

Description of Demonstration Project

Adapted from Annex G of the *UNEP/GEF "Wings Over Wetlands"*
 Project "Enhancing Conservation of the Critical Network of Sites required by
 Migratory Waterbirds on the African/Eurasian Flyways (AEWA)" – project no. 51210

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1a. Table 1: Summary of background information on demonstration site

Name	Biharugra Fishponds
Size (hectares)	16,000 ha of which almost 2,000 hectares are fishponds
Location (grid reference)	46° 58' N 21° 34' E
Principal wetland features	A low-lying flood-plain situated between Körösnagyharsány and Mezögyán, which is not subject to the effects of natural flooding. A large system of fish-ponds is managed for conservation, and is surrounded by extensive saline grasslands and arable fields.
Bird species of principal importance under the AEWA agreement	The area supports over 100,000 waterbirds, including 9 species in the AEWA species list: . (Ixobrychus minutus minutus, Platalea leucorodia leucorodia breeding/migrating, Anser erythropus, Anser anser anser, Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos, Aythya nyroca, , Limosa limosa limosa, , Phalacrocorax pygmaeus. Three species not in the AEWA list but in numbers exceeding 1 percent of their flyway population Four globally threatened waterbird species (Phalacrocorax pygmeus, Anser erythropus, Branta ruficollis and Aythya nyroca) occur regularly.
Protective status of the site.	7,899 ha are protected as part of the Koros-Maros National Park and the fishponds are designated as a Ramsar site. Approximately half of the fishponds are strictly protected.
Summary of wetland uses	Fish farming, reed-bed management. Half of the fishponds are owned by the Biharugra Halgazdaság Ltd., half by MME/BirdLife Hungary through the Nagykócsag Ltd. However, the practical fish-farming is carried out by the former over the whole area. Reed is harvested by the Tempó Ltd. on a contractual basis. The contracts for both fish-farming and reed-bed management include conservation restrictions.
Summary of wetland threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waterfowl hunting: with sufficient pressure from local people the hunting ban can be lifted. - Possibility of lack of water should fish farming activities significantly reduce or cease because they cover the costs of water management. - Reduced breeding success of waterbirds due to inappropriate fish farm management (flooding or drainage at the wrong time)
Agencies responsible for site management and their roles.	The fishponds are owned by the Biharugra Halgazdasag Ltd and the Nagykocsag Ltd (the latter is owned by MME/BirdLife Hungary). The Körös-Maros National Park is the responsible nature conservation authority, but practical conservation actions are carried out by MME/BirdLife Hungary.

NOTE: The activities described in the present project description are indicative only and may be subject to revision based upon (a) a possible project launching workshop to be held on site at the outset

of the project, and (b) the results of the feasibility study on nature friendly fish farming to be carried out in Stage 1 (ref. project workplan). The workshop will ensure participation of all project stakeholders in the review and update of the project objectives, workplan and budget. Subject to prior approval by UNOPS, the results of the workshop and associated revised workplan will be incorporated in the project Inception Report.

1b. Relevance and importance of the site and proposed activities in the national biodiversity strategy:

The National Environmental Programme (NEP; appendix H, point 1.3) places special emphasis on the maintenance of wetlands of international importance and developing land use techniques (incl. fish farming) which maintain biological diversity (point 1.5) as well as establishing and developing basic conditions for eco-tourism (point 1.6). Fishponds are regarded as important wetland habitats in Hungary (like in other Central and Eastern European countries) as they support a significant proportion of threatened breeding waterbirds and large concentrations of migratory waterfowl.

1c. Role and status of the site in other relevant national policies/initiatives:

Hungary is a contracting party to the Ramsar Convention. As an acknowledgement of the above mentioned importance the National Agro-Environmental Programme (NAEP) envisages providing support for nature-friendly fish farming (point VII.2.5) as well as provision of support for training and demonstration projects (VII.2.5). The national Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (SAPARD) programme aims to support extensive fish farming activities (ref. 4.4 – measure code 116).

1d. Current conservation status and threats to the site:

The Biharugra Fish Ponds have been listed as an Important Bird Area (IBA HU030) since 1989. The site is protected since 1990, first in the framework of the Biharugra Landscape Protection Area, then as part of the Koros-Maros National Park. It was designated a Ramsar site in 1998. Waterfowl hunting has been prohibited since 1993.

The main threat to the site lies in conflicts with fish-farming interests (especially due to flooding in spring, and damage caused by birds). However, most of these problems are already somewhat under control due to the site ownership structure. The main threat currently is the abandonment of fish-farming, which would lead to the loss of wetland habitats. In the wider surroundings, uncoordinated development of tourism is the cause for some concern. The sustainability of fish-farming is threatened by theft and the high cost of water supply.

1e. Details of current/past management activities, the organisations involved and current status of management in the site:

The conservation authority for the site is the Directorate of the Koros-Maros National Park which controls human activities on the site and employs wardens; however, it does not carry out practical management of the area apart from some investment in visitor management. A consortium formed by MME/BirdLife Hungary and the managers of the former state-owned fish farm in the privatisation process in 1993 purchased the fishponds. Now, MME/BirdLife Hungary has retained ownership control over half of the area through Nagykovacsag Ltd.. This part of the area is managed by the Bihar Nature Conservation and Culture Public Foundation and Agropoint Ltd. The other part of the fish farm system is managed by

Biharugra Halgazdaság Ltd. which holds the other half of the area. Reed-bed management is carried out by Tempo Ltd., and water is supplied by Lineal Ltd.

MME/BirdLife Hungary has been carrying out practical conservation actions for habitat improvement of threatened birds and monitoring bird populations, since 1993. As an owner MME influences the management over half of the ponds (the strictly protected ones) through tenant contracts with the the Bihar Nature Conservation and Culture Public Foundation and Agropoint Ltd.

A management plan has been elaborated for the site to minimise conflicts between conservation and fish-farming interests. The plan will reduce the risk of damage to the site's conservation values by identifying the constraints which fish-farm and reed bed management have to face at each pond (in the context of biodiversity conservation). Now, the formerly intensively managed fish-ponds are utilised by extensive fish farming and sensitive reed-bed management.

1f. Synthesis of the current management needs in the site, emphasising the gaps that need to be filled:

During the last few years MME/BirdLife Hungary has gained considerable experience in integrating conservation interests into commercial fish-farming and through this has improved conditions for threatened waterbirds. However, there are a number of problems to be solved to enhance the sustainability of the conservation of the fish-ponds:

- Some damage is caused by fish-farming operations: This should be resolved by more careful implementation of the management plan.
- Degraded habitat: The site has the potential to support more threatened waterbirds, but improvement of degraded habitat is necessary to achieve this.
- Loss of income and low benefit to local community. Until now, local communities have not benefited from the conservation of the fish-ponds. (In fact some people have even lost income after the ban on hunting tourism and extensification of fish-farming). The development of ecotourism centred on the fish-ponds can help to share benefits from conservation.
- The theft of fish can seriously decrease the profitability of fish-farming
- The yearly flooding can be a financial issue that risks the sustainability of fish-farming at least in some of the ponds.

2. DEMONSTRATION PROJECT RATIONALE, IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE AND SUB-OBJECTIVES

2a. Demonstration project rationale

The project aims to explore the demonstration and development opportunities that the specific ownership structure of the Biharugra Fishponds offers. The project aspires to contribute to the protection of fish-ponds as important breeding and stop-over sites for migratory waterfowl in Central Europe through initiating a sustainable development model at the Biharugra fish-ponds in Hungary. It is expected that the successful implementation of this project will trigger off similar initiatives throughout the region in order to tackle the increasing conflict between fish-farming and conservation interests in the region and would help implement the government's related objectives stated in the national biodiversity strategy. The value of this demonstration project is enhanced by the fact that, Biharugra is amongst the three largest fish-farms in Hungary.

2b. Immediate objective

“Conservation of Wetland biodiversity and sharing of benefits with the local community at the Important Bird Area: Biharugra fish-ponds.”

2c. Sub-objectives

In order to achieve the above mentioned objective the project will address the following sub-objectives:

Sub-objective 1. To improve conditions for threatened waterfowl at the Biharugra fishponds.

The main ecotourism attraction of the Biharugra fish-ponds is waterfowl. Providing better circumstances will attract more waterbirds, which will increase the value of the area. The Biharugra fish-ponds, like other fish-ponds in the region, provide excellent feeding conditions. However, nesting opportunities are more limited due to degraded habitat in some of the fish-ponds. The project aims to apply known habitat improvement techniques on the site and experiment with new ones. This will enhance and make more predictable the attraction of the area and thus make visitor management/attraction easier. In the meantime, it will serve demonstration purposes for other site managers in the region. Indicators of this objective include increased numbers of Common Terns from 40-100 (depends on the year) to possibly as many as 200 pairs by the 3rd year of the project. Ferruginous Ducks will appear as a breeding species on the ponds and their number will reach 15 pairs.

Sub-objective 2. To apply a nature-friendly fish-farming strategy and disseminate the experience amongst other fish-farmers in the region.

As previous experience shows, the most serious conflicts between conservation and fish-farming interests occur due to inappropriate planning of drainage or flooding of the ponds (e.g. flooding of Avocet nests or drainage of ponds with Spoonbill or Whiskered Tern colonies). These conflicts are usually predictable on the basis of the characteristics of the respective ponds, hence they can be avoided by careful planning. Based on this principle, the managers of the fish-farm and MME will develop a management strategy for the whole fish-pond system, aiming at avoiding the above mentioned problems. Implementing this plan will result in habitat improvement, thus more waterbirds will be attracted to the area, which will increase the number of visitors. As a counter example to the above-mentioned problems, this project will derive a model for other fish-farmers in the region that is worth following. Implementation of this objective will result in increased breeding success of Spoonbill, Avocet and Whiskered Tern, and the annual peak number of waterbirds on passage will remain over 50,000. The outcome of this objective will be measured through monitoring of bird populations as well as the economic profitability of the fish farms. As the project aims to improve conditions for birds under the conditions of normal fish-farming, monitoring will provide useful information not only on the effectiveness of the measures but also the impact of increased bird populations on the profitability of fish-farming.

This way it can provide useful information for discussions with other fish-farmers, and contribute useful and ‘scientific’ data to the debate on compatibility between fish farming and conservation. Data will also be used in future publications and advertisements, and so directly contributes to attracting more visitors.

Sub-objective 3. To create basic conditions for eco-tourism and visitor management in order to enable benefit sharing with the local community.

In the past, the Biharugra fish-ponds have contributed to the local economy not only through direct employment in fish-farming but also through intensive hunting tourism. However, this activity ceased when the hunting ban was introduced. The project aims to establish basic visitor management and site

interpretation facilities in the area and assist local people in obtaining government grants for developing their accommodation and catering businesses. In this way it will assist by replacing the former visitors (mostly Italian hunters) with other customers (mostly birdwatchers). This will clearly show that eco-tourism is a real alternative to hunting tourism, with opportunities to implement such a scheme at other fish-farms in the region. It is envisaged that visitor numbers to the natural history exhibition will be around 600 persons/year. Capacity of accommodation will increase by 20 persons and the catering capacity will increase to 40 persons by the end of the project. Data will be collected from local municipalities to determine whether stakeholders have truly benefited from participating in the project.

Sub-objective 4. To establish a management and implementation structure that co-ordinates the implementation of the project by different stakeholders.

The implementation of the project and the sustainable development of the area require close collaboration between different stakeholders, especially the fishing company, the national park authority, the local communities and MME/BirdLife Hungary. A Project Manager and Supervisor will be deployed during Stage 1 (feasibility study on nature-friendly fish farming), and other local staff will be in place by the 3rd month after the outset of Stage 2 (full project). They will be responsible for all aspects of local project management including coordination of activities under sub-objectives 1-3, financial administration and reporting on progress using data collected from monitoring.

2d. Demonstration value of the project

There is a long-lasting and widespread conflict between conservation and fish-farming in Central and Eastern Europe mainly because of damage caused by birds and because of the management constraints posed by conservation authorities. Conversely, inappropriate fish farming practices have conflicted with conservation needs. Intensive fish-farming became less profitable after political and economical transition due to increased costs of inputs (e.g. water, fertilizers and fodder), relatively low prices of fish and because of privatization resulting in lower profit margins due to loan repayment. Under these economic pressures fish-farmers started to look for alternative uses of their fishponds (e.g. angling, waterfowl hunting). Many of these alternatives do not support biodiversity and can even be less supportive of biodiversity values than the fish-farming that they replace.

This project attempts to demonstrate the possibility of a new, nature-friendly alternative for the utilization of fish-ponds in the region. The project's demonstration value is threefold:

- practical demonstration of habitat improvement techniques on commercially managed fish-ponds;
- demonstration of the economic viability of extensive fish-farming and its benefits for conservation of waterbirds;
- demonstrating the possibility of benefit-sharing from conservation with local people using "seed-money" to establish visitor management facilities and enhance attractions on the fish-ponds as the basis of eco-tourism development in the region.

3. DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES

3a. Outcomes and activities

Outcome 1. Improved conditions for threatened waterfowl at the Biharugra fishponds.

Activity 1.1 Artificial islands for Common Terns and gulls.

Tern and gull colonies on the site are already spectacular, but difficult for visitors to view. The project aims to establish new colony at a location where it is easier to observe them without disturbing the colony itself and the rest of the area. The remains of large (20 x 30 meters) concrete island frames, used for previous fish-farming activities, can be found on some of the ponds. These concrete frames can be covered by plates and strewn with gravel. One Island will be created this way to provide observable nesting places for the above mentioned species.

Activity 1.2 Restoration of small ponds for the globally threatened Ferruginous Duck and grebes.

These species prefer wetlands rich in submerged vegetation, conditions which are not common at ponds used for carp production due to the foraging activity of carp. However, there are smaller ponds at Biharugra, like in most of the fish-pond systems in Hungary, which are taken out of operation. The project will restore 162 hectares in order to provide more habitats for these species. This activity will serve as a test and demonstration for restoration of abandoned fishponds, which amount to c. 17,000 hectares in Hungary alone. The channel used to flood the ponds has not been used and is now blocked with sediment. To allow water to reach the ponds the channel must be dredged. Dams are also damaged at several places (e.g. due to damage cause by digging by wild boar), and so these also need repair.

Outcome 2. Nature friendly fish-farming strategy applied and experiences disseminated amongst other fish-farmers in the region.

Activity 2.1 Implementation of a feasibility study to identify a set of priority nature-friendly fish-farming activities to be implemented according to an agreed management strategy.

A feasibility study will be commissioned by MME to a prominent national research/consulting institution with relevant experience in sustainable and nature-friendly fish-farming practices (i.e. University of Debrecen, HAKI Institute, or equivalent). The study will build upon prior studies and existing draft management strategies/plans for the management of the ponds that are currently not fully implemented (MME, 1997). The feasibility study will focus on the identification and description of a set of priority measures that may be jointly implemented by MME/Bihar Foundation and Agropoint (partly with support from this project). These should aim to demonstrate that taking into account the requirements of threatened bird species is not an obstacle for economically viable fish-farming.

The study will aim to identify immediate and tangible measures that can clearly demonstrate both to conservation authorities (MME, National Park Management Authorities) as well as the fisheries enterprise (Agropoint) that the joint planning and management of existing fish ponds possibly offers more economic benefits than existing (and largely old-fashioned) fisheries management techniques. In particular, the current fisheries techniques seem to create rather than resolve conflicts (e.g. when on-going fish-pond management operations have to be interrupted because of conservation reasons). The study will therefore support the identification of management strategies that can minimise damage to breeding bird species, especially Spoonbill and Avocet, without causing significant economic damage to fish-farming.

The feasibility study will be implemented in the first six months of project implementation (ref. Stage 1 of project workplan), and will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following essential elements:

1. A thorough problem analysis, with a clear description of underlying threats and key issues currently affecting the management of Biharugra ponds, as well as an assessment of the economic viability of the local fish farming industry (Agropoint) in the short, medium and long term.

2. Identification of a set of innovative pilot fish-farming methodologies aimed at enhancing the economic sustainability of fish-farming, while at the same time addressing conservation concerns. These measures are to be subsequently implemented with project's and MME/National Park/Agropoint's support. These measures will be mutually beneficial, i.e. aimed at supporting the conservation of waterbirds, while increasing the economic viability of fish-farming activities.
3. A detailed description of recommended measures, including a clear comparative assessment matrix, reflecting the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, cost, benefits, long-term economic viability and technical feasibility, for each of the different measures recommended for pilot implementation.
4. A simple and cost-effective protocol for subsequent data collection to monitor and evaluate the economic and conservation impact for each of the new pilot measures to be implemented during project implementation (ref. also activity 2.4).

The completion of the above study will be the essential first step in project implementation, and will be the basis for most subsequent project activities. As such, the satisfactory delivery of the study, and its acceptance from the WOW Project Coordination Unit, will be the essential pre-condition for the implementation of this WOW Demonstration project.

Activity 2.2 Implementation of a set of priority nature-friendly fish-farming activities

This set of priority activities will be supported by the project as a joint venture between MME, Bihar Foundation and Agropoint. The measures to be implemented will be clearly described, costed and scheduled in the feasibility study to be developed in the first six months of project implementation (see activity 2.1).

Activity 2.3 Dissemination of nature-friendly fish-farming techniques.

This activity will promote better understanding of and support for nature-friendly fish-pond management among professional fish-farmers across the country, through the production of a variety of educational and informative materials. These will be based on the feasibility study to be prepared during the first semester of the projects and will also reflect the subsequent implementation of new nature-friendly fish-farming measures including, i.e. lessons learned during implementation, and –at project end- the final analysis of findings. This activity will be implemented locally (i.e. guided site visits) and nationally (presentations at national level). It is intended to reach about 600 persons per year by the end of the project.

Activity 2.4 Monitor bird populations and their impact on the profitability of fish-farming at Biharugra.

This task is linked to Activity 2.1 and will be essential to ensure an adequate evaluation of new fish farming practices to be implemented with project support. The following activities are envisaged:

- **Targeted Bird Monitoring Programme.** Includes monitoring of breeding and migratory bird populations in the ponds, using standard methodologies (Rare and Colonial Breeding Bird Monitoring, Common Bird Monitoring and Waterbird Census).
- **Evaluation of effectiveness of conservation measures and the economic impact of bird populations in the ponds, on the profitability of fish-farming.** Bird numbers and measurements of breeding success of selected species (such as Common Tern, Ferruginous Duck as specified in the logframe) will be used to evaluate the effectiveness

of the conservation measures. Empirical data on the impact of piscivorous birds will make a useful contribution to the on-going debate about compensation and this may also feed into policy making.

- **Publication of results.** Results of the monitoring programme will be published annually and presented at appropriate national and international conferences including the seminar organised within the framework of the project.

Activity 2.5 International seminar for fish-farmers and conservation authorities on nature-friendly fish-farming.

This seminar will be organised towards the end of project implementation, to disseminate project main findings at national and international level. This seminar will also offer an opportunity for on-site visits as well as presentations and discussion about the opportunities for better integration of conservation interests into fish-farm management.

Activity 2.6 Guidelines on nature-friendly fish-farm management.

This publication (in English and Hungarian, 500 copies each) will ensure that technique application guidelines, the methods and results within the framework of the project will be widely distributed amongst fish-farm managers, policy makers and conservationists. The publication will be based on the work undertaken during the course of the project by conservation and fish-farming experts by collecting, analysing and testing measures of nature-friendly fish farm management.

Outcome 3. Basic conditions for eco-tourism and visitor management established to enable benefit sharing with the local community.

Activity 3.1 Establishment of visitor facilities and resources.

A number of facilities and resources will be established during the project to attract visitors and provide them with resources that will provide them with both practical and educational information. A natural history exhibition particularly targeting, visiting primary or secondary school students, will provide an overview about the natural history of the area. This activity is in line with the initiatives in some local municipalities, developing accommodation for this segment of the ecotourism market and could also play an important role in environmental education and awareness. Practical information to assist visitors will be provided through an information centre connected to the exhibition. This will provide information to visitors about accommodation, trails and programmes. An existing room will be refurbished and equipped, and operated by the local co-ordinator. A tourist guide booklet to the fish-ponds will be produced; 3,000 copies in Hungarian, 1,000-1,500 copies in German and English.

Activity 3.2 Liaison with tourist agencies.

Besides establishing visitor facilities, a number of activities (e.g. production of promotional materials, organising demonstration trips to the area and regular liaison with tour operators) will be carried out to promote the area and introduce it to the market. Tour operators will provide records of visitors and revenue generated by them over the course of the project to enable tracking of project success.

Activity 3.3 Providing assistance to local entrepreneurs to secure investments for tourism.

Stakeholders have identified lack of capital and fundraising skills as an obstacle to development of services like accommodation and catering. The project will provide assistance to local entrepreneurs to submit proposals to existing funds in Hungary. To improve the distribution of income amongst local stakeholders, those that have been disenfranchised by changes in management practices in the ponds, will be in targeted in particular.

The aim is to establish accommodation for 25 persons in youth hostel quality accommodation, and a further 20-25 at private houses, as well as catering capacity for 40-50 persons by the end of the project using in-country sources. Together with, 3.1 above, this will contribute to attracting 600 visitors yearly and more than 10 professional groups to the area.

Outcome 4. Smooth project execution and evaluation of success.

An ad-hoc project implementation strategy has been devised in consultation between the WOW Coordination Unit and the MME, during early 2007. This takes into account the significant changes occurred since the initial project design in 2000-2001. The new implementation strategy reflects the need to fully develop an appropriate assessment of feasibility and detailed workplan for the implementation of activities envisaged under Outcome 2 of the project.

Preliminary consultations with MME and the PCU site visit to Hungary in March 2007 resulted in the agreement to proceed with a two-stage approach to project implementation. The first stage is expected to provide the required basis for setting-up sound cooperation between conservation agencies involved and the local fish-farming industry. The second stage will initiate only after satisfactory completion of Stage 1. The two stages are illustrated below:

Stage 1: Preparation and feasibility study on nature-friendly fish farming

Activity 4.0 Team-setup and feasibility study

The following tasks will be implemented by MME in close consultation with the WOW PCU and BL Headquarters, during the first six months of the project, and starting immediately after the signature of this MOA:

- (a) recruitment and deployment of a Project Manager and the identification of a Project Supervisor by MME,
- (b) identification and recruitment (months 1-2) of a suitable research and/or consulting institution, to undertake the feasibility study for nature-friendly fish farming (see activity 2.1 ad draft TOR attached to this MOA).
- (c) satisfactory completion of the feasibility study (ref. activity 2.1), and acceptance thereof by the WOW PCU / UNOPS as a suitable basis for implementation of stage 2 of the project.

The satisfactory completion of Stage 1 of the project within the agreed time frame (ref. project workplan) will be the pre-condition for moving on to Stage 2.

Stage 2: Full project Implementation

Activity 4.1 Creation of the full project team and steering committee.

Coordination and supervision of the project activities will be carried out by a project supervisor, project Manager and local coordinator. Detailed terms of reference for other key project staff will be developed in collaboration with the overall GEF project coordinator and this will include lines of management and responsibilities for project activities and output. Besides the Project Manager and Supervisor (identified at Stage 1 and deployed immediately after signature of this MOA) any additional local staff will be engaged and be in place by the 3rd month after stage 2 of the project starts. A Project Steering Committee will have a term of reference designed by the project supervisor and members invited to participate. For more details see section 7 of the proposal.

Activity 4.2 Supervision and financial administration of implementation.

The project team will be responsible for day to day technical, financial and administrative supervision of the project. Roles of each staff member are presented in more detail in section 7 of this proposal. Work plans will be developed for the implementing team every six months with each team member allocated specific tasks to be completed over the reporting period. Work plans will be developed to fit within the external project reporting schedule for the GEF project overall. This will enable integration, of the previous six months.

Activity 4.3 Reporting.

The Project Supervisor will be responsible for maintaining an overview of the project progress and success. Regular periodic reports need to be submitted to the overall WOW Project Coordination Unit (PCU) / UNOPS and BLI. These will be prepared by the project team and submitted to the Project Steering Committee for approval, prior to submission to the PCU. Evaluation of progress and success of project activities will be made against the indicators provided in the logframe, using data collected through monitoring activities carried out under Activity 2.3.

3b. Project sustainability

The majority of the costs in this project are related to specific activities for the project (i.e. related to demonstration activities or project management). Some other costs are investments into facilities established in the framework of this project. Costs related to routine operations of fish-farming are, and will be covered by the fish-farming company. The cost of operating the new visitor centre and exhibitions will be covered by co-financing of existing staff positions in MME.

Therefore the additional costs of sustaining the activities initiated by this intervention beyond the end of the demonstration project are low and will relate principally to maintenance of the new facilities established for visitors. The additional revenue generated by the predicted number of visitors will cover these.

4. BUDGET / ALL AMOUNTS GIVEN IN US\$

Table 2: Project Financing expenditure categories

Budget Category	Link to Project Outcomes & Activities	TOTAL		
		GEF	Co-fin.	Total
Personnel	Stage 1: 2.1 Stage 2: 1.1; 1.2; 2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 2.4; 2.5; 2.6; 3.1; 3.2; 3.3, 4.1; 4.2; 4.3	31,822	11,381	43,203
Equipment	Stage 1: 2.1; Stage 2: 2.2; 2.3; 2.4; 2.5; 4.1; 4.2; 4.3	1,215	0	1,215
Subcontracts (including the contract for feasibility study – activity 2.1- at Stage 1)	Stage 1: 2.1 Stage 2: 1.1; 1.2; 2.2; 2.5; 3.1	124,773	738,406	863,179

Workshops and training	Stage 2: 2.2; 2.4; 3.2	9,000	0	9,000
Travel	Stage 1: 2.1 Stage 2: 2.3; 3.2; 3.3, 4.1	14,342	3,033	17,375
Executing agency support overhead including office operations	All	15,532	14,515	30,047
Monitoring and Evaluation	All	3,000	3,315	6,315
Miscellanea & Communication	All	1,686	0	1,686
Total		\$ 201,370	\$ 770,650	972,020

Budget Notes:

NB: The travel budget has been calculated to allow the demonstration project to participate in two international WOW workshops

Co-financing: A significant amount of co-financing is and will be derived from modifications to day-to-day fish-farm management (by Agropoint Ltd., \$690,000): the whole demonstration project builds on the basis of the continuation of commercial fish-farming with management adjustments that are sympathetic to the site's conservation objectives. Other sources are from Bihar Nature Conservation and Culture Public Foundation (\$48,550) and BirdLife International Hungary (\$32,100).

Most of the expenses relate either to investment or fulfilling special requirements related to the implementation of the project. This is well indicated by the sharp declining rate of GEF funding after the initial investment phase (18 months). It is expected that at least USD 6,000 will be generated annually from the continuation of activities set up in the framework of the GEF project and they will be self-sustaining (e.g. exhibition and other services to visitors).

Table 3. Budget and Disbursement Projection

Budget Category	Link to Project Outcomes & Activities	TOTAL	Year 1 - breakdown		Year 2 - breakdown		Year 3 - breakdown	
			semester 1	semester 2	semester 3	semester 4	semester 5	semester 6
			GEF	GEF	GEF	GEF	GEF	GEF
Personnel	Stage 1: 2.1 Stage 2: 1.1; 1.2; 2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 2.4; 2.5; 2.6; 3.1; 3.2; 3.3, 4.1; 4.2; 4.3	\$31,822	\$5,303	\$5,303	\$5,303	\$5,303	\$5,303	\$5,307
Equipment	Stage 1: 2.1; Stage 2: 2.2; 2.3; 2.4; 2.5; 4.1; 4.2; 4.3	\$1,215	\$1,215	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontracts (including the contract for feasibility study –activity 2.1- at Stage 1)	Stage 1: 2.1 Stage 2: 1.1; 1.2., 2.2; 2.5; 3.1	\$124,773	\$17,933	\$17,220	\$36,225	\$20,825	\$15,495	\$17,075
Workshops and training	Stage 2: 2.2; 2.4; 3.2	\$9,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Travel	Stage 1: 2.1 Stage 2: 2.3; 3.2; 3.3, 4.1	\$14,342	\$2,109	\$2,698	\$2,009	\$2,309	\$2,409	\$2,808
Executing agency support overhead including office operations	All	\$15,532	\$2,588	\$2,588	\$2,588	\$2,588	\$2,588	\$2,592

Monitoring and Evaluation	All	\$3,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Miscellanea & Communication	2.5, 3.1, 4.1	\$1,686	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,686
Total		\$201,370	\$29,148	\$28,809	\$50,125	\$32,025	\$25,795	\$35,468

5. TIMETABLE

Activity	Workplan						Responsible
	Stage 1	Stage 2					
	Month 1 6	Month 7 12	Month 13-18	Month 19-24	Month 25-30	Month 31-36	
1.1 Tern and Gull islands							Bihar Public Foundation
1.2 Restoration of small ponds for species breeding on the surface							Bihar Public Foundation
2.1 Feasibility study on nature-friendly fish farming							MME + subcontractor
2.1. Implementatio of nature-friendly fish-farming pilot activ.							Agropoint Ltd. / MME
2.2 Installing exhibition							Bihar Public Foundation
2.3. Monitoring, evaluation, Publication of results							MME
2.4. Seminar							MME
2.5. Publication on nature-friendly fish farming							MME
3.1. Visitor facilities and resources							Bihar Public Foundation
3.2. Liaison with Tourist agencies							MME
3.3 Networking with Locals							Bihar Public Foundation
4.1. Project management							MME
4.2. Staff							MME
4.3. Project monitoring							MME

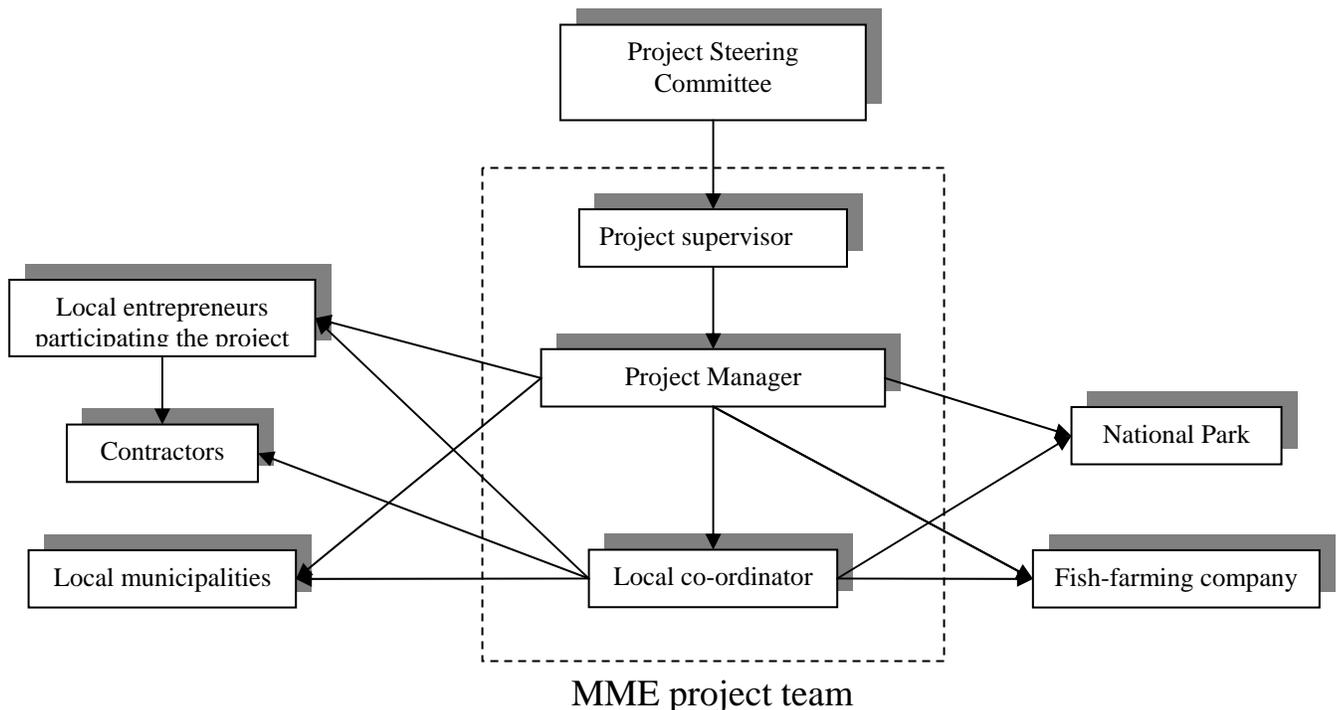
6. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Project steering committee: Periodically but systematically tracks implementation of the project. It will also be advisory to the Project Supervisor on the project co-ordination. This committee will be in charge of selecting a project leader. Members of this committee will be made up of, 2 members of MME/BirdLife Hungary’s board (president and the deputy president, responsible for management of property), Deputy director of MME/BirdLife Hungary responsible for nature protection, BirdLife Int./Wetlands Int. representative, National Park representative, GEF national focal point.

Project Supervisor: General Director of MME/BirdLife Hungary. Supervise the progress of the project daily. Assist solving minor problems, co-operate in selecting contractors, overall verification financial deliveries. Controls activity of project manager.

Project Manager: Responsible for the operational management of the project. Organisation and execution of single tasks, Involved in the selection of contractors, tracking task implementation, verification of financial deliveries. Regular reports on project progress. Establishing connections with locals and local entrepreneurs.

Local co-ordinator: Stays in the project area and carries out or supervises the practical implementation of tasks contracted out. Work in a team with the project leader but the role is more "on the ground", while the project leader's main responsibility is managing the project. The local co-ordinator reports to the project leader.



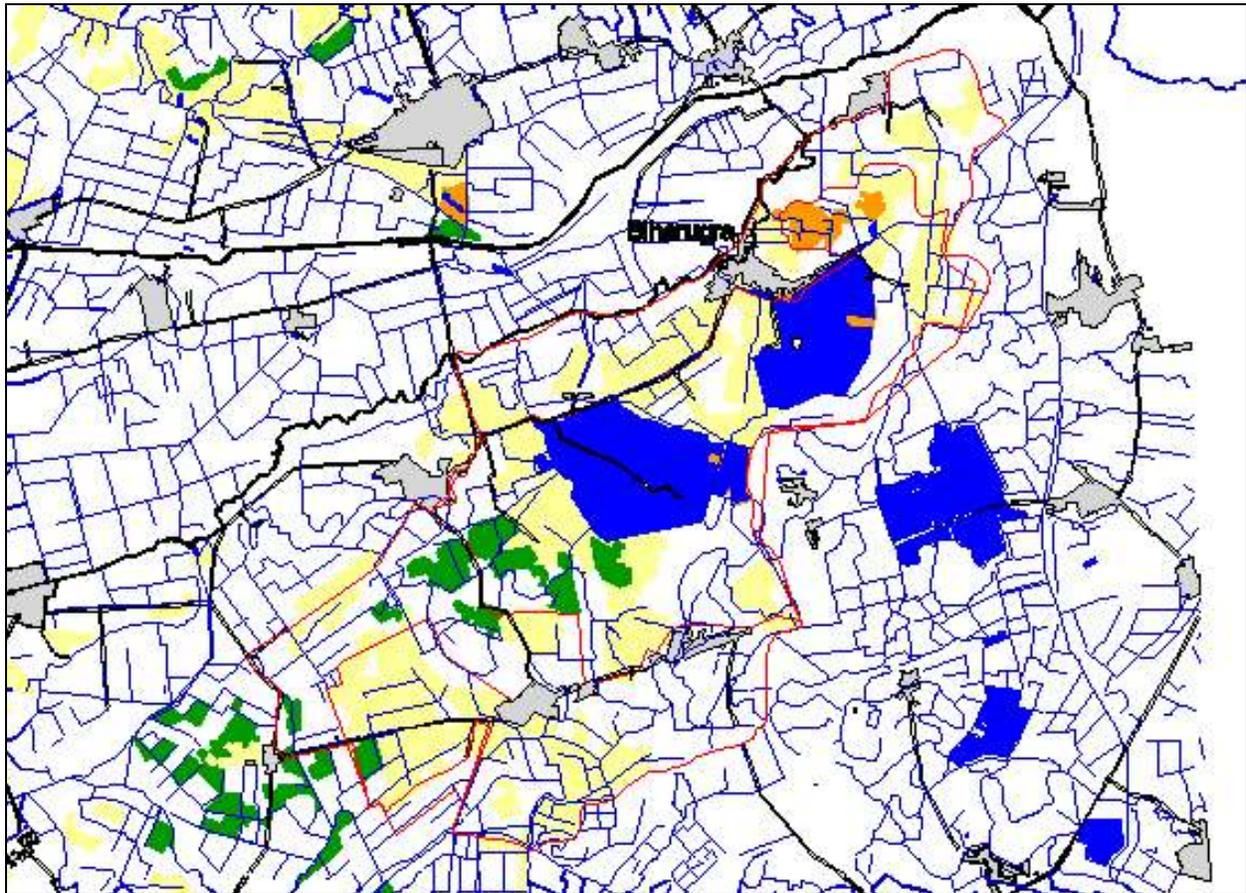
7. DETAILS OF LOCAL EXECUTING AGENCY

Lead Organisation	Address	Telephone/fax	E-mail
MME/BirdLife Hungary	Költő u. 21. Budapest, H-1121 Hungary	P.:(+36-1) 275-6247 F.:(+36-1) 275-6267	mme@mme.hu
Participating organisations			
Bihar Nature Conservation and Culture Public Foundation	Kállóháti tanya Földes, H-4177 Hungary	P.:(+36-30) 218-4125	biharisik@freemail.hu
Agropoint Ltd.	Hunyadi u. 10. Debrecen, H-4026 Hungary	P.:(+36-52) 416-301	-
Körös-Maros National Park Directorate	P.O.Box 72., Szarvas, H-5541 Hungary	P.:(+36-66) 313-855 F.:(+36-66) 311-658	kmnp@kmnp.hu

Annex 1: Location Map



Annex 2: Site Map



Annex 3: Logical Framework Matrix

Intervention logic	Indicators of Performance	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
Development Objective:			
<p>Immediate Objective:</p> <p>To enhance the Conservation of Wetland biodiversity and sharing of benefits with the local community at the Important Bird Area: Biharugra fish-ponds.</p>	<p>By the end of the project, the seriousness or intensity¹ of threats caused by aquaculture has decreased at 25% of the 48 IBAs in the region that include a significant area of fish-ponds.</p> <p>At least 10 professional groups visit the site during the project's lifetime.</p> <p>Number of visitors, increases from 120/year at T₀ to 600/year by the end of the project.</p> <p>Visitor related revenue increases by 400% from T₀ to the end of the project.</p>	<p>BirdLife's World Bird Database</p> <p>Project records and photographic evidence</p> <p>Visitor centre records</p> <p>Tour operator visitor records and financial accounts of revenue generated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU enlargement will not adversely affect fish-farming in the region • Experiences from Biharugra will be successfully implemented at other IBAs with fish-ponds • External factors affecting tourism such as the Hungarian economy (e.g. effects on exchange rates) do not affect the number of visitors unduly.
<p>Outcomes:</p> <p>1. Improved conditions for threatened waterbirds at the Biharugra fishponds</p>	<p>Number of breeding Common Terns increases from 40-100 (depends on the year) to possibly as many as 200 pairs by the 3rd year of the project on artificial nesting places.</p> <p>Number of breeding Ferruginous Ducks increases from nil (T₀) to 15 pairs on the restored ponds by the 3rd year of the project.</p>	<p>Annual Bird Monitoring Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation organisations will be willing to exchange experience. • The population of the target species do not crash due to external factors.
<p>2. Nature friendly fish-farming strategy applied and experiences disseminated</p>	<p>Breeding of Spoonbill, Avocet and Whiskered Tern is not damaged by fish-farming activities (i.e. drainage or flooding of ponds)</p>	<p>Records of wardens employed by the national park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The profitability of fish-farming at Biharugra is not adversely affected by external cost and/or price

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

<p>amongst other fish-farmers in the region.</p> <p>3. Basic conditions for eco-tourism and visitor management established to enable benefit sharing with the local community.</p>	<p>Annual peak number of waterbirds on passage will remain over 50,000 as a result of favourable conditions provided by good timing of drainage and flooding on the fishponds.</p> <p>Strategy implementation provides census results on breeding and migratory birds (the latter at least monthly between September and May) are available.</p> <p>Strategy implementation provides annual estimates of fish consumed by birds.</p> <p>Natural history and conservation fish-farming exhibition is visited by 600 persons/year</p> <p>Accommodation capacity in the adjacent villages increases by 20 persons.</p> <p>Catering capacity increases to 40 persons.</p>	<p>authority</p> <p>Annual Bird Monitoring Reports</p> <p>Annual Bird Monitoring Reports</p> <p>Annual Bird Monitoring Reports</p> <p>Works completion certificates and photographic evidence.</p> <p>Registration of visitors</p> <p>Official statistics from the municipalities.</p> <p>Official statistics from the municipalities.</p>	<p>changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no problem with water management due to adverse weather conditions. • Fish-farm managers in the region will be open to dialogue with conservationists • The local municipalities will provide favourable conditions for tourism that coincide with project activities • Visitors will not be discouraged by security problems. • In-country interest in eco-tourism keeps increasing. • Funding opportunities remain available for developing accommodation and catering related to rural tourism.
<p>4. Smooth project execution and evaluation of success</p>	<p>Project management structure, stakeholders group and staff in place by the 3rd month after the project starts.</p> <p>Steering Committee meetings are held</p> <p>Project activities are implemented according to the work plans</p>	<p>Inception Report</p> <p>Staff contracts</p> <p>Minutes of Steering Committee meetings</p> <p>Progress Reports</p>	

¹ The term ‘region’ throughout refers to the following countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia,

- **Activities:**

- 1.1 Artificial islands for Common Terns and gulls.
 - 1.2 Restoration of small ponds for the globally threatened Ferruginous Duck and grebes.
 - 2.1 feasibility study on nature-friendly fish-farming practices
 - 2.2 Implementation of fish-farming activities according to the agreed management strategy (activity 2.1).
 - 2.3 Exhibition of nature-friendly fish-farming techniques.
 - 2.4 Monitor bird populations and their impact on the profitability of fish-farming at Biharugra.
 - 2.5 International seminar for fish-farmers and conservation authorities about nature-friendly fish-farming.
 - 2.6 Guidelines on nature-friendly fish-farm management.
 - 3.1 Establishment of visitor facilities and resources.
 - 3.2 Liaison with tourist agencies.
 - 3.3 Providing assistance to local entrepreneurs to secure investments for tourism.
 - 4.1 Creation of project team and steering committee.
 - 4.2 Supervision and financial administration of implementation.
 - 4.3 Reporting.
-