

# Conservation measures for the Lesser Spotted Eagle and its habitats in Bulgaria

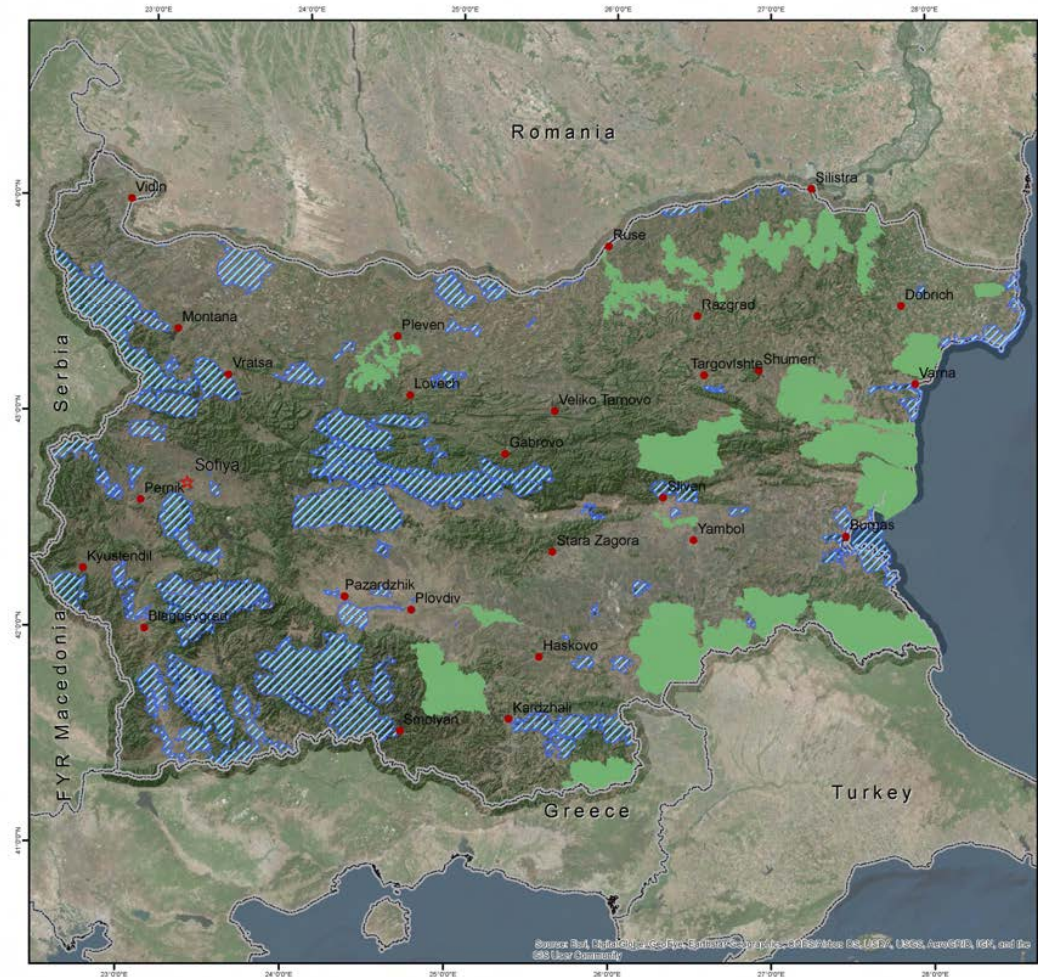
LIFE18 NAT/BG/001051 “LIFE for Eagle’s habitats” project,  
funded by the EU LIFE Programme





# Basic project information

- Coordinating beneficiary:  
Executive Forest Agency
- Partners: Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, NE State Forest Company and SE Forest Company
- Duration: 6 years from 2.8.2019
- Project area: 20 SPAs in Eastern Bulgaria hosting 70% of the national LSE breeding population and more than the half of the global LSE population is flying over them during migration



Project: "LIFE for Eagle's habitats"

General location of the project areas in Bulgaria

## Legend

- ★ Capital
- Regions
- Project SPAs
- ▨ Other SPAs
- National border



1:1 729 406

0 15 30 60 90 120 km



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# The Lesser Spotted Eagle

(*Clanga pomarina*)

- Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, classified as 'Least concern' by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and as vulnerable listed in Bulgaria's Red Data Book
- an umbrella species
- breeds in forests and feeds over adjacent open landscapes
- uses variety of habitats during migration and wintering
- called in Bulgaria "the forest eagle"



**“Secure the protection and sustainable management of the LSE existing breeding and feeding habitats and create new habitats crucial for its existence.”**

1. Improve knowledge on LSE and its habitats in Bulgaria and establish profound basis for the long-term conservation of the species by applying innovative research technics;
2. Maintain and enhance feeding, breeding and roosting LSE habitats through developing and deploying best available practices for management of forests, open territories in forests and agricultural lands;
3. Restore and create new feeding and breeding habitats for the Lesser Spotted Eagle;
4. Improve LSE conservation on regional level by introducing pilot tool for involvement of all stakeholders in the process of setting of forest management and protection priorities;
5. Identify and combat main threats affecting the LSE;
6. Enhance public understanding of and support for the conservation of priority bird species, their habitats and the wider Natura 2000 sites that are crucial for their long-term protection.

## **Project specific objectives**

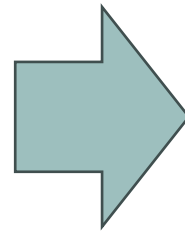


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# Conversion of coniferous forest plantations into native broadleaved forests



159,9 ha  
converted



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# Application of biodiversity-friendly forest management practices



The so-called Saarland method was applied on 560 ha.

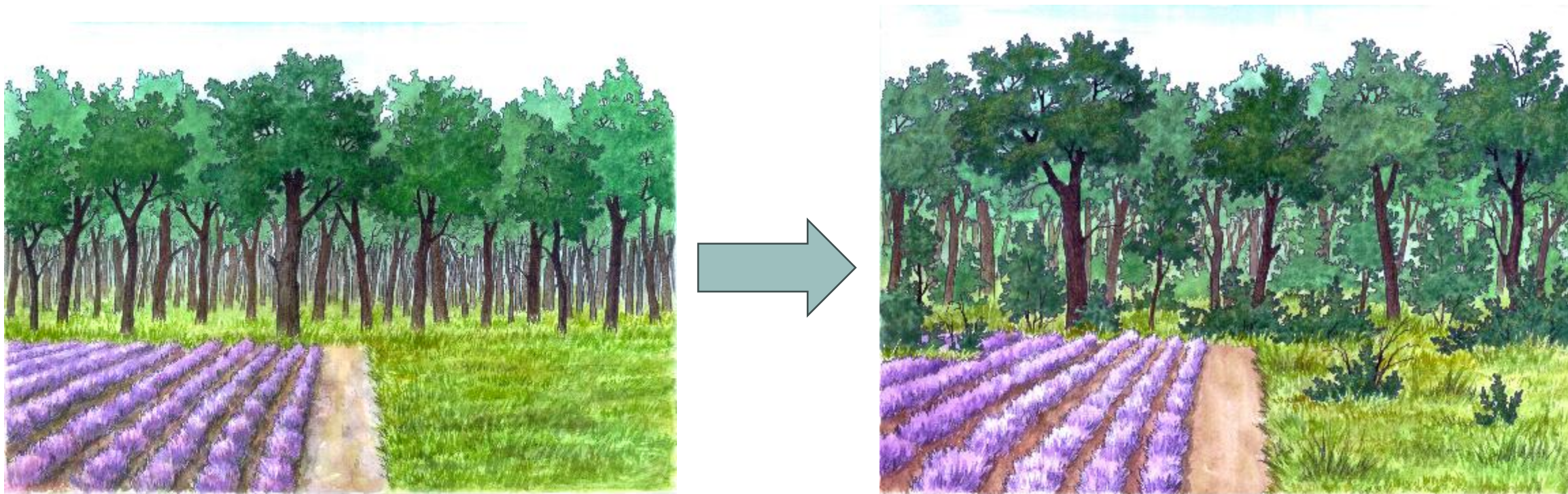


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# Restoration of forest edges as key landscape elements of LSE habitats



Measures for maintenance/ recovery of the transitional woodland – shrub (*ecotone*) vegetation were applied on 961 ha.



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# Establishment and maintenance of forest shelterbelts as important LSE stop-over sites



68 ha new  
shelterbelts created

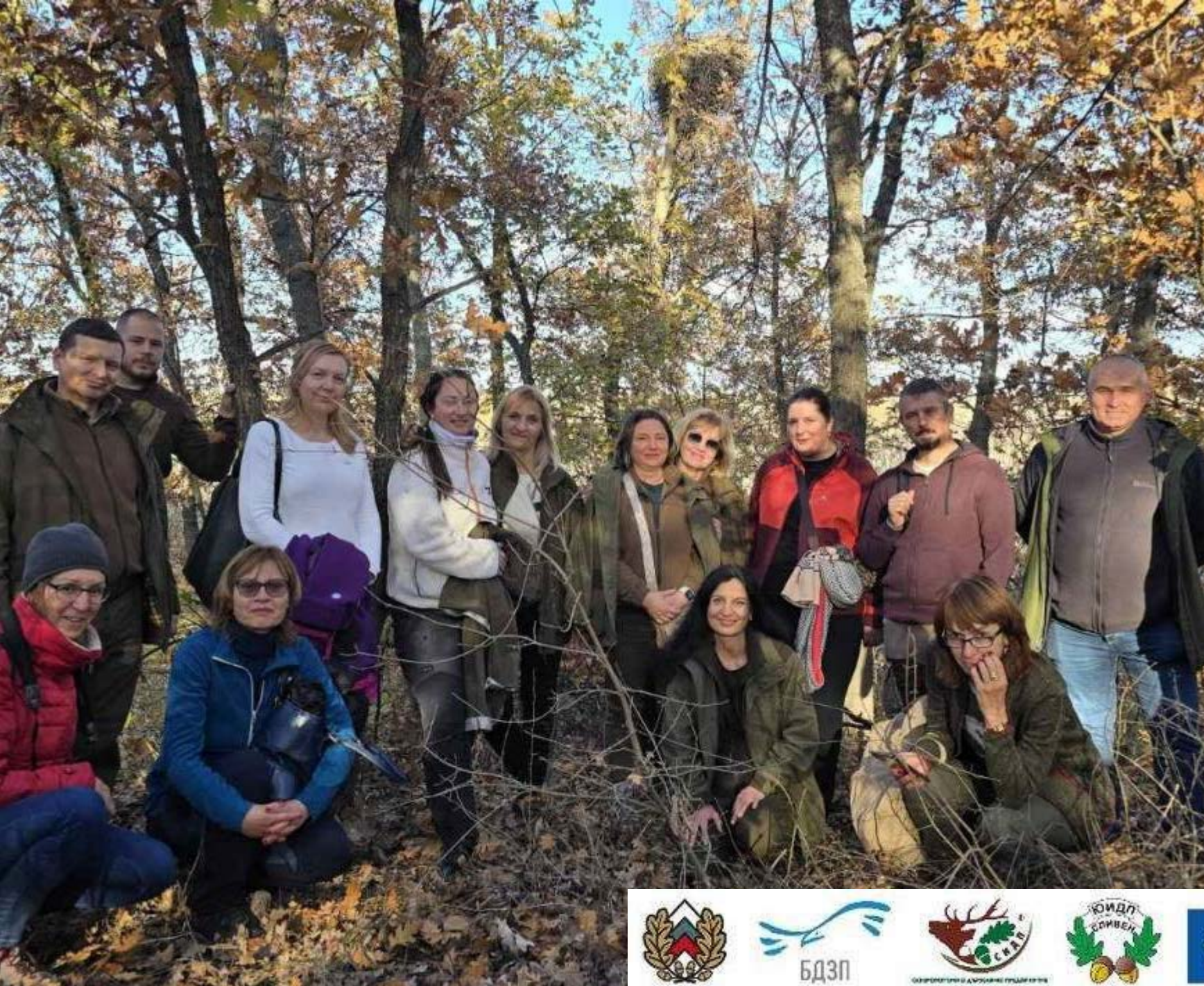
Regional program for  
forest shelter belts  
developed



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**Thank you!**

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