



LIFE17 ESC/PT/003

Yearly Report on ESC Deployment to the Commission 2018

**Covering the volunteering activities from 01/01/2018 to
31/12/2018**

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LIFE VOLUNTEER ESCAPES

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Introductory note

This report aims to show how the volunteering progress from January to December of 2018. The report refers to the deliverable “Yearly Report on ESC Deployment to the Commission – 2018” and tells the number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date, the activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organizations, results obtained in terms of contribution of the volunteers to nature and biodiversity conservation, level of satisfaction of the volunteers and of the organizations and definition of the priorities and conservation measures for the applicable N2000 sites, habitats and species, lessons learnt and a detailed/updated plan for the activities of the following year.

The satisfaction survey for the ESC ex-volunteers was only concluded in January (as referred in the progress report), whereby, the information about the level of satisfaction of the volunteers is still not available. But a general view of each partner is given in this report.

It is noteworthy, how was said in the progress report, that the action A.3 and A.9 as not yet started and for that reason, they are not shown in this report.

ACTION A.4

Beneficiary responsible for implementation – BCSD

1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date

Number of expected volunteers in application	1
Expected duration of each volunteering in application	12 months
Number of hosted volunteers	1
Actual duration of each volunteering	12 months – 1 volunteer
Number of volunteers who quit	0
Number of offers sent on the PASS platform	1
% of hosted volunteers according to time*	50%

* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization

BCSD Portugal has made an effort to share the volunteering offer through different platforms:

- LinkedIn: sharing posts about the project and sharing the link of the offer to the ESC portal;
- BCSD Portugal website: development of news articles about the project and about the volunteering offer;
- Emails: sending emails to different universities, different student's groups, schools and volunteering associations.

BCSD has one volunteer for the period 12 months and the volunteer is paid 20€ per day, as predicted in the application, for food and accommodation support.

3. Results obtained in terms of contribution of the volunteers to nature and biodiversity conservation

Until the time of this report (December 2018), the volunteer has organised and implemented a total of 11 activities/awareness-raising sessions for secondary school students, where were present 766 students.

4. Lessons learnt

The recruitment was not very easy because the period of volunteering work is very wide (12 months), so it was not easy to find volunteers. Additionally, we had some difficulties with the platform regarding the search for volunteers and the PASS numbers. These problems were later resolved with the help support from the platform.

5. Detailed/updated plan for the activities of the following year

Operational plots	Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2019		
-	24 Awareness-raising sessions for secondary school students	4 Awareness-raising sessions for young entrepreneurs and start-up's	4 Good practices sharing sessions among companies and their stakeholders

ACTION A.5

Beneficiary responsible for implementation – Marca DHL

1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date

Number of expected volunteers in application	12
Expected duration of each volunteering in application	6 months
Number of hosted volunteers	6
Actual duration of each volunteering	3,5 months – 1 volunteer 6 months – 2 volunteers 12 month – 3 volunteers
Number of volunteers who quit	1
Number of offers sent on the PASS platform	8
% of hosted volunteers according to time	56,25%

* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization

Recruitment of volunteers

In order to recruit local volunteers, Marca ADL have contacted some volunteers that have already worked with us in other projects. Those volunteers have contacted other young people in order to understand their interest and availability to work with us in this project. Furthermore, we have presented this project to the managers of the volunteering club of Montemor-o-Novo secondary school, and they have presented it to their students, in order to find some interested. Finally, we have also opened a call for volunteers on our Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram page, spreading some posters in some strategic places, such as Youth Centre.

Then when their experience and motivation fits on the profile that we need at that moment we launch the offers on PASS platform directly to those volunteers already interested in this volunteering. The complete description of the proposal and the official acceptance of the volunteers were made by email.

Management of volunteers

When we have an agreement signed with the volunteers, we paid 20€ per volunteering day, as predicted in the application, for food and accommodation support, as well as the money for the travel from and to their home. Each month they have to sign the attendance sheet and also the receipt of the payment.

Every day the volunteers have a member of Marca's Staff leading and giving them formation in a work field context. Moreover, when is needed the manager of the project gave them support.

3. Results obtained in terms of contribution of the volunteers to nature and biodiversity conservation

Regarding the year of 2018, the collaboration of volunteers in the activities allowed the plantation of 539 native trees and shrubs, the participation of 170 local volunteers with LIFE/ESC volunteers, involving at least 5 landowners.

Since the volunteers are collaborating with Marca ADL, we already controlled 3,349 ha of invasive alien species, including 1,712 ha of *Acacia* spp. in buffer zone and 1 ha in the Natura 2000 sites. And we have restored small sections of water courses, in 2,175 ha. These tasks included, control of *Arundo donax* and implementation of natural engineering techniques, promoting then the settlement of native flora and stabilization of water courses banks.

4. Level of satisfaction of volunteers and of the organizations

Our ESC volunteers have demonstrated fully satisfied with their deployment. The organizations that have collaborated with us became also satisfied with the activities that they have developed with us.

5. Definition of the priorities and conservation measures for the applicable N2000 sites, habitats and species

The invasive control interventions were carried out firstly in the buffer zone in areas near by the Montemor-o-Novo center, especially in the Castel and Nossa Senhora da Visitação that are monuments with a high visibility. This fact allowed us to show our methodology and its results to the population and also to the Municipality Hall that is supporting part of our work. This option aims to make easier to get authorization of the land owners of the proprieties invaded by acacia species in Natura 2000 sites and help us to involve some groups of volunteers that will help us in this kind of works.

In the future we are going to continue the interventions in Monfurado SIC and start the interventions in Cabrela SIC giving priority to areas that have a lower density, an easier access and already authorized.

6. Lessons learnt

The PASS platform until now did not help us much to find the Portuguese volunteers that we were looking for, it just counts for making official the volunteering and to get the participation certificate.

We have concluded that the most motivated volunteers became interested in extend their volunteering period until the maximum time that they can. This way their volunteering became more efficient, productive and they are able to transmit adequate information when they are communicating with external volunteers. These extended periods must to be adequate to each volunteer, according to his profile.

7. Detailed/updated plan for the activities of the following year

Operational plots	Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2019
Nursery	Reproduction of native plants (All year) Providing native plants to the IAS (October - February) Collection of fruits and seeds (May - December) Support in the operational tasks of the nursery (All year) Raising awareness actions regarding nature conservation (All year)
Rivers	Maintenance work in the intervention areas (All year) Control of invasive alien species (January –March / July-September) Implementation of natural engineering techniques (October - February) Plantation of native species (October - February) Involvement of the community in conservation actions (All year) Raising awareness actions regarding nature conservation (All year)
Bufer Zone (eg. Castelo de Montemor-o-Novo, N ^a Sra. Visitação)	Plantation of native species (October - February) Maintenance work of the planted areas (All year) Control of invasive alien species (March – July / October-November) Involvement of the community in conservation actions (All year)

<p>SIC Monfurado (Natura 2000 sites)</p>	<p>Control of invasive alien species (March– July / October–November) Plantation of native species (October - February) Collection of seeds for reproduction in the nursery (May - December) Involvement of the community in conservation actions (All year) Raising awareness actions regarding nature conservation (All year)</p>
<p>SIC Cabrela (Natura 2000 sites)</p>	<p>Control of invasive alien species (March – July / October–November) Collection of seeds for reproduction in the nursery (May - December) Plantation of native species (October - February) Involvement of the community in conservation actions (All year) Raising awareness actions regarding nature conservation (All year)</p>

ACTION A.6

Beneficiary responsible for implementation – MONTIS

1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date

Number of expected volunteers in application	30
Expected duration of each volunteering in application	6 months
Number of hosted volunteers	9
Actual duration of each volunteering	2 months – 5 volunteers 3 months – 1 volunteer 7 months – 2 volunteers 9 months – 1 volunteer
Number of volunteers who quit	2
Number of offers sent on the PASS platform	12 (1 public and the others specifically for each volunteer)
% of hosted volunteers according to time*	20%

* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization

Initially and as foreseen in the application, only national volunteers were contacted. However, due to the lack of interest felt from national volunteers even when contacted directly or using other platforms apart from PASS, EASME has allowed the recruitment of international EU resident volunteers. From this moment onwards, the recruitment become easier. Nevertheless, efforts continued to be done in order to recruit national volunteers throughout the disclosure of the volunteering of LIFE VOLUNTEER ESCAPES. This disclosure was made on the different communication channels, among others Facebook, email and direct contact in events where MONTIS has been present or short-term volunteers made by this association. Thus, until this moment, MONTIS has contacted 165 possible volunteers, from which, 9 have already been welcomed and 5 more are expected to come in January/February of 2019.

The hosted volunteers by MONTIS receive 15€ for food costs daily instead of 20€. The 5€ withdrawn from the total of 20€ by the association will be used to pay the expenses of the accommodation rented for the ESC volunteer in Vouzela. The apartment was

furnished with the support of Câmara Municipal de Vouzela. Consequently, to this, the technical team provides transport to the volunteers from and to the operational plots. Apart the accommodation, when necessary (depending on the operational plots requirements and the availability of the technical team) the volunteers will also camp or stay in other accommodation sites near the properties.

In case the volunteer prefers a different accommodation solution, the association provides help on the search for other accommodation solutions and the volunteer will receive 20€ daily instead of 15€. Until this moment, only one volunteer, that has already ended his volunteering period, has chosen this option. However, this is a possible option for the volunteers.

The volunteer work planning is made taking in account the profile of each volunteer. The tasks are preferable adjusted to the volunteer interests, capacities and the properties management aims. The conservation actions developed by the volunteers are also planned according to action A.2 plans, and with the necessary readjustments resulting from the action plans developed for each of the properties under MONTIS management. Nowadays, the activities planning is made on a monthly basis. The planning for each week is handed to the volunteers with 2 weeks of advance. The training necessary to develop each task as well as explanation and interpretation of the planning (what needs to be done in each property, why and when) are given through on-field days with MONTIS technicians. The volunteers are requested to report the activities done daily throughout the filling of a form, provided by the coordinator. Apart from this, the volunteers work is also monitored by MONTIS technicians at least on a weekly basis.

3. Results obtained in terms of contribution of the volunteers to nature and biodiversity conservation

Until now, 0,79ha of areas for IAS control have been intervened by the ESC volunteers. 1952 autochthonous trees have been planted. 10 nature engineering structures (palisades and gabions) have been made. 1,18ha from all the conservation work took place on Natura 2000 areas.

4. Level of satisfaction of volunteers and of the organizations

The volunteers seem to be enjoying the volunteering and most of them have requested an extension to their volunteering period. The organization had two volunteers that quit the volunteering before the expected date, but in the two cases was because of personal problems.

Regarding MONTIS, the project has allowed to boost and improve the different tasks and activities of the association.

5. Definition of the priorities and conservation measures for the applicable N2000 sites, habitats and species

The operational plots and the information regarding to them can be found in the deliverable “Action Report (including maps with operational, synthesis description of values in each plot and proposed tasks/activities for volunteers)” of the action A.2, that was sent with the 1º Project Progress Report.

Based on this document, the volunteers have developed until now the following activities:

Baldio de Carvalhais

This plot makes part of the Natura 2000, SIC “Serras da Freita e Arada” (PTCON0047), including Iberian wolf (*Canis lupus signatus*) habitats. MONTIS management activities that have been developed with the ESC volunteers aim on the increase of the biodiversity levels of the property. Consequently, the activities also focus on the shelter and food availability for fauna, contributing for the Iberian wolf habitat conservation. Thus, until now, have been developed the following tasks by the volunteers:

- Natural engineering techniques, mainly wood palisades and stone gabions to the retention of sediments and increase of soil area.
- Maintenance and opening of accesses to support the remaining management actions, namely regarding the prescribed fires actions.
- Follow up of prescribed fire actions and support to the action’s preparation
- Plantations of autochthonous trees
- Direct seeding of autochthonous species
- Registration of biodiversity data and upload to the collaborative platform iNaturalist
- Install and maintenance of jay trays. The task boost seed natural dispersion by relying on the stockist behaviour of jays (*Garrulus glandarius*) by providing seeds.

Carvalhal de Vermilhas

The Carvalhal de Vermilhas property is included in Parque Natural Local Vouga-Caramulo. The property was characterised for being a juvenile oakland which burnt in the Autumn of 2017. Therefore, until this moment, the following tasks were developed by the volunteers:

- Pruning of trees to boost the natural regeneration after wildfires
- Maintenance and opening of accesses for the support of the remaining management actions

- Watercourses systematization to increase the infiltration and water availability in the property
- Marking of the property limit
- Registration of biodiversity data and upload to the collaborative platform iNaturalist

Baldio da Granja

Baldio da Granja burnt during the Autumn of 2017. The main issue that the property faces is the presence of invasive alien flora. Thus, the volunteers have developed the following tasks:

- Property recognition
- Invasive Alien Species control (IAS control) (*Acacia spp.*)
- Registration of biodiversity data and upload to the collaborative platform iNaturalist

Costa Bacelo

Costa Bacelo property makes part of Natura 2000, SIC SCI “Rio Paiva” (PTCON0059). In the plot, until this moment, the volunteers developed the following tasks:

- Invasive Alien Species control (IAS control) (*Acacia spp.*)
- Operational plot recognition
- Registration of biodiversity data and upload to the collaborative platform iNaturalist

Vieiro

The operational plot makes part of the Natura 2000 - SIC “Serras da Freita e Arada” (PTCON0047). In this property, the volunteers developed the following tasks:

- Invasive Alien Species control (IAS control) (*Acacia spp.* *Hakea spp.*)
- Plantations of autochthonous trees
- Install and maintenance of jay trays
- Registration of biodiversity data

6. Lessons learnt

After the first year of the project execution, was possible to conclude that the national volunteers were less attracted to long term volunteering than international volunteers. This restriction was overcome with the EASME authorization to accept international volunteers from the European Union, as previously mentioned.

The long-term component of the volunteering has also shown to be an issue to some possible volunteers, since some had difficulties to compromise to such long periods of time. This adversity was overcome with the permission from EASME to shorter volunteering periods than the foreseen in application, without excluding the possibility to extend the agreed period.

7. Detailed/updated plan for the activities of the following year

Operational plots	Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2019
Baldio de Carvalhais	Natural Engineering Techniques Opening and maintenance of accesses Plantations of autochthonous trees Direct seeding Maintenance of jay trays Registration of biodiversity data and upload to the collaborative platform iNaturalist
Carvalho de Vermilhas	Pruning of trees to boost natural regeneration Maintenance and opening of accesses to support the remaining management actions Watercourses systematization to increase the infiltration and water availability in the property Marking of the property limit Registration of biodiversity data and upload to the collaborative platform iNaturalist
Baldio da Granja	Registration of biodiversity data and upload to the collaborative platform iNaturalist Opening and maintenance of accesses Invasive Alien Species Control Pruning of trees to boost natural regeneration
Costa Bacele	Rehabilitation and restoration of forest and riparian habitats Install and maintenance of the jay tray Invasive Alien Species Control Registration of biodiversity data and upload to the collaborative platform iNaturalist

Vieiro	Rehabilitation and restauration of forest and riparian habitats Maintenance of the jay tray Invasive Alien Species Control Registration of biodiversity data and upload to the collaborative platform iNaturalist Plantations of autochthonous trees
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ACTION A.7

Beneficiary responsible for implementation – Município de Torres Vedras

1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date

Number of expected volunteers in application	6
Expected duration of each volunteering in application	12 months
Number of hosted volunteers	3
Actual duration of each volunteering	6 months – 3 volunteers
Number of volunteers who quit	0
Number of offers sent on the PASS platform	6
% of hosted volunteers according to time	50%

* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization

In order to recruit volunteers, six offers were launched on PASS platform and emails were disseminated to secondary and professional schools from Torres Vedras, and also universities. Concerning digital presence, the project was posted on the Municipality website and Facebook page. On a local level, the Youth Area and the Local Volunteer Bank were both contacted which presented an important solution for young people to show interest and three of them are engaged in the project.

The volunteers are paid 20€ per volunteering day, as predicted in the application, for food and accommodation support.

3. Results obtained in terms of contribution of the volunteers to nature and biodiversity conservation

Regarding the year of 2018, the collaboration of volunteers in the activities allowed the plantation of 1150 native trees and shrubs, the participation of 50 local volunteers and 2 external entities in joint actions with LIFE/ESC volunteers. Interventions were also carried out in areas covered by the Habitats Directive and control of invasive alien species, both with the area of intervention to be quantified.

4. Level of satisfaction of volunteers and of the organizations

Up to now, none of the volunteers hosted has finished the volunteer period, and so the satisfaction form is not yet available. However, we consider that the volunteers have been involved in the proposed activities in a positive way and display curiosity and motivation to execute the predicted activities.

5. Definition of the priorities and conservation measures for the applicable N2000 sites, habitats and species

The activities in which the volunteers have been involved in has focused on planting native trees and shrubs in municipal lands and in Local Protected Landscape of Socorro and Archeira. Moreover, they have been collaborating in the reproduction of native plants in municipal nurseries. It is also important to stress out that volunteers worked in actions of control of invasive alien species (*Carpobrotus edulis*), collection of seeds for reproduction in nursery and plantation of native dune species in Natura 2000 areas – Community Interest Sites of Peniche/Santa Cruz (PTCON0056) and Sintra/Cascais (PTCON0008).

6. Lessons learnt

Regarding the PASS platform, it is worth mention the difficulties in displaying the available offers to potential interested people that are not registered. The platform is not very intuitive and presents problems when searching for volunteers or offers. Taking this into account, the dissemination of the project through local partners was crucial to reach interested volunteers.

Given the wide experience of the Social Development Area concerning volunteer, a welcome session was carried out for the three volunteers hosted by the Municipality, where they had the opportunity to participate in some group dynamics.

7. Detailed/updated plan for the activities of the following year

Operational plots	Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2019
Dunes – coastal areas	Control of invasive alien species Plantation of native species Involvement of the community in conservation actions Raising awareness actions regarding nature conservation
Municipal lands	Plantation of native species Maintenance work of the planted areas

Local Protected Landscape of Socorro and Archeira	Plantation of native species Maintenance work of the planted areas Control of invasive alien species Collection of seeds for reproduction in the municipal nursery Involvement of the community in conservation actions
Sizandro River	Maintenance work in the intervention areas under the conservation project “Ruivaco-do-Oeste” (POSEUR) Control of invasive alien species Involvement of the community in conservation actions Raising awareness actions regarding nature conservation
Alcabrichel River	Maintenance work in the intervention areas under the conservation project “Ruivaco-do-Oeste” (POSEUR) Control of invasive alien species Involvement of the community in conservation actions Raising awareness actions regarding nature conservation
Municipal nursery	Reproduction of native plants Providing native plants to the community Raising awareness actions regarding nature conservation Support in the operational tasks of the municipal nursery

ACTION A.8

Beneficiary responsible for implementation – Plantar uma Árvore

1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date

Number of expected volunteers in application	16
Expected duration of each volunteering in application	6 months
Number of hosted volunteers	21
Actual duration of each volunteering	1 month – 1 volunteer 1,5 month – 1 volunteer 1 month and 3 weeks – 1 volunteer 2 months – 8 volunteers 3 months – 1 volunteer 2 months and 1 week – 2 volunteers 3 months and 1 week – 1 volunteer 5 months – 2 volunteers 6 months – 3 volunteers 7 months – 1 volunteer
Number of volunteers who quit	12
Number of offers sent on the PASS platform	46
% of hosted volunteers according to time	56,25%

* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization

PIA started the communication plan for volunteer's recruitment in March 2018 through different ways as publications on its own web platforms with detailed information and

contacts, informative posters sent to universities, associations and voluntary platforms, offers created on the PASS platform open to application and direct contact with volunteers on the ESC database.

Most of the volunteers recruited have been selected based on a direct contact through the PASS platform. After the first contact have been made P1A team as exchange with the interested volunteers e-mails detailing the voluntary offer including information as the hosting conditions, the task and voluntary week load, technical, safety and financial support. After the previous information have been exchanged if the voluntary kept his/her interest, the P1A contact person started to prepare the arrival logistic registering the needed personal voluntary data for the agreement to sign after his/her arrival, setting the voluntary period and creating the offer to send to the volunteer through the PASS platform.

The organisation contact person, or in his/her absence other person part of the team, is also in charge to receive the volunteer, prepare the accommodation if needed, do the technical formation in theoretical and practical formats including in-door sessions, field visits and team integration.

The support for accommodation and food can be given in different ways based on the voluntary program region and the voluntary typology. The volunteers in Sintra have specific accommodation and receive prepared meals and because so, no money is given. The volunteers in Alvão can be locals and receive all the support in money for the accommodation and food or if they are not, P1A has his own accommodation to them and gives part of the money to support their needs with the food. When there's need to give money to the volunteers the value is refund on the next month by bank transfer and is calculated based on the total voluntary days done by the volunteer on the month before.

3. Results obtained in terms of contribution of the volunteers to nature and biodiversity conservation

- Area of invasive and Alien Species Controlled: 6 ha
- Autochthonous Species Planted: 3 415
- Trees and Shrubs produced in Nursery: 1444
- Area of Natura 2000 Habitats Promoted: 6 ha
- Length of Pedestrian Trails Maintained and/or Restored to promote the Tourism in the Natura 2000 Site: 10 km
- % ESC Volunteers Acquiring Nature Conservation Skills: 56,25% (based on the hosted volunteers according to time)
- Testimony of ESC Volunteers Satisfied with his/her experience: still under evaluation
- Local Volunteers Involved with the ESC Volunteers Activities: 1 174
- Involvement of External Partners with the ESC Volunteers Activities: 29
- New Jobs Created for the Volunteer Escapes Project and to keep after it: 2

4. Level of satisfaction of volunteers and of the organizations

The volunteer's satisfaction is still under evaluation but in general they seem motivated and satisfied with the experience expressing it has quite dynamic, meaningful and capacitating. For the P1A organisation it has been a rich and productive experience with good results accomplished.

5. Definition of the priorities and conservation measures for the applicable N2000 sites, habitats and species

Sintra region with six active plots and Alvão region with three plots have been intervened with a wide range of tasks depending on the ecological context of each one. Sintra has more plots in need to invasive and alien species control and on the other hand Alvão with more maintenance and restore of pedestrian trails. In both regions have been developed works related to the plantation of autochthonous species, improvement of Natura 2000 site habitats, trees and shrubs propagation in nursery and the development of activities with other typology of volunteers.

6. Lessons learnt

The recruitment of volunteers has been challenging considering the proposal of less volunteers for longer periods of six months, the ESC platform not so dynamic spreading new offers for voluntary database and the volunteer's profile that being in a situation of young non-student or worker could come to the project not so available for a commitment to a long-term period. The previous described constraints brought some situations of volunteers finishing the program earlier due to job opportunities or lack of adaptation to the voluntary dynamic based on a strong field work plan not always compatible with some volunteers' expectations.

To mitigate that P1A team has been replanning the strategy of recruitment with a wide and flexible range of period options between two months and one year, a more detail e-mail exchange about the program conditions with the potential volunteers and interview to evaluate the volunteer profile regarding to previous voluntary experience, academic formation and motivation to the program. Adding to that it is planned to apply from the beginning of the next year on the preference to set experimental voluntary periods for shorter time and if the volunteer was motivated and adapted enlarge for bigger periods.

Other adaptations has been made in order to improve the volunteers integration in the organisation team has monthly meetings to define the plan of works, field trips to promote the contact with the other beneficiary entities in the program and their ESC volunteers and more formation sessions regarding to the following topics: evolution of native forest in Portugal, native and exotic and alien flora, science communication, management and restore of pedestrian trails and coordination of voluntary initiatives.

The first year of the program has been challenging but quite productive and P1A team has revealed capacity to find solutions in order to improve the volunteers experience and the success to achieve the proposed results.

7. Detailed/updated plan for the activities of the following year

Operational plots	Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2019
Sintra-Cascais Natural Park	<p>All year: invasive and alien species control (<i>Acacia sp.</i> and <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>), maintenance of previous reforested area, protection of natural regeneration, germination monitoring and support of operational tasks in the nursery, maintenance of pedestrian trails, coordination of activities with other type of volunteers (corporative groups, schools and community).</p> <p>October to December: plantation, replacement of dead plants and the previous set tasks.</p>
Alvão Mountains	<p>All year: invasive and alien species control (<i>Acacia sp.</i>), maintenance of previous reforested area, protection of natural regeneration, germination monitoring in the nursery, maintenance of pedestrian trails, development of communication contents and raising awareness activities with the local community and entities and coordination of activities with other type of volunteers (corporative groups, schools and community).</p> <p>October to December: plantation, replacement of dead plants and the previous set tasks.</p>

ACTION A.10

Beneficiary responsible for implementation – SPEA

1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date

Number of expected volunteers in application	3
Expected duration of each volunteering in application	6 months
Number of hosted volunteers	3
Actual duration of each volunteering	3 months – 1 volunteer 6 months – 2 volunteers
Number of volunteers who quit	0
Number of offers sent on the PASS platform	26 (some were repeated for the same volunteers due several problems)
% of hosted volunteers according to time	50%

* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization

Recruitment of volunteers

Since August 2018 that SPEA are developing actions to recruit volunteers. We created a website page dedicated to the project (on website of SPEA), a poster about SPEA actions in the project, sent emails to several contacts related with universities and youth groups and advertised at SPEA Facebook.

The majority of proposals arrived by email following our promotional actions and not from PASS platform.

The management of the contacts with volunteers through the PASS platform is very limited, and so we just use it to have a proof that the volunteer is register on it, to send a formal offer (just with the code of the proposal) and to obtain the final certificate. The complete description of the proposal and forward communications with the volunteers are being made by email.

Management of the volunteers

The volunteers that contact SPEA are informed about the details of the actions and the conditions. If they maintain the interest to apply, they sent a CV and motivation letter. SPEA received it until the deadline defined for each site/period.

After the deadline, all the applications received are analysed and selected the volunteers that fulfil the criteria necessary and invited them to participate on an individual interview. After all the interviews are run, SPEA selected the final volunteers according to the number of places available for that site/period.

When they begin the voluntary work, the agreement is signed and they received a digital folder with useful documents (about the voluntary work and about SPEA). The volunteers have a member of SPEA participating in the project that will be responsible for their work. This staff establish the link with the coordinator of the project at SPEA.

We ask them to produce a video in which they talk about their motivations and expectations about the volunteer work at SPEA. We also establish a communication plan with them, in order they participate in the elaboration of “posts” about their work and to put on project’s Facebook.

For the actions at Berlenga (the ones running until now), the volunteers received a previous training to prepare them for the actions, including, conservation aspects, security aspects and daily-to-daily issues. Those volunteers spend part of the time at SPEA office and in the Berlenga Island. When they are in the Island, the accommodation and food are guarantee by SPEA. But, as they have expenses with the rent of the houses they are living even when they are in the Island, we agreed that they will continue to receive part of the money (50%) during the days they spent there. In the rest of the period they receive 100% of the money to support their food and accommodation.

Each month they have to sign the attendance sheet and also the receipt of the payment.

3. Results obtained in terms of contribution of the volunteers to nature and biodiversity conservation

Since the volunteers are collaborating with SPEA, we already improved 2 ha of N2000 priority habitats at Berlenga Island. This included the control of Invasive alien species (*Carpobrotus edulis*) in at least 1 ha.

4. Level of satisfaction of volunteers and of the organizations

Until this moment the volunteers are very happy with their work and the team and none has quit. For SPEA, as a host organization, the opportunity to receive those volunteers is very important and until now all the actions related with them are running as planned.

5. Definition of the priorities and conservation measures for the applicable N2000 sites, habitats and species

These volunteers have been carrying out a diversity of interventions on Berlengas archipelagos (PTZPE0009 and PTCON0006). These include control of invasive alien plants (*Carpobrotus edulis*), monitoring of seabird populations, construction and maintenance of artificial nests for seabirds, monitoring of flora, maintenance of trails and support in the production of information for visitors.

6. Lessons learnt

SPEA has a long history of receiving volunteers and so it was easy to prepare information for the volunteer’s arrival, namely initial training and general overview at SPEA’s

facilities, integrate them on the SPEA team and give them tasks to develop. We are quite happy with this experience.

The most important aspect to be mention is related with the fact that this is a preparatory project, and some issues related for example with the management of the volunteers and the limitation of the PASS platform were not considered at the level of procedures at the beginning of the project. Adding the fact that each partner has different scenarios related with the volunteers, we are improving a lot in stablish solutions for each case that fulfil the necessities of the partners and the volunteers and are according to project rules.

This is an excellent exchange of experiences among partners and acquired learning that will be very useful for future projects similar to this one.

7. Detailed/updated plan for the activities of the following year

Sites	Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2019
Berlengas	<p>May to October - Control of invasive species, monitoring of breeding populations of seabirds (Cory's Shearwater, European Shag and Band-rumped Storm-petrel), collect seeds from native plants, monitoring of native flora species, electronic storage of collected data, maintenance of tourism trails and support for Berlengas visitors</p> <p>December - Control of invasive species, monitoring of breeding populations of seabirds (Band-rumped Storm-petrel), prepare seeds of native plants to saw and electronic storage of collected data</p>
Lagoa Pequena	<p>From June to September, the volunteer will participate on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - management of the visitation in the summer period - analysis of results of the visitor satisfaction questionnaires - organisation of guided tours for the visitors - organisation of awareness actions for young people and families
Açores	<p>From April to September, the volunteers will be involved on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collection of seeds and production of 2000 native plants in nursery - maintenance of areas recovered by "LIFE+ Terras do Priolo" project, with control of invasive alien species in an area of 7.5 hectares - reinforcement of plantations of endemic and native species of the Azores in areas recovered by "LIFE+ Terras do Priolo" project, totalling 7.5 hectares (this will depend on the climatic conditions to ensure planting, in case you the conditions were not suitable to plantation,

	<p>the plants will be placed by the project team at a suitable height to ensure their survival)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- organisation of 2 environmental actions with school public and general population- monitoring and awareness of visitors at the Priolo Environmental Center
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ACTION A.11

Beneficiary responsible for implementation – APA-ARH Algarve

1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date

Number of expected volunteers in application	2
Expected duration of each volunteering in application	12 months
Number of hosted volunteers	2
Actual duration of each volunteering	12 months
Number of volunteers who quit	0
Number of offers sent on the PASS platform	2
% of hosted volunteers according to time	50%

* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization

The two volunteering offers were promoted through different platforms:

- Institutional website of the project “Environmental Volunteering for Water”
- LIFE Volunteer Escapes Facebook page and “Environmental Volunteering for Water” Facebook page, using the teaser created for the purpose of volunteers recruitment. Also regarding Facebook the offers were shared among different groups related with environment and volunteering.
- Emails sent to different universities, schools, institutions and volunteering associations.
- Presentation of the LIFE Volunteer Escapes project in sessions held in the University.

3. Results obtained in terms of contribution of the volunteers to nature and biodiversity conservation

Since the arrival of the volunteers in September 2018 we started the different actions originally proposed leading to the following results:

- **Area of IAS controlled** – initiated in 4 different areas: Monchique, Loulé, Tavira and Castro Marim and besides different actions that will be done with schools, have also been scheduled volunteering actions on the proposed areas for every last Saturday of each month.

- **Monitoring of Ecosystem Biological Quality** – different volunteering actions have been undergoing in areas of Faro, S.Brás, Castro Marim and Monchique.
- **Local Volunteers participating in joint activities with ESC volunteers** – at the moment already more than 300 volunteers have participated in actions promoted under the LIFE Volunteer Escapes project.
- **External Partner institutions participating in joint activities with ESC volunteers** – 3 different private institutions and 16 public institutions have been partners in the organization and promotion of the different volunteering actions.

4. Level of satisfaction of volunteers and of the organizations

None of the volunteers hosted has finished the volunteer period, and so is difficult to measure the satisfaction of the volunteering experience. However, until now the volunteers have been involved in all the proposed activities and display will to propose activities and take the responsibility to organize them, showing satisfaction with their project.

5. Definition of the priorities and conservation measures for the applicable N2000 sites, habitats and species

The volunteers are involved in the creation, organization and promotion of actions (on field and also in schools) addressing 4 main purposes regarding environmental volunteering:

- Control of invasive alien species;
- Plantation of native species
- Monitoring of the Ecological Quality of the Ecosystems
- Monitoring Coastal Areas Pollution

All the areas are inside Natura 2000

6. Lessons learnt

One of the main difficulties was the fact that the PASS platform isn't intuitive and presents problems when searching for volunteers or offers, being not seen as a useful tool for recruitment but instead as just a bureaucratic needed step that has to be done.

The long term volunteering project duration (12 months) together with the reduced budget approved when compared to the living cost of the area of implementation of the project,

created a difficult recruitment process with some interested potential volunteers dropping out exclusively because of economic reasons.

7. Detailed/updated plan for the activities of the following year

Operational plots	Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2019
Albufeira	Control of invasive alien species
Aljezur	Control of invasive alien species Plantation of native species
Alcoutim	Control of invasive alien species Plantation of native species
Castro Marim	Control of invasive alien species
Faro	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring Coastal Areas Pollution
Lagoa	Control of invasive alien species Plantation of native species
Lagos	Control of invasive alien species
Loulé	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring Coastal Areas Pollution
Monchique	Control of invasive alien species Plantation of native species
Olhão	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring Coastal Areas Pollution
Portimão	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring of the Ecological Quality of the Ecosystems Monitoring Coastal Areas Pollution
S. Brás de Alportel	Control of invasive alien species Plantation of native species Monitoring of the Ecological Quality of the Ecosystems
Silves	Control of invasive alien species
Tavira	Control of invasive alien species

Vila do Bispo	Monitoring Coastal Areas Pollution
Vila Real de Santo António	Control of invasive alien species