

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

WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 5 (Final Report)

REPORTING PERIOD: 1st December 2008 – 30 June 2009

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	27 months (till July 2009)
Date of signature of the agreement	16-03-2007
Contact in Local Implementing Agency/NGO	Habil Dr. Mecislovas Zalakevicius, Director, Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University, Akademijos 2, LT-08412 Vilnius, Lithuania; e-mail: zalakevicius@ekoi.lt ; tel.: +37052729257; fax: +37052729352

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1. Executive Summary

The project progress during the reporting period: laboratory facilities of the new “Bird Observatory” (Research and Information Centre of Migratory Waterbirds) were established and the whole complex of the Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River delta was opened; the newly developed monitoring scheme of migratory waterbirds was officially included into the State Monitoring Program, thus granting its long-term implementation and wise management of key bird areas after termination of the demonstration project; additional funds in the amount of 45,000 USD were mobilized for implementation of project activities; the training seminar for local stakeholders was arranged and 2 informative booklets about migratory waterbirds of the site were published in close collaboration with all project partners; the special project book “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park” (72 pages, well illustrated, in Lithuanian language with English summary) was published; all achievements of the project were widely covered in the national and regional media; all planned project activities were implemented till July 2009 - significantly earlier than it was initially planned.

The main challenges during the reporting period were mainly related to rapidly increasing costs for all services and particularly for construction works in Lithuania, and to a very marked decrease of the exchange rate of US\$ in December 2008, when the last GEF payment was received.

Problems stated above were successfully solved.

1.1. Key project achievements during the reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Final opening of the whole “Bird Observatory” (Research and Information Centre of Migratory Waterbirds) in Rusne island.
2	Mobilization of considerable additional funds for restoration of key habitats for waterbirds, monitoring of migratory waterbirds and for training seminars, publications of the demonstration project.
3	Publishing of the book “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park” and of two informative booklets, describing nature values of this key wetlands complex, particularly its importance for migratory waterbirds.
4	Arrangement of the training seminar for local stakeholders and fruitful cooperation with key project partners, related to arrangement of the seminar/preparation of project publications.
5	Inclusion of the developed monitoring scheme of migratory waterbirds in the demonstration site into the State Monitoring Program, thus granting its long-term implementation after termination of the demonstration project.

1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	The available GEF funds were not sufficient to cover all project costs planned in 2009 due to rapidly increasing costs for all services, fuel, newly adopted tax regulations and a very marked decrease of USD exchange rate.	Certain project costs (costs of all planned wetlands restoration works, part of training seminar costs and part of printing costs of project publications) were covered from additional funds in the amount of 45,000 USD, mobilized by the local Municipality and foreign environmental NGOs. Certain minor changes within the available GEF budget were performed for various project activities.	June 2009	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU), WOW Project Coordination Unit
2	It was necessary to recalculate certain costs planned for the project Activity 1.1 due to decreasing exchange rate of US\$ and rapidly increasing costs of construction works and other services.	Certain lower-costs materials and construction works were used in the Bird Observatory. The final establishment of the laboratory facilities of the Research Center (purchasing of necessary research equipment, etc.) will be partly covered from additional funds, granted for IEVU from the National Science Program in 2009.	June 2009	IEVU
3	All project activities were implemented till July 2009 - 17 months earlier than it was initially planned following the Memorandum of Agreement signed with UNOPS.	Project tasks, administration and accountancy were corrected accordingly.	June 2009	IEVU

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 2007. In 2009 sub-contracts were signed for implementation of final construction works of the project and for production of the special publication about the demonstration site. Problems encountered: the lack of qualified sub-contractors interested in planned activities in remote area.	Joint stock companies “Silutes Agrotiekimas”, “GPI Constructions”, “Stilis”, “Akstis” and “Balanso auditas” were sub-contracted for reconstruction of the Bird Observatory building / layout and printing of the special publication “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park” following procedures of public tenders.	June 2009	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU)
Finance & administration	Certain costs planned for the final project activities were re-calculated due to significantly decreased exchange rate of US\$ and increased costs for all services. Certain activities were covered from additional funds mobilized for the project. Project accountancy was checked by the independent audit company.	Additional co-funding necessary for the arrangement of a training seminar and publishing of informative booklets for local stakeholders, for wetlands restoration works and monitoring of waterbirds in the amount of 45,000 US\$ was mobilized by the local Silute Municipality, the UK Wildlife Habitat Trust and OMPO.	June 2009	IEVU

Logistics & operations	Travel, transportation of equipment & construction materials were negatively affected by large distance to the demonstration site (450 km) and the lack of necessary infrastructure, accommodation facilities within the site.	Field Stations of the IEVU in Ventes Ragas and Rusne island were used for accommodation of the staff and of workers from sub-contracted companies.	June 2009	IEVU
Reporting & communication	The project reporting is implemented by the Project Team, regularly supervised by the project Steering Committee and checked by the independent audit company.	Consultations concerning the project final reporting and monitoring/auditing were arranged with the WOW Project Coordinating Unit.	June 2009	IEVU
Coordination with project partners	A fruitful coordination with project partners and stakeholders was ensured by regular meetings and by the Steering Committee, representing the key organizations responsible for implementation of the project. Project partners and stakeholders were involved in practical implementation of certain activities.	Certain project activities (restoration of wetlands, training seminar and publishing of informative booklets for local stakeholders, etc.) were successfully implemented or funded by project partners. The key project stakeholder (local Municipality) has considerably contributed to funding of certain project activities, promotion of the project in the regional media.	June 2009	IEVU

External issues	Difficult access to certain flooded project sites negatively impacted the fieldwork aiming to designation of key staging sites of migratory waterbirds. The spring flood has also damaged the informative poster for visitors, established in site where wetlands restoration works were implemented.	Boat surveys of waterbirds were performed in difficult-to-access territories in April 2009. The damaged poster was replaced by a new copy and established on more elevated site.	June 2009	IEVU

2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

Date of last SC Meeting	2 June 2009
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	29 June 2009

QUESTION	ANSWER
This Report was reviewed and approved by the Project SC	Yes
The workplan & budget for next six months was reviewed & approved by the Project SC	No, because the project will terminate till July 2009
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. Nerijus Gricevicius, Director of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	Committee Member	direktorius@nemunodelta.lt	+3704458154
Mr. Ramunas Grigonis, Deputy Director of the Lithuanian	Committee Member	muzzoo@takas.lt	+37037207622

Museum of Zoology			
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	June 2009	C (85%)	Final reconstruction works of the Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River delta (establishment of rooms for laboratory facilities and accommodation of the staff) were implemented by the sub-contracted companies “Silutes Agrotiekimas”, “Stilis” and “GPI Constructions”. All necessary infrastructure (electricity, water supply, waste-water system, etc.) was installed. Special information posters for visitors were produced by the sub-contracted design company “Akstis”.	Problems encountered: a rapid increase of costs of all planned works and a significant loss of funds available for construction works due to decreased exchange rate of US\$. Certain lower-costs materials were selected for establishment of laboratory facilities. Costs of research equipment necessary for the laboratory facilities of the Bird Observation will be partly covered from additional funds, granted for IEVU by the State (from the National Science Program) in 2009.	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU)

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Activity 1.2. Arrangement of a training seminar and publishing of informative booklets for stakeholders.	April 2009	C (0 %)	The training seminar “The Nemunas River delta – internationally important bird area” was held in the conference hall of the newly established Bird Observatory in Rusne on 14-15 April 2009. About 30 persons representing all local stakeholders (regional and local authorities, direction of the regional park, land owners, tourism information centres, journalists, NGOs) participated in the seminar. The program included presentations about importance of the site for migratory birds and guided field surveys of waterbirds in their key staging sites, round-table discussions concerning conservation/management of migratory waterbirds. Two informative booklets were produced: the booklet/map “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park” for visitors of this area and	Problems encountered: increased costs for services related to arrangement of the seminar/printing costs of booklets and smaller than initially planned funds available for these activities due to decreased US\$ exchange rate. Most costs related to these activities were covered from additional co-funding mobilised for the project (the local Municipality co-funded certain seminar costs and printing costs of the booklet/map “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park”, while printing costs of the booklet “The Nemunas River delta – internationally important bird area” were partly covered from funds received from the UK Wildlife Habitats Trust.	IEVU, Silute Municipality, Direction of the Nemunas River delta Regional Park

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			the booklet “The Nemunas River delta – internationally important bird area”. The training seminar and produced booklets, also main conservation/management problems raised during the seminar were announced in the local and regional media.		
Activity 1.3. Arrangement of an international workshop on the transboundary management of the Nemunas River delta	October 2008	C			IEVU
Activity 1.4. Development of a research center of migratory birds	June 2009	C (80%)	The results of a new monitoring scheme of waterbirds in the Nemunas River Delta were successfully used for implementation of the special Management Plan of floodplains, enabling the prolonged use of key staging areas for migratory waterbirds during spring migration. Since April 2009 this monitoring	Problems encountered: rapidly increasing costs for fuel, necessary for implementation of field surveys. The newly established accommodation facilities in the Bird Observatory enabled to significantly reduce the travel costs of the project team. Certain travel costs were covered from	IEVU

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			scheme was included into the State Monitoring Program, thus granting its long-term implementation after termination of the WOW Project. The Collaboration Agreement on Monitoring of Waterbird Populations was signed between the Direction of the Regional Park and IEVU. Results of field surveys and a new ringing scheme of migratory waterbirds (using cannon-nets and ringing of certain species with colored neck-rings) were successfully used for the European “NewBirdFlu” program coordinated by Wetlands International since 2009. Genetic and virological analysis (for possible impacts of avian influenza) of more than 500 sampled waterbirds will be implemented in 2009 (more than 250 samples were collected till June 2009). Several new Master’s and Bachelor’s Works were initiated in the Bird Observatory in 2008-2009. The	additional funds, received for monitoring of migratory waterbirds in the Nemunas River delta from international Association “Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic” (France).	

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			Research Center is also used for cross-border collaborative research on waterbirds in the delta areas established with the I. Kant's State University in Kaliningrad, Russia. The new web site of the project (www.ekoi.lt/info/wowlit) was launched in September 2008. Since spring 2009 the newly established Research Center in the Bird Observatory has become the key regional center related to migratory waterbirds.		
Outcome 2 <i>Establishment of new eco-tourism facility in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park</i>					
Activity 2.1. Establishment of a new facility for eco-tourists in the Ventes Ragas	May 2008	C	The new observation tower and route for visitors with the adjacent parking (with all necessary		IEVU

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Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park			infrastructure) was officially opened in May 2008. More than 40,000 visitors used the newly established facility up to now (according to the data of the Ventės Ragas Ornithological Station).		
Activity 2.2. Arrangement of public events - annual “Bird Days” and “Bird Rally”	October 2008	C			IEVU, Lithuanian Ornithological Society
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	June 2009	C (90%)	In July-August 2008 natural open habitats characteristic of floodplains - the key nesting and staging sites of waterbirds, were restored in the territory of about 30	Problems encountered: it was not possible to implement the planned wetlands restoration works with available budget due to a marked increase of costs for services, fuel	

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			ha in Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve. The shrubs, bushes and dense reed stands were clear-cut in certain rapidly overgrowing meadows (due to lack of traditional grazing and hay-making). The seeds of plants characteristic of open meadows were planted in some of restored areas. Further maintenance of restored open sites will be granted by the regulated cattle grazing implemented by the local farmers. Informative poster about waterbirds of this Reserve and restoration of open floodplains was installed for visitors in November 2009.	and decrease of the USD exchange rate. The poster for visitors installed at the site in November 2008 was damaged during the spring flood in April 2009. Actions taken: the restoration works following the project plan in the selected sites of Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve (total area – about 30 ha) were performed in July-August 2008 by the Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park from additional funds in the amount of USD 80,000 mobilized from the EU structural funds. New poster for visitors in Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve was installed in more elevated place.	
Outcome 4 <i>A special publication about nature values (particularly migratory birds) of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park</i>					

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Activity 4.1. Preparation and publishing of a special publication about nature values (particularly migratory birds) of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	June 2009	C (30%)	The layout of the publication was prepared by the sub-contracted design company “Akstis”. The publication “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park” (72 pages, with 64 photos/maps/schemes; in Lithuanian with English summary) about birds and other nature values of this wetland complex of international importance is currently printed. 2000 printed copies will be available on 15 June 2009.	Problems encountered: it was not possible to publish the planned issue with available GEF funds due to rapidly increasing costs for services of publishing companies and due to increase of the Value Added Tax for books in the amount of 15% since 2009. Actions taken: the printing costs of the publication “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park” were partly funded from the GEF funds initially planned for wetlands restoration works.	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

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Activity 5.2. Project management and financial administration	June 2009	C (75%)	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: the initially planned GEF budget for wetlands construction works and for the special publication on nature values of the Nemunas River delta were not sufficient in 2008-2009 due to a rapid increase of costs for all services, changes of State tax policy and decrease of the exchange rate of USD. Actions taken: the printing costs of the publication were partly funded from the GEF funds planned for wetlands restoration works. Such minor changes of the GEF budget were adopted by the project Steering Committee and the WOW Project Coordination Unit.	IEVU
Activity 5.3. Reporting	June 2009	C (75%)	The final project report and the certificate of independent audit company were submitted to the WOW Project Coordination Unit in June 2009.	Problems encountered: minor changes within the GEF occurred. Actions taken: changes were adopted by the WOW Project Coordinating Unit and the Steering Committee of the project.	IEVU

4. Funds Disbursement

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: **\$ 286.000**

Opening balance this reporting period: **\$ 8.415**

Total expenditure this reporting period: **\$ 56.373**

Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule): **\$ 10.000**

Balance (if applicable): **\$ -10.000**

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

General Category of Expenditure	Total budget	Total expenditure to date	Total budget balance	Opening balance this reporting period	Last payment received	Expenditure in reporting period	Balance at end of reporting period
Personnel	26.000	32.686	-6.686	-4.772	7.200	9.114	-6.686
Equipment	6.600	8.212	-1.612	-1.741		-129	-1.612
Project administration							
Workshops and training	8.300	6.253	2.047	-1.351	2.000	-1398	2.047
Establishment of Research Center	12.000	12.591	-591	2.273	1.970	4.834	-591
Travel	10.000	6.711	3.289	1.233	3.000	944	3.289
Subcontracts:							
Establishment of Bird Observatory	158.800	162.469	-3.669	6.757	19.988	30.414	-3.669
Wetland restoration works	9.000	0	9.000	4.000			4.000
Construction of eco-tourism facilities	47.500	51.258	-3.758	-4.577		-819	-3.758
Public awareness materials	9.300	9.830	-530	3.000	1.300	9.830	-5.530
Monitoring/ Evaluation/Auditing	6.000	4.826	1.174	2.753	2.000	3.579	1.174
Communications	2.500	1.164	1.336	840	500	4	1.336
TOTAL	296.000	296.000	0.00	8.415	37.958	56.373	-10.000

4.2 Status of co-financing

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing (cash)	Total received to date	Balance
Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University	\$ 44.000		\$ 44.000	\$ 44.000	\$ 0.0
totals				\$ 44.000	\$ 0.0
List any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation					
Municipality of Silute District, Lithuania	\$ 170.000		\$ 170.000	\$170.000	\$ 160.000 (this co-financing was not directly managed by IEVU, but mobilized due to project application prepared by IEVU)
Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	\$ 80.000		\$ 80.000	\$ 80.000	\$ 80.000 (this co-financing was not directly managed by IEVU, but implemented according to the project application prepared by IEVU)
The UK Wildlife Habitat Trust	\$ 15.000		\$ 15.000	\$ 15.000	Funds available from the WHT were used for wetlands restoration activities/public awareness actions

					planned in the demonstration project
International Association “Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic”, France	\$ 20.000		\$ 20.000	\$ 20.000	These funds were used for monitoring of important migratory concentrations of waterbirds planned in the demonstration project
Totals					\$ 285.000

5. Performance Evaluation

5.1 Logical framework

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2009	Risks and assumptions
Immediate Objective					
<i>To improve the conservation status and sustainable use of the Nemunas River delta, the key site for migratory waterbirds.</i>	An increase in the number of waterbirds in the demonstration site; Improved monitoring and conservation of migratory waterbirds and their key habitats; Improved environmental education of local communities; Increased income from local ecotourism; Improved cross-border cooperation in conservation of the Nemunas River delta; Pamett.	Bird census data; Visitor numbers; WOW demonstration project progress reports; Presentations of project achievements during the international conference/training seminar held in the demonstration site; Review of project activities in the regional/national media.	Low public awareness of local communities; the lack of detailed information on important concentrations of waterbirds; the lack of a regional waterbird research center; the lack of special eco-tourism facilities related to migratory birds.	The new facility for eco-tourists established; reconstruction works of a new Bird Observatory finished and the new information centre on migratory waterbirds functional; results of a new monitoring and research scheme of migratory waterbirds successfully applied for wise management of key staging habitats of waterbirds and included into the	R.: conflicts of interests; rapidly increasing costs for all services and decreasing exchange rate of USD; A: availability of qualified experts, experience of implementing agencies in similar international projects; interests of key stakeholders and support of local/regional authorities and international NGOs in mobilization of additional funds.

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2009	Risks and assumptions
				<p>State Monitoring Program; the project web site launched; certain degraded floodplains restored; fruitful cooperation with local stakeholders and authorities established; The environmental education of local communities improved through special training seminar and informative booklets/project special publication; The international collaboration on waterbirds in the whole transboundary Nemunas River delta area established.</p>	
Outcome 1	Functional Bird Observatory;	Surveys results;	Inadequate public	The new	R.: increasing

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2009	Risks and assumptions
<p>Improved waterbird research and increased public awareness due to the newly established Bird Observatory.</p>	<p>improved management of key nesting and staging sites of waterbirds; workshops for local stakeholders and international experts; Operating database on migratory birds of the site and project web site; Increased linkages with other academic institutions; Increased international collaboration related to conservation of the Nemunas River delta; Pamett.</p>	<p>Conclusions and reports of seminar/conference; WOW demonstration project progress reports.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>information centre on migratory waterbirds in the new Bird Observatory functional since September 2008 and visited by more than 400 people till June 2009; 2 seminars arranged for local communities in the newly developed Centre; results of a new monitoring and research scheme of migratory waterbirds applied for appropriate flood-water control in floodplains, thus granting favourable feeding and staging</p>	<p>costs for construction works and other services; lack of necessary infrastructure; high costs of transportation of construction materials/staff A.: availability of qualified experts; support of local authorities; economic interests of local stakeholders and support of local/regional authorities and international NGOs in mobilization of additional funds.</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2009	Risks and assumptions
				<p>conditions for up to 150,000 waterbirds throughout February-April; the new monitoring scheme included into the State Monitoring Program, granting conservation of waterbirds in the site after termination of this project; the project web site launched and visited more than 200 times; the international cooperation in conservation of the cross-border Nemunas River delta improved during the international conference arranged in the</p>	

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2009	Risks and assumptions
				demonstration site in October, with more than 40 participants from 8 countries and several international organizations; the training seminar arranged for the key stakeholders (for 36 participants) and 2 informative booklets positively reviewed by the regional media published thus improving the environmental education and public awareness within the demonstration site.	
Outcome 2 Increased and appropriately regulated eco-tourism in the Ventes Ragas Landscape	The new facility for eco-tourism established; Visitor numbers; Statistics of participants of project public events and	Statistics of visitors/ participants of public events; media coverage	The lack of a special eco-tourism facility in the Ventes Ragas Landscape	The new facility for birdwatchers with observation tower, information	R.: increasing costs for construction works and travel/accommo-

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2009	Risks and assumptions
Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.	statistics of media coverage as feedback evaluation; Pamett	on implemented activities; WOW demonstration project progress reports.	Reserve; Poorly regulated load of visitors, negatively impacting migratory birds as major source of disturbance.	posters and parking visited by more than 40,000 people since May2008 enabled appropriate regulation of the tourism load in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve; more than 1,200 people participated in the project public events arranged in 2007- 2008 and the newly developed facilities for tourists in Ventes Ragas were successfully used during both events, widely covered in the nation media (TV, radio, newsletters); according to the data of the	dation costs; A.: experience of implementing agencies in development of similar projects; mobilisation of additional funds by project partners and stakeholders.

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2009	Risks and assumptions
				regional tourism centre, the incomes of local people from eco-tourism in 2008 reached ca. 300,000 Euros.	
Outcome 3 Increased numbers of breeding and staging waterbirds in natural open habitats, restored in certain seasonally flooded meadows, overgrown with shrubs and bushes.	Restored floodplain sites with information system for visitors; An increased trend of staging/breeding waterbirds at restored sites; Pamett.	Bird census data; trends of staging/breeding bird numbers in restored sites; photos documenting restoration works and their impacts; WOW demonstration project progress reports.	Degraded open floodplain habitats overgrown with shrubs - earlier key sites for migratory waterbirds in Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve. No information system (posters, booklets) on values of this territory.	Natural open floodplain habitats restored in two sites of Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve (total area – about 30 ha) and seeds of native grasslands species planted during July-August 2008; the number of staging waders (Lapwings, Dunlins, Roofs) counted per day in restored sites with adjacent areas increased from 0 to 700 in September 2008, while number of	R.: increasing costs for restoration works and fuel; conflicts of interests. A.: presence of qualified experts; support of local authorities; mobilization of significant additional funds from EU structural funds by the key project partner – Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2009	Risks and assumptions
				staging geese (Greylag and White-fronted Geese) – from 0 to 1,600 in September – October 2008; In March-April 2009 the number of staging swans, geese and ducks (Whooper Swans, White-fronted Geese, Barnacle Geese, Pintails, Wigeons, etc.) in restored sites increased from 0 to up to 7,000; The new lekking site of the globally threatened Great Snipe was recorded close to the restored site in spring 2009 and breeding Corncrakes, other rare species of waterbirds were	

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2009	Risks and assumptions
				found in restored wetlands.	
<p>Outcome 4 Increased national and international awareness of the nature values (particularly migratory birds) of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.</p>	<p>The publication on migratory birds and other nature values of the Nemunas River Delta; Dissemination of the publication; Pamett.</p>	<p>Hard copy of the publication; National and external reviews about the publication; WOW demonstration project progress reports.</p>	<p>The lack of published data on migratory birds and other nature values of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.</p>	<p>The book “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park” (72 pages, well illustrated, in Lithuanian language with English summary published in June 2009; 2000 printed copies will be disseminated by project partners and libraries; reviews on this publication will be available only after termination of the project, as its official presentation will be arranged during the Final Meeting of the Project on 29 June 2009.</p>	<p>R.: rapidly increasing costs for services of publishing companies, new tax regulations for published issues. A.: availability of initial data necessary for publication; mobilization of additional funds for this project activity.</p>
<p>Outcome 5</p>	<p>Steering Committee and</p>	<p>WOW</p>	<p>The lack of the</p>	<p>The Steering</p>	<p>R: the lack of</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of June 2009	Risks and assumptions
Establishing of the Steering Committee and Project Team.	Project Team established; subcontractors and external experts nominated, progress reports produced.	demonstration project progress reports; Conclusions of meetings; independent financial audit.	Project SC, Team and external sub-contractors/consultants.	Committee and the Project Team established, sub-contractors nominated, the final project report produced, the project expenditures checked by the independent audit company, project activities presented during the international conference of the demonstration project and during the seminar for local stakeholders.	qualified sub-contracts in the demonstration site; the risk of potential loss of qualified members of the Project Team due to low available salaries in comparison with other similar projects. A: experience of identified companies in similar projects, training of new members of the Project Team.

5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

QUESTION	ANSWER
Was the PAMETT performed for the Nemunas River delta Regional Park?	Yes
Date of first PAMETT:	June 2007
PAMETT performed by:	Mr. Mindaugas Budginas, Director of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park & Dr. Saulius Svazas
Date of second PAMETT:	May 2009
PAMETT performed by:	Mr. Nerijus Gricevicius, Director of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park & Dr. Saulius Svazas

5.3 Project Impact

QUESTION	ANSWER
STAKEHOLDERS	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	34 persons
# of Government Staff involved in this project	22 persons
# of Volunteers involved in this project	More than 600 (including people participating in project public events)
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	6
TARGET BENEFICIARIES	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	More than 10 Governmental, Municipal and Research Organizations, NGOs, also local communities.
# of people involved in project workshops	120 persons
# of people trained under this project	More than 100 persons (including scientists, experts and decision makers from Russia, responsible for conservation and management of the cross-border Nemunas River delta)
COMMUNICATION ISSUES	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	16
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	4
# of publications produced under this project	17
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	More than 100000

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

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

a) Meetings

No	Meeting Type ⁴	Title	Venue	Dates	Con-vened by	Organi-zed by	# of Partici-pants	Report issued as doc no	Language	Dated
1.	Expert Group Meeting	Results of the monitoring scheme of water-birds in the Nemunas River delta area in 2008	IEVU	07.12.2008	IEVU	IEVU	10	ND-07-12-08	Lithuanian	07.12.2008
2.	Meeting of the project Steering Committee	Implementation of the project budget in 2009	IEVU	12.01.2009	IEVU	IEVU	12	SC 09/12-01-09	Lithuanian	12.01.2009
3.	Meeting with Direction of the Nemunas River delta Regional	Preparation of project publications	Direction of the Regional Park, Rusne	17.02.2009	IEVU	IEVU	5	ND-17-02-09	Lithuanian	17.02.2009

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

	park									
4.	Meeting with officers of Silute Municipality	Mobilization of additional funds for the project activities	Silute Municipality	19.02.2009	IEVU	IEVU	7	ND-19-02-0	Lithuanian	19.02.2009
5.	Meeting with officers from the State Service of Protected Territories	Mobilization of additional funds for the project activities	State Service of Protected Territories, Vilnius	05.03.2009	IEVU	IEVU	6	ND-05-03-09	Lithuanian	05.03.2009
6.	Meeting with experts from Kaliningrad region, Russia	Transboundary collaboration in the Nemunas River delta	IEVU	12.03.2009	IEVU	IEVU	12	ND-12-03-2009	Lithuanian	12.03.2009
7.	Meeting with Direction of the Nemunas River delta Regional	Preparation of the training seminar for local stakeholders	Direction of the Regional Park, Rusne	30.03.2009	IEVU	IEVU	6	ND-30-03-09	Lithuanian	30.03.2009
8.	Training seminar	“The Nemunas River delta –	Bird Observa-	15.04.2009	IEVU	IEVU	36	Seminar presentations	Lithuanian	15.04.2009

	for local stakeholders	important bird area”	tory, Rusne							
9.	Meeting with Direction of the Nemunas River delta Regional	Monitoring program of waterbirds in the Regional Park	Direction of the Regional Park, Rusne	06.05. 2009	IEVU	IEVU	9	Collaboration Agreement concerning Monitoring of Waterbirds Nr. VUEI-09/05-06	Lithuanian	06.05. 2009
10.	Meeting of the project Steering Committee	The final project report	IEVU	02.06. 2009	IEVU	IEVU	10	SC 10/02-06-09	Lithuanian	02.06. 2009

b) Printed Materials

No	Type ⁵	Title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Publisher	Symbol	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.	Other	Booklet and map for tourists ‘The Nemunas River Regional Park” (12 pages) with WOW program logo	The WOW Demonstration project team and Tourism Information Centre of Silute Municipality	Publishing House Akstis		14/04/2009	No (3000 printed copies distributed by Tourism Information Centers)

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

2.	Other	Booklet “The Nemunas River delta – internationally important area for migratory waterbirds” (12 pages, in Lithuanian with English summary) with WOW program logo	S. Svazas, L. Raudonikis (eds.)	Publishing House Akstis		15/06/2009	No (1000 printed copies will be distributed in Information Centres of the Regional Park and in the network of libraries.
3.	Other	Book “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park” (72 pages, well illustrated, in Lithuanian with English summary), with WOW program logo	S. Svazas (ed. in chief)	Publishing House “Akstis”	ISBN 978-9986-759-38-6	20/06/2009	No (3000 printed copies will be distributed in Information Centres of the Regional Park in the network of libraries, universities, NGOs.
4.	Other	Scientific paper about results of the WOW demonstration project “Non – breeding concentrations of the Tufted Duck in Lithuania”, 2009, Ekologia	V. Stanevicius, S. Svazas, L. Raudonikis, G. Grazulevicius	Publishing House of Lithuanian Academy of Sciences		15/03/2009	No

		55: 29-38					
5.	Other	Scientific paper about results of the WOW demonstration project “Internationally important staging sites for migratory swans in Lithuanian coastal wetlands”, Acta Universitatis Daugavpilensis, 2009, in press	S. Svazas, L. Raudonikis, M. Zalakevicius	Publishing House of the Daugavpils University, Latvia		06/2009	No
6.	Other	Scientific paper about results of the WOW demonstration project “ Internationally important staging sites for migratory waterbirds in the Nemunas River delta”, 2009, Proceedings of I. Kant University, Kaliningrad (in press)	S. Svazas, M. Zalakevicius, G. Grishanov	Publishing House of I. Kant University, Kaliningrad, Russia		07/2009	No
7.	Other	Poster about	The WOW	Publishing House		18/11/2008	No

		wetlands restoration in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	Demonstration project team	“Akstis”			
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c) Media coverage

No	Description	Date
1.	A large illustrated coverage about the WOW Program and bird migration problems in the major national daily newspaper “Lietuvos ziniuos”	07.04.2009
2.	Illustrated coverage about the WOW demonstration project and training seminar for local communities in the national daily newspaper “Pamarys”	17.04.2009
3.	Illustrated coverage about the WOW demonstration project and training seminar for local communities in the major national daily newspaper “Silutes naujienos”	02.05.2009
4.	Illustrated coverage about the WOW demonstration project, the new Bird Observatory and training seminar for local communities in the regional daily newspaper “Silokarcema”	21.04.2009

d) Technical Cooperation with relevant parallel initiatives

No	Type ⁶	Purpose	Venue	Duration	Additional information for Grants and Fellowships ONLY		
					Beneficiaries	Countries/Nationalities	Cost (in US\$)
1.	EU LIFE – Nature program	Conservation and management of NATURA 2000 sites in Lithuanian coastal areas	Silute, Klaipėda Municipalities	2005-2009	Authorities of protected territories, local communities, fisheries associations	Lithuania	\$ 866,000
2.	EU	Support for long-term	Lithua-	2006-2009	Research	Lithuania	\$ 650,000

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

	structu- ral develop- ment program	network of ecological research and monitoring	nia		organizations, universities, local communities		
3.	EU structu- ral develop- ment program	Management of NATURA 2000 sites in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	Silute Munici- pality	2008-2010	Authorities of protected territories, local communities.	Lithuania	\$ 80,000

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

No	Description	Date
3.	Organization of the training seminar for local communities “The Nemunas River Delta –important bird area”	15/04/2009
4.	Arrangement of the public event “Days of Arriving Bird in Silute Municipality” together with the Municipality of Silute District.	14/04/2009

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 “GPI Constructions” (Pramones 10, LT-99116 Silute, Lithuania; registration number 277429740) was sub-contracted for reconstruction works of the Bird Observatory/arrangement of the territory outside the building.
2. The joint stock company “Silutes Agrotiekimas” (Tilzes 12, LT-99120 Silute, Lithuania; registration number 212249630) was sub-contracted for reconstruction works of the Bird Observatory.
3. The joint stock company “Stilis” (Neringos 1, LT-99100 Rusne, Lithuania; registration number 311299416) was sub-contracted for reconstruction works of the Bird Observatory.
4. The joint stock design company “Akstis” (Jeruzales 21, LT-08412 Vilnius) was sub-contracted for preparation of layout and production of informative booklets and of the project publication “The Nemunas River Delta Regional Park”.

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

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

Annex 3.

Overview of surveys of important concentrations of migratory waterbirds, implemented in the Nemunas River delta.

Annex 4.

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

Annex 5.

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