



LIFE Project Number

LIFE04NAT/PL/000208

PLBALTBOGS

TECHNICAL INTERIM REPORT

Covering the project activities from 02.11.2003 (project starting date) to 30.07.2006

Reporting Date

31/08/2006

LIFE PROJECT NAME

**Conservation of baltic raised bogs in Pomerania,
Poland**

Data Project

Project location	Poland, Pomerania and West Pomerania Region
Project start date:	02/11/2003
Project end date:	30/06/2007
Total Project duration (in months)	44 months
Total budget	968 337 €
EC contribution:	681 080 €
(%) of total costs	70,33 %
(%) of eligible costs	70,33 %

Data Beneficiary

Name Beneficiary	Klub Przyrodników (Naturalists Club Poland)
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2.1. LIST (I) KEY-WORDS AND (II) ABBREVIATIONS (WHEN APPROPRIATE)

Raised bogs, Baltic bogs, bog forests,
7110, 7120, 91D0 habitats

EG – ecological ground (Polish national conservation form)
NR – nature reserve (Polish national conservation form)
LNA – landscape-nature area (Polish national conservation form)
HAP – Habitat Action Plan

3.2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (1-2 PAGE)

Project objectives:

Overall objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of active raised bog (7110) and pine/birch bog forest habitats (91D0) and the favourable conservation status of its complexes – baltic raised bogs in Pomerania, Poland. To maintain the Polish resources of specific sub-type of 7110 and 91D0 habitats, connected with the baltic bogs.

Operational:

- To stop the process of draining and following desiccation of the peatbogs
- To cancel local threats for biodiversity, created by species expansive as a result of desiccation
- To fulfill the holes in knowledge on natural values, ecology and hydrology of each raised bog and prepare good management plan on base of this knowledge.
- To propagate modern approach for raised bogs conservation, including appropriate active management techniques
- To build public awareness of baltic raised bogs value and its European importance, and awareness of its conservation needs, especially in influential stakeholders group, but also in local communities and general public.

Key deliverables & outputs achieved:

- § 7 Nature Inventory Reports + 6 documentations for Nature Reserves prepared;
- § 13 Standard Data Forms for Natura 2000 potential sites prepared or updated;
- § 5 Nature Reserves + 1 Ecological Ground established;
- § 6 Nature Reserve Management Plans prepared;
- § 5 technical documentations for water damming up prepared and approved;
- § Draft of Habitat Action Plan for baltic raised bogs elaborated, discussed and updated
- § 47 water damms built;
- § trees partially removed from 350 ha;
- § *Myrica gale* and *Erica tetralix* populations on two bogs out of local extinction danger;
- § Public access infrastructure prepared on 2 bogs;
- § Ca 250 people targeted by meeting, agreements and discussions
- § Ca 2000 people targeted by printed leaflets

- § Handbook of raised bogs conservation prepared and printed
- § Baltic bogs management planners & conservation managers working group established
- § Project website available in Internet
- § Ca 80 information panels installed on project sites

Problem

Baltic raised bogs (= "true raised bogs" according to Ellenberg 1988) are special kind of raised bogs, with limited distribution – around the Baltic sea. Ca 80 baltic raised bogs were recorded in northern Poland, but no more than 30 are preserved till now. In the Pomerania region, 23 sites, giving any chance for maintaining or restoring the favourable conservation status of bog as a whole, and natural bog habitats, were recorded. All these sites are selected to this project. Formal, passive management, applied as a rule to raised bogs in Poland till now, seems to be not appropriate to successful baltic bogs conserving. Even on the best preserved bogs, active management, with blocking old anthropogenic drainings, sometimes also with taking other conservation measures, seems to be necessary. Probably it is "the last minute" to stop degradation processes!

LIFE-project framework

The project is implemented in partnership of:

- § Nature conservation NGO (Klub Przyrodników – Beneficiary);
- § Regional nature conservation administration (2 partners – Pomerania and West Pomerania Region);
- § State Forests - Forest districts (2 districts: Kliniska and Szczecinek);

Progress in project actions and achieved results:

Action		Achieved results
A1	Site assessment and inventory	Completed for all bogs as planned
A2	Preparation of formal documentations for Nature Reserve establishing	Completed for all bogs as planned
A3	Preparation of site management plans for Nature Reserves	In progress. For some sites delayed as a result of formal problems (if action is under the Regional Authority responsibility, it cannot be started before formal nature reserve establishing)
A4	Preparation of technical projects for water damming up (& necessary permission)	In progress. For some sites delayed as a result of very restrictive demands created as a result of updating Polish building & investments legislation.
C1	Blocking draining ditches	Action in progress. Implemented as planned, some justifications concerning detailed localisation of dams and detailed technical solutions have been necessary as a result of management plans (A3) and technical project (A4), but not influencing the expected outputs and nor site objectives

C2	Trees (birch and pine) removing	Action in progress. Some modification in detail localisation have been necessary as a result of management plans (A3), for achieving conservation objectives.
C3	Spruce (alien species) removing	Action in progress. Some modification in detail localisation have been necessary as a result of management plans (A3), for achieving conservation objectives.
C4	Experiment with Sphagnum transplantation	Preparatory works done; full implementation expected in November 2006
D1	Local improving light conditions for rare plant localities	Cancelled on one of planned target bogs as a result of more detail recognition of ecological conditions (no sense of action), but extended in area on other bogs.
E1	Building education infrastructure on selected peatbogs	Successfully implemented. As a result of more detailed recognition, some minor changes in action localisation had to be made. As a result of bogs management planning, more needs for public access creation have been recognised for future actions
E2	Communication with local people & stakeholders	Action in progress, must be continuous during the project. Numerous meetings with local stakeholders have been conducted, for making agreements for bogs conservation. Leaflets presenting particular sites prepared, printed and disseminated in the local communities, according to identified communication needs.
E3	Work with people responsible for nature management planning	Action in progress, series of workshops and study visits organised (incl. study visit in Latvia & Estonia 2005 and Scotland 2006). Some other LIFE-Nature bogs projects visited.
E4	Handbook of Polish raised bogs conservation	Prepared, printed and disseminated
E5	Project website	Available in the internet at www.kp.org.pl/plbaltbogs
E6	Information pannels	Installed on project sites
E7	End reports	Will be prepared at the project end
F1	Overall coordination and management of project actions	Continuous work
F2	Monitoring and documentation	Started and continued

7. Evaluation and Conclusions

The project implementation meet project objectives and seems to be successful, although no devoid of some problems, as a rule related to lack of experience in LIFE project implementation in Poland (first PL project!) and changing legislation environment.

The project is implemented in partnership of nature conservation NGO; regional nature conservation administration (2 partners – Pomerania and West pomerania region and State Forests, which is a good model of collaboration for nature conservation.

The project seems to be successful with achieving the main ecological objectives. Although time for precise assessment is too short, first monitoring results suggest that ditches blocking on targetted sites importantly improve the water conditions.

There is important progress with establishing national conservation forms protecting project sites. Submitting project sites to the Natura 2000 is also prepared, but all Natura 2000 network developing process is stopped by the Polish government.

The project is in Poland the first implementation of bogs conservations actions using massive, not only experimental scale. In the economic situation of Polish nature conservation, it is possible only owing to EU LIFE funding.

The project implementation experience has been used / is used in developing of numerous schemes, concepts and methodologies, for example the PROMME scheme and decision support system (LIFE Co-op project), methodology of Natura 2000 habitats monitoring in Poland, LIFE+ national Annual Programme in Poland.

4.3. INTRODUCTION (1 PAGE)

Baltic raised bogs (= "true raised bogs" according to Ellenberg 1988) are special kind of raised bogs, with limited distribution – around the Baltic see. These are typically ombrotrophic, oligotrophic and acidic; as a result they are covered by special kind of vegetation, with many rare and endangered plants.

Typical for baltic bog is a cupola shape peat bog deposit, with flat plateau and slopes. For the natural baltic raised bogs, plateau is typically treeless, with typical microrelief of hollows and hummocks. Slopes are covered by bog woodlands. For transformed bogs, cover of the whole bog by the pine or birch bog forest is typical. Baltic raised bogs are as a rule big complexes of natural habitats of European importance: *7110 – active raised bogs (priority!), 7120 – degraded but still capable for regeneration raised bogs, *91D0 – bog woodlands (priority!); with pine bog forests and *Betula-Sphagnum* bog forests among them.

Ca 80 baltic raised bogs were recorded in northern Poland, but no more than 30 are preserved till now. In the Pomerania region, 23 sites, giving any chance for maintaining or restoring the favourable conservation status of bog as a whole, and natural bog habitats, were recorded. All these sites are selected to this project.

Formal, passive management, applied as a rule to raised bogs in Poland till now, seems to be not appropriate to successful baltic bogs conserving. Even on the best preserved bogs, active management, with blocking old anthropogenic drainings, sometimes also with taking other conservation measures, seems to be necessary. Probably it is "the last minute" to stop degradation processes!

Objective: Overall objective of the project is: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of active raised bog (7110) and pine/birch bog forest habitats (91D0) and the favourable conservation status of its complexes – baltic raised bogs in Pomerania, Poland. Operational objectives are:

- To stop the process of draining and following desiccation of the peatbogs
- To cancel local threats for biodiversity, created by species expansive as a result of desiccation
- To fulfill the holes in knowledge on natural values, ecology and hydrology of each raised bog and prepare good management plan on base of this knowledge
- To propagate modern approach for raised bogs conservation, including appropriate active management techniques
- To build public awareness of baltic raised bogs value and its European importance, and awareness of its conservation needs, especially in influential stakeholders group, but also in local communities and general public

Actions and means involved:

- Sites assessment, management plans preparing, habitat Action Plan preparing
- Blocking draining ditches by sluices and dams building or filling the ditches
- Invasive birch and pine trees removing for evapotranspiration decreasing and water balance improving; removing of spruce (alien species here) invading the bogs
- Experimental dry peat earth removing and *Sphagnum* transplantation
- Work with local communities and influential stakeholders for building awareness of bogs value.
- Arrangement of series of workshop and study tours to Estonia (natural bogs) and Scotland (restoring of degraded bogs); publication of "Handbook of Bogs Conservation"
- Public access infrastructure building on 3 selected bogs. Results presentation and propagation.

☐ **Expected results:** All baltic raised bogs in the region assessed and evaluated; all bogs giving chance for maintaining or restoration of its values taken into protection. Management plans prepared for all valuable baltic bogs. All conservation actions, which should be planned in the existing level of knowledge, planned and executed. 10 new Nature Reserves established. Ca 410 sluices and dams built. Ca 2200m of ditches filled. Trees partially or totally removed from ca 600 ha of bogs surface. Biodiversity of bogs fully preserved. Ca 20 nature conservationists well trained

in raised bogs analysis, assessment, conservation planning and monitoring. Ca 300 local persons fully aware of bogs values and needs of its conservation

5.4. LIFE-PROJECT FRAMEWORK (1 PAGE)

Project is implemented in the partnership between:

Beneficiary - Klub Przyrodników is a Non Governmental Organization with 20-year tradition of activity, working on the field of nature protection in Poland. Area of activity is the whole country. Annual budget of the Klub is average ca 1 000 000 PLN. (=ca 250 thousand EURO). In last years Klub managed numerous nature conservation projects, concerning for example wetlands conservation in western and northern Poland, rare plants inventory and conservation of forests of the RSFD Zielona Góra, minimalising conflicts between people and beavers using technical equipment for preventing beaver's harms, Agri-Environmental Schemes implementation in Western and north-western Poland, Natura 2000 Polish official proposal and shadow list preparation. Klub employs 10 persons as permanent staff. Profits generated from the Klub activity, for example bookstore, consulting work, are turned to nature conservation activity. Klub publishes quarterly bulletin and quarterly the scientific journal concerning nature of Poland and its conservation. Klub publishes also 5-8 book on nature yearly. Most important publications are for example: Handbook of Local nature Conservation ((3 editions, last 2001), Handbook of Wetland Conservation (2 editions, last 2002). Organization is independent.

Partner 1 - Pomorski Urząd Wojewódzki – Wydział Ochrony Środowiska i Rolnictwa, is a public body responsible for nature conservation in Pomerania Region

Partner 2 - Zachodniopomorski Urząd Wojewódzki – Wydział Ochrony Środowiska, is a public body responsible for nature conservation in Western Pomerania Region

Partner 3 – Nadleśnictwo Kliniska – Is a unit of Polish State Forests, responsible for forest management and preservation of in-forest natural values on its area

Partner 4 – Nadleśnictwo Szczecinek - Is a unit of Polish State Forests, responsible for forest management and preservation of in-forest natural values on its area

For project organigram and description of project management organisation, see Chapter 5, action F1.

6.5. PROGRESS, RESULTS

A. Preparatory actions/management plan preparation

ACTION A.1:

Name of action: **Sites assessment & Inventory**

Plan:

For sites with general lack of knowledge about its nature, ecology and hydrology, inventory of natural values (flora, fauna, habitats detailed map) should be prepared. Analysis of the peat deposit stratigraphy and ecology should be included. Old maps, historical aerial photographs and contemporary aerial photos should be used for site history analysis. Elements of site management plans should be elaborated and included to

the report. Peat borer analysis will be used for peat stratigraphy. This inventory should be enough formal base for establishing appropriate form of protection – Ecological Ground or Nature & Landscape Area (for Nature Reserves special format of more complex documentation is need – see Action A2). For established EG or NLA, this inventory should be a confirmation of its natural values.

Activities & outputs:

Action is finished for all bogs it have been planned in the project.

For sites with general lack of knowledge about its nature, ecology and hydrology, inventory of natural values (flora, fauna, natural habitats map, peat deposit stratigraphy) have been prepared. Aerial photos and old maps were also completed. Elements of site management plans have been prepared. This inventory will be enough formal base for establishing appropriate form of protection – Ecological Ground or Nature & Landscape Area. For established EG or NLA, this inventory will be a confirmation of its natural values.

Paralelly with the assessment, monitoring transect have been established on the site 19 (Reptowo). On other bogs monitoring transects will be established in spring 2005.

According to the time schedule, the action is planned to be finished before 2005 Jan 30. For some sites action is finished and for some is little delayed. Detailed information about completing this action for particular bogs are below:

Site 7 (northern part): Łebskie Bagno - Nature inventory has been prepared. It appears the site is more valuable then expected and should be protected as nature reserve, therefore documentation for nature reserve establishing has been also prepared. Also Standard Data Form for Natura 2000 has been prepared. Habitats map for the site have been prepared (habitat 7110 is more abundant, when expected). Needs of conservation actions were assessed more detaily. 11,34 ha of 7110 habitat and 99,98 ha of 91D0 habitat was found. On the base of prepared documenation, Nature Reserve has been established.

Site 13 (Zaleskie Bagno) - Nature inventory has been prepared. The site is protected as "ecological area", but it has been proposed to upgrade conservation status to nature reserve. Appropriate documenation has been prepared. During the inventory, locality of interesting flora species - *Rubus chamaemorus* - has been found (species very rare in Poland). 34 ha of 7110 habitat and 195 ha of 91D0 habitat has been found. The site was assessed as being is in the good conservation status; no active conservation is necessary. On the bse of prepared documentation, the Nature Reserve should be established soon.

Site 17 (Klęcko) - Nature inventory has been prepared. The conservation form of the site - "nature & landscape area" (according to Polish nature conservation law) was assessed as optimal. Also Standard Data Form for Natura 2000 was prepared. Needs of conservation actions have been assessed (ditches blocking). The site is dominated by 91D0 habitat.

Site 19 (Reptowo) - Nature inventory has been prepared. Documentation for formal protection as "nature & landscape area" has been prepared. The site was found as rather strongly degraded. There is not 7110 habitat, only degraded 91D0, which needs restoration. Needs of conservation actions have been identified more precisely. On the base of the documentation, the Nature & Landscape Area should be established soon.

Site 20 (Łazy) - Nature inventory has been prepared. It appears the site is more valuable than expected and should be protected as nature reserve, therefore documentation for nature reserve establishing has been also prepared. Also Standard Data Form for Natura 2000 (as part of bigger site Bukowo Lake) has been prepared. Conservation needs has been assessed more precisely. Ca 100 ha of 91D0 habitat was found, with small areas of 7110 and 7120. Some important for biodiversity localities of plants rare in Poland (*Myrica gale*, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) has been found. On the base of prepared documentation, the Nature Reserve should be established soon.

Site 21 (Świdne Bagno) - Nature inventory has been prepared. The site was found as rather strongly degraded. There are only degraded 91D0 there, without no chance for restoration (no possibility of ditches blocking).

Site 22 (Święta) - Nature inventory has been prepared. Needs of conservation actions was assessed more precisely and corrected (ditches blocking has been identified as necessary). The site is dominated by the 7120 and 91D0, degraded and needing restoration.

Site 23 (Wielkie Bagno) - Nature inventory has been prepared. Formal documentation for conservation as "ecological area" has been prepared. 6 ha of 7110 habitat and 21ha of 91D0 habitat was found. Needs of conservation actions (trees removing) has been assessed more precisely and corrected. On the base of prepared documentation, Ecological Ground has been established.

For sites 7, 13 and 17, identified as more valuable than expected, the action has been extended, for preparing documentation necessary to Nature reserves establishing (see action A2)

Action has been partially subcontracted (as planned), but partially done by project staff. Subcontractors has been selected in a tender procedure.

The action costs include:

- § cost of subcontracting (external service);
- § costs of materials for preparing and printing documentations and maps, copying service etc.
- § costs of purchase maps and aerial photos etc
- § costs of travels to sites

Prepared documentations are included in the Annex 4, in the electronic form (on CD).

As a result of this action, nature inventory reports have been prepared. These reports evaluate sites from the point of view appropriate formal protection form. Two sites have been found more valuable than expected, as a result the documentation and application for Nature Reserve establishing and documentation for including to Natura 2000 have been prepared. Two sites have been found less valuable than expected, but they still are worth of conservation and - after restoration - including to Natura 2000.

As a result of more precise inventory, in some cases Natura 2000 habitats have been identified and assessed more precisely. Habitat maps have been prepared. Also in some cases the conservation needs have been more precisely assessed and corrected. Also conservation needs have been in some cases identified more precisely; as a result small modification in details of localisation of conservation actions (see C3 action in Report 1 as example) was necessary.

As a result of this action, the gap of insufficient knowledge about some sites nature (habitats, flora, fauna, basic stratygraphy and hydrology) have been fulfilled. Summary of results are included to "Polish Baltic Bogs Catalog", which is a part of Baltic Raised Bogs Habitat Action Plan (see Action A5).

As a part of this documentation, N2000 SDF have been prepared or revised, making possible to add some sites to the Polish pSCI official proposal.

As a result of the action, 7 Nature Inventory Reports have been elaborated. 2 new conservation forms has been established (1 Nature Reserve and 1 Ecological Ground) and 3 next should be established soon (2 Nature Reserves and 1 Nature & Landscape Area). For some sites, the higher conservation form has been established than expected on the beginning of the project (for example Nature Reserve in the place of Ecological Ground).

The documentations are important base for discussion with stakeholders (see E2 action). A lot of hard and Cds copies of the documentations had to been printed and disseminated.

Protected Natural Areas (selected) according to Polish legislation:

- Nature Reserve (NR) - created by the regional administration. It is a designation of area for nature conservation only. It is "high level form". Detail documentation in necessary for establishing. Management plan is prepared obligatory and established by the regional administration with Ministry consultation;
- Ecological Ground (EG) - created or by regional or by local administration. It is a designation of area for nature conservation only, but it is "lower level form". Not so detail documentation is necessary for establishing. There is no obligation to prepare management plan, but active conservation action may be prescribed in the act establishing this form.
- Nature & Landscape Area (NLA) - created or by regional or by local administration. It is area with combined nature conservation and agricultural or forest management, but as a rule not very intensive. It is "lower level form". Not so detail documentation is necessary for establishing. There is no obligation to prepare management plan, but active conservation action may be prescribed in the act establishing this form.

Natura 2000 designation and national conservation forms in Poland are independent, i.e. site may be designated as Natura 2000 site even it is not protected by any national form.

ACTION A.2:

Name of action: **Preparation of formal documentations for Nature Reserve establishing**

Plan:

For sites proposed as Nature Reserves, detailed inventory, containing about its nature, ecology and hydrology, inventory of natural values (flora, fauna, habitats detailed map) should be prepared, including analysis of the peat deposit stratygraphy, water and peat chemical composition, and peatbog history and ecology will be included. Old maps, historical aerial photographs and contemporary aerial photos should be used for site history analysis. Peat borer analysis will be used for peat stratygraphy. Documents on

ownership status, relations to the forest management plan, water management plan, land use plan should be included. This documentation should be presented in format appropriate and complete for Nature Reserve establishing by competent authority.

Activities & outputs:

Action has been finished for all planned sites.

Site 1 (Słowińskie Bagno) – Documentation has been prepared and Nature Reserve has been formally established on the base of this documentation.

Site 3 (Kusowskie Bagno) - Documentation has been prepared and Nature Reserve has been formally established on the base of this documentation.

Site 7 southern part (Czarne Bagno) - Documentation has been prepared and Nature Reserve has been formally established on the base of this documentation.

Site 9 (Wierzchucińskie Bagno) - Documentation has been prepared and Nature Reserve has been formally established on the base of this documentation.

Site 15 (Stramniczka) - Documentation has been prepared. Procedure of formal Nature Reserve establishing is in progress.

Site 16 (Roby) - Documentation has been prepared. There are negotiations with State Land Agency for establishin the Nature Reserve.

Because as a result of Action 1, some sites have been assessed as more valuable and worth protection as nature reserves, for Łebskie Bagno, Warnie Bagno and Zaleskie Bagno (site 7, 13 and 17) the basic inventory (enough for establishing "ecological ground" or "landscape & nature area" but not enough for nature reserve establishing) have been extended and supplemented by necessary formal documents (copies of land registers, land register maps, more detailed justification of the protection needs etc). As a result of this:

Site 7 (Łebskie Bagno) - Nature reserve have been established.

Site 13 (Zaleskie Bagno) – Nature reserve will be established soon.

Site 17 (Warnie Bagno) - Nature reserve have been established, by extending the existing small reserve;

Prepared documentations are included in the Annex 4, in the electronic form (on CD).

As a result of this action, 6 documentations have been prepared. Till now, 4 Nature Reserves have been formally established on the base of these documentations. Additionally, the action has been important for additional 3 nature Reserves establishing (see action A1).

As planned, action has been partially subcontracted. Subcontractors has been selected in a tender procedure. Action have been executed under the responsibility of Beneficiary (sites 1,3, 15, 16) and partially under the responsibility of the Partner – Pomorski Urząd Wojewódzki (site 9).

The action costs contains:

- § the external assistance cost;
- § some costs of project staff and travels to the sites
- § some costs of materials (paper, maps, aerial photos)

The documentations are important base for discussion with stakeholders (see E2 action). A lot of hard and Cds copies of the documentations had to be printed and disseminated.

ACTION A.3:

Name of action: **Preparation of site management plans for Nature Reserves**

Plan:

For all Nature Reserves, with exception of sites 8 and 18 (for this reserves management plans are elaborated and established yet) detailed site management plans should be elaborated. Necessary field inventory should be completed.

Activities & outputs:

First part of the action is planned to be finished in January 2005, next parts - in 2006 and 2007. First part of the action contains management plans for sites 2, 4, 5 and 14.

Second part of this action is delayed. It have been planned to prepare formal Site Management Plans for sites 1 and 3, which was covered by the Nature Reserve protection in the 2005. Action is executed under the responsibility of Partner, which is regional authority on nature conservation. According to their rules, formal preparing of SMP cannot be started before the Nature Reserve formal establishing and should take ca 1 year. The NR were established in 2005 and the procedure was started in the end of 2005, to be finish probably in the end of 2006. But in general, materials for Site Management Plan have been collected and there is clear management concept, informally discussed and approved. Actions for 2006 will be formally established as "Short-term NR management plan", not as "Long-term NR management plan". As a result, the delay will not influence the execution of conservation actions for these sites.

As we are informed by the Ministry of Environment, the Polish MoE is working for project of new Nature Conservation Act. Details are kepted in secret and are not known, but there is assumption to take it into force from 01.01.2007. It may change the legislative environment of project implementation, for example changing management plans format and disturbing managements plan formal establishing. Management of this risk would be possible after clarification of details.

Third part of the action is in progress.

Details action results at the reporting date are:

- § For site 1 management plan will be finished in January 2007
- § For site 2 management plan for existing nature reserve is ready. But as a result of negotiations with local forest authority, the idea of extension of nature rezerve appears. regional authority is waiting with the formal approvement of the plan for these extension;
- § For site 3, management plan will be finished in January 2007
- § For site 4, management plan is ready and formally approved
- § For site 5, management plan is ready and formally approved
- § For site 6 management plan will be finished in December 2006
- § For site 7 (both souhern and northern part) management plans will be finished in December 2006
- § For site 9 management plan will be finished in December 2006
- § For site 10 management plan will be finished in December 2006

- § For site 11 management plan is ready and the process of approval is ongoing
- § For site 12 management plan will be finished in December 2006
- § For site 14 management plan will be finished in December 2006
- § For site 15 management plan will be finished in May 2007, but formal start of this work is waiting for the formal nature reserve establishing
- § For site 16 management plan will be finished in May 2007 but formal start of this work is waiting for the formal nature reserve establishing
- § additionally, the management plan for the site 20 has been prepared, and for the site 21 will be prepared in the December 2006.
- § additionally, for the sites 4, 5, 6 the "Short-term Management Plan" (*zadania ochronne*) have been prepared and established.

Management plans in Poland

According to Polish legislation:

- For each Nature Reserve, the Site Management Plan (*plan ochrony*) should be prepared and established during 5 years after the reserve establishing. Generally in Poland these plans preparing is delayed, and there are no such plans even for "old" nature reserves. This kind of plan is normally established for 20-years period, by the Regional Authority, after the acceptance by the Ministry of Environment;
- If the 20-year management plan do not exist for nature reserve, the "Short-term Management Plan" (*zadania ochronne*) should be established. This kind of plan is normally established for 1-5 years period, by the Regional Authority, after the acceptance by the Ministry of Environment;
- For each Natura 2000 site, the independent Management Plan should be established by the Ministry of Environment, during 5 years after the site establishing. But till now, no such plan have been established in Poland yet.

Prepared documentations are included in the Annex 4, in the electronic form (on CD).

We also lobby for including needs of conservation actions, identified in 15 (Stramniczka) and 16 (Roby) sites, to management plan for Natura 2000 for "Trzebiatowsko-Kołobrzescki Pas Nadmorski". This management plan for Natura 2000 has been prepared in 2004 r by Agrotec consortium for the Polish Ministry of Environment. This management plan is independent for our project, but we found it necessary to harmonise it with our planned actions. As a result of our lobbying, necessary actions for baltic bogs - sites 15 and 16 was – has been included to project of Natura 2000 management plan.

The action has been implemented under the responsibility of Partners: Pomorski and Zachodniopomorski Urząd Wojewódzki) and partially under the responsibility of Beneficiary:

- § Pomorski Urząd Wojewódzki has been responsible for sites 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12,
- § Zachodniopomorski Urząd Wojewódzki has been responsible for sites: 2, 14, 21
- § Klub Przyrodników has been responsible for sites: 1, 3, 15, 16, 20

The parts under responsibility of partners have been subcontracted (According to Polish law regulations and administration practices, actions taken under the responsibility of

public bodies (Partner!) should be subcontracted). The contractors have been selected in a public tender procedures. The part under responsibility of beneficiary have been implemented by project staff.

The action costs contains:

- § the external assistance cost;
- § some costs of project staff and travels to the sites
- § some costs of materials (paper, maps, aerial photos).

The documentations are important base for discussion with stakeholders (see E2 action). A lot of hard and Cds copies of the documentations had to be printed and disseminated.

ACTION A.4:

Name of action: **Preparation of technical projects for water damming up and sluices building and permissions receiving**

Plan:

Technical projects of water damming up and technical project of building sluices should be prepared, according to Polish water and building law regulations. Approved engineer must elaborate and sign the projects. If the authority will demand, participation in open water debate may be necessary.

Activities & outputs:

According to Polish law regulations, for water damming up, so called "Water permission" is necessary. Application for that permission must contain detail technical project of action with its assessment for water resources.

In most cases (especially in nature reserves) also building permission is necessary. Application for that permission must contain detail technical project. As a result, preparing of necessary technical project for water damming is necessary, some months before planned conservation action execution.

In the reporting date, the action was finished for the sites

- site 1 – Slowinskie Bagno
- site 2 – Janiewickie Bagno
- site 7 - Czarne and Łebskie Bog;
- site 11 - Poblocie;

almost finished for the sites:

- site 3 - Kusowskie Bagno;
- site 4 - Kurze Grzędy;
- site 5 - Staniszewskie Błoto;
- site 6 - Bielawa;
- site 9 – Wierzchucino
- site 10 – Izbickie Bagna
- site 14 – Warnie Bagno
- site 17 – Karsibórz
- site 20 – Olszanka

Because of no practical experiences existing in Poland for planning and building dispersed small dams for nature conservation in nature reserves, the procedure was not fully

predictable. During the procedure for building permit, preparing of very detailed maps 1:2000 for each reserve has been requested by building authority. For forests and bogs purchase of such maps is time-consuming and expensive, because ready maps do not exist and must be specially prepared by cartographic and cadastre authority. The negotiations for not so rigorous interpretation have not been successful. Even Ministry of Environment (asked for help) cannot solve this problem and achieve not so strict interpretation of existing regulations. It starts to plan legislation action for changing this regulation, but it probably will not be implemented in predictable future. Waiting for legislation changes would block the project execution and is not acceptable for us.

In this situation, we must purchase or prepare detail maps for each site, as requested. Maps (according to Polish regulations) must be prepared by special geodetic companies. We organise the tender and contract maps purchasing. The preparing of maps is going on and is to some extent influenced by difficult natural conditions in the field (winter 2005/2006, high water level in the spring). It delays the permits procedures.

Although delay in implementation of A4 action is important obstacle for the project implementation, we expect 2nd part of action will be finished on the end of September. In such situation it should not influence importantly the implementation of related part of C2 action.

Some problems may arise with the 3rd part of A4 action. Although we start to manage it, even small delay with implementation would be followed by problems with implementation of 3rd part of C1 action on time. Therefore a little, 3-4 month project prolongation request is probable after clarification the situation.

The action has been executed mainly under the responsibility of beneficiary, but for bogs 1 i 2 also under the responsibility of Partner (Zachodniopomorski Urząd Wojewódzki), and for site 19 – under the responsibility of other partner - Forest District Kliniska.

The action costs contains:

- § the external assistance cost;
- § map purchase costs
- § costs of project staff and travels to the sites
- § other costs – administration fees.

Expected output of the action are technical projects prepared for 13 sites. It probably will be achieved. The action output should not be analysed as stand-alone – this is preparatory action for C1.

ACTION A.5:

Name of action: **Preparation of Regional Habitat Action Plan for baltic raised bogs conservation in Pomerania, Poland**

Plan::

Analysis of all baltic raised bog resources in the region should be completed and summarised. Habitat Action Plan in a standard HAP format should be elaborated, presenting general perspective and necessary actions.

First version of Habitat Action Plan for baltic raised bogs in Poland has been prepared (in Polish language) on the beginning of the project. It has been presented during the 1st workshop (see action E3) 15-16 Nov 2004 and discussed. The Plan contains also the catalog of Polish baltic raised bogs, which is and will be continuously modified, according

to increasing knowledge about particular sites. Current status of the baltic raised bogs in Poland was found as not favourable. Most of raised bogs are unprotected. Most of them are artificially drained. The main important current factors affecting habitat is draining, but for stopping it is as a rule establishing formal nature protection form and long negotiations for ditches blocking are necessary. There is a lot of important bureaucracy barriers. Main objectives of the HAP are: formal protection of all preserved baltic raised bogs (necessary for conservation actions) and stopping artificial draining.

The second revised draft of the HAP has been prepared in 2006 and has been discussed during the 2nd workshop (see E3). The updated version was published on the project website (see action E5) and also described in the published Handbook (see action E4).

For second version of HAP, with the English summary, see Annex 5 or the project website in internet

The action has been executed under the Klub Przyrodników responsibility. There are only project staff costs related to this action.

C. - Non-recurring biotope management

ACTION C.1:

Name of action: **Blocking draining ditches**

Plan:

Ca 410 small, simple sluices and dams have been planned to be built to block draining ditches on the peatbogs and damming up the water level. Ca 2200 m of draining ditches have been planned to be filled up by local material – peat and soil.

Activities & outputs:

The progress is summarised in the table:

Site No in the project	Site name	point ditches blocking (dams, sluices - points number)			ditches filling (full of partial) - m		
		done	in progress	planned	done	in progress	planned
1	Słowińskie	8	30				
2	Janiewickie B.	18		2			
3	Kusowo B.		21			120	
4	Staniszewskie B.		41				
5	Kurze Grzędy		60				
6	Bielawa		22			2 300	
7a	Czarne Bagno		101				
7b	Łebskie Bagno		66				
8	Chośnickie						
9	Wierzchucino			10			
10	Izbickie			20			
11	Pobłocie		27				
12	Las Górkowski			5			

13	Ustka						
14	Warnie B.			30			
15	Stramniczka						
16	Roby						
17	Karsibórz			10			
18	Ciemino						
19	Reptowo	21					
20	Łazy						
21	Olszanka			30			
22	Swidne Bagno						
23	Wierzchowo						
	Total	47	368	107	-	2 420	-

As a result of preparing detailed management plans for sites (see action A3), and better recognition of the water blocking needs and particular bogs ecohydrology, some details - as dams number & location - have been modified, without changing nor general project objective nor sites objectives.

As a result of long negotiations with the water & building administration (see action A4), some detail technical solutions have been modified, but without modification of objectives and expected hydrological results.

For example:

- On site 1 (Slowinskie Bog) and similarly on site 7 (Czarne Bagno) it has been recognised that building additional dams would be better solution than ditches filling (which is almost filled naturally);
- On site 6, by contrast, in a management plan, as a result of hydrological studies, it has been recognised that ditches filling will be more appropriate than numerous dams building (water escape to the underlying mineral layers, cutted by ditches, has been identified as main problem - not water escape along the ditches);
- On the site 3, filling of short fragment of ditch has been identified as more appropriate from the formal point of view (the same or better hydrological and ecological results, bigger cost of action but much lower costs preparing formal documentation);
- On sites 2, 10, 12, 27 it has been recognised less number of dams should be enough to achieve hydrological effect;
- On site 21 we previously not plan to block ditches because of conflict with white-tailed eagle nesting place conservation - but after more detailed studies the solution has been found and the dams building was planned.

These changes are not followed by change of expected output nor change of objectives.

The action have been completed on 3 bogs:

- On the site 1 (Słowińskie Bagno) 7 wooden sluices and 1 wooden-turf dam have been built (but as a result of monitoring result and management plans preparing, we are going to build additional dams here);
- On the site 2 (Janiewickie Bagno) 9 wooden sluices, 4 wooden-turf dams, 3 concrete sluices have been built;
- On the site 19 (Reptowo) 9 wooden dams and 3 concrete sluices have been built.

The next big packet of the action implementation is in progress (as indicated in the table above) and should be finished in the November 2006.

Klub Przyrodników was responsible for this action execution on the site 1 and 2. Forest Department Kliniska (Project Partner) was responsible for this action execution on the site 19. The action was partially subcontracted, as planned in the project. Subcontractors have been selected in a public tender procedure.

The results of blocking ditches for the bog hydrology are carefully monitored (see F2).

The first results are promising: especially for site 1 we achieve almost immediately ca 20 cm water level growing up. The main results are expected in the next spring, when the dams stop the outflow of spring waters.

On the site 2 we achieved important increasing of water table in the ditch and in the neighbouring peat, but the water level is still ca 50-70 cm below the surface. We expect some years are necessary to accumulate more water and achieve better results.

On the site 19, after damming ditches in autumn 2005, only small increase of water table has been achieved in 2006 year. In the spring period, the water table increasing has been ca 20-30 cm in average (in comparison with the 2004 year), but after very hot and dry summer, the water level decrease. Similarly as in the site 2, we expect some years and more rainfalls are necessary to rebuild water resources in the peat.

For standard dams, natural materials (wood, stones, peat) are used. For standard technical solutions, see Annex 2.. Only in exceptional cases (only if it is condition of agreement with water management authority or neighbouring stakeholders), we use concrete as building material.

The action have been implemented:

- on site 19 partially by the Partner (Kliniska forest district) and by the Beneficiary (Klub Przyrodników);
- on other sites by the Beneficiary (Klub Przyrodników).

The action has been subcontracted in a great part. As we explain in the initial proposal, we are organisation experienced in nature conservation, nature management organisation and project leading, but no in technical aspects of such building. This needs special personnel with special technical skills, and special equipment, as caterpillar for example. This technical work, not covered by skills of our personnel, is "normal" work for numerous businesses and can be easily and effectively subcontracted. Subcontracting such work in public tender is the cheapest and the most effective way to ditches blocking. Each other solution, however possible, seems to be less effective and as a result less nature conservation effects could be achieved using the same amount.

Some photo documentation of the action are presented in Annex 6.

We used public tendering for all subcontracting. This was conducted according the Polish Public Tendering Act, part of national legislation. This rules are also a precaution to avoid any risk of a conflict of interests.

We fail in using unemployed people for this action, which we were going to do according to our proposal. As a result of Poland accession to the European Union, unemployment in the project region practically disappears as a result of emigration to Great Britain. Although official statistical data still presents important unemployment level, in practice there is rather difficulty with finding people ready to work for building works, forest works and trees removing (see also below).

Costs of these actions are:

- costs of external assistance for building the damms & filling the ditches;
- costs of materials for building the damms;
- costs of project personnel & travel for supervising the action implementation.



Fig: Draining ditch blocked on the Slowinskie Bog

ACTION C.2:

Name of action: **Trees (birch and pine) removing**

Plan:

On fragments of 9 peatbogs, pine and birch trees invading the former treeless bog, or trees (especially birch) invading the pine bog forest understory should be partially removed. Trees should be cutted and if possible used for filling the small draining ditches, if not possible transported outside the bog. Detailed trees removing area and thinning level should be determined in Site Management Plans prepared in Action A3.

Activities & outputs:

As a result of preparing detailed management plans for sites (see action A3), and better recognition of the trees removing needs on particular sites, some details - as detail localisation & area of action - have been modified, without changing nor general project objective nor sites objectives.

For example:

On the sites 1 and 7 (Słowińskie Bagno and Łebskie Bagna), as a result of detail Management Plan preparing (see A3), the trees removing has been assessed as not necessary in this moment. After the detail discussion with the scientists, specialists on bog's ecology, and after discussion with the conservation authority (forming the Project Steering Committee), it has been decided to be better to increase the water level (by ditches

blocking) and wait for the ecosystem reaction first, monitoring carefully the pine invasion process. There is possibility, that trees expansion process would be stop by hydrological condition. For the bog's ecology, it would be better to achieve necessary results by blocking ditches only, avoiding "invasive" and partially destructive for the site vegetation trees removing.

By contrast, as a result of Management Plans or other documentations preparing, trees removing has been identified as necessary on the some area of the sites: 10, 11, 14, 16, 19.

On some sites (4, 5, 8, 18) where the action is consist in removing understory from the bog forest. Because this understory is composed of mixture of birch and spruce, there is not always clear division between action C2 and C3 (see below). In practice in such situation we contract the mixed understory removing from the defined area, not dividing the contact for C2 and C3 part. Because of this reason, the quantitative progress we present in the form summarised for C2 and C3 action:

The quantitative progress in C2&C3 action is summarised in the table:

Site No in the project	Site name	trees removing area (ha) incl. pine and birch (C2) and spruce (C3) removing		
		done	in progress	planned
1	Słowińskie			
2	Janiewickie B.			
3	Kusowo B.	30		
4	Staniszewskie B.		14	
5	Kurze Grzędy		37	
6	Bielawa	100	50	170
7a	Czarne Bagno			
7b	Łebskie Bagno			
8	Chośnickie	20		
9	Wierzchucino			
10	Izbickie	100	30	130
11	Pobłocie		15	
12	Las Górkowski			
13	Ustka			
14	Warnie B.		15	
15	Stramniczka			
16	Roby			10
17	Karsibórz			
18	Ciemino	90		
19	Reptowo			20
20	Łazy			
21	Olszanka			
22	Swidne Bagno			
23	Wierzchowo	10		
	Total	350	161	330

The action in the sites 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, is under responsibility of Klub Przyrodników, on the sites 3 and 23 - under the responsibility of Nadlesnictwo Szczecinek (project partner) and on the site 19 - under the responsibility of Nadlesnictwo Kliniska (project partner).

In the initial proposal, we were going to subcontract all this action (For cutting trees specify skills are needed. Subcontracting this work in a form of public tender is easier and cheaper, than qualified workers employment).

The action has been subcontracted in a great part. Contractors have been selected in a public tender procedure. But on the Bielawa Bog (site 6) part of this action have been executed by organizing a voluntary work (it have not been planned in the project, but we use new possibilities to make it cheaper, also linking with the public awareness building). In coloboration with the regional nature conservation administration, the volunteers have been recruited (mainly students from the different places in Poland), and the volunteers accomodation & feeding have been arranged. As a result of voluntary work ca 30 ha of birch have been removed. This is good way of action execution (additional "social effect" and building public awareness; lower costs per ha), but only some fragments of bogs are appropriate for this methods (other fragments are too difficult for volunteers).

As a result of executing part of this action by voluntary work, not by subcontracting, some little modification in costs categories appears (costs of volunteers travel to site, accomodation, feeding, insurance and costs of materials in place of subcontracting costs). Of course in kinds work is not included to project budget, only real costs of this work organisation.



Fig: Birch removing from the wet heathland and transition bog (7140) on the Bielawa bog site

Some photo documentation of the action are presented in Annex7.

ACTION C.3:

Name of action: **Alien (spruce) removing**

Plan:

On two bogs (site 4 and 5) spruce trees invading the bog should be removed. Trees should be cutted and transported outside the bog.

Activities & outputs:

As a result of more detail management planning, we identify that:

- Although all spruce trees from the sites 4 and 5 should be removed finally, the removing them from all sites area will be to dangerous for the general bog forest ecology. In management Plan it has been decided, that the process of trees removing from this sites should be extended to a longer time period. In frames of LIFE project, only firt part of this action can be executed.
- There is also the need to remove spruce from parts of sites 8 and 18.
- On all targeted sites, both spruce and birch should be removed from the bog forest understory. In practice, there are some difficulties in clear division between action C2 and C3 (see explanation above). Therefore the quantitative progress of the action we present in the form summarised for C2 and C3 action (see above).

As planned, action has been subcontracted (For cutting trees specify skills are needed. Subcontracting this work in a form of public tender is easier and cheaper, than qualified workers employment. Contractors have been selected in a public tender procedures.



Fig. Bog forest (habitat 91D0) after removing the birch and spruce understory

Ciemino Bog (site 18)

ACTION C.4:

Name of action: **Experiment on *Sphagnum* transplantation**

Plan:

On the site 7 – Czarne Bagno an experiment is planned: in desiccated and degraded part of the bog a peat earth and a dry degraded peat layer will be removed, and used for filling

ditch fragment (link to C1). Then living *Sphagnum* will be transplanted from the other parts of the same bog.

Activities & outputs:

The action is planned for the October / November 2006, depending on the weather (rainy periods are necessary before). But some preparatory activities have been conducted yet.

After more detailed recognition of the natural conditions of the Czarne Bagno bog, in frames of management plan preparing for the nature reserve (see Action A3), we recognise there is no possibility to take appropriate number of living sphagna from the other parts of the same bog – the sphagnum population is not in enough good conditions. For collecting Sphagna (appropriate Sphagnum species), other sites in the neighbourhood have been selected.

After more detailed action preparing and discussing, reintroduction of 5 Sphagnum species (*Sphagnum fallax*, *S. cuspidatum*, *S. magellanicum*, *S. capillifolium*, *S. russowii*) is planned in the part of the reserve where milling method of peat extraction was used in the past. The milling was stopped more than 10 years ago and since that time a very scarce secondary succession of vegetation has been observed. Also an attempt of afforestation by birch and alder was totally failed. 1 ha area has been chosen for transplantation purpose, out of total 13,47 ha of the post milling area. The water level on this area is measured in 6 piezometres twice a month. Because of a long time drainage it is significantly lowered and as the result the uppermost peat layer is dry, especially in summer time. The material for transplantation (700 m² of Sphagnum aggregations) will be taken from bogs located in the region. The proper Ministry and Regional Nature Conservation authority permission is in the course of setting. The way of transplantation will generally follow the methods tested in similar post mining areas in Canada and other countries. In order to find an effectiveness of Sphagnum regeneration in local conditons, the Sphagnum plants will be spread in ratio 1:10 on the plots with three depths of water level: 10 cm, 30 cm and 50 cm below the bog surface. To limit the evapotranspiration and to diminish the amplitude of temperature at the bog surface the plots will be covered by spreaded straw mulch. The additional experimental subplots will be establish on the plots where the water level is situated 30 cm and 50 cm below bog surface. An admixture of Agrohydrogel preparat will be used on these subplots to find out if polimer sorbents of water could be usefull in the improvement of regeneration of peat forming vegetation on dried bogs. The transplantation is planned to be finished to the end of October. Regular monitoring of plots will be done.

D - Recurring biotope management

ACTION D.1:

Name of action: **Local improving light condition for rare plants localities**

Plan:

On the 3 peatbogs (site 10, 20, 21), when the "hot points of biodiversity threat" was recognized, and the rare plants populations are in danger of local extinction, the invasive plants should be reduced by cutting them. This should be repeated after 3 years. This action concerns:

- *Osmunda regalis* population in site 21, shadowed by *Betula pendula* , *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraggula alnus*

- *Myrica gale* population in site 20, shadowed by *Frangula alnus*
- *Myrica gale* population in site 10, shadowed by *Betula pendula* and *Frangula alnus*.

Activities & outputs:

As a result of nature inventory & assessment with elements of management plans (Action A1), and as a result of local assessment on the field before the action, it was identified:

- the action on site 21 was identified as NOT necessary, because population of *Osmunda* seems to be out of danger. On this site there is *Osmunda regalis* population in the bog forest. Some ecologists previously propose to cut some trees for improving light conditions for this rare plant here. But after the field assessment, we recognise that the population is generally in good conservation status. Only some individuals of *Osmunda* live in unfavorable conditions, but not as a result of too much shadow, but rather as a result of whole bog forest changes. After discussion with the regional conservation authority (responsible for protected species), we conclude that it is no sense to cut trees, and the action will not improve the conditions for *Osmunda*. In place of cancelled part of action here, it is better to clear more area of *Erica tetralix* and *Myrica gale* on sites 10 and 20;
- The area of action in site 20 (Łazy) should be increased in area. The shrubs cutting is necessary in two points, not only in one.
- The area of action in site 10 (Ciemnińskie Bagna) should be strongly increased, and action should be concentrated not only on *Myrica gale*, but also on the *Erica tetralix* population and related habitat.

The action has been subcontracted and executed under the responsibility of Klub Przyrodników.

The first turnover of action has been executed. The action repetition is planned for spring 2007, according to detail needs identified in the field.



Erica locality before the action (spring 2004) ..

.....and after (autumn 2004)

E - Public awareness and dissemination of information

ACTION E.1:

Name of action: **Building education infrastructure on selected peatbogs**

Plan:

On 3 selected bogs education trails have been planned to be built. These bogs were especially selected for public access; they are not the most valuable; public access not cause to threat to bog's natural values. These bogs are recognized as important for local communities and recognized as "potentially attractive places". Action have been planned to be completed in III quarter of 2006 year.

Activities & outputs:

As a result of meetings with stakeholders, discussion with local authorities and nature conservation authorities, more precise recognition of public access needs and possibilities have been achieved and more precise necessary access infrastructure projects have been prepared.

For improving the education & awareness building results and for minimalizing impact on nature, after discussion with the Project Steering Committee (regional nature conservation authority) and with Szczecinek Forest district (project partner) we decide to move planned public access from site 18 (Ciemino Bog Forest) to the site 3 (Kusowo Bog), in the same forest district and in the same local community. The reasons are following:

- In the Ciemino Bog Forest the white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* starts to nest in 2004 y, and it is necessary not to disturb around the nesting place;
- The Kusowo Bog, located near the road, seems to be more appropriate to public access; the starting point of the nature trail on the Kusowo Bog can be achieved by car. Ciemino Bog is far away from public roads;
- From the sociological point of view, there is great need to create any "tourists interests" at Kusowo Bog. Three years ago this bog was planned to peat extraction, and its taking under conservation (project result!) is good for nature but not very good for local economy. Expected economical benefit for local community (more tourists) should improve the public awareness for conservation of this site.

In the Karsibórz Bog Forest (site 17) following access infrastructure have been installed:

- 11 wooden pavements with one-side barrer, across the most wet places;
- 2 observation platforms on the bank of dystrophic lakes;
- 9 information pannels and way markers;

The infrastructure have been completed in the autumn 2005. As we notice in 2006, the school children groups with teachers use it often in spring 2006. We estimate ca 1500 persons have used the path till the end of July 2006. Information about the new nature trail have been presented in the local radio.

On the Wielkie Błoto site (site 23), following infrastructure have been installed:

- wooden pavement across the bog & regenerating peat excavation carrer;
- 1 observation platform, with view to the regenerating bog surface;
- 5 information pannels;

The infrastructure have been completed in the autumn 2005. As we notice in spring and summer 2006, it is used mainly by individual tourisis. The trail is easily accessible from

the public road. Also some education events with the school childrens groups have been organised on the trail in coloboration with the Szczecinek forest district. We estimate ca 800-900 persons have used the path till the end of July 2006.

On the Kusowo Bog site (site 3) folowing infrastructure establishing is in progress:

- Wooden pavement on the peatbog surface;
- 14 wooden bridges across the ditches, with one-side barrer;
- 1 wooden bridge across the ditch on the forest road;
- Narrow wooden pavement across the wet fragment of bog forest;
- Observation platform on the bank of lake adjanced to the bog, inside the same Natura 2000 site;
- 8 information pannels;

The core part of the infrastructure (pavements, bridges etc.) have been established on the field. The remaining information pannels are in preparing. The action on this bog is expected to be finished and invoiced in September 2006.

The planned outputs (3 bogs accessible for public – 3 education trails operating) have been achieved.

For the photographic documentation of the action output, see Annex 8.

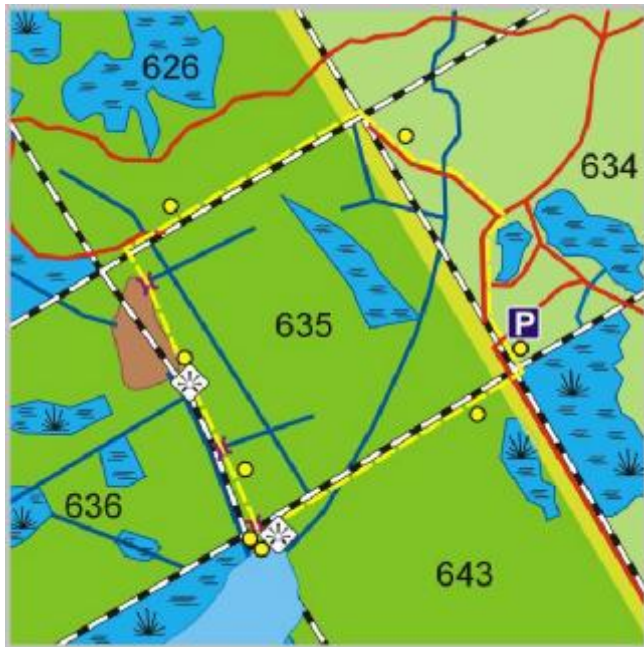
Establishing of access infrastructure have been executed:

- by the Klub Przyrodników (Beneficiary) on the sites 3 and 17
- by the Szczecinek Forest District (Partner) on the site 23

Cost of these action include costs of consumable materials necessary to establishing pavements, platforms and pannels, and cost of external assistance (installation on the field have been subcontracted, as planned in the initial proposal. Contractors have been selected in the "public ask for offer" procedure, according to Polish public orders legislation.

During the implementation of other project activities (stakeholders meeting and discussion – see E2) we have recognised additional, important needs of public assess to bogs in Damnica forest district:

- On the Izbickie Bog (site 10), which is crossed by public road, there is need and possibility to establish observation platform with wooden pavement and some information panels. It would be probably intensively visited by tourists, travelling to the Izbica village on the Łebsko lake bank. It make improve local awareness of the value of the nature reserve. In this key point we are going to establish mentioned infrastructure in the frames of project, till the end of November 2006.
- On the Pobłockie Bog (site 11) and Chośnickie Lakes (site 8), we identified the needs and possibility to establish some access infrastructure: wooden pavements and observation platforms. Establishing of these infrastructure is the objective for after-life action and will be included to After-LIFE action plan.



Site Karsibórz - the trail location map observation platform on the dystrophic lake bank



Wielkie Błoto - map of the trail wooden pavement and observation platform



Wielkie Błoto near Wierzchowo - example of information panel

ACTION E.2:

Name of action: **Communication with locals peoples & authorities**

Plan:

Ca 26 meetings with local stakeholders have been planned, for ca 10-15 persons each, concerning elaboration the best solutions for each bog conservation.

13 colour brochures / leaflets have been planned to print and disseminate in the local communities (with total print ca 2000 issues).

Communication actions have been planned for bogs: 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, where social problems and constraints have been expected.

Activities & outputs:

Needs of the work with stakeholders have been underestimated in the initial proposal. During the project implementation, much more communication problems appears. Not only on 13 initially selected bogs, but on almost all sites, some communication problems had to be solved.

The most important stakeholders groups are:

- Foresters, which are often afraid of negative influence of bogs conservation actions (blocking ditches) on the forest stands around;
- Water management authorities, which are often afraid negative influence of blocking ditches on the local water management.

Both above mentioned groups are very influencial. In situation of project sites, their acceptance is necessary for the long-term conservation success.

By contrast, local authorities are as a rule not interested in bogs at all, neither supporting nor disturbing conservation. With some exceptions, bogs are perceived as "useless grounds", with no interests for local communities.

In such situation, more effort has been directed to the communication with the foresters and water managers, which seems to be crucial for project success (successful conservation, achieving conservation objectives). But communication with the general community has not been abandoned – if possible, actions for building awareness bogs value have also been implemented.

Generally, much more number of meetings, bit with the less number of persons each, appears to be necessary. In practice, meetings and discussion with local stakeholders, including both dicussion in the office and short discussion on the field, had to be organised in relation to almost all field visit of the project team. As a result, real meeting schedule have been in great part combined with other field actions (for example combining stakeholders meeting & field vision with one travel).

Till the reporting date, we organise and participate in 52 small meetings:

Place (local forest or water administration)	Number of meetings	Number of participants (sum)	Related with sites
Sławno	5	29	1, 2
Szczecinek	5	22	3, 23, 18

Kartuzy & Kościerzyna	3	17	4, 5
Władysławowo & Puck	5	31	6
Lębork	4	14	7, 12
Lipusz	1	6	8
Choczewo	2	11	9
Damnica & Słupsk	3	21	10, 11
Ustka	3	15	13
Gościno & Koszalin	4	21	14, 15
Trzebiatów & Mrzeżyno	1	4	16
Świdwin	2	11	17
Kliniska	3	16	19
Karnieszewice & Koszalin	4	19	20
Goleniów	2	14	21
Międzyzdroje	2	9	22
Others	3	18	
TOTAL	52	278	

Costs of meeting are mainly travel costs. Room for meetings as a rule has been delivered by local offices or forests communities without charge. In some cases, if the meeting takes all day with the field visit, food costs have been funded from the project budget.

Example: Slowinskie Bog (site 1). The forest administration was initially in opposition to plans to block the ditches, being afraid increased water level will be followed by trees dying. After 5 meetings and field visits on the bog, and presenting facts on bogs ecology and hydrology, the fears disappeared and forest administration agree with nature reserve establishing and ditches blocking.

Till the reporting date, 2400 leaflets have been printed in 7 "mutations", covering 11 bogs. Leaflets present: general project idea and actions and particular project sites on the background of baltic bogs conservation problem. Total print has been 3000 leaflets. These leaflets have been distributed in local communities, forest districts, and used during the meetings.

Leaflets printing is delay with comparison to initial project schedule because for best communication effect, we are going to coordinate leaflets printing and disseminating with the conservation actions execution (leaflets should explain conservation action, but should also contain more recent information about bog, and if possible some illustration of conservation action).

Remaining leaflets covering next 2 sites were prepared to printing in July 2006. But the printing has been stopped, waiting for the Polish MoE decision for Natura 2000 network extension. We are hoping to expose Natura 2000 logo and Natura 2000 message in brochures, but we cannot do it before official decision to submit sites to the EC. Because in July, after long period of no activity, works for submitting some sites to Natura 2000 starts again (see chapter 6e of this report), we stop printing the leaflets for 2-3 months (till ca. end of September). We expect the sites will be submitted to the Natura 2000 and we will print the leaflets with the Natura 2000 logo.

Leaflets have been disseminated with help of local forest district, which are as a rule with close contacts with our target groups for leaflets: local authorities, tourists organisations, schools etc.

Costs of leaflets are: material for printing and printing costs.

Samples of leaflets have been included to the Progress report 2.

ACTION E.3:

Name of action: **Work with people responsible for nature management planning**

Plan:

The "baltic bogs management planners working group" has been planned to establish, containing ca 20 persons: mix of nature management planners and people directly responsible for bogs conservation, for example representatives of nature conservation administration, land managers, water managers. For this group (20 persons), the series of workshop and study tours has been planned:

- Ist workshop in September 2004, especially on Habitat Action Plan discussing
- Study tour to Estonia in autumn 2005, to see baltic raised bogs not anthropogenically transformed, to observe natural mechanisms of its ecology
- IInd workshop in 2005, to discuss work in progress
- Study tour to Scotland in 2006, to see restoration methods for strongly degraded raised bogs.
- IIIrd workshop on the project end, in spring 2007.

Cost was estimated on the base of personnel, travel and material cost analysis. Multimedia projector is needed for effective presentations during the workshops.

Activities & outputs:

In 2004 the working group of ca 30 people was created. This is mix of: nature conservation planners, scientists, specialists on peatbog ecology (from the Agricultural University in Szczecin and Olsztyn, University in Gdańsk), regional nature conservation authority (Szczecin, Gdańsk), regional landscape parks, forest administration (especially forest department; in Poland, in ca 80-90% of cases forest departments are land managers for bogs).

The first workshop (two days) for this group has been arranged at 15-16 November in Sulęcyno in Cassubians (Pomerania District).

Second, 1-day workshop has been organized in Szczecinek in the beginning of August 2005, focused on field presentation of conservation actions on the field and discussion on the draft of Baltic Bogs Action Plan.

Field visit to Latvian and Estonian bogs has been organized in August 2005, to give the impression of "true", near untouched bogs to Polish people, responsible for Polish (rather strongly transformed) bogs. We have visited the Cena and Kemeris bogs in Latvia and Nigula Bog in Estonia, and discuss these sites ecology and conservation problems with Latvian and Estonian bog ecologists. During this visit, guided by Mara Pakalne, we have visited results of three other LIFE-Nature projects in Latvia and Estonia:

- **LIFE04 NAT/LV/000196** Implementation of mire habitat management plan for Latvia;
- **LIFE02 NAT/LV/008496** - Conservation of wetlands in Kemeris National Park;
- **LIFE00 NAT/EE/007082** - Restoration and management of the Häädemeeste wetland complex

Field visit to Scotland has been organized in August 2006, to give more impression of bogs ecology and values and to give examples of practical conservation of blanked bogs and true raised bogs. We have visited Flow Country in northern Scotland, Rannoch Moor

and Flanders Moor. During this visit, guided by Olivia Braggs and Peter Hulme, we have visited results of former and present LIFE-Nature projects in Scotland:

- ☐ **LIFE00 NAT/UK/007075** Restoring active blanket bog of European importance in North Scotland
- ☐ **LIFE94 NAT/UK/000802** Conservation of active blanket bogs in Scotland and Northern Ireland
- ☐ **LIFE92 NAT/UK/013400** Conservation of Scottish lowland raised bogs
- ☐ **LIFE00 NAT/UK/007078** Restoration of Scottish raised bogs

Work with people involved in bogs conservation seems to be crucial for the sustainability of sites conservation after our LIFE project. As a result of this "stakeholders management", deep involvement of local Forest Service to the bogs conservation seems to be built in some cases.

The assumption of creating informal but permanent "working together" group seems to be successful. Although some participants changed, the core of the group is the same from the first workshop till now; some informal interpersonal relations have been developed, and daily collaboration with the group participants became much more easier. We notice that awareness of bogs conservation needs & methods is now much better than on the beginning.

For participants list (with participants structure indicated) and workshop & study visits programs see Annex 1.

For photographic documentation of the study visits, see Annex 9.

Action costs are travel costs and different costs related to workshop & visits organisation (food, local transport, room, accommodation during the workshop).

ACTION E.4:

Name of action: **Handbook of Polish raised bogs conservation preparing and printing**

Plan:

Handbook of raised bog conservation in Polish natural conditions, taking pattern by '*Conserving bogs: the management handbook*' Brooks S., Stoneman R. 1997, was planned to be prepared and printed. This book should present modern methods of raised bogs recognising, assessment, management planning and conservation, including experiences from the project.

Activities & outputs:

The handbook has been published in 1500 copies. This is ca 200-pages books containing of 6 chapters:

- § general ecology of baltic bogs in Poland;
- § technical solutions for water damming up on bogs;
- § social, ecological and technical aspects of public access infrastructure on the bogs;

- § formal procedures important for bogs conservation;
- § catalog of Polish raised bogs;
- § action plan for baltic bogs conservation in future

The book is illustrated by numerous bogs photos (including project achievements presentation), stratigraphy profiles and drawings. "Typical technical projects" for wooden dams and calculating sheets for costs are included.

The book has been prepared by the project staff. The costs related to this action are materials for printing and printing costs (external assistance) only.

The book has been disseminated to organisations, authorities and other bodies involved in bogs conservation in Poland.

For handbook, see Annex 3.

ACTION E.5:

Name of action: **Project website**

Plan:

A project website in Polish and in English has planned to be compiled, designed and made available in internet, in the www.lkp.org.pl portal. This website should be regularly updated, according to project progress.

Activities & outputs:

Project website have been initiated and is available on <http://www.kp.org.pl/plbaltbogs> or <http://www.kp.org.pl/life>. The webpage contains:

- § general description of problem,
- § list of project partners,
- § list of main project actions
- § detailed project description as pdf
- § project progress reports as pdfs
- § directory of baltic raised bogs in Poland
- § project sites description (available by list or by map)
- § actual version of Polish Baltic Bogs Action Plan (see action A5)
- § ditches blocking project kit for download,
- § report about Polish baltic bogs including to Polish Natura 2000 proposal,
- § links to LIFE website,
- § link to main Klub Przyrodników homepage
- § link to and to Natura 2000 website in the Klub Przyrodników service.

The main elements of website are bi-lingual (Polish and English), but some detail materials are only in Polish language, and project progress reports are only in English (as originally written).

The LIFE-project webpage is linked from the main Naturalists Club website.

Additionally, we input description of some project sites (Warnie Bagno, Słowinskie Bagno) to the main polish botanical website "Lonicera". There are information of mentioned sites, photos, informations about conservation activities + links to LIFE project website.

We have no visitors counter specifically on the LIFE-project webpage, but ca 40 000 people visit main Naturalists Club website every month. If only 5% of them visit LIFE project part, it means ca 50 000 visitors totally till the reporting date.

During the project, we receive and answer by email ca 70 questions & asks for informations from interested people.

Website preparing and maintaining is a duty of project staff. Cost of this action are included in the project staff salary.

ACTION E.6:

Name of action: **Information panels**


Plan:

Information panels with the Life logo and information about the project and its activities have been planned to be prepared and placed in a field, in all targeted sites.

Activities & outputs:

80 standard information pannels A3 format have been prepared; 66 have been installed, covering all project targeted sites (14 are kepted as "reserve" - see below). The pannels have been installed in all identified "entry points" to sites. The standard panel contains LIFE logo, Natura 2000 logo and the message that this bog is a target of the conservation project financed by the European Union - LIFE-Nature. The short text describes (very generally) the baltic bogs threats in Poland and general activities for its conservation.

The standard pannel contents is reproduced below.



Obiekt objęty projektem
Ochrona torfowisk bałtyckich na Pomorzu
współfinansowanym ze środków
Unii Europejskiej - LIFE-Nature

Jedno z kilkudziesięciu w Polsce kopułowych torfowisk wysokich typu bałtyckiego. Torfowiska wysokie, a także związane z nimi, unikatowe rośliny i zwierzęta, giną w wyniku nadmiernego odpływu wody oraz zarastania otwartych mszarów drzewami. Chronimy je próbując zatrzymać wodę przez budowę zastawek, oraz usuwając drzewa wkraczające na przesuszone mszary.

Projekt realizuje Klub Przyrodników w (1 Maja 22, 66-200 Świebodzin, www.kp.org.pl, kp@kp.org.pl)
we współpracy z Wojewódzkimi Konserwatorami Przyrody w Gdańsku i Szczecinie oraz Nadleśnictwami. Więcej o projekcie zobacz na stronie internetowej www.kp.org.pl/pl/baltbcgs. Działania na rzecz ochrony torfowisk wspiera także Program Małych Dotacji GEF.

For some bogs, we had to prepare the version without Natura 2000 logo. Some sites had not to be submitted officially as pSCIs till now; in such situation presenting Natura 2000 logo may disturb the social relations with local stakeholders and foresters.

In July 2006, the Polish MoE decide start again work for submitting some sites to the Natura 2000 network (see chapter 6e of this report). We hope we could install panels with Natura 2000 logo on these sites this autumn.

The problem of numerous thefts appears. Ca 20 pannels have been stolen. In such situation we react by installing "reserve pannels" (14). In next year we are going to prepare 20 additional pannels.

Additionally, on bogs on which intensive technical actions are implemented (trees removing, ditches blocking), in places visited by people additional pannels have been installed, with individual explanation for the specific bog. Till the reporting date, 10 such pannels have been installed.

ACTION E.7:

Name of action: **End reports preparing and printings**

Plan: And the end of the project a layman's report will be produced. The report will summarise the project, its objectives, actions, monitoring and results in manner understandable to the wide public. The report will be available in Internet, on the project website (link to Action E5), and also printed as a colour brochure.

Paralelly, a scientific-technical report will be prepared, summarising project results and collected informations on targeted bogs nature and ecology. It will be adressed to ecologists and nature conservationists. It will be available in Internet, on the project website (link to Action E5), and printed as black-and-white brochure.

Both reports will be produced in Polish and English.

Activities & outputs:

Planned for the project end. No action till the reporting date.

F- Overall project management

ACTION F.1:

Name of action: **Overall coordination and management of project actions**

Plan:

There should be a Project Steering Committee, comprising representatives of nature conservation authorities responsible for nature reserves and other nature protection forms conservation. Project Steering Committee is 2-persons body, comprising 2 representatives of public nature conservation authorities for 2 involved regions - Pomerania and West Pomerania. PSC will meet with the Project Management Unit twice a year, observing and analysing project implementation. It is a form of public control under project implementation. PSC will also receive and accept some deliverable project products - documentation for nature conservation forms creating and management plans for nature reserves - for its legal implementation (these public nature conservation authorities are legally responsible for this).

There should be a Project Management group, containing a project manager, scientific coordinator and book-keeper. That group should manage and coordinate all actions of the applicant and partners during the project as well as being responsible for contracting and reporting.

Activities & outputs:

The project was started in 2003, November, 02, paralelly with the application for its cofinancing to the LIFE-Nature 2004.

In period 2003 Nov.02 - 2004. Dec 31, waiting for the LIFE-Nature decision, the project was implemented by Klub Przyrodników and partners, and project actions were financed by Global Environment Fund - Small Grants Facility (non-EU funds, official project cofinancer) and beneficiary & partners own funds. The decision about LIFE-Nature cofinancing was taken in 2004, August, but as a result of problems with bank guarantee, the first LIFE funds were available in 2005, January, with 4 month delay according to preliminary plan.

Because of uncertainty of project LIFE financing, in 2004 project personnel and management was not fully developed. In 2005 the full project personnel team has been completed.

The Project Steering Committee meet 4 times: in the November 2004, July 2005, January 2006, June 2006, reviewing the project progress. Meetings have been organised in the Szczecin or Gdansk, in the regional authority offices, without any extra costs. Sometimes they has been combined with other consultations and negotiations and do not generate independent travel costs. Additionally, there is permanent email and telephone contact between Project Management Unit and nature conservation authorities (members of Project Steering Committee).

The Project Steering Committee discuss and accept all situation, in which some minor changes in implementation of project actions were necessary (after the more detailed recognition of conservation needs in prepared documentations and management plans, and after the negotiations with related stakeholders and authorities, some changes in detail localisation and number of ditches blocking points, terre remloving areas, localisation of public access infrastructure etc. have been proposed).

In Szczecin Region (West Pomerania), the nature conservation authority – represented by dr Maciej Trzeciak - seems to be deeply involved in the project implementation, he is more active member of Steering Committee and he is very helpful in case of project implementation problems. In Pomerania region nature conservation authority person changed three times during the project implementation till now; as a result she is not so involved and interested. But the "stability of coloboration" is guaranted by the lower-level staff in Pomerania Regional Authority, which is continuously working with our project.

Project Management Unit consist of three persons:

- Pawel Pawlaczyk, project leader;
- Maria Herbich, scientific coordinator;
- Robert Stańko, responsible for administration and financing

The Project Management Unit coordinate all project actions. Pawel Pawlaczyk is responsible for the general management, Maria Herbich - for the scientific side of the project implementations, Robert Stańko - for the financial decisions, financial documents acceptations etc. Above persons are responsible not only for coordination, but also do personally some project actions.

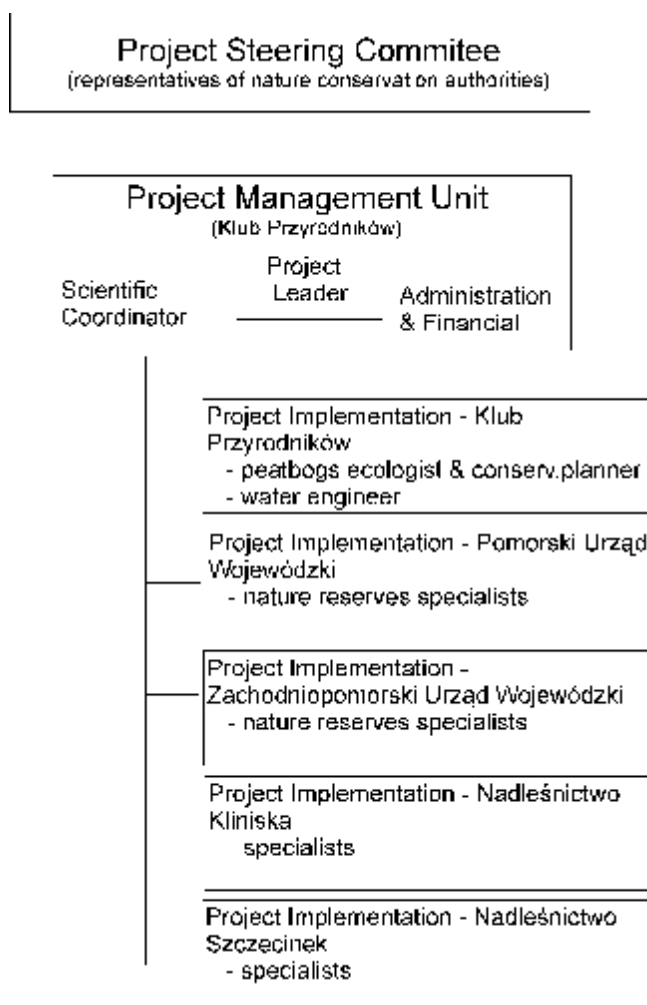
The Project Management Unit personally organise all meetings and workshops during the project, and organise and control technical actions implementation.

Rest of project implementation staff consists of:

- Maria Stankiewicz, responsible for bookkeeping;
- Tomasz Zdanowicz, responsible for technical projects and negotiations with water & building authorities;
- partner's staff partially delegated to the project: Dorota Siemion from Pomerania Regional Authority, Maciej Jaguś from the Kliniska forest district and Małgorzata Kin from the Szczecinek forest district.

Some other persons from the permanent staff of Naturalists Club has been moved to the project for short periods of time, for necessary action implementation. For example a person experienced in publication preparing has been delegated to the project during the preparing of the handbook for printing (see action A4).

Main part of project actions are under the direct responsibility of the Beneficiary. Partners - forest districts are responsible for part of the actions on sites within their territory. Partners - Regional Authorities (Urzędy Wojewódzkie) have been responsible for the management plans for nature reserves preparing.



In January 2005 the first progress report (below cited as Report 1) was prepared, describing the actions from the project beginning to the end of 2004.

In April 2005 the project was visited by Ms Yolaine Boutelier (Ecosphere - LIFE Monitoring Team).

The second progress report was prepared in September 2005.

In October 2005, the project have been visited by Rolands Ratfelders (Astrale - the new LIFE Monitoring Team).

In the end of June 2006, the project have been visited by the European Comission: Mr Arno Kaschl and Ms Aneta Gajda, and by Roland Ratfelders from the Monitoring Team.

During the project implementation, the project idea and project progress have been presented on some conferences and workshop, as example of nature conservation in Poland. There were:

- Naturalists Club Annual Meetings 2005, 2006;
- Conference "Wet Work", Warszawa, 27.04.2005;
- Natura 2000 workshop, 19.07.2005;
- scientific botanical seminar Gdańsk, 06.2005;
- LIFE Coop workshop, Latvia & Estonia, 25.08.2005;
- scientific conference on nature (plants & vegetation) conservation; Kraków 30.05.2006;
- CEEWEB workshops: Banja Vrjuci (7.11.2005), Kitten (24.08.2006);

All the presentation have been made by project personnel, mainly by project leader.

Important part of project management was also lobbying for including the project sites to the Natura 2000 network (some meetings & discussions with the Ministry of Environment, input to Shadow List preparing).

Lessons learned from the project are also important for proposals of legislation changes, which are necessary for successfull nature conservation in Poland. We are lobbying for simplifying the water & building permissions procedures for small nature conservation infrastructure (ditches damming). On the base of our experiences with LIFE-Nature, we are also involved in preparing LIFE+ National Annual Program in Poland.

In the June 2006, the project has been visitet by team & stakeholders from Slovak LIFE project: **LIFE05 NAT/SK/000112 Restoration of Wetlands at Zahorie Lowland**. Experiences have been exchanged.

ACTION F.2:

Name of action: **Monitoring and documentation**

Plan:

On each targeted site, monitoring transect of piesometers should be established on the project beginning, parallely with the site assessment or documentation preparation (link with A1, A2). The water level in the peat should be monitored every month. The chemical composition, pH, conductivity of the ground water should be measured twice a year. This information should be stored and should be analysed, for recurrent assessment of processes ongoing in peat deposit.

On each targeted site, peatbog conservation status and conservation status of all important habitats, should be assessed on the project end. "Hot points of biodiversity threat" will be checked and controlled. Biodiversity of each site should be assessed on the beginning and on the end of the project.

All the project sites and actions should be documented using photos.

Activities & outputs:

Ca 100 piesometers have been installed in the project sites, and the water level in the peat layer has started to be recorded. Piesometers consist of plastic pipe (sometimes two pipes different length) put into peat. Recording water level is done mainly by local forest service, working as volunteers as a result informal agreements. Only in some cases, in which such agreement has not been achieved, some project personnel and travel costs are indicated. In one site (Reptowo), where monitoring is implemented under the Partner responsibility, it is subcontracted with small amount.

The chemical composition, pH, conductivity of the ground water on the bogs has been measured twice a year by project personnel. Travel for making this measurements has been combined with the other project activities on the bogs.

Ca 300 photos have been made as documentation of project sites nature and project actions (especially study visits in Latvia & Estonia described above). For selection of photos, see annexes 6-9.

Monitoring is implemented mainly by project staff –with exception of site Reptowo (19), where is implemented under the responsibility of Partner (Kliniska forest district) and subcontracted. In some cases, part of monitoring work (collecting observations) is subcontracted with small amount (250-300 Eur). Huge part of monitoring is implemented on the voluntary basis – in such cases there are no personnel costs, but sometimes travel, accommodation & food costs refunded to volunteers.

7.6. EVALUATION AND CONCLUSIONS (2-8 PAGES)

a. The process

The project implementation meet project objectives and seems to be successful, although no devoid of some problems.

As a result of lack of knowledge on sites nature, ecology and hydrology on the beginning of the project (this factor has been identified as important threat and obstacle in the application!) some minor changes in details of action implementation were necessary. After the more detailed recognition of conservation needs in prepared documentations and management plans, and after the negotiations with related stakeholders and authorities, some changes in detail localisation and number of ditches blocking points, terre removing areas, localisation of public access infrastructure etc. have been proposed and discussed with the Project Steering Committee. These changes do not change the project objective nor site objectives, and do not change importantly expected general project output.

As a result of no experience with working with LIFE, the project implementation has not been easy and simple. Some unexpected obstacles and problems appears during the project implementation (see below). On the beginning of the project, problems with the bank guarantee were followed by delay of starting some project activities. Not fully economical stability of Poland cause some important changes of Euro:PLN rate, which create some difficulties in balancing project budget.

Polish government policy for Natura 2000 practically stop the process of proper Natura 2000 network creating in Poland. As a result also the process of project sites including has been stop. Although in June 2006 Polish government restart the process for some sites (see chapter 6e of this report), we are still not sure of our sites including. Delay in Natura 2000 establishing in Poland causes some problems with public communication: for example

exposing Natura 2000 logo and related message (which is important for good nature conservation communication) is not possible in sites still not included to the network.

Unexpected legislation changes in Poland causes (and will cause in the remaining project time) some formal obstacles in project implementation (necessity of preparing much more detail technical documentation for water damming up; public partners problems with budget).

As a result of not expected problems with the technical documentation and formal water permit and building permit procedures (result of recent legislation changes in Poland, see description of A4 action), some delays in action A4 implementation appears, following by some delays in implementation other related actions (C1-blocking ditches). For 2005 year plan this delay can be caught up (C1 will be implemented on time), but there is some risk for catching up delays in 2006 year before the end of June (planned project end).

As a result of other legislation changes, some delays in formal establishing of conservation forms and management plans appears.

These delays not influence the meeting general project objectives, but the small project prolongation (3-4 month) probably may be useful for full achieving the expected results. Additionally, the additional funds are necessary for financing purchase of detail maps, necessary for building permits. For these funds, we successfully negotiate with the EcoFund Foundation, which probably agree to cofinance part of project expenses.

After clarification of legal situation in Poland (see below and see also chapter b – possibility of unexpected change Partner's legal status), and after the final EcoFund agreement, which is expected in the nearest future (October), we will probably prepare appropriate project modification request.

Last minute info

The Polish Ministry of Environment is working for project of new Nature Conservation Act. Details are kept in secret and are not known, but there is assumption to take it into force from 01.01.2007. It may change the legislative environment of project implementation, for example changing management plans format and disturbing managements plan formal establishing.

b. The project management

The project is implemented in partnership of:

- § Nature conservation NGO;
- § Regional nature conservation administration (2 partners – Pomerania and West pomerania region);
- § Forest districts (2 districts);

The main partnership management problems were mainly related to instable situation of governmental administration and legal limitations for their activities (no possibility for long-term budget planning, late annual budget improvements, obligation to subcontract practically all activities, long terms of public tenders organised by government administration, two changes of person responsible for nature conservation in Pomerania district). Sometimes it cause delays in starting particular project actions., but – till now – all these problems could be successfully solved.

Such kind of partnership create a model of good and successful collaboration between public bodies responsible for nature conservation, nature conservation NGO and Polish state forests – which can be (and is in practice) transferred to other situations.

As a result of legislation changes in Poland, the unexpected risk of change Partner's formal status appears. If the legal situation will be clarified, we inform about situation and – if necessary – prepare appropriate modification request.

Last-minute info:

In August 2006 Polish government prepare new legislation project, which may importantly change the Partner's (regional Authority) legal status, even before the project end – responsibility for the regional nature conservation would be moved from the state governmental administration to the regional self-government. But the details of this proposal are still not known.

c. Success and failures

The project seems to be successful with achieving the main ecological objectives., but the detail results seems to be differentiated among sites. On less degraded sites (for example Slowinskie Bog, site 1), ecological effect seems to be visible even after one year. Although time for precise assessment is too short, first monitoring results suggest that ditches blocking on targetted sites importantly improve the water conditions. By contrast, on more degraded sites (for example site 19 – Reptowo), the effect are not so evident, and only a little improving of water conditions has been recorded. It is probably influenced also by very dry summer 2006.

We fail in assumption to use unemployed people for some project work. After the EU accession and huge temporal emigration, in project region unemployemnt exists only in official statistics, not in the practice. In practice, there are rather difficulties in finding employers ready to work, especially for simple works as ditches filling and tress removing.

d. Comparison against the project-objectives.

Overall objective: *To maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of active raised bog (7110) and pine/birch bog forest habitats (91D0) and the favourable conservation status of its complexes – baltic raised bogs in Pomerania, Poland. To maintain the Polish resources of specific sub-type of 7110 and 91D0 habitats connected with the baltic bogs.*

We can expect the conservation status of 7110 and 91D0 habitats inside project sites will be importantly improved. Although this effect cannot be visible immediatelly, the drainage blocking seems to be effective for improving water conditions, whivch should be followed by improving habitats conservation status.

Operational objectives:

To stop the process of draining and following desiccation of the peatbogs.

Water damming up seems be successful and effective. On some bogs (especially less degraded on the beginning – for example Slowinskie Bog), positive results can be seen almost immediatelly. On other sites (especially in degraded bog forests), the damming up effect is less evident, and the ecosystem restoration progress is slow and not visible yet, although positive effects are expected in the nearest future.

To cancel local threats for biodiversity, created by species expansive as a result of desiccation

These threats seems to be successfully cancelled, but positive effect persistency is still difficult to predict. On some bogs we expect that combining water damming up and the invasive vegetation removing should be followed by long-term positive ecological effect. But there is (especially on more degraded sites) also the threat of re-growing and re-expansion of invasive vegetation (especially birch and spruce). In such situation, the conservation actions should be repeated. Building monitoring procedures, building awareness of sites value and conservation needs, preparing and formal establishin of management plans and general building "after LIFE plans' create good base for permanent care for the targeted sites and good possibilities to continue conservation actions, if it would be necessary.

To fulfill the holes in knowledge on natural values, ecology and hydrology of each raised bog and prepare good management plan on base of this knowledge.

Prepared nature inventories, documentation and management plans are good base for conservation measures. Real conservation actions became possible as a result of project "preparatory" activities. Project activities meet the 20-years naturalists and conservationists postulates for necessary expertises and conservation actions. Establishing of new nature reserves and submitting sites to Natura 2000 create new possibilities of nature management planning.

To propagate modern approach for raised bogs conservation, including appropriate active management techniques.

Awareness of bogs conservation techniques seems to be successfully built in the group of naturalists, foresters, nature management planners and nature conservation officers responsible for bogs and bog forests conservation. The awareness seems to be importantly improved in comparisson with the beginning of the project, although it is difficult to establish quantitative indicators. There is influencial group of ca 30 persosn becoming specialists in successfull bogs conservation, with konowledge both about Polish conservation action or experiences from other countries. Initiated collaboration seems to be self-sustainable in the after LIFE future.

To build public awareness of baltic raised bogs value and its European importance, and awareness of its conservation needs, especially in influential stakeholders group, but also in local communities and general public.

Awareness seems to be importantly improved, place of bogs in some local stakeholders awareness seems to be changed from "unuseful places" to "places with important natural value". The process has been initiated, but still ongoing. Preparing public access infrastructure seems to be very important for this process and should be extended in the after LIFE future.

Expected project result	Achieved results
Draining ditches on 13 peatbogs blocked everywhere when needed. Ca 2200 m of ditches filling. Ca 440 sluices blocking ditches built. As a result, hydrology of 13 sites importantly improving, with keeping the water level average no deeper than 0,3m under the ground level.	Water dammed up on 3 bogs, on next 7 action in progress. 47 damms finished, building of next 368 in progress. Filling of 2400 m of diteches in progress.
Trees degrading peatbogs removed from 9 sites. Trees removed or thinned on ca 650 ha. As a result, water balance of these bogs importantly improving, see above.	Action finished on 4 bogs and in progress on next 6. Ca 350 ha targetted by the action till the reporting date.

<p>Full today's biodiversity (species list) of open bogs and bog forests on all sites preserved. 9 "hot points of threat" important for biodiversity on 3 bogs safe (light conditions improved for rare plants populations)</p>	<p>Needs revised as a result of more detailed inventory and management planning. On one bog action cancelled (no needs and no sense of action identified after detail field expertise), but on 2 remaining bogs executed on extended area (12 points targetted)</p>
<p>Spruce removed from 2 bogs. As a result no important threat of spruce invasion anywhere.</p>	<p>Needs revised as a result of more detailed inventory and management planning – action will be applicated on 4 bogs, but with smaller targetted area each. Executed on 2 bogs, on 2 next – in progress.</p>
<p>Natural values, stratygraphy and hydroecology of all 23 bogs recognized. Site management concept for all bogs prepared, and if necessary, formally established as site management plan.</p> <p>Necessary nature protection forms established, basing on prepared documentation. Established Site Management Plans, according to Polish law, for all Nature Reserves.</p>	<p>Basic nature inventory for all bogs completed.</p> <p>Documentations for establishing necessary nature protection form completed for all bogs when planned.</p> <p>5 nature Reserves and 1 Ecological Ground (national conservation forms) formally established.</p> <p>Sites submitting to Natura 2000 prepared (SDFs prepared / updated, generally no stakeholders oposition against Natura 2000 on project sites), but all process of establishing Natura 2000 network stopped by the Polish Ministry of Environment</p> <p>6 Management plans for nature reserves prepared (remaining plans in progress)</p>
<p>Local public, local authorities, forest administration and water authorities aware of natural values of each site and aware of need of its conservation, including appropriate methods of its conservation.</p> <p>Popular brochures presenting each bog printed and disseminated.</p> <p>Website created and maintained.</p> <p>Project of active raised bogs conservation propagated in public: layman's report printed and disseminated.</p>	<p>Public awareness increased: info about project disseminated among foresters and Polish conservationists.</p> <p>Ca 52 meetings & negotiations sessions with the local authorities, water management bodies, or foresters responsible for the sites conducted, ca 280 persons targetted.</p> <p>Website avialible in the Internet.</p>

<p>Group of ca 20 persons, nature management planners and nature conservation authority and administration, trained in raised bogs ecology and appropriate methods of its conservation.</p> <p>Handbook of raised bogs conservation in Polish conditions prepared, printed and disseminated.</p> <p>Report with technical and planning solution examples printed.</p>	<p>Group of ca 30 persons established and work with this group is continued.</p> <p>Handbook prepared, printed and disseminated.</p>
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Comparisson against project milestones:

Milestone	action	Deadline	
Project leader nominated	F1	02.11.2003	Completed
Measuring equipment for bogs assessments and monitoring completed	A1, F2	30.04.2004	Completed
'Working group" of nature management planners and nature conservation administration completed	E3	30.06.2004	Completed
1st workshop arranged	E3	30.11.2004	Completed (for photos see Anex 9, participants list see Annex 1)
Project website available in Internet	E5	30.11.2004	Completed, see www.kp.org.pl/plbaltbogs
1st return of Action D1 done	D1	30.11.2004	Completed, for photos see Annex 7.
Technical projects for water damming up – first packet – done	A4	30.03.2005	Completed, for standard solutions see Annex 2
Meetings with local communities and authorities carried and effected	E2	30.09.2005	Plan completed, but must be continued
2nd workshop arranged and study tour to Estonia	E3	30.10.2005	Completed (for photos see Anex 9, participants list see Annex 1)
Ditches blocking and trees removing – 1st packet – done	C1, C2	31.01.2006	Completed (For photos see Annex 6 and 7, On 3 bogs dams have been built. On 5 bogs, some trees are removed, as planned for 2005).

Technical projects for water damming up – second packet – done	A4	30.03.2006	Delayed as a result of long formal procedures and necessity of very detailed maps preparing (see description of action A4). For most planned sites is finished, for two remaining sites is expected in the end of September
Information panels placed in sites	E6	30.08.2006	Completed, with the exception of sites expected to be included to Natura 2000 (we are waiting for final decision, for exposing Natura 2000 logo)

Comparison against deliverables list :

Product	action	Deadline	
Regional Habitat Action Plan for baltic raised bogs in Pomerania Region – 1st draft	A5	31.08.2004	1 st version completed, published on the www
Site Nature Inventory Reports for sites: 7 (northern part), 13, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22	A1	31.01.2005	Completed for all sites where planned. As a result, all project sites have completed basic inventory.
Documentations for Nature Reserve establishing for sites: 1, 3, 9	A2	31.01.2005	Completed. Nature reserves have been established on the base of prepared documentation
Site Management Plans for Nature Reserves: 2, 14, 4, 5	A3	31.01.2005	Completed for sites 2, 14, 4, 5, and also for site 11
Brochures presenting selected sites	E2	30.06.2005	Published for 11 bogs + general project description; general print ca 3000 issues. Useful tools in stakeholders management. Leaflets for 2 next bogs ready to print, but stopped waiting for MoE decision for Natura 2000 extension (we hope to be able to expose Natura 2000 logo after expected including sites to the network)
Handbook of Raised Bog Conservation – published book	E4	30.11.2005	Completed. The book have been printed and disseminated
Documentations for Nature Reserve establishing for sites 15, 16	A2	31.01.2006	Completed. Procedure of Nature Reserve establishing started on the base of prepared documentations

Site Management Plans for Nature Reserves: 1, 3	A3	31.01.2006	Delayed. Action is executed under the responsibility of Partner, which is regional authority on nature conservation. According to their rules, formal preparing of SMP cannot be started before the Nature Reserve formal establishing and should take ca 1 year. The NR were established in 2005. But the general materials for SMP have been collected and there is clear management concept, informally discussed and approved. Actions for 2006 will be formally established as "Short-term NR management plan". This will not influence the conservation actions execution.
Regional Habitat Action Plan for baltic raised bogs in Pomerania Region – Revised version	A5	30.01.2006	Completed. Published on the website and also as a part of the Handbook (see above)
Site Management Plans for Nature Reserves: 6, 10, 11, 12	A3	30.11.2006	
Site Management Plans for Nature Reserves: 15, 16	A3	30.05.2007	
Regional Habitat Action Plan for baltic raised bogs in Pomerania Region – Final version	A5	30.06.2007	
Layman's and scientific reports	E7	30.06.2007	

e. Environmental benefits, policy and legislation implications

The project seems to be important for preparing project site for submitting as Natura 2000 sites, although in the reporting date all Natura 2000 designation process is (temporarily, we hope) stopped by the Polish government and future of this process is unpredictable:

In the 2004, April, Polish government have send to the European Commission the project of Natura 2000 net in Poland with 184 proposed habitat sites. Some of our project sites, but not all, have been included to this governmental project. Although, according to LIFE2004 rules, there is only obligation to establish "appropriate national form of nature protection" for project sites on the end of the project, we try to include all project sites to Natura 2000 network, because of their natural values and importance for 7110, 7120 and 91D0 habitats. We ask Polish Ministry of Environment for including all project sites to official Natura 2000 proposal. In 2005 Polish Ministry of Environmet start to work on extension of Polish Natura 2000 proposal. Till the end of 2005, the draft of the extended pSCI list have been prepared by the Ministry of Environment and the formal consultation process have been completed. For our sites, there were no stakeholders opposition.

Unexpectedly, in the end of January 2006, the new Polish Minister of Environment stopped all work for Natura 2000 extension in Poland. Today's situation seems to be unclear. We hope that the sites will be officially submitted to the EC, but the present Ministry seems to be unpredictable.

Parallely to the lobbying for including sites to Natura 2000 network, the national form of protection have been established step by step. In September 2005, two big nature reserves have been established (Słowińskie Bog and Warnie Bog). Between September 2005 and June 2006, two next nature reserves and one ecological ground have been established.

Additionally, the idea of extension of two existing nature reserves has been developed as a result of stakeholders meeting during the project.

The summary of achievements till the reporting date is as below:

Site Nr	Site Name	Polish Protection Form	Natura 2000
1	Słowińskie Błoto	Nature Reserve have been established during the project	On the official Polish list
2	Janiewickie Bagno	existing Nature Reserve, planned to be extended	On the official Polish list
3	Kusowskie Bagno	Nature Reserve have been established during the project	On the official Polish list
4	Kurze Grzędy	existing Nature Reserve	On the official Polish list
5	Staniszewskie Błoto	existing Nature Reserve	On the official Polish list
6	Bielawskie Błota	existing Nature Reserve	Should be added after restoration
7	Łebskie Bagno	Nature Reserve have been established during the project	Submitting prepared, but stopped by the Polish new Minister of Environment
7	Czarne Bagno-Karolinki	Nature Reserve have been established during the project	Submitting prepared, but stopped by the Polish new Minister of Environment
8	Siedem Jezior-Chośnica	Existing Nature Reserve	On the official Polish list
9	Wierzchucińskie Błota	Nature Reserve have been established	Submitting prepared, but stopped by the Polish new Minister of Environment
10	Ciemińskie Bagna	Existing Nature Reserve planned to be extended	On the official Polish list
11	Pobłocie	Existing Nature Reserve	Submitting prepared, but stopped by the Polish new Minister of Environment
12	Górka	Existing Nature Reserve	Should be added after restoration

13	Zaleskie Bagno	Nature Reserve will be established soon	On the official Polish list
14	Warnie Wierzchomińskie Bagno	- Partially existing nature reserve, on the rest of the area nature reserve have been established during the project	Submitting prepared, but stopped by the Polish new Minister of Environment
15	Stramniczka	Existing EG. Procedure of Nature Reserve establishing is started.	Submitting prepared, but stopped by the Polish new Minister of Environment
16	Roby	Procedure of Nature Reserve establishing have been started.	On the official Polish list
17	Kłęcko	Existing NLA	Submitting prepared, but stopped by the Polish new Minister of Environment
18	Bagno Ciemino	Existing Nature Reserve	Submitting prepared, but stopped by the Polish new Minister of Environment
19	Reptowo	Procedure of NLA establishing is started	Should be added after restoration,
20	Łazy	Procedure of nature reserve establishing have been started.	Submitting prepared, but stopped by the Polish new Minister of Environment
21	Święta	Nature reserve have been established	Submitting prepared, but stopped by the Polish new Minister of Environment
22	Świdne Bagno	Proposed NLA	On the official Polish list
23	Wielkie Błoto Wierzchowo	- Ecological Ground formally established	On the official Polish list

***bold** = established / achieved as a results of project*

Last-minute info:

In July 2006 Polish Ministry of Environment starts to work with proposal of small set of sites to be added to the officially submitted Natura 2000 pSCIs lists. These are 41 new sites + 7 extensions of formerly submitted sites, selected on the base of no stakeholders opposition against Natura 2000. Project sites: 1 (correction of borders), 7, 9, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18 are on this list.

This influence E2 and E4 action – for printing some leaflets and installing some information pannels on these sites we are waiting for final decision (expected in September), hope to preset Natura 2000 logo.

Generally, although still not all project sites are included to the Natura 2000, the project success is an important argument showing the conservation possibilities related to Natura 2000 (implementation of LIFE as Natura 2000 financial instrument). For all Polish nature conservation, the project is a good example of using EU funds linked to Natura 2000, nature Directives and European environmental policy.

The project has important input to the Natura 2000 habitats monitoring in Poland:

- § some project sites have been included to "pilot" field habitat monitoring for selected sites & habitats, which has been implemented in 2006 r, for testing the general habitat monitoring idea and methodology, prepared by Polish Institute for Nature Conservation
- § some methodology of monitoring, elaborated in our project frame, are proposed as standard monitoring methodology for 7110 and 91D0 habitats in Poland.

Elaborating proposals of Natura 2000 management concepts during the project is important for general discussion on Natura 2000 sites management and management planning in Poland.

Discussions during the project workshop are important for elaborating the conservation status indicators for bogs (7110 and 91D0 habitats) in Poland.

The direct project effect – improving conservation status of project sites with the 7110 and 91D0 habitats – is important for general conservation status of these habitat types in Poland. Stopping degradation of Baltic raised bogs is important for stopping biodiversity loss.

f. **Innovation, demonstration value.**

The project is in Poland the first implementation of bogs conservation actions using massive, not only experimental scale. The project is a practice implementation of 20-year postulates of Polish nature conservation. In the economic situation of Polish nature conservation, it is possible only owing to EU LIFE funding.

The project practical experiences are fully transferable for other raised bogs in Poland (for example Baltic bogs in eastern Poland but also other types of raised bogs). Handbook of Raised Bogs Conservation has been prepared, printed and disseminated during the project, as an important tool of such knowledge transfer.

Although main conservation activities are well-known in European bogs conservation, the project is an additional proof that they are useful also in natural, economical, sociological and administrative conditions of Poland.

The project experience has been presented during the workshops in frames of **LIFE Nature Co-op Project "Dissemination of ecological knowledge and practical experiences for sound planning and management in raised bogs and sea dunes"** and became part of common experience for development of the PROMME concept and the decision support system (for downloading presentation of our project, see http://www.barger.science.ru.nl/life/work2005_index.html).

g. **Socio-economic effects**

Creating of public access infrastructure for selected bogs create small, but important benefit for tourism development.

Local communities in northern part of Poland are looking for new sources of incomes. Tourism based on natural values is often recognized as such potential source. From this point of view, any action creating new tourist attractors, will be perceived as benefit for local communities. Thew project meet this expectation.

We identified additional needs and possibilities to develop more public access to the project sites and its using for environmental education. This will be done in the after LIFE future.

We fail in preventing unemployment effect. After the EU accession and huge temporal emigration, in project region unemployemnt exists only in official statistics, not in the practice. In practice, there are rather difficulties in finding employers ready to work, especially for simple works as ditches filling and tress removing Then the problem disapperrs and there was no possibility to prevent it.

h. The future: sustainability

Creating good collaboration between foresters (site managers) and nature conservation services and nature conservation NGO seems to be crucial to the sites conservation sustainability. The good partnership between klub Przyrodników and two forest districts (Szczecinek and Kliniska – Project Partners) is a model example of such collaboration for nature conservation. As a result of propagation of this example, numerous meeting, discussions etc., in most cases informal but good collaboration has been established between forest districts managing the area and nature conservatio administration and NGO. It express for example in voluntary involvment of forest districts in the monitoring data colecting, and also in some forest districts initiatives to extend the project actions (build more damms or education trails). This is good base for sites conservation sustainability in after-LIFE future.

i. Long term indicators of the project success.

The main success indicator will be the 7110 and 91D0 habitat conservation status, expressed by:

- § water level and water level dynamics during the year;
- § floristic composition (*Sphagnum presence*);
- § stopping the process of trees invasion and transforming open bogs to the bog forests

These parameters are under the monitoring established during the project.

8.7. PLANNED PROJECT PROGRESS

Actions A1-A2

Formal establishing of 3 nature reserves and 1 Ecological ground
Including 10-12 remaining bogs to the Natura 2000 pSCIs proposal (but it depends on Polish government policy and is out of our control)

Action A3:

Finishing of 10 Nature reserves management plan
Formal approvment of nature reserves management plans 9in short- or long-term form)

Action A4

Collected all permits necessary to C1 implementation

Action A5:

Third turnover of discussion Habitat Action Plan. revised version.

Action C1

Finishing of building 368 damms (in progress now)

Building ca 100 planned damms

Finishing of filling ca 2400 m of ditches

Action C2 & C3:

Ca 400 ha targetted by trees / trees sprouts removing

Action C4:

Experiment with Sphagnum transplantation (see description of experiment preparation in main report chapter)

Action D1:

Second turnover of action will be executed according to local needs identified on the field in autumn 2006.

Action E1:

Finishing infrastructure on the Kusowo Bog

Building infrastructure on the Izbickie Bog (extension of the initial plan)

Action E2:

Continuing the process (meetings & negotiations)

Printing leaflets covering 4 bogs

Action E3:

Closing seminar

Action E4

Continuing of handbook disseminating

Action E5

Continuous updating and modernisation

Action E6

Replacement of stolen pannels

Installing additional pannels with expalantions for the specific bogs & actions

Action E7:

End reports preparing and printing

Action F1

Continuing

Action F2:

Continuing

9.8. COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL REPORT

General:

Some most recent actions are finished in the field (and described in the technical report) but not invoiced and not paid (then not included in the financial statement). A lot of actions is in progress, to be finished in the autumn 2006, therefore the financial project progress do not fully reflects the output progress.

Personnel:

Beneficiary (Klub Przyrodników): see description of action F1 for description of project implementation staff. In exceptional cases, for some actions (for example Handbook layout preparing to printing, some extra needs for technical assistance) some other employers of Klub Przyrodników have been temporarily moved to work for the project for short term (0,5-2 month). Such cases are documented by work sheets.

West Pomerania Regional Authority: Partner decide not to show personnel costs as eligible costs – the proper documentation (differentiation of personnel costs related to the project from costs of "normal duties" of the personnel, costs more than amount which could be shown here).

Pomerania Regional Authority: only small costs related to one of the Partner employers, participating in the project. Only covers costs of her activity exceeding "normal" duties, and clearly related to the project activities.

Kliniska Forest District: only small costs related to one of the Partner employers, participating in the project. Only covers costs of his activities exceeding "normal" duties, and clearly related to the project activities.

Szczecinek Forest District: only small costs related to one of the Partner employers, participating in the project. Only covers costs of her activity exceeding "normal" duties, and clearly related to the project activities.

For implementation some project actions (part of actions: C1, A1, A2, F2) volunteers have been used. The value of in kind work is of course not included to the project costs, but related costs of organising such work (volunteers travels and accommodation, small equipment, insurance etc.) are shown in appropriate categories (travel, consumable materials, other costs).

Travels:

Klub Przyrodników: Because project sites are dispersed, a lot of travels has been necessary. We always try to combine some activities with one travel – in such cases only main travel goal (main action the travel is related with) is indicated on the travel documentation form.

If volunteers have been involved in project actions, there are also costs of their travels (of course only if documented).

Equipment:

According to Polish legislation rules, we calculate life expectancy of equipment purchased during the project as follow:

off-road car – life expectancy to: March 2010

peat borer – life expectancy to: May 2011

photometer – life expectancy to: November 2009

thermoreactor - life expectancy to: November 2009

Legal base: The Tax act for legal persons (act from 15 February 1992), Appendix 1: annual depreciation rates (Załącznik do ustawy z dnia 15 lutego 1992 r. o podatku dochodowym od osób prawnych Załącznik nr 1 - Wykaz rocznych stawek amortyzacyjnych).

We certify that all equipment will be use for nature conservation purposes, and only to this, in all its life period.

Overspending in this category (8%, ca 2900 Eur) is result of changing Euro:PLN rate. All durable goods purchase have been done between January and September 2005. This cost category is completed for the whole project yet. The real purchase cost in the moment of purchase (using the Euro / PLN ratio for this moment) was 36 691,02 Euro (vs 35 797 planned in applications). The same amount in PLN in this report must be recalculated using present ratio, as 38 707 Eur. We hope that there are only temporary exchange ration fluctuations, and on the project end the difference will not exceed the 10% / 10000 Euro frame.

External assistance:

For bigger contracts (>6000 Eur, according to Polish legislation), contractors have been selected on the base of public tendering.

Big progress in this category financial implementation is expected for autumn 2006, after invoicing the big part of action A3, C1, C2, C3 and E1 implementation.

Consumable materials:

This category contains:

- different materials necessary for preparing, copying, printing documentations in action A1-A4;
- maps and aerial photos purchase, necessary for actions A1-A4;
- materials for information pannels and public access infrastructure;
- wood for damms building
- materials for organisation voluntary work on the site Bielawa (in frames action C2)
- fuel, necessary for the car exploitation + some other exploitation materials;
- materials for piesometers construction
- etc.

Big progress in this category financial implementation is expected for autumn 2006, after invoicing the big part of action C1 and E1 implementation.

Other costs

This category contains:

- guarantee costs;
- administration cosst related with land owner identification;
- administration fees related with water and building permits;
- etc.

It is expected the costs in this category on the project end will be underspended, saved money will be used for other necessary costs without exceding 10% / 10000 Eur limit.

Overheads

Overheads calculation ratio is based on the relation of number of project employers : total number of employers in the Klub office.

It is expected the costs in this category on the project end will be underspended, saved money will be used for other necessary costs without exceeding 10% / 10000 Eur limit.

VAT

Klub Przyrodników: According to the Article 90 Polish VAT Act, for Klub Przyrodników VAT is partially recoverable and partially not recoverable. Refundable part of VAT is calculated using formula:

$$(\text{VAT taxed sale in previous year} / \text{total sale in previous year}) \times 100\%$$

According to Klub Przyrodników sale balance, for 2005 35% of VAT is recoverable, and 65% of VAT is not recoverable. For 2006 year, 45% of VAT is refundable and 55% is not refundable. According to Standard Administrative Provisions, the not recoverable part of VAT is calculated as eligible cost. For 2004 and 2003, before EU accession, we used mainly co-finance funds from GEF, and Polish legislation gave possibility to recover all VAT paid in relation to abroad financial support.

Kliniska Forest District: VAT partially recoverable, as described above.

For other partners VAT is recoverable and not eligible as project cost.

10.9. ANNEXES

Paper annexes:

- ANNEX 1: WORKSHOPS PARTICIPANTS LIST & PROGRAMS OF WORKSHOPS;
- ANNEX 2: STANDARD TECHNICAL PROJECTS OF DAMS USED;
- ANNEX 3: HANDBOOK FOR RAISED BOGS CONSERVATION – PRINTED PUBLICATION;

Additionally, pdf files are on the CD

Electronic annexes (on CDs):

- ANNEX 4: RESULTS OF ACTION A1-A3 FOR PROJECT SITES (NATURE INVENTORY REPORTS & CONSERVATION FORMS DOCUMENTATIONS & MANAGEMENT PLANS & NATURA 2000 SDFS);

Hard copies of documentations have been send to EC and MT with the progress reports

- ANNEX 5: BALTIC RAISED BOGS CONSERVATION PLAN, II ND DRAFT;
- ANNEX 6: PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION OF DITCHES BLOCKING;
- ANNEX 7: PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION OF TREES REMOVING;
- ANNEX 8: PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION OF ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE BUILDED;
- ANNEX 9: PHOTOS FROM STUDY VISITS & WORKSHOPS.

LIFE Project Number
<LIFEXX ENV/XXX/XXX>

FINANCIAL INTERIM / FINAL REPORT
Covering the project activities from xx.xx.xxx (project starting date) to xx.xx.xxx

Reporting Date
<dd/mm/yyyy>

LIFE PROJECT NAME
<Name of the project>

Data Project

Project location	
Project start date:	<dd/mm/yyyy>
Project end date:	<dd/mm/yyyy>
Total Project duration (in months)	<XX> months

Total budget	€	
EC contribution:	€	
(%) of total costs		
(%) of eligible costs		
Data Beneficiary		
Name Beneficiary		
Contact person	<gender> <first name> <last name>	
Postal address	<Street, n°, country code, postal code, commune>	
Visit address	<Street, n°, country code, postal code, commune>	
Telephone	xx-xx-xxxxxxx + direct n°	
Fax:	xx-xx-xxxxxxx + direct n°	
E-mail		
Project Website		

A. CONTENTS

~~THE STANDARD STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE ATTACHED TO THE COMMISSION DECISION / GRANT AGREEMENT AND AVAILABLE AT THE LIFE HOMEPAGE~~

~~http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/toolbox/financial_sheet.htm SHOULD BE USED~~

Please refer to the Standard Administrative Provisions (SAP) / Common Provisions (CP)

B. AUDITOR DATA

Interim Report:

~~name, address, tel/fax, contact person and registration number of the auditor.~~

~~In some cases, defined in CP article 27, the Auditor's Report / Declaration (use the standard audit report available on the LIFE website).~~

Final Report:

~~As for interim plus Auditor's Report/Declaration if required by the SAP / CP article 27 (use the standard audit report available on the LIFE website).~~

C. ANNEXES

Supporting documents, if needed