

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

WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 3

REPORTING PERIOD: December 2007 – May 2008

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: the new facility for birdwatchers and eco-tourists at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station was successfully established and its public opening was celebrated during the World Day of Migratory Birds; the key project stakeholder (the local Municipality) has mobilized additional funds in the amount of 100,000 Euros for establishment of the infrastructure for visitors of Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station due to necessary project/design documentation provided by this demonstration project; the major part of reconstruction works of the Bird Observatory was implemented earlier than initially planned; a fruitful cross-border cooperation was established with experts and decision makers from Russia, responsible for management and conservation of the Russian part of the Nemunas River delta, and the international workshop on transboundary conservation of the demonstration site was 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 reducing exchange rate of US\$. Considerable project over-expenditures during this reporting period occurred due to implementation of major project construction works by sub-contracted companies significantly earlier than it was initially planned.

Problems stated above were successfully solved.

1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Public opening of a new facility for birdwatchers and eco-tourists at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station with observation tower and necessary information system during the World Day of Migratory Birds.
2	Mobilization of considerable additional funds by the local Municipality for eco-tourism facility at Ventes Ragas Ornithological Station as result of project activities.
3	Implementation of major construction works in the newly developed Bird Observatory significantly earlier than it was initially planned.
4	Establishment of a fruitful cooperation with key project stakeholders (local community and Municipality) and planning of additional co-funding for project public events to be held in October 2008.
5	Cooperation with experts and decision makers from the neighboring region of Russia, and planning of international workshop on management and conservation of the Nemunas River delta shared by Lithuania and Russia.

1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	It was suggested to plan a shorter duration of the demonstration project due to rapidly increasing costs for all services and because major construction works planned during the second semi-annual period of 2008 were implemented till June 2008.	Following initial discussions with the WOW project Coordinating Unit during the WOW team Meeting, the new project deadline (June 2009) was confirmed and the budget disbursement was changed following the revised project time schedule.	May 2008	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU), WOW Project Coordination Unit
2	The GEF funds received from the last payment were not sufficient to cover all project costs during the first semester of 2008 because the major project construction works planned throughout 2008 were implemented by sub-contracted companies till June 2008.	The over-expenditures were temporarily covered by the IEVU from other funds and the existing deficit in the project account will be reimbursed from the next GEF payment.	May 2008	IEVU
3	It was necessary to recalculate certain costs planned for the project Activities 1.1 and 2.1. due to decreasing exchange rate of US\$ and rapidly increasing costs of construction works and other services.	Certain lower-costs materials and construction works were planned in the Bird Observatory. Additional funds in the amount of 100,000 Euros were 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.).	May 2008	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 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. Low salaries planned for project staff in comparison with other similar projects.	Joint stock companies “Recreational Constructions” and “Akstis” were sub-contracted for construction of observation tower/informative posters for visitors in Ventes Ragas. The joint-stock company “Stavola” was sub-contracted for reconstruction of the Bird Observatory building following procedures of public tenders.	May 2008	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU)
Finance & administration	It was necessary to re-calculate certain costs planned for the project construction works due to decreasing exchange rate of US\$ and increasing costs for all services. Certain construction works planned during the second semi-annual period of 2008 were implemented till June 2008. Project accountancy was checked by independent audit company.	Additional co-funding for the eco-tourism facility in the amount of 100,000 euros was mobilized by the local Silute Municipality. Certain costs of construction works were temporarily covered from other sources and the deficit in the account will be reimbursed from the next GEF payment.	May 2008	IEVU

Logistics & operations	Travel, transportation of equipment & construction materials were negatively affected by large distance to the demonstration site (450 km) and the lack of necessary infrastructure, accommodation facilities within the site.	Field Stations of the IEVU were used for accommodation of the staff and of workers from sub-contracted companies.	May 2008	IEVU
Reporting & communication	The project reporting is implemented by the Project Team and regularly supervised by the project Steering Committee.	Consultations concerning project reporting were implemented with the WOW Project Coordinating Unit during the WOW Team meeting held in Wageningen in January 2008.	May 2008	IEVU
Coordination with project partners	A fruitful coordination with project partners and stakeholders was ensured by regular meetings and by the Steering Committee, representing the key organizations responsible for implementation of the project. Project partners were involved in practical implementation of certain activities.	Certain project activities were successfully implemented by project partners. The key project stakeholder (the local Municipality) has considerably contributed to co-funding of certain project activities.	May 2008	IEVU,
External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons)	Difficult access to certain project sites (areas flooded in early spring) negatively impacted the fieldwork aiming to designation of key staging sites of migratory waterbirds.	Aerial surveys of waterbirds were performed in difficult-to-access territories in March 2008. High-cost aerial surveys were funded from the EU LIFE-Nature project budget.	May 2008	IEVU

2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

Date of last SC Meeting	12 May 2008
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	03 September 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	Committee Member	muzzzo@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	April 2009	IP 75% (25%)	Most reconstruction works of the Bird Observatory in the Nemunas River delta (establishment of a conference hall, laboratory room and a room for accommodation of the staff) were implemented by the sub-contracted company “Stavola”. All necessary infra-structure (electricity, water supply, waste-water system, etc.) was installed.	Problems encountered: the lack of local qualified construction companies and a rapid increase of costs of construction works. Certain lower-costs materials were selected for development of the Bird Observatory and the design project was corrected accordingly. Additional funds were used by IEVU to cover certain construction costs as they were implemented earlier than initially planned. These costs will be covered from the next GEF payment.	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 2009	NA			
Activity 1.3. Arrangement of an international workshop on the transboundary management of the Nemunas River delta	October 2008	IP 10% (0 %)	Dates and venue of the international workshop were arranged, preliminary program of the workshop was prepared and the announcements were sent to workshop participants from Lithuania, Russia, Estonia and WOW team.	Problems encountered: increased costs for services of conference centres in area of the demonstration site. A considerable discount was received for the workshop in the conference centre “Ventaine” located in Ventes Ragas village.	IEVU
Activity 1.4. Development of a research center of migratory birds	June 2009	IP 50% (20%)	The new monitoring scheme of important concentrations of waterbirds in the Nemunas River delta area was continued. Important waterbird areas were designated in spring 2008. A new large-scale ringing scheme of migratory waterbirds using	Problems encountered: difficult access to large flooded areas in spring. Aerial 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.					
			cannon-nets was initiated. Genetic and virological analysis (for possible impacts of avian influenza) of certain captured waterbirds was implemented.		
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 new facility for eco-tourists in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	May 2008	C	The new observation tower and route for visitors was constructed by the sub-contracted company “Recreational Constructions”. Informative posters for visitors were produced by the sub-contracted design company “Akstis”. The new facility for birdwatchers and tourists was officially opened during the	Problems encountered: the lack of local qualified design & construction companies and a rapid increase of costs related to all construction works. The demonstration project enabled the local Silute Municipality to mobilize additional funds in the amount of 100,000 euros for establishment of the parking site for eco-tourists with all necessary	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.					
			World Day of Migratory Birds on 11 May 2008.	infra-structure.	
Activity 2.2. Arrangement of public events - annual “Bird Days” and “Bird Rally” in the new facility for birdwatchers in Ventes Ragas	October 2008	IP 50% (45%)	The planning of two large-scale public events (“Bird Days 2008” and “Bird Rally 2008”) was initiated together with the Lithuanian Ornithological Society (LOS). Venue and dates of both events were planned, their preliminary program was elaborated.	Problems encountered: rapidly increasing costs for transportation/accommodation of participants in the demonstration site. Actions taken: public events implemented in October 2008 will be partly covered through additional funds mobilized by the local Municipality.	Lithuanian 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	May 2009	NA 5% (5%)			IEVU & the Nemunas River

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.					
of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park					Delta Regional Park
Outcome 4 <i>A special publication about nature values (particularly migratory birds) of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park</i>					
Activity 4.1. Preparation and publishing of a special publication about nature values (particularly migratory birds) of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	June 2009	IP 15% (7%)	Collection of illustrative material and of data on nature values of this site was continued. Texts of certain chapters were initiated.	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>					

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 5.1. Establishment of the Steering Committee and Project Team	September 2007	C	The National Steering Committee and the Project Team were established, sub-contractors and consultants nominated.		IEVU
Activity 5.2. Project management and financial administration	June 2009	IP 50% (25 %)	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: most construction works initially planned throughout the year 2008 were implemented by sub-contracted companies till June 2008. Invoices were partly covered not from funds of this project but from other sources mobilized by IEVU. The deficit in the project account will be covered from the next GEF payment.	IEVU
Activity 5.3. Reporting	June 2009	IP 50%	The third semi-annual report submitted to the WOW Project Coordination Unit in May 2008.	Problems encountered: major changes of the overall duration of project activities and the temporal deficit in the project	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.					
		(25 %)		account. Actions taken: the new project deadline and certain changes in disbursement of project funds were discussed during the WOW Team Meeting and later adopted by the WOW Project Coordinating Unit.	

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: **\$144.972**

Opening balance this reporting period: **\$4.166**

Total expenditure this reporting period: **\$ 97.691**

Funds requested (as per revised disbursement schedule): **\$103.070**

Balance (if applicable): - **\$ 11.223**

Certified by: Prof. Mecislovas Zalakevicius, Director & Olga Narkeviciene, Chief accountant, IEVU

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	\$ 11.115	\$ 14.885	\$ 4.532	\$ 3.250	\$ 7.497	\$ 285
Equipment	\$ 6.600	\$ 6.724	- \$ 124	- \$ 124	\$ 0	\$ 0	- \$ 124
Project administration	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Workshops and training	\$ 8.300	\$ 0	\$ 8.300	\$ 0	\$ 6.300		\$ 6.300
Establishment of research center	\$12.000	\$ 5.811	\$ 6.189	\$ 1.449	\$ 1.160	\$ 1.890	\$ 719
Travel	\$10.000	\$ 4.141	\$ 5.859	-\$ 1.080	\$ 1.500	\$ 1.061	-\$ 641
Establishment of Bird Observatory (building design & reconstruction)	\$158.800	\$ 103.664	\$ 55.136	-\$ 4.419	\$ 49.500	\$ 85.933	-\$ 40.852
Wetland restoration works	\$9.000	\$0	\$ 9.000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction of eco-tourism facilities (observation tower, route) & arrangement of "Bird Days"	\$47.500	\$ 22.478	\$ 25.022	\$ 3.760	\$ 20.592	\$0	\$ 24.352

Public awareness materials (informative booklets, special publication)	\$9.300	\$0	\$9.300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Monitoring/ Evaluation/Auditing	\$6.000	\$ 1.102	\$ 4.898	\$0	\$0	\$1.102	- \$ 1.102
Communications	\$2.500	\$ 1.160	\$ 1.340	\$ 48	\$ 0	\$ 208	- \$ 160
TOTAL	\$296.000	\$ 156.195	\$ 139.805	\$ 4.166	\$ 82.302	\$ 97.691	- \$ 11.223

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	\$ 44.000		\$ 44.000	\$ 20.010	\$ 23.990
totals					
List any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation					
Municipality of Silute District, Lithuania	\$ 160.000		\$ 160.000	\$ 160.000	\$ 160.000 (this co-financing was not directly managed by IEVU, but mobilized due to project application prepared by IEVU)
totals					\$ 183.990

5. Performance Evaluation

5.1 Logical framework

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of May 2008	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; PAMETT.	Bird census data; Visitor numbers; WOW demonstration project progress reports; Presentation to WOW Project Steering Committee.	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-	The new facility for eco-tourists was established and numbers of visitors in it increased from 0 to 300 during May 2008; reconstruction works of a new Bird Observatory were nearly finished; a new monitoring and research scheme	R.: conflicts of interests; rapidly increasing costs for all services/equipment. A: availability of qualified experts, experience of implementing agencies in similar international projects;

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of May 2008	Risks and assumptions
			tourism facilities related to migratory birds.	of migratory waterbirds was further developed and number of surveys of migratory waterbirds in the site increased from 0 before initiation of the project to 16 in spring 2008; 9 key staging areas of migratory waterbirds were newly designated in the demo site; fruitful cooperation with local community and authorities was established.	interests of local community and support of local/regional authorities.
Outcomes					
<i>Outcome 1</i> Improved waterbird	Functional Bird Observatory; workshops	Surveys results;	Inadequate public	The reconstruction	R.: increasing costs for

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of May 2008	Risks and assumptions
<p>research and increased public awareness due to the newly established Bird Observatory.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Minutes and reports of seminars/workshops; 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>works of the Bird Observatory implemented by the sub-contracted construction company were nearly finished. The new monitoring scheme of important concentrations of waterbirds was further developed, and a new large-scale waterbird ringing scheme was launched. The number of surveys of migratory waterbirds covering the whole demonstration</p>	<p>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</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of May 2008	Risks and assumptions
				site increased from 0 before initiation of the project to 16 in spring 2008; 9 key staging areas of migratory waterbirds were newly designated in the demonstration site.	
<p>Outcome 2 Increased and appropriately regulated eco-tourism in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park.</p>	<p>The new facility for eco-tourism established; Visitor numbers; Statistics of participants of project public events and statistics of media coverage as feedback evaluation.</p>	<p>Statistics of visitors/ participants of public events; media coverage on implemented activities; WOW demonstration project progress reports.</p>	<p>The lack of a special eco-tourism facility in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve.</p>	<p>The new facility for birdwatchers with observation tower and information posters was established and officially opened during the World Day of Migratory Birds; Numbers of visitors in it</p>	<p>R.: increasing costs for construction works and travel/accommodation costs; A.: experience of implementing agencies in development of similar projects; mobilization of additional funds</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of May 2008	Risks and assumptions
				increased from 0 to 300 during May 2008; The local Municipality has mobilized additional funds for establishment of the parking with necessary infrastructure for visitors.	by the local Municipality.
<p>Outcome 3 Sustained restoration of certain degraded wetlands, especially important for migratory waterbirds.</p>	<p>Restored floodplain sites with information system for visitors; An increased trend of staging/breeding waterbirds at restored sites.</p>	<p>Bird census data; trends of staging/breeding bird numbers in restored sites; minutes from the workshop arranged for local farmers; WOW demonstration project progress</p>	<p>Degraded habitats important for migratory waterbirds in Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve. No information system (posters, booklets for local people) on values of this territory</p>	<p>The planned works adopted by the Direction of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park. Sub-contractors for implementation of these works identified.</p>	<p>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 of local authorities; interests of</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of May 2008	Risks and assumptions
		reports.	available.		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 and texts necessary for this publication in progress.	R.: rapidly increasing costs for services of publishing companies. A.: availability of initial data necessary for publication.
Outcome 5 Establishing of the Steering Committee and Project Team.	Steering Committee and Project Team established; subcontractors and external experts nominated, progress reports produced.	WOW demonstration project progress reports; 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 nominated, the third semi-annual report produced, project activities presented during the WOW Project Team Meeting.	R: the lack of qualified sub-contracts in the demonstration site; A: experience of identified companies in similar projects, training of new members of the Project Team.

5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

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

5.3 Project Impact

QUESTION	ANSWER
STAKEHOLDERS	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	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	Workshops are planned during the next reporting period
# of people trained under this project	More than 50 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
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.
2. A fruitful international collaboration is necessary for conservation and wise management of migratory waterbird populations in transboundary sites, shared by two or more countries.

7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period

7.1 Updated overall project workplan

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		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 conservation of the Nemunas River delta area				x			
Activity 1.4. Development of a Research Center of migratory birds	x	x	x	x	x		
Activity 2.1. Establishment of new facility for eco-tourists in the Ventes Ragas Landscape Reserve of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park	x	x	x				
Activity 2.2. Arrangement of annual “Bird Days” and “Bird Rally” in new facility for eco-tourists in Ventes Ragas		x		x			
Activity 3.1. Restoration of open floodplain habitats/establishment of information system for visitors in the Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park					x		
Activity 4.1. Preparation and publishing of a special publication about nature values of the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park					x		
Activity 5.1. Establishment of the Steering Committee and Project Team	x						
Activity 5.2. Project management and financial administration	x	x	x	x	x		
Activity 5.3. Reporting	x	x	x	x	x		

7.2 Workplan for next six months

PLANNED ACTIVITY	Period					
	June-November 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 1.3. Arrangement of an international workshop on the transboundary conservation of the Nemunas River delta area					x	
Activity 1.4. Development of a Research Center of migratory birds	x	x	x	x	x	x
Activity 2.2. Arrangement of annual “Bird Days” and “Bird Rally” in the new facility for eco-tourists in Ventės Ragas					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	Annual results of the monitoring scheme of water-birds in the Nemunas River delta area	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (IEVU), Vilnius	12.12. 2007	IEVU	IEVU	12	ND-01-12-07	Lithuanian	12.12 2007
2.	WOW Team Meeting	WOW Team Meeting	Wageningen	28.01.- 01.02. 2008	WOW Project Coordinating Unit	WOW Project Coordinating Unit		Power Point presentation “Lithuanian demonstration WOW Project”	English	29.01 2008
3.	Meeting of the project Steering Committee	Changes of project duration and funds disbursement	IEVU	12.03. 2008	IEVU	IEVU	10	SC 05/12-03-08	Lithuanian	12.03 2008
4.	Meeting	Mobili-	Silute	17.03.	Administra	IEVU	6	ND-17-03-08	Lithua-	17.03

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

	with local authorities	zation of additional funds for tourism facilities in Ventės Ragas	Municipality, Silute	2008	tion of the Silute Municipality				nian	2008
5.	International meeting with Russian experts	Program of international Workshop on the Nemunas River delta	Conference Centre “Ventaine”, Silute district	02.04.2008	IEVU	IEVU	6	ND-02-04-08	Lithuanian	02.04.2008
6.	Meeting with officers of Lithuanian Ornithological Society (LOS)	Planning of project public events and WDMB	IEVU	14.04.2008	IEVU	IEVU	5	ND-14-04-08	Lithuanian	14.04.2008
7.	Meeting with local authorities	Confirmation of co-funding of the	Silute Municipality, Silute	07.05.2008	Administration of the Silute Municipality	IEVU	5	R5-521-1263	Lithuanian	07.05.2008

		demonstration WOW project								
8.	Meeting with local authorities and NGOs	Public opening of a new facility for eco-tourists in Ventės Ragas	Vente, Silute district	11.05.2008	IEVU	IEVU	More than 50	ND-11-05-08	Lithuanian	11.05.2008
9.	Meeting of the project Steering Committee	The third semi-annual report/budget of the project	IEVU	14.05.2008	IEVU	IEVU	9	SC 06/14-05-08	Lithuanian	14.05.2008

b) Printed Materials

No	Type ⁵	Title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Publisher	Symbol	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.	Other	Poster “Lithuanian WOW program demonstration project”	IEVU	IEVU		15.01.2008	No

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

d) Technical Cooperation with relevant parallel initiatives

No	Type ⁶	Purpose	Venue	Duration	Additional information for Grants and Fellowships ONLY		
					Beneficiaries	Countries/Nationalities	Cost (in US\$)
1.	EU LIFE – Nature program	Conservation and management of NATURA 2000 sites in Lithuanian coastal areas	Silute, Klaipėda Municipalities	2005-2008	Authorities of protected territories, local communities, fisheries associations	Lithuania	\$ 866,000
2.	EU structural development program	Support for long-term network of ecological research and monitoring	Lithuania	2006-2008	Research organizations, universities, local communities	Lithuania	\$ 650,000
3	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

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

No	Description	Date
1.	Participation in WOW Team Meeting held in Wageningen with report and poster about Lithuanian demonstration project	28.01. – 01.02. 2008
2.	Arrangement of the World Day of Migratory Birds in Ventės Ragas	11.05.2008

⁶ 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 “Stavola” (Savanoriu 178-63, Vilnius, Lithuania; registration number 111954117) was sub-contracted for reconstruction works of the Bird Observatory in Rusne Island.
2. The joint stock company “Recreational Constructions” (Zirniu 12, LT-02120 Vilnius, Lithuania; registration number 120932575) was sub-contracted for 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.

Overview of results of surveys of important waterbird concentrations, implemented in the Nemunas River delta in spring 2008 (schemes/photos submitted separately on CD by mail).

Annex 4.

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