

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

---

WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT  
**SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

**REPORT #: 1**

**REPORTING PERIOD:** March-June 2007

**Report Prepared by:** Dr. Saulius Svazas, project coordinator, svazas@ekoi.lt

<b>Country</b>	Lithuania
<b>Project Title</b>	Lithuanian demonstration project "The Nemunas River Delta" as part of the WOW program
<b>Project ref. number</b>	51210
<b>Name of Local Implementing Agency/NGO</b>	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University
<b>Total amount of funds under this agreement</b>	USD 340,000 (including co-financing)
<b>Expected project duration</b>	42 months (till October 2010)
<b>Date of signature of the agreement</b>	16-03-2007
<b>Contact in Local Implementing Agency/NGO</b>	Habil Dr. Mecislovas Zalakevicius, Director, Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University, Akademijos 2, LT-08412 Vilnius, Lithuania e-mail: <a href="mailto:zalakevicius@ekoi.lt">zalakevicius@ekoi.lt</a> ; tel.: +37052729257; fax: +37052729352

## Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary .....	3
1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period.....	3
1.2 Progress on project outcomes .....	4
1.3 Key issues & proposed solutions .....	5
2. Project Management .....	7
2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC).....	10
3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions.....	11
4.1 Disbursement of GEF Funds.....	16
4.2 Status of co-financing .....	17
5. Performance Evaluation.....	18
5.1 Logical framework.....	18
5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool.....	22
5.3 Project Impact .....	22
6. Key Lessons Learned.....	23
7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period.....	24
7.1 Updated overall project workplan.....	24
7.2 Workplan for next six months.....	25
ANNEXES .....	26
Annex 1: Inventory of Outputs/Services.....	26
Annex 2: the list of project sub-contractors and consultants .....	32
Annex 3.....	33
Annex 4.....	33
Annex 5.....	33
Annex 6.....	33

## 1. Executive Summary

The project progress during the reporting period: the design and project documentation of the newly developed Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River delta prepared; the new monitoring scheme of important concentrations of waterbirds in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park initiated; the project documentation necessary for establishment of a new eco-tourism route at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station produced; the Steering Committee and Project Team established; project accountancy and management implemented and supervised; project sub-contractors nominated; collaboration among implementing organizations and key stakeholders developed. All main activities were implemented following the project plan, time-schedule and budget.

The main challenges during the reporting period were mainly related to rapidly increasing costs for all services in Lithuania, logistic problems caused by large distance to the demonstration site from major towns, lack of the necessary infrastructure within the demonstration site, lack of qualified local staff necessary for implementation of planned projection/construction works. Certain communication issues (coverage in newspapers/media) planned during this reporting period were postponed as such services were not available free of charge, while special costs for communication issues were not planned in the project budget.

Most problems stated above were successfully solved, while certain postponed activities will be implemented during the next six-month period.

### 1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Preparation of the design and project documentation necessary for reconstruction works, aimed for establishment of the Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River delta.
2	Preparation of the design and project documentation necessary for establishment of new facility for birdwatchers at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station.
3	Initiation of the new monitoring scheme of important concentrations of waterbirds in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park, mapping of key bird areas.
4	Establishment of the project Steering Committee and Project Team, nomination of sub-contractors and consultants.
5	Establishment of cooperation with key stakeholders and relevant parallel programs currently implemented in the demonstration site.

## 1.2 Progress on project outcomes

Outcome #	Status (% achieved)	Progress & Achievements
1. Establishment of the Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River delta.	15%	The design and project documentation necessary for reconstruction works, aimed for establishment of the Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River delta, was prepared by the sub-contracted company “Management of Construction Projects” (Vilnius). The new monitoring scheme of important concentrations of waterbirds in the Nemunas River delta area was developed.
2. Establishment of new eco-tourism facilities in the Ventės Ragas Landscape Reserve.	15%	The project documentation of the new observation tower and facility for birdwatchers at Ventės Ragas Ornithological Station was prepared by the sub-contracted company “Recreational Construction” (Vilnius). The design and project documentation was adopted by the local Municipality & Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.
3. Restoration of certain degraded wetlands, especially important for migratory birds.	5%	Sites where restoration works will be implemented were designated in the Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve. The planned restoration works including information posters for visitors were adopted by the Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.
4. A special publication about nature values of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.	5%	The contents and structure of the planned publication were adopted by the project Steering Committee and project partners, particularly the Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park. Collection of illustrative material necessary for this publication was initiated.
5. Establishment of the Steering Committee and Project Team.	100%	The National Steering Committee and the Project Team were established, sub-contractors and consultants were nominated.

### 1.3 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	The long-term maintenance of the eco-tourism route, initially planned in the territory of Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station, could be problematic due to changes of ownership of this land since May 2007. The initially planned site for observation tower was not suitable for surveys of waterbirds.	The eco-tourism route with observation tower and information posters was projected in adjacent site (400 m north from initially planned site) in the land owned by the IEVU, at the parking with all necessary infrastructure for visitors of Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station, which will be established by the local Municipality in 2008. The observation tower was projected on the bank of the Curonian Lagoon, at the bay supporting important concentrations of waterbirds.	June 2007	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU)
2	Certain project communication issues (coverage in newspapers/media) planned during this reporting period were postponed as these services were not available free of charge and such costs are not planned in the project budget.	Certain changes within the existing budget are suggested to create a special budget line for project communications costs (press release, papers in local/regional papers) in the amount of USD 3,000 due to respective decrease of the budget planned for establishment of the Bird Observatory and eco-tourism route.	August 2007	IEVU
3	It was not possible to purchase all equipment planned for the project during the first reporting period following the project time-schedule due to belated transfer of the first GEF payment (received in end of May 2007). Public tenders are obligatory for purchasing of durable equipment and it	Part of costs initially planned for purchasing of durable equipment during this reporting period was allocated for the next reporting periods. Accordingly, the same amount of costs planned for establishment of the Bird Observatory during months 7-12 of the project, was used during the first reporting period.	June 2007	IEVU

	was not possible to perform these procedures for all planned items during June 2007.			
4	Travel costs to the demonstration site were not planned in the project budget during the first year of project implementation, but it was necessary to frequently visit the demonstration site for fieldwork and implementation of other planned activities.	It is suggested to transfer the amount of USD 2,500 to reporting periods in 2007 from the budget planned for travel costs during the following reporting periods.	August 2007	IEVU

## 2. Project Management

CATEGORY	ISSUES	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS	DEADLINE	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Recruitment & management of staff and consultants	The Project Team, including project coordinator, supervisor, manager and accountant was formed in March 2007 and adopted by the Steering Committee. Contracts with consultants and sub-contractors were signed since April 2007. Problems encountered: the lack of qualified sub-contractors interested in planned activities in areas located far from major towns.	The design & construction companies engaged in implementation of other projects in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park (Joint Stock Companies “Management of Construction Projects” & “Recreational Constructions” were sub-contracted for development of the Bird Observatory and eco-tourism route in Ventės Ragas following procedures valid for public tenders.	April 2007	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU)
Finance & administration	Finance & administration was implemented by the Project Team and Accountancy Department of the IEVU and supervised by the project Supervisor (Deputy Director of IEVU). Certain activities planned for this reporting period (purchasing of certain equipment, certain tasks planned for sub-contractors) were postponed due to belated first GEF payment.	The remaining part of the equipment planned for this project will be purchased and certain lacking works of sub-contractors will be implemented during further reporting periods.	June 2007	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. Travel costs to the demonstration site were not planned during the first year of project implementation.	Field Stations of the IEVU were used for accommodation of the staff. Project partners submitted certain necessary equipment (electric generator, internet, etc.). It is suggested to transfer the amount of USD 2,500 to reporting periods in 2007 from the budget planned for travel costs during the following reporting periods.	August 2007	IEVU
Reporting & communication	The project reporting is implemented by the Project Team and regularly supervised by the project Supervisor and the Steering Committee. Certain communication issues planned for this reporting period (coverage in newspapers, etc.) were postponed due to the lack of special funds planned for such tasks in the project budget.	Certain changes within the existing budget are planned, aiming to create a special budget line for project communications costs (press release, papers in local/regional papers) due to respective decrease of the budget planned for establishment of the Bird Observatory/eco-tourism facility.	August 2007	IEVU
Coordination with project partners	A fruitful coordination with project partners was ensured by regular meetings and e-mail sessions arranged with all project partners, and via the Steering Committee, representing the key national/local organizations, responsible for implementation of the project.	All principal project partners confirmed the agreement of cooperation in official statements (copies were submitted to Coordination Unit of the WOW project).	April 2007	IEVU

<p>External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons, etc.)</p>	<p>Difficult access to the project site during the period of spring flood negatively impacted the fieldwork aiming to designation of key staging sites of migratory waterbirds.</p>	<p>Aerial surveys of waterbirds were performed in the flooded and difficult-to-access territories in April 2007.</p>	<p>April 2007</p>	<p>IEVU</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>None</p>			

## 2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

Date of last SC Meeting	20 June 2007
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	20 September 2007

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, Director of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	Committee Member	info@nemunodelta.lt	+37044175050

*\*Note: the composition of the Project Steering Committee can be revised during the next SC Meeting. Inclusion of new committee members from other project partners will be discussed following suggestion of the WOW Project Coordination Unit.*

### 3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

OUTCOMES & ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS	PROGRESS	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
<p><b>Outcome 1</b>  <i>Establishment of the “Education and Research Center of Migratory Birds (Bird Observatory)” in the Nemunas River delta</i></p>					
<p><b>Activity 1.1</b>                      Design and building reconstruction works, aimed for establishment of the Bird Observatory</p>	<p>April 2009</p>	<p><b>IP</b>                      15%</p>	<p>The design and project documentation, necessary for reconstruction works aimed for establishment of the Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River delta, was prepared by the sub-contracted company “Management of Construction Projects”</p>	<p>Problems encountered: the lack of qualified design &amp; construction companies interested in reconstruction of building located far from major towns and a rapid increase of costs related to all construction works. The design &amp; construction company engaged in implementation of the EU – funded projects in the adjacent district was sub-contacted.</p>	<p>Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU)</p>

<p><b>Activity 1.2.</b> Arrangement of a training seminar and publishing of informative booklets for stakeholders.</p>	<p>April 2010</p>	<p>NA</p>			
<p><b>Activity 1.3.</b> Arrangement of an international workshop on the transboundary management of the Nemunas River delta</p>	<p>September 2008</p>	<p>NA</p>			
<p><b>Activity 1.4.</b> Development of a research center of migratory birds</p>	<p>October 2010</p>	<p>IP 10%</p>	<p>The new monitoring scheme of important concentrations of waterbirds in the Nemunas River delta area was developed. Field surveys were performed since April 2007. Identified important bird areas were mapped and GPS-plotted.</p>	<p>Problems encountered: certain concentrations of migratory waterbirds were missed in 2007 due to belated initiation of the demonstration project and its funding. A special emphasis on surveys of early migrants is planned in February – March 2008.</p>	<p>IEVU</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2</b> <i>Establishment of new eco-tourism facilities in the Ventės Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park</i></p>					

<p><b>Activity 2.1.</b> Establishment of new route for eco-tourists in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park</p>	<p>September 2008</p>	<p><b>IP</b>  15%</p>	<p>The project documentation of the new observation tower and site for birdwatchers at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station was prepared by the sub-contracted company “Recreational Constructions” and adopted by the local Municipality &amp; Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.</p>	<p>Problems encountered: legal restrictions for such works in protected territories; changes of ownership of the land where the eco-tourism route was initially planned since May 2007. Therefore the eco-tourism route was projected in the land adjacent to Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station, at the important staging site of waterbirds, owned by the IEVU and following the Special Management Plan of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.</p>	<p>IEVU&amp; the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park</p>
<p><b>Activity 2.2.</b> Arrangement of public events - annual “Bird Days” and “Bird Rally” in the new route for eco-tourists in Ventes Ragas</p>	<p>October 2007, October 2008</p>	<p><b>IP</b>  5%</p>	<p>The large-scale public events (“Bird Days” and “Bird Rally”) were discussed in detail and planned together with the Lithuanian Ornithological Society and local Municipality.</p>	<p>Problems encountered: rapidly increasing costs for transportation and accommodation of participants in the demonstration site. Actions taken: public events planned in October 2007 will be co-funded by the local Municipality.</p>	<p>Lithuanian Ornithological Society</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3</b> <i>Restoration of certain degraded wetlands, especially important for</i></p>					

<i>migratory and breeding birds</i>					
<b>Activity 3.1.</b> Restoration of natural open floodplain habitats in the Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park	April 2010	<b>IP</b> 5%	Sites where restoration works will be implemented were designated in Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve. The planned restoration works (including information posters for visitors) were adopted by the Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.	Problems encountered: possible flooding of the site where restoration works were initially planned during spring floods. Therefore all restoration works and sites for visitors were planned in adjacent territories less affected by floods.	IEVU & the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park
<b>Outcome 4</b> <i>A special publication about nature values (particularly migratory birds) of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park</i>					
<b>Activity 4.1.</b> Preparation and publishing of a special publication about nature values (particularly migratory birds) of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	October 2010	<b>IP</b> 5%	The contents and structure of the planned publication were adopted by the project Steering Committee and the Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park. Collection of illustrative material necessary for this publication was initiated.	Problems encountered: rapidly increasing costs for services of publishing companies.	IEVUI & the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park
<b>Outcome 5</b> <i>Establishment of the</i>					

<i>Steering Committee and Project Team</i>					
<b>Activity 5.1.</b> Establishment of the Steering Committee and Project Team	September 2007	<b>C</b>	The National Steering Committee and the Project Team were established, sub-contractors and consultants nominated.	Problems encountered: difficulties with planning of the Project Team due to belated initiation of the project.	IEVU
<b>Activity 5.2.</b> Project management and financial administration	October 2010	<b>IP</b> 10 %	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 audit company.	Problems encountered: certain differences among accountancy systems applicable in the WOW project and those valid in the national/EU-funded projects. Actions taken: training of the staff.	IEVU
<b>Activity 5.3.</b> Reporting	October 2010	<b>IP</b> 15 %	The first progress report prepared and submitted to the WOW Project Coordination Unit on 9 July 2007.	Problems encountered: difficulties related to preparation of the financial report due to belated transfer of the first GEF payment and postponed terms of certain planned expenditures.	VUEI

## 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 already advanced to date: **\$ 13.850**

Amount of expenditures: **\$ 9.829**

Funds requested: **\$ 44.799**

Balance (if exists): **\$ 4.021**

Date of the next request for funds: **01/08/07**

Certified by: Prof. Mecislovas Zalakevicius, Director & Veronika Kurpyte, Chief Accountant, IEVU

General Category of Expenditure	total budget	total expenditure to date	total budget balance	Last payment received	Expenditure in reporting period)	Balance at end of reporting period	Next payment planned	Amount requested
Personnel	26.000	1.850	24.150	3.250	1.850	1.400	4.900	3.500
Equipment	6.600	68	6.532	6.600	68	6.532	0	-6.532
Project administration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Workshops and training	8.300	0	8.300	0	0	0	0	0
Establishment of the research center	10.000	0	10.000	0	0	0	5.370	5.370
Travel	10.000	503	9.497	0	503	-503	0	503
<b>Subcontracts:</b>								
Establishment of Bird Observatory	160.800	2.738	158.062	0	2.738	-2.738	16.550	19.288
Wetland restoration works	9.000	0	9.000	0	0	0	0	0
Construction of eco-tourism facilities	48.000	4.670	43.300	4.000	4.670	-670	22.000	22.670
Public awareness materials	9.300	0	9.300	0	0	0	0	0
Monitoring/Evaluation/Auditing	8.000	0	8.000	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>296.000</b>	<b>9.829</b>	<b>286.171</b>	<b>13.850</b>	<b>9.829</b>	<b>4.021</b>	<b>48.820</b>	<b>44.799</b>

## 4.2 Status of co-financing

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing	Total received to date	Balance	Amount originally committed for reporting period	Actual amount received	Next payment expected
IEVU funds	44.000		44.000	1.639	42.361	1.639	1.639	5.820
<b>totals</b>				1.639	42.361	1.639	1.639	5.820
<b>list any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation</b>								
None								
<b>totals</b>								

## 5. Performance Evaluation

### 5.1 Logical framework

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2007	Risks and assumptions
<b>Immediate Objective</b>					
<i>To improve the conservation and management of waterbirds and their habitats in the Nemunas River delta area</i>	Improved environmental education of local communities; Increased carrying capacity of key habitats for migratory birds; Improved detailed data on migratory waterbirds, necessary for appropriate conservation/management measures.	Bird census data; trends of staging/breeding bird numbers in the site; photographic evidence confirming objectives; internal and external expert evaluation.	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 design of a new Bird Observatory and eco-tourism site prepared; a new monitoring scheme of migratory waterbirds initiated; wetlands restoration works and public events aimed to increase of environmental education planned.	R.: conflicts of interests; rapidly increasing costs for all services/equipment. A: availability of qualified experts, experience of implementing agencies in similar international projects; interests of local community and support of local/regional authorities.

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2007	Risks and assumptions
<b>Outcomes</b>					
<b>Outcome 1</b> Establishment of the Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River delta.	The Bird Observatory established; Special workshops and seminars arranged; Information materials for local stakeholders published; The special Database on migratory birds of the site and project web site developed.	Photographic evidence; minutes and reports of seminar /international workshop; copies of newly published information materials; functioning new Database and Web Site.	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 design and project works necessary for the reconstruction works of the Bird Observatory building completed by the sub-contracted design & construction company. The new monitoring scheme of important concentrations of waterbirds initiated.	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 community
<b>Outcome 2</b> Establishment of new eco-tourism facilities in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.	The new route for eco-tourists with observation tower and information posters established in Ventes Ragas Reserve; “Bird Watching Days” and “Bird Watching Rally”	Photographic evidence of the newly developed infrastructure and arranged public events;	The lack of a special eco-tourism facility in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve.	The exact location of the eco-tourism site identified, the initial project of the route with posters for	R.: increasing costs for construction works and design services; high travel/accommo

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2007	Risks and assumptions
	public events arranged.	statistics of visitor/participants of public events.		visitors & observation platform prepared by the sub-contracted company and adopted by local authorities.	dition costs; changes of land-use and ownership A.: experience of implementing agencies in development of similar eco-tourism routes; possibility to develop the eco-tourism route on State-owned land.
<b>Outcome 3</b> Restoration of certain degraded wetlands, especially important for migratory waterbirds.	Removed shrubs and dense reed stands of certain key areas for waterbirds in the Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve; information posters for visitors; Training for local farmers related to new agro-environmental schemes arranged.	Bird census data; trends of staging/breeding bird numbers in restored sites; photographic evidence of implemented works; minutes from	Degraded habitats important for migratory waterbirds in Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve. No information system (posters, booklets for	Designation of the sites where restoration works will be implemented in the Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve. The planned works adopted by the Direction of the Nemunas River	R.: conflicts of interest; lack of awareness and environmental education; the risk of flooding of restored sites during spring floods. A.: presence of qualified experts; support

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2007	Risks and assumptions
		training sessions arranged for local farmers.	local people) on values of this territory available.	Delta Regional Park.	of local authorities; interests of local community.
<p><b>Outcome 4</b> A special publication about nature values (particularly migratory birds) of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.</p>	The publication on migratory birds and other nature values of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park published.	Copies of the new publication; internal and external expert evaluation.	The lack of a special publication on migratory birds and other nature values of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.	The contents of the publication adopted by the project Steering Committee and project partners. Collection of materials necessary for this publication initiated.	R.: rapidly increasing costs for services of publishing companies. A.: availability of initial data necessary for publication.
<p><b>Outcome 5</b> Establishing of the Steering Committee and Project Team.</p>	Steering Committee and Project Team established; subcontractors and external experts nominated, progress reports produced.	Internal and external expert evaluation, minutes of meetings.	The lack of the Project SC, Team and external sub-contractors/consultants.	The Steering Committee and the Project Team established, sub-contractors and consultants nominated, the first progress report produced.	R: the lack of qualified sub-contracts in the demonstration site. A: experience of identified companies in similar projects.

## 5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

QUESTION	ANSWER
Was the PAMETT performed for the Nemunas River Delta protected area?	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
<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	24 persons
# of Government Staff involved in this project	16 persons
# of Volunteers involved in this project	More than 100 persons
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	6 persons
<b>TARGET BENEFICIARIES</b>	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	More than 10 Governmental, Municipal and Research Organizations, NGOs, also local communities.
# of people involved in project workshops	Not scheduled for current reporting period
# of people trained under this project	More than 30 persons
<b>COMMUNICATION ISSUES</b>	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	4 informative meetings arranged with representatives of local communities & NGOs
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	Not scheduled for current reporting period
# of publications produced under this project	Not scheduled for current reporting period
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	More than 300 persons (including participants of the World Day of Migratory Birds)

## **6. Key Lessons Learned**

1. The period between planning and initiation of similar projects in future should not exceed 24 months, particularly in countries with rapidly changing environmental and economic conditions.
2. A close collaboration among NGOs, national/regional authorities, research organizations and local communities is essential for successful implementation of such projects.

## 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
<b>Activity 1.1.</b> Design and building reconstruction works, aimed for establishment of the Bird Observatory	x	x	x	x			
<b>Activity 1.2.</b> Arrangement of a training seminar and publishing of informative booklets for stakeholders						x	
<b>Activity 1.3.</b> Arrangement of an international workshop on the transboundary management of the Nemunas River delta area			x				
<b>Activity 1.4.</b> Development of a Research Center of migratory birds	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Activity 2.1.</b> Establishment of new route for eco-tourists in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	x	x	x	x			
<b>Activity 2.2.</b> Arrangement of annual “Bird Days” and “Bird Rally” in the new route for eco-tourists in the Ventes Ragas		x		x			
<b>Activity 3.1.</b> Restoration of natural open floodplain habitats in the Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park					x	x	
<b>Activity 4.1.</b> Preparation and publishing of a special publication about nature values (particularly migratory birds) of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park						x	x
<b>Activity 5.1.</b> Establishment of the Steering Committee and Project Team	x						
<b>Activity 5.2.</b> Project management and financial administration	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Activity 5.3.</b> Reporting	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

## 7.2 Workplan for next six months

PLANNED ACTIVITY	Period July-December 2007					
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
<b>Activity 1.1.</b> Design and building reconstruction works, aimed for establishment of the Bird Observatory	x	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Activity 1.4.</b> Development of a Research Center of migratory birds	x	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Activity 2.1.</b> Establishment of new facility for eco-tourists in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve	x	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Activity 2.2.</b> Arrangement of annual “Bird Days” and “Bird Rally” in Ventes Ragas Reserve.				x		
<b>Activity 5.2.</b> Project management and financial administration	x	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Activity 5.3.</b> Reporting						x

## ANNEXES

### Annex 1: Inventory of Outputs/Services

#### a) Meetings

No	Meeting Type <sup>4</sup>	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened by	Organized by	# of Participants	Report issued as doc no	Language	Dated
1.	Expert Group Meeting	Objectives and activities of the Lithuanian demonstration project	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU), Vilnius	15.01.07.	IEVU	IEVU	8	ND 15-01-07	Lithuanian	15.01.07
2.	Meeting in the Ministry of Environment	Lithuanian demonstration project as part of the WOW program	The State Service for Protected Territories, Ministry of Environment,	05.02.07.	The State Service for Protected Territories & IEVU	The State Service for Protected Territories & IEVU	11	ND 05-02-07	Lithuanian	05.02.07.

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

			Vilnius							
3.	Meeting with local authorities	Activities of the Lithuanian demonstration project in Silute district	The Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park, Silute	13.02.07.	IEVU	The Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park & IEVU	9	ND 13-02-07	Lithuanian	13.02.07.
4.	Meeting with Direction of Kaunas Museum of Zoology	Establishment of the ecotourism route in Ventes Ragas	Kaunas Museum of Zoology	14.02.07.	IEVU	IEVU & Direction of Kaunas Museum of Zoology	6	ND 14-02-07	Lithuanian	14.02.07.
5.	Meeting with Lithuanian Ornithological Society (LOS)	Organization of “Bird Days” and “Bird Rally”	Office Of LOS, Vilnius	20.02.07.	IEVU	IEVU & LOS	7	ND 20-02-07	Lithuanian	20.02.07.
6.	The First Meeting of the project Steering Committee	Project activities and budget of the Lithuania demonstration	The State Service for Protected Territories,	26.03.07.	IEVU	IEVU	10	SC 01/20-03-07.	Lithuanian	26.03.07.

		ation project	Ministry of Environment, Vilnius							
7.	Project Team Meeting	Adoption of the project activities and budget during the first semi-annual period.	IEVU, Vilnius	27.03.07.	IEVU	IEVU	14	ND 27-03-07	Lithuanian	27.03.07.
8.	Project Team Meeting	Identification of project sub-contractors and consultants	IEVU, Vilnius	03.04.07.	IEVU	IEVU	8	ND 03-04-07	Lithuanian	03.04.07.
9.	Expert Group Meeting	Launch of the monitoring scheme of important waterbird concentrations in the	Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station, Silute District	10.04.07.	IEVU	IEVU	15	ND 10-04-07	Lithuanian	10.04.07.

		Nemunas River delta area								
10.	Meeting with the WOW Coordination Unit delegates	Presentation of the WOW demonstration project	Ministry of Environment, Vilnius	09.05.07.	WOW Coordination Unit & IEVU	IEVU	7	ND 09-05-07	Lithuanian	09.05.07.
11.	Meeting with the WOW Coordination Unit delegates	Presentation of the WOW demonstration project	Silute Municipality, Silute	10.05.07.	WOW Coordination Unit & IEVU	IEVU	9	ND 10-05-07	Lithuanian	10.05.07.
12.	Meeting with the WOW Coordination Unit delegates	Presentation of the WOW project	IEVU, Vilnius	11.05.07.	WOW Coordination Unit & IEVU	IEVU	41	ND 11-05-07	Lithuanian	11.05.07.
13.	Meeting with Ramsar Convention delegates	Lithuanian WOW demonstration project and Convention on Wetlands	IEVU, Vilnius	17.05.07.	IEVU	IEVU	11	ND 17-05-07	Lithuanian	17.05.07.
14.	International meeting	Lithuanian WOW demonstration	I. Kant University,	29.05.07.	IEVU	IEVU & I. Kant University	13	ND 29-05-07	Lithuanian	30.05.07.

	with Russian experts	ation project as a tool for cross-border cooperation on waterbirds conservation in the Nemunas River delta	Kaliningrad, Russia							
15.	Project Team Meeting	Results of the project during the first reporting period	IEVU, Vilnius	11.06.07.	IEVU	IEVU	12	ND 11-06-07	Lithuanian	11.06.07.
16.	Meeting of the project Steering Committee	The first semi-annual report of the Lithuanian demonstration project	IEVU, Vilnius	20.06.07.	IEVU	IEVU	8	SC 02/20-06-07.	Lithuanian	20.06.07.

**d) Technical Cooperation with relevant parallel initiatives**

No	Type <sup>6</sup>	Purpose	Venue	Duration	For Grants and Fellowships		
					Beneficiaries	Countries/Nationalities	Cost (in US\$)
1.	GEF SGP	Restoration of Natural Habitats of the Curonian Lagoon's Coastal Zone in Rusne Island	Rusne island, Silute district	2006 - 2008	Local community, NGO "Rusne Fund for Nature"	Lithuania	\$ 43,600
2.	EU structural development program	Support for long-term network of ecological research and monitoring	Lithuania	2004 - 2006	Research organizations, universities, local communities	Lithuania	\$ 650,000
3.	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

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

No	Description	Date
1.	Organization of the World Day of Migratory Birds (together with the Lithuanian Ornithological Society) held in Baltoji Voke (Vilnius district) for more than 100 participants.	13.05.07
2.	Participation in the Meeting "Priorities of the Convention on Wetlands in Lithuania" arranged by the Ministry of Environment & Ramsar Convention and presentation of the WOW program and its Lithuanian demonstration project.	18.05.07.

<sup>6</sup> Technical Cooperation Type (Grants and Fellowships, Advisory Services, Staff Mission, Others)

## **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 “Management of Construction Projects” (Algirdo 3, LT-03219 Vilnius, Lithuania; registration number 300078023) was sub-contracted for preparation of design and construction works of the Bird Observatory in Rusne Island.
2. The joint stock company “Recreational Constructions” (Zirniu 12, LT-02120 Vilnius, Lithuania; registration number 120932575) was sub-contracted for preparation of design and construction works of the eco-tourism site with observation tower at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station.

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.***

**The design documentation for the Bird Observatory in Rusne Island (submitted separately by mail).**

***Annex 4.***

**The design documentation for the eco-tourism facility at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station (submitted separately by mail).**

***Annex 5.***

**Outline of a new survey scheme of important waterbird concentrations, initiated in the Nemunas River delta in 2007, including some preliminary results (submitted separately by mail).**

***Annex 6.***

**Digital map of the site in Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve where certain wetland restoration works will be implemented (submitted separately by mail).**