

WOW
WINGS OVER WETLANDS
The UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project

WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 4

REPORTING PERIOD: 1st June 2008 – 30th November 2008

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Country	Lithuania
Project Title	Lithuanian demonstration project “The Nemunas River Delta” as part of the WOW program
Project ref. number	51210
Name of Local Implementing Agency/NGO	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University
Total amount of funds under this agreement	USD 340,000
Expected project duration	27 months (till July 2009)
Date of signature of the agreement	16-03-2007
Contact in Local Implementing Agency/NGO	Habil Dr. Mecislovas Zalakevicius, Director, Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University, Akademijos 2, LT-08412 Vilnius, Lithuania; e-mail: zalakevicius@ekoi.lt ; tel.: +37052729257; fax: +37052729352

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary	3
1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period.....	4
1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions	4
2. Project Management	6
2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC).....	9
3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions.....	11
4. Funds Disbursement.....	20
4.1 Disbursement of GEF Funds.....	20
4.2 Status of co-financing	21
5. Performance Evaluation.....	22
5.1 Logical framework.....	22
5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool.....	29
5.3 Project Impact	29
6. Key Lessons Learned.....	30
7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period.....	31
7.1 Updated overall project workplan.....	31
7.2 Workplan for next six months.....	32
ANNEXES	33
Annex 1: Inventory of Outputs/Services.....	34
Annex 2: List of project sub-contractors and consultants.....	41
Annexes 3-7:.....	42

1. Executive Summary

The project progress during the reporting period: the major part of a new “Bird Observatory” (research and information centre of migratory waterbirds) was opened in Rusne island (significantly earlier than initially planned); results of the newly developed monitoring scheme of migratory waterbirds were successfully applied for appropriate management of key habitats for staging waterbirds during spring migration; the key project partner (the Direction of the Regional Park) has mobilized additional funds in the amount of 80,000 USD, enabling restoration of natural open habitats important for waterbirds in certain degraded floodplains of the demonstration site significantly earlier than it was initially planned; elaboration and adoption of appropriate cross-border conservation and management measures of the Nemunas River Delta (shared by Lithuania and Russia) and of the entire Nemunas River Basin during the international conference held in the demonstration site; fruitful cooperation with key project partners and stakeholders (BirdLife Lithuania and local Municipality) related to organization and co-funding of the project public events and international conference held in October 2008, widely covered in the national and regional media (TV, radio, major newsletters).

The main challenges during the reporting period were mainly related to rapidly increasing costs for all services and particularly for construction works in Lithuania, and decreased exchange rate of US\$.

Problems stated above were successfully solved.

1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Opening of a major part of a new “Bird Observatory” (research and information centre of migratory waterbirds) in Rusne island.
2	Mobilization of considerable additional funds enabling restoration of natural open habitats important for waterbirds in certain degraded floodplains significantly earlier than it was initially planned.
3	Elaboration and adoption of appropriate cross-border conservation and management measures of the Nemunas River Delta during the international conference held in the demonstration site.
4	Fruitful cooperation with key project partners and stakeholders (local Municipality and BirdLife Lithuania) during organization of the project public events and international conference held in October 2008.
5	Practical implementation of results of the newly developed monitoring scheme of migratory waterbirds for appropriate management of key habitats for staging waterbirds in the demonstration site during spring migration.

1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	The available GEF funds are not sufficient to cover project costs planned in 2009 for the wetlands restoration works and for the printing costs of the publication “The Nemunas River Delta” due to rapidly increasing costs for all services, fuel, newly adopted tax regulations and decreasing USD exchange rate.	The wetlands restoration works following the project plan in the selected sites of the Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve (total area – about 30 ha) were performed in July-August 2008 by the Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park from additional funds in the amount of USD 80,000, mobilized from the EU structural funds. The GEF funds initially planned for this activity will be used for establishment of information posters for visitors in Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve and for printing costs of the publication “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park”.	November 2008	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU), WOW Project Coordination Unit

2	It was necessary to recalculate certain costs planned for the project Activity 1.1 due to decreasing exchange rate of US\$ and rapidly increasing costs of construction works and other services.	Certain lower-costs materials and construction works were planned in the Bird Observatory. The final reconstruction works (establishment of the laboratory facilities) will be partly covered from additional funds, granted for IEVU from the National Science Program in 2009.	November 2008	IEVU
3	Certain project activities (1.1, 3.1.) planned in 2009 were implemented during this semi-annual period due to shorter than initially planned duration of the demonstration project and due to rapidly increasing costs for all services.	Project tasks, administration and accountancy were corrected accordingly.	November 2008	IEVU

2. Project Management

CATEGORY	ISSUES	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS	DEADLINE	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Recruitment & management of staff and consultants	The Project staff and consultants were recruited in 2007. In June-November 2008 new sub-contracts were signed for implementation of construction works of the project and arrangement of project public events. Problems encountered: the lack of qualified sub-contractors interested in planned activities in areas located far from major towns.	Joint stock companies “Stavola”, “GPI Constructions” and “Akstis” were sub-contracted for reconstruction of the Bird Observatory building /production of informative posters for visitors, following procedures of public tenders. The Lithuanian Ornithological Society was sub-contracted for arrangement of public events “Bird Day 2008” and “Bird Rally 2008”.	November 2008	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU)
Finance & administration	It was necessary to re-calculate certain costs planned for the reconstruction of Bird Observatory and wetlands restoration due to decreasing exchange rate of US\$ and increasing costs for all services. Wetlands restoration works planned in 2009 were implemented in 2008. Most works in Bird Observatory were also implemented in 2008.	Planned wetlands restoration works were implemented from additional co-funding in the amount of USD 80,000 mobilized by the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park. Certain final reconstruction works of Bird Observatory will be implemented in 2009 from additional funds (granted to IEVU from the National Science Program).	November 2008	IEVU

Logistics & operations	Travel, transportation of equipment & construction materials were negatively affected by large distance to the demonstration site (450 km) and the lack of necessary infrastructure, accommodation facilities within the site.	Field Stations of the IEVU in Ventes Ragas and Rusne island were used for accommodation of the staff and of workers from sub-contracted companies.	November 2008	IEVU
Reporting & communication	The project reporting is implemented by the Project Team and regularly supervised by the project Steering Committee.	Consultations concerning project reporting were arranged with the WOW Project Coordinating Unit during the meeting held in the demonstration site in October 2008.	November 2008	IEVU
Coordination with project partners	A fruitful coordination with project partners and stakeholders was ensured by regular meetings and by the Steering Committee, representing the key organizations responsible for implementation of the project. Project partners and stakeholders were involved in practical implementation of certain activities.	Certain project activities (restoration works of degraded wetlands, arrangement of project public events) were successfully implemented by project partners. The key project stakeholder (local Municipality) has considerably contributed to arrangement of certain project activities (arrangement of public events and international conference, promotion of the project in the regional media).	November 2008	IEVU
External issues	Difficult access to certain project	Aerial and boat surveys of waterbirds	November	IEVU

sites negatively impacted the fieldwork aiming to designation of key staging sites of migratory waterbirds.

were performed in difficult-to-access territories in August-September 2008.

2008

2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

Date of last SC Meeting	7 November 2008
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	2 March 2009

QUESTION	ANSWER
This Report was reviewed and approved by the Project SC	Yes
The workplan & budget for next six months was reviewed & approved by the Project SC	Yes
The SC is meeting periodically and providing effective direction/inputs?	Yes

Please provide updated list of SC Members (list the SC Chairperson first):

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Prof. Mecislovas Zalakevicius, Director of the Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University	Chairperson	zalakevicius@ekoi.lt	+37052729257
Mr. Vidmantas Bezaras, Deputy Director of the State Service for Protected Territories, Ministry of Environment	Committee Member	v.bezaras@vstt.lt	+37052726306
Mr. Mindaugas Budginas, former Director of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	Committee Member	info@nemunodelta.lt	+37044175050
Mr. Ramunas Grigonis, Deputy Director of the Lithuanian Museum of Zoology	Committee Member	muzzoo@takas.lt	+37037207622

Mr. Mantas Jancevicius, Director of Lithuanian Ornithological Society	Committee Member	mantas@madpro.lt	+37068521917
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3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	PROGRESS Description of work undertaken during the reporting period	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of problems encountered; Issues that need to be addressed; Decisions / Actions to be taken	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↑ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↓ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
Outcome 1 <i>Establishment of the Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River delta</i>					
Activity 1.1. Design and reconstruction works of the building, aimed for establishment of the Bird Observatory	June 2009	IP 85% (75%)	Most reconstruction works of the Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River delta (establishment of a conference hall, rooms for accommodation of the staff, construction of a special pathway for disabled visitors arriving in special vehicles, etc.) were implemented by the sub-contracted companies “Stavola” and “GPI Constructions”. All necessary infrastructure (electricity, water supply, waste-water system, etc.) was installed. Special information posters for visitors were produced by the sub-contracted design	Problems encountered: the lack of local qualified construction companies and a rapid increase of costs of all planned works. Certain lower-costs materials were selected for development of the Bird Observatory and the design project was corrected accordingly. The final reconstruction works (establishment of the laboratory facilities) will be partly covered from additional funds, granted for IEVU from the National Science Program in 2009.	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU)

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Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ⬆ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ⬇ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
Activity 1.2. Arrangement of a training seminar and publishing of informative booklets for stakeholders.	April 2009	NA	company “Akstis”.		
Activity 1.3. Arrangement of an international workshop on the transboundary management of the Nemunas River delta	October 2008	C 100% (10 %)	The international conference “The Nemunas River delta – internationally important bird area” was held in the demonstration site on 24-25 October 2008. The program included about 20 presentations by participants from 8 countries (including several international organizations), round-table discussions concerning conservation of the globally threatened bird species and conservation/management of the cross-border Nemunas River delta and the entire river basin. The conclusions of the conference were announced in the national and regional media.	Problems encountered: the international conference implemented was larger in terms of participants and topics covered than the initially planned regional workshop; increased costs for services of conference centres in area of the demonstration site. A considerable discount was received for the conference from the managers of the conference centre “Ventaine”, while the local Municipality co-funded certain conference costs (field trip for participants, part of other costs).	IEVU

ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	PROGRESS Description of work undertaken during the reporting period	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of problems encountered; Issues that need to be addressed; Decisions / Actions to be taken	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↑ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↓ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
Activity 1.4. Development of a research center of migratory birds	June 2009	IP 80% (50%)	The results of a new monitoring scheme of important concentrations of waterbirds in the Nemunas River Delta in 2008 were successfully applied for implementation of the special management plan of floodplains in spring, enabling the prolonged use of key staging areas for migratory waterbirds from February till end of April. Field surveys (including aerial and boat surveys) and a new ringing scheme of migratory waterbirds were continued. Genetic and virological analysis (for possible impacts of avian influenza) of certain captured waterbirds was implemented. The new web site of the project (www.ekoi.lt/info/wowl) was launched in September 2008.	Problems encountered: rapidly increasing costs for fuel, necessary for implementation of field surveys. The newly established accommodation facilities in the Bird Observatory enabled to significantly reduce the travel costs of the project team.	IEVU
Outcome 2 <i>Establishment of new eco-tourism facility in the Ventės Ragas</i>					

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Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↑ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↓ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
<i>Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park</i>					
Activity 2.1. Establishment of a new facility for eco-tourists in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	May 2008	C	The new observation tower and route for visitors with the adjacent parking (with all necessary infrastructure) was officially opened in May 2008. During May-October more than 30,000 visitors used the newly established facility (according to the data of the Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station).		IEVU
Activity 2.2. Arrangement of public events - annual “Bird Days” and “Bird Rally”	October 2008	C (50%)	Two large-scale public events (“Bird Days 2008” and “Bird Rally 2008”) were implemented together with the Lithuanian Ornithological Society (LOS) in October 2008. The LOS was sub-contracted for organization of both public events. More than 1,000 people participated in “Bird Days” arranged on 4-5 October and 142 – in “Bird Rally” arranged on 25-26	Problems encountered: rapidly increasing costs for transportation/accommodation of participants in the demonstration site. Actions taken: public events implemented in October 2008 were partly covered through additional funds mobilized by the local Municipality and Lithuanian Ornithological Society.	IEVU, LOS

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Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↑ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↓ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
			October. The newly developed facilities for tourists in Ventės Ragas were successfully used during both events, widely covered in the nation media (TV, radio, newsletters).		
Outcome 3 <i>Restoration of certain degraded wetlands, especially important for migratory and breeding birds</i>					
Activity 3.1. Restoration of natural open floodplain habitats in the Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park	May 2009	IP 90% (5%)	In July-August 2008 natural open habitats characteristic of floodplains - the key nesting and staging sites of waterbirds, were restored in the territory of about 30 ha in Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve. The shrubs, bushes and dense reed stands were clear-cut in certain rapidly overgrowing meadows (due to lack of traditional grazing and hay-making). The seeds of plants characteristic of	Problems encountered: it was not possible to implement the planned wetlands restoration works with available budget due to a marked increase of costs for services, fuel and decrease of the USD exchange rate. Actions taken: the restoration works following the project plan in the selected sites of Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve (total area – about 30 ha) were performed in	Nemunas River Delta Regional Park, IEVU

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Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ⬆ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ⬇ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
			open meadows were planted in some of restored areas. Further maintenance of restored open sites will be granted by the regulated cattle grazing implemented by the local farmers.	July-August 2008 by the Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park from additional funds in the amount of USD 80,000 mobilized from the EU structural funds. The GEF funds initially planned for this activity will be used for establishment of information posters for visitors in Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve and for printing costs of the publication “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park”.	
Outcome 4 <i>A special publication about nature values (particularly migratory birds) of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park</i>					
Activity 4.1. Preparation and publishing of a special publication about nature values (particularly migratory birds) of the Nemunas	June 2009	IP 30% (15%)	Collection of illustrative material and of data on nature values of this site was implemented and preparation of the layout of the publication was initiated by the	Problems encountered: it was not possible to publish the planned issue with available GEF funds due to rapidly increasing costs for services of publishing companies and due to	IEVU & The Nemunas River Delta

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Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↑ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↓ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
River Delta Regional Park			sub-contracted design company “Akstis”. Texts of certain chapters were prepared.	increase of the value added tax for books in the amount of 15% since 2009. Actions taken: the printing costs of the publication “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park” will be partly funded from the GEF funds initially planned for wetlands restoration works.	Regional Park
Outcome 5 <i>Establishment of the Steering Committee and Project Team</i>					
Activity 5.1. Establishment of the Steering Committee and Project Team	September 2007	C	The National Steering Committee and the Project Team were established, sub-contractors and consultants nominated.		IEVU
Activity 5.2. Project management and financial administration	June 2009	IP 75% (50 %)	The project management and financial administration is implemented by the Project Team and controlled by the project Supervisor, the Steering Committee and by the independent financial	Problems encountered: the initially planned GEF budget for wetlands construction works and for the special publication on nature values of the Nemunas River delta were not sufficient in 2008-2009 due to a	IEVU

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Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ⬆ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ⬇ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
			audit company.	rapid increase of costs for all services, changes of State tax policy and decrease of the exchange rate of USD. Actions taken: the printing costs of the publication “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park” will be partly funded from the GEF funds initially planned for wetlands restoration works. Such minor changes of GEF budget were adopted by the project Steering Committee and the State Service for Protected Territories (official Statement of the State Service concerning changes of budget for project activities 3.1 and 4.1 is available).	
Activity 5.3. Reporting	June 2009	IP 75% (50 %)	The fourth semi-annual report submitted to the WOW Project Coordination Unit in November 2008. The report on the demonstration project was presented and discussed during the international conference held in the	Problems encountered: certain minor changes within the budget planned for different project activities and changes of the overall duration of project activities occurred. Actions taken: these issues were discussed with the	IEVU

ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	PROGRESS Description of work undertaken during the reporting period	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of problems encountered; Issues that need to be addressed; Decisions / Actions to be taken	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ⬆ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ⬇ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
			site.	WOW Project Coordinating Unit during the meetings held in the demonstration site in October 2008.	

4. Funds Disbursement

4.1 Disbursement of GEF Funds

Report on the status of GEF Funds managed under this Agreement with UNOPS.

Total Budget approved for the provision of technical services: **\$ 296.000**

Funds advanced by UNOPS to date: **\$ 248.042**

Opening balance this reporting period: **\$ -11.223**

Total expenditure this reporting period: **\$ 83.432**

Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule): **\$ 37.958**

Balance (if applicable): **\$ 8.415**

Certified by: Prof. Mecislovas Zalakevicius, Director & Olga Narkeviciene, chief accountant, Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University

General Category of Expenditure	Total budget	Total expenditure to date	Total budget balance	Opening balance this reporting period	Last payment received	Expenditure in reporting period	Balance at end of reporting period
Personnel	\$ 26.000	\$ 23.572	\$ 2.428	\$ 285	\$ 7.400	\$ 12.457	- \$ 4.772
Equipment	\$ 6.600	\$ 8.341	- \$ 1.741	- \$ 124	\$ 0	\$ 1.617	- \$ 1.741
Project administration	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Workshops and training	\$ 8.300	\$ 7.651	\$ 649	\$ 6.300	\$ 0	\$ 7.651	- \$ 1.351
Establishment of research center	\$ 12.000	\$ 7.757	\$ 4.243	\$ 719	\$ 3.500	\$ 1.946	\$ 2.273
Travel	\$ 10.000	\$ 5.767	\$ 4.233	- \$ 641	\$ 3.500	\$ 1.626	\$ 1.233
Subcontracts:							
Establishment of Bird Observatory	\$ 158.800	\$ 132.055	\$ 26.745	- \$ 40.852	\$ 76.000	\$ 28.391	\$ 6.757
Wetland restoration works	\$ 9.000	\$ 0	\$ 9.000		\$ 4.000		\$ 4.000
Construction of eco-tourism facilities	\$ 47.500	\$ 52.077	- \$ 4.577	\$ 24.352	\$ 670	\$ 29.599	- \$ 4.577
Public awareness materials	\$ 9.300	\$ 0	\$ 9.300	\$ 0	\$ 3.000	\$ 0	\$ 3.000
Monitoring/ Evaluation/Auditing	\$ 6.000	\$ 1.247	\$ 4.753	- \$ 1.102	\$ 4.000	\$ 145	\$ 2.753
Communications	\$ 2.500	\$ 1.160	\$ 1.340	- \$ 160	\$ 1.000	\$ 0	\$ 840
TOTAL	\$ 296.000	\$ 239.627	\$ 56.373	- \$ 11.223	\$ 103.070	\$ 83.432	\$ 8.415

4.2 Status of co-financing

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing (cash)	Total received to date	Balance
Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University	\$ 44.000		\$ 44.000	\$ 30572	\$ 13428
totals				\$ 30572	\$ 13428
List any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation					
Municipality of Silute District, Lithuania	\$ 160.000		\$ 160.000	\$160.000	\$ 160.000 (this co-financing was not directly managed by IEVU, but mobilized due to project application prepared by IEVU)
Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	\$ 80.000		\$ 80.000	\$ 80.000	\$ 80.000 (this co-financing was not directly managed by IEVU, but implemented according to the project application prepared by IEVU)
totals					\$ 240.000

5. Performance Evaluation

5.1 Logical framework

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of November 2008	Risks and assumptions
Immediate Objective					
<i>To improve the conservation status and sustainable use of the Nemunas River delta, the key site for migratory waterbirds.</i>	An increase in the number of waterbirds in the demonstration site; Improved environmental education of local communities; Increased income from local ecotourism; Improved cross-border cooperation in conservation of the Nemunas River delta; PAMETT.	Bird census data; Visitor numbers; WOW demonstration project progress reports; Presentations of project achievements during the international conference held in the demonstration site.	Low public awareness of local communities; the lack of detailed information on important concentrations of waterbirds; the lack of a regional waterbird research center; the lack of special eco-tourism facilities related to migratory birds.	The new facility for eco-tourists established; reconstruction works of a new Bird Observatory nearly finished and the new information centre on migratory waterbirds functional; results of a new monitoring and research scheme of migratory waterbirds successfully applied for wise management of key staging habitats of waterbirds in spring; the project	R.: conflicts of interests; rapidly increasing costs for all services and decreasing exchange rate of USD; A: availability of qualified experts, experience of implementing agencies in similar international projects; interests of key stakeholders and support of local/regional authorities in mobilization of additional funds.

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of November 2008	Risks and assumptions
				web site launched; certain degraded floodplains restored; fruitful cooperation with local stakeholders and authorities established.	
Outcomes					
Outcome 1 Improved waterbird research and increased public awareness due to the newly established Bird Observatory.	Functional Bird Observatory; improved management of key nesting and staging sites of waterbirds; workshops for local stakeholders and international experts; Operating database on migratory birds of the site and project web site; Increased linkages with other academic institutions; Increased international collaboration related to conservation of the Nemunas River delta.	Surveys results; Conclusions and reports of seminar/conference; WOW demonstration project progress reports.	Inadequate public awareness and environmental education of local communities; The lack of the regional research and information center of waterbirds; The lack of detailed information on important concentrations of waterbirds in this key bird area.	The new information centre on migratory waterbirds in the new Bird Observatory functional since September 2008 and visited by more than 200 people in October; results of a new monitoring and research scheme of migratory waterbirds applied for appropriate flood-water	R.: increasing costs for construction works and other services; lack of necessary infrastructure; high costs of transportation of construction materials/staff A.: availability of qualified experts; support of local authorities; economic interests of local stakeholders.

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of November 2008	Risks and assumptions
				<p>control in floodplains, granting favourable feeding and staging conditions for up to 150,000 waterbirds throughout February-April; the project web site launched; the international cooperation in conservation of the cross-border Nemunas River delta improved during the international conference arranged in the demonstration site in October, with more than 40 participants from 8 countries and several international organizations.</p>	

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of November 2008	Risks and assumptions
<p>Outcome 2 Increased and appropriately regulated eco-tourism in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.</p>	<p>The new facility for eco-tourism established; Visitor numbers; Statistics of participants of project public events and statistics of media coverage as feedback evaluation.</p>	<p>Statistics of visitors/ participants of public events; media coverage on implemented activities; WOW demonstration project progress reports.</p>	<p>The lack of a special eco-tourism facility in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve.; Poorly regulated load of visitors, negatively impacting migratory birds as major source of disturbance.</p>	<p>The new facility for birdwatchers with observation tower, information posters and parking visited by more than 30,000 people in May-October 2008 enabled appropriate regulation of the tourism load in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve; more than 1,000 people participated in “Bird Days” arranged on 4-5 October and 142 – in “Bird Rally” arranged on 25-26 October; the newly developed facilities for tourists in Ventes Ragas were successfully used during both</p>	<p>R.: increasing costs for construction works and travel/accommodation costs; A.: experience of implementing agencies in development of similar projects; mobilization of additional funds by project partners and stakeholders.</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of November 2008	Risks and assumptions
				events, widely covered in the nation media (TV, radio, newsletters); according to the data of the regional tourism centre, the incomes of local people from eco-tourism in 2008 reached ca. 300,000 Euros.	
Outcome 3 Increased numbers of breeding and staging waterbirds in natural open habitats, restored in certain seasonally flooded meadows, overgrown with shrubs and bushes.	Restored floodplain sites with information system for visitors; An increased trend of staging/breeding waterbirds at restored sites.	Bird census data; trends of staging/breeding bird numbers in restored sites; photos documenting restoration works and their impacts; WOW demonstration project progress reports.	Degraded open floodplain habitats overgrown with shrubs - earlier key sites for migratory waterbirds in Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve. No information system (posters, booklets) on values of this territory.	Natural open floodplain habitats restored in two sites of Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve (total area – about 30 ha) and seeds of native grasslands species planted during July-August 2008; the number of staging waders (Lapwings, Dunlins, Roofs)	R.: increasing costs for restoration works and fuel; conflicts of interests. A.: presence of qualified experts; support of local authorities; mobilization of significant additional funds from EU structural funds by the key project partner – Direction of the

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of November 2008	Risks and assumptions
				counted per day in restored sites with adjacent areas increased from 0 to 700 in September 2008, while number of staging geese (Greylag and White-fronted Geese) – from 0 to 1,600 in September – October 2008.	Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.
Outcome 4 Increased national and international awareness of the nature values (particularly migratory birds) of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.	The publication on migratory birds and other nature values of the Nemunas River Delta; Dissemination of the publication.	Hard copy of the publication; WOW demonstration project progress reports.	The lack of a special publication on migratory birds and other nature values of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.	Collection of materials and texts necessary for this publication in progress.	R.: rapidly increasing costs for services of publishing companies, new tax regulations for published issues. A.: availability of initial data necessary for publication; mobilization of additional funds for this project activity.
Outcome 5	Steering Committee and	WOW	The lack of the	The Steering	R: the lack of

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of November 2008	Risks and assumptions
Establishing of the Steering Committee and Project Team.	Project Team established; subcontractors and external experts nominated, progress reports produced.	demonstration project progress reports; Conclusions of meetings; independent financial audit.	Project SC, Team and external sub-contractors/consultants.	Committee and the Project Team established, sub-contractors nominated, the fourth semi-annual report produced, project activities presented during the international conference of the demonstration project.	qualified sub-contracts in the demonstration site; the risk of potential loss of qualified members of the Project Team due to low available salaries in comparison with other similar projects. A: experience of identified companies in similar projects, training of new members of the Project Team.

5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

QUESTION	ANSWER
Was the PAMETT performed for the Nemunas River delta Regional Park?	YES
Date of first PAMETT:	June 2007
PAMETT performed by:	Mr. Mindaugas Budginas, Director of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park & Dr. Saulius Svazas

5.3 Project Impact

QUESTION	ANSWER
STAKEHOLDERS	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	34 persons
# of Government Staff involved in this project	22 persons
# of Volunteers involved in this project	More than 500 (including people participating in project public events)
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	6
TARGET BENEFICIARIES	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	More than 10 Governmental, Municipal and Research Organizations, NGOs, also local communities.
# of people involved in project workshops	65 persons
# of people trained under this project	More than 80 persons (including also scientists, experts and decision makers from Russia, responsible for conservation and management of the cross-border Nemunas River delta)
COMMUNICATION ISSUES	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	12
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	4
# of publications produced under this project	10
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	More than 100000

6. Key Lessons Learned

1. Results of investigations of migratory waterbirds can be effectively used for implementation of appropriate management and conservation measures related to important habitats for waterbirds in case of a close collaboration between national/local authorities and NGOs.
2. Joint conservation and management plans (following the Ramsar guidelines) are necessary for long-term maintenance of critical sites for migratory waterbird populations in cross-border wetlands, shared by two or more countries.

7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period

7.1 Updated overall project workplan

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
Activity 1.1. Design and building reconstruction works, aimed for establishment of the Bird Observatory	x	x	x	x	x	
Activity 1.2. Arrangement of a training seminar and publishing of informative booklets for stakeholders					x	
Activity 1.3. Arrangement of an international conference on the transboundary conservation of the Nemunas River delta area				x		
Activity 1.4. Development of a Research Center of migratory birds	x	x	x	x	x	
Activity 2.1. Establishment of new facility for eco-tourists in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	x	x	x			
Activity 2.2. Arrangement of annual “Bird Days” and “Bird Rally” in new facility for eco-tourists in Ventes Ragas		x		x		
Activity 3.1. Restoration of open floodplain habitats/establishment of information system for visitors in the Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park				x	x	
Activity 4.1. Preparation and publishing of a special publication about nature values of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park				x	x	
Activity 5.1. Establishment of the Steering Committee and Project Team	x					
Activity 5.2. Project management and financial administration	x	x	x	x	x	
Activity 5.3. Reporting	x	x	x	x	x	

7.2 Workplan for next six months

PLANNED ACTIVITY	Period December 2008 – May 2009					
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
Activity 1.1. Design and building reconstruction works, aimed for establishment of the Bird Observatory	X	X	X	X	X	
Activity 1.2. Arrangement of a training seminar and publishing of informative booklets for stakeholders					X	
Activity 1.4. Development of a Research Center of migratory birds	X	X	X	X	X	
Activity 3.1. Restoration of open floodplain habitats/establishment of information system for visitors in the Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park				X	X	
Activity 4.1. Preparation and publishing of a special publication about nature values of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	X	X	X	X	X	X
Activity 5.2. Project management and financial administration	X	X	X	X	X	X
Activity 5.3. Reporting						X

ANNEXES

In each report, please include the following information in the annexes:

- ✓ List of workshops (title, date, location, # of participants) held in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of technical reports produced in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of media communication (TV/radio/press) released in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of publications produced in the period covered by this report
- ✓ Updated inventory of equipment purchased with project funds (please use the table provided – double-click on the file icon below, insert items, and the “save” the file)



inventory

Please send by email to the PCU:

- ✓ 1 photograph of the project team as a group, and passport size photo of project manager (if not already submitted)
- ✓ Photographs representing main aspects of project work, and illustrating project impact (i.e. of workshops, field research, education and awareness, ecotourism, volunteer groups. Please take pictures illustrating the impact of the project, i.e. of the situation “before”, “during” and “after” the project)
- ✓ general photographs illustrating the environment of the site
- ✓ Soft copy of technical reports produced by project
- ✓ Soft copy of workshop reports

Please keep records of (for later review/consultation by the PCU)

- ✓ Financial records (invoices, receipts) of all expenditure incurred with project funds
- ✓ Hard copy of press articles and publications produced by the project
- ✓ Copy of TV/radio programs

Annex 1: Inventory of Outputs/Services

a) Meetings

No	Meeting Type ⁴	Title	Venue	Dates	Con-vened by	Organi-zed by	# of Partici-pants	Report issued as doc no	Language	Dated
1.	Expert Group Meeting	Results of the monitoring scheme of water-birds in the Nemunas River delta area in spring 2008	IEVU	07.06.2008	IEVU	IEVU	10	ND-07-06-08	Lithuanian	07.06.2008
2.	Meeting with Direction of the Nemunas River delta Regional park	Co-funding of the project activities related to wetlands restoration works	Direction of the Regional park, Rusne	17.06.2008	IEVU	IEVU	5	ND-17-06-08	Lithuanian	17.06.2008
3.	Meeting with officers of Lithuanian Ornithological Society and Silute	Organization of public events “Bird Day-2008” and “Bird Rally-2008”	Silute Municipality	21.06.2008	IEVU	IEVU	7	ND-21-06-08	Lithuanian	21.06.2008

⁴ Meeting types (Inter-governmental Meeting, Expert Group Meeting, Training Workshop/Seminar, Other)

	Municipality									
4.	Meeting with officers from the State Service of Protected Territories	Mobilization of additional funds for the project activities related to wetlands restoration works	State Service of Protected Territories, Vilnius	14.07.2008	IEVU	IEVU	6	ND-14-07-08	Lithuanian	14.07.2008
5.	Meeting of the project Steering Committee	Mobilization of additional funds for the project	IEVU	03.09.2008	IEVU	IEVU	12	SC 07/03-09-08	Lithuanian	03.09.2008
6.	Meeting with local authorities	Organization of project public events in Silute Municipality	Silute Municipality	08.09.2008	IEVU	IEVU	7	ND-08-09-2008	Lithuanian	08.09.2008
7.	Meeting with officers from the State Service of Protected Territories	Adoption of certain changes of the project budget planned for wetlands restoration works	State Service of Protected Territories, Vilnius	20.10.2008	IEVU	IEVU	5	Governmental document No. V3-10.2-2555	Lithuanian	20.10.2008
8.	Meeting with WOW	Lithuanian demonstration project	IEVU	22.10.2008	IEVU, WOW Project	IEVU	9	ND-22-10-2008	Lithuanian	22.10.2008

	project Coordinating Unit				Coordinating Unit					
9.	International Conference	“The Nemunas River delta – internationally important bird area”	Conference Centre “Ventaine”, Vente	24-25.10.2008	IEVU	IEVU	59	Conference conclusions and presentations	English	25.10.2008
10.	Meeting of the project Steering Committee	The fourth semi-annual report/budget of the project	IEVU	05.11.2008	IEVU	IEVU	10	SC 08/05-11-08	Lithuanian	05.11.2008

b) Printed Materials

No	Type ⁵	Title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Publisher	Symbol	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.	Other	Booklet “Eurobird watch Day – 2008” with WOW program logos	Lithuanian Ornithological Society	Lithuanian Ornithological Society		15/09/2008	No
2.	Other	Poster “Eurobird watch Day – 2008” with	Lithuanian Ornithological Society	Lithuanian Ornithological Society		15/09/2008	No

⁵ Material types (Report to Inter-governmental Meeting, Technical Publication, Technical Report, Other)

		WOW program logos					
3.	Other	Poster about nature values in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park (in the newly established facility for eco-tourists)	The WOW Demonstration project team and Tourism Information Centre of Silute Municipality	Publishing House “Akstis”		20/05/2008	No
4.	Other	Poster about important areas for waterbirds in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park (in the newly established facility for eco-tourists)	The WOW Demonstration project team	Publishing House “Akstis”		20/05/2008	No
5.	Other	Poster about Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station (in the newly established facility for eco-tourists)	The WOW Demonstration project team	Publishing House “Akstis”		20/05/2008	No
6.	Other	Poster about Ramsar sites (in the newly established	The WOW Demonstration project team	Publishing House “Akstis”		10/09/2008	No

		Bird Observatory)					
7.	Other	Poster about eco-tourism routes for birdwatchers (in the newly established Bird Observatory)	The WOW Demonstration project team	Publishing House “Akstis”	10/09/2008		No
8.	Other	Poster about important areas for waterbirds in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park (in the newly established Bird Observatory)	The WOW Demonstration project team	Publishing House “Akstis”	10/09/2008		No
9.	Other	Poster about key staging sites of certain waterbird species in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park (in the newly established Bird Observatory)	The WOW Demonstration project team	Publishing House “Akstis”	10/09/2008		No
10.	Other	Poster of the international WOW project conference	The WOW Demonstration project team	Publishing House “Akstis”	20/10/2008		No

c) Media coverage

No	Description	Date
1.	The daily coverage of the public event “Bird Day -2008” of the demonstration project through the national radio 1 st program.	04/10/2008
2.	The report on the project public event “Bird Day -2008” in the national TV (canal 5).	04/10/2008
3.	Illustrated coverage about the project public events in the newspaper of Silute Municipality.	16/06/2008
4.	Illustrated report about the demonstration project public event “bird Day – 2008” in the largest Lithuanian daily newspaper “Lietuvos Rytas”	06/10/2008
5.	Illustrated report about the Lithuanian demonstration project and its public events in the largest Lithuanian daily newspaper “Lietuvos Rytas”, also available at web site: http://www.lrytas.lt/-12249508731223967980-p1-lietuvos-diena-nemuno-deltoje-vieni-su-%C5%A1autuvais-kiiti-su-%C5%BEi%C5%ABronais-nuotraukos.htm .	25/10/2008
6.	Report about the Lithuanian demonstration project and international collaboration in conservation of the Nemunas River delta (conclusions of the WOW project conference) in the national daily newspaper “Pamarys”	31/10/2008
7.	Report about the public event “Bird Rally -2008” of the demonstration project in the in the largest Lithuanian daily newspaper “Lietuvos Rytas”.	31/11/2008
8.	Coverage about the WOW program, Lithuanian demonstration project and international WOW project conference in the regional daily newspaper “Silutes Naujienos”	10/11/2008

d) Technical Cooperation with relevant parallel initiatives

No	Type ⁶	Purpose	Venue	Duration	Additional information for Grants and Fellowships ONLY		
					Beneficiaries	Countries/Nationalities	Cost (in US\$)
1.	EU LIFE – Nature program	Conservation and management of NATURA 2000 sites in Lithuanian coastal areas	Silute, Klaipėda Municipalities	2005-2008	Authorities of protected territories, local communities, fisheries associations	Lithuania	\$ 866,000
2.	EU structural	Support for long-term network of ecological research and	Lithuania	2006-2008	Research organizations, universities,	Lithuania	\$ 650,000

⁶ Technical Cooperation Type (Grants and Fellowships, Advisory Services, Staff Mission, Others)

	development program	monitoring			local communities		
3.	EU structural development program	Management of NATURA 2000 sites in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	Silute Municipality	2008	Authorities of protected territories, local communities.	Lithuania	\$ 80,000

e) Other Outputs/Services (e.g. Networking, Query-response, Participation in meetings etc.)

No	Description	Date
1.	Arrangement of the large-scale national public event “Bird Day – 2008” (“EuroBirdwarch – 2008”) together with Lithuanian Ornithological Society	04-05/10/2008
2.	Arrangement of the public event “Bird Day – Rally - 2008” together with Lithuanian Ornithological Society	25/10/2008
3.	Organization of the international conference “The Nemunas River Delta – internationally important bird area”	24-25/10/2008
4.	Arrangement of the public event “Bird Days in Silute Municipality” together with the Municipality of Silute District.	25/10/2008

Annex 2: the list of project sub-contractors and consultants

The **sub-contractors** were selected following the existing legal procedure for public tenders valid for international projects in Lithuania, i.e. the sub-contracts were signed with qualified companies offering the lowest costs for requested works.

1. The joint stock company “Stavola” (Savanoriu 178-63, Vilnius, Lithuania; registration number 111954117) was sub-contracted for reconstruction works of the Bird Observatory in Rusne Island.
2. The joint stock company “GPI Constructions” (Pramones 10, LT-99116 Silute, Lithuania; registration number 277429740) was sub-contracted for construction of sidewalk (adapted to disabled people arriving on special vehicles) leading to entrance of the Bird Observatory/arrangement of the territory outside the building.
3. The joint stock design company “Akstis” (Jeruzales 21, LT-08412 Vilnius) was sub-contracted for preparation of layout and production of informative posters for visitors of Ventes Ragas eco-tourism site and of Bird Observatory.
4. The Lithuanian Ornithological Society (Naugarduko 47-3, LT-032008 Vilnius, registration number 191692933) was sub-contracted for organization of public events “Bird Day – 2008” and “Bird Rally – 2008”.

The following project **scientific consultants**, experienced in waterbird ecology/habitats of the Nemunas River delta, were selected:

1. Vitas Stanevicius, Dr. Sci. – expert in wetland ecosystems important for migratory waterbirds.
2. Jurgita Sorokaite, Dr. Sci. – expert in waterbird ecology.

Annex 3.

Overview of surveys of important concentrations of migratory waterbirds and of management measures of their key staging areas, implemented in the Nemunas River delta in 2008.

Annex 4.

The program, list of participants and conclusions of the international conference “The Nemunas River Delta – internationally important bird area”, held in the demonstration site on 24-25 October 2008 (power point files of papers presented during the conference submitted separately on CD by mail).

Annex 5.

Photographs, documenting implemented restoration works of natural open habitats in overgrowing floodplains of Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve (submitted separately on CD by mail).

Annex 6.

Photographs representing other main aspects of project work (submitted separately on CD by mail).

Annex 7.

Printed posters/booklets of the demonstration project (PDF files submitted separately on CD by mail).