

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

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

**REPORT #: 1<sup>st</sup> SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**  
**REPORTING PERIOD: 01.01.2007-30.06.2007**  
**Report Prepared by: Marko Valker, Tiit Randla**

Country	Estonia
Project Title	Haapsalu-Noarootsi Bays
Project ref. number	G 2
Name of Local Implementing Agency/NGO	State Nature Conservation Centre
Total amount of funds under this agreement	200 000 USD
Expected project duration	02.03.2007-31.12.2010
Date of signature of the agreement	02.03.2007
Contact in Local Implementing Agency/NGO	Marko Valker, e-mail: <a href="mailto:marko.valker@lk.ee">marko.valker@lk.ee</a> ; ph. +372 56 678 621

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## 1. Executive Summary

During first semi-annual period (0...6 month) project team and Steering Committee has been established. Project team has prepared 4 applications for Estonian Environmental Investment Centre (EEIC in the text below). EEIC has approved necessary co-financing for activities 2.3 & 2.4 in 2007. External co-financing for project activities has been approved in amount more than 45 000 USD.

Several important steps have been implemented for management plan compiling. State Nature Conservation Centre has assigned agreement with Estonian Marine Institute for mapping sea bottom biotopes in the Nõva-Osmussaare Natura 2000 site, which is key study in baseline data collection. Stakeholders have successfully informed about management planning process in media and different meetings. For local municipalities and other nature conservation authorities initial seminar was organized together with Haapsalu City Government. Compiling of new protection rules for Silma Nature Reserve is in progress. Project team has regularly participated in national Ramsar Committee meetings to ensure the designation of Ramsar site for 2010.

For coastal grassland restoration cutting technique has been bought with paying in next project period as planned in project payment schedule. The area with size about 100 *ha* has been selected for restoration. All landowners are informed by mail. Local farmer for grassland restoration work is selected.

Project website in two languages has been compiled to achieve better cooperation with stakeholders and support ecotourism (<http://www.envir.ee/lk/aewa>). Important co-financing (19 803 USD) has been approved by EEIC to support hiking trail renovation.

### 1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	<b>Project is successfully presented on local and national level.</b> On local level all key stakeholder groups (municipalities, nature conservation authorities, landowners, farmers, teachers <i>etc.</i> ) have been informed in meetings and in local newspaper. To reach national level, project has been described many times in media (including two TV-stories).
2	<b>Full technical capacity for coastal grassland management is achieved.</b> State Nature Conservation Centre (SNCC in the following text) has bought technique for cutting, which is necessary for coastal grassland restoration. SNCC has permission to use this technique already in this summer and make financial transfer in the second semi-annual period as planned in project payment schedule.
3	<b>Compiling of new conservation regulation (protection rules) for Silma Nature Reserve is in progress.</b> Purpose of new conservation regulation is to enlarge Silma Nature Reserve on the areas where special Natura 2000 site is near Silma NR. This helps to avoid unsustainable bird hunting around Haapsalu Bay. New protection rules are expected to adopt by Ministry of Environment in next year.
4	<b>Applications for covering necessary co-financing during first year of project implementation has been fully approved.</b> Project team has prepared 4 applications for EEIC and collected applications from local farmers for grassland restoration works. 45000 USD external co-financing has achieved for project activities.
5	<b>Contract for a key study in Haapsalu-Noarootsi project area is assigned with Estonian Marine Institute.</b> Estonian Marine Institute will map Natura 2000 biotopes and benthic communities in open sea part of project area. The work will start in July 2007.

## 1.2 Progress on project outcomes

Outcome #	Status (% achieved)	Progress & Achievements
1. An integrated management plan legally endorsed by Estonian Ministry of Environment	15%	Contract with Estonian Marine Institute ( <a href="http://www.sea.ee">www.sea.ee</a> ) is assigned for mapping Natura 2000 biotopes and inventory of benthic communities in open sea. Application for financing of study of fish communities has been prepared for EEIC. New management regulation for Silma Nature Reserve is in progress. For management planning 1 <i>Mapinfo Pro</i> licence and Estonian detailed map for GPS has been bought. Project initial seminar was organized for local municipalities and nature conservation authorities.
2. Local stakeholders trained in coastal grassland restoration	12,5 %	Project team has logistically prepared 2 trainings for next semi-annual period. Farmers study visit to Öland will be held between 22-26 <sup>th</sup> July 2007, to demonstrate practical coastal management and ecotourism in Sweden. On 17 <sup>th</sup> July first training day for nature interpreters will be held. Farmers' meeting was organized on 18.05.2007. SNCC management planning specialist Marju Erit gave practical lecture about conservation supports and necessary management techniques. 3 outdoor education lessons organized for children in different age in April-May 2007.
3. Data baseline for project and management plan monitoring and evaluation established	0%	According to project timetable activities in this section will start in second semi-annual period. Initial consultations have started to develop on the basis of demonstration project as an example of national monitoring scheme for migratory waterbirds.
4. The demonstration project is smoothly and successfully implemented	12,5 %	Project team and Steering Committee has been established. All necessary co-financing applications has been approved by EEIC. 1 meeting with Project Coordination Unit (6-9 March) and Steering Committee (15 <sup>th</sup> March) was held. Project activities are prepared and implemented by the planned timescale (see exception of the Fund Disbursement section).

## 1.3 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	Natura 2000 biotopes and benthic communities mapping by Estonian Marine Institute	Fieldworks of the study will be done 9-18 July 2000. Their analyzed data will be available from March 2008.	30.III. 2008	Tiit Randla
2	Project car leasing will start later as planned in project payment schedule.	Project car leasing costs (TRAVEL category) stayed unused in the first project period because of unacceptable agreement conditions. The level of car leasing costs will be much lower from August, when the	1.IX. 2007	Marko Valker

		Agreement will be signed.		
3	Compiling a new management regulation for Silma Nature Reserve	Renewed protection rules for Silma Nature Reserve will be discussed with stakeholders and prepared for Ministry of Environment for approval.	30.II.2008	Tiit Randla
4	Compiling of management plan	First phase of management plan compiling will be compile a draft for Silma Nature Reserve, where the amount of baseline data is sufficient.	30.03.2008	Marko Valker Tiit Randla
5	Coastal grassland restoration	About 100 ha coastal grasslands will be restored in Noarootsi peninsula. The area for restoration was selected near earlier restored coastal meadows, connecting important bird areas.	1.X.2008	Marko Valker
6	Awareness raising among farmers	Main farmers training in Öland will be organized in July. This consist 2-days programme, including meetings with local farmers, nature conservation and ecotourism experts. Practical reed bed management guideline will be compiled about Haapsalu Bay.	15.XI.2007	Marko Valker
7	Renovation of main hiking trail in Noarootsi peninsula	Main hiking trail will be built higher for safety. This makes also possible to visit nature trail during high water level periods, which is more exciting to bird enthusiasts. External financing approved by EEIC will be used for financing this work.	30.IX.2008	Marko Valker
8	Nature interpreters training program	Agreements are assigned for nature guides training with the experienced nature interpreters Mati Kose and Anneli Palo. First 3-days program will be implemented in July-September 2007.	30.IX.2007	Marko Valker
9	Preparations for Ramsar area designation	Some legislation changes are necessary in the protection rules. Chapter about potential Ramsar status is necessary add to Silma Nature Reserve and Nõva-Osmussaare Natura 2000 site protection rules.	31.XII.2008	Marko Valker Tiit Randla
10	Development of project monitoring system	There have been initial consultations to develop in the SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region monitoring model for all country. Project monitoring scheme must be added to the national monitoring program, to ensure sustainability during and after project implementation.	30.VI.2008	Tiit Randla

## 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	Project team and Steering Committee (SC) must be established during first few month of project implementation. Financial consultant for project must be selected.	SNCC has been assigned part-time contracts with two employees (Marko Valker, Tiit Randla). They have full responsibility for project management. Experienced financial consultant for project has been selected (Aili Kaljusaar). She is responsible for correct project financial documentation. Book keeping is ordered as a service, depending of amount of work needed for a certain project period.	05.03.2007	Kaja Lotman,  SNCC, Director of Hiiumaa region.
Finance & administration	Project team must guarantee administrative preparations to achieve necessary co-financing. Use of GEF funds must be effective and all financial records must be kept according to Estonian book keeping laws.	Project team has made all necessary preparations to cover necessary co-financing. External co-financing has been found for hiking trail renovation (19 803 USD) and baseline data collection (mapping of sea bottom biotopes: 25 954 USD). An application for fish community study has prepared for EEIC.  From GEF funds planned car leasing is still unused, due to possibility achieve economically more reasonable agreement in August. Some unused funds are under personal costs due to shorter period. All differences will be balanced for the end of 2007.	30.06.2007	Kaja Lotman (regional director),  Marko Valker and Tiit Randla (project team), Aili Kaljusaar (financial consultant), Merle Lepik (book keeper)

Logistics & operations	Preparations for coastal grassland management, baseline data collection and ecotourism developing must be done.	<p>Area with size about 100 ha is selected for restoration. Technique for mowing is bought and the local farmer is instructed to work with that. Administrative preparations (collecting applications for conservation supports, informing letters to landowners) have been done. Timescale and technical cooperation for marine mapping fieldworks are agreed with Estonian Marine Institute (9-18 July 2007).</p> <p>Project website (<a href="http://www.envir.ee/lk/aewa">www.envir.ee/lk/aewa</a>) was compiled in two languages. Important external financing has achieved to renovate main hiking trail.</p>	30.06.2007	Marko Valker, Tiit Randla
Reporting & communication	The key element for preparation of management plan and new Ramsar site selection is communication with local stakeholders in early stage of the project.	<p>First semi-annual report has been prepared by project team and approved by SC. PAMETT for project area was compiled.</p> <p>Project has been described 7 times in media (see media coverage in ANNEX). Initial seminar for local communities &amp; nature conservation authorities was organized. Field excursion in the project area was organized for teachers and nature conservation officers to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day.</p>	30.06.2007	Marko Valker, Tiit Randla
Coordination with project partners	Main target group in communication are local farmers and landowners, who are managing more than 1000 hectares grasslands around Haapsalu Bay. During	Farmers meeting was organized to give them information about management rules and financial supports under Ministry of Environment and Ministry of	30.06.2007	Marko Valker

	<p>project period last stage of new areas restoration is in progress.</p>	<p>Agriculture. All landowners are informed about planned activities on their land. Other nature conservation authorities (local Environmental Department, Environmental Inspection are informed about project activities in project initial seminar and WMBD.</p>		
<p>External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons, etc.)</p>	<p>During project period external issues are not affected project implementation. Some potential risks and factors are closely described under Key Lessons.</p>			



## 2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

<b>Date of last SC Meeting</b>	<b>15.03.2007</b>
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	17.09.2007

QUESTION	ANSWER
This Report was reviewed and approved by the Project SC	yes
The workplan & budget for next six months was reviewed & approved by the Project SC	yes
The SC is meeting periodically and providing effective direction/inputs?	Yes. Second meeting was conducted electronically as there were no major problems with implementation of the project and SC members agreed to review and approve the report by e-mail

### List of Steering Committee members:

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Ülle Harak <i>Head of Nature Conservation Department, Ministry of Environment</i>	Chairperson	Ulle.Harak@envir.ee	+ 372 6262871
Kaja Lotman <i>Director of Hiiu-Lääne Region, State Nature Conservation Centre</i>	member	Kaja.Lotman@lk.ee	+ 372 4724223
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Jaanus Elts, <i>Project manager,</i> <i>Estonian Ornithological Society</i>	member	Jaanus.Elts@eoy.ee	+372 7422180

To reach all Steering Committee and project team members please send e-mail to [gef-  
aewa@lk.ee](mailto:gef-<br/>aewa@lk.ee). This is e-mail list for sharing information between Steering Committee and project team members.

### 3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

OUTCOMES & ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in Annex A of Memorandum of Agreement)	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS NA: Not scheduled for current reporting period IP: In progress (state % completed) C: Completed	PROGRESS Description of progress & achievements during the reporting period	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of problems encountered; issues that need to be addressed; decisions / actions to be taken	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
<b>Outcome 1</b>					
Activity 1.1. Engagement of local and national policy makers to ensure legal adoption of the management plan	30.VI.2007	<b>C</b>	Steering Committee has been established, including nature conservation leaders on national level and local decision makers. SC will meet at least once during semi-annual period. Project initial seminar has been organized for local municipalities in cooperation with Haapsalu City Government. This event reached media attention in local and national level.	Cooperation with hunters organizations is critically important to achieve restrictions for bird hunting near Haapsalu Bay.	Marko Walker
Activity 1.2. Collection of additional information needed for a management plan.	30.VI.2008	<b>IP</b> 12,5%	Contract with Estonian Marine institute is signed for mapping Natura 2000 sea bottom biotopes and benthic communities. Project application has been prepared for EEIC for study of fish communities.	During next semi-annual period agreement for wintering and migrating waterbird counts must be assigned. First count from airplanes must be implemented in October-	Tiit Randla

			Existing scientific data exchange exist with NGO Silma Märgala and Läänemaa Bird Club.	November.	
Activity 1.3. Development and implementation of management plan collaborately with local management organizations and communities	31.12.2008	IP (25%)	Following equipment for data analyzing was bought – 1 <i>Mapinfo Pro</i> licence and Estonian detail map for GPS. Compiling of new protection rules for Silma Nature reserve is in progress.	New protection rules must be discussed with the stakeholders and submitted to Ministry of Environment for approval.  First phase in management plan development process will be compiling a draft for Haapsalu Bay, where the amount of existing data is sufficient.	Marko Valker, Tiit Randla
<b>Outcome 2</b>					
Activity. 2.1. Awareness raising amongst local stakeholders of the importance of coastal meadow and reedbed restoration and rehabilitation.	31.12.2010	IP (12,5%)	Farmers meeting was organized to explain how to apply management subsidies from Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture. Overview about suggested coastal grassland management techniques have been given.  3 outdoor education lessons for children in different age were organized to encourage biology teachers visit nature reserves.	In autumn meeting with the farmers, fishers, teachers and reed cutters must be done.  Practical management guideline for the reed beds around Haapsalu Bay will be compiled under Interreg III A project “ <i>Reed bed Strategy in Finland and Estonia</i> ” ( <a href="http://www.ruoko.fi">www.ruoko.fi</a> ).	Marko Valker
Activity 2.2. Local stakeholders trained in restoration and rehabilitation practice through demonstration.	31.12.2010	IP (12,5%)	Farmers study visit to Öland has been logistically prepared. The program contains meetings with Swedish nature conservation	Farmers study visit will be held on 22-26 <sup>th</sup> July. About 100 ha of coastal grasslands will be restored in July - August 2007.	Marko Valker

			experts and farmers. 1 local farmer is instructed by the company TAURE Ltd to work with the project cutting technique.		
Activity 2.3. Establishment of tourism infrastructure		<b>IP</b> (12,5%)	Haapsalu-Noarootsi demonstration project website has been developed in two languages. (Co-financing for project publications has been asked and approved by EIC. Agreement for reedbed trail renovation has been assigned.	The website must be developed forward. Hiking trail in Noarootsi must be renovated in July-September 2007.	Marko Valker,  Tiit Randla
Activity 2.4. Development of local capacity to support ecotourism.		<b>IP</b> (12,5%)	Application for financing nature guide training was accepted by EEIC on 28.02.2007. First course will be led by experienced biologists Anneli Palo and Mati Kose. Program (3 days) contains teaching of plant and bird species which are typical to coastal habitats.	First training day for nature interpreters will be held on 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2007, second in the beginning of August and third in the middle of September.  Cooperation with the Haapsalu Vocational College will be developed to teach professional nature guides.	
<b>Outcome 3</b>					
Activity 3.1. Development of a monitoring strategy to underpin the implementation of the management plan.	30.06.2008	<b>NA</b>		Initial consultations have been held with Head of Monitoring in SNCC (Riina Martverk), to develop monitoring example scheme for national program in Hiiu-Lääne Region.  Haapsalu-Noarootsi project area can be a study site for developing national monitoring program for	Tiit Randla

				migrating waterfowls.	
Activity 3.2. Implementation of the monitoring strategy.	31.12.2010	<b>NA</b>			Tiit Randla
<b>Outcome 4</b>					
Activity 4.1. Project inception and establishment of local Steering Committee	30.06.2007	<b>C</b>	Project staff have been recruited. Project Steering Committee is established and will meet at least once during semi-annual project period.		Marko Valker, Tiit Randla
Activity 4.2. Implementation and administration of the project	31.12.2010	<b>IP</b> (12,5 %)	All preparations have been done to achieve necessary co-financing for first year. All activities are prepared or implemented in planned timescale, except car leasing (see project team explanations in Funds disbursement section).	In the second semi-annual period project team will focus attention on baseline data collection and grassland management.  Necessary preparations will be done to achieve co-financing from EEIC for the second year of project implementation.	
Activity 4.3. Monitoring and reporting of the project progress.	31.12.2010	<b>IP</b> (12,5 %)	First semi-annual report has been compiled. PAMETT (Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool) for the project area has been compiled describing the baseline situation at the start of the project.	During the next semi-annual period PAMETT for the project area and project team workplan must be updated. First semi-annual report must be compiled.  SNCC internal audit for project book keeping will be implemented.	Marko Valker, Tiit Randla

## 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: 200 000 USD

Funds already advanced to date: 24 695 USD

Amount of expenditures: 11 956 USD

Funds requested: 24695 USD

Balance (if exists): 12739 USD

Date of the next request for funds: (20/07/2007)

Certified by: Marko Valker & Aili Kaljusaar

During first semi-annual period project car leasing costs (under TRAVEL and OVERHEAD category (overhead was planned to use for car insurance) were not covered. Due to short time for GEF Funds using (45 days), the decision was made to use these funds in next semi-annual period. The decision based on economical reasons, in August are economically better conditions for contract. Project car is planned to be leased in August 2007, some changes are necessary in project budget to cover car insurance costs. Project team added an additional budget row for Operations, where insurance costs will be covered, if this will be accepted by PCU. Another difference (personal costs) are related with shorter timescale (agreement between SNCC and UNOPS was assigned on 2.03.2007). Differences are planned to balance in the next semi-annual period.

Table 1. Disbursement of GEF Funds during first semi-annual period.

Budget Category	Link to Project Outcomes & Activities	TOTAL GEF budget	Total expenditure to date	Total balance remaining	Last Payment Received	Expenditure in reporting period (including outstanding payments)	Balance remaining from prior reporting period (if any)	Next Payment Planned (from payment schedule in MOA)
Personnel	4.2; 4.3.	75 000	75 000	0	9 375	6 452	2 923	9 375
Equipment	1.3; 2.2; 2.3; 2.4	23 574	23 574	0	2 500	2 499	1	13 479
Subcontracts	1.2; 1.3 ;2.2; 2.3	27 232	27 232	0	2 500	1 978	522	11 859
Workshops and training	1.1; 1.3; 2.1; 2.2; 2.4	6 002	6 002	0	335	335	0	3 165
Travel	all	37 300	37 300	0	6 650	0	6 650	5 750
Executing agency support overhead	4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4.	4 880	4 880	0	610	0	610	610
Monitoring and Evaluation	1.2; 3.1; 3.2.	26 012	26 012	0	2 725	692	2 033	2 725
Miscellaneous	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operations	all							
<b>Total</b>		<b>200 000</b>	<b>200 000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24 695</b>	<b>11 956</b>	<b>12 739</b>	<b>46 963</b>



## 4.2 Status of co-financing

Project team has achieved necessary co-financing during first semi-annual period. The total amount of co-financing is slightly larger as planned in project budget. Estonian Environmental Investment Centre (EEIC) approved two important applications for external co-financing. All this money will be used in the next semi-annual period.

Budget Category	Link to Project Outcomes & Activities	TOTAL co-financing budget	Total expenditure to date	Total balance remaining	Last Payment Received	Expenditure in reporting period (including outstanding payments)	Balance remaining from prior reporting period (if any)	Next Payment Planned (from payment schedule in MOA)
Personnel	4.2; 4.3.	0	0	0			0	
Equipment	1.3; 2.2; 2.3; 2.4	3184	0	0			0	
Subcontracts	1.2; 1.3 ;2.2; 2.3	129431	0	0			0	
Workshops and training	1.1; 1.3; 2.1; 2.2; 2.4	2502	0	0			0	
Travel	all	7040	7 040	0	880	982	102	880
Executing agency support overhead	4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4.	0	0	0			0	
Monitoring and Evaluation	1.2; 3.1; 3.2.	0	0	0			0	
Miscellaneous	all	3 600	3 600	0	450	455	5	450
<b>Total</b>		<b>145747</b>	<b>10 640</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 330</b>	<b>1 437</b>	<b>107</b>	

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing (cash + in-kind)	Total received to date	Balance	Amount originally committed for reporting period	Actual amount received = in previous six months	Next payment expected
State Nature Conservation Centre	1437	0	1437	1437		1330	1437	1330
<b>totals</b>								
<b>list any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation</b>								
Estonian Environmental Investment Centre (Mapping of marine biotopes)	25 954 USD	0	25 954 USD					
Estonian Environmental Investment Centre (Hiking trail renovation)	19 803 USD	0	19 803 USD					
<b>Totals 45 757 USD</b>								

## 5. Performance Evaluation

### 5.1 Logical framework

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of 01.01.2007-30.06.2007	Risks and assumptions
<b>Immediate Objective</b>					
To establish a base for sustainable management of the Haapsalu-Noarootsi Bays through the development of a site Management Plan and develop capacities for its implementation.	Managed Ramsar and AEWA area, where the criteria of internationally important wetland are filled.	Monitoring and evaluation Availability of skilled capacity.	Haapsalu-Noarootsi area is in the national potential Ramsar list. Estonia is not joined with the AEWA Agreement	Nature Conservation Department is preparing Estonian joining with AEWA, Agreement is expected to adopt by Estonian Parliament in 2008. Project team participates in Estonian Ramsar Committee meetings.	Lack of grazing Lack of Cooperation
<b>Outcomes</b>					
1. An integrated management plan legally endorsed by Estonian Ministry of Environment	Adopted Management plan	Management Plan, published and discussed with stakeholders	The management plans are compiled for Silma Nature Reserve and Osmussaar Landscape Reserve (2004-2008)	Compiling of new protection rules for Silma Nature Reserve is in progress. Agreement is assigned for a key study in Nõva-Osmussaar area.	Changes in national legislation
2. Local stakeholders trained in coastal grassland restoration	The number of staging swans, ducks, geese, cranes and waders will increase up to 1,5 times; The increase of the number of nesting pairs of <i>Calidris alpine schninzii</i> and <i>Limosa</i>	Monitoring  Monitoring	Changes in the migrating waterbird numbers are unknown, regular coastal meadow monitoring exist	Initiate consultations about project monitoring have been done, implementation of monitoring development will start in the next semi-	The number of staging waterfowl will not increase  The number of birds will not increase

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of 01.01.2007-30.06.2007	Risks and assumptions
	<i>limosa</i> up to 1,5 times Working visitor and training Centre 2 hiking trails will be enhanced, 1 camp site, publications, home page.	Training, workshop held Publications, home page, trails, camp sites	No active Visitor Centre 2 existing nature trails, no camp sites, Silma Nature reserve home page	annual period 10 different events have been organized Financing for 1 hiking trail enhancement has found, project home page is compiled.	Insufficient interest towards the organized events Insufficient interest, too sparse population
3. Data baseline for project and management plan monitoring and evaluation established	Regular monitoring reports available Project reports	Established database connected with the state monitoring system	The latest estimations about migrating waterbirds numbers around Haapsalu Bay are about 10 years old.	Initiate consultations about project monitoring have been done, implementation of monitoring development will start in the next semi-annual period.	Insufficient logistic support Lack of interest from participants
4. The demonstration project is smoothly and successfully implemented	12 different events for 150 people will be held in one year Project reports	Different workshops, meetings and reports	Irregular meetings are between nature conservation experts and local community.	185 people have participated in 9 meetings, first PAMETT is compiled for the Haapsalu-Noarootsi area	Low awareness and interest from local community

## 5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

QUESTION	ANSWER
Was the PAMETT performed for the Haapsalu-Noarootsi protected area?	yes
Date of first PAMETT:	10.05.2007
PAMETT performed by:	Marko Valker

## 5.3 Project Impact

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	3 persons. (Estonian Ornithological Society – presented in the SC; scientific data exchange with the local environmental NGOs (NGO Silma Märgala, Läänemaa Bird Club).
# of Government Staff involved in this project	12 persons (from Ministry of Environment and State Nature Conservation Centre) are closely related with the project.
# of Volunteers involved in this project	Voluntary work have not been used in first project period. Preparations have been done to use voluntary work in the next project period (about 30 persons) to clean the neighborhood of Osmussaar Visitor Centre before opening in September.
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	1 person in Nature Conservation Department in the Ministry of Environment is preparing joining with the AEWA Agreement.
<b>TARGET BENEFICIARIES</b>	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	8 farmers, 10 landowners, 20 nature guides
# of people involved in project workshops	About 125 persons have participated in project workshops.
# of people trained under this project	About 100 children have been in educational programs. About 25 adult persons have been in workshops where project team or other SNCC have trained.
<b>COMMUNICATION ISSUES</b>	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	5 articles containing information about the project have been published.
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	Project activities have been described 2 times in TV.
# of publications produced under this project	Compiling of project publications will start during next project period.
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	About 20 000 persons in Estonia are expected reached by project communication efforts (mainly by television).

## 6. Key Lessons Learned

1. During selection of project sites is reasonable to prefer larger protected areas. The size of Haapsalu-Noarootsi area has increased remarkably during project implementation. Open sea part of project area was added in the late phase of project preparation as major flyway for arctic waterbirds. Attention achieved on national level during few first month of the project implementation helped to find external financial resources for a key study. Project team achieved financial resources for Natura 2000 habitat mapping which forms a basic study for management planning. As collection of scientific information is completed, management planning will be more effective on larger scale.
2. Ecotourism developing must be very carefully planned and prepared in the nature reserves. Increasing of number of visitors must be balanced with sufficient infrastructure. To avoid overexploitation of area due to recreation, State Nature Conservation Centre started to renovate hiking trail in Noarootsi peninsula. Developing of attractive infrastructure concentrates people on the certain areas, which helps to decrease tourism pressure generally. If the tourism infrastructure is insufficient, the tourism pressure can strongly harm coastal habitats. This has happened in some places near Nõva and Keibu Bay (Nõva Landscape Reserve), on the northern part of Haapsalu-Noarootsi demonstration site. For massive tourism must prefer professionally guided tours for smaller number of visitors on the most sensitive places.
3. Interest to use natural resources is in correlation with market situation, depending strongly wetland conservation. At the moment interest to manage reed beds around Haapsalu Bay is smaller than some years ago. Change in market situation can cause a rapid increase of interest for reed cutting in this area. At the moment there are not conflicts between reed bed management and conservation (the level of managed reed beds is between 5-10%).
4. Agriculture used for restoring coastal grasslands is economically ineffective, depending strongly on supports provided by Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture. This system can be damaged when the level of conservation supports will decrease. To avoid this is necessary find alternative ways for using collected hay which is not in agricultural use.

## 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	S8
1.1. Engagement of local and national policy makers to ensure the legal adoption of the management plan.	■							
1.2. Collection of additional information needed to develop the management plan		■	■					
1.3. Development and implementation of the management plan collaboratively with local management organizations and communities.	■		■	■				
2.1. Awareness raising amongst local stakeholders of the importance of coastal meadow and reed-bed restoration and rehabilitation		■						
2.2. Local stakeholders trained in restoration and rehabilitation practice through demonstration		■		■		■		
2.3. Establishment of tourist infrastructure	■	■	■	■	■		■	■
2.4. Development of local capacity to support ecotourism		■	■	■	■	■	■	
3.1. Development of a monitoring strategy to underpin the implementation of the management plan		■	■					
3.2. Implementation of the monitoring strategy				■	■	■	■	■
4.1. Project management and review	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
4.2. Project monitoring and evaluation		■	■	■	■	■	■	■

## 7.2 Workplan for next six months

PLANNED ACTIVITY	Period 01.07.2007-31.12.2007					
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
1. Marine biotopes and benthic communities mapping in the Nõva-Osmussaar Natura 2000 site						
2. Farmers study visit to Öland						
3. Coastal grassland restoration around the Haapsalu Bay						
4. Development of project website						
5. Compiling of project publications						
6. Development of project monitoring strategy						
7. Project management and administration						
8. Project monitoring and reporting (including updating of PAMETT, compiling of semi-annual and technical reports and internal audit).						
9. High-level course for nature interpreters						
10. Project Steering Committee and Stakeholders meetings						
11. Camp for cleaning the neighborhood of the Osmussaar Visitor Centre building						
12. Estimation of migrating waterfowl numbers and distributions.						
13. Renovation of hiking trail in Noarootsi						



## ANNEXES



inventory

### Annex 1: Inventory of Outputs/Services

#### a) Meetings

No	Meeting Type <sup>4</sup>	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened by	Organized by	# of Participants	Report issued as doc no	Language	Dated
1.	Expert Group Meeting	Meeting with PCU	Saunja	08.03	PCU	SNCC	9	yes	estonian	9.03
1.	Expert Group Meeting	Initial seminar	Haapsalu	18.04.	SNCC	SNCC & Haapsalu City Government	14	yes	estonian	19.04
2.	Training workshop/ seminar	Field lesson	Saunja	27.04.	Rocca al Mare school	SNCC	16	no		
3.	Training workshop seminar	Field lesson	Haapsalu	05.05.	Tartu Centre for Environmental Education	SNCC	46	no		
4.	Expert meeting	Field Excursion on Haapsalu-	Haapsalu-	10.05.	SNCC	SNCC	14	yes	estonian	12.05

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

		Noarootsi demonstration site	Põõsaspea							
5.	Training workshop/ seminar	Field lesson	Saunja	11.05.	Nõva School	SNCC	13	no		
6.	Training Workshop /seminar	Lecture about dunes	Peraküla	15.05.	State Forest Management Centre	SNCC	8	no		
7.	Training workshop	Information day for local farmers	Saunja	18.05.	SNCC	SNCC	7	yes	estonian	18.05
8.	Expert meeting	WOW Estonian demonstration presentation to South-West Finland Environmental Regional Centre	Saare village	25. 05.	SNCC	SNCC	46	no		
9.	Expert meeting	WOW Estonian project presentation for Estonian and Finland nature conservation leaders	Saunja village				15	no		

**b) Printed Materials**

Printed materials were not published during this project period.

**c) Media coverage**

No	Description	Date
1.	Valker, M. “Läänemaale Haapsalu lähedale luuakse uus linnukaitse demonstratsioonala” – Läänemaa Keskkonnaleht. In this article the activities of WOW Estonian project were described first time to local community in West-Estonia.	16.12.2006
2.	Käärt, U. “Loode-eesi rannikule sünnib uus looduskaitseala” – Eesti Päevaleht. The story describes establishment of demonstration site.	14.04.2007
3.	“Rohelised uudised” (“Green news”) on Kanal 2. 2.5 minute long story on weekly environmental news presented project initial seminar and new Ramsar site establishment plans.	19.04.2007
4.	Ilves, L. “Läänemaale rajatakse veelinnukaitse nädisala” - Lääne Elu. An article in local newspaper presents project aims and activities planned in first year of project implementation.	24.04.2007
5.	“Osoon” in ETV. 10 minutes long story describes Haapsalu bay and it`s importance for migratory waterbirds.	23.05.2007
6.	Valker, M. & Vilta, K. “Haapsalu Bay under protection. <i>Estonian Coastman partner in the planning process</i> ” - Coastman Newsletter V. The story presents latest developments in Haapsalu Municipality on environmental planning. Article contains general information about WOW Estonian demonstration project and initial seminar.	June 2007
7.	Haapsalu-Noarootsi Wetland: Field excursion on WOW Estonian Demonstration Site – AEWA e-Newsletter. Issue 13.	June 2007

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

No	Type <sup>6</sup>	Purpose	Venue	Duration
1.	Advisory Services	Data exchange with Lesser White-fronted Life project ( <a href="http://www.piskulka.net">www.piskulka.net</a> ) to get the information about the number and location of the lesser white-fronted geese in the project area.	Ridala, Oru, Noarootsi Community	31.12.2008
2.	Advisory Services	Cooperation and data exchange with the Interreg III A project “Reed-bed Strategy in Finland and Estonia” ( <a href="http://www.ruoko.fi">www.ruoko.fi</a> ). Practical reedbed management suggestions will be worked out for reed beds surrounding Haapsalu Bay.	Saunja, Penijõe	31.12.2007

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

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

No	Description	Date
1.	Tiit Randla participated at Estonian Ramsar Committee meeting, describing the aims and activities of the Haapsalu-Noarootsi demonstration project.	02.03.2007
2.	Tiit Randla participated at Estonian Ramsar Committee meeting, where the strategy of selection of new Ramsar sites in Estonia was discussed.	04.05.2007
3.	Tiit Randla gave a public lecture about WOW Estonian demonstration project at Estonian Naturalists Society meeting. Meeting was held near to Haapsalu-Noarootsi demonstration site in Nõva. The information was listened by more than 100 persons.	30.06.2007
4.	Project team together with Environmental Inspectorate organized a survey trip to count moulting waterfowls in the open sea part of Haapsalu-Noarootsi project area.	10.06.2007
5.	Marko Valker participated in EarthWatch Institute and Brighton University voluntary Expedition “Baltic Islands wetlands and Wildlife” as bird monitoring expert. Cooperation between Estonian and Britain conservation experts has been running since 2002.	16.-18.06.2007
6.	Consultations with Finnish experts from South-Finland Environmental Centre for compiling international reed bed book. This publication will be compiled under Interreg III A project “ <i>Reedbed Strategy in Finland and Estonia</i> ”.	15.-30.06.2007