

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

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

**REPORT #:** 2<sup>nd</sup> SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT  
**REPORTING PERIOD:** 01.07.2007- 30.11.2007  
**Report Prepared by:** Marko Valker & Tiit Randla

Country	Estonia
Project Title	Haapsalu-Noarootsi Bays
Project ref. number	G2
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 678621)

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## 1. Executive Summary

During second semi-annual period (7...11 month) project team focused attention on management planning issues. Two law proposals (protection rules for *Osmussaar Landscape Reserve* and *Silma Nature Reserve*) have been compiled and analyzed by management planning specialists. After adoption in 2008 by Ministry of Environment these documents establish the legal basis for sustainable management in these protected areas and include the necessary chapter for Ramsar site designation in the later stage of the project.

Management plan compiling for Silma Nature Reserve started in November and the draft for open discussions will be ready in March 2008. Baseline data collection for management plan for *Nõva-Osmussaar Special Protected Area* (SPA in the following text) started with fieldworks for marine biotopes mapping, fish and waterbird inventory. First study report (marine biotopes mapping) will be available in March 2008.

Project team is currently finishing first report of monitoring strategy (deadline 15. 12.2007), for evaluating existing conservation practice and the impact of project activities in the Haapsalu-Noarootsi area.

About 115 hectares of coastal meadows were restored near Haapsalu Bay with project cutting equipment (subsidies for 90.56 hectares is showed in current report as co-financing). All farmers (9), who manage significant amount of coastal grasslands around Haapsalu Bay and Osmussaar island, participated in practical study visit to Öland island in July 2007. Öland is one of the best example of coastal grassland restoration and ecotourism around Baltic Sea area. Meetings with the local nature conservation experts, farmers and Borgholm City Government were organized.

The main hiking trail in Noarootsi peninsula (*reed bed trail*) was renovated for external co-financing approved by EEIC. Long-term cooperation with Haapsalu Vocational College ([www.hkhk.edu.ee](http://www.hkhk.edu.ee)) was established to support their 2-years educational program for nature tourism entrepreneurs. 3-days course for nature interpreters was organized for local guides and college students. 1 diascope and 5 binoculars were bought to ensure necessary equipment for bird identification trainings.

For better cooperation with local stakeholders 4 voluntary camps were organized. Poster in 3 languages was designed to introduce project area and activities for the wider public. These posters will be put up to the key sites in the project area. New information about tourism possibilities and project developments was uploaded to project webpage.

### 1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	<b>There is significant progress in preparations for joining with AEWA Agreement and Haapsalu-Noarootsi Ramsar site designation.</b> Ministry of Environment has been fully prepared documentation for Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu) for approval joining with AEWA Agreement. The legal adoption process is expected to take place in the next semi-annual period. The necessary chapter about Ramsar site status has added to 2 law proposals (protection rules for Silma Nature Reserve and Osmussaar Landscape Reserve).
2	<b>Coastal meadow restoration and farmers training was successfully implemented.</b> In the Haapsalu-Noarootsi area near Lyckholm Bay was restored the area with the size 115 <i>ha</i> (90.56 of that is declared as project co-financing). All farmers (9 persons) which manage significant amount of coastal grasslands near Haapsalu Bay (1000 <i>ha</i> ) and on island Osmussaar (100 <i>ha</i> ) participated on practical study visit to Öland island (Sweden). Farmers were instructed about necessary restoration actions and existing meadow management plan (see map in Appendix II) in Haapsalu Bay area was successfully implemented on 1000 <i>ha</i> .
3	<b>Management planning process around Haapsalu Bay is active.</b> Farmers are routinely working according SNCC management planning instructions. Reed bed areas for harvesting have been selected and agreed with reed cutters. Permissions for reed cutting are given by

	SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region for 8 entrepreneurs, all interested entrepreneurs are instructed about sustainable harvesting methods. New protection rule proposals for Silma Nature Reserve and Osmussaar Landscape Reserve have been compiled and analyzed by different nature conservation specialists. These law proposals will be discussed with local stakeholders and legally adopted in the next semi-annual period.
4	<b>Main hiking trail in Haapsalu-Noarootsi area is renovated.</b> The reed bed trail near Lake Sutlepa were built 20-30 cm higher for visitors safety. The new wooden path was built on the existing trail on 800 meters. The renovation of hiking trail also helps to avoid over flooding in the high level season and makes possible organize educational events in the most interesting time in April-May.
5	<b>Collection of baseline data and project monitoring started successfully.</b> Three different marine studies in the <i>Nõva-Osmussaar SPA</i> are currently ongoing. The fieldworks for water bird and fish inventory have been started, the marine biotopes mapping fieldworks have been finished. Development of project monitoring strategy is ongoing. Project team is currently finishing first report of monitoring strategy, which consist overview of current management, description of key problems and methodology and indicators to evaluate impact of the project activities.

## 1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	<b>Haapsalu-Noarootsi Ramsar site will be not designated in the PA borders</b>	According national legislation the borders of internationally important wetland ( <i>Ramsar site</i> ) must follow the borders of the existing protected areas. In the Väinameri SPA is complicated designate Ramsar site, because it is only partially in the Haapsalu-Noarootsi project site and there are no official PA borders. Designated Ramsar site will consist Silma Nature Reserve, Osmussaar Landscape Reserve and Nõva-Osmussaar SPA. Because Väinameri SPA consist only small part of Haapsalu-Noarootsi demonstration site, this area will be excluded from Ramsar site, but will be included during the general management planning process.	31.12.2010	Marko Valker & Tiit Randla
2	<b>Planned payment for activity 3.1 (Development of monitoring strategy) will be done in the next semi-annual period</b>	Monitoring strategy will be compiled in three phase: (I) site management review, primary selection of methodology and indicators (15.11.2007), (II) scientific analyze of selected methodology and indicators (30.03.2008) and (III) demonstration of GIS-based monitoring (30.06.2008). First report of monitoring strategy will be compiled by project team and this work will be not financed from project or governmental budget. Because large amount of collected data about site management is available for project team in the end of year, the first report will be finished in the middle of December. Because of that activity 3.1. funds will be used in next semi-annual period, to finance scientific review of selected methodology and indicators.	30.06.2008	Marko Valker & Tiit Randla
3	<b>Management planning cooperation with NGO</b>	The management plan for Väinameri SPA will be compiled by NGO Baltic Environmental Forum in the frame of LIFE project " <i>Marine protected areas in the Eastern Baltic Sea</i> ". Project team makes cooperation with NGO <i>Baltic</i>	31.12.2008	Marko Valker & Tiit

<p><b>Baltic Environmental Forum</b></p>	<p><i>Environmental Forum</i>, who describe project area between Vormsi and mainland (Voosi strait) separately in the Väinameri management plan. The area which will be incorporated to the Silma Nature Reserve after legal adoption of new protection rules, will be described in the Silma NR management plan. To avoid overlapping of management plans and ensure financial capacity for management, this issue need special attention of project team in the next semi-annual period.</p>		<p>Randla</p>
<p><b>4 Involvement of local amateur fishermen into site management</b></p>	<p>The local hobby fishermen are not active to write applications to get fishing licences. Because they make applications too late, the limited number of licences have already given for fishermen from Tallinn. Due to weak control over illegal activities, there is some disturbance caused by motor boats using. Involvement of local fishers makes possible to get quick information about illegal activities and forward this directly to Environmental Inspectorate. In that way the control over fishing is more effective. SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region organize a meeting with local people to inform them about in details about fishing regulations. This meeting could not take place before the second half of December after legal adoption of hobby fishing regulation in Ministry of Environment.</p>	<p>31.12.2007</p>	<p>Marko Valker</p>
<p><b>5 Planned enlargement of the Silma Nature Reserve</b></p>	<p>Silma Nature Reserve will be enlarged during 2008, according the added law proposal (see planned zonation in Appendix II). This helps to avoid bird hunting near Haapsalu Bay, improving significantly site quality for migrating waterbirds. The main stakeholders group, who can be against it, are hunters. The legal adoption deadline affects timescale of all project components, including development of ecotourism infrastructure (hiking maps), publications and wetland restoration.</p>	<p>31.12.2008</p>	<p>Marju Erit (management planning specialist)</p>

## 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	Head of Nature Conservation Department (Ministry of Environment) will resign after reporting period in December and project team must start consultations to involve new person representing Ministry of Environment to Steering Committee.	According to PCU suggestions an independent audit company ( <i>Wiigi Invest Ltd</i> ) were selected for external finance audit.  All project team members, financial consultant and SC members continued in the same position during 2 <sup>nd</sup> semi-annual period. New Steering Committee member(-s) will be named by Ministry of Environment within few months after reporting period.	31.XII.2010	Kaja Lotman, Regional director
Finance & administration	Remarkable amount of project co-financing is covered with nature conservation supports. Since 2006 restoration supports are provided by Ministry of Environment, and routine maintenance of coastal grasslands is supported by PRIA (governmental body under Ministry of Agriculture). According planned management scheme around Haapsalu Bay the restoration supports will be paid during first 2-3 years of management.  Because of that SNCC Hiiu-Lääne	Project team achieved co-financing for all project activities, which was planned in the project budget. Total co-financing during II semi-annual period was remarkably larger than planned in project proposal. Payment for project publications (posters in three languages) will be done in the end of project period in December (3178 USD), other planned payments were done before 30.11.2007. The achieved co-financing for coastal grassland restoration was 28 150 USD.  Four project applications for EEIC were	31.12.2010	Kaja Lotman, Marko Valker, Aili Kaljusaar & Merle Lepik

	<p>region signed Agreements with farmers in larger amount to cover planned project co-financing in shorter timescale (PRIA supports are not applicable as co-financing).</p>	<p>prepared to achieve necessary co-financing for activities 1.2; 2.3; 2.4 &amp; 3.1 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> semi-annual period.</p> <p>An additional 8440 USD has approved by EEIC for fish inventory in the Nõva-Osmussaar area, agreement for this study was signed with Estonian Marine Institute.</p> <p>Project team used 19 715 USD EEIC Funds for hiking trail renovation which was approved in the I semi-annual period (in June 2007).</p>		
<p>Logistics &amp; operations</p>		<p>Coastal grassland restoration was successfully implemented on the selected area (see attached map in Appendix II), using technical equipment purchased for GEF funds in previous semi-annual period.</p> <p>Hiking trail in Saare village was built 20-30 cm higher to avoid over flooding and amortisation. 3-days courses for nature interpreters were organized (for 20 participants).</p> <p>Project team is providing lectures and help to implement practice for nature tourism students in Haapsalu Vocational College. Nature interpreters courses were implemented in July-Sept for 20 participants.</p> <p>Fieldworks has been finished for mapping Natura 2000 biotopes in Nõva-Osmussaar</p>	<p>31.12.2010</p>	<p>Marko Valker &amp; Tiit Randla</p>

		<p>SPA. Study Report will be finished in March 2008.</p> <p>Agreement for Waterbird Inventory has been signed with <i>University of Life Sciences</i> (Andres Kuresoo, Leho Luigujõe). First water bird census was organized in October 2007.</p> <p>Project team is leasing <i>Subaru Forester 2.0</i> to support project logistics.</p>		
<p>Reporting &amp; communication</p>	<p>One part of management plan (for Väinameri SPA) will be compiled by NGO Baltic Environmental Forum. Because of that special attention is needed to support this organization in management plan compiling to ensure that legal adoption takes place during 2008.</p>	<p>II Semi-annual report with next semi-annual work plan has been compiled. Project PAMETT was reviewed and updated by PCU suggestions. External finance audit will be implemented in December 2007 after second semi-annual report.</p> <p>Project team is finishing first report of project monitoring strategy, which will be discussed and updated in next semi-annual period.</p> <p>Project team has established cooperation with NGO Baltic Environmental Forum for cooperation during management plan adoption process in 2008.</p> <p>Poster in 3 languages (Estonian, English, Russian) was designed to explain aims and activities of the Haapsalu-Noarootsi demonstration project. This publication will be given to local municipalities, tourism entrepreneurs, tourism information and nature education centres and put up in the key sites on the project</p>	<p>31.12.2010</p>	<p>Marko Valker</p>



		area. Attractive large poster format is effective communication tool with public, raising awareness about nature conservation activities.		
Coordination with project partners	Time of meeting with fishers depend on the timescale of legal adoption of new hobby fishing regulation in Silma Nature Reserve, prepared by Department of Fish Resources (Ministry of Environment).	<p>Meetings with the farmers, reed cutters, resource-use specialists and teachers were implemented. Reed bed management and coastal grassland restoration areas has been agreed with local stakeholders. Meeting with local fishermens will be organized in December to inform them about the changes in amateur fishing in 2008.</p> <p>Study visit for local farmers was organized to visit Öland island. All important families participated in this event. Farmers and reed cutters have coordinated to work according general management planning scheme for Haapsalu Bay (see maps in Appendix II).</p> <p>4 voluntary camps have been organized in cooperation with State Forest Management Centre (RMK), Estonian Fund for Nature, Noarootsi School and TNT Eesti.</p>	31.12.1010	Marko Valker, Tiit Randla
External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons, etc.)	The general development of national monitoring system are affecting the timescale of project activities.	<p>Nature Conservation Department has been fully prepared documentation for Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu) to accept joining with AEWa Agreement.</p> <p>Estonian Environmental Information Centre is developing database for monitoring results. Two monitoring</p>	31.12.2008	Marko Valker & Tiit Randla

		stations are included in national monitoring database. Monitoring data about migrating AEWA species will be uploaded into national database.		
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## 2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

<b>Date of last SC Meeting</b>	26.11.2007
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	10.06.2008

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

### List of Steering Committee

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Ülle Harak, <i>Head of Nature Conservation Department (Ministry of Environment)</i>	Chair-person	Ulle.Harak@envir.ee	(+372) 626 2871
Kaja Lotman, <i>Director of SNCC Hiiu-lääne region</i>	member	Kaja.Lotman@lk.ee	(+372) 4724 223
Kaia Treier, <i>Project coordinator, State Nature Conservation Centre</i>	member	Kaia.Treier@lk.ee	(+372) 6272187
Ivar Ojaste, <i>Head of Species Protection, State Nature Conservation Centre</i>	member	Ivar.Ojaste@lk.ee	(+372) 6272184
Liina Eek, <i>specialist, Nature Conservation Department (ministry of Environment)</i>	member	Liina.Eek@lk.ee	(+372) 6262877
Olari Taal, <i>entrepreneur</i>	member	Olari.Taal@silmalk.ee	-
Krista Vilta, <i>Head of City Environment Department, City government of Haapsalu</i>	member	Krista.Vilta@haapsalulv.ee	(+372) 47 25323
Arne Tennisberg, <i>entrepreneur</i>	member	Arne.Tennisberg@mail.ee	(+372) 5023042
Arne Tamm, <i>local farmer</i>	member	Arne.Tamm@mail.ee	(+372) 5029885
Arno Kelnik, <i>Head of Oru municipality</i>	member	Arno.Kelnik@oruvald.ee	(+372) 4724652
Jaanus Elts, <i>Estonian Ornithological Society project manager</i>	member	Jaanus.Elts@eoy.ee	(+372) 744180

To contact with all Steering Committee members please send an e-mail to [gef-aewa@lk.ee](mailto:gef-aewa@lk.ee). This is an e-mail list for sharing information between SC members and project team.

### 3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

<b>OUTCOMES &amp; ACTIVITIES</b> Output/Service (as listed in Annex A of Memorandum of Agreement)	<b>EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>STATUS</b> NA: Not scheduled for current reporting period IP: In progress (state % completed) C: Completed	<b>PROGRESS</b> Description of progress & achievements during the reporting period	<b>ISSUES &amp; PROPOSED SOLUTIONS</b> Description of problems encountered; issues that need to be addressed; decisions / actions to be taken	<b>PARTY RESPONSIBLE</b>
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Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↗ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↘ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.

<b>Outcome 1</b>					
Activity 1.1. Engagement of local and national policy makers to ensure the legal adoption of the management plan	30.VI.2007	<b>C</b>	The nature conservation authorities on local level (Local Environmental Department, Environmental Inspectorate, State Forest Management Centre) are closely involved into management planning process discussions. National level decision makers (Ministry of Environment, SNCC Head Office) are informed about progress in project implementation.	Engagement and cooperation with local municipalities and national decision-makers will continue under activities 1.2. & 1.3.	<b>Marko Valker</b>
Activity 1.2. Collection of additional information needed for management plan.	30.VI.2008	<b>IP ↗</b>  (50%)	Fieldworks for marine Natura 2000 biotopes mapping were implemented by Estonian Marine Institute in July 2007. At the	Study report of marine Natura 2000 biotopes will be ready in March 2008.	<b>Tiit Randla</b>

Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↗ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↘ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.

Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↗ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↘ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
<b>Outcome 1</b>					
			<p>moment data analyzing is in progress.</p> <p>Agreement with University of Life Sciences was signed to organize 3 waterbird counts from airplanes. First count was implemented in October.</p> <p>Agreement for fish inventory in the Osmussaar area was signed with Estonian Marine Institute. The first part of fieldworks (catches during cold water period) were implemented in autumn 2007.</p>	<p>Next waterbird counts will be organized in January and April. Additional census will be organized in July to count moulting waterfowls.</p> <p>The second part of fish inventory fieldworks (warm water season) will be implemented during summer 2008.</p>	
Activity 1.3. Development and implementation of the management plan collaboratively with local management organizations and communities	31.12.2008	<p><b>IP ↗</b></p> <p>50 %</p>	<p>Preliminary protection rules and zoning for Silma Nature Reserve and Osmussaar Landscape Reserve have been worked out. These are discussed with local nature conservation authorities and will be discussed with Stakeholders in the next semi-annual period.</p> <p>The compiling of management plan for Haapsalu Bay is in progress and final draft for discussions will be ready for March 2008.</p>	<p>During III semi-annual period must start legal adoption process of protection rules of Silma Nature Reserve and Osmussaar Landscape Reserve.</p> <p>The legal adoption process of the Silma Nature management plan must start. Compiling of management plan for Nõva-Osmussaar SPA must start.</p>	<p><b>Marko Valker, Tiit Randla</b></p>
<b>Outcome 2</b>					

Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↑ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ↓ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.

<b>Outcome 1</b>					
Activity 2.1. Awareness raising among local stakeholders of the importance of the coastal meadow and reed bed restoration and rehabilitation	31.12.2010	C	<p>Meetings with farmers, reed cutters, resource use specialists and teachers were held. Fishermen meeting will be held in December to explain changes in hobby fishing in 2008 (after legal adoption of fishing regulations).</p> <p>Farmers study visit was implemented to Öland on July 2007, local farmers, nature conservation tourism specialists shared the ideas and their experience with all key farmers from Haapsalu-Noarootsi area.</p> <p>Reed bed management areas and sustainable management methods have been agreed with local farmers and reed cutters.</p>	<p>The consultations and dialogue with farmers must continue, to mobilize more beef cattles for grazing in the coastal meadows around Haapsalu Bay.</p> <p>The most areas have been cut for 2-3 years, now is critically needed to increase the numbers of animals.</p>	<b>Marko Valker</b>
Activity 2.2. Local stakeholders trained in restoration and rehabilitation practice through demonstration		IP ↑ (25%)	<p>About 115 ha of coastal meadows was restored near Lyckholm Bay using demonstration project equipment. Payment was done for the cutting equipment, which was selected during previous semi-annual period.</p> <p>Bush cutter has been bought for GEF Funds for small-scale restoration works.</p>	<p>Bush cutter has been bought for GEF Funds to clean small islets on the Saunja Bay of reed. This work must be done in winter 2008 by local reed cutter or farmer.</p>	<b>Marko Valker, Tiit Randla</b>

Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ⬆ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ⬇ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.

Outcome 1					
			Removing of reed on the coastline is critically important in Haapsalu Bay area. Because the tractors are too heavy for using in the muddy coastline, the reed cutters are informed about the need to clean these areas from reed beds. In that way they clean the area for next year, so that cows can keep the coastline clean during grazing season.		
Activity 2.3. Establishment of tourism infrastructure	31.12.2008	IP ⬆ (50%)	<p>Main hiking trail in Noarootsi area (reed bed trail) was renovated in reporting period. It was built 20-30 cm higher to avoid overflowing during high water level period.</p> <p>Project website was updated, more information (site description, photos, links and project activities) was uploaded into project website.</p>	<p>SNCC Saunja office must be developed for a visitor centre, which actively supports existing ecotourism possibilities in the area.</p> <p>Interactive multimedia program about project area will be compiled in 2008. Information boards will be designed and put up on the Visitor Centre, describing the project area and its importance for waterbirds.</p> <p>More information boards about wildlife and conservation activities must be put up on the Saunja and Saare hiking trails.</p>	<b>Marko Valker</b>
Activity 2.4. Development of local capacity for ecotourism			Course for nature interpreters was organized in July-Sept 2007.		<b>Marko Valker,</b>

Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ⬆ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ⬇ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.

<b>Outcome 1</b>					
			Cooperation was established with Haapsalu Vocational College to provide lectures about protected areas in the northern part of Lääne County.		<b>Tiit Randla</b>
<b>Outcome 3</b>					
Activity 3.1. Development of a monitoring strategy to underpin the implementation of the management plan	30.06.2008	<b>50%</b>	<p>First draft of the monitoring strategy was compiled by project team. This contains the aims, primary indicators and methodology of strategy for evaluation of the success of management.</p> <p>For monitoring the changes during demonstration project was described the background situation and main conservation problems.</p>	<p>During II semi-annual period must be implemented II and III phase of the monitoring strategy.</p> <p>During II phase of monitoring strategy development the methodology and indicators must be scientifically analyzed and the first report will be revised by scientists from Estonian University of Life Sciences.</p> <p>The last phase of strategy development contains the GIS-based demonstration of project monitoring.</p>	<b>Marko Valker, Tiit Randla</b>
Activity 3.2. Implementation of the monitoring strategy	31.12.2010	<b>NA</b>		According project proposal this activity will start in 4 <sup>th</sup> semi-annual period, after the implementation of activity 3.1.	<b>Marko Valker, Tiit Randla</b>
<b>Outcome 4</b>					



Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ⬆ increased with respect to prior report; (-) unchanged; ⬇ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.

<b>Outcome 1</b>					
Activity 4.1. Project inception and establishment of local Steering Committee	30.06.2007	<b>C</b>	Steering Committee will meet two times annually to approve semi-annual reports and work plan for next semi-annual period.		<b>Marko Valker, Tiit Randla</b>
Activity 4.2. Implementation and administration of the project	31.12.2010	<b>IP ⬆</b> (25%)	Project team achieved necessary co-financing for coastal grassland restoration. Surveys for collecting baseline data are ongoing in the Nõva-Osmussaar SPA. Currently SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region compile management plan for Silma Nature Reserve. Development of project monitoring strategy is ongoing.	Enlargement of Silma Nature Reserve and legal adoption of new protection rules is a key issue to ensure sufficient protection of migratory water birds.	<b>Marko Valker, Tiit Randla</b>
Activity 4.3. Monitoring and reporting of the project progress	31.12.2010	<b>IP ⬆</b> (25%)	Second semi-annual report has been compiled by project team. Project team has revised PAMETT for Haapsalu-Noarootsi area.	Project book keeping will be audited after second semi-annual period. External auditing report will be implemented in December.	<b>Marko Valker, Tiit Randla</b>

## 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 advanced by UNOPS to date: 71 658 USD

Balance from prior payment(s): 12739 (from previous financial report)

Total expenditure this reporting period: 49 313 USD

Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule): 29043 USD

Date of the next request for funds: (01/01/2008)

Certified by Marko Valker:

Project team used GEF Funds from this and previous semi-annual period in amount 49 313 USD.

The balance remaining is of 10389 USD

*[This remaining balance will be used for expenditure planned in the end of year and early next year under the following budget lines: car leasing (leasing payments in December and January), participation in the WOW Demo Projects meeting in Wageningen 28.01.-01.02.2008, project monitoring strategy (payment will be done in March, after II phase report), personnel costs (incl. personel costs in December) project auditing and extra financial consultation costs]*

General Category of Expenditure	Total budget	Total expenditure to date	Total budget balance	Last payment received	Expenditure in reporting period	Balance at end of reporting period
Personell	75000	14927	60073	9375	8475	3823
Equipment	23574	15974	7600	13479	13475	5
Subcontracts	27232	12851	14381	11859	10873	1508
Workshops/Training	6002	3495	2507	3165	3160	5
Travel	37300	10223	27077	5750	10223	2177
Overhead/Operations	4880	1031	3849	610	1031	189
Monitoring/Evaluation/ auditing	26012	2768	23244	2725	2076	2682
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200000</b>	<b>61269</b>	<b>138731</b>	<b>46963</b>	<b>49313</b>	<b>10389</b>

## 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 (notes)
Ministry of Environment (through SNCC and EEIC)	100 000		100000	35425	64575
Co-financing in reporting period, including				33988	
<i>Project publications</i>				3178	Payment will be done in December
<i>Courses for nature guides</i>				861	
<i>Travel</i>				1332	
<i>Miscellaneous</i>				468	
<i>Subcontracts (Agreements with farmers)</i>				28149	
<b>totals</b>				35425	64575
<b>List any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation</b>					
Reed bed trail renovation (EEIC)				19715	Payments were done, approval of this co-financing is indicated in first semi-annual report
Fish inventory (EEIC)				8440	8440 USD was approved by EEIC for project fish inventory (no payments in current project period).
<b>totals</b>				28155	

## 5. Performance Evaluation

### 5.1 Logical framework

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of 01.07.2007- 30.11.2007	Risks and assumptions
<b>Development Objective</b>					
Conservation and sustainable use of the Haapsalu-Noarootsi Bays critical site for migratory water birds					
<b>Immediate Objective</b>					
Strengthened conservation management capacity	<p>An adopted management plan under implementation (note: plan will include a monitoring framework and indicators)</p> <p>Financial capacity to implement the plan.</p>	<p>Management plan</p> <p>Relevant legislation and endorsement by national authorities</p> <p>Implementation reports by State Nature Conservation Centre</p> <p>WOW demo project progress reports</p>	<p>Haapsalu-Noarootsi area is in the national potential Ramsar list.</p> <p>Estonia has not joined the AEWA Agreement</p> <p>Some parts of project area have management plan</p> <p>Limited management capacity in place at SNCC</p>	<p>Documentation is prepared for Estonian Parliament to accept joining with AEWA Agreement.</p> <p>Legal preparations for Ramsar site designation has been started.</p> <p>Management activities have been agreed in Haapsalu Bay area.</p>	<p>Current trends in sustainable use of coastal meadows are not negatively impacted by shifts in government / EU policy.</p> <p>Commitment to cooperation among relevant government institutions continues.</p>

<b>Outcomes</b>					
Integrated sustainable use and conservation management plan promulgated	An adopted management plan based on Ramsar principles and supporting the conservation of AEWA species.	Management Plan  Periodic implementation reports	A management plan exists for Silma Nature Reserve and Osmussaar Landscape Reserve (2004-2008)	Compiling of 1 part of integrated management plan (management plan for Silma Nature Reserve). Active baseline data collection is ongoing for the second management plan (Nõva-Osmussaar SPA). Monitoring of conservation problems, activities and water bird populations has been started.	National legislation remains conducive for conservation
2. Improved infrastructure and an increased local capacity to develop ecotourism and sustain coastal grassland restoration	Average stay of eco-tourists in the area  Increased habitat for migratory waterbirds.	WOW demonstration project progress reports  Bird counts  Publications,  Website statistics  Visitor feedback / survey results	Changes in the migrating waterbird numbers are unknown  regular coastal meadow monitoring exist  No active Visitor Centre 2 existing nature trails, no camp sites,  Silma Nature	Regular migratory waterbird monitoring was re-established in Haapsalu Bay area. The mapping of conservation activities for monitoring was implemented. 9 farmers and 8 reed cutters are working according SNCC instructions 1 nature trail is enhanced. Project poster has been designed to	National socio-economic and environmental conditions remain conducive to conservation / ecotourism measures  The number of staging waterfowl will not increase  The number of birds will not increase

			reserve home page	attract more visitors to the area.	Insufficient interest towards the organized events Insufficient interest, too sparse population
Improved availability of data for conservation management	Data is used to assess the impact of management actions  Waterbird monitoring plan being implemented regularly	Regular waterbird monitoring reports  Management plan implementation reports  State monitoring system waterbird database	The latest estimations about migrating waterbirds numbers around Haapsalu Bay are about 10 years old.	Waterbird monitoring is re-established. Implemented conservation activities and main threats have been mapped.	Insufficient logistical support  Lack / support of interest from participants or partner institutions

## 5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

QUESTION	ANSWER
Was the PAMETT performed for the Haapsalu-Noarootsi Bays protected area?	yes
Date of first PAMETT:	10.05.2007, updated 15.11.2007
PAMETT performed by:	Marko Valker & Tiit Randla

## 5.3 Project Impact

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	3 persons (Estonian Ornithological Society (1) – participation in SC, NGO Läänemaa Bird Club (1) – participation in project monitoring; NGO Silma Märgala (1) – scientific studies and wetland restoration)
# of Government Staff involved in this project	2 persons from Ministry of Environment (Nature Conservation Department) – 2 involved into Steering Committee
# of Volunteers involved in this project	85 persons (4 voluntary camps in the project area was organized)
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	1 person from Ministry of Environment is preparing national documentation for joining with AEWA Agreement
<b>TARGET BENEFICIARIES</b>	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	52 key stakeholders
# of people involved in project workshops	52
# of people trained under this project	150 people – 20 nature guides, 9 farmers, 8 reed cutters, 15 teachers, 99 children
<b>COMMUNICATION ISSUES</b>	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	2 press articles
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	1 electronic article in the Estonian TV News Portal ( <a href="http://www.etv24.ee">www.etv24.ee</a> )
# of publications produced under this project	1 poster was compiled in Russian, English and Estonian
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	3000

## 6. Key Lessons Learned

- 1. The socio-economical context of coastal meadow and reed bed management.** Due to intensive coastal grassland restoration around Haapsalu Bay in the recent years, the size of reed beds has been decreased. SNCC has compiled a strategic plan for reed bed management. Reed bed areas for nature conservation purposes were selected, where harvesting is not allowed. Due to stronger competition between reed cutters, SNCC suggested to clean coastline from reed fringes. It is at the same time useful from conservation as well from economical perspective. The muddy coastline is overgrown with old reed which is not suitable for animals. There is also no possibility to work with heavy machines. During winter reed cutters clean the area from reed when the surface is frozen. In the next season there will be new reed, which is suitable for beef cattles. Due to nature conservation supports provided by Ministry of Environment and the impact of EU LIFE Funds used in 2002-2006, local farmers have economical interest and possibilities to increase the number of animals. This makes possible to increase the grazing rate and the total size of grazed area. In that way demonstration project have a good possibilities mobilize by meetings and individual consultations more animals for grazing around Haapsalu Bay.
- 2. Demonstration of coastal restoration success story on Öland island (Sweden).** Öland island in Sweden has remarkable coastal grasslands, including world famous *Stora Alvaret* (“Big alvar”). The economy of the island based on tourism – this the most visited area in Sweden. Large proportion of the tourists are interested about unique nature on the island. Demonstration of large open grasslands is the heart of the economy, makes possible to get income from tourism and live on the island all the year. In this way the local community will ensure the grazing on alvars and coastal meadows. Farmers from Noarootsi area get a great experience about farming in Sweden, the study tour in local beef cattle farm, in Borgholm City Government and world famous Nordic alvars was implemented.



## 7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period

### 7.1 Updated overall project workplan

ACTIVITY	YEAR 2		YEAR 3		YEAR 4	
	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8
1.1. Engagement of local and national policy makers to ensure the legal adoption of the management plan	Completed during I Semi-annual period, engagement with policy-makers will continue under activities 1.2 & 1.3.					
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 the coastal meadow and reed-bed restoration and rehabilitation	Implemented during II Semi-annual period, awareness raising activities will continue under activity 2.2.					
2.2. Local stakeholders trained in restoration and rehabilitation practice through demonstration						
2.3. Establishment of tourism 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 <01.01.2008.-30.06.2008>					
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
1. Compiling the management plan draft for Silma Nature Reserve						
2. Meetings with stakeholders to ensure the legal adoption of management plan and protection rules for Silma Nature Reserve						
3. Compiling the management plan draft for Nõva-Osmussaar area (continues during IV semi-annual period, deadline VIII.2008)						
4. Enhancing of nature tourism infrastructure in Saunja and Saare hiking trail						
5. Development of visitor Centre in the SNCC Saunja Office (continues during next semi-annual period – deadline 15.12.2008)						
6. Development of project website						
7. Courses for nature interpreters						
8. Implementation of II & III phase of project monitoring strategy development.						
9. Implementation of water bird censuses in the open sea part of the project area.						
10. Implementation of Nõva-Osmussaar SPA marine habitat mapping report						

## ANNEXES

Inventory of equipment:



### **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
1.	Training Workshop	Nature Interpreters Training	Noarootsi	17.VII	Anneli Palo	SNCC Hiiu-Lääne Region	21	no
2.	Training Workshop /Seminar	Farmers training visit to Öland (Sweden) with farmers meeting	Borgholm, Öland	22.-26.VII	Marko Valker	SNCC Hiiu-Lääne Region	16 (9 farmers; 2 team members, 5 nature conservation experts from SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region (not covered from project budget)	yes

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

3.	Other	Voluntary Camp in Osmussaar	Osmussaar	2.. VIII	Tiit Randla	SNCC Hiiu_lääne region	23	no
4.	Expert Group Meeting	Silma Nature Reserve protection rules	Haapsalu	15. VIII	Marju Erit	SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region	8	no
5.	Other	Voluntary Camp in Nõva Landscape Reserve	Nõva-Noarootsi	16. VIII	Marko Valker	SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region	47	no
6.	Training/ Workshop	Bird identification training for nature interpreters	Haverisi	28. IX	Tiit Randla	SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region	19	no
7.	Other	Camp with Noarootsi School	Põõsaspea Cape	11. IX	Marko Valker	SNCC-Hiiu-Lääne region	27	no
8.	Training Workshop	Waterbird identification training	Põõsaspea Cape	15. IX	Mati Kose	SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region	20	no
9.	Expert Group Meeting	Silma Nature Reserve protection rules II	Haapsalu	4. X	Marju Erit	SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region	8	no

		draft discussion						
10.	Other	Voluntary camp in Silma Nature Reserve	Saun-ja	22. X	Marko Valker	SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region	25	no
11.	Training/ Workshop	Meeting with teachers	Uue-mõisa	25. X	Marko Valker	SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region	15	no
12.	Training Workshop	Meeting with reed cutters	Saun-ja	7.XI	Tarvo Valker	SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region	8	no

**b) Printed Materials**

No	Type <sup>5</sup>	Title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Publisher	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.	Other	WOW Haapsalu-Noarootsi demonstration project poster	SNCC Hiiu-Lääne region	Carp Studio Ltd	15.11.2007	No

<sup>5</sup> Material types (Report to Inter-governmental Meeting, Technical Publication, Technical Report, Other)

**c) Media coverage**

No	Description	Date
1.	“Estländare pa snabbvisit” – Ölandsblandet. Short message about Farmers study visit to Sweden.	24 July 2007
2.	“Kesk-Aasia ja Kaukaasia linnukaitsjad saavad abi eestlastelt” – <a href="http://www.etv24.ee">www.etv24.ee</a> . Electronic article in Estonian Television News portal about project team participation in WOW Training and Awareness Workgroup	1. October 2007
3.	Eesti looduskaitstjad osalesid ekspertidena linnukaitse seminaril – SNCC Press Release about participation in WOW Training and Awareness Workshop	1. October 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 Goose Life-project ( <a href="http://www.piskulka.net">www.piskulka.net</a> ) to get the information about the numbers 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 Interreg III A project “ <i>Reedbed Strategy in Finland and Estonia</i> ”. Reedbed Strategy has been compiled for Väinameri area, including all reedbeds located in the project area	Saunja, Penijõe	31.12.2007
3.	Advisory Services	Cooperation and data exchange with Life project “Marine protected areas in the Eastern Baltic Sea” ( <a href="http://www.balticseaportal.net">www.balticseaportal.net</a> )	Penijõe, Tallinn	31.12.2008

<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.	Interreg III A project “Reedbed Strategy in Finland and Estonia” seminar, <i>Lihula, West-Estonia</i>	30.08.2007
2.	Management Planning Meeting with NGO Baltic Environmental Forum, <i>Tallinn, Estonia</i>	03.09.2007
3.	NorBalWet Expert Group Meeting “Monitoring of Wetlands”, <i>Lepanina, South-West Estonia</i>	20.09.2007
4.	WOW Training and Awareness Workshop, <i>Almen, Netherlands</i>	24.-28.09.2007
5.	Wetland International Meeting, <i>Shaoxing, China</i>	5.-8. 11.2007
6.	“Estonian Bird Tourism Capacity Development seminar, <i>Penijõe, West-Estonia</i>	27.11.2007

**ANNEX II List of produced materials**

1. *Planned enlargement of Silma Nature Reserve.*
2. *Coastal grassland management scheme around Haapsalu Bay*
3. *Reed bed management scheme around Haapsalu bay*
4. *Location of coastal grassland, restored during current project*
5. *Law proposal of protection rules for Silma Nature Reserve*
6. *Law proposal of protection rules for Osmussaar Landscape Reserve*
7. *Haapsalu-Noarootsi demonstration project poster (6 files sent to Project Coordination Unit in electronic format)*
8. *Photos*