



**LIFE17 ESC/PT/003**

## **Yearly Report on ESC Deployment to the Commission 2019**

**Covering the volunteering activities from 01/01/2019 to  
31/12/2019**

Reporting Date  
**31/05/2020**

### **LIFE VOLUNTEER ESCAPES**

#### Data Project

<b>Project location:</b>	Portugal
<b>Project start date:</b>	01/01/2018
<b>Project end date:</b>	31/12/2020
<b>Total budget:</b>	1751902,00€
<b>EU contribution:</b>	1139115,00€
<b>(%) of eligible costs:</b>	

#### Data Beneficiary

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## **Introductory note**

This report aims to show how the volunteering progress from January to December of 2019. The report refers to the deliverable “Yearly Report on ESC Deployment to the Commission – 2019” 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.

This report is complemented with the attached annexes (Annex VIII - Monitoring of the Tasks of the Volunteers) regarding the volunteer monitoring report developed by the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries have included a more detailed document that monitors the work performed by the volunteers regarding the conservation tasks that is complementary to the tasks reported here in the Yearly Report on ESC Deployment to the Commission-2019 for 2020. Under the Actions A.4 to A.11 here reported the beneficiaries have discussed lessons learnt with the project so far, delays and suggestions on how to improve these in the future.

Taking into account the current context (COVID 19 and confinement with precautionary rules), the volunteer tasks had to be adjusted, and there are not visible here (tasks different from those foreseen in the project). The reception of new volunteers has also been delayed due to the impacts of the global pandemic, and therefore the beneficiaries discussed the possibility to extend Actions A.4 to A.11 until December 2020 (end of the project) in order to achieve as much as possible the number of ESC volunteers in the project foreseen in the application and also the nature conservation indicators.

## **ACTION A.4**

### **Beneficiary responsible for implementation – BCSD**

#### **1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date**

<b>Number of expected volunteers in application</b>	1
<b>Expected duration of each volunteering in application</b>	12 months
<b>Number of hosted volunteers</b>	1
<b>Actual duration of each volunteering</b>	12 months – 1 volunteer
<b>Number of volunteers who quit</b>	0
<b>Number of offers sent on the PASS platform</b>	1
<b>% of hosted volunteers according to time*</b>	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 2019), 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

<b>Operational plots</b>	<b>Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2019</b>		
-	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 ADL**

#### **1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date**

<b>Number of expected volunteers in application</b>	12
<b>Expected duration of each volunteering in application</b>	6 months (1512 volunteering days)
<b>Number of hosted volunteers</b>	10
<b>Actual duration of each volunteering</b>	2 months – 2 volunteers 2,5 months - 1 volunteer 3 months - 1 volunteer 3,6 months - 1 volunteer 5 months - 1 volunteer 12 months – 3 volunteers 6 months – 1 volunteer Total of 1247 volunteering days.
<b>Number of volunteers who quit</b>	4
<b>Number of offers sent on the PASS platform</b>	13
<b>% of hosted volunteers according to time</b>	82%

\* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

#### **2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization**

##### **Recruitment of volunteers**

Marca ADL as continue the efforts to recruit volunteers throughout the various ways already report such as:

- Marca volunteers from other projects;
- Volunteering clubs and data base of Montemor-o-Novo schools;
- Volunteering calls in: Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram;



- Youth Centres;
- ESC Platform.

Then when their experience and motivation fit 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**

The volunteer receives 20€ per volunteering day, as foreseen in the application, for food and accommodation support, as well as the money for the travel from and to their home.

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 2019, the collaboration of volunteers in the activities allowed the plantation of 1005 native plants in conservation works (total of 1505 since the start of the project), the participation of 2299 local volunteers with activities involving LIFE/ESC volunteers (total of 2469 since the start of the project) and involving at least 10 landowners in nature conservation activities (total of 15 since the start of the project).

Regarding conservation works, in 2019, with the volunteers are collaborating with Marca ADL as possible to, control 2,9 ha of invasive alien species (total of 6,2 since the start of the project), improve/restore 2,1 ha of riparian habitats (total of 2,1 since the start of the project), and improve 3,4ha of habitat protected area by the Habitats Directive giving a total of 8,4ha improved since the start of the project.

### **4. Level of satisfaction of volunteers and of the organizations**

The 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. Regarding the volunteers that have quit the project, it was due to job opportunities.

### **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.

Secondly the invasive control interventions were carried out in Monfurado SIC and in Cabrela SIC, as well as the monitorization of the areas previously controlled. In the future we are going to continue the interventions and the monitorization of Monfurado SIC, Cabrela SIC and its buffer zones, giving priority to areas that have a lower density, an easier access and already authorized. The maintenance of the nursery is going to be a regular work, as has been done so far.

## 6. Lessons learnt

One of the major problems and constrains of some actions implementation, so far, is plants survival rate due to irrigation demands. 2018 and 2019 were low precipitation years, plantation actions were planned in order to maximize soil-humidity at the time of planting, and nonetheless mortality rates were higher than predicted (68% vs 30%). In order to minimize the consequences of the drought problem the plantations were irrigated and possible solutions to allocate a small budget to ensure external assistance services for this problem were studied.

Another problem was found during this year regarding the contact to landowners of foreseen areas in the project implementation plan. In some cases, landowners did not agree with control of IAS's and subsequent planting actions on their areas. In others the landowners have been hard to reach, since they do not live in Portugal or the area is in a process of family inheritance. To overcome these constraints Marca has established partnerships with local institutions, such as parish's councils and GNR making it easier to find and contact the owners.

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

<b>Operational plots</b>	<b>Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2020</b>
<b>Nursery</b>	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)
<b>Rivers</b>	Maintenance work in the intervention areas (All year)

	<p>Control of invasive alien species (January –March / July-September)</p> <p>Implementation of natural engineering techniques (October - February)</p> <p>Plantation of native species (October - February)</p> <p>Involvement of the community in conservation actions (All year)</p> <p>Raising awareness actions regarding nature conservation (All year)</p>
<p><b>Bufer Zone</b> (eg. Castelo de Montemor-o-Novo, N<sup>a</sup> Sra. Visitação)</p>	<p>Plantation of native species (October - February)</p> <p>Maintenance work of the planted areas (All year)</p> <p>Control of invasive alien species (March -November)</p> <p>Involvement of the community in conservation actions (All year)</p>
<p><b>SIC Monfurado</b> (Natura 2000 sites)</p>	<p>Control of invasive alien species (March– July / October-November)</p> <p>Plantation of native species (October - February)</p> <p>Collection of seeds for reproduction in the nursery (May - December)</p> <p>Involvement of the community in conservation actions (All year)</p> <p>Raising awareness actions regarding nature conservation (All year)</p>
<p><b>SIC Cabrela</b> (Natura 2000 sites)</p>	<p>Control of invasive alien species (March – July / October-November)</p> <p>Collection of seeds for reproduction in the nursery (May - December)</p> <p>Plantation of native species (October - February)</p> <p>Involvement of the community in conservation actions (All year)</p> <p>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

<b>Number of expected volunteers in application</b>	30
<b>Expected duration of each volunteering in application</b>	6 months
<b>Number of hosted volunteers</b>	26
<b>Actual duration of each volunteering</b>	2 months – 4 volunteers 3 months – 7 volunteers 4 months – 3 volunteers 5 months – 2 volunteers 6 months – 1 volunteer 7 months – 3 volunteers 8 months – 1 volunteer 9 months – 2 volunteers  Total of 1991 volunteering days
<b>Number of volunteers who quit</b>	6
<b>Number of offers sent on the PASS platform</b>	32 (4 public and the others specifically for each volunteer)
<b>% of hosted volunteers according to time*</b>	52,7%

\* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

#### 2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization

Recruitment of volunteers:

MONTIS continues to make an effort to receive national and international volunteers in the project, since the last Yearly Report, the association hosted 17 more volunteers including 2 joint-volunteers.

The PASS platform continues to show problems in displaying the public offers to potential volunteers, to overcome this constraint MONTIS started to contact directly potential volunteers in the platform, despite the time-consuming effort it has proven. In order to increase the reception of volunteers, MONTIS has also increased the communication with volunteering platforms and universities sharing the LIFE VOLUNTEER ESCAPES volunteering opportunities, and 4 of the volunteers welcomed

during 2019 were the result of those contacts. A second house was rented as accommodation for the project's volunteers to allow the welcoming of more volunteers in the same period.

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. The technical team provides transport to the volunteers from and to the operational plots. Apart the accommodation, when necessary.

MONTIS continued to plan the volunteer work according to the volunteer profile having in account the projects indicators for nature conservation and the volunteer's interest. 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.

The activities plan is made on a monthly basis, according to the conservation needs designated for each property by MONTIS technicians, for example, during winter season and therefore plantation season, the main activity is plantations in properties targeted for this action (eg. baldio de Carvalhais). The explanation and interpretation of the planning are given through on-field days with MONTIS technicians and also on a daily basis with the volunteer's coordinator in MONTIS as well as the necessary training for each task. The volunteer's coordinator with help from the volunteers, monthly records and update of the area intervened by the volunteers in the properties unless the tasks are for example plantations which are recorded on daily basis for a better control of trees planted. Regarding activities with general public the conservation tasks are recorded on the same day in the spreadsheet presented in "Activities with non-ESC participants data and Plantation days data".

To ensure the volunteers understanding of the conservation tasks given and that the volunteering period is running smoothly a weekly meeting is made between the volunteers and the volunteer's coordinator.

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

Until now, 6,46 ha of area of IAS controlled were intervened by the ESC volunteers, as well as 12593 autochthonous trees planted in the intervention areas. The volunteers have also created 67 erosion control devices in water lines with natural engineering some of which were done in natural engineering workshops that provided a good improvement for the volunteers regarding this task.

12,75 ha of Area of Habitats protected by the habitats directive were improved with the ESC volunteers conservation tasks.

#### **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 six volunteers that quit the volunteering before the expected date, due to 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 conservation priorities and conservation measures for the project's intervention areas in MONTIS have not suffered many changes since 2018. The habitats continue to be improved regarding the increase of biodiversity levels in the properties and autochthonous trees.

##### 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. The volunteers have done:

- 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
- Follow up of prescribed fire actions and support to the action's preparation, mainly opening paths and accesses
- 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.
- Maintenance of trees planted in previous plantations season
- Assessment of the landscape/vegetation evolution

##### 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. The volunteers have:

- Pruning of trees to boost the natural regeneration after wildfires by choosing one of the healthier stems and pruning the remaining, this way concentrating the root energy on the chosen stems boosting its growth
- 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
- 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.
- 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:

- Invasive Alien Species control (IAS control) (*Acacia spp.*)
- Registration of biodiversity data and upload to the collaborative platform iNaturalist
- Pruning of trees to boost the natural regeneration after wildfires by choosing one of the healthier stems and pruning the remaining, this way concentrating the root energy on the chosen stems boosting its growth
- Maintenance and opening of accesses for the support of the remaining management actions

### 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.* And *Hakea sericea*)
- Registration of biodiversity data and upload to the collaborative platform iNaturalist
- Maintenance and opening of accesses for the support of the remaining management actions

- Rehabilitation and restoration of forest and riparian habitats

### 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 sericea.*)
- Plantations of autochthonous trees
- Registration of biodiversity data and upload to the collaborative platform iNaturalist
- Maintenance and opening of accesses for the support of the remaining management actions
- 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.
- Natural engineering techniques, mainly wood palisades and stone gabions to the retention of sediments and increase of soil area.
- Rehabilitation and restoration of forest and riparian habitats

## **6. Lessons learnt**

The long-term component of the volunteering continues to be a factor that seems to weight on the volunteer engagement with the project. National volunteers seem to have some issues compromising for long-term volunteering and International volunteers seem to be more open to it. However, this point has allowed us to understand the potential on recruiting national student volunteers, meaning, university students in order to get field experiences to complement their academic studies or to engage with something different from their academic studies, seek to engage with volunteering projects usually during summer vacations. This has become an opportunity to recruit volunteers for the joint-volunteering project specially, as one volunteer can be in the project one year in one partner and the next year with another partner. Another measure taken to overcome this volunteer's feedback, regarding the uncertainty of commitment for long-term volunteering, is the acceptance of volunteers for a first “2 months trial” which is then done an extension to the contract if needed.

Another point that has been improved in the integration of the volunteers in the association back office. Some volunteers seem to shown interest in understanding how the association runs at a backoffice level, how to organise the activities for public, how to make applications for projects, how to recruit new members, how to decide relevant tasks to improve biodiversity in the properties, etc. MONTIS has made an effort to



include the volunteers more in the backoffice tasks, helping with the production of posts for the website regarding activities, with translation of documents for project managements or participation actively in high impact activities such as crowdfunding's.

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

Operational plots	Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2020
<b>Baldio de Carvalhais</b>	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
<b>Carvalho de Vermilhas</b>	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
<b>Baldio da Granja</b>	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
<b>Costa Baceolo</b>	Rehabilitation and restauration 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
<b>Vieiro</b>	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

## ACTION A.7

### Beneficiary responsible for implementation – Município de Torres Vedras

#### 1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date

<b>Number of expected volunteers in application</b>	12 (6 per 12 months)
<b>Expected duration of each volunteering in application</b>	12 months (1512 volunteering days)
<b>Number of hosted volunteers</b>	11
<b>Actual duration of each volunteering</b>	6 months – 3 volunteers 4 months – 3 volunteers 12 months – 2 volunteers 9 months – 1 volunteer 3 months – 1 volunteer 2 months – 1 volunteer Total of 438 volunteering days
<b>Number of volunteers who quit</b>	3
<b>Number of offers sent on the PASS platform</b>	8
<b>% of hosted volunteers according to time</b>	16%

\* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

#### 2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization

MTV has continued the efforts to receive more volunteers using the following platforms for recruitment:

- PASS Platform with open offers
- Emails sharing the project to secondary and professional schools from Torres Vedras
- Emails to Universities
- Social Media: Facebook page and website of Torres Vedras Municipality
- Youth centre and local volunteer bank
- Meetings with teachers from local schools

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 2019, the collaboration of volunteers in the activities allowed the:

- Plantation and production of 1464 autochthonous trees of a total of 2614 trees planted since the start of the project;
- Restoration of 0,8 ha of riparian habitats for the species *Achondrostoma occidentale*;
- Control of 13 ha of areas with invasive alien species, especially *Carpobrotus edulis*, in Natura2000 sites;
- Engagement of more than 1327 local volunteers with activities involving ESC volunteers.

### **4. Level of satisfaction of volunteers and of the organizations**

The volunteers that have been involved in the project so far, seem to be satisfied with the experience. Most of the volunteers welcomed in the project so far are students, and 2 of the volunteers had to leave the project to dedicate more time to their studies. The third volunteer was presented with a job-offer.

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

The conservation measures continue in MTV's N2000 sites, habitats and species. Natura2000 areas – Community Interest Sites of Peniche/Santa Cruz ((PTCON0056) the control of the invasive species, *Carpobrotus edulis* and plantations of autochthonous dune species continue to be the main priorities, as well as the collection of seed for production of dune plants and plantations of native trees in Local Protected Landscape of Serras do Socorro e Archeira. The maintenance work to improve and restore the habitats in the riparian galleries continues to benefit the conservation of the native species Ruivaco-do-Oeste (*Achondrostoma occidentale*).

## 6. Lessons learnt

The volunteers received in MTV are mainly local volunteers that have known the project from the Municipality website and local associations. Most of these volunteers are students that see the project as an opportunity to engage with nature and do something important for their home city, however due to the impossibility to engage full-time with the project for study reasons, these volunteers have not volunteered in the project continuously.

MTV has started accepting more volunteers that can cover for the days other volunteers can not be in activities or volunteering, creating a rotative system that allows the volunteers to also take time for their personal matters.

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

Operational plots	Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2020
<b>Dunes – coastal areas</b>	Control of invasive alien species Plantation of native species Involvement of the community in conservation actions Raising awareness actions regarding nature conservation
<b>Municipal lands</b>	Plantation of native species Maintenance work of the planted areas
<b>Local Protected Landscape of Socorro and Archeira</b>	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
<b>Sizandro River</b>	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
<b>Alcabrichel River</b>	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
<b>Municipal nursery</b>	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

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## ACTION A.8

### Beneficiary responsible for implementation – Plantar uma Árvore

#### 1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date

<b>Number of expected volunteers in application</b>	64
<b>Expected duration of each volunteering in application</b>	6 months (8064 volunteering days)
<b>Number of hosted volunteers</b>	50
<b>Actual duration of each volunteering</b>	0,5 month – 2 volunteers 1 month – 1 volunteer 1,3 months - 1 volunteer 1,5 months – 4 volunteers 2 months – 16 volunteers 2,1 months – 2 volunteers 2,4 months – 2 volunteers 2,6 months – 1 volunteer 3 months – 6 volunteers 3,1 months – 1 volunteer 3,2 months – 1 volunteer 3,5 months – 1 volunteer 4 months – 1 volunteer 4,3 months – 1 volunteer 5 months – 1 volunteer 5,1 months – 1 volunteer 5,6 months – 1 volunteer 6 months – 2 volunteers 7 months – 1 volunteer

	9 months – 1 volunteer 9,5 months – 1 volunteer 12 months – 2 volunteers Total of 3511 volunteering days
<b>Number of volunteers who quit</b>	11
<b>Number of offers sent on the PASS platform</b>	84
<b>% of hosted volunteers according to time</b>	43%

\* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

## **2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization**

P1A has continued the efforts to recruit volunteers through the platforms available, being the direct contacts with potential volunteers in PASS platform the method that has been most efficient but also the most time consuming. The recruitment has been done in:

- PASS platforms with direct contacts to potential volunteers;
- Social media: Facebook and website;
- E-mail
- Universities, associations and volunteering platforms;

After the volunteer application, he is contacted and the volunteering offer is detailed for them, including information about the accommodation, activities, volunteering work load, volunteering tasks, financial support, etc. After the information is given and the volunteer still shows interest, P1A will proceed to a meeting with the volunteer to agree on the terms and go through the volunteering agreement with the volunteer.

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.

To the volunteers, in Sintra, is given 8€ per volunteering day for food expenses, and 12€ from the originally 20€ is kept to support the expense with accommodation and expenses of the accommodation, which is provided by the association in both intervention regions. To the volunteers in Alvão if coming from other parts of Portugal or from foreign countries the support is given has referred to Sintra, but if they are locals is given the 20€ per volunteering day to cover the expenses with their own accommodation and food.

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

- Area of invasive and Alien Species Controlled: 7 ha
- Autochthonous Species Planted: 10120
- Trees and Shrubs produced in Nursery: 2366
- Area of Natura 2000 Habitats Promoted: 35,9 ha
- Length of Pedestrian Trails Maintained and/or Restored to promote the Tourism in the Natura 2000 Site: 41,8 km
- Local Volunteers Involved with the ESC Volunteers Activities: 1 174
- Involvement of External Partners with the ESC Volunteers Activities: 29

### **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 PIA 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**

P1A implementation actions are divided throughout two sites:

- Sintra/Cascais, SCI (PTCON008), in Sintra region, with 6 plots of intervention area in the Park plus a few more outside it with occasional works, with priorities in control of invasive species, plantations of autochthonous species of trees and shrubs, maintenance of planted areas, collection of seeds for propagation in nursery and coordination of activities with other volunteers;
- Alvão/Marão, SCI (PTCON003), in Alvão region, with 4 plots of intervention area and priorities in plantation of autochthonous trees and shrubs, maintenance of planted areas, maintenance and restoration of pedestrian trails, collection of seeds for propagation in nursery and involvement of local community with environmental sensibilization activities and production of communication for local media;



## 6. Lessons learnt

The volunteers manifested in general more interest and availability to be part of the program for shorter periods to better balanced this experience between studies, work or in gap year plans.

The flexibility for a wide range of periods was in general well accepted between parties, the association and the volunteers, and quite effective to well balance the commitment and motivation along the proposed periods; since we have seen has more challenging to a continuous learning and engagement for longer periods when the volunteer is already integrated in the team and aware of the timings and routines. Nevertheless, even with a few, some have stayed for longer periods and has revealed quite satisfied and shared the all experience has overwhelmed and highly recommended.

In Sintra most of the volunteers were foreigners and in Alvão we had more locals and just a few Portuguese from other regions or foreigners. This contrast reflects different social contexts: Sintra next the metropolis with less availability from local youngsters to a long-term commitment when they have the chance for occasional involvement in the community initiatives and a region very attractive for foreigners that want a nature conservation experience next to the city with more cultural activities for free time; and Alvão in a rural isolated area with local youngsters looking for opportunities with lack of studies, unemployed or even national or foreign volunteers looking for a break from the urban cities and a deep in nature community experience.

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

Operational plots	Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2020
<b>Sintra-Cascais Natural Park</b>	All year: invasive and alien species control (mainly <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> , <i>Acacia longifolia</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). October to December: plantation, replacement of dead plants and the previous set tasks.
<b>Alvão Mountains</b>	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). October to December: plantation, replacement of dead plants and the previous set tasks.



## Action A.9

### Beneficiary responsible for implementation – Rota Vicentina (RV)

#### 1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date

<b>Number of expected volunteers in application</b>	6
<b>Expected duration of each volunteering in application</b>	3 months (378 volunteering days)
<b>Number of hosted volunteers</b>	1
<b>Actual duration of each volunteering</b>	3 months – 1 volunteer Total of 80 volunteering days
<b>Number of volunteers who quit</b>	0
<b>Number of offers sent on the PASS platform</b>	3
<b>% of hosted volunteers according to time</b>	21%

\* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

#### 2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization

Action A.9, implemented by Rota Vicentina has started in January 2019. The recruitment of volunteers was especially made using social media pages, RV's website, Facebook and Instagram pages. The volunteers who contacted Rota Vicentina were informed on further details of the planned project activities and the financial conditions. If they were still interested to apply, RV asked to send a CV and motivation letter.

All the applications received by the deadline date, were carefully evaluated and the volunteers who met the project criteria were selected for interviews. After all the interviews were completed, RV selected the final three volunteers. Afterwards, the selected volunteers received their invitation to access the PASS platform.

Although RV has received 3 volunteers in total, 2 are considered joint-volunteers and 1 a regular-volunteer.

The volunteers welcomed to the project receive 20€ per volunteering day for accommodation and food expenses.

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

The collaboration of the volunteers in Rota Vicentina this year have contributed for:

- 252,2 km of trails in Rota Vicentina maintained or restored;
- 25 ha of invasive alien species area controlled;
- 5 environmental awareness activities (some organised by themselves), always using materials created by themselves.

#### **4. Level of satisfaction of volunteers and of the organizations**

The volunteer finished their volunteering period satisfied with the work done for environment and nature conservation. The collaboration of the volunteering with Rota Vicentina works, especially regarding the invasive species control, maintenance of trails and interaction with tourists and locals had good results.

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

“Costa Sudoeste” (SCI, PTCON0012, and SPA, PTZPE0015), priority works rely on control of invasive alien species, especially *Acacia sp.* and *Carpobrotus edulis*, maintenance of trails and maintenance of the areas already controlled of invasive species.

#### **6. Lessons learnt**

We had some difficulties in mobilizing more volunteers for actions to control invasive species, communication is very important to create and maintain interest in volunteering.

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

<b>Sites</b>	<b>Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2020</b>
<b>Costa Sudoeste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintenance of Rota Vicentina’s pedestrian trails;</li> <li>- Control of invasive alien species;</li> <li>- Environmental awareness activities.</li> </ul>

## **ACTION A.10**

### **Beneficiary responsible for implementation – SPEA**

#### **1. Number and timing of the volunteers mobilised to date**

<b>Number of expected volunteers in application</b>	23
<b>Expected duration of each volunteering in application</b>	6 months (2898 volunteering days)
<b>Number of hosted volunteers</b>	15
<b>Actual duration of each volunteering</b>	4 months – 2 volunteers 3 months – 4 volunteers 6 months – 9 volunteers  Total of 1418 volunteering days-
<b>Number of volunteers who quit</b>	0
<b>Number of offers sent on the PASS platform</b>	15
<b>% of hosted volunteers according to time</b>	48%

\* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

#### **2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization**

##### Recruitment of volunteers

The recruitment of volunteers in SPEA has been involving:

- Sharing of the project in SPEA website;
- Poster promoting SPEA's actions in the project;
- Direct emails to universities and youth groups;
- Social media: Facebook
- Activities

Due to the problems regarding the PASS platform SPEA has not been using it to recruit volunteers. After the volunteer applies to the project, the application is then reviewed and if they fill the requirements it scheduled an interview with the volunteer.

Accepted in the project, the volunteer is then sent to register in the PASS platform as requested in the project and SPEA sent the specific offer.

Until the end of 2019, and due the limitations with the ESC platform and some confusion with the term “offer”, there were some procedures implemented by SPEA that need to be changed. When SPEA was contacted by a volunteer interested in the volunteering opportunity, SPEA asked the volunteer to register on ESC platform and sent the offer to

him/her. After that, the volunteer followed the normal steps of the application: sent the CV, motivation letter and went for an interview. Just after that, the volunteer was selected. By a recommendation of Montis, from now on, SPEA will follow the same procedure, but will just sent the offer for the volunteer selected and not to all.

### Management of the volunteers

SPEA has a lot of experience in receiving volunteers and the methodologies used are efficient to plan and follow-up the work of the volunteers. So, we are not using the volunteer activity model proposal in the partners meeting and we informed the EC in the last report (Mid-Term Report, 24 May 2019).

Each SPEA site (3) has its one methodology, adjusted to the type of work, but there is a common baseline in all of them: a participatory definition of the work involving the volunteers and SPEA staff and the analyses of the results in periodic meetings.

### Berlenga

At SPEA office in Lisbon, as well as at the Berlenga Island, the volunteers have a direct and daily follow-up with the tutor, Isabel Fagundes. This proximity allows the exchange of ideas and clarification of doubts on a regular basis, as well as constant learning.

Concerning the work in the Berlenga Island, a digital agenda is elaborated to all year in which every task is defined and the week when it will be developed. This allows that the volunteers know exactly what task they will develop in each month. Prior to the departure to the island, the volunteers and the tutor discuss the tasks to be carried out during their stay in the island and a detailed schedule is elaborated. In Berlenga, everyday the tutor talks with the volunteers at the end of the day to discuss how the different tasks were implemented and what can be improved.

At the end of each period of stay, a summary of all the tasks developed are produced and shared with the entities involved in the management of Berlenga, namely ICNF and Câmara Municipal de Peniche (those documents follow with this report “Relatórios de campo Berlengas”).

Regarding the work done in the office, each volunteer is assigned a specific task (identified in the A2 action document) and at the end of each week the volunteer presents what he/she has developed, discusses with the tutor his/her doubts and together defined the tasks for the next week.

### Lagoa Pequena (EILP)

At the beginning of each week, an informal meeting is held between the tutor and the volunteers. In this meeting, the tasks carried out in the previous week were recapitulated and recorded (see attachment “Registo seminal das atividades”). At the same meeting, objectives for the week beginning were established.

Volunteers had access to EILP’s GoogleCalendar, with all relevant events (ex. activities, guided tours, etc.)

### Açores

In order to organize and monitor the work of the volunteers, we prepare a weekly plan (in attachment, for each volunteer). Due to weather instability in Azores, it is quite difficult to establish and follow a longer-term plan, and sometimes, even week-plans needed some adaptation. In order to ensure the ability to work in different weather conditions, volunteers work at different altitudes and with different tasks, both outdoors and indoors.

Since some of the activities were only possible to accommodate a few of the volunteers, each volunteer and the group monitor kept track of their daily tasks in order to be able to account for the number of days dedicated to each of the works

Apart to the monitoring of the days invested by the volunteers in each task, we also monitored some impact indicators of their works, namely:

- Number of plants produced in the Nurseries;
- Area of maintained area in the intervention areas (Gradiente, Mata dos bispos e Graminhais)
- Number of visitors received in Interpretation Centre of Priolo;
- Number of environmental education activities conducted outside of the Centre.

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

Throughout the 3 intervention areas of SPEA (Berlengas, Açores and Lagoa Pequena), the collaboration of the volunteers has translated into:

- 90 ha of improved habitat from N2000 areas;
- 7500 autochthonous trees and shrubs planted or produced;
- 89,5 ha of area controlled from invasive species (mainly *Carpobrotus edulis*, *Pittosporum undulatum*, *Hedychium gardnerianum*, *Clethra arborea*, *Gunnera tinctoria*, and others)

### **4. Level of satisfaction of volunteers and of the organizations**

SPEA volunteers have shown a good satisfaction level after their volunteering work. For SPEA, as a host organization, the opportunity to receive those volunteers is very important and a great help to continue the conservation works in the intervention areas 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**

- SPA “Ilhas Berlengas” (PTZPE0009), priority measures are control of invasive alien species such as *Carpobrotus edulis*, monitoring of seabird populations, construction and maintenance of artificial nests for seabirds, monitoring of flora and maintenance of trails.
- SPA “Pico da Vara / Ribeira do Guilherme – Ilha de São Miguel (PTZPE0033) and SCI “Serra da Tronqueira / Planalto dos Graminhais” (PTMIG0024), priority measures are control of invasive alien species such as *Lycisteria formosa* and manual control techniques to control *Gunnera tinctoria* in bogs, native plants production and maintenance and elaboration of “Atlas Priolo”.
- SPA “Lagoa Pequena” (PTZPE0049) and SCI “Fernão Ferro / Lagoa de Albufeira” (PTCON0054) priority measures are related with maintenance of

the “Espaço Interpretativo da Lagoa Pequena” space, monitoring of birdlife, mapping of nesting species in the reed beds, monitoring of nest boxes, maintenance of trails and repairs of fences around the lagoon.

## 6. Lessons learnt

Related with Azores work, we identified some problems with the implementation of the volunteering stay that resulted in less positive evaluations by some of the volunteers. Most of the complaints related to the repetitive and monotonous work, which they regarded as not effective, mostly related to the work in the nurseries for plant production and plantation maintenance work. Also, some of the fewer positive reviews were related to the changes on the volunteering plan that are unavoidable considering the instability of weather and the needs of coordination of the work of the volunteers with the rest of the work of the department. For future groups we will try to previously advice the volunteers about this fact so that it does not come as a surprise.

## 7. Detailed/updated plan for the activities of the following year (considerar a possibilidade de termos que prolongar até final do ano, por causa dos atrasos).

Sites	Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2020
<b>Berlengas</b>	May to December - 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
<b>Lagoa Pequena</b>	From June to September, the volunteer will participate on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- management of the visitation in the summer period</li> <li>- analysis of results of the visitor satisfaction questionnaires</li> <li>- organisation of guided tours for the visitors</li> <li>- organisation of awareness actions for young people and families</li> </ul>
<b>Açores</b>	From April to September, the volunteers will be involved on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- collection of seeds and production of 2000 native plants in nursery</li> <li>- maintenance of areas recovered by “LIFE+ Terras do Priolo” project, with control of invasive alien species in an area of 7.5 hectares</li> <li>- 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, the plants will be placed by the project team at a suitable height to ensure their survival)</li> <li>- organisation of 2 environmental actions with school public and general population</li> </ul>



	- 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**

<b>Number of expected volunteers in application</b>	4
<b>Expected duration of each volunteering in application</b>	12 months (1008 volunteering days)
<b>Number of hosted volunteers</b>	3
<b>Actual duration of each volunteering</b>	12 months – 1 volunteer 7 months – 1 volunteer 5 months – 1 volunteer Total of 528 volunteering days
<b>Number of volunteers who quit</b>	1
<b>Number of offers sent on the PASS platform</b>	3
<b>% of hosted volunteers according to time</b>	52%

\* comparison of the hosted volunteers with the expected volunteers

#### **2. Activities undertaken by each associated beneficiary as hosting organization**

The recruitment of volunteers continues to be made with resource to the different platforms:

- Institutional website of the project “Environmental Volunteering for Water”;
- LIFE Volunteer Escapes Facebook page and “Environmental Volunteering for Water” Facebook page;
- Emails sent to different universities, schools, institutions and volunteering associations;
- Presentation of the LIFE Volunteer Escapes project in sessions held in the University.

The volunteers welcomed in APA ARH-Algarve, receive 20€ per volunteering day for accommodation and food expenses. APA provides some support in finding accommodation for the volunteers. However due to the tourist region and the high prices

on house/apartment rent, there is still some difficulties in finding accommodation for the volunteers.

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

With the volunteers work in 2019, improvements on the action implementation started to be shown, and led to the following results:

- **Area of IAS controlled** – 3,7 ha
- **Monitoring of Ecosystem Biological Quality** – During 2019 we monitored the Ecosystem Biological Quality in 12 different control points covering 11 streams in 8 counties: Aljezur (Aljezur); Budens and Vale Santo (Vila do Bispo); Seixe (Monchique); Falacho (Silves); Menalva, Cadoiço and Carcavai (Loulé); Odeleite (S.Brás); Alportel (S.Brás and Tavira)
- **Local Volunteers participating in joint activities with ESC volunteers** – at the moment already more than 1977 volunteers have participated in actions promoted under the LIFE Volunteer Escapes project.

### **4. Level of satisfaction of volunteers and of the organizations**

Until now the volunteers that have completed their volunteering period have shown to be satisfied with their work in APA.

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

The works inside the N2000 sites, “Costa Sudoeste” (SCI, PTCO0012 and SPA, PTZPE0015), “Monchique” (SCI and SPA PTCO0037), “Ria Formosa/Castro Marim” (SCI, PTCO0013), “Ria Formosa” (SPA, PTZPE0017), “Sapais de Castro Marim” (SPA, PTZPE0018) and “Guadiana” (SCI, PTCO0036) continue to have the following priority measures:

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

### **6. Lessons learnt**

Applications for long-term volunteering periods (12 months) are scarce because, according to the feedback received from applicants and possible interested candidates,

long-term is seen as having a very high degree of commitment which decreases motivation for application, especially for regional volunteers that usually work during summer months due to seasonality of the region, so in the future shorter periods (6 to 9 months) might be considered.

Engagement of local volunteers in volunteering actions is difficult but largely improved when the municipalities and other local agents engage in the actions and are active part of actions promotion and follow-up. Due to this fact schools still play the main role in volunteering promotion and students are a very valuable resource in volunteering actions

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

<b>Operational plots</b>	<b>Activities of the ESC Volunteers for 2020</b>
<b>Albufeira</b>	Control of invasive alien species
<b>Aljezur</b>	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring of the Ecological Quality of the Ecosystems
<b>Alcoutim</b>	Control of invasive alien species
<b>Castro Marim</b>	Control of invasive alien species
<b>Faro</b>	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring Coastal Areas Pollution
<b>Lagoa</b>	Control of invasive alien species
<b>Lagos</b>	Control of invasive alien species
<b>Loulé</b>	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring of the Ecological Quality of the Ecosystems
<b>Monchique</b>	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring of the Ecological Quality of the Ecosystems
<b>Olhão</b>	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring Coastal Areas Pollution
<b>Portimão</b>	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring Coastal Areas Pollution
<b>S. Brás de Alportel</b>	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring of the Ecological Quality of the Ecosystems
<b>Silves</b>	Control of invasive alien species
<b>Tavira</b>	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring of the Ecological Quality of the Ecosystems
<b>Vila do Bispo</b>	Monitoring Coastal Areas Pollution Monitoring of the Ecological Quality of the Ecosystems
<b>Vila Real de Santo António</b>	Control of invasive alien species Monitoring Coastal Areas Pollution