

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

WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 2
REPORTING PERIOD: December 2007 – May 2008
Report Prepared by: Gábor Simay, MME

Country	Hungary
Project Title	Nature-friendly fishfarm management and associated eco-tourism development: Biharugra Fish-Ponds
Project ref. number	G3
Name of Local Implementing Agency/NGO	MME/BirdLife Hungary
Total amount of funds under this agreement	USD 201.370
Expected project duration	2 years
Date of signature of the agreement	20.06.2007.
Contact in Local Implementing Agency/NGO	Name: Gergő Halmos , Title: igazgató / Director Organization: Magyar Madártani és Természetvédelmi Egyesület / BirdLife Hungary E-mail: halmos.gergo@mme.hu Web: www.mme.hu ; Tel: +36 1 275 62 47 ; Fax: +36 1 275 62 67 ; Mobile: + 36 20 3313545
	Name: Gábor Simay, Title: project manager Organization: Madártani és Természetvédelmi Egyesület / BirdLife Hungary E-mail: simay.gabor@mme.hu , limnodromus@freemail.hu Mobile: +36 70 408 38 06, +36 30 279 73 92

Report prepared for the UNEP-GEF WOW Project Coordination Unit
www.wingsoverwetlands.org

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1. Executive Summary

The main objective of the project's second semester was - after the finalization and acceptance of the Feasibility Study - to start to implement those activities which had to follow this study according to the project's document. In this second semester these activities included some habitat reconstruction ('bird protection') and nature-friendly fish farming measures, as the eco-tourism related measures will be implemented during the rest of the project (from the third semester).

After the first semester the main challenges were the implementation of some identified measures which positively affect both fish farming and nature conservation.

According to the Feasibility Study, the feeding of the stocked fish in the ponds of the projects partner was shifted towards lighter and cheaper, manure dominated feeding technology (see below).

During this semester some of the most important conservation measures were implemented. Almost all of the irregularly or seldom used (for conservation purposes) ponds were flooded which enlarged the habitat suitable for different kinds of waterbirds. The other element of this section of the project was the creation an artificial island for breeding terns and gulls. The concept of this island was designed, the islands were constructed and one of the island has been already placed out.

The project manager took part in the international workshop, held in Wageningen, the Netherlands, organized by the Wetlands International.

The cooperation with all the project partners and stakeholders has continued. The preparation works of the fishing workshop, which will be held this summer has started.

In the future, the main risks will be mainly linked to external factors identified in the Feasibility Study, which could affect stakeholders' financial background, some global trends in wildlife and the (theoretical) economic improvement of local communities. In the coming years, a lot will also depend on the availability of EU and governmental subsidies for fish farming, and the successful search for further funds by the MME and all the other stakeholders, to support project follow-up and expansion.

1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Project manager's participation on the project's workshop in Wagenigen, the Netherlands, which was a good lesson to learn more about the project's general concept and about each individual project.
2	There was a shift form a rather costly feeding structure to a more economic but nature-friendly manure based feeding system by the fish farmer partner.
3	Some of the smaller ponds were flooded, which provided excellent habitat for many water bird species, amongst them, for some of the key species of the area.

- 4 The construction of a breeding platform especially for Common Terns has commenced and partly was placed out and the others will be built later.
- 5 The continuous conversation between (almost) all of the stakeholders affected by this project. Through this conversation we can learn the problems of each stakeholder and once we possess this knowledge we have a better chance to solve (together) these problems.

1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	As the Feasibility Study was accepted by the PCU, some measures given in this study have to be implemented.	Though the short term measures were implemented during this semester, a thorough discussion and planning is needed in the coming months about other ones.	31.12.2008.	Agropoint Ltd.
2	The migratory and breeding bird monitoring were done regularly.	The monitoring have to be continued through the whole project period	31.12.2009	MME/BirdLife Hungary, Bihar PF
3	The creation of breeding island/platform especially for Common Terns	After the first year's experiences we will able to find hopefully a good solution, if the first attempt should be modified. It will be possible as a) only one smaller part of the fund was spent so far, b) the island is mobile	04.2009.	Bihar PF
4	Small ponds were flooded by the Bihar PF together with all larger ponds managed by them, which created some extra, really good quality wetland habitat. This kind of habitat should be maintained through the years and also some costly reconstruction works is needed in some cases (especially dykes).	To solve this issue this project's support was a great help, while in the future subsidies have to be located and used wisely and also some further funds have to be found.	-	Bihar PF
5	In 12.06.2008. a workshop will be held for fish farmers where the most important topic will be the nature-friendly fish farming.	The workshop is organized by the MME together with HAKI which ensures the participation of fish farmers in good numbers.	12.2008.	MME/BirdLife Hungary
6	As a consequence of some changes in the timing of the whole project, a serious budget revision was necessary.	The budget revision was accepted by the PCU. The new elements have to be implemented as written in the revised Table 3., attached to the budget revision letter.	31.12.2009	MME/BirdLife Hungary, Bihar PF, Agropoint Ltd.

2. Project Management

CATEGORY	ISSUES Description of issues affecting project performance during the reporting period	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of decisions / actions to be taken	DEADLINE	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Recruitment & management of staff and consultants	<p>The same person worked as the project manager, employed by MME who managed the project in the previous semester. The Project Manager travelled to an international workshop at the beginning of this semester as part of the project.</p> <p>The consultants, hired to write the Feasibility Study helped to organise the forthcoming workshop and gave advice in other issues as it was agreed and signed in their contracts.</p>	<p>As the Feasibility Study was accepted the Project Manager is due to be employed till 31.06.2009. So the Project Manager will ideally be employed till the end of the demonstration project. The consultants from the HAKI provide us with their technical advises, while the bird monitoring coordinator and other field observers provide us with necessary data on bird numbers.</p>	<p>The project manager will be employed till 2009.06.30.</p>	<p>MME/BirdLife Hungary</p>
Finance & administration	<p>The MME received the second disbursement in 18.12.2007. This amount has been spent according to the MOA. The financial administration is done by the Project Manager together with the staff of the MME office, especially with the chief-accountant. Invoices, bills and other documents are kept in the MME, Bihar PF, and Agropoint offices.</p> <p>As the project will be shorter as it</p>	<p>One part of this amount is still in the bank, as it will be spent during May/June e.g. for personnel expenditure, travel costs. As the breeding island concept should be test first, only about one fifth of this amount was spent during this semester.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the second disbursement will be mostly spent till the end of the second semester,</p>	<p>The end of this semester: 30.06.2008.</p>	<p>MME/BirdLife Hungary, PCU</p>

	<p>was originally planned we had to discuss again all the elements of the co-financing of the three partners.</p>	<p>though we have some extra also from the first semester.</p> <p>Through a thorough discussion with the project partners we managed to find out how to fulfil the undertaken amount of co-financing (as in the contract) within this shorter period. According to these discussions it should not cause a problem.</p>		
Logistics & operations	<p>In this semester about each implemented activities there were discussions between the partners and stakeholders. Most of the details (except financial) about the forthcoming workshop has been discussed. There is a continuous communication between the PM and MME office (Project Supervisor, Financial Office) and regular (monthly) personal meetings in Budapest. Now, the project is well known among the co-workers of the MME thanks to some presentations.</p>	<p>The regularity of the MME “inside” communication/meetings has to be maintained. The communication between the partners, but in some cases also between some other stakeholders is also important. When activity comes to the implementation, a thorough negotiation between MME (especially Project Manager) and the project partner is necessary.</p>	<p>The end of this semester: 30.06.2008.</p>	<p>MME/BirdLife Hungary MME/BirdLife Hungary MME/BirdLife Hungary</p>
Reporting & communication	<p>Reporting is done by the Project Manager. Communication with the PCU/WOW staff is also the task of this person.</p>	<p>The communication with the PCU/WOW staff has to be maintained, as related to some crucial issues they have an important role to avoid any kind of misunderstanding. Any changes in budget and anticipated activities</p>	<p>The end of the project..</p>	<p>MME/BirdLife Hungary</p>

		related issues and financial revision have to be thoroughly discussed with the PCU.		
Coordination with project partners	The cooperation among the project partners is generally good, though sometimes it is difficult to reach some of the stakeholders/partners. There were several discussions with Local Co-ordinator, Agropoint staff in Biharugra, National Park staff and Consultants from the HAKI.	The overall coordination of the communication among project partners have to be maintained or, in some cases, more strongly emphasised.	The end of the project..	MME/BirdLife Hungary
External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons, etc.)	No external issues affected seriously the work during this semester, but some – weather conditions, global and local bird trends – obviously affect some of the activities.	Some of the external issues can be slightly balanced through careful and wise planning of the activity, while, in the case of other ones one have to accept them and accommodate to the current circumstances.	The end of the project..	MME/BirdLife Hungary
Other				

2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

Date of last SC Meeting	at least with some of the SC members there was a discussion in May, 2008.
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	most of the SC members (if not all) will meet on the 12 th of July, 2008.

QUESTION	ANSWER
This Report was reviewed and approved by the Project SC	yes. Not as a whole, but partly, the relevant parts were discussed with SC members
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?	partially, because some of the SC members were really busy, and meetings were difficult to organize. PM kept the contact with all the SC members and built their advises into the project execution and reporting

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Gergő Halmos	director/MME	halmos.gergo@mme.hu	+36/20-331-3545
Gábor Horváth	Bird monitoring coordinator/Bihar PF	haris@feestart.hu	+36 20 420 06 82
Róbert Ványi	director/Bihar Pub. Foundation	biharisik@freemail.hu	+36 30 218 41 25
Gyula Gáspár	director/Agropoint Ltd.		+36 20 941 63 01
Balázs Szelényi	Zoological Coordinator/Körös-Maros National Park	balazs.szelenyi@kmnp.hu	+36 30 687 0806
János Tógye	director/Nagy Kócsag Ltd.	togye@globonet.hu	+ 36 30 638 50 63

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 Improved conditions for threatened waterfowl at the Biharugra fishponds					
Activity 1.1 Artificial islands for Common Terns and gulls	04.2009.	25% (0%)	During spring, before the arrival of the terns, one artificial floating island was placed out into one of the ponds managed by the Bihar PF. The type of the island was chosen after a long and careful planning. However only about one forth – one fifth of the budget have been spent so far, as we would like to experience one breeding season to see if we will have to change any parameter or the location of the (otherwise mobile) island.	There are several issues about introducing or renovating a breeding island. Therefore we found it important to first test our concept. One have to consider the management of the pond (avoiding conflicts between n.c. and fish farming), the surface of the open water, the construction of the island and have to gain agreement from the NP (i.e. an “ugly” but practical one would not do). The first year’s experience will be invaluable to find the best solution to this issue.	Bihar PF

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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 Restoration of small ponds for the globally threatened Ferruginous Duck and grebes	03.2009.	about 70% (0%)	Early spring, 2008, the Bihar Public Foundation flooded all of the ponds belonging to them. The support from this project was a great help in this measure. This improved the general conditions in these ponds for waterbirds. The support was used to flood the usually dry Új II pond. Examples for breeding species in Új II: Graylag, Lapwing, Common snipe, Bluethroat and also Ferruginous Duck and Tufted Duck (scarce breeder) seem to breed here (too early too be sure)	The biggest issue about the smaller and some of the larger ponds managed by the Bihar PF is the general poor condition of dykes and in some ponds the overgrown vegetation (it is not a problem in every situation). However this year showed that most of the ponds are still good enough too keep the water among its dykes at least in a wet year like this. The regular flooding of these ponds is a practical and straightforward, though costly conservation measure for waterbirds.	Bihar PF
Outcome 2 Nature friendly fish-farming strategy applied and experiences disseminated amongst other fish-farmers in the region.					

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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 2.2 Implementation of a set of priority nature-friendly fish-farming activities	31.12.2009	25% (0%)	At the end of the last year the PCU accepted the Feasibility Study about nature-friendly fish farming in Biharugra. It was a precondition to continue the project and introduce the nature friendly fish-farming measures. During the reported semester Agropoint Ltd. introduced a new feeding technology which coincides with the short term measures given in the FS, though compared to that, the amount of manure calculated in larger ponds was similar to mid-sized ponds.	The introduced feeding method is a great step toward the materialization of an even more nature-friendly fish farming. Couple of years ago the general practice was to use chemical fertilizers, though in the last few years the new fish farmer used rather agricultural products and also manure. In the second half of the year, depending on the effect of the increased manuring, it is still possible that they will use some agricultural product (e.g. maize), though it is produced by the same company (only transport costs).	Agropoint Ltd.
Activity 2.4 Monitor bird populations and their impact on the profitability of fish-farming at Biharugra	31.12.2009	40% (20%)	Bird monitoring in the project area (and the whole fishpond system) were continuous and effective during the reported period. Bird counts were implemented by Gábor Horváth (Local Coordinator/Bird Count Coordinator/Bihar PF), János	Bird monitoring have to be continued in the same way to make data comparable. The nearby fishpond system on the Romanian side can affect the number of birds in the project area. Therefore cooperation is needed in order to gain exact data. First steps have been already taken toward	MME/BirdLife Hungary

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.					
			Tőgye (Nagykócsag Ltd./SC member) and Gábor Simay (MME/PM), on a weekly basis. Bird counts records are kept in the Bihar PF Bird Count Data Base, and are regularly send for the MME Monitoring Center Data Base.	establishing this long term cooperation and the communication is continuous between the two sites, though the Romanian ponds are not visited regularly (no comparable data).	
Outcome 3 Outcome 3. Basic conditions for eco-tourism and visitor management established to enable benefit sharing with the local community.	2009.06.	0%	Although we did not have any activity towards this Outcome according to the MOA, the decision - which was made together with the PCU – that the renovation of the visitor facility was not feasible anymore, will affect Outcome 3 in the coming semesters. The background of this decision is, that the National Park built a new visitor centre just beside the project habitat with more than 30 beds (about 15 rooms) and a big hall for meetings and conferences.	Under the current circumstances we had to find out some other relevant activities which could also improve the eco-tourism in the region and benefit the local community. We had several discussions together with the PCU, BLI and also the Bihar PF and according to these discussions we found the following plan feasible: within the project area, in a well approachable place a small wooden house and two different sized watch tower (of course in two different location) and some information table should be built.	Bihar PF MME/BirdLife Hungary

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.					
				As there are only two not so tourist friendly located and constructed towers, these new ones will assist the visitors well along their birdwatching trips, while the small house will serve them as a rest house, where a group can gather together, rest and eat even in bed weather conditions. The information tables will provide further information about the nature values of the area. As we plan to advertise these new facilities along with the nature values of the area in brochures, nature lover tourists will find more attractive this place, which should make this area a more popular destination among them.	
Outcome 4 Smooth project execution and evaluation of success					
Activity 4.2 Supervision and financial administration of	end of the project	50% (0%)	In May 2008 the audit of the MME was done which contains	The audit of the reported semester will be done in spring,	MME/BirdLife

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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.					
implementation.			the first semester of this project (2007).	2009. The documents are in Hungarian, therefore a summary has to be done in English as well.	Hungary
Activity 4.3 Reporting.	last semester. 31.12.2009	40% (20%)	The reporting is done by the Project Manager of this project.	Because of the necessary budget revision, reporting takes a bit more time.	MME/BirdLife Hungary

4. Funds Disbursement

4.1 Disbursement of GEF Funds

Total Budget approved for the provision of technical services: 201.370USD

Funds advanced by UNOPS to date: 57.957USD

Opening balance this reporting period: 11.115USD

Total expenditure this reporting period: 34.519USD

Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule): 70.153USD

Balance (if applicable): -5710USD

Certified by Project Manager: Gábor Simay

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
Bird monitoring (Travel)	8766	2774	5992	440	1461	1753	-292
Seminar	9000	0	9000	0	0	0	0
Fishfram management, guidelines +Communication	1686	0	1686	0	0	0	0
Personnel (Project manager)	31822	9723	22099	883	5303	5303	0
Equipment	1215	1379	-164	-164	0	0	0
Travel (Project manager)	5576	1366	4210	92	1237	810*	427
Executing agency support overhead	15532	5176	10356	431	2588	3019	-431
Evaluation of project (auditing)	3000	1000	2000	0	1000	1000	0
Subcontract	124773	31134	93639	9433	17220	22634	-5414
Total	201370	52552	148818	11115	28809	34519	-5710

* including flight ticket to the Netherlands, to the international WOW meeting

4.2 Status of co-financing

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing (cash + in-kind)	Total received to date	Balance
MME	20.873	11.381	32.244	10.195	22.049
Bihar P.F.	48.537	0	48.537	26.399	22.138
Agropoint Ltd.	689.869	0	689.869	333.669	356.200
totals				370.263	400.387
List any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation					
totals				0	0

5. Performance Evaluation

5.1 Logical framework

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of.... <insert date: end of period covered by this report>	Risks and assumptions
Immediate Objective					
Development Objective: Conservation and sustainable use of the Biharugra Fishpond critical site for migratory waterbirds.	By the end of the project, the seriousness or intensity ¹ of threats caused by fish-farming has decreased at 25% of the 48 IBAs in the region that include a significant area of fish-ponds.	BirdLife's World Bird Database	The overall score which indicates the level of threats has not been calculated either in Biharugra or in any other Hungarian IBA.	The official form which is used for calculating the score was completed by the staff of this project. Threats levels haven't raised during this semester at least in the project area according to our personal experienced.	

¹ Level of threat is measured as defined in Appendix 3 in Heath, M. & Evans, M. 2000. *Important Bird Areas in Europe: priority sites for conservation*. BirdLife International, Cambridge UK. Currently this forms the basis of threat assessment for IBAs and reporting to the World Bird Database. A formula is used (and applied consistently across the IBA network in Europe) which derives an overall score based on a combined measure of the effect of the threat, the spatial scale of the threat and the realisation of the threat.

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of.... <insert date: end of period covered by this report>	Risks and assumptions
<p>Immediate Objective:</p> <p>Demonstrating the harmonization of conservation and local economic interests.</p>	<p>Agropoint Ltd. continues to operate fishpond system, tourism grows.</p> <p>Status of IBA qualifying bird species is maintained or improves.</p> <p>Jobs created in nearby villages, especially in Biharugra.</p>	<p>Interviews with Koros Maros NP.</p> <p>Visitor records.</p> <p>IBA Status Report for Biharugra.</p>	<p>Agropoint Ltd. planed to continue operation all in the ponds managed by themselves.</p> <p>Status of IBA qualifying bird species were similar to previous years' numbers, though breeding number of some irregular breeder or habitat specialist changed.</p> <p>Employment rate in Biharugra and its region is low.</p>	<p>Agropoint Ltd. has carried out the planned fishing in early spring and filled these ponds with water, so now all of their bigger ponds are in operation.</p> <p>Tourism has grown because of the new NP Birdwatchers Retreat Last year (from May) visitors spent about 950 nights there.</p> <p>General waterbird numbers were high during this semester, though it is too early to give</p>	<p>Agropoint is able to adapt to changing market situation resulting from EU accession.</p> <p>Global tends in bird populations.</p> <p>Hungary's general economic situation, and it's trend.</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of.... <insert date: end of period covered by this report>	Risks and assumptions
				exact data in the case of most of the breeding species.	
Outcomes					
1. Improved conditions for threatened waterbirds at selected ponds.	<p>Number of breeding Common Terns increases from 50-80 pairs to 150-180 pairs by the 3rd year of the project on artificial nesting places.</p> <p>Number of breeding Ferruginous Ducks increases by 50% in the restored ponds.</p>	Annual Bird Monitoring Reports	<p>Number of breeding Common Terns were average to low (70pairs), mainly because of the bad condition of breeding platforms, and water shortage in ponds not affected by this project.</p> <p>Breeding number of Ferruginous Ducks were good, though some of the suitable breeding ponds</p>	<p>Artificial floating island for terns was placed out. Till the end of the reported period, not all of the common terns have started to breed. The improvement of the artificial island is planned.</p> <p>The Ferruginous Duck is a late breeder, therefore it is not possible to estimate its breeding</p>	<p>Conservation organizations will be willing to exchange experience.</p> <p>The population of the target species do not decline/crash due to external factors.</p> <p>Mainly in the case of Common Tern's breeding success, the current weather condition is a crucial factor.</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of.... <insert date: end of period covered by this report>	Risks and assumptions
			contained not enough water or were dry.	population. The flooded and restored small ponds were frequented by this species during migration and apparently they will breed there.	
2. Economically-viable nature friendly fish-farming strategy applied and experiences disseminated amongst other fish-farmers in the region.	Increased profitability of fish farming in line with conservation guidelines. At least 10 professional fish farmer groups visit the site during the project's lifetime.	Demonstration project progress reports. Interviews with Agropoint.	The profitability of fish farming was quite low. Usually (in the past) no professional fish farmer groups have visited the site.	Due to external factors, the profitability of fish farming in Biharugra was not especially good, though during the reported period it was rather average. The implementation of some of the measures written in the FS has started. The nature	The profitability of fish-farming at Biharugra is not adversely affected by external cost and/or price changes. There will be no problem with water management due to adverse weather conditions. Fish-farm managers in the

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of.... <insert date: end of period covered by this report>	Risks and assumptions
				friendly fish farming methods and the project in Biharugra was reported in Székelyudvarhely/Transylvania and will be in the 12 th of July in Hungary in a fish farming workshop.	region will be open to dialogue with conservationists .

5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

QUESTION	ANSWER
Was the PAMETT performed for the Biharugra Fishponds:	yes
Date of first PAMETT:	16.10.2007.
PAMETT performed by:	Balázs Szelényi, Gábor Simay, János Tógye

5.3 Project Impact

QUESTION	ANSWER
STAKEHOLDERS	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	6
# of Government Staff involved in this project	2 (not as an employee of a partner, but as the employee of an important stakeholder)
# of Volunteers involved in this project	about 6-7 participate regularly in the bird monitoring
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	0
TARGET BENEFICIARIES	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	about 20, among them some local fisherman from the village
# of people involved in project workshops	13
# of people trained under this project	0
COMMUNICATION ISSUES	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	One abstract in a conference publication, Székelyudvarhely, Romania
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	0
# of publications produced under this project	1 (feasibility study)
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	about 150

6. Key Lessons Learned

The project manager took part in the WOW meeting/workshop in Wageningen, the Netherlands. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the concept of the project as a whole, and also to meet all other project members. Through personal discussions it was possible to learn a lot about each individual project and also to learn more about their problems and experiences. The personal meeting with the PCU was a great opportunity to discuss all the current issues about this demo project.

During the planning of the artificial breeding island we designed several different platforms. We learned how difficult it is to find the best solution as it has to be acceptable for all the pond managers of the area and for the National Park, it must not be too costly and most importantly it has to be suitable for the birds. We hope, that after the first year's breeding season we will have even some more experience to be able to improve further the breeding facilities of Common Terns and some other species.

We collected some new experiences on pond management. This year clearly showed us, that to provide water and set the suitable water level even in a small, overgrown not-in-use pond can create some really attractive wetland habitat. The pattern (mosaic like) of the vegetation was promising as a more diverse habitat obviously can provide habitat for more bird species.

7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period

7.1 Updated overall project workplan

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		YEAR 4
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7
Feasibility study	x						
Bird monitoring	x	x	x	x	x		
Seminar: workshop and training			x		x		
Fish farm management, guideline				x			
Project manager (personnel)	x	x	x	x	x		
Administration (executing agency support overhead)	x	x	x	x	x		
Evaluation of project		x		x			
Artificial island for terns and gulls		x					
Restoration of small ponds for ducks and grebes		x	x				
Exhibition				x	x		
Eco-tourism facilities (watchtowers, rest house, information boards)			x	x			
Issue					x		
Eco-tourism measures (brochures, advertising)				X	X		
Nature-friendly fish farming		x	x	x	x		

7.2 Workplan for next six months

PLANNED ACTIVITY	Period <insert dates of next reporting period>					
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
Bird monitoring	x	x	x	x	x	x
Project manager (personnel)	x	x	x	x	x	x
Administration (executing agency support overhead)	x	x	x	x	x	x
Restoration of small ponds for ducks and grebes				x	x	
Implementation of nature-friendly fish farming measures	x	x	x	x	x	x
Eco-tourism facilities (watchtowers, rest house, information boards)		x	x	x	x	
Seminar: workshop and training	x					

ANNEXES



Annex 1: Inventory of Outputs/Services

a) Meetings

No	Meeting Type ⁴	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened by	Organized by	# of Participants	Report issued as doc no	Language	Dated
1.	Training Workshop/Seminar	International WOW meeting/workshop	Wageningen, The Netherlands	01.28.-02.01.2008	WI/BirdLife International	WI	participants from all of the WOW projects, PCU	Team Meeting Resource CD-Rom	English	01.28.-02.01.2008
2.	Inside meeting of the MME	presentation of current projects	Budapest/Hungary	04.05.2008	MME	MME	all project managers of MME, director	-	-	-

b) Printed Materials

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

No	Type ⁵	Title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Publisher	Symbol	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.	Technical Publication	Feasibility Study: Nature-Friendly Fish Farm Management and Associated Ecotourism Development: Biharugra Fish Ponds	Prof. János Oláh Dr. Ferenc Pekár Dr. László Váradi	Not published			No
2.	Other	Fish farming in protected area. Opportunitites of the eco-touris – experiences in Hungary (Biaharura Fish Ponds)	Gábor Simay	Conference publication		09.11.2007.	No

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

c) Media coverage

No	Description	Date
1.	-	

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.	Advisory Services	Change knowledge of nature conservation and fish farming in fishponds*	MME, Budapest	stated in Nov.2007.	MME in Hungary	(Bulgaria), Hungary, (Romania)	0
2.	Advisory Services	Technical advises and cooperation in organizing a national fish farmer workshop	HAKI, Szarvas	started in 2008	MME in Hungary	Hungary	0
3	Others	Discussion about future possibilities of cooperation between MME, Bihar PF and other partners from the Netherlands in fishpond management and related eco-tourism and local welfare	Plant Research International (Dr. W. A. Brandenburg)	02.2008.-	-	-	-

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

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

No	Description	Date
1.	The project manager participated in a conference held in Székelyudvarhely, Romania, where he held a presentation. entitled: The current state of the Romanian fish farming and its development possibilities.	08.11.2007.



Picture 1. The newly flooded small pond (Új II) became an ideal habitat for migrating and breeding waterbirds.



Picture 2. Building the new breeding platform for Common Terns in one of the ponds managed by the Bihar Public Foundation.



Picture 3. Fishing in early spring, before the start of the breeding season in one of the ponds managed by the Agropoint Ltd.



Picture 4. Manuring in one the pond managed by the Agropoint Ltd. 2008. may.

