

**LIFE Project Number
LIFE05 NAT/LT/000094**

2nd Progress Report

Annex 10:

Action D3. Independent cost evaluation of reed cutting machinery... 1-2/2 Pages



Datum
2008-12-17

NATUR- OCH KULTURMILJÖENHETEN
Naturvård
Jan-Inge Tobiasson
Telefon +4621195120
jan-inge.tobiasson@u.lst.se

Pranas Mierauskas
Lithuanian Fund for Nature
Algirdo St. 22-3
LT-03012 Vilnius, Lithuania

Independent cost evaluation of reed cutting machinery (amphibian) used in the project "LIFE05NAT/LT/000094"

I have as an expert on machinery for wetland management been asked to evaluate the reed cutting machinery (Truxor) bought by Lithuanian Fund for Nature for the implementation of activities in the "LIFE05NAT/LT/000094".

For the moment manager of wetlands at the county of Västmanland <http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/vastmanland> I have been the expert during development of machinery usable to harvest Wetlands with very low carrying capacity. I have also been working with different ways to expand the shallow, productive waters between reed and open water. It is also a part of my tasks to manage reed beds and different water vegetation and this was also included in the Life project Askoviken <http://www.askoviken.se/> More information under the topic "activities". I have also been adviser to managers of protected areas in all of Sweden as an employee at Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

Working with reed or water vegetation is somethings that needs time to achieve sustainable results. There have been testing of several different methods with vehicles, boats and by human hands. Boats have been equipped with different types of wheels and cutting equipment and several of these have been quite successful. But most of these are very dependent of one very interested entrepenur

Today there are quite few serial factory made vehicles, boats and cutters hat can be used as reed cutters. Some of them have very big capacity in reed cutting example <http://www.rsplanering.fi/eng/rs2000/rs2000.htm> But **Aquatic Plant Harvester RS 2000** is not usable to cut reed in low water and its not able for cutting on dry land. The price is also very high. Of cause there are similar boats but with the similar problems.

Smaller cutters to adaptable on boats are also a way of reducing reed and water vegetation. For instance <http://www.vassklippare.se/tillbehor.htm> as one of

Datum
2008-12-17

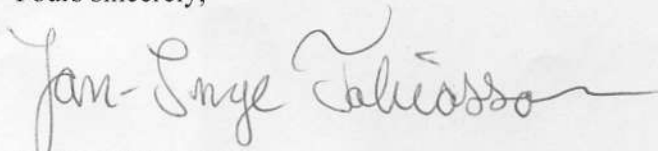
several types from different producers.. Low capacity during cutting and very low capacity in collecting of cutted material is the main problem and not working on land. Price is low and these are very useful in small freshwater lakes.

Then there are a lot of equipment that can be used on dry land. Common agricultural cutters and collectors are useful when ground carrying capacity is high or when there is a very dense root system(turf). As these are traditional tractors and equipment in agriculture capacity, use and prices is easy accessible . I have experience of two cutters similar to Truxor . They are made by single small companies and not for sale on the market One of these cutters is a little bit heavy and not suitable cutting in water but more suitable in working in areas where the ground has better carrying capacity. In the other case the capacity is not known as its only used by the owner.

Truxor DM 4700 is capable working both in water and on soil with rather good capacity and I have often used contractors with this type of machinery. As a matter of fact there are no comparable machinery available in Sweden or the Baltic region at this time. Truxor DM 4700 have very low capacity in dense reedbeds with a lot of old material in thick layers. In these cases it is useful to burn old material the first year if possible and the year and cut the second year.. Truxor DM 4700 is user friendly and have good capacity in both cutting and collecting material. Truxor DM 4700 has low fuel consumption and a good network for spare parts and service. It is also possible to equip Truxor DM 4700 with several other tools useful for working with management of wetlands and lakes.

Price of Truxor DM 4700 is the common price for this machinery.

Yours sincerely,



Jan-Inge Tobiasson