The project team is led by a woman (Phoebe Vayanou) and the other two project officers (Zoe Markidou and Athena Papatheodoulou) are also women (100% representation).

In general, all project partners comply with relevant laws concerning equal opportunity for men and women and non-discrimination. The activities that will be promoted during festivals, on social media

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

and under the broader project outreach strategy will target both women and men. All project indicators recording physical presence of people will also monitor gender; adjustments to following activities and their promotion will be made if significant bias towards one sex is observed. All contractors that are approached to collaborate with large scale work (such as catering events and reed cleaning) are asked to prove their gender equality policy or practices.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

The project team leader, Phoebe Vayanou, has held regular meetings – at least monthly – with the project leader, Martin Hellicar and the BirdLife Cyprus Financial manager, Myria Achilleos, since the project kicked off. This regular contact has served the project well in terms of ensuring:

- i. Sound financial management. And underspend / overspend has been identified in advance of relevant payments and a close watch has been maintained on all project expenditure throughout. Any changes needed have been agreed with the Darwin Plus team, following the required financial change request procedure. The Darwin Plus team has approved all relevant requests and the financial side of the project has worked smoothly, enabling rather than hindering implementation of project actions.
- ii. Securing of project outcomes. This has been helped by the project having been set up with a set of clear and measurable indicators for delivery of all actions according to the project log frame. This has helped the project team achieve good monitoring and evaluation. The project implementation timetable has been kept to, with only minor deviations that will not affect (we expect) delivery of outcomes. The timeframe and its management have also served to allow a little bit of 'room' for 'catch-up' where factors, such as the ongoing Covid pandemic, or lengthy bureaucratic processes have caused delays (see, for example, description under section 1.2 regarding PLI requirement for Cape Pyla actions).

Another key part of the monitoring & evaluation process is the operation of the Project Steering Group which consists of the Project Leader, Project Coordinator and all project officers and representatives from all project partners. The Steering Group oversees progress on all actions, plans steps ahead, revises implementation timeframe as needed and reviews budget spending.

7. Lessons learnt

- Continuing communication with and involvement of stakeholders

One of the main lessons learned, since the early days of the project, is the importance of communication with and involvement of stakeholders during the planning, as well as in the implementation of actions. This approach helps to avoid administrative “surprises” (although we did have few surprises along the way), contributes towards agreed end results and decisions made and helps secure and establish the appropriate role and involvement of each project partner and stakeholder. In this context, it is also important to maintain a formal communication for various issues, in writing. In this context, most of the project actions involved many meetings and communications with the involved stakeholders during the whole project duration.

- Costing of actions

The costing of actions that was estimated in the proposal stage of the project might have some deviations from the actual costing of actions during the detailed design and implementation. This needs some room of adaptive management, early organisation and some degree of logical re-allocation of funds between the different actions, in formal communication (request of change procedure) with the Darwin Initiative Team. A few change requests have been sent and approved in this context.

- Managing Expectations

One other lesson learnt from the first year of the project was that the expectations of the stakeholders need careful management. The project team tries to communicate the project aims, actions and long-term benefits in a suitable manner, in order to manage expectations. This is important with most stakeholders, but especially with the graziers at Akrotiri Marsh as well as the local communities (Xylophagou at Cape Pyla and Akrotiri village at Akrotiri). It is important to communicate that foreseen changes would not happen overnight and therefore most of the economic benefits to the graziers and local community would need time to become evident.

- Early organisation of actions – Adaptive planning

The implementation of most actions involves some logistical and bureaucratic unforeseen parameters, that need to be incorporated into the design and implementation of the project. This requires an early organisation of the implementation of actions, in order to be within the time schedule. However, even with early planning/ organisation, still we had to face some unforeseen challenges, like the requirement of Public Liability Insurance for the Acacia field experiment. This created some delays in our planning, but still we managed to adapt our initial planning without jeopardising the foreseen outcomes of these actions.

8. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

The review of last year's Annual Report was communicated to project partners and the issues raised were taken on board and discussed.

Some of the comments were addressed in the last half annual report (comments 3 and 6).

In response to comment 1, regarding acacia and other scrub in relation to illegal trapping of birds, we have added a brief explanation in section 1: 'Project Summary' and also under Annex 8, to which please refer.

Our response to comment 2 is covered in annex 8, to which please refer, and we add some contextual explanation here. Trapping beyond Cape Pyla boundaries is unlikely to correlate to trappers shifting from the Cape to other areas, as trapping 'patches' are jealously guarded by their law-braking 'operators'. It is relevant to note that the impressive reductions in bird trapping achieved within SBA areas in recent years are not on Cape Pyla alone: there has been a 93% reduction in mist netting levels in all of the Eastern SBA areas since 2002. The relevant target under this project is of course to support ongoing efforts to prevent illegal bird trapping activity on Cape Pyla by identifying novel ways to tackle the acacia issue on Cape Pyla. This is only one small part (albeit a significant one) of a large effort in this area. Tackling this persistent problem continues to be a main focus of our work at BirdLife Cyprus. Indeed BirdLife Cyprus currently has no fewer than six ongoing projects (in 2023) focused - largely or completely - on building on our notable success in the area of illegal bird killing, across Cyprus. This success is itself the result of over two decades of dedicated work in this area, with the support of the RSPB, other BirdLife partners, LIFE, MAVA and OAK Foundation funding (and representing an investment in excess of €4 million since 2002). The suggestion for changing the relevant target for this action to maintaining zero trapping levels on Cape Pyla in essence is not fully applicable, we feel. As explained above, project actions only support and play a part in a much broader effort in this area, and therefore the project contribution does not, in itself, determine the result relating to illegal bird trapping levels. We feel the original target – 5% further reduction – is more fitting given the contribution the project action can make.

For the response to comment 4, please refer to sections 5 and 6.

Finally, in relation to comment 5 (underspent due to staff costs), written communication with the Darwin Team (emails) addressed this issue in good time.

9. Risk Management

The risks that arose in the last 12 months have also been reported in the half year report. These are the following: In setting up this Darwin Project, at the proposal stage, emphasis was placed on consulting fully with the SBAA on all proposed actions. This done, the project received the full support of the SBAA (also through a letter of support for all actions). In the course of project implementation, a number of previously agreed key actions face significant and unforeseen challenges, which can best be attributed to procedural or bureaucratic reasons of the SBAA or the concerns of the military. This has resulted in some project actions having to be abandoned, in delays to project implementation, extra unforeseen costs and much extra effort and time for the project team. Examples are:

- As mentioned in Section 3, small scale field trials of selected habitat restoration methods in post acacia removal areas in Cape Pyla. In the course of this action, we were informed well into the 1st year of the project that BirdLife Cyprus needs £500,000 public liability insurance (PLI) cover to set up and run some simple experimental field plots for acacia management on the Cape. No insurance company in Cyprus was able to provide this insurance. After many weeks of efforts, we managed to secure a PLI on November 2022. For this reason, during the months of April 2022 to November 2022, no concrete progress was made on the ground regarding “Trials of selected restoration/acacia methods in plots”. That said, since December 2022 - as soon as we got the PLI-, the field experiment was set up, without seriously jeopardising its implementation schedule or expected results. Budget-wise, there might be unspent costs within the financial year 2023-2024, but these will be calculated within the next couple of months and will be communicated with the Darwin team, through a possible change request form.
- Wildlife camera set up in Akrotiri Salt Lake – This action was cancelled over military safety concerns, something that should have been flagged up at the application stage. (Change request form for this was sent and approved).
- As mentioned in Section 3, and relating to action for three Akrotiri walking routes for ecotourism. This action hit a roadblock in July 2022 after we were informed that we could set up the walking trails (one of which was also proposed by the Akrotiri community a while back), because of military concerns raised by the British Forces Cyprus. Through many consultations with the SBAA, it was eventually decided that two of the three originally proposed trails could go ahead. Through an approved financial change request in 11/2022, the relevant funds for the trails were moved in the 2023-2024 financial year.
- Management of cattle grazing on Akrotiri Marsh – As mentioned in Section 3. Based on the outcome of many discussions and consultations with all stakeholders, there is a need for better on-going management of the area in order to address various issues in Akrotiri Marsh. The area is suffering from an almost complete lack of active management, save that done by the cows and graziers. In order to facilitate the formulation and implementation of a better management of the area, the Darwin team drafted in early 2022, a proposal for key site management actions for Akrotiri marsh, for consultation with all involved stakeholders. However, the coordination of the management of the site lies on the SBAA and although there seems to be some willingness to try to set up a management structure/ actions, progress is slow. The project team continues with the actions that we can implement in the Marsh, but these alone will not ensure sustainable management in the long-term.

10. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

11. Sustainability and legacy

During the past 12 months of the project, its scope, aims and actions have been promoted in various ways, i.e. through events, internet/ social and other media, as follows:

Related events:

- Organisation of a 2-day workshop, titled: “Akrotiri Peninsula - Biotic & Abiotic Monitoring, Status & Trends”, took place at the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre on the 8th and 9th of December 2022 (more detailed information on Section 3 and Annex 4). *People attended: 8/12 – 56 persons from at least 22 affiliations and 9/12 – 37 persons from at least 22 affiliations.*

Internet and Social Media

- <https://visitakrotiri.cy/> (website set up within the frame of the project – online in March 2023)
- https://birdlifecyprus.org/akrotiri-cape-pyla-darwin-project/?fbclid=IwAR0BcW4-6Do-060fy2fGIIN4JdtI6en_7y4cp4LMCWVRjS6mzCZB758PFG4
- <https://terracypria.org/el/a-two-day-workshop-took-place-in-akrotiri-with-presentations-on-the-activities-that-take-place-on-the-peninsula/>

Social Media

- <https://www.facebook.com/BirdLifeCyprus/posts/pfbid035rtxcjhjXATgy5mys6saDsERaF8FW3AnmzGzKrcKfdnnQAW8cxmLYC2Z7ke7qdxl> 7400 people reached
- <https://www.facebook.com/BirdLifeCyprus/posts/pfbid025c3a2PxYhP4zMA3bWTo6vVEXKCS8uS8HHCx4khEQGtTAz8udDfDgkAWEAbL1WcmAl> 2310 people reached
- <https://www.facebook.com/BirdLifeCyprus/posts/pfbid037xLbjLcDi3h6sMy4i3u7yc99V73uNdRHqm6bREnMdMSsKq5bJrJsGaH2afZFDQdki> 914 people reached
- <https://www.facebook.com/BirdLifeCyprus/posts/pfbid02LEptcmQ3phYV78NNNoHMMrFymUynBdPdhlx1gdXDbBbayB55Dr5GzgPHiFuj7xLfrl> 2738 people reached
- <https://www.facebook.com/terracypria/posts/pfbid0baM6WbjMYPafUPXBCa9aZM1XKEMojM4tfpLTY3CCaLH1rCyMfPuzxigkSWDdmEKI> 2437 people reached
- https://www.instagram.com/p/Cgb4-l_Nquf/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
- <https://www.facebook.com/terracypria/posts/pfbid0r3ByqHrGM7cTeCK97T6XXjEXdNp3tfrEw6ZZH2SPbWBHzpBVc8KRNorW7tWSmeGFI> 613 people reached
- https://www.instagram.com/p/CjkZxULLumU/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
- <https://www.facebook.com/terracypria/posts/pfbid02Ydm4Y3aKqTBU7TUKMxxtDYcEihxuc2hr1uSxdocUGPp3PY3JZjkSHih3mhJH5AI> 1550 people reached
- <https://www.facebook.com/terracypria/posts/pfbid0ZAELNaQWSernZpzLnwS3Ga1zssje1solDMFLmsijNDESFrbXAb3vfyQHnTRZWCJCI> 803 people reached
- https://www.instagram.com/p/CdZ4b-jN7Cf/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

Apart from the above, engagement in the current project reinforces the partnership between BirdLife Cyprus, Terra Cypria, the RSPB and the SBAA Environment team. Project engagement and activities also serve to re-establish and take forward engagement with key local stakeholders, such as the Akrotiri community and the Akrotiri Marsh graziers in particular. This engagement reinforces the momentum for securing agreed long-term management of key wildlife sites, for which the partnership approach and a level of consensus among involved stakeholders are crucial elements. With SBA resources for site management limited – a factor that is becoming increasingly clear though the process of implementing the current project, it is clear that securing relevant funding to continue actions similar to those of the current project (and building on these) will be crucial. The partnerships and understandings being reinforced and built under the current project will be crucial in this regard.

12. Darwin Plus identity

The Darwin Initiative funding has been recognised as a distinct project with a clear identity, throughout the project implementation. All stakeholders involved in the project (i.e. RoC Departments, consultants who work for the project, locals, and of course project partners) understand that the project is funded by the UK Government and that the Darwin Initiative provides grants for projects working in UK Overseas Territories (OTs) to support conservation actions.

In all writing communication with stakeholders, the Darwin logo is always included and it is always mentioned that the project is funded by the UK Government through the Darwin Initiative. This is the case also in presentations and meetings with all stakeholders, as well as official project reports.

At the same time, in all promotional actions (events, media, internet presence – pl. refer to section 11) the Darwin logo is included and the funding source of the project is clearly mentioned – promoted.

13. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes: Martin Hellicar, [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No [If yes, please provide date and details of training]
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 0% [and number] Planned: 25% [and number]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. <i>Nothing specific as no issues have arisen, but we have decided, as an organisation, in a recent strategy review, to identify ways of securing safeguarding training for our staff.</i>	
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. See above	

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2022/23 D+ Grant (£)	2022/23 Total actual D+ Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others (Please specify)				
TOTAL	130,000	124,769		

Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.		
Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)		

15. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

This section will be filled in the last year of the project.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023 – if applicable

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Improved conservation status for key habitats and priority species in Cyprus, with replicable management approaches developed and socio-economic gains through enhancement of alternative, sustainable tourism focusing on nature and wildlife.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The experiment for the trial plots in Cape Pyla has being set up on the ground and started. - Hydrological study for Zakaki marsh has been completed and recommendations for reed management have been proposed. - 1 mechanical reed clearance in Zakaki marsh took place. - The Marketing plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef has been almost completed. - Ex-situ and in-situ actions for conservation of Akrotiri Marsh flora are taking place with positive results. - The draft Access management plan at Akrotiri has been completed. - Access Management Actions took place. - Actions for promoting eco-tourism in Akrotiri are taking place (visitor counters, Akrotiri Spring Festival, Bird Viewing Screen, Website for visitors etc). 	
<p>Outcome Key wetland and scrub habitat restored in Cyprus SBAs, with long-term nature conservation gains secured through enhanced, low-impact visitor use, with associated gains for wildlife tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.1 Assessment of management & restoration methods for post Acacia clearance based on trial treatment plots and vegetation survey results at Cape Pyla with recommendations for replication and/or further work by the end of the project. 0.2 Zakaki marsh reed-bed management report agreed by key stakeholders by December 2022. 0.3 Sustainability for cattle grazing management at Akrotiri Marsh, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.1 Literature review has been completed. The experiment for the trial plots in Cape Pyla has being set up on the ground and started. Vegetation surveys are taking place. 0.2 Hydrological study has been completed and recommendations for reed management have been proposed. 0.3 The Marketing plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef has been almost completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.1 Implementation of the full actions of the field experiment for the trial plots in Cape Pyla (also solarization experiment in Summer). Vegetation surveys will continue. 0.2 Consultations for presentation of the results of the hydrological study and the recommendations for management of Zakaki Marsh in order to end up to agreed plan of action.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>through the achievement of the number of cattle to be within the limits recommended by grazing capacity study drawn up under the DPLUS034 project: 1–1.75 Eurostat Livestock Units (LSU) per ha by the end of the project.</p> <p>0.4 Agreed Akrotiri Access Management Plan by key stakeholders, including relevant map, by December 2023.</p> <p>0.5 Increased visitors within the range of 20-30% to Akrotiri wildlife-watching facilities (hides and paths) by project end. Baseline to be set by mid-2022 (as currently unknown).</p> <p>0.6 Detailed sustainability plan in place and agreed by Cyprus SBAs for target sites and project actions with clear recommendations and course of future action by the end of the project.</p>	<p>Ex-situ and in-situ actions for conservation of Akrotiri Marsh flora are taking place.</p> <p>Close cooperation with graziers and other stakeholders through frequent formal and informal consultations.</p> <p>Drone photos of the Marsh have been taken – update of grazing capacity is underway.</p> <p>0.4 The draft Access management plan at Akrotiri has been completed. Access Management Actions took place.</p> <p>0.5 Visitors counters have been installed in 3 bird-hides. Baseline conditions to be set in mid-2023. Actions are being implemented for ecotourism support and promotion, as described in section 3.</p> <p>0.6 At a later project stage</p>	<p>0.3 Consultations with graziers and the rest of stakeholders for the presentation and discussion of the Marketing Plan and agree on the next steps of action. Efforts towards the support of consultations with all involved stakeholders to formulate a better implementation of management actions for the Marsh. Continue with ex-situ and in-situ actions for conservation of Akrotiri Marsh flora. Update grazing capacity of the Marsh.</p> <p>0.4 Consultations with all stakeholders on the proposed Akrotiri Access Management Plan.</p> <p>0.5 Set baseline conditions for Akrotiri visitation. Update and record website visitation. The 1st spring festival in collaboration with local community will take place. Establish the walking routes and the bird viewing screen.</p>
<p>Output 1. Support for sustainable management of invasive <i>Acacia saligna</i>, with a focus on post clearance habitat restoration on Cape Pyla.</p>	<p>1.1 Practical post <i>Acacia</i> clearance restoration proposals drawn up based on review of up to date restoration techniques by December 2021.</p> <p>1.2 Plots identified and trials (treatment & control) carried out for restoration activities identified under 1.1 by December 2023.</p> <p><i>1.2.1. Significant reduction of acacia re-growth on trial treatment plots compared with control plots by the end of the project.</i></p>	<p>1.1 The literature review on the post <i>Acacia</i> clearance approaches and methods for restoring natural vegetation and limiting regrowth of <i>Acacia</i> has been completed. (Previous Annual Report 2021-2022).</p> <p>1.2 The experiment for the trial plots in Cape Pyla has being set up on the ground and started. Two experiments are implemented: a) Experiment A: Questions to be tested: 1. Effectiveness of grazing in <i>Acacia</i> post clearance management 2. Effectiveness of revegetation combined with chemical treatment follow ups (16 x 10*10 m trial plots – 4 replicates for each methodology), b) Experiment B: Questions to be tested: 1. Effectiveness of Soil Solarisation (SH) with one and two plastic sheets. 2. Effectiveness of Soil Solarization (SH) without soil preparation. (16 x 4*4 m trial plots – 4 replicates for each methodology) (Section 3 and Annex 7 of this report).</p>	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>1.3 Proposing recommendations on next steps and replicability for trialled acacia management methods by the end of the project.</p> <p>1.4 Support for ongoing efforts to prevent illegal bird trapping activity on Cape Pyla – trapping levels continue to decrease, by 5% per year compared to 2020 levels.</p>	<p>1.2.1 Vegetation surveys are taking place using the Braun-Blanquet cover-abundance scale.</p> <p>1.3 (at later stage of project)</p> <p>1.4 The programme for monitoring of illegal mist netting levels by BirdLife Cyprus with RSPB support continues. The autumn monitoring season was completed by mid-October (Annex 8).</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1: Review of scientific and other published literature on approaches and methods for restoring natural vegetation and limiting regrowth of <i>Acacia saligna</i> following the clearance of invasive acacia bushes from scrubland habitat. Groundwork on this has already been carried out (pre-project) by the SBA Environment Department team and this will be expanded and completed to arrive at a set of clear recommendations. Drawing on these recommendations, two specific restoration methods will be selected to be the subject of practical trials on the ground on Cape Pyla, in areas that have been cleared of acacia bushes by the SBA authorities over recent years. Examples of the kind of methods that might be trialled include dense planting ('over-planting') with typical Mediterranean scrub species native to Cyprus or heavy grazing by goats.</p>		<p>Completed</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Activity 1.2: The (minimum of) two selected restoration/acacia control trials will each involve a pair of suitable, similar plots (treatment & control) of approx. 50x50m size for each method to be tested. The trials will then run for two years, involving activities (to be confirmed based on review under 1.1.) such as planting native scrub species or controlled grazing by goats on the 'treatment' plot while the 'control' plot is left untouched.</p> <p>1.2.1. Vegetation surveys will be carried out on all plots before the treatment begins and again at the end of the two-year trial period.</p>		<p>The experiment for the trial plots in Cape Pyla has being set up on the ground and started. Two experiments are implemented: a) Experiment A: Questions to be tested: 1. Effectiveness of grazing in Acacia post clearance management 2. Effectiveness of revegetation combined with chemical treatment follow ups (16 x 10*10 m trial plots – 4 replicates for each methodology), b) Experiment B: Questions to be tested: 1. Effectiveness of Soil Solarisation (SH) with one and two plastic sheets. 2. Effectiveness of Soil Solarization (SH) without soil preparation. (16 x 4*4 m</p>	<p>- Implementation of the full actions of the field experiment for the trial plots in Cape Pyla (also solarization experiment in Summer, Grazing from May 23 to February 24).</p> <p>- Vegetation surveys will continue. (April 23 - March 24)</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
		trial plots – 4 replicates for each methodology) (Section 3 and Annex 7 of this report).	
Activity 1.3: The results of the restoration/acacia control trials will be written up in a relevant report, which will include clear assessments of the efficacy of the trialled methods and recommendations for replication and/or further work. Engagement with stakeholders will enable development of a plan for habitat restoration at Cape Pyla to benefit biodiversity as well as the local communities.		(at later stage of project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The results of the restoration/acacia control trials will be written up in a relevant report, which will include clear assessments of the efficacy of the trialled methods and recommendations for replication and/or further work (March 24) - Engagement with stakeholders to discuss a plan for habitat restoration at Cape Pyla to benefit biodiversity as well as the local communities. (March – May 24)
Activity 1.4: Removal and control of acacia on Cape Pyla is important in the on-going effort to end illegal bird trapping, as Acacia saligna was widely planted and maintained (watered) on the Cape by trappers in order to create ideal vegetation stands for the setting of illegal mist nets. Thanks to increased enforcement and acacia clearance efforts, the levels of mist net use on the Cape have been reduced dramatically in recent years. The presence of project staff in the area for the restoration trials will act as an added deterrent against the return of trappers to the Cape. In parallel to the trials of restoration/acacia control, BirdLife Cyprus, in cooperation with the SBA Police, will continue the programme for monitoring of illegal mist netting levels that has been carried out since 2002 by BirdLife Cyprus with RSPB support. The results from systematic monitoring (carried out each spring, winter and autumn) will show if trapping levels remain low or are even reduced by the end of the project and the restoration trials.		The programme for monitoring of illegal mist netting levels by BirdLife Cyprus with RSPB support continues. The autumn monitoring season was completed by mid-October (Annex 8).	The programme for monitoring of illegal mist netting levels by BirdLife Cyprus with RSPB support will continue.
Output 2. Reed management solutions successfully piloted at Zakaki Marsh.	2.1. Comprehensive review of water management issues at the Marsh (including field testing of water quality and water flow assessment), with recommendations for long-term reed management by December 2022.	2.1. Hydrological study for Zakaki marsh has been completed and recommendations for the marsh management have been proposed (Section 3 and Annex 9) 2.2. Mechanical reed clearance took place in February 2023 (Section 3 and Annex 10 of this report). 2.3. Bird counts at Zakaki Marsh have taken place every month (Section 3 and Annex 11 of this report).	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>2.2. Reed-bed managed (reduced in extent by at least 20%) on target areas of the marsh by the end of the project.</p> <p>2.3. Increase in occurrence of priority breeding bird species at Marsh: <i>Aythya nyroca</i> & <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> by at least 20% by project end.</p>		
<p>Activity 2.1: Comprehensive review of water management issues at Zakaki Marsh, including water sampling. The Marsh has been taken over by reeds in recent years and lost habitat diversity and the open pool area that was important for key bird species such as Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i> and Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> (both qualifying species for the Akrotiri Special protection Area for birds). Changes in both the quantity and quality of water draining into the marsh from Limassol town are believed by local experts to be the cause for the reed ‘take-over’ at the site. This action will seek to get to the bottom of this issue through the carrying out of a hydrological study (external consultant) looking at the inputs and outputs from the marsh system and the quality of water inflows (nutrient levels, dissolved oxygen levels, etc). This activity will involve sampling of inflow and outflow water in different seasons and the monitoring of marsh water levels, in order to build a relevant hydrological regime picture. Based on the findings of the hydrological study, and drawing on expertise from the RSPB and others (such as the Cyprus Environment department) a set of recommendations for long-term reed management at Zakaki Marsh will be drawn up.</p>		<p>The hydrological study, elaborated by external consultants (I.A.CO Environmental & Water Consultants Ltd), was completed in February 2023, while an Interim Report was delivered in September 2022. The study provides a very clear identification and description of the hydrological regime of Makria Lake. Based on the results of the hydrological study, an ecological assessment and a review of management options was carried out by the Darwin Team and Partners (especially with the input of RSPB experts), with habitat restoration as a target, with the needs of target species as a key indicator. The full hydrological study can be found in Annex 9 of this report. During the elaboration of the study, meetings with the Sewerage Board of Limassol – Amathus took place to discuss the management of the Lake. The initial findings of the study were also presented and discussed in Project Steering Committee meetings. This ensures that the conclusions and recommendations are agreed in a certain degree (Section 3 and Annex 9).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation of a meeting – workshop with all involved stakeholders to present and discuss the findings of the hydrological study and the management recommendations in order to agree on the way forward. - Update the recommendations based on the results of the consultation with stakeholders.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 2.2: Zakaki Marsh Reed-bed management. With the target of reducing the extent of dense reeds by at least 25% in target areas by project end. Reed clearance to be undertaken by mechanical work both under this project but also under the MAVA-funded MedIsWetII project, which project partner Terra Cypria is involved in and which includes management actions at the marsh that are complimentary to those of our project. Reed clearance will be focused on the area in front of the existing hide at the marsh, both because this will enhance visitor use and because this area was regularly used (including for breeding) by the target species <i>Aythya nyroca</i> and <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> in the past.		Mechanical reed clearance in front of the existing hide at the marsh took place on February 2023 (Annex 10 of this report).	- Mechanical reed clearances will take place, or other relevant actions for reed management, based on the recommendations from Activity 2.1 and stakeholder consultation.
Activity 2.3: Monthly bird counts at Zakaki Marsh to monitor the occurrence, numbers and breeding activity of the priority species <i>Aythya nyroca</i> and <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> and also of other birds (resident or migrant visitors) using the wetland.		Bird counts at Zakaki Marsh have taken place every month to monitor the occurrence and numbers of the priority species <i>Aythya nyroca</i> and <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> and also of other birds (resident or migrant visitors) using the wetland (Annex 11).	- The monthly bird monitoring programme will continue and analysis of the monitoring results will take place in order to observe trends in occurrence of priority breeding bird species at Marsh (April 2024)
Output 3. Sustainability established for conservation cattle grazing at Akrotiri Marsh	<p>3.1. Marketing plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef drawn up and agreed with cattle herders by March 2023.</p> <p>3.2. Seed bank established for key marsh plant species by March 2024.</p> <p>3.3. By project end, cover of target plant species has increased in marsh (by 25-50%).</p> <p>3.4. By project end, increase number of graziers maintaining animals at the marsh from the current 5 to 7.</p>	<p>3.1. The Marketing plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef has been almost completed (Section 3 and Annex 13) and consultations with graziers and other stakeholders will take place during May- June 2023 to end up on an agreed way forward.</p> <p>3.2. Seeds of <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i> (>5000) and <i>Ipomoea sagittata</i> (11) have been collected and deposited at the already established seed bank of the Agricultural Research Institute on May 2022 and October 2022, respectively. Seeds of <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i> and <i>Mentha aquatica</i> have been already collected dried and preserved in silica gel (Section 3 and Annex 14).</p> <p>3.3. Vegetation surveys, seed collection, in situ and ex situ replantings have started in March 2022 and are ongoing. 3 fenced areas at the Marsh are mainly used for in situ conservation actions (Section 3 and Annex 14).</p> <p>3.1. Increased engagement, consultation and cooperation with local graziers in the management of the marsh and in maintaining Cyprus cows on the site is taking place. Update of the grazing capacity of the Marsh will be finalized.</p>	
Activity 3.1: Management of cattle grazing on Akrotiri Marsh, building on the work done under the DPLUS034 project (2015-2017). Working with the Akrotiri Marsh graziers to meet a target, by project end, for the number of Cyprus breed cattle on Akrotiri Marsh		Ongoing meetings, discussions and field visits continue to take place to discuss issues/ problems/ needs, while building/	- Continue cooperation and consultation with graziers.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>to be within the limits recommended by grazing capacity study drawn up under DPLUS034: 1–1.75 Eurostat Livestock Units (LSU) per ha. This action will involve renewing close work with the Akrotiri graziers, providing advice and support in achieving conservation management goals while also supporting the economic viability of grazing on the Marsh (see 3.2). Under this action, new movable electric fencing units will be purchased for use by graziers in cattle management (targeted grazing; keeping some areas grazing-free). Current cattle density on the Marsh is higher than is ideal in the long-term. However, as there are still areas of dense reed alongside the more open wet grassland, this is probably useful in the short-term, provided livestock can be encouraged to ingress into the reed bed and transition the reed habitat into grassland habitat. Therefore, it is considered desirable to maintain a livestock grazing density in the range 1.75-3.00 LSU/ha in the short-term. Grazing levels will be reviewed at project start and then at regular intervals and recalculated to take into account changes in the balance between wet grassland and reed bed. In the longer-term, the grazing pressure will be brought down to 1.0-1.75 LSU/ha. An aspirational target for wet grassland habitat could be 50-60ha (of the total ca.118ha Akrotiri Marsh area), retaining 15ha of wet marsh and 43-53ha of reed bed.</p>	<p>renewing close cooperation with various stakeholders, such as Akrotiri Council President, Graziers, Forest Department, Water Development Department, SBAA, CUT. Based on the outcome of the above discussions, there is a clear need for better on-going management of the area in order to address various issues in Akrotiri Marsh. The site is suffering from an almost complete lack of active management, save that done by the cows and graziers. In order to facilitate the formulation and implementation of better management of this key site, the Darwin team drafted (at beginning of 2022), a proposal for priority site management actions as a tool for consultation with all involved stakeholders. However, the coordination of the management of the site lies on the SBAA and although there seems to be some willingness to try to set up a management scheme structure, progress has been slow. The project team continues with actions that we can implement in the Marsh, but these alone will not ensure sustainable management in the long-term. Aerial photos of the marsh using a drone were obtained in May 2022 (Annex 12 of this report), in order to provide quantitative input on the wet grassland and reed bed areas and update the grazing levels. The updated grazing capacity estimate of the area is under formulation and is expected to be finalised by June 2023.</p>	<p>- Update grazing capacity of the area and organize consultation meetings with graziers and other stakeholders to discuss the results.</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Activity 3.2: Preparation of Marketing plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef. The economic viability of conservation grazing on Akrotiri Marsh will be supported by exploring and identifying, with expert support (hired consultant), the possibilities for marketing beef from Akrotiri Marsh cattle as healthy, organic, wildlife-friendly, 'happy' and genuinely local (Cyprus breed) will be explored, in collaboration with the graziers. A marketing plan will be drawn up and agreed with cattle herders, with the aim of maximising income opportunities from Akrotiri beef sales. In parallel to this, the project team will also continue an ongoing effort to secure EU CAP funding (through the Cyprus Strategic Plan for 2023-2027) through the development and implementation, in cooperation with the Cyprus Agriculture Department, of a targeted agri-environment scheme for support of wildlife-friendly grazing at Akrotiri Marsh.</p>		<p>This action is nearing completion. The plan is written in Greek for better communication with all stakeholders. The graphic design work for the Plan can be found in Annex 13 of this report. During the formulation of the marketing plan, a systematic consultation schedule (together with other stakeholders, such as DA, ARI, Graziers, CUT) for the support of the local Cyprus cow breed, and specifically through promotion of its beef has been taking place. It was decided, that the Marketing Plan will be drafted for the local Cypriot cow breed as a whole (not just Akrotiri Marsh cows), because in this way the product can be more recognisable to the market (more animals than only in the marsh). However, the plan includes a separate sub-section for the free range Akrotiri Marsh cows.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The final Marketing Plan will be presented to the graziers within the next couple of months, although we have worked in close cooperation with them, and then after their input, a meeting will be organised with all the relevant stakeholders to present them the final Plan. - Update the Marketing Plan based on the results and outcome of the consultations.
<p>Activity 3.3: Ex-situ actions for conservation of Akrotiri Marsh flora, including establishment of seed bank for key marsh plant species, to be housed at the Akrotiri Environmental Education Center (AEEC). Management actions focused on Red Book plants in the marsh: collect seeds of <i>Euphorbia hirsute</i> and <i>Ipomoea sagittata</i>, in order to conserve in seed banks and plant in botanic garden at the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre, run by the SBAA.</p>		<p>- <u>Areas for planting our target plant species</u> in situ to support existing population were identified based on consultations with involved parties and field visits. There was an existing fenced area for the protection of flora species in the marsh and two additional suitable areas were fenced in June 2022. In situ actions have been taking place for all four targeted species, with positive outcomes up to now, while managed grazing is practiced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vegetation surveys & monitoring - Seed collection for seedbank at ARI and use for replanting - Re-plantings in situ to support population
<p>Activity 3.4: In-situ actions for conservation of Akrotiri Marsh flora. Targeted fencing of key marsh areas on a permanent or seasonal basis to establish the required grazing regime for key plant species. Installing electric fence around sensitive areas to protect from grazing. Management actions focused on Red Book plants in the marsh: <i>Euphorbia hirsute</i>, <i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i> and <i>Mentha aquatica</i>. These priority species will also be planted in suitable new areas. Target for cover of these species to have</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planting to create a controlled successful ex situ population, in order also to provide a source for plants for in situ re-plantings. - Additional drone photos used for monitoring.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>increased by 25-50% by project end. Targeted vegetation surveys will be carried out at the marsh, to monitor progress.</p>		<p>- A very fruitful cooperation between the all the key stakeholders of Akrotiri Marsh flora has been established.</p> <p>- <u>Vegetation surveys & monitoring</u> takes place every 1-2 months. The surveys are scheduled according to various parameters, such as flowering period, and the need to avoid muddy conditions and disturbance of breeding birds, etc. The number of individuals of <i>Euphorbia hirsute</i> and <i>Mentha aquatica</i> have been recorded in all plots. Individuals of <i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i> have not been recorded within the fenced plots, but surveys conducted in the marsh revealed small numbers and heavily grazed individuals. During the summer months, <i>S. tabernaemontani</i> seeds will be ready for collection. <i>Ipomoea sagittata</i> individuals were counted in April 2023, however a second count of the individuals while the species will be in flower –in June 2023- will result in a more precise count. Another red data plant -<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>- was found within the plots at Akrotiri marsh and seems to have benefited from the grazing and reed control. The species -a crawling plant- has established and increased its ground cover in the drier parts of the marsh.</p> <p>- <u>Professional drone photographs</u> of the Akrotiri marsh have been taken on three different occasions (baseline photos at the beginning of the project, prior and post vegetation removal works). The photos are</p>	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>a very useful tool to illustrate vegetation changes over time (pl. see Annex 14). The quality is sufficient to identify reed cover, <i>Rubus sanctus</i> and <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i> cover within the plots.</p> <p>- <u>Seed collection</u>: Seeds of <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i> (>5000) and <i>Ipomoea sagittata</i> (11) were collected and deposited at the already established seed bank of the Agricultural Research Institute, on May 2022 and October 2022, respectively. At the same time, seeds of <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i> and <i>Mentha aquatica</i> have been already collected dried, preserved in silica gel and will be submitted at the seedbank of the Agricultural Research Institute.</p> <p>- <u>In situ actions</u>: Cuttings of <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i> and <i>Mentha aquatica</i>, as well as rhizomes of <i>Ipomoea sagittata</i> have been collected and submitted to the nursery of the Department of Forests for growing and conservation actions. More than 40 seedlings of each of <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i> and <i>Mentha aquatica</i> have already been provided to the Forest Department Nursery in Akrotiri.</p> <p>A number of <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i> individuals from the Forest Department Nursery in Akrotiri will be planted around <i>Mentha aquatica</i> on site. <i>Mentha aquatica</i> is heavily grazed, in comparison to <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i>, which is avoided by the animals and can therefore be planted to protect the mint species.</p>	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>- In February 2023, pilot removal of <i>Rubus sanctus</i> in fenced Plot 2 took place. The objective of this action, was to provide habitat to the photophilous species of <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i> and <i>Mentha aquatica</i> while at the same time, monitor their responses. Following the removal, the plot gates remained opened for 4 weeks, so that cattle could graze on the young <i>Rubus sanctus</i> seedlings, to reinforce the removal efficiency. The initial observations are very encouraging, both <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i> and <i>Mentha aquatica</i> within the plot are in good condition and numerous <i>Ipomoea sagittata</i> seedlings have appeared.</p> <p>- <u>Ex situ actions</u>: These actions are conducted in conjunction with the DPLUS171 fellowship project on “Conservation and awareness raising of the rare and endangered flora of the Red Flora Book of Cyprus and their pollinators within the SBA of Akrotiri Cyprus”. Seeds and saplings of <i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i> and <i>Mentha aquatica</i> were planted in April 2023 in a conservation area in the eucalyptus forest in Akrotiri. At this site, <i>Mentha aquatica</i> has already a well-established population. This initiative was undertaken with the support of the Department of Forests and the SBAA. Moreover, <i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i> saplings were collected to be planted in the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre (AEEC) to create a controlled successful ex situ population, in</p>	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>order to provide a source for plants for in situ re-plantings. Several areas have been suggested for suitability investigation, for ex-situ conservation. These will be checked in April 2023 and, if deemed suitable, will be planted in May 2023. (Section 3 and Annex 13)</p>	
<p>Activity 3.5: Through actions 3.1 and 3.2, increase engagement of local graziers in the management of the marsh and in maintaining Cyprus cows on the site. We will aim both to increase the engagement of the existing graziers and to increase the number of graziers keeping livestock on site, from the current 5 to 7.</p>		<p>Increased engagement of local graziers in the management of the marsh and in maintaining Cyprus cows on the site is being facilitated through frequent meetings with the graziers in the field in order to discuss issues/ problems/ needs they have. Additionally, BirdLife Cyprus drew on own funds to cover urgent repairs to the fencing of the marsh (December 2021 – January 2022). This was done to support the graziers, as part of “bridge-building” efforts. In line with this, we also covered the cost of works for cleaning Marsh drainage channels from reeds (September 2022) to aid better drainage of the area. This action works in parallel to actions 3.1 Management of cattle grazing and 3.2. Marketing plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef.</p>	<p>- Continue cooperation and consultation with graziers.</p>
<p>Output 4. Reduced disturbance to key wildlife species, including birds and marine reptiles, through the implementation of an access management plan for sensitive Akrotiri habitats.</p>	<p>4.1. Phase I of management plan implemented by end 2nd project year (most sensitive sites protected through limitation of access), allowing for maintenance of numbers of key migrant and breeding bird species at key wetland sites by project end.</p>	<p>4.1. Final draft of Access Management Plan has been prepared and will be used for further consultations, Initial access management actions have been implemented & Monthly birds counts (Section 3 and Annexes 11, 15). 4.2. Final draft of Access Management Plan has been prepared and will be used for further consultations, Initial access management actions have been implemented & seasonal monitoring of turtle nesting is taking place (Section 3 and Annexes 15, 16).</p>	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
	4.2. Phase I of management plan implemented by end 2 nd project year (most sensitive sites protected through limitation of access), allowing for maintenance of numbers of marine turtle nests on key beaches by project end.		
Activity 4.1: Development of Akrotiri Access Management Plan, including relevant map, and consultation with key stakeholders to achieve consensus for its implementation. Preparation of map of sensitive wildlife areas for key wetlands (such as nesting/resting/feeding areas for birds and habitats of Red Book plants), with the aim of ensuring these are kept free of visitor disturbance all year round or at specific (defined) times of the year, as appropriate for the species concerned. Map safe access routes for visitors (separately for vehicles, bicycles and walkers), plus parking areas, recreational areas (existing restaurants/cafes) and facilities for enhancing disturbance-free visitor viewing of wildlife (existing hides, new screens and information signs). Plan for implementing access plan established in coordination with relevant authorities (including plan for blocking off existing routes through sensitive wildlife areas, where needed). Consultation meetings with relevant authorities to set agreed milestones for implementation of the access management plan. Organisation of workshop by project partners to present to key stakeholders (local community, SBAA authorities, local birdwatchers, local walking groups, hunters, etc.) the draft access management plan for Akrotiri, plus follow-up consultation to achieve consensus. Akrotiri Access Management Plan to be implemented in a staggered manner, focusing first on reducing disturbance in most threatened sites (such as Lady's Mile lagoons and dunes).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A spatial mapping exercise including all the different layers needed for the Access Management Plan (i.e. sensitive wildlife areas, access routes, parking areas, recreational areas and facilities, administration boundaries, proposed developments, areas of interest, etc) has been finalised through initial consultations with SBAA stakeholders (Section 3 and Annex 15). - At the same time, after consultation with all relevant stakeholders, a number of access management measures/ actions in the Lady's mile area and eucalyptus forest area took place in February – March 2023 (installation of gate bars, creation of soil embankments) (Annex 15). These actions are very important for the protection of key habitats from access disturbance to species and habitats and prevention of littering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the next 3-4 months of the project, the Access Management Plan will undergo further consultation with all involved stakeholders, aiming to reach agreement.
Activity 4.2: Through staggered implementation of access management, numbers of key migrant and breeding bird species at key wetland sites are at least maintained in the short-term (project duration) and increase in medium-to-long term (after project end). Targeted bird surveys during migration, wintering and breeding periods, showing 'before and after' numbers for key bird species (will continue after project end to assess longer-term results). Records of occurrence and number of Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius</i>		Monitoring of birds (occurrence, numbers and breeding activity) is taking place on a monthly basis (see Annex 11 for relevant results).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly monitoring of birds will continue.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<i>alexandrinus</i> at Lady's Mile pools taken as a key indicator for that sensitive site, for example.			
Activity 4.3: Again, through staggered implementation of access management, numbers of marine turtle nests on key nesting beaches are at least maintained in the short-term (project duration) and increase in medium-to-long term (after project end). Turtle nest counts on key beaches to assess this (will continue after project end to assess longer-term results).		Monitoring of turtle nesting took place by SBAA during the breeding summer-season 2022 (see Annex 16 for relevant results for years 2020-2022).	- Monitoring of turtle nesting will take place during the Summer 2023.
Output 5. Eco-tourism opportunities enhanced within Akrotiri peninsula.	<p>5.1. Dedicated Akrotiri eco-tourism website (set up by March 2023) has at least 2,000 visits by project end.</p> <p>5.2. Salt Lake wildlife camera in operation by September 2022.</p> <p>5.3. Holding of two Akrotiri nature festivals, in Spring 2023 and Spring 2024 with at least 100 participants attend each.</p> <p>5.4. Three Akrotiri walking routes established by project end (first route set up by end September 2023).</p> <p>5.5. Viewing screens set up for Lady's Mile Pools by end 2023.</p> <p>5.6. Akrotiri visitors' wildlife guide produced (in mobile application form).</p>	<p>5.1. Website is online since March 2023 (https://visitakrotiri.cy)</p> <p>5.2. After an approved change request, this action was removed, because it turned out to be not possible for reasons relating to the sensitive military status of the area and the complex and lengthy permitting process that would be involved.</p> <p>5.3. Organisation of Akrotiri Spring festival is well underway. It will take place in the weekend of 13-14 of May 2023. During this weekend, visitors will have the opportunity to participate in activities such as bird ringing, bird watching, fun educational games and crafts for families, hiking, basketry workshops, etc. at various locations on Akrotiri Peninsula. (Annex 18 – program of the Festival).</p> <p>5.4. Three potential hiking trails were identified by the Darwin Project team and sent to SBAA for consultation in May 2022. Through many consultations with the SBAA, it was decided that 2 of the 3 trails are approved. Through an approved financial change request in 11/2022, the relevant funds for the trails were moved in the 2023-2024 financial year and the implementation of this action will take place from June 2023 and onwards (Annex 19).</p> <p>5.5. One bird viewing & visitor information structure at the beginning of Lady's mile road will be constructed. The design has been finalised and the wooden construction has begun. The onsite installation will be finalised within the summer months (Annex 20).</p> <p>5.6. Within 2023</p>	
Activity 5.1: Monitoring of visitor numbers to Akrotiri wildlife facilities (hides, paths) to assess effectiveness of project efforts to promote the area for eco-tourism. Use of automatic 'foot-fall' recording pads to record visits to birdwatching hides and walking paths. The baseline will be determined in year 1 of the project, as it is currently unknown. Target is to have doubled visitor numbers to selected facilities by project end.		Automatic visitor counters have been installed at the three bird-hides in Akrotiri in July 2022 and results are been collected every month (Annex 17).	- Set up baseline conditions in mid-2023 and analyse data to understand visitation patterns and numbers.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 5.2: Design and setting-up of a dedicated website promoting Akrotiri Peninsula as a wildlife-watching destination. The website will be the main promotional tool for tourism, through which visitors will be able to find information on where to go and what to see and also information to help them book accommodation locally. The website would be set up under the project and managed for the project duration by the project team. A training element will be included to ensure that, after the project end, the management and running of the website can be taken over by the Akrotiri community in cooperation with the AEEC. The AEEC will be the focal point for receiving visitors before they disperse to the target areas of interest on the Peninsula.		The Contract for the website development was signed in August 2022 and the website is online since March 2023 (https://visitakrotiri.cy).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Greek version in underway expected to be finalised April – May 2023. - Update as required the website information. - Record visits of the website.
Activity 5.3: Wildlife camera set up in Akrotiri Salt Lake to provide close-up views of Flamingos <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> and other visiting waterbirds, with images sent to the eco-tourism website.		This action (installing Wildlife camera in Akrotiri Salt Lake) turned out to be impossible to carry out for reasons relating to the sensitive military status of the area and the extremely complex and lengthy permitting process that would be involved.	-
Activity 5.4: Planning, preparation, promotion and execution of two spring ‘Akrotiri Festivals’ to highlight the areas rich natural and cultural heritage. These will be multi-faceted spring events including guided birdwatching and orchid tours, presentations on local wildlife, basket-weaving workshop, traditional dance and art workshops and children’s events, to take place in Akrotiri village and the surrounding areas.		Organisation of Akrotiri Spring festival is well underway. It will take place in the weekend of 13-14 of May 2023. During this weekend, visitors in the area will have the opportunity to participate in unique activities, such as bird ringing, bird watching, fun educational games and crafts for families, hiking, basketry workshops, etc. at various locations in Akrotiri Peninsula. The program of the Festival is on Annex 18 of this report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Akrotiri Spring festival (May 2023) will take place. - Organisation of Akrotiri Spring festival (May 2024)
Activity 5.5: Three Akrotiri walking routes established. Identification of three accessible and low-disturbance routes (for the wildlife) on the peninsula and preparation of electronic maps for these (made available on website above and app below), plus along-the-route signposting. There are currently no such routes on the peninsula.		Three potential hiking trails were identified by the Darwin Project team and sent to SBAA for consultation in May 2022. In July 2022, the SBAA informed the Darwin project team that it had been decided not to approve them because of security concerns raised by British Forces	- Establishment of the trails

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>Cyprus. The Darwin team asked for re-examination based on ways to address safety challenges and identification of suitable areas that do not create safety issues. Through many consultations with the SBAA, it was decided that two of the three trails originally proposed are can go ahead. Through an approved financial change request in 11/2022, the relevant funds for the trails were moved in the 2023-2024 financial year. The planned trails are depicted in Annex 19. The implementation of this action will take place from June 2023 and onwards.</p>	
<p>Activity 5.6: Viewing screens set up for Lady’s Mile Pools. Screens with accompanying information signs set up at key points along the Eastern side of the lagoons, to provide disturbance-free (for the birds) viewing opportunities. Location for screens decided in consultation with local birdwatchers. Information signs to carry information about the area and its wildlife, including a simple map showing the best ‘birding’ spots and access routes to them.</p>		<p>After many consultations within the project team/ partners, as well as with other stakeholders (SBAA, land owners, i.e. Merras Zakakiou, Game and Fauna Service), it was decided to design and construct one bird viewing & visitor information structure at the beginning of Lady’s mile road. The design has been finalised and the wooden construction has begun. The onsite installation will be finalised within the summer months. (Annex 20 for location and design).</p>	<p>- Establishment of bird viewing & visitor information structure</p>
<p>Activity 5.7: Production of Akrotiri visitors’ wildlife guide in form of a mobile application. The free App will include birdwatching & orchid-spotting information and walking routes (action 5.5). A simple-to-use and attractive and focusing on birdwatching opportunities at key wetlands and also in the wider area of the Peninsula, and including information on access to sites (tied in with access management plan).</p>		<p>The implementation of this action according to the project timeframe, is within 2023. However, after discussions with the project partners and team, we are considering changing this action. Use of an app for a specific site is not common or popular -at least in Cyprus- and because there is the website for the visitors of the</p>	<p>- Decide and proceed accordingly to the design and implementation of this action.</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>area, which provides most of the information needed for Akrotiri Peninsula, we are thinking to change this action to a short video spot for the area. Project partners would then use this short video for promotional purposes, as could the RoC Deputy Ministry of Tourism, and other related stakeholders. This will be further considered and communicated formally with the Darwin Team through a change request form.</p>	

Annex 2: Project’s full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Improved conservation status for key habitats and priority species in Cyprus, with replicable management approaches developed and socio-economic gains through enhancement of alternative, sustainable tourism focusing on nature and wildlife.			
<p>Outcome: Key wetland and scrub habitat restored in Cyprus SBAs, with long-term nature conservation gains secured through enhanced, low-impact visitor use, with associated gains for wildlife tourism.</p>	<p>0.1 Assessment of management & restoration methods for post Acacia clearance based on trial treatment plots and vegetation survey results at Cape Pyla with recommendations for replication and/or further work by the end of the project.</p> <p>0.2 Zakaki marsh reed-bed management report agreed by key stakeholders by December 2022.</p> <p>0.3 Sustainability for cattle grazing management at Akrotiri Marsh, through the achievement of the number of cattle to be within the limits recommended by grazing capacity study drawn up under the DPLUS034 project: 1–1.75 Eurostat Livestock Units (LSU) per ha by the end of the project.</p> <p>0.4 Agreed Akrotiri Access Management Plan by key stakeholders, including relevant map, by December 2023.</p> <p>0.5 Increased visitors within the range of 20-30% to Akrotiri wildlife-watching facilities (hides and paths) by project end. Baseline to be set by mid-2022 (as currently unknown).</p> <p>0.6 Detailed sustainability plan in place and agreed by Cyprus SBAs for target sites and project actions with clear recommendations and course of future action by the end of the project.</p>	<p>0.1 Report document with vegetation survey results for Cape Pyla trial plots (before & after) and with reviews of trial management methods written up, with clear recommendations on next steps and replicability by the end of the project.</p> <p>0.2 Zakaki marsh reed-bed management report document.</p> <p>0.3 Cattle head counts and age structure estimation to assess proximity to target density of 1–1.75 Eurostat Livestock Units (LSU) per ha.</p> <p>0.4 Akrotiri access management plan document.</p> <p>0.5 Record of visitor numbers to Akrotiri area wildlife-watching hides, paths (use of automatic ‘foot-fall’ recording pads)</p> <p>0.6 Detailed ‘after-project’ sustainability plan document with clear recommendations and course of future action.</p>	<p>1. Building and road development does not seriously impact on project target sites and habitats. [This risk will be managed through project engagement with the planning process for non-military development in the SBAs].</p> <p>2. COVID-19 pandemic does not severely limit the carrying out of events, project meetings & site visits [This risk will be limited by using tele-conferencing and virtual events as alternatives as needed, and also by timetabling all events involving public participation in 2023 and 2024, when pandemic should be more under control]</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Support for sustainable management of invasive <i>Acacia saligna</i>, with a focus on post clearance habitat restoration on Cape Pyla</p>	<p>1.1 Practical post Acacia clearance restoration proposals drawn up based on review of up to date restoration techniques by December 2021.</p> <p>1.2 Plots identified and trials (treatment & control) carried out for restoration activities identified under 1.1 by December 2023.</p>	<p>1.1 Production of restoration plan report to include specific and applicable recommendations for trials (see 1.2.)</p> <p>1.2 Photos & plans of at least two plot pairs (of minimum 50 x 50m size) established on Cape Pyla for trialling of at least two different management actions to be carried out on</p>	<p>Fire event does not impact on study plots during project period. [This risk will be managed by observing fire safety and fire prevention procedures on identified study plots]</p>

	<p>1.2.1. Significant reduction of acacia re-growth on trial treatment plots compared with control plots by the end of the project.</p> <p>1.3 Proposing recommendations on next steps and replicability for trialled acacia management methods by the end of the project.</p> <p>1.4 Support for ongoing efforts to prevent illegal bird trapping activity on Cape Pyla – trapping levels continue to decrease, by 5% per year compared to 2020 levels.</p>	<p>1.2.1 Records of before and after vegetation cover surveys carried out on experimental plots</p> <p>1.3 Report with reviews of trial management methods written up, with clear recommendations on next steps and replicability</p> <p>1.4 Field data from systematic monitoring of illegal bird trapping (from ongoing BirdLife Cyprus programme), showing continued low bird trapping levels and effective enforcement</p>	
2. Reed management solutions successfully piloted at Zakaki Marsh	<p>2.4. Comprehensive review of water management issues at the Marsh (including field testing of water quality and water flow assessment), with recommendations for long-term reed management by December 2022.</p> <p>2.5. Reed-bed managed (reduced in extent by at least 20%) on target areas of the marsh by the end of the project.</p> <p>2.6. Increase in occurrence of priority breeding bird species at Marsh: <i>Aythya nyroca</i> & <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> by at least 20% by project end.</p>	<p>2.1. Reed management report containing clear recommendations for actions.</p> <p>2.2. Before and after photos of Marsh area, showing at least 20% reduction in reed cover in target areas.</p> <p>2.3. Records of bird species at marsh, including <i>A.nyroca</i> and <i>H.himantopus</i>, showing ‘before and after’ numbers.</p>	<p>1. Analysis of water regime and reed-bed dynamics allows clear management actions to be proposed and trialed. [Risk to be managed by following best available practice for such studies, drawing on international experience]</p> <p>3. Cooperation secured from the local Sewerage Board, which manages the Marsh. [Risk to be managed by building on existing good working relationship between project partners and the Sewerage Board]</p>
3. Sustainability established for conservation cattle grazing at Akrotiri Marsh, through expert input on grazing levels, preparation of a marketing study for Akrotiri March ‘eco-beef’ and both <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation actions for key marsh flora species, building on	<p>2.1. Marketing plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef drawn up and agreed with cattle herders by March 2023.</p> <p>2.2. Seed bank established for key marsh plant species by March 2024.</p> <p>2.3. By project end, cover of target plant species has increased in marsh (by 25-50%).</p> <p>2.4. By project end, increase number of graziers maintaining animals at the marsh from the current 5 to 7.</p>	<p>3.1. Marketing study document produced, with clear recommendations for marketing actions and next steps.</p> <p>3.2. Photos and records of seed bank species.</p> <p>3.3. Vegetation cover surveys at start and end of action.</p> <p>3.4. Number of graziers involved in project actions and keeping Cyprus cows on Akrotiri marsh.</p>	<p>Cooperation of Akrotiri Marsh cattle graziers secured.</p> <p>[Risk to be managed by building on existing good working relationship between project partners and the graziers, generated by the DPLUS034 project]</p>

progress achieved under the DPLUS034 project (2015-2017).			
4. Reduced disturbance to key wildlife species, including birds and marine reptiles, through the implementation of an access management plan for sensitive Akrotiri habitats	<p>4.3. Phase I of management plan implemented by end 2nd project year (most sensitive sites protected through limitation of access), allowing for maintenance of numbers of key migrant and breeding bird species at key wetland sites by project end.</p> <p>4.4. Phase I of management plan implemented by end 2nd project year (most sensitive sites protected through limitation of access), allowing for maintenance of numbers of marine turtle nests on key beaches by project end.</p>	<p>4.1. Results of targeted bird surveys during migration, wintering and breeding periods, showing ‘before and after’ numbers</p> <p>4.2. Records of occurrence and number of <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> at Lady’s Mile pools site</p> <p>4.3. Records of turtle nest counts on key beaches.</p>	<p>Compatibility achieved with the master plan studies proposed under the SBA Non-military development planning proposals.</p> <p>[Risk will be managed by project team engaging with relevant planning process under the non-military development planning process]</p>
5. Eco-tourism opportunities enhanced within Akrotiri peninsula.	<p>5.7. Dedicated Akrotiri eco-tourism website (set up by March 2023) has at least 2,000 visits by project end.</p> <p>5.8. Salt Lake wildlife camera in operation by September 2022.</p> <p>5.9. Holding of two Akrotiri nature festivals, in Spring 2023 and Spring 2024 with at least 100 participants attend each.</p> <p>5.10. Three Akrotiri walking routes established by project end (first route set up by end September 2023).</p> <p>5.11. Viewing screens set up for Lady’s Mile Pools by end 2023.</p> <p>5.12. Akrotiri visitors’ wildlife guide produced (in mobile application form).</p>	<p>5.1. Website Statistics/Google Analytics.</p> <p>5.2. Visits to Salt Lake wildlife cam live stream (on website).</p> <p>5.3. Visitor counts for hides and other visitor infrastructure; visits to dedicated Akrotiri eco-tourism website and eco-tourism festivals</p> <p>5.4. Pictures of nature festival events and info on attendees/ticket sales.</p> <p>5.5. Pictures and maps of established walking routes</p> <p>5.6. Pictures of erected viewing screens</p> <p>5.7. Wildlife guide mobile app</p>	<p>Cooperation secured from Akrotiri village community and other local communities.</p> <p>[Risk to be managed by building on existing good working relationship between project partners and the graziers, generated by the DPLUS034 project]</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p>			
<p>Output 1. Support for sustainable management of invasive <i>Acacia saligna</i>, with a focus on post clearance habitat restoration on Cape Pyla</p>			
<p>1.1 Review of scientific and other published literature on approaches and methods for restoring natural vegetation and limiting regrowth of <i>Acacia saligna</i> following the clearance of invasive acacia bushes from scrubland habitat. Groundwork on this has already been carried out (pre-project) by the SBA Environment Department team and this will be expanded and completed to arrive at a set of clear recommendations. Drawing on these recommendations, two specific restoration methods will be selected to be the subject of practical trials on the ground on Cape Pyla, in areas that have been cleared of acacia bushes by the SBA authorities over recent years. Examples of the kind of methods that might be trialled include dense planting (‘over-planting’) with typical Mediterranean scrub species native to Cyprus or heavy grazing by goats.</p>			

- 1.2 The (minimum of) two selected restoration/acacia control trials will each involve a pair of suitable, similar plots (treatment & control) of approx. 50x50m size for each method to be tested. The trials will then run for two years, involving activities (to be confirmed based on review under 1.1.) such as planting native scrub species or controlled grazing by goats on the 'treatment' plot while the 'control' plot is left untouched.
- 1.2.1. Vegetation surveys will be carried out on all plots before the treatment begins and again at the end of the two-year trial period.
- 1.3 The results of the restoration/acacia control trials will be written up in a relevant report, which will include clear assessments of the efficacy of the trialled methods and recommendations for replication and/or further work. Engagement with stakeholders will enable development of a plan for habitat restoration at Cape Pyla to benefit biodiversity as well as the local communities.
- 1.4 Removal and control of acacia on Cape Pyla is important in the on-going effort to end illegal bird trapping, as *Acacia saligna* was widely planted and maintained (watered) on the Cape by trappers in order to create ideal vegetation stands for the setting of illegal mist nets. Thanks to increased enforcement and acacia clearance efforts, the levels of mist net use on the Cape have been reduced dramatically in recent years. The presence of project staff in the area for the restoration trials will act as an added deterrent against the return of trappers to the Cape. In parallel to the trials of restoration/acacia control, BirdLife Cyprus, in cooperation with the SBA Police, will continue the programme for monitoring of illegal mist netting levels that has been carried out since 2002 by BirdLife Cyprus with RSPB support. The results from systematic monitoring (carried out each spring, winter and autumn) will show if trapping levels remain low or are even reduced by the end of the project and the restoration trials.

Output 2. Reed management solutions successfully piloted at Zakaki Marsh

- 2.1. Comprehensive review of water management issues at Zakaki Marsh, including water sampling. The Marsh has been taken over by reeds in recent years and lost habitat diversity and the open pool area that was important for key bird species such as Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* and Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (both qualifying species for the Akrotiri Special protection Area for birds). Changes in both the quantity and quality of water draining into the marsh from Limassol town are believed by local experts to be the cause for the reed 'take-over' at the site. This action will seek to get to the bottom of this issue through the carrying out of a hydrological study (external consultant) looking at the inputs and outputs from the marsh system and the quality of water inflows (nutrient levels, dissolved oxygen levels, etc). This activity will involve sampling of inflow and outflow water in different seasons and the monitoring of marsh water levels, in order to build a relevant hydrological regime picture. Based on the findings of the hydrological study, and drawing on expertise from the RSPB and others (such as the Cyprus Environment department) a set of recommendations for long-term reed management at Zakaki Marsh will be drawn up.
- 2.2. Zakaki Marsh Reed-bed management. With the target of reducing the extent of dense reeds by at least 25% in target areas by project end. Reed clearance to be undertaken by mechanical work both under this project but also under the MAVA-funded MedIsWetII project, which project partner Terra Cypria is involved in and which includes management actions at the marsh that are complimentary to those of our project. Reed clearance will be focused on the area in front of the existing hide at the marsh, both because this will enhance visitor use and because this area was regularly used (including for breeding) by the target species *Aythya nyroca* and *Himantopus himantopus* in the past.
- 2.3. Monthly bird counts at Zakaki Marsh to monitor the occurrence, numbers and breeding activity of the priority species *Aythya nyroca* and *Himantopus himantopus* and also of other birds (resident or migrant visitors) using the wetland.

Output 3. Sustainability established for conservation cattle grazing at Akrotiri Marsh

- 3.1. Management of cattle grazing on Akrotiri Marsh, building on the work done under the DPLUS034 project (2015-2017). Working with the Akrotiri Marsh graziers to meet a target, by project end, for the number of Cyprus breed cattle on Akrotiri Marsh to be within the limits recommended by grazing capacity study drawn up under DPLUS034: 1–1.75 Eurostat Livestock Units (LSU) per ha. This action will involve renewing close work with the Akrotiri graziers, providing advice and support in achieving conservation management goals while also supporting the economic viability of grazing on the Marsh (see 3.2). Under this action, new movable electric fencing units will be purchased for use by graziers in cattle management (targeted grazing; keeping some areas grazing-free). Current cattle density on the Marsh is higher than is ideal in the long-term. However, as there are still areas of dense reed alongside the more open wet grassland, this is probably useful in the short-term, provided livestock can be encouraged to ingress into the reed bed and transition the reed habitat into grassland habitat. Therefore, it is considered desirable to maintain a livestock grazing density in the range 1.75-3.00 LSU/ha in the short-term. Grazing levels will be reviewed at project start and then at regular intervals and recalculated to take into account changes in the balance between wet grassland and reed bed. In the longer-term, the grazing pressure will be brought down to 1.0-1.75 LSU/ha. An aspirational target for wet grassland habitat could be 50-60ha (of the total ca.118ha Akrotiri Marsh area), retaining 15ha of wet marsh and 43-53ha of reed bed.

- 3.2. Preparation of Marketing plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef. The economic viability of conservation grazing on Akrotiri Marsh will be supported by exploring and identifying, with expert support (hired consultant), the possibilities for marketing beef from Akrotiri Marsh cattle as healthy, organic, wildlife-friendly, 'happy' and genuinely local (Cyprus breed) will be explored, in collaboration with the graziers. A marketing plan will be drawn up and agreed with cattle herders, with the aim of maximising income opportunities from Akrotiri beef sales. In parallel to this, the project team will also continue an ongoing effort to secure EU CAP funding (through the Cyprus Strategic Plan for 2023-2027) through the development and implementation, in cooperation with the Cyprus Agriculture Department, of a targeted agri-environment scheme for support of wildlife-friendly grazing at Akrotiri Marsh.
- 3.3. *Ex-situ* actions for conservation of Akrotiri Marsh flora, including establishment of seed bank for key marsh plant species, to be housed at the Akrotiri Environmental Education Center (AEEC). Management actions focused on Red Book plants in the marsh: collect seeds of *Euphorbia hirsute* and *Ipomoea sagittata*, in order to conserve in seed banks and plant in botanic garden at the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre, run by the SBAA.
- 3.4. *In-situ* actions for conservation of Akrotiri Marsh flora. Targeted fencing of key marsh areas on a permanent or seasonal basis to establish the required grazing regime for key plant species. Installing electric fence around sensitive areas to protect from grazing. Management actions focused on Red Book plants in the marsh: *Euphorbia hirsute*, *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* and *Mentha aquatica*. These priority species will also be planted in suitable new areas. Target for cover of these species to have increased by 25-50% by project end. Targeted vegetation surveys will be carried out at the marsh, to monitor progress.
- 3.5. Through actions 3.1 and 3.2, increase engagement of local graziers in the management of the marsh and in maintaining Cyprus cows on the site. We will aim both to increase the engagement of the existing graziers and to increase the number of graziers keeping livestock on site, from the current 5 to 7. \

Output 4. Reduced disturbance to key wildlife species, including birds and marine reptiles, through the implementation of an access management plan for sensitive Akrotiri habitats

- 4.1. Development of Akrotiri Access Management Plan, including relevant map, and consultation with key stakeholders to achieve consensus for its implementation. Preparation of map of sensitive wildlife areas for key wetlands (such as nesting/resting/feeding areas for birds and habitats of Red Book plants), with the aim of ensuring these are kept free of visitor disturbance all year round or at specific (defined) times of the year, as appropriate for the species concerned. Map safe access routes for visitors (separately for vehicles, bicycles and walkers), plus parking areas, recreational areas (existing restaurants/cafes) and facilities for enhancing disturbance-free visitor viewing of wildlife (existing hides, new screens and information signs). Plan for implementing access plan established in coordination with relevant authorities (including plan for blocking off existing routes through sensitive wildlife areas, where needed). Consultation meetings with relevant authorities to set agreed milestones for implementation of the access management plan. Organisation of workshop by project partners to present to key stakeholders (local community, SBAA authorities, local birdwatchers, local walking groups, hunters, etc.) the draft access management plan for Akrotiri, plus follow-up consultation to achieve consensus. Akrotiri Access Management Plan to be implemented in a staggered manner, focusing first on reducing disturbance in most threatened sites (such as Lady's Mile lagoons and dunes).
- 4.2. Through staggered implementation of access management, numbers of key migrant and breeding bird species at key wetland sites are at least maintained in the short-term (project duration) and increase in medium-to-long term (after project end). Targeted bird surveys during migration, wintering and breeding periods, showing 'before and after' numbers for key bird species (will continue after project end to assess longer-term results). Records of occurrence and number of Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* at Lady's Mile pools taken as a key indicator for that sensitive site, for example.
- 4.3. Again through staggered implementation of access management, numbers of marine turtle nests on key nesting beaches are at least maintained in the short-term (project duration) and increase in medium-to-long term (after project end). Turtle nest counts on key beaches to assess this (will continue after project end to assess longer-term results).

Output 5. Eco-tourism opportunities enhanced within Akrotiri peninsula, benefiting in particular the approx. 900 local residents of Akrotiri community

- 5.1. Monitoring of visitor numbers to Akrotiri wildlife facilities (hides, paths) to assess effectiveness of project efforts to promote the area for eco-tourism. Use of automatic 'foot-fall' recording pads to record visits to birdwatching hides and walking paths. The baseline will be determined in year 1 of the project, as it is currently unknown. Target is to have doubled visitor numbers to selected facilities by project end.
- 5.2. Design and setting-up of a dedicated website promoting Akrotiri Peninsula as a wildlife-watching destination. The website will be the main promotional tool for tourism, through which visitors will be able to find information on where to go and what to see and also information to help them book accommodation locally. The website would be set up under the project and managed for the project duration by the project team. A training element will be included to ensure that, after the project end, the management and running of the

website can be taken over by the Akrotiri community in cooperation with the AEEC. The AEEC will be the focal point for receiving visitors before they disperse to the target areas of interest on the Peninsula.

- 5.3. ~~Wildlife camera set up in Akrotiri Salt Lake to provide close up views of Flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber* and other visiting water birds, with images sent to the eco tourism website (5.2).~~
- 5.4. Planning, preparation, promotion and execution of two spring 'Akrotiri Festivals' to highlight the areas rich natural and cultural heritage. These will be multi-faceted spring events including guided birdwatching and orchid tours, presentations on local wildlife, basket-weaving workshop, traditional dance and art workshops and children's events, to take place in Akrotiri village and the surrounding areas.
- 5.5. Three Akrotiri walking routes established. Identification of three accessible and low-disturbance routes (for the wildlife) on the peninsula and preparation of electronic maps for these (made available on website above and app below), plus along-the-route signposting. There are currently no such routes on the peninsula.
- 5.6. Viewing screens set up for Lady's Mile Pools. Screens with accompanying information signs set up at key points along the Eastern side of the lagoons, to provide disturbance-free (for the birds) viewing opportunities. Location for screens decided in consultation with local birdwatchers. Information signs to carry information about the area and its wildlife, including a simple map showing the best 'birding' spots and access routes to them.
- 5.7. Production of Akrotiri visitors' wildlife guide in form of a mobile application. The free App will include birdwatching & orchid-spotting information and walking routes (action 5.5). A simple-to-use and attractive and focusing on birdwatching opportunities at key wetlands and also in the wider area of the Peninsula, and including information on access to sites (tied in with access management plan).

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DPLUS Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DPLUS Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DPLUS-B01	2.1 Comprehensive review of water management issues at the Marsh (including field testing of water quality and water flow assessment), with recommendations for long-term reed management by December 2022. 0.4 Agreed Akrotiri Access Management Plan by key stakeholders, including relevant map, by December 2023.	Number of new/improved habitat management plans available and endorsed.	Number	English Marsh & Protected Area Marsh management plan + Access Management Plan for habitat protection/restoration	0	0		<i>(2 but under consultation – not finalised)</i>	2
DPLUS-C01	1.3 Proposing recommendations on next steps and replicability for trialled acacia management methods by the end of the project.	Number of best practice guides and products knowledge published and endorsed.	Number	Knowledge/practice area (Acacia management – post clearance) – Invasive species	0	0		0	1
DPLUS-C11	5.1. Dedicated Akrotiri eco-tourism website (set up by March 2022) has at least 2,000 visits by project end.	Average monthly number of Website Visitors.	Number	Average time on page, average bounce rate, and average session duration	0	<i>Website online in March 2023</i>		-	1
DPLUS-C14	0.2 Zakaki marsh reed-bed management report agreed by key stakeholders by December 2022. 0.4 Agreed Akrotiri Access Management Plan by key stakeholders, including relevant map, by December 2023.	Number of decision-makers attending briefing events.	Number	Attendee gender balance, types of decision-makers (govt, senior NGO, private sector, local leaders, resource managers (farmers)	<i>At least 10 stakeholders' meetings (will start recording disaggregation facts for year 3)</i>			<i>At least 10 stakeholders' meetings</i>	

DPLUS Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DPLUS Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
				etc.), Number of events.					
DPLUS-D04	<p>3.2. Seed bank established for key marsh plant species by March 2024.</p> <p>3.3. By project end, cover of target plant species has increased in marsh (by 25-50%).</p> <p>2.3. Increase in occurrence of priority breeding bird species at Marsh: Aythya nyroca & Himantopus himantopus by at least 20% by project end.</p>	Stabilised/ improved species population (relative abundance/ distribution) within the project area.	% Increase; Area (ha or km2)	<p>Flora (no of seeds and relative abundance/ distribution)</p> <p>Fauna (occurrence)</p>	<i>(Analyse data for reporting disaggregation facts for year 3)</i>				

Table 2 Publications

N/A

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	✓
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	✓
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	✓
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	✓
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	✓
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	