

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

WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 2

REPORTING PERIOD: July – November 2007

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

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	42 months (till October 2010)
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

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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 adopted by authorities and reconstruction works initiated; the new monitoring scheme of important concentrations of waterbirds in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park developed; the construction of new eco-tourism facilities at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station initiated; project public events “Bird Day 2007” and “Bird Rally 2007” implemented; project activities widely covered in regional/national media; project accountancy and management implemented and supervised; project sub-contractors nominated; collaboration among implementing organizations and key stakeholders developed. All activities were implemented following the project plan, time-schedule and budget. Considerable EU funds will be mobilized by the local Municipality in 2008 for establishment of the infrastructure for visitors of Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station due to necessary project/design documentation provided by this demonstration project.

The main challenges during the reporting period were mainly related to rapidly increasing costs for all services and particularly for construction works in Lithuania (increase by 30% since 2006), reduced exchange rate of US\$, 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.

Problems stated above were successfully solved.

1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Adoption of the project documentation for reconstruction works of the Bird Observatory building by the regional and local authorities and initiation of reconstruction works.
2	Initiation of construction of a new facility for birdwatchers at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station.
3	Arrangement of project public events (“Bird Day 2007” & Bird Rally 2007”) together with the Lithuanian Ornithological Society, with more than 500 participants in the demonstration site.
4	Wide coverage of project public events/other project activities in national and regional newspapers, journals, TV.
5	Cooperation with relevant parallel programs implemented in the demonstration site. Mobilization of considerable EU-funds by the local Municipality for eco-tourism facility at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station (planned in 2008) as result of project activities.

1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	It was necessary to re-calculate certain costs planned for the project Activities 1.1 and 2.1. due to decreasing exchange rate of US\$ (3,2 LTL:1 US\$ in 2006 and 2,3 LTL:1 US\$ in November 2007) and increasing costs of construction works (increase by 30% for materials and by 100% for salaries in 2007) .	Certain lower-costs materials and construction works were planned in the Bird Observatory. Additional EU funds will be mobilized by the local Municipality for establishment of parking for visitors of Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station, following the project documentation prepared for the eco-tourism route (Activity 2.1.).	November 2007	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU)
2	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.	The 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 was confirmed by the WOW Project Coordination Unit	November 2007	IEVU, WOW Project Coordination Unit

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Certain project communication issues (coverage in newspapers/media) were not available free of charge and such expenditures were not planned in the project budget.

Certain changes within the existing budget to create a special budget line for project communications costs (papers in local/regional papers, etc.) 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 were confirmed by the WOW Project Coordination Unit.

November
2007

IEVU,
WOW Project
Coordination
Unit

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	The Project staff and consultants were recruited in spring 2007. In September-October new sub-contracts were signed for implementation of construction works/public events of the project and adopted by the Steering Committee. Problems encountered: the lack of qualified sub-contractors interested in planned activities in areas located far from major towns.	Joint stock companies “Recreational Constructions” and “Akstis” were sub-contracted for construction of observation tower/informative posters for visitors in Ventes Ragas. The Lithuanian Ornithological Society was sub-contracted for organization of public events “Bird Day 2007” and “Bird Rally 2007”. The sub-contracts were arranged following procedures valid for public tenders.	November 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. It was necessary to re-calculate certain costs planned for the project construction works due to decreasing exchange rate of US\$ and increasing costs of such services.	Certain lower-costs materials/works were selected for development of the Bird Observatory and eco-tourism facility. Additional co-funding from EU funds is planned by the local Municipality for Activity 2.1.	November 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. The proposed transfer in the amount of US\$ 2,500 to reporting periods in 2007 from the total budget planned for travel costs was adopted by the WOW program Coordinating Unit.	November 2007	IEVU
Reporting & communication	The project reporting is implemented by the Project Team and regularly supervised by the project Steering Committee. Project issues were covered in national and regional newspapers, journals, TV.	A special budget line within the existing budget for project communications costs (papers in local/regional papers, TV) was proposed and adopted by the WOW program Coordinating Unit.	November 2007	IEVU
Coordination with project partners	A fruitful coordination with project partners was ensured by regular meetings and by the Steering Committee, representing the key organizations responsible for implementation of the project. Project partners were involved in practical implementation of certain activities.	Certain project activities (public events, communication, involvement of local communities, etc.) were successfully implemented by project partners - Lithuanian Ornithological Society (BirdLife Lithuania) and the Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.	November 2007	IEVU, “BirdLife Lithuania”, Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park

<p>External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons, etc.)</p>	<p>Difficult access to certain project sites negatively impacted the fieldwork aiming to designation of key staging sites of migratory waterbirds.</p>	<p>Aerial and boat surveys of waterbirds were performed in difficult-to-access territories in August – September 2007. High-cost aerial surveys were funded from the EU LIFE-Nature project budget.</p>	<p>November 2007</p>	<p>IEVU</p>
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2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

Date of last SC Meeting	16 November 2007
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	2 February 2008

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

Updated list of SC Members:

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

Mr. Ramunas Grigonis, Deputy Director of the Lithuanian Museum of Zoology	Committee Member	muzzzo@takas.lt	+37037207622
Mr. Mantas Jancevicius, Director of Lithuanian Ornithological Society	Committee Member	mantas@madpro.lt	+37068521917

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	April 2009	IP 25% (15%)	The final project documentation, necessary for reconstruction of the Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River delta, was prepared by the sub-contracted company “Management of Construction Projects” and adopted by regional and local authorities. The first phase of reconstruction works (installation of electricity, water supply, waste-water systems, etc.) was initiated.	Problems encountered: the lack of local qualified construction companies and a rapid increase of costs related to all construction works. Certain lower-costs materials/works were selected for development of the Bird Observatory and the design project was corrected accordingly.	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (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 1.2. Arrangement of a training seminar and publishing of informative booklets for stakeholders.	April 2010	NA			
Activity 1.3. Arrangement of an international workshop on the transboundary management of the Nemunas River delta	October 2008	NA			
Activity 1.4. Development of a research center of migratory birds	October 2010	IP 20% (10%)	The new monitoring scheme of important concentrations of waterbirds in the Nemunas River delta area was developed. Field surveys (including aerial and boat surveys) were performed. The preliminary scheme of important waterbird areas designated in 2007 was produced.	Problems encountered: difficult access to certain areas. Aerial and boat surveys were used in such sites.	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.					
Outcome 2 <i>Establishment of new eco-tourism facilities in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park</i>					
Activity 2.1. Establishment of new facility for eco-tourists in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	September 2008	IP 30% (15%)	The first phase of construction works of the observation tower/information posters for visitors (flattening of land, clearing of the construction site from shrubs/etc.) was implemented by the sub-contracted company “Recreational Constructions”. The design of informative posters for visitors was initiated by the sub-contracted design company “Akstis”.	Problems encountered: the lack of local qualified design & construction companies and a rapid increase of costs related to all construction works. Certain lower-costs materials were selected for construction works and participation of the local Municipality with EU structural development funds in establishment of eco-tourism facility is planned in 2008.	IEVU
Activity 2.2. Arrangement of public events - annual “Bird	October 2007, October	IP	Two large-scale public events (“Bird Days 2007” and “Bird	Problems encountered: rapidly increasing costs for	Lithuanian

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.					
Days” and “Bird Rally” in the new facility for birdwatchers in Ventės Ragas	2008	45% (5%)	Rally 2007”) were implemented together with the Lithuanian Ornithological Society (LOS) in October 2007. The LOS was sub-contracted for organization of both public events.	transportation/accommodation of participants in the demonstration site. Actions taken: public events implemented in October 2007 were partly covered through additional funds mobilized by LOS.	Ornithological Society, IEVU
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	April 2010	NA 5% (5%)			IEVU & the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park
Outcome 4 <i>A special publication</i>					

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.					
<i>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 River Delta Regional Park	October 2010	IP 7% (5%)	Collection of illustrative material and of data on nature values of this site was continued.	Problems encountered: rapidly increasing costs for services of publishing companies.	IEVU & The Nemunas River Delta 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

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 5.2. Project management and financial administration	October 2010	IP 25% (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, consultations with the WOW Project Coordination Unit	IEVU
Activity 5.3. Reporting	October 2010	IP 25% (15 %)	The second semi-annual report and the certificate of financial audit submitted to the WOW Project Coordination Unit in November 2007.		IEVU

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: **\$ 62.670**

Total expenditure during two reporting periods: **\$ 58.504**

Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule): **\$ 82.302**

Balance (if applicable): **\$ 4.166 (total - including balance from prior payments)**

Date of the next request for funds: **20/12/2007**

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
Personnel	\$ 26.000	\$ 3.618	\$ 22.382	\$ 4.900	\$ 1.768	\$ 3.132
Equipment	\$ 6.600	\$ 6.723	- \$ 123	\$ 0	\$ 6.656	- \$ 6.656
Project administration	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Workshops and training	\$ 8.300	\$ 0	\$ 8.300	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Establishment of the research center	\$ 10.000	\$ 3.921	\$ 6.079	\$ 5.370	\$ 3.921	\$ 1.449
Travel	\$ 10.000	\$ 3.080	\$ 6.920	\$ 2.000	\$ 2.577	- \$ 577
Establishment of Bird Observatory (building design & reconstruction, web site development)	\$ 158.800	\$ 17.731	\$ 141.069	\$ 13.312	\$ 14.993	- \$ 1.681
Wetland restoration works	\$ 9.000	\$ 0	\$ 9.000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction of eco-tourism facilities (observation tower, route) & arrangement of "Bird Days"	\$ 47.500	\$ 22.478	\$ 25.022	\$ 22.238	\$ 17.808	\$ 4.430
Public awareness materials (informative booklets, special publication)	\$ 9.300	\$ 0	\$ 9.300	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Monitoring/Evaluation/Auditing	\$ 8.000	\$ 0	\$ 8.000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Communications	\$ 2.500	\$ 952	\$ 1.548	\$ 1.000	\$ 952	\$ 48
TOTAL	\$ 296.000	\$ 58.504	\$ 237.496	\$ 48.820	\$ 48.675	\$ 145

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
IEVU funds	\$ 44.000		\$ 44.000	\$ 7.484	\$ 36.516
totals				\$ 7.484	\$ 36.516
List any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation					
None					
totals					

5. Performance Evaluation

5.1 Logical framework

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of November 2007	Risks and assumptions
Development Objective					
Conservation and sustainable use of the Nemunas River Delta - critical site for migratory waterbirds.					
Immediate Objective					
To improve the conservation status and sustainable use of the Nemunas River delta, the key site for migratory waterbirds.	An increase in the number of waterbirds in the demonstration site; Improved environmental education of local communities; Increased income from local ecotourism; An increase in the PAMETT score.	Bird census data; Visitor numbers; WOW demonstration project progress reports.	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	The project documentation of a new Bird Observatory and eco-tourism site adopted by authorities and construction works initiated; a new monitoring scheme of migratory waterbirds developed;	R.: conflicts of interests; rapidly increasing costs for all services/equipment. A: availability of qualified experts, experience of implementing agencies in similar international

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of November 2007	Risks and assumptions
			special eco-tourism facilities related to migratory birds.	public events aimed to increase of environmental education implemented; project activities widely covered in national media.	projects; interests of local community and support of local/regional authorities.
Outcomes					
Outcome 1 Improved waterbird research and increased public awareness due to the newly established Bird Observatory.	Functional Bird Observatory; 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; Minutes and reports of seminars/ workshops; 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	The reconstruction works of the Bird Observatory building initiated by the sub-contracted design & construction company. The new monitoring scheme of important concentrations of waterbirds developed.	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

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of November 2007	Risks and assumptions
			concentrations of waterbirds in this key bird area.		interests of local community
Outcome 2 Increased and appropriately regulated eco-tourism in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.	The new facility for eco-tourism established; Visitor numbers; Statistics of participants of project public events and statistics of media coverage as feedback evaluation.	Statistics of visitors/ participants of public events; media coverage on implemented activities; WOW demonstration project progress reports.	The lack of a special eco-tourism facility in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve.	The construction of the observation tower and facilities for birdwatchers initiated by the sub-contracted company; The public events “Bird Day 2007” and “Bird Rally 2007” arranged together with the Lithuanian Ornithological Society.	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 the local Municipality.
Outcome 3 Sustained restoration of certain degraded wetlands, especially important for migratory waterbirds.	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	Degraded habitats important for migratory waterbirds in Rupkalviai	The planned works adopted by the Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.	R.: conflicts of interest; lack of awareness and environmental education; the risk of flooding

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of November 2007	Risks and assumptions
		restored sites; minutes from the workshop arranged for local farmers; WOW demonstration project progress reports <u>(including photographic evidence of restored floodplains and information system)</u> .	Ornithological Reserve. No information system (posters, for visitors, booklets for local people) on values of this territory available.	Sub-contractors for implementation of these works identified.	of restored sites during spring floods. A.: presence of qualified experts; support of local authorities; interests of local community.
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 necessary for this publication in progress.	R.: rapidly increasing costs for services of publishing companies. A.: availability of initial data necessary for publication.

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of November 2007	Risks and assumptions
<p>Outcome 5 Establishing of the Steering Committee and Project Team.</p>	<p>Steering Committee and Project Team established; subcontractors and external experts nominated, progress reports produced.</p>	<p>WOW demonstration project progress reports; Minutes of meetings.</p>	<p>The lack of the Project SC, Team and external sub-contractors/consultants.</p>	<p>The Steering Committee and the Project Team established, sub-contractors nominated, the second semi-annual report produced.</p>	<p>R: the lack of qualified sub-contracts in the demonstration site. A: experience of identified companies in similar projects.</p>

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	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
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	Not scheduled for current reporting period
# of people trained under this project	More than 30 persons
COMMUNICATION ISSUES	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	6
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	2
# of publications produced under this project	2 (poster and leaflet)
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	More than 100,000

6. Key Lessons Learned

1. Results of demonstration projects, implemented in a close collaboration with national/local authorities, can be effectively used for further mobilization of new considerable funds, necessary for conservation and wise management of migratory waterbird populations.

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
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 workshop on the transboundary management of the Nemunas River delta area				x			
Activity 1.4. Development of a Research Center of migratory birds	x	x	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	x			
Activity 2.2. Arrangement of annual “Bird Days” and “Bird Rally” in the new facility for eco-tourists in the 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	x	x
Activity 5.3. Reporting	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

7.2 Workplan for next six months

PLANNED ACTIVITY	Period					
	December 2007 – May 2008					
	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	x
Activity 1.4. Development of a Research Center of migratory birds	x	x	x	x	x	x
Activity 2.1. Establishment of new facility for eco-tourists in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve	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	Convened by	Organized by	# of Participants	Report issued as doc no	Language	Dated
1.	Expert Group Meeting	Methods of the monitoring scheme of important waterbird concentrations in the Nemunas River delta area	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU), Vilnius	10.07. 2007	IEVU	IEVU	15	ND-10-07-07	Lithuanian	10.07 2007
2.	Meeting with local authorities	Mobilization of EU funds for tourism facilities in Ventės Ragas	Silute Municipality, Silute	17.07. 2007	Administration of the Silute Municipality	IEVU	6	ND-17-07-07	Lithuanian	17.07 2007

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

3.	Meeting with authorities of the county (province)	Certification of the project documentation for the Bird Observatory and Ventės Ragas eco-tourism facilities	Administration of the Klaipėda County, Klaipėda	20.08.2007	Administration of the Klaipėda County	IEVU	5	2-1262-12.2	Lithuanian	20.08.2007
4.	Meeting with officers of Lithuanian Ornithological Society (LOS)	Organization of “Bird Days 2007” and “Bird Rally 2007”	Office of LOS, Vilnius	05.09.2007	LOS	IEVU	7	ND-05-09-07	Lithuanian	05.09.2007
5.	Meeting of the project Steering Committee	Project activities and confirmation of sub-contracts	IEVU	20.09.2007	IEVU	IEVU	8	SC 03/20-09-07	Lithuanian	20.09.2007
6.	Meeting with	“Bird Day	Ventės Ragas	06.10.2007	IEVU & LOS	IEVU & LOS	14	ND-06-10-07	Lithuanian	06.10.2007

	media/ press represent- atives	2007” and WOW project	Ornitho logical Station							
7.	Meeting with Minister of Environ- ment & authori- ties of Silute district	“Bird Rally 2007” and WOW demonst- ration project	Confe- rence Center “Ventai ne”, Vente	20.10. 2007	IEVU& LOS	IEVU& LOS	17	ND-20-10-07	Lithua- nian	20.10 2007
8.	Interna- tional meeting with Russian experts	Interna- tionally impor- tant bird areas in the Nemu- nas River delta	IEVU	07.11. 2007	IEVU	IEVU	9	ND-07-11-07	Lithua- nian	07.11 2007
9.	Expert Group Meeting	Prelimi- nary results of the project	IEVU	09.11. 2007	IEVU	IEVU	12	ND-09-11-07	Lithua- nian	09.11 2007
10.	Meeting of the project	The second semi-	IEVU	16.11. 2007	IEVU	IEVU	9	SC 04/16-11- 07	Lithua- nian	16.11 2007

	Steering Committee	annual report/ budget of the project								
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b) Printed Materials

No	Type ⁵	Title	Publisher	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.	Other	Poster “Bird Day 2007” with WOW program/ partners logos	BirdLife Lithuania	September 2007	No
2.	Other	Illustrated leaflet “Bird Day 2007” with WOW program/ partners logos	BirdLife Lithuania	September 2007	No

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

c) Media coverage

No	Description	Date
1.	Special paper about the WOW program and Lithuanian demonstration project in the national daily newspaper “Vakaru Ekspresas”	05.10.2007
2.	Special paper about the WOW program and Lithuanian demonstration project in the regional (county) daily newspaper “Taurages kurjeris”	05.10.2007
2.	Paper about “Bird Days 2007” as part of the demonstration project in Vilnius daily newspaper “Sostine”	09.10.2007
3.	Paper about “Bird Days 2007” as part of the demonstration project in the national daily newspaper “Lietuvos rytas”	12.10.2007
4.	Radio report (1 st Lithuanian program) about “Bird Days 2007” as part of the demonstration project	06.10.2007
5.	Paper about “Bird Rally 2007” as part of the demonstration project in the national daily newspaper “Lietuvos rytas”	22.10.2007
6.	Special illustrated coverage on “Bird Days 2007” and the Lithuanian demonstration project in the national journal “Verslo klase”	11.2007
7.	Special report (12 min.) on “Bird Days 2007”, “Bird Rally 2007” and the Lithuanian demonstration project in the national TV (5 th Canal) available at http://www.etp.lt/tv/video/PNS071104.mpg	14.11.2007

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.	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

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 implementation of construction works of the eco-tourism site with observation tower at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station.
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.

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.

Final project documentation for the Bird Observatory in Rusne Island, adopted by the local/regional authorities (submitted separately by mail).

Annex 4.

Final project documentation for the eco-tourism facility at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station, adopted by the local/regional authorities (submitted separately by mail).

Annex 5.

Overview of results of surveys of important waterbird concentrations, implemented in the Nemunas River delta in 2007 (schemes/maps submitted separately on CD by mail).

Annex 6.

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