



LIFE05NAT/LT/000094

FINAL REPORT

With payment request

***Covering the project activities from 08.01.2005 to 31.12.2009***

Reporting Date

**24.05.2010**

Protection of Emys orbicularis and amphibians in the North European lowlands

Data Project

<b>Project location</b>	LT: Alytus and Lazdijai; PL0A Podlaskie, PL0E Warminsko-Mazurskie, PL0F Wielkopolskie, PL0G Zachodniopomorskie, PL04 Lubuskie; and DE4 Brandenburg
<b>Project start date:</b>	08/01/2005
<b>Project end date:</b>	31/12/2009
<b>Total Project duration (in months)</b>	60 months
<b>Total budget</b>	2,346,185 €
<b>EC contribution:</b>	1,161,373 €
<b>(%) of total costs</b>	49.50 %
<b>(%) of eligible costs</b>	49.50 %

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## 2. Lists of (I) key-words and (II) abbreviations

### (I) Key-words:

Protection, *Emys orbicularis* E.o., *Bombina bombina* B.b., *Triturus cristatus* T.c., *E. orbicularis*, *B. bombina*, *T. cristatus*, European pond turtle, Fire-bellied toad, Great crested newt, management, pond digging, pond restoration, nesting sites, hibernation sites, turtle breeding programme, land purchase, LIFE-Nature project, midterm-report.

### (II) Abbreviations:

1st PR	First Progress Report
MtR	Mid Term Report submitted by 31.05.27
2nd PR	Second Progress Report
FR	Final Report
Agena	Arbeitsgemeinschaft Natur- und Artenschutz e.V. (Germany)
AGUG	Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (Germany)
BNP	Bialowieza National Park (Poland)
B.b.	<i>Bombina bombina</i>
BVVG	Bodenverwertungs- und verwaltungs GmbH, is the office in east-Germany who sells the former publicized property
E.o.	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>
IPM	International Project Manger (all countries)
KP	Klub Przyrodników (Poland)
LAM	Local Assistant Manager (all countries)
LFN	Lithuanian Fund for Nature (Lithuania)
LFV	Landschaftsförderverein Oberes Rhinluch e.V. (Germany)
MRP	Meteliai Regional Park (Lithuania)
NHF	Nature Heritage Fund
NPM	National Project Manager (all countries)
PD	Project Director (all countries)
PR	Progress Report
PTOP	Polnocnopolaskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptakow (Poland)
RDLP	Regional Directorate of Forestry in Olsztyn (Poland)
RPP	Revised Project Proposal
SC	Steering Committee (all countries)
T.c.	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>
VRP	Veisiejai Regional Park (Lithuania)
ZBR	Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve (Lithuania)

### **3. Executive summary (1-2 pages)**

#### ***3.1. Project objectives***

The objective of the project was to ensure the favourable conservation status of European pond turtles (*Emys orbicularis*) in the extreme northern part of the species' range in the North European lowlands (Germany, Poland and Lithuania). Additionally project targeted to ensure favourable conservation status of threatened amphibians – Fire bellied-toads (*Bombina bombina*) and Great Crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) in areas where they occur together with pond turtles. Such objective has been raised because of an ongoing decline of the European Pond turtle, *Emys orbicularis*, and the Fire-bellied toad, *Bombina bombina*, which is documented throughout the North European lowlands. Additionally, the decline of the Great crested newt, *Triturus cristatus*, is recognised in Estonia, Finland, Germany and Denmark and is suspected in Poland and Lithuania.

The main focus is to establish populations of *Emys orbicularis*, *Bombina bombina* and *Triturus cristatus* with a long-term viability in all project countries. This means for all three species improving their habitats and increasing the habitat capacity in order to effect population growth in the small and isolated populations, to save them from extinction, and to preserve the gene-fund of the species. Additionally, in very small *Emys-orbicularis* populations in Germany, Northwest-Poland and Northeast-Poland the population declines will be prevented by rearing young turtles from nature. The development and the implementation of an effective population management for *Emys orbicularis* will be based on genetic analysis. Larger populations of *Bombina bombina* and *Triturus cristatus* (> 1000 adults) will be secured.

#### ***3.2. Main results of the whole project***

Preparatory actions are completed and reports produced:

A1 - monitoring methods prepared;

A2 – 274 ponds evaluated, statistical analysis finished and report prepared;

A3 – final report for favourable conservation status done;

A5 – final report on hibernation places done;

A6 – final report on nesting sites finished;

A8 – Genetic investigations of the purity of genes in local turtle populations have been led and a report produced.

Plans for the project sites have been prepared: However the planning up to the reporting date has been done partly, a few sites and approvals missing:

A4 – 7 plans have been prepared, while 1 plan is still missing;

A7 – Local management plans were created for 80% of the project sites and were approved by competent authorities

B1 - Land purchase accomplished within 95% of the available land.

Non-Recurring actions were implemented in most cases more than by 100%:

C1 – 100 % of the planned pond restoration / digging and dam construction (100 % of dam construction and 100 % of pond creation) has been made;

C2 –more than 100% of the planned improvement and creation of nesting areas for turtles has been made, which is a delay compared to the project progress plan;

C3 – all planned hibernation sites for turtles and more than 100 % of the planned hibernations sites for amphibians have been made;

C4 – 100% of the planned installment of sustainable grazing regimes has been implemented with 85 % of the planned cattle,  
C5 - more than 100% of the planned removal of unwanted vegetation has been implemented, which is in accordance to the project plan.

Recurring actions were accomplished with the following results:

D1 – number of management agreements were agreed per project sites;  
D2 - 100 % of the turtles planned to rear have been reared, which is ahead of the planned project progress.,  
D3 - 33 % of the planned foraging habitats have been managed, while the rest of the planned management will be ensured in the after LIFE plan.

Education activities implemented as foreseen with some delays:

E1 – 2 study tours implemented, and 3 international workshops together with Final seminar organised;  
E2- 8 turtle days, 15 seminars, 9 amphibian days and 4 grazer exhibitions organized;  
E3 – 34 information boards in 19 project sites and 4 nature trails in 4 sites of the total length of more than 3 km were installed;  
E4 – the following educational materials printed: Folder and poster on species and their habitats prepared and printed in 4 languages (Lithuanian, Polish, German, English); folder on pond restoration printed in Lithuanian and Polish; and the following unplanned materials were printed: 2 books in Lithuanian and Polish, and postcards in German.  
E5 – Best practice guidelines printed;  
E6 – web page created;  
E8 – Layman’s report prepared in all languages (English, Lithuanian, German, Polish).

Management activities carried out:

F1 – Project management structure changed with improvements to project management;  
F2 – monitoring of the effectiveness of project actions carried out proving positive results of implemented actions;  
F3 – After LIFE conservation plan generated for all project sites.

### ***3.3. List of key deliverables and outputs***

From the project start to the final reporting day, the project’s implementation process been a substantial lesson in how different cultural backgrounds influence nearly all aspects of project work. An important lesson learned in relation to formulation of a project, is that many actions may have been planned a little too optimistically, as the partners and beneficiary implementing the actions think in a holistic way on the species needs at each project site rather than on the strict project description of threats and corresponding actions.

Key deliverables:

- First progress report on 31/03/2006
- Midterm Report on 31-05-2007
- 2nd Progress Report on 15-01-2009
- Request for additional clause on 31-10-2009 (approved on 15-12-2009)
- Final Report

In the table below the rest of deliverables are identified:

*Table 1: List of key deliverables*

Deliverables	Action No.	Deadline	Deadline changed in Recovery plan	Completion date	When submitted
Project Web Page created	E6	31/12/2005	--	30/11/2006	1st PR
Folder on project species	E4	30/03/2006	--	30/05/2006	MtR
Monitoring methods elaborated	A1	01/04/06	--	07/05/2006	MtR
Poster on project species	E4	31/10/2006	--	31/01/2007	MtR
Folder on pond ecosystem	E4	30/03/2007	--	29/04/07	MtR
Poster on pond ecosystem	E4	31/10/2007	--	16/12/2006	MtR
Postcards published in Germany	E4	31/11/2007		12/06/2008	FR
Ponds evaluated	A2	01/08/2007	31/10/2009	31/10/2009	FR
Characteristics/structure of hibernation sites evaluated	A5	31/12/2007	31/03/2009	31/11/2009	FR
Final genetic investigation report	A8	31/02/2008	30/06/2009	31/10/2009	FR
Criteria for favourable conservation status elaborated	A3	30/03/2008	31/03/2009	30/09/2009	FR
Local management plans	A7	01/04/2008	31/10/2009	31/12/2009	FR
Characteristics/structure of nesting sites evaluated	A6	31/09/2008	31/03/2009	31/11/2009	FR
National action plans for Lithuania, Germany and Poland	A4	01/04/09	31/10/2009	31/12/2009	FR
Information boards	E3	30/09/2009	--	30/09/2009	FR
Nature trail site built	E3	30/09/2009	--	30/09/2009	FR
Best practice/protection guidelines worked out	E5	15/11/2009	31/12/2009	31/12/2009	FR
Layman report	E7	31/12/2009	--	31/12/2009	FR
"After LIFE conservation plan"	F3	31/12/2009	--	31/12/2009	FR

## 4. Introduction

An ongoing decline of the European Pond turtle, *Emys orbicularis*, and the Fire-bellied toad, *Bombina orientalis*, is now documented throughout the North European lowlands. Additionally, the decline of the Great crested newt, *Triturus cristatus*, is recognised in Estonia, Finland, Germany and Denmark and is suspected in Poland and Lithuania.

Based on population genetics theories, the long term goal of this project is that each surviving population of the turtles reaches a size of at least 500 adults. However, today very few turtle populations meet this criterion as most of them are between 10 and 50 adults. Thus the short term goal for at least the slow growing turtle populations is reaching 50 to 100 individuals. If the available habitat is restricted (e.g. within intensively-used landscapes), the criterion can only be met by creating new habitats, and in some extremely small populations of *E. orbicularis* in Germany and Poland the only option is to rear and release turtles.

During the implementation of projects LIFE99NAT/DK/006454 “Consolidation of *Bombina orientalis* in Denmark” and LIFE04NAT/EE000070 “Protection of *Triturus cristatus* in Eastern Baltic Region” considerable knowledge has been gained on design and improvement of pond landscapes of high quality for amphibians. With basic experience on turtle conservation existing already in Lithuania, Poland and Germany, there is a solid foundation for the implementation of protective measures on herpetological sites of European interest and for developing a concept of active protection of sites of high herpetological diversity in the North European lowlands.

There will be a transfer of knowledge concerning pond projects for the conservation of amphibians and small genetically eroded amphibian populations from projects in Denmark, Estonia, and Germany to Lithuania and Poland. Furthermore, meta-population concepts and genetic strategies developed for amphibian conservation in Denmark, Estonia and Germany will be modified and applied to turtle conservation in Lithuania, Germany and Poland. Knowledge on the conservation and biology of the European Pond turtle will be transferred between regions in Lithuania, Germany and Poland, and from these 3 countries, which have the largest turtle populations of the north European lowlands, knowledge will be distributed to the edge distribution areas of Latvia and Denmark. The active protection of aquatic habitats of *E. orbicularis*, *B. orientalis* and *T. cristatus* will also support a number of the Habitats Directive’s annex IV amphibian species on the same sites.

### 4.1. *Actions and means involved*

The following activities and measures have been foreseen to be implemented within the project:

- Habitat management for amphibians and reptiles, e.g. pond digging and restoring, improvement and creation of turtle nesting sites, creation of hibernation sites, establishing a grazing management, and management of terrestrial and foraging habitats.
- Population management of *E. orbicularis* populations, supporting small populations with reared animals.
- Small-scale genetic investigation in order to determine the possibility of inbreeding in small populations and to calculate the effective population size. Further investigation is to be carried out in order to separate authentic turtle populations from genetically polluted populations. The genetic data will form the basis of future management strategies, e.g. which populations should be connected by landscape corridors, which ones should be used for rearing, and which ones have such a high inbreeding that it will be wise to add other genotypes.



## ***4.2. Expected results***

More than 50% of the *E. orbicularis* populations and more than 90% of the individuals in the north European lowlands will benefit from active protection in this project. Active protection measures for *B. bombina* and *T. cristatus* and high diversity of other amphibian species will be demonstrated. This project will establish an experience exchange network about habitat and population management measures between the partners, e.g. turtle conservation, pond digging, managing landscapes with year-round grazing, and supportive breeding and rearing on populations. These actions have already been tested in the partner countries in several variations and could be evaluated and used as a best practice for small populations in the project areas in the north European region. In general we expect that this project will serve as a great step towards the goal of safeguarding all surviving genetic lines of *Emys orbicularis* at their northern border, and will show different demonstration sites of various herpetological management methods, and thus the project will provide several models that demonstrate management methods for sites of herpetological interest.

## **5. LIFE-project framework**

### ***5.1. Presentation of management***

#### Presentation of the Beneficiary, associated beneficiaries, and project organisation

The project activities have been undertaken by the beneficiary Lithuanian Fund for Nature and 11 partners (2 partners were included during the project life time) in a common framework.

The project encompasses three countries with partner organisations in each:

in Lithuania, 3 state organisations were involved in the project: Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve, Veisiejai Regional Park, and Meteliai Regional Park.

In Poland, 1 state organisation Bialowezha National Park and 2 NGOs were involved: Polish Society for Protection of Birds (PTOP) and Naturalists Club (KP).

In Germany, 2 NGOs in Brandenburg, Agena (Society for protection of Nature and Species) and Landschaftsvoerverein in Oberes Rhinluch (LFV), joined the project. The third partner in Germany is Georg-August-University of Göttingen (Center for Natur Protection).

Beside the partner organisations, the Consultancy company Amphi Consult has been hired for expertise on amphibians conservation, international project coordination and financial management. Decision to involve a Consultancy company was based on the need for expertise on habitat restoration and advisory on management of EU-financed projects, where LFN had little experience.

The beneficiary, Lithuanian Fund for Nature, carries out some part of the management in Lithuania.

The main administration units for the project are a Project management team and a Steering committee. The project management team consist of a Project Director, International Project Manager, external consultants, and representatives of 11 partner organisations. The director of LFN was appointed as the project Director . The partners ZBR, VRP, MRP, PTO, BNP, KP, Agena, RDLP, NHF and LFV have their local project managers, who carry out major part of the project management in their project sites. The partner AGUG provides advice on monitoring and management activities carried out by the partners and beneficiary in Lithuania (LFN, ZBR, VRP, and MRP) and the partners in eastern Poland (PTOP and BNP). In addition Lars Ch.Adrados from external consultancy company Amphi Consult was appointed as the International project manager to provide consultancy on monitoring and management activities for the beneficiary and partners in Lithuania (LFN, ZBR, VRP, and MRP) and the partners in Poland (PTOP, BNP, and KP).

#### Changes in the project's management structure

Additionally Lithuanian NGO Nature Heritage Fund (NHF) and Regional Directorate of Forestry in Olsztyn (RDLP) were added in additional clause to the project as partners.

### ***5.2. Organigramme***

The organigramme of the project was improved corresponding to the remarks by the EC as illustrated in Figure 1. Due to insufficient management the PD was changed by the board of beneficiary organisation on 27/11/2008. Nerijus Zableckis, who since 01/04/2008 is an executive director of LFN, was appointed as a new PD. The decision was taken by the board and is annexed as Annex 25. , paragraph 5 in the protocol - answering to the letter of EC 23/04/2009 question No.13.

Further the following roles were reviewed and clarified:

The role of agents is to collect information from local managers and keep the PD updated. Local managers are nominated representatives of every partner organisation, usually directors or chairmen. The information from information agents was collected during regular skype calls or chats, or phone calls. The PD took over the control of technical and relevant questions, which were applied to PD with a copy to IPM (by emails), while financial questions were applied to IPM with a copy to the PD. This has improved communication because at least one person reacted to a question.

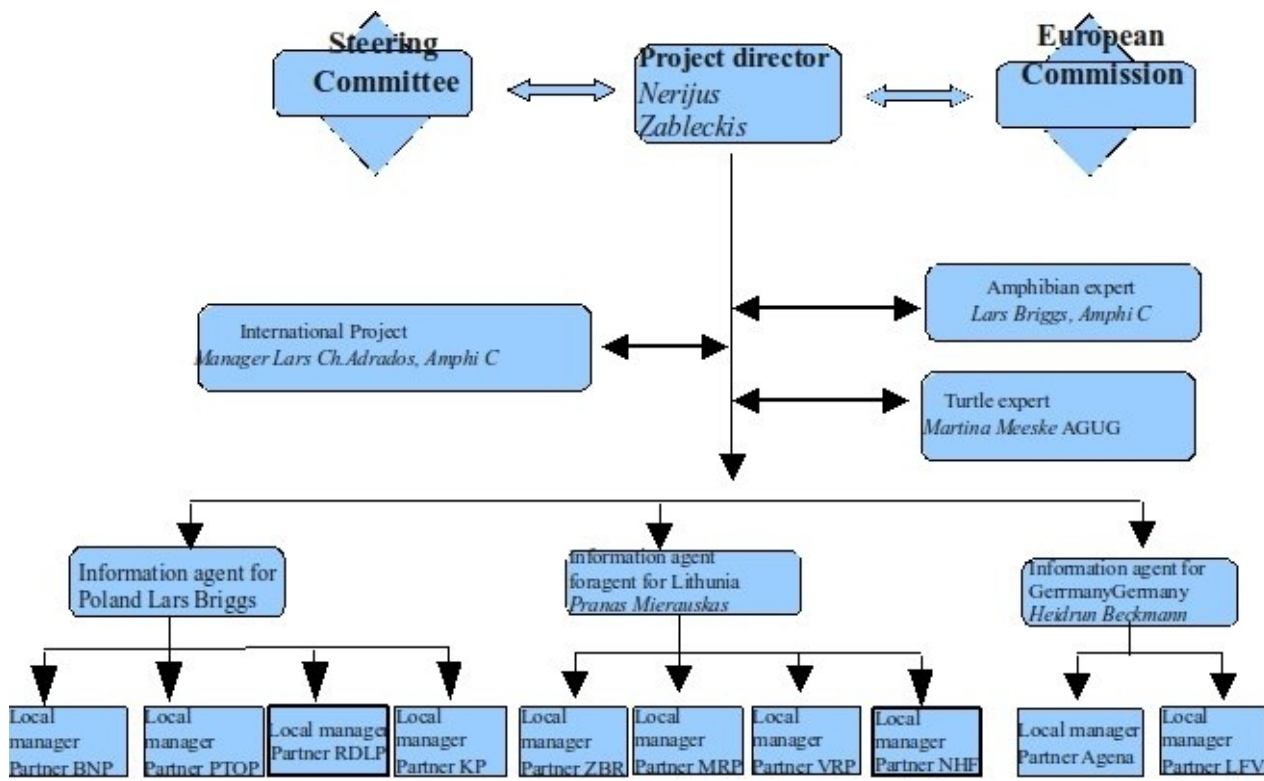


Figure 1. Organigramme of the project

## 6. Progress, Results

For this reporting, we will not only focus on deadlines for deliverable products and milestone as listed in the RPP on page C9/1 to C9/3, but also the timetable as listed in the revised project proposal on page C8. up to the end of project. The implementation of milestones respectively produced, is shown in table 2. The reporting period covered by the Final Technical and Financial Reports is from 08.01.2005 to 31-12-2009.

### 2. Table Project progress by actions

Milestones without deliverables	Number of the associated action	Deadline	completion date	remarks
Project manager nominated	F1	7/1/2005	29/08/2005	
International workshop (Kick off seminar) carried out	E1	30/09/2005	19/03/2006, 07/05/2006	Renamed as 1st study tour.
20% of unwanted vegetation removed	C5	31/12/2005	31/12/2006, 31/12/2007	
Management agreements made for 2005	D1	31/12/2005	None	Only agreements which were made before submission of application
Monitoring	F2	31/12/2005	31/12/2006	
Purchase of terrestrial management equipment	D3	30/03/2006	30/05/2007	
Study tour is carried out	E1	01/09/06	07/05/06	
Purchase of cattle	C4	15/09/2006	01/01/07	
Seminar is carried out in Germany and Poland	E2	30/09/2006	27/06/2006- 03/07/2006	1st workshop
Turtle day is carried out in Lithuania and Poland	E2	30/09/2006	14/10/2006	
Grazer exhibition is held	E2	30/09/2006	22/11/2006	
Monitoring	F2	15/10/2006	15/10/2006	
20% of nesting sites created	C2	01/12/06	01/12/2006	
30% of ponds restored/dug	C1	15/12/2006	15/12/2006	
25% of hibernation sites created	C3	15/12/2006	15/12/2006	

Milestones without deliverables	Number of the associated action	Deadline	completion date	remarks
Buffer zones established in German and Poland	B1	31/12/2006	31/01/2008	
40% of unwanted vegetation removed	C5	31/12/2006	31/12/2006, 31/12/2007	
Management agreements made for 2006	D1	31/12/2006	31/12/2006	
50% of foraging habitats managed	D3	30/06/2007	31/12/2007	
International workshop carried out	E1	30/06/2007	15/09/2007	
Ponds evaluated	A2	01/09/07	31/10/2009	
Seminar is carried out in Germany and Lithuania	E2	30/09/2007	15/09/2007	
Hardy grazing installed	C4	30/09/2007	31/12/2006	
Turtle day is carried out in Lithuania and Poland	E2	30/09/2007	15/10/2007	
Grazer exhibition is held	E2	15/10/2007	18/09/2007	
Monitoring	F2	15/10/2007	15/10/2007	
Genetic investigation carried out	A8	31/11/2007	30-10-2009	
50% of hibernation sites created	C3	15/12/2007	15/12/2007	
40% of nesting sites created	C2	01/12/07	01/12/07	
60% of ponds restored/dug	C1	15/12/2007	15/12/2007	
Characteristics/structure of hibernation sites evaluated	A5	31/12/2007	31/12/2008	
60% of unwanted vegetation removed	C5	31/12/2007	31/12/2007	
Management agreements made for 2007	D1	31/12/2007	31/12/2007	
Study tour is carried out	E1	01/09/08	15.09.2007	
Seminar is carried out in Germany and Poland	E2	30/09/2008	not yet	
Turtle day is carried out in Lithuania and Poland	E2	30/09/2008	04/10/08	

Milestones without deliverables	Number of the associated action	Deadline	completion date	remarks
Grazer exhibition is held	E2	30/09/2008	30/09/2008	
Monitoring	F2	15/10/2008	15/10/2008	
70% of nesting sites created	C2	01/12/08	01/12/08	
80% of ponds restored/dug	C1	15/12/2008	15/12/2008	
75% of hibernation sites created	C3	15/12/2008	15/12/2008	
80% of unwanted vegetation removed	C5	31/12/2008	31/12/2008	
Management agreements made for 2008	D1	31/12/2008	31/12/2008	
100% of foraging habitats managed	D3	30/06/2009	33% by 30/09/2009	The full implementation will be achieved within the next 5 years
International workshop (with final seminar) carried out	E1	30/06/2009	27/10/2009	
Turtles reared in Germany and Poland released in nature	D2	30/09/2009	30/09/2009	
Turtle day is carried out in Lithuania and Poland	E2	30/09/2009	30/09/2009	
Grazer exhibition is held	E2	30/09/2009	30/09/2009	
Monitoring	F2	15/10/2009	15/10/2009	
100% of nesting sites created	C2	01/12/09	31/10/2009	
100% of ponds restored/dug	C1	15/12/2009	31/10/2009	
100% of hibernation sites created	C3	15/12/2009	31/10/2009	
100% of unwanted vegetation removed	C5	31/12/2009	31/12/2009	
Management agreements made for 2009	D1	31/12/2009	31/12/2009	
Seminar proceedings prepared for publishing	E1	31/12/2009	30/11/2009	

## **6.1. A Actions**

### **6.1.1. Action A1: Monitoring methods for turtles and amphibians**

#### Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Common monitoring methodologies for *Emys orbicularis*, *Bombina bombina* and *Triturus cristatus* created that will be applied in the North European Lowlands and also be followed in other European countries.

#### Deadline 01/04/06

#### Revised deadline --

#### Completion date 07/05/2006

#### Results of the action

Common monitoring methods for all three target species have been created and used by experts in all three project countries during the project. The methods have been elaborated by herpetologists of the project partner Avena, AGUG, and Amphi consult. The methods included best known practice from German experience on turtle monitoring and proven methods for amphibians tested in previous Life projects LIFE99NAT/DK/006454 “Consolidation of *Bombina bombina* in Denmark” and LIFE04NAT/EE000070 “Protection of *Triturus cristatus* in Eastern Baltic Region”. The methods were attached as annex 7 in the 1<sup>st</sup> MtR. Experts and specialists from all project partners took part in commenting on and elaborating the methods.

The method of individual recording using live-trapping of turtles was successfully transferred from Germany to West Poland, where a catalogue of species researched in the frame of the project has been collated (a database with digital maps). The database contains information about 133 localities with description of habitats, details concerning observations, reproduction, and morphology, as well as maps of distribution. Live-trapping with individual recording was continued by Meteliai Regional Park, where it was started by German experts, and also transferred to the Project partner Veisiejai Regional Park, thus preparing a database on all known turtle localities (all Natura2000 sites and additional single individuals).

Monitoring of amphibians (adult and larvae counting) was used by all project partners compiling a database of sites with the number of observed specimens. The monitoring was repeatedly carried out in project sites during 4 years, thus providing a comprehensive view on populations and impact of habitat restoration.

The methods were discussed by experts during international workshops (E1.). There experts and specialists working with turtles and amphibians from Austria, Croatian Herpetological Society, Spain, Norway, and Netherlands gave feedback and presented their experiences in management and monitoring of target species (Action E1.). Other countries use similar methods like visual observation, turtle registration, or telemetry, however the methods depend on available resources, e.g. telemetry might be very useful in finding egg laying sites but transmitters are very expensive and might be used only by very experienced specialists. These problems have been discussed during workshops and study tours.

In Lithuania the state monitoring of turtles and amphibian Annex II species started in 2007. These methods have been commented on and adjusted according to the remarks submitted by two project experts: Martina Meeske submitted remarks in written (Remarks, Annex No.1.3), and a fieldworker-amphibian specialist G.Trakimas gave comments in round table meetings. As a result the monitoring

methods on E.o. and amphibians have been developed ([State monitoring methods](#) attached Annex No.1. and No.1.2.).

### 6.1.2. Action A2: Evaluation of ponds

Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Assessment of 50 natural ponds of *Emys orbicularis* in each country Lithuania, Germany, Poland, artificial ponds in Lithuania (7) and no less than 100 ponds for amphibians.

In total 257 ponds to be evaluated.

Deadline – 01.09.2007

Revised deadline in Recovery plan - 31/10/2009

Completion date - 31/10/2009

Results of the action

274 ponds were evaluated for presence of European pond turtles and amphibians. The target number was reached in 2008 but activity was continued until the end of the project in 2009. The action is related to Monitoring action F2 since description of ponds provides valuable data for evaluation of pond restoration effects. Collected data were statistically analysed and presented in a draft report during Monitoring mission to Poland on June 2-3. Final report with updates is provided with the FR ([Annex 2](#)). Description and analysis of more ponds than was foreseen provided additional information on various criteria, which are preferred by the target species. Also restoration process of ecosystems in restored habitats has been proven, which can be later used for planning other projects.

The action was implemented later because of prolonged collection and analysis of data.

Ponds have been described by specialists from Partners and experts of Amphi Consult filling in special forms, which were created in May 2006 using Danish experience (attached in MtR as Annex 19) from other international LIFE project, LIFE04NAT/EE000070 “Protection of *Triturus cristatus* in Eastern Baltic Region”. The turtle evaluation forms were almost identical for turtles and amphibians since the aim was to create habitats suitable for all three species. The form includes a link to GIS (geographical information system) programme database to be able to make spatial analysis and map the ponds (see attached maps). The methods for filling in the form were presented and explained to all partners during meetings.

Additionally radiotracking studies on turtles in this project as well as several long term studies in Brandenburg, Poland and Lithuania provided information on the exact habitat needs and structures within the water bodies used by turtles. Also usage of newly restored ponds has been identified and noted.

By filling the forms, data about characteristics of the pond (size, depth, sediment etc.) and its surroundings were gathered and later used for statistical evaluation of the best suitable pond criteria. Amphi Consult analysed the significance of obtained results using a Chi-square test based on the null hypothesis theory.

The results of analysis have been used in defining individual pond restoration actions, for preparation of National/regional Action plans and local management plans, and for recommendations for future and After LIFE conservation plan, e.g. where and to what extent the ponds should be restored; where new ponds should be dug in order to connect the isolated populations and restore former viable populations. The results of pond evaluation are presented in Best Practice guidelines.

3. Table: A2. Ponds evaluated for the occurrence of *Emys orbicularis*.

Year/ Country	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised



2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	25	50	25	0	25	5	75	55
2007	25	25	25	0	25	8	75	33
2008	0	25	0	69	0	110	0	204
2009	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	31
SUM	50	100	50	100	50	123	150	323

\* Only unique individual ponds numbers were taken into account

4. Table: A2. Ponds evaluated for the occurrence of *Bombina bombina* and *Triturus cristatus*.

Year/ Country	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		Denmark		All	
	planned	realized	planned	realized	planned	realized	planned	realized	planned	realized
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	13	25	13	8	10	10	0	0	36	43
2007	12	15	12	8	15	16	25	0	64	39
2008	0	18	0	9	0	0	0	30	0	57
2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUM	25	50	25	44	25	26	25	26	100	139

\* Only unique individual ponds numbers were taken into account

### 6.1.3. Action A3: Defining the favourable conservation status for turtles and amphibians

Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Determination of criteria for defining the favorable conservation status of *Emys orbicularis*, *Bombina bombina* and *Triturus cristatus* in the North European Lowland.

Deadline – 30/03/2008

Revised deadline in Recovery plan – 31/03/2009

Completion date – 30/09/2009

Results of action

Final report on criteria for favourable conservation status of populations of E.o., B.b., and T.c. in the North European lowlands is attached in the FR ([Annex No. 3.](#)), while draft report was submitted within the 2<sup>nd</sup> PR (Annex No. 3). The results of pond evaluation are presented in Best Practice guidelines. Every site has been evaluated according to the criteria, the presentation of every site is attached as annex No.27.

The action was implemented later than planned because of delayed pond evaluation A2., which provided basic information on criteria and their evaluation.

The turtle and amphibian experts from Amphi Consult, Agena, and AGUG were analysing collected data about ponds and elaborating the criteria, while other project partners were commenting and giving proposals. The clear conclusions on the population status for the project sites and per each country are provided, as it was requested in the [the EC letter dated 23/04/2009: Technical issues.](#)

The prepared report contains general criteria and additional criteria for every country according to climatic and geomorphologic characteristics. After having evaluated the data it can be clearly seen that it is possible to rebuild big meta populations in Lithuania due to still existing natural habitats, while in

Germany and West Poland, turtle populations were pushed almost to extinction by effects of intensive agriculture. In those countries, every isolated population is very important to preserve, and they will probably remain as isolated populations due to intensive agriculture and roads. We have defined favourable conservations on short term for such populations. In North east Poland the situation is similar to Lithuania, with the exemption that sometimes single turtles have been observed in larger lakes.

For amphibians, general criteria for favourable conservation status have been elaborated and there will be notes on specific modifications for each country/region.

The description contains text about needed habitat to maintain a favourable population's size for isolated populations. The criteria were explicitly used in setting up Regional/National action plans and local management plans.

#### 6.1.4. Action A4: Action plan

Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Preparation of 8 national or regional plans:

4 plans for E.o.: 1 national action plan for Lithuania, 2 regional plans for Poland (North East and West), 1 national action plan for Germany (Brandenburg).

4 Amphibians plans: 3 Action Plans for *Bombina bombina* and *Triturus cristatus* in Lithuania, Northeast-Poland and West-Poland, 1 national action Plan for *Triturus cristatus* in Germany (Brandenburg).

Deadline – 01/04/09

Revised deadline in Recovery plan – 31/10/2009

Completion date - 31/12/2009

Results of the action

6 plans out of 8 planned have been prepared, 5 of them approved by competent authorities as illustrated in table No.5.

5 Table: List of prepared and approved national/regional action plans.

Type of plan/country	Lithuania		North -East Poland		West Poland		Germany (Brandenburg)		Total plans	
	Prepared and submitted	Approved by authority	Prepared and submitted	Approved by authority	Prepared and submitted	Approved by authority	Prepared and submitted	Approved by authority		
E.o. plan	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes		
T.c. And B.b. plan			No	No						
T.c. plan	Yes	Yes			Yes	No	Yes	Yes		
B.b. Plan	Yes	Yes			Yes	No	No	No		
<b>Totall</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>

In Lithuania, 3 national plans for all three target species were prepared and submitted on 31/03/2010 and are attached as Annexes No.4.1, 4.2, and 4.3. The Approval letter from the MoE was received on 07/05/2010 and is attached as Annex 4.4. It states that the MoE agrees with the measures foreseen in the action plans, that they will be respected when preparing the species protection plans, and that other responsible authorities like Regional Nature Protection Departments will be informed about these plans.

The delay of planning occurred due to delayed approval of the National Regulation of Species Action Plans. The first action plan on E.o. was submitted in 2007, however the reaction by the MoE was expressed only on 2 December 2008 (attached in annex No.4 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> PR) requiring to define precise locations for management of E.o. New versions of plans after negotiations with the MoE on the content of such kind of plans were completed in 2009 and submitted in 2010 together with prepared action plans for B.b. and T.c., attached as Annexes No.4.1, 4.2, 4.3.

The letter issued by the MoE on 07/05/2010 approves the plans according to the existing national procedures for such kind of national plans as it was requested by the EC letter dated 23/04/2009.

Additional result of the project was that new Natura 2000 sites within the project site Bestraigiske L07 was set, with the total area of 47 ha (approved by the MoE on November 02, 2009). In other project sites, Natura 2000 sites have been extended by setting protection status on more land: in Straciunai L06, site size was increased from 23 ha to 50 ha by adding new sites in other areas not physically connected to the Straciunai Natura2000 site (to be approved by the MoE in November 2009); Petroskos L03 has been increased by adding 229 ha.

#### *Poland*

2 action plans were prepared for T.c. and B.b. for Zachodnia Polska (West Poland), attached as Annex 4.5 and 4.6. The plans were prepared by KP in cooperation with Amphi Consult, who provided KP with advices on habitat management. Preparation of plans was delayed due to lack of available knowledge and species data in the region of West Poland. The plans are submitted to the Regional Environment Directorate (RDOS) for approval.

#### *Germany*

2 national action plans for E.o. and T.c. were drafted in 2008 and finished in 2009. They were submitted to and approved by the local authority. The plans are attached as annexes 4.7. and 4.8, and the approval letter is attached as annex 4.9. The approval letter indicates that the submitted plans and know how developed within the project will be included into the ongoing preparation of local management plans in Brandenburg, and that the foreseen T.c and E.o. plans will form the basis for the species protection plans.

### **6.1.5. Action A5: Evaluation of the characteristics and structure of turtle hibernation sites**

#### *Expected results (quantitative information when possible):*

In the selected Emys orbicularis project sites 5-10 turtles will be followed to their hibernation sites and radio-tracked during the winter. Data about hibernation conditions will be collected in 26 places in total: 3 places in Lithuania, 17 places in Poland, and 6 places in Germany. An evaluation report on hibernation sites with a complete list of requirements for the Emys orbicularis hibernation sites will be prepared.

*Deadline – 31/12/2007*

*Revised deadline 31/03/2009*

Completion date 31/11/2009

Result of action

In total 43 hibernation places were evaluated in 14 project sites. 25 turtles have been radiotracked in 6 project sites. The final updated report on evaluation of structures and characteristics with a complete list of requirements on hibernation sites of E.o. have been prepared (Annex No.5). The hibernation places were identified using telemetry, captures and observations of pond turtles.

Evaluation of almost a double of the planned number of hibernation sites provided detailed view on the usage of hibernation habitats and threats existing in different countries across the North European lowlands. In fact, E.o. prefers the same wintering conditions in all countries. The behaviour of turtles was also monitored by radiotracking, which led to a comparison of turtle life cycle in slightly different climate conditions of their northern distribution area.

Evaluation of hibernation places: in Lithuania, 15 hibernation places were evaluated in 5 project sites; in Poland, 11 places in 6 project sites; and in Germany, 17 hibernation places in 3 project sites were evaluated. The draft version of the evaluation report was submitted with the 2<sup>nd</sup> PR (annex No. 6). An article on hibernation sites was published in Best Practice guidelines.

Radiotracking: Foreseen radio telemetry equipment was purchased: 5 of the planned 5 radio receivers were purchased and 69 of the planned 71 transmitters, buying them in 2006, 2008 and the last 20 in 2009 to carry out further monitoring.

6. Table: A5. The number of found and evaluated hibernation sites.

Year/ Country	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	expected	realized	expected	realized	expected	realized	expected	realized
2005	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
2006	1	0	5	7	3	4	9	11
2007	2	0	12	4	3	3	17	7
2008	0	10	0	0	0	10	0	20
2009	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
<b>Total</b>	3	15	17	11	6	17	26	43

### 6.1.6. Action A6: Finding nesting sites and evaluation of nesting sites.

Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Minimum of 50 people interviewed in every country (in Germany the number of interviewees will be smaller).

Between 5 and 10 females of selected project populations depending on population size will be radio tracked during the nesting period.

Prepared report on the investigations.

Deadline – 31.09.2008

Revised deadline in Recovery plan 31/03/2009

Completion date 31/11/2009

Results of action

Totally more than 130 people have been interviewed about observations of turtles or their nesting sites, 53 potential and existing nesting sites inventoried and described and 33 females were captured by traps and attached with transmitters and followed to nesting sites. The updated final report on evaluation of nesting sites prepared (Annex No.6.). The draft report has been sent with 2<sup>nd</sup> PR.

Interviews: In Lithuania more than 50 people: old people, local farmers, foresters were interviewed by the help of local schools, historical distribution maps prepared with filled in formulars (attached as annex 6.2.); in Poland more than 50 people interviewed (in West Poland during period 2007-2009 around 35 interviews were carried out with different local stakeholders, in North East Poland mainly foresters were interviewed by the help of students of Warsaw University ); In Germany of forestry, nature conservation authority, farmers, rangers and NABU (NGO) were interviewed about detection of nesting sites in the area.

Radiotracking: turtle females were captured by traps and attached with transmitters and followed to nesting sites. In Lithuania 12 females were radiotracked in 4 sites. In Poland 9 females were attached with transmitters and followed to nesting sites, 23 nesting sites evaluated. In Germany Selected nesting sites in 4 project sites were monitored by 6 data loggers. 12 females were radio tracked.

Nesting site evaluation: number of found nesting sites and their description comparing the climate monitoring data collected by data loggers provided detailed view of preferred habitats and comparison of preferences between different countries.

7. Table: A6. The number of the interviews of local people for finding nesting sites

Year/ Country	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	planned	realized	planned	realized	planned	realized	planned	realized
2005-2009	50	50	50	50	20	34	120	134
SUM	50	50	50	50	20	36	120	134

### 6.1.7. Action A7: Local management plans

Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Management plans will be drawn up for a total of 7 areas in Lithuania, 3 areas in Northeast Poland, 6 areas in West-Poland and 5 areas in Germany (Brandenburg)

Deadline – 31/03/2008

Revised deadline 31/10/2009

Completion date 31/03/2010

Results of action

The action is implemented with the following result: 20 local management plans out of 21 planned are set, all of them are approved and accepted by the local authorities.

The preparation of plans has been delayed because of delayed other A actions and missing information on best habitat criteria. A local plan normally includes financial planning and responsible institutions, therefore approval by local authorities is taking longer time and cannot be controlled by project partners.

### *Lithuania*

6 local management plans out of 7 planned are prepared and accepted by Ministry of Environment as responsible authority.

2 plans have been approved in previous years. The management scheme for Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve (L01) was prepared and approved in 2006, since it encompasses the whole area of Biosphere Reserve including project area. The project experts were involved in drafting the regulations within the planning scheme on bombina bombina sites. Another management plan for whole Natura 2000 site Straciunai herpetological reserve (project site L06) – was prepared in 2007 by the Institute of Ecology with the input from the Lithuanian Fund for Nature. The plan has been approved by the MoE. These plans have been submitted to EC in previous reports.

Local management plans for the rest of project sites (L03, L04, L05, L07) were prepared and submitted to the MoE by 31/03/2010 together with the action plans, approval letter was received by 07/05/2010 (all are attached as annex 7.1, for approval letter Annex No.4.4.). The plans foresee actions for conservation and habitat improvement of target species, but do not focus on other species or habitats, which protection must be ensured by management plan of the area. The letter by MoE states that MoE approves foreseen actions and recommendations on management of sites ensuring that they will be included into the national species protection plans and site management plans, and also into special spatial planning documents like detailed plans. The recommendations will be implemented not only in proposed sites, but will be used explicitly in other areas too. The submitted documents will be provided for nature conservation authorities.

### *Poland*

1 plan was made for the project site in Bialowezha National Park ([Annex No.5.](#)) on management of B.b. It has been approved by the local authority. Every year a plan of actions is set for the Bialowieza National Park and accepted by the authorities of the Park. The plans are reviewed by the Scientific Council of the BNP.

6 local management plans were prepared for every project site:

Jeziora Pszczewskie and Dolina Obry (site Pk01) Annex 7.2., Torfowisko Młodno (Pk02) Annex 7.3., Ujście Ilanki (Pk03) –Annex No. 7.4. , Uroczyska Puszczy Drawskiej (Pk04) Annex 7.5., Zachodnie Pojezierze Krzywskie (Pk05) Annex 7.6., and Mysla-Kosa, Gogolice-Kosa (site Pk06) Annex 7.7. the plans were submitted to 3 Regional Environment Protection Departments (RDOS) for approval according to the administration areas, where they belong to. The site pk 05 was accepted by responsible authority (annex 7.8).

2 Plans for North eastern Poland sites, Ostoja Napiwodzko-Ramucka and Ostoja Piska, were prepared and accepted by RDOS (the local authority).

A plan for the project site Bp01 within Bialowezha National Park was elaborated in period 2006-2009 gathering possible data, however all three target species are rather rare in this area. See F2. action. The plan was submitted from the Directorate of the Park to the Regional Environment Protection Department (RDOS) in Bialystok for approval. The answer was given by 02/04/2010 accepting proposed actions as necessary and significant for protection of target species within Bialowezha forest.

### *Germany*

In Germany, 5 plans are prepared and approved by the local authority: Local management plan for the area Stobbertal (Da02 part 1-3 Märkische Schweiz and Haussee). Local management plan for the area Biosphärenreservat Schorfheide Chorin, which covers 4 project sites, Da01, Da03, Da04, Da05, and a plan for Oberes Rhinluch (DI01).

The plan for DA01, DA03, DA04, DA05 and the plan for project site Da02 have been approved by the responsible nature conservation authority - Brandenburg State Office for Environment (Annex 7.13.1, 7.13.2). Project site Da05 was approved even by the local district authority (Annex 7.13.3). The plan for the project site Da02, which encompasses afforested areas, was approved by local district authority and by the forest authority, which provided comments on management on some forest areas (Annexes 7.13.4, 7.13.5). The Environment office and authorities accepted with some remarks the foreseen activities as necessary for good conservation status and promised to include them into future planning documents of the sites. The project site

Modifications

Removal of one project site

We ask to accept a removal of a project site in Lithuania Slavantai L02. Present turtle populations have not been found there after detailed investigations carried out in 2006-2009. The area is too much afforested, therefore creation of suitable habitats for turtles or amphibians would not give desired positive effects on turtle or amphibians populations. As substitution for this site, another project site in Petroskos L03 has been increased by adding 229 ha of important turtle site to Natura2000. Totally the Natura 2000 site L03 has 738 ha size. The population of turtles in added site contains around 40 individuals (Dr.M.Meeske, 2008), also there is huge hibernation site. Habitat restoration actions have been implemented in this site ensuring favourable conservation status.

Additionally, the result of the project was increase of area of another Natura2000 site: Kuciuliskes L05 enlargement from 84 ha to 146 ha, and Petroskai L03 enlargement from 510 ha to 739 ha. The new borders were officially recognised by the MoE by issuing an order of the Minister on 22 April 2009 No.D1-210 “Approval of the list of sites of Community importance to be submitted to EC”. The approval letter was received confirming that action plans (including Local management recommendations A7.) will be included in setting any local planning documents (Annex No. 4.4).

8 Table: A7. Local management plans per project site

Country/ project site	Lithuania*							Poland						Germany								
	L01**	L02***	L03	L04	L05	L06	L07	Bp01	pp01	pp02	pk01	pk02	pk03	pk04	pk05	pk06	da01	da02	da03	da04	da05	D101
Local plan prepared	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Approved /accepted by local authority	x	--	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

\* prepared

\*\* management scheme prepared

\*\* - modification

9. Table: A7 the number of local management plans in time scale.

Year/ Country	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	planned	realized	planned	realized	planned	realized	planned	realized
2005	0		0		0		0	0
2006	0	1	0		0		0	1
2007	0	1	0	2	0		0	3
2008	7	0	9	2	1	0	17	2
2009	0	4	0	5	4	5	4	0
Sum	7	6	9	9	5	5	21	20

### 6.1.8. Action A8: Genetic investigations

#### Expected results

2 to 15 samples are planned to be collected from 23 populations. Genetic analysis will be carried out, and report based on the analysis will be produced with recommendations for strategies for the management of turtle populations.

Deadline – 31/03/2008

Revised deadline 30/06/2009

Completion date 31/10/2009

#### Results of action

The report prepared, attached as Annex No.8. 64 genetic samples were collected from 10 populations in 2006 – 2008. Haplotype analyses have been carried out by University of Dresden, Museum for zoology, which are specialized in genetic researches of turtles. The report based on genetic researches has been produced (attached as annex 8. ). The report provides general overview of gene purity within population, and helps to evaluate potential risks of in-breeding of single populations. The research has shown that the last investigated populations are local autochthonous populations without alien species, however being very small, for example, in Germany they have increased inbreeding risk. The Polish populations have almost the same genes as Lithuanian ones, but in Poland the released turtles brought another sample of genes into local populations, making them hard to distinguish between different populations. In Poland a new autochthonous haplotype was found in the very southwestern population of Zachodnie Pojezierze Krzywiskie (Pk05). It means there is today known 3 northern haplotypes, where the newly found type is existing only in one site, making conservation effort especially important in that site.

Generally the populations of project sites have pure genes without alien species, but being small and isolated, they have high risk of inbreeding.

#### Collected samples per country:

*Lithuania*



30 samples taken from 5 populations. For capture of turtles 35 traps were produced in Lithuania, 5 of them in 2008 were given to PTO, and 3 to BNP. The traps now are used by the regional parks of Veisiejai and Meteliai.

#### *Poland*

In west Poland - 15 samples from 4 project sites (5-6 metapopulations) and in north eastern Poland – 5 (2 metapopulations), 1 sample from Bialowieza were collected.

#### *Germany*

15 samples were taken from 5 populations.

10. Table: A8. The number of investigated genetic samples

Year/ Country	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	planned	realized	planned	realized	planned	realized	planned	realized
2005	0		0		0		0	0
2006	10-75	12	8-60	0	5-35	12	23-170	24
2007	10-75		8-60	4	5-40		23-175	4
2008		18		15		3	0	36
2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUM	20-150	30	16-120	19	10-75	15	45-345	64

#### Delay

The action was delayed because sampling of the turtles was not done in the first field season of 2005 due to problems to get started effectively with the fieldwork, but already in 2006 12 samples were taken in Germany and Lithuania. The Turtle experts Martina Meeske and Norbert Schneeweiss transferred their knowledge in fieldwork with turtles to Polish partners in 2006, 2007 and 2008, therefore Poland also got a fair number of genetic samples.

## **6.2. B Land purchase**

### **6.2.1. Action B1: Buffer zones and compensations**

#### Expected results

In Poland: Compensation for 1 fish pond paid.

In Germany: Purchase of 125.59 ha of which 2.0 ha is forest, 31.0 ha is cultivated farmland (meadow) and 92.59 ha is lake. The result for Germany is updated due to request in 1st PR and agreed by EC letter of 24/07/2006.

Deadline 31/12/2006

Revised deadline 30/10/2009

Completion date 30/10/2009

### Results of action

119,36 ha were purchased in Germany. The remaining land 6.24 ha will not be purchased due to lack of available land. Registration of the nature conservation clause as requested by EC on 23/04/2009, into the cadastral register of all 5 purchased parts of land were done in 2009. The Polish compensation to the land owner not paid.

#### *Germany*

The project plan included the purchase of territories with an area of 103.59 ha. The budgeted total amount of money for execution including notary expenses was 167,582.00 €. The purchase was accomplished adding up to 96.10 ha in total. The price for these areas sums up to 148,693.54 €. The purchased and shown in the table in attachment No.9.9.

Therefore 7.49 ha less than the planned were purchased. According to the application areas should have been acquired in all turtle territories Da01 to Da05. Areas were purchased in project areas Da02 and Da03. These purchases include 77.30 ha lake area (Da02) and 16.95 ha forest area (Da02 and Da03). The water area is very well-suited as a turtle residential-water for a reintroduction of turtles. The forest areas represent terrestrial habitats. Within the project they were newly restored as nesting site and/or optimized intensively. There have been intense negotiations and purchase applications concerning the project areas Da01, Da04 and Da05. Requests for purchase for two small lakes in area Da05 were applied to the BVVG. Either request was rejected by the BVVG or the territories were sold to different bidders. Two alternative purchases could be made in area Da02.

Pre-emptive right was requested for two areas in area Da02. The pre-emptive right was not exercised by the relevant authorities and the areas were sold to another bidder. Despite the difference of 7.49 ha the purchases of area can be considered highly effective. The purchased territories contain core regions of the respective turtle populations, just like in project area Da03. The purchased land parcel 27 partially contains several currently populated residential-waters and two currently used nesting slopes. By securing these areas through purchasing the turtle habitats have been improved significantly. In order to secure investments, the clause on land use or nature conservation was added to land registry documents, attached as annexes No.9.1.-9.8.

In territory Da02 a free transfer of land (in the scope of National Nature heritage) to Agena e.V. was requested for areas of 8.8904ha in total. These are fragmented areas with direct connection to the already purchased areas at the surrounding and rear parts of the lake. Among others these are bank sections and areas that constitute a connection between both waters. The documents of and transfer annex as No.9.10.

After transfer these areas will be restored as sunbathing and nesting sites for the pond turtles.

Meanwhile the transfer is in progress and nearly terminated. By means of transfer and subsequent formation of these land parcels the biosphere of the pond turtle in the project area will be improved substantially.

The answer to the question raised by EC on 23/04/2009 has been already answered in MtR providing land prices in annex No.4.

#### *Poland:*

The payment was foreseen to compensate the loss of fish production due to increased and maintained throughout the year higher water level than for fish farm needed. The water level should ensure the appropriate hibernation conditions for turtles in the project site No.pk05 Drzeczkowo. A compensation payment to an owner of the fish pond would oblige him to maintain water level high enough for hibernation of *Emys orbicularis* during winter. However the partner KP has not implemented lease of land nor paid compensation to the land owner. In 2008 preliminary agreement was signed with the owner, and even that no compensation was paid due to delayed second EC payment, the owner

installed a dam separating the fish pond from the turtle hibernation place. In such a way hibernation place is not depending upon water level changes in the rest of fish pond complex. Therefore good habitat conditions will be ensured in a long term without agreement and payment of compensation, which was cancelled in 2009 at all since it became clear that owner has not 100% ownership rights on the pond and cannot be obliged to keep water level within long term.

### Modification

At the time where table B.1 in the RPP was developed, it was not be possible to give exact numbers of ha for the partitioned land parcels to be purchased, because in the partitioning procedures adjustments from the expected partitioning almost always occur. In the 1st PR we asked the Commission to consider the table renamed to: “Details of land parcels to be partitioned in Germany. After partition a total of 125, 59 ha are foreseen to be purchased during the project”. This was agreed by the EC letter of 24.07.2006.

Further, when writing the 1st PR we were aware about that the text in the RPP under expected results, Germany (page C3/3) was not clear enough. In the 1st PR we asked the Commission to consider the formulation updated to: “Land acquisition to protect the turtle areas: 3 nesting sites of a total of app. 4 ha, 4 lake areas of app. 17 ha, 13 ha, 20 ha respectively 65 ha, and 5 buffer zones of app. 1 ha each, gives a total of 125.59 ha which will be established in intensive agricultural areas. Of this 22 ha is located in the Upper Rhinluch.”. This was agreed by the EC letter of 24.07.2006. Correspondingly, the budget task for partner No. 8 was increased from 91 ha lake to 92, 59 ha lake without altering the total costs of the action in budget form F9.

In the RPP, page B2/19, B2/21, B2/22, B2/23 and B2/24 the NATURA 2000 Site codes and corresponding Site names are not complete and it is not clear which Site codes belongs to which sites. To avoid further unclearness, maps with updated NATURA 2000 Site codes were attached the 1st PR. In the EC letter of 24.07.2006 the Commission took note of the updated NATURA 2000 site codes and found the update not to represent a substantial modification of the project.

### 6.3. C Non-recurring biotope management

#### 6.3.1.Action C1: Restoring / digging ponds

##### Expected results

In Lithuania: 54 ponds should be restored or new ones dug in 7 localities.

In Poland: 10 ponds should be restored or new ones dug in 6 localities, and 42 dams installed in 5 localities.

In Germany: 29 ponds must be restored or new ones dug in 6 localities and 3 dams constructed in 2 localities

##### Modification of action objectives

The objective of the action was modified: instead of the foreseen number of dams to be installed, the objective was formulated in the meters of dam width to be installed. The modifications of the objective were requested in the MtR of 31.05.2007. The documentation providing meters of dam width to be installed in order to fill in the ditches was provided by an independent engineer and is attached as annex in the 2<sup>nd</sup> PR.

For Germany (similar to earlier done for Poland) the objectives listed in the budget are valid.

This gives the overall objective of 83 ponds to be restored or new ones dug, 3 pipes with sluices to be constructed, and 4.200 meters of total dam width to be made.

11. Table: Modified objectives for action C1

No. object/ Country	In RPP text			In RPP budget			Request in MtR of 31.05.2007			Revised objectives		
	Ponds	Pipes with sluices	Dams	Ponds	Pipes with sluices	Meter s of dams	Ponds	Pipes with sluices	Met ers of dam s	Pond s	Pipes with sluices	Meters of dams
Lithuania	54			<b>54</b>						<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Poland	10		42	<b>10</b>		<b>4.200</b>				<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4.200</b>
Germany	29		3	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>		2	-2		<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SUM</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4.200</b>				<b>83</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4.200</b>

Deadline – 15/12/2009

Revised deadline ---

Completion date 15/12/2009

Result of action

83 ponds made out of 83 planned and 4200 m of dams created.

The dams in North East Poland were made in areas with large populations of *Bombina orientalis* and *Triturus cristatus*. The *Bombina orientalis* is heard in all the dammed ponds, and *Triturus* eggs have also been found in all the dammed ponds. It is a fast colonisation, as the dams were made with the purpose of raising the water level improving conditions in areas that in many cases were already wet and therefore the species were often already present. The *Emys orbicularis* have been observed in 3 of the dammed ponds – those that were closest to the best existing source populations of *Emys orbicularis*. It is expected that more dammed ponds will be colonised in the coming 10 years and that these ponds will have a function as migration corridors for the *Emys orbicularis*.

#### *Lithuania*

54 ponds were dug out of 54 planned ones in 4 sites (sites L01, L03, L04 and L05). 2 ponds were emptied from fish and 18 ponds dug for amphibian needs in the project site Zuvintas L01. 36 ponds were established in the sites L03, L04, and L05 for turtle needs: small summer ponds and bigger whole-year ponds with shallow zones that could be used by juvenile turtles and amphibians. The works were performed by a local digging company.

*Answer to the EC question raised in a letter dated 23/04/2008 – the ponds referred as dug outside the Natura 2000 borders are now within the protected area. It particularly concerns the site No.L03, where additional 229 ha have been added to the site. 2 ponds, which are just outside the border of the site, are not included into financial report.*

#### *Poland*

In West Poland the action has been completed with the digging / restoration of 10 ponds and construction of 400 meters of dams (5 unit) in 3 sites. The monitoring already proved increase in amphibian populations (see action F2), and slightly in turtle populations in site Pk03, but partly due to additional rearing too.

In East Poland, 1.715 meters of dams and dikes were created (102 constructions) and 4.281 meters of ditches have been filled in (in 12 constructions, 5 of which were related to the creation of dams or dikes). The constructions made by the project partner RDLP were of the following types: simple dams made from an oak wood; filling of ditches with a mixture of soil and wood construction; concrete culverts. The table showing different constructions at sites attached in annex No. 10. The filling of ditches has not been foreseen initially, however later it was decided to exchange dam construction with a better solution – ditch filling. 884 meters of total dam with and filling in of 4.245 meters of ditches correspond to the effect of constructing dams with a total width of 3.000 meters.

The restoration activities brought huge areas of wetlands in the forests. The total size of created wetlands reaches about 10.000 km<sup>2</sup> in both sites pp01 and pp02, which is demonstration project for whole Poland. Restored habitats, potential threats and risks are described and attached in annex No. 11. However effects on species might be observed only in longer term by monitoring of restored areas. This task will be performed by the Regional Environment Department in Olsztyn in cooperation with General Directorate of Forestry in Olsztyn.

The statement (attached in annex No.9 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> PR) from a civil engineer on the effect of filling in ditches compared to the construction of dams has been provided.

*14. Table: Translation of civil engineer's statement on substituting damming devices with filling ditches based on initial 3.000 m of damming devices to the budget objectives of initial 3.700 m of damming devices.*

Planned damming devices	Civil engineer statement	Using the civil engineer statement on whole project objective in east Poland
Original planned damming devices, m	3.000	3.700
Minus constructed damming devices, m	-884	-1.715
Remaining not fulfilled by damming devices, m	2.116	1.985
Can be solved by the filling of ditches, m	4.245	3.982
"translation" factor	2,01	

We assume that "translation factor" from the civil engineer's statement can be used for the whole objective in east Poland. If so, the target on 3.700 meters of damming devices can be reached by building 1.715 meters of damming devices and filling in of 3.982 meters of ditches. The realised number of meters of damming devices is then as follows: 400 m in west Poland plus for east Poland: 4.281 m ditch filled in / 2, 01 = 2.134 m damming device plus 1.715 meter damming device = 4.249 meter damming device.

### *Germany:*

In Germany the pond digging has been completed with the digging / restoring of 19 ponds in 3 sites. Remaining are the 3 planned overflow pipes with sluices. These were planned to be built between 3 of the project ponds and a ditch in the vicinity. The function of the overflow pipe was to secure that the water table in the ponds during wet weather conditions would not increase to a level whereby the water could flood land parcels not belonging to partner LFV. However the nature conservation authorities were concerned that Stickleback (fish) from the ditch could swim upstream through the pipes and settle a population in the ponds, where they could constitute a threat to eggs and tadpoles of Fire-bellied toad, on which the Stickleback forages. It is important to underline that only the ponds will contribute to better breeding conditions for the Fire-bellied toad. The pipes were "only" technical solutions to help to convince owners of neighbouring land parcels to allow the pond digging. It is technically not possible to make more ponds in the project sites of LFV contrary to what was suggested in the MtR, therefore even though the overflow pipes have not been created the action must be seen as terminated.

*12 Table: Dug or restored ponds*

Country/ Year	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	Realised	planned	realised
2005	0		0		0		0	0
2006	17	17	0		7	4	24	21
2007	16	35	7	6	4	13	27	54
2009	2	2	0		0		2	0
Total	54	54	10	10	19	19	83	83

### **6.3.2. Action C2: Improvement and creation of nesting areas for turtles**

Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

In Lithuania, 26 nesting sites will be improved in 6 turtle localities, In Poland – 30 nesting sites in 7 localities, and in Germany – 10 nesting sites in 5 localities.

Deadline 01/12/2009

Revised deadline --

Completion date 01/12/2009

Results of action

73 out of 66 planned nesting sites have been restored or improved, and new ones installed by improving nesting ground in 15 project sites. The usage of sites is not so easy and fast to be monitored.

Comparable analysis has been done by measuring temperatures in nesting grounds using dataloggers. The methods of restoration were discussed during project team meetings and applied in project sites. Usually tree and shrub removal has been used for opening the nesting grounds for sun exposure and removing too dense vegetation. New methods of fencing against predators were tested in Lithuanian sites. Maintenance and management has been carried out after restoration by applying mowing or grazing 1-2 times a year.

13 Table: C2. Number of created nesting sites

Country/ Year	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised
2005	0		0	4	0		0	4
2006	6	10	6		2	3	14	13
2007	5	4	6		2	4	13	8
2008	0	8		8		3	0	7
2009	8	6	18		0	1	26	0
total	26	28	30	34	10	11	66	73

29 nesting sites out of 26 planned ones have been restored in abandoned turtle sites according to the data gathered in questionnaires (Action A6) or in potential turtle nesting sites according to expert opinion.

Management methods used in Lithuanian sites: removal of vegetation and young trees, loosening the soil, fencing against predators, putting of gitter, grazing.

The following sites have been managed: 3 sites in L03 Petroskos, 12 sites in L04 Meteliai, 8 sites in L05 Kuciuliske, 4 sites in L06 Straciunai, and 2 sites in L07 Bestraigiske. Most of the actions were done in 2007 and 2008, and continued in 2009. The sites are identified on pictures and maps in annex No. 11.

The new method for Lithuania – fencing against predators – has been tested in L04 Meteliai site. Most of works have been implemented by subcontracting farmers for grazing the nesting areas and mowing in places, which normally would never be mown (too overgrown by shrubs, xerothermic vegetation etc). Local entities for forest cutting were subcontracted for shrub removal.

Also the work was done by Regional park employees for clearing the vegetation by hand, or removing the organic soil away. Tree cutting was foreseen but not implemented yet due to strict regulation in nature reserves. Detailed list of works presented in Annex No.12.

*Poland:*

34 nesting sites were restored out of 30 planned. The action on nesting sites has been implemented in 8 sites out of 7 planned.

Management methods used in Polish sites and distribution in regions:

In Bialoweza Forest 2 potential sites were restored in project site bp01: 1 site is situated next to the ponds in the northern part of the project area, where *E. orbicularis* was observed in 2008, and the other site is near Teremiski – the place where the first *E. orbicularis* of our project was observed in 2006. The management was mowing of meadows to remove too dense vegetation.

In West Poland 34 sites in 5 project sites have been managed. by removing unwanted vegetation (shrubs and trees) and opening up the sites for sun exposure. Protection of located nests was implemented using the following measures: protection against predators by using human odour (humans sweat), additionally wire gauze and plastic bottles were put on sticks (such constructions make noise in the wind). The works were implemented by hiring external company for cuttings.

In North-Eastern Poland nesting sites have been restored in both sites Pp01 and Pp02 mostly by removing trees and shrubs and opening slopes for sun exposure. The total cleared area covers 6.58 ha, which could be assumed to include 20 nesting sites.

*Germany:*

11 nesting sites were restored out of 10 planned. The action on nesting sites has been implemented in 4 sites instead of 5 planned because it was confirmed that in 1 project site (Da02) *E.o.* is extinct, however potential water habitats and nesting sites are found there. The used nest sites exist in sites Da03 and Da04, however actions were implemented to keep potential sites also in Da01 and Da05.

The following management methods were used in German sites: removing of shrubs and trees, planting shrub walls, fencing against predators, protection of nests in winter by covering with shrubs. Also known nesting Da03 site was managed by irrigation, i.e. putting some water to make soil milder for digging chambers for turtle female.

In the areas of the nesting sites, a consistent hunting of potential predators (wild boar, fox, raccoon dog, racoon ...) took place during the whole project period, as there is a support by the responsible local hunters union. Known nests were weathered and covered with wire nettings immediately after the egg-laying. In contrast to former years no signs of nest predation could be found in the project period. Additionally, in winter turtle nests were covered with brushwood to prevent the freezing to death of the hatchlings in strong frosty winter seasons. In the project sites more than 800 m of hedge plantation were planted, which affects a windbreak and therefore improves the microclimate on the nesting sites. Grazing of meadows was provided in Da01 site jointly with the Authority of Nature Reserve.

The land purchase was an important basis for nesting site protection, as it provided the change of about 1 ha intensely used field area into the extensively used meadowland, which has positive effect on the habitat.

The external companies were hired for hedge plantations, while the rest of works have been implemented by the workers of Agena and by the specialists, e.g. the irrigation or fencing, which require specialised knowledge.



### 6.3.3. Action C3: Creating hibernation sites for turtles and amphibians

Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

30 hibernation sites for turtles and 21 for amphibians created. In Lithuania 8 larger water bodies will be created in 6 localities for turtles and 7 for amphibians in 6 localities. In Poland 12 larger water bodies will be created in 1 locality for turtles and 7 for amphibians in 4 localities. In Germany 10 larger water bodies will be created in 4 localities for turtles and 7 for amphibians in 5 localities

Deadline 15/12/2009

Revised deadline --

Completion date 01/12/2009

Results of action

48 out of 30 planned hibernation sites for turtles were created and/or restored in 13 sites instead of planned 11 sites. They have been restored or improved, or new ones were installed in places where they were necessary. The methods of restoration were discussed during project team meetings and applied in project sites. The methods used for creating the hibernation sites for turtles were deepening of muddy ponds, installation of dead wood, and improving water level as it was specified in Action A5. This action has adjusted 11 project sites with necessary conditions for turtle hibernation. So far F2. activity monitoring of effects provides evidence that about 20% of the sites are already used by turtles after 2 years from their restoration.

30 out of 21 hibernation sites for amphibians were created in 9 project sites instead of planned 15 sites. The wintering habitats were created by planting 3300 m of hedgerows, creating piles of brushwood or stone and branches covered by soil. The number of sites is smaller since it was evaluated that less number of sites needed adjustments of hibernation places, but the total number of created hibernation sites is bigger than planned in order to ensure appropriate number of wintering places for amphibians, t.c. and b.b. The usage of wintering places is hard to estimate up to date, but the monitored increased or restored populations of amphibians in restored ponds declares that hibernation sites shall be in use as well by the target species.

14. Table: Number of created hibernation sites for turtles

Country/ Year	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised
2005				6			0	0
2006	2	3	3	0	3	0	8	7
2007	2	5	3	0	2	6	7	8
2008	0	0	3	6	4	3	7	7
2009	3	0	4	0	1	3	8	0
total	8	8	12	12	10	12	30	32

15. Table: Number of created hibernation sites for amphibians

Country/ Year	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised
2005							0	0

2006	0	3	0	0	3	3	3	3
2007	2	6	3	0	0	12	5	7
2008	2	0	2	7	3	0	0	0
2009	3	0	3		1	0	4	0
total	7	8	7	7	7	15	21	30

## *Lithuania*

### Hibernation sites for turtles

8 larger water bodies out of the planned 8 bodies were created in 4 project sites out of 6 planned sites: 3 sites in L03, 3 in L04, 1 in L05, and 1 in L06. The hibernation sites were created by deepening part of the pond up to 1.5-2 m as it was recommended in hibernation sites evaluation report (A5). 2 project sites were not provided with restored hibernation sites because L02 is considered as not suitable for habitat restoration, and project site L07 already has stable hibernation site - a huge pond within forest, where up to 30 individuals stay for overwintering according to radiotracking data. The means involved were creation of a deeper place in the bottom of the pond during pond digging and enriching it with dead wood. 2 of restored hibernation sites were used by radiotracked turtles in project sites L06, L03 and L04.

Detail list of implemented measures per project sites is given in Annex No.13.

### Hibernation sites for amphibians

9 hibernation sites for amphibians out of 7 planned ones have been installed in 5 locations out of 6 planned ones while digging the ponds. Cut trees, bushes and shrubs with stones covered with excavated soil were put into piles in the vicinity to restored ponds. Such piles will be useful for other species too.

## *Poland*

### Hibernation sites for turtles

12 bigger hibernation sites were created out of 12 planned ones (large water bodies) in 6 project sites instead of the foreseen 1 locality for turtle.

in West Poland: 6 larger water bodies created for turtle hibernation in 4 turtle sites: 2 in pk01, 2 in pk03, 1 in pk04, and 1 pk05. The hibernation sites were created by deepening an old river bed and channels and creating new ponds near existing hibernation sites. The biggest hibernation site was built in the pond called Drawiny Pk04 as a part (1600 m<sup>2</sup>) of a large fish pond, where the owner separated this part from the fish pond by building a dam.

In North-East Poland 6 hibernation sites were created in 2 project sites: 4 in pp01 and 2 in pp02. The hibernation sites were created by clearing overgrown vegetation in suitable places by cutting trees and bushes.

### Amphibians hibernation sites

7 out of the 7 planned amphibians sites were created in Bialoweza forest. 7 hibernation sites of heaps of old branches covered by excavated soil have been installed close to the restored ponds. The restoration actions were made on the border of strict Nature reserve of Bialoweza Forest.

## *Germany:*

### Hibernation sites for turtles

12 out of the 10 planned turtle hibernation sites were created in 5 project sites out of 4 planned ones. The sites have been created by installing water gauges and improving the water level. Other measures were applied too: cutting of shrubs and reed, putting dead wood into the ponds. More detailed information provided in annex No.

### Amphibians hibernation sites

15 out of 7 planned amphibian hibernation sites in 4 sites out of 5 planned project sites have been created.

The hedgerows of 3330 m length have been planted in project sites Da03-Da05, DI01. Considering that 200-220 m of hedgerow forms one hibernation site, we came to conclusion that 3330 m might be converted into 15 hibernation sites (3330/200).

The plantations of hedgerows for hibernation sites in DI01 had to be improved by replanting trees and shrubs since not all planted trees and shrubs survived throughout the winter. Planting action has to be carried out for the second time at some sites and specific measurements (protection walls around stamps) were carried out in order to save the planted trees and shrubs from herbivores.

External companies were hired for creation of hedge plantations for amphibians.

## **6.3.4. Action C4: Installing a sustainable grazing regime with a hardy grazer**

### Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Grazing systems installed in 3 project sites in Lithuania: Zuvintas, Kuciuliske, and Veisiejai Regional parks

Deadline 30/09/2007

Revised deadline --

Completion date 01/12/2009

### Results of action

3 grazing systems out of 3 planned have been installed in foreseen project sites. In project sites L03 and L05 the farms have been created in November 2006, and in L01 in December 2006.

22 cattle instead of 26 planned have been bought, but due to increase in flock it will be possible to manage the foreseen area. The breed for grazing was chosen Hereford for area L01, and Galloway's for L03 and L05. The argument to choose different breeds was that in L01 Zuvintas biosphere reserve the farmers, who were contractors, wanted Hereford, since they considered this cattle type to be more suitable to the conditions on larger meadows.

### Grazing system in L01

Sixteen hard grazers HEREFORD breed (15 cows and 1 bull) have been purchased by Nature Heritage Fund in Latvia and brought to Directorate of Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve in 2006. The aim is to manage suitable habitats for *Bombina bombina*. Managing of habitats by Hereford cattle is going to reach aims identified in project proposal for *Bombina bombina*.

Keeping and grazing of *hereford* cattle is organised by trilateral agreement (Nature Heritage Fund, Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve and Zuvintas Club) Nr. 08 – 06.12.05 of 27.12.2006. 3 local farmers take care of cattle, they have written agreements (D1). Job of local farmers is compensated by

paying partly in kind with young calves and partly from Zuvintas club. After termination of the project, Zuvintas biosphere reserve as the owner of the cattle will take care of grazing in project sites.

The hardy grazers keep open meadows in lowland meadows around Zuvintas lake in project sites and graze around newly established ponds.

#### *Grazing system in L03 and L05*

Six hardy grazers of *galloway* breed (4 cows and 2 bulls) have been purchased in Germany and brought to Meteliai and Veisiejai regional parks (project sites L05 and L03) in 2006. They were split between the 2 sites as follows: 4 cattle (3 cows and 1 bull) have been installed in Kuciuliskes herpetological reserve L05 within responsibility of Meteliai Regional Park and 2 cattle (1 cow and 1 bull) in Petroskos L03 within responsibility of Veisiejai Regional Park. The cattle are owned by Lithuanian Fund for Nature, which contracted two farmers (1 in Kuciuliskes, 1 in Petroskos) for keeping and taking care of Galloway's cattle. According to the contract the farmers should take care of cattle, which should graze nesting sites and around the ponds the whole year round. According to the contract Lithuanian Fund for Nature is obligated to compensate for the farmers work. It is agreed that Lithuanian Fund for Nature partly compensates in kind by overhanding calves and covering expenses for cattle care (hay preparation, shelter and fence installation). No other subsidies are paid for the farming activities within the project framework.

By the termination of the project all 6 Galloway's cattle were handed over to farmers with special conditions that at least 6 cattle will be used all time for management of defined area. Managing of habitats by Galloway's cattle is going to reach aims identified in project proposal for *Emys orbicularis*. The agreements with farmers were attached in 1st MtR annex No.11.

The farmer in L03 in area of appr. 3 ha size ensures grazing nesting sites and around newly established ponds. The farmer in L05 keeps open meadows and nesting sites and ponds with E.o. There is built mixed wooden and wire fences around all grazing area and shelters inside. Mobile electricity fence allows controlling size of grazing territory. The building of fences was not foreseen in project proposal. Due to not profitable activity farmers are not able to buy material for building of fences. In order to fulfil objectives of the action it was necessary to reallocate financial resources for acquisition of material for building fences. The management and contracts with farmers are kept with the help of local project managers and specialists who pointed out the places and time for grazing.

Contracts with farmers already provided within previous reports.

16. Table: C4. Number of cattle's purchases

Country/ Year	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised
2006	26	22					26	22
SUM	26	22	0	0	0	0	26	22

### 6.3.5. Action C5: Removal of unwanted vegetation

#### Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

74 ponds cleaned from shrubs: in Lithuania 40 water bodies in 7 localities, in Poland 23 water bodies in 3 localities, in Germany 11 water bodies in 4 localities

Deadline – 31/12/2009

Deadline 31/12/2009

Revised deadline --

Completion date 31/12/2009

Result of action

93 out of 74 planned pond clearings implemented in 15 sites instead of planned 14 sites.

In most areas the places for pond digging and cleaning of vegetation overlap. The area defined for pond digging usually must be cleared from unwanted vegetation: shrubs, bushes, trees, also reeds if not removed during digging. Also a minimum of 10 m to southeast and west sides of the planned pond digging area had to be cleaned from unwanted vegetation in order to secure sunlight on the pond in future. The clearing of unwanted vegetation happens often in winter, when there is frozen underground and workers can walk and drive on the swampy underground. After clearing the unwanted vegetation the pond will be dug. This happens most often in a time when the ground water level is low.

In several cases the unwanted vegetation is removed from south shoreline of existing ponds in order to create sunlight on the pond. The cut trees usually are put back into pond preparing basking sites.

*17 Table: C5. Number of area with removed unwanted vegetation*

Country/ Year	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised
2005							0	4
2006	16	6	9		5	7	30	13
2007	8	31	6	10	2	3	16	34
2008		2		15		0	0	0
2009	8	1	4		2	18	14	0
total	40	40	23	25	11	28	74	56

*Lithuania*

45 ponds as planned, but only in 4 sites instead of 7.

Removal of unwanted vegetation implemented in 4 sites: L01, L03, L04 and L05. and L06 and L07 are almost 1 big pond (lake), which are now not considered to be cleared.

the same company was hired for bush removal as for digging. Also local smaller forest cutting companies were hired.

*Poland*

25 ponds removed from unwanted vegetation instead of 23 planned. Action implemented in 7 localities instead of 3 planned.

in West Poland 10 ponds have been cleared from vegetation before digging in 4 sites.

In NE Poland 11 ponds were removed of unwanted vegetation in 2 sites (site Pp01, Pp02) as identified in the table

in Bialowezha forest before the spring season started in 2008, 4 ponds were deepened and the vegetation was removed. At the same time the ponds vicinity was cleared of unwanted vegetation. Bushes of Salix sp. growing along the southern and western banks were removed so the ponds are more open and exposed to the sun. This would ameliorate habitat conditions for embryonic and larvae development of Triturus cristatus. Other amphibian species will profit from the activity as well.

*Germany*

28 ponds instead of 11 ponds cleared from vegetation in 4 turtle localities as planned. The Da03 and Da04 as usually were managed mostly, while Da05 had no C5 activity and in Da01 only 2 ponds cleaned.

## **6.4. D Recurring biotope management**

### **6.4.1. Action D1: Management agreements**

#### Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Permissions and contracts with landowners for pond management, creation and restoration and for terrestrial habitat management for all countries in all 22 sites.

#### Deadline – every year 31/12

#### Completion date 31/12/2008

#### Results of action

Agreements with land owners and permissions were set in all countries, but on different level and understanding. Written agreements were prevailed sometimes due to landowners reluctance to sign any kind of papers, especially it happened in Lithuanian countryside. In Germany made investments have been ensured via purchased land and additional clause put under land registry. The examples of agreements are provided in annex D1.1. as requested by EC letter 23/04/2009.

#### *Lithuania*

58 written permissions and agreements have been issued for Lithuanian 6 project sites. The agreements in Lithuania are of 3 types: 1. Management agreements with private landowners 2. agreements and pond construction schemes and vegetation clearing permissions 3. Special permissions for management issued by state institutions.

First of all, the permissions and agreements by the landowners were done before the habitat restoration works started. Therefore most of agreements were made in 2006 and 2007 by the help of local partners, who searched for the land owners, since many of them due to land restitution are living in other places than the land owned.

The agreements were issued for the permissions and regulation of human activities in restored habitats. Activity like use of fertilizers in and around pond is prohibited while the owner can take water, also it is recommended to keep the shoreline managed. The article 3.1.-1.5 in agreement in attachment page 1.2 and 1.3 foresees the agreement to be valid 5 years after the end of the project. National legislation requires several types of agreements in order to implement foreseen works. The vegetation (bush and small tree) cutting within non-forest land must be agreed with landowner and competent authority, which in Lithuania is the inspectorate of Environment Protection under the Regional Department and/or the Administration of the Protected Area. In case when the land belongs to state, the landowner is the local county. For that purpose the special request is filled in and submitted agreements have been issued for bush clearings. Examples of agreements enclosed in Annex D1.1.

The pond digging within protected areas requires more detailed planning therefore simplified projects for ponds up to 300 m<sup>2</sup> were prepared. The works also must be agreed either by the private landowner or the local county. The permissions must be approved by the architecture and environment inspectorate.

The future conservation and management of sites have been ensured by several means. The farmers in project sites No.L01, L03 and L05 were contracted for grazing in restored habitats. In L01 Zuvintas the farmers apply agri-environmental schemes in rented land for management with at least 5 year obligations. The farmers in L03 and L05 have agreements for at least 5 years after

the projects ends, even without applying agri-environmental schemes due to not finished land restitution, whereas the managed land within reserves is owned by state and therefore could not be rented for more than 5 years period to enable farmers to declare it.

Some number of oral agreements were made on oral basis agreeing upon pond digging or mowing of slope. Such land owner either don't use the land intensively like summer house owners, therefore they agree to let implement works, but they refuse to sign documents. In such case the status of natura 2000 and status of national reserves regulates human activity, e.g. does not allow to plough the meadows, thus ensuring the slope with nesting sites protection or buffer zone of 5 meter around the ponds.

18 Table: number of agreements in Lithuanian sites

Type of agreement / Site	L01	L02	L03	L04	L05	L06	L07	total
Pond digging schemes	5	--	6	2	2			
Agreements	4	--	7	5	4	1	1	
Permissions for vegetation clearings	2	--	8	6	4		1*	
Total	11		21	13	10	1	2	58

\* issued by the forestry itself

The examples of agreements attached as Annex 15.1.

#### *Poland*

Totally 63 permissions and agreements done.

In West Poland 10 verbal agreements on pond digging and tree cutting were agreed for sites Pk01, Pk06. The signed agreement with the Forestry in Smolarz (Zachodnia polska) encompasses all the habitat restoration permissions and agreements by the forestry as the owner of the land. The agreements provided in annex D1.2.

In NE Poland in July 2006 the 50 management agreements were replaced by entering the regulation of the Reserve into the official forest plans. Besides being less expensive, this solution gives a better guarantee that the objectives is respected, because the control authority is moved from partner PTOP to the forest district which have their daily work in the area concerned.

In Bialowezha Bp01 there were three management agreements with land owners for 7 ponds creation signed in 2008. The future management of the sites is ensured by the status of protected area.

The examples of agreements attached as Annex 15.2.

#### *Germany*

The most of managed habitats are ensured by purchased land, which belongs to project partner Agena, and the land registry has a special note on the purpose of area (see B1).

In 2006 Agena concluded 17 verbal agreements with private land owners and with state land owners for 5 project sites. An agreement with Wasserbodenverband for pond revitalization was signed in 2007. In 2008 8 verbal agreements issued with local authorities for project site Da02.

In Project area "Potsdamer Platz": management according to the project goals is secured by a leasing contract signed on 02/02/07. Project area "Rhinbogen": management according to the project goals was secured in 2007 by contracts between the state of Brandenburg and the lease holder.



## 6.4.2. Action D2: Rearing of turtles

### Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Germany: Rearing 40 juveniles *Emys orbicularis* per year during their first two or three years of life.

Poland: Rearing 60 juveniles *Emys orbicularis* per year during the first 9 month of their life.

### Deadline 30/09/2009

*revised deadline –*

*completion date 30/09/2009*

### Results of action

Totally 227 turtles have been reared: 76 in Poland and 151 in Germany. 4 project sites (1 in Poland and 3 in Germany) profited from the action by enriching populations with new genes)

### *Poland:*

76 juveniles have been reared in first months of their life. 61 juvenile were reared by collecting the eggs from threatened nests in project sites Pk03.

*19 Table: Number of reared and released turtles in Poland.*

<b>Year</b>	<b>2006/2007</b>	<b>2007/2008</b>	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009</b>
Site - Reared number	31 in Pk03	15 in pk03	30 in pk03	31 in pk03
Released number	31 in pk03	15 in pk 03	30 in Pk03	Will be released in 2010 in pk03

The rearing in West Poland was implemented in cooperation with herpetologists of the University of Zielona Góra). The eggs were collected from threatened places, where juveniles have little chances to survive. After rearing next year turtles have been released in project site no.pk03 Rybocice, supporting local population. The turtles were checked next year. The researches have shown that 30% of turtles survived enriching population with new genes.

Initially planned rearing for north East Poland was considered not needed. The monitoring of *Emys orbicularis* has shown a much broader distributed population than foreseen in the RPP. It is therefore not best value for money to carry through the planned rearing programme in PTOP's project area. The projects experts have evaluated that digging of additional a number of ponds will secure the biological effect initial intended by the rearing. The additional ponds in the areas ensure better ecological conditions for the turtles.

### *Germany*

In Germany more 151 turtle have been reared in station in Project site Da01. The station was established in 1990 as a nature protection station for education and turtle conservation as well. Turtles are bred artificially, mostly from eggs, also some adult and subadult turtle group kept as a basis for reproduction. The artificially bred turtles were kept in breeding station for 2 years before release. 118 young turtles have been released in project sites Da01, Da03, Da04, Da05, however survival rate was not high due to high predation rate. In 2009 it was decided to continue rearing of additional 30 young turtles from artificial incubated eggs which could not be released

into the original habitats because of problems with predators, they can be released when the problem is solved (e.g. with protection fence against the predators).

All purchased equipment is used solely only for project needs

20 Table: Number of reared and released turtles in Germany.

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Site - Reared number	37 in station Da01	25 in station in da01	21 in station in Da01	20 in station in da01	+30 young turtle rearing before release+rearing of group of breeding turtles 28 adult+40 subadult=88 individuals in station in da01
Released number in sites	37 in Da03	5 in Da04, 21 in Da03	11 in da03, 10 in Da04	20 in D05	15 in Da04

### 6.4.3. Action D3: Management of foraging habitats

Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

650 ha of moist area and 206 ha of semi-natural grasslands will be mowed:

In Lithuania 650 ha of moist area and 180 ha of grasslands. In Germany – 26 ha of grassland.

Areas will be mowed in BNP (this is directly from RPP).

Deadline 30.06.2009

Revised deadline --

completion date – 30-09-2009 by 33%

Totally 360 ha of foraging habitats were managed, whereas 140 ha consist of moist areas, and 220 ha of grasslands.

21. Table: D3. Hectare of managed moist areas (foraging habitats)

Country/ Year	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised
2005						0.0	0.0	0.0
2006	160.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	160.0	20.0
2007	165.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	165.0	40.0
2008	160.0	40	0.0		0.0	0.0	160.0	40
2009	550.0	40	0.0		0.0		550.0	40
total	650.0	140	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	650.0	140

22. Table: D3. Hectare of managed grasslands (foraging habitats)

Country/ Year	Lithuania		Poland		Germany		All	
	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised	planned	realised
2005						9	0.0	9.4
2006	45.0	0.0	10.0	10.0	6.0	9	61.0	18.9
2007	45.0	15.0	7.0	10.0	8.0	8	60.0	32.9
2008	45.0	42	7.0	10	6.0	8	58.0	36.7
2009	145.0	80	7.0	10	6.0	9	158.0	0.0
total	180.0	137	31.0	40	26.0	43	237.0	220

### *Lithuania*

In project site L01 totally 277 ha of foraging habitats managed, whereas 140 ha consist of managed moist areas out of 650 ha planned and 137 ha of grasslands managed out of 180 ha planned. The moist area cut by using the track laying mashine and cutting and clearing vegetation in wet areas. The Nature Heritage Fund implemented The grasslands managed by hay mowing and grazing by hardy grazers.

Totally implementation in Lithuania reaches only 33% of planned target. This occurred because cutting of moist area even having purchased track laying mashine, does not go so fast as it was planned. Most of works in Protected site Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve might be ongoing in some parts after 1<sup>st</sup> of July, and must be finished in September. Therefore managed area is smaller than planned.

The rest of target will be reached in the next 5 years as stated by project partner ZBR. 105 ha of forging habitats is planned to be managed yearly, thus making 550 ha within 5 year period and reaching the target (550+277=827 ha). The 90 ha of moist areas will be managed yearly: cutting of 60 ha by track laying mashine, the 30 ha by mowing using agri-environmental schemes, the 15 ha will be managed by grazing using agri-environmental schemes. The letter of obligation to move the meadows attached as annex No.16.

The equipment purchased by project partner Nature Heritage Fund is declared 50% as eligible since the mowing equipment is necessary for reaching the target. It will be used at least next 5 years. Explanations about mowing equipment were given in the previous reports.

### *Poland*

Semi-natural grasslands of 10 ha are mowed yearly around amphibian habitats in Bialowieza National Park. Totally 40 ha were mown.

### *Germany*

43 ha of grasslands have been managed: mown and mulched meadows, mown nesting sites in order to help turtle females reach nesting sites and dig the chambers for egg laying.

The explanation about mowing equipment is given in the commitments on financial report.

## **6.5. E Public awareness and dissemination of information**

### **6.5.1. Action E1: International education of experts / workshops, study tours, final seminar**

### Expected results

International education of local experts and managers via 3 international workshops, education of project partners via 1 study tour to Germany/Denmark, and 1 to Lithuania/Poland organised. Final international seminar for share of experience about protection of target species across their northern distribution.

Deadline 31.12.2009

Revised deadline --

Completion date 31/10/2009

### Result of action

3 workshops with final seminar, 2 study tours implemented. The workshops included experts and nature conservation staff about 200 people from other NGOs, state institutions, who gained some knowledge from the project. The study tours were organised for the team of project partners.

### *Kick-off meeting*

Kick-off-meeting was held in Glambecker Mühle, one of Agena's project sites on 18.03.2006 to 19.03.2006 with participation of staff of project staff members: LFN, KP, Agena, LFV, AGUG, and external amphibian specialist. Main objective on the meeting was introduction of the project, planning and communication among the project partners.

### *Study tours*

1st Study tour was held in one of Agena's project sites 06 to 07.05.2006 with participation of LFN, KP, Agena, LFV, and AGUG. The participants, mainly the staff of the project, visited the sites of Agena: Da01-Da05. An important part of the meeting was in practice demonstration of trapping equipment and radio tracking equipment, on which use Agena has many years of experience. Together the meeting of Steering Committee was organised. Subjects discussed during SC meeting: Status on purchase of equipment, communication in the project, monitoring methods, local management plans, genetic investigation, web page, monitoring of effects of project actions, constitution of the SC, evaluation of planned project progress until next reporting date of the project. The list of participants, programme attached as annex.

2d Study tour took place by 11 – 15.09.2007 in West Poland, Germany and Denmark with participation of LFN, BNP, KP, Agena, LFV, AUGUG and external amphibian expert and IPM. Totally 20 participants visited project sites Zachodnie Pojezierze Krzywinski and Ujscie Ilanki (West Poland), in Brandenburg (Germany) and Fyn island (Denmark). Participants shared knowledge and experience in management of habitats and creation of new habitats, evaluation and monitoring of ponds.

### *International workshops*

1<sup>st</sup> international workshop was organised by LFN from 27.06.2006 to 03.07.2006. The international workshop took place in Lithuania and north-east Poland with participation of local managers of LFN, ZBR, MRP, VRP, Agena, AGUG, external amphibian expert and IPM and external guests from Lithuanian and Polish institutions: the regional departments, representatives

by ministry. Totally 25 participants were present. The participants visited project sites in Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve, Meteliai- and Veisiejai Regional Parks, Straciunai- and Kuciuliskes Herpetological Reserve (Lithuania) and Bialowieza National Park (Poland). During seminar practical testing of monitoring methods was applied. Whole range of ponds was evaluated and actions for improvement discussed. Good habitat indicators were defined by evaluating habitat and reproduction parameters. Lists of participants attached (Annex No.15 MtR), the program and results on the workshop attached as annexes No.

2<sup>nd</sup> international workshop was organised by German partners Agena and LFV in Germany, in Brandenburg on 22-23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2009. The name of the workshop was “Conservation of emys orbicularis in the northern border of distribution range – experiences and perspectives”. Wide range of German, Lithuanian, Polish experts from NGOs, nature conservation organizations, Forestry departments of Brandenburg and also guests from other countries: Slovenia, Austria, Latvia were present in the workshop, totally more than 30 participants. The focus of the workshop was set on population status and habitat management, including German experience on rearing and releasing of turtles. The lectures were given by project partners: Agena, BNP, LFV and guests from other organizations than the project partners. The field excursion took place in project sites da02, Da03 and Da04 visiting restored ponds and nesting sites within purchased land. The list of participants and programme attached as annex 18.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> international workshop with the final seminar was organised in Poland on 26-28 of October, 2009. The aim of the workshop was to present the experiences and results of the project and exchange them with other experts, working on turtle and amphibian protection. Totally more than 30 participants were present. Therefore among the participants there were guests from other countries: Spain, Slovakia Croatia, and Norway. The guests gave lectures on conservation of turtle populations in their countries. Main lectures were presented by project partners, and invited guests not only from countries, but also from the forestry enterprises in Olsztyn and Bialystok, Regional Environment Department in Olsztyn, where the major habitat restoration activities were implemented. The field excursion took part in Polish sites Pp01 and Pp02. Field trip to Lithuanian sites was organized on the last day of the workshop visiting the sites L01 and L05. The programs of seminars attached as annex 18, list of participants attached as annex 1.1.-1.19. to Financial Report.

## **6.5.2.Action E2: Education of local community**

### Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

It is expected to be organised:

In Lithuania 8 turtle days, 4 grazer exhibitions, 1 educational seminar;

In Poland 4 turtle days, 4 amphibian days, 3 up to 2 days seminars;

In Germany 4 amphibian days, 3 up to 2 days seminars.

Deadline 30/09/2009

Revised deadline --

Completion date 30/10/2009

Result of action

Totally in all three countries 8 turtle days, 15 seminars, 9 amphibian days, 4 grazer exhibitions organized as shown in the table No.25.

23. Table. List of implemented education events.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Planned</b>	<b>Implemented</b>
<b><i>Turtle days total</i></b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
Lithuania	4	4
Poland	4	4
Germany	-	-
<b><i>Education seminars total</i></b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>
Lithuania	1	1
Poland	3	3
Germany	3	9
<b><i>Amphibian days total</i></b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Lithuania	-	-
Poland	4	4
Germany	4	5
<b><i>Grazer exhibitions total</i></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Lithuania	4	4

## **Turtle days**

### ***Lithuania***

4 turtle days have been organised yearly by LFN and project partners MRP and VRP within project sites L03, L04, L05, L06. More than 200 students of local schools in Veisiejai and Meteliai regional parks took participation, also about 15 landowners and farmers of local areas have been invited too. Detailed list of events provided in annex 19.

The turtle day had two parts: 1. lecture and excursion in nature about the ecology of turtles, their habitats and 2. help action for habitat restoration or another educational activity, e.g. removal of bushes from ponds or painting of turtle. Normally one turtle day event contains of several days, including meeting in schools, lectures, excursions and other educational activities.

Articles about the turtle day were published in 5 articles in local and also national newspapers, Attached as annex 20. About 200 pupils took place in the activity.

### ***Poland***

4 turtle days were organised in project sites Bp01, and pk01-pk06, pp01. In Bp01 the turtle day was held on 7/8 of June 2007 by BNP in cooperation with Common University, which is based in nearby town Hajnowka. 40 students came to Bialowezha park, where lectures on turtle and their former habitats was presented among many nature lectures.

Turtle day was held in Waplewo, Project site ppo01 on 19-20.05.2008. 23 foresters, mainly from the sites where evidences about turtle findings are common, took part in the turtle day.

2 cycles of lectures took place west polish project sites. The cycle of lectures consisted of lectures and trips to the sites in 2008 when nature trails have been installed. About 300 students already took part.

Altogether about 400 participants took part in turtle days.

### **Cattle (grazer) exhibitions**

4 cattle exhibition days have been organised. In 2006 the first event was about beef cattle before the purchase of cattle for the project. The seminar took place close to project site L05 in existing extensive beef cattle farm in order to raise awareness of farmers about beef cattle, which never used to be grown in Lithuania. 2 times grazing exhibition was held in project sites, where hardy grazers farms were established. In L01 the event was organised for decision makers from nature conservation and local authorities, and 1 time grazer event was organised in L05. About 120 participants took part in the events. Detailed information provided in annex 19.

### **Amphibian days**

#### *Poland*

4 Amphibian days were organised yearly in 2005-2008 by project partner BNP in project site bp01. Regularly in March – May staff of the park jointly with pupils and volunteers installed fences around the roads and were regularly checking the traps for amphibians trying to cross the road and releasing out the dangerous areas. Training and lectures followed events. Around 400 participants took part in the amphibian rescue days. In total about 200 field days were used in the period.

#### *Germany*

5 amphibian days were organised in project site DI01 by LFV. The events were oriented towards general public, therefore it had many attractive forms like bicycle tour, visit of nature conservation station, or field excursions. About 380 participants took place in the events.

### **Educational seminars**

#### *Lithuania*

The seminar “Protection of pond turtle and amphibians” for local environmental authorities, forestry department, nature conservation organisations was organised on 7th December, 2007. 15 participants were present at the seminar. They visited not only L01 site in Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve, but also other habitat restoration activities in project sites L05, L04. The seminar highlighted the actions of the project and raised awareness of responsible persons, who are taking decisions on nature conservation, issuing permissions and adopting various kinds of planning documents.

#### *Poland*

3 seminars have been organised in 3 project sites: Bp01 and pk 02. More than 100 participants from forestry school, nature conservation authorities took part in discussions on habitat restoration in Bialowezha National Park. The discussion were based on strict regulations, set by the Nature Reserve, which raise obstacles for nature management, however agreed activities and prepared planning partly allow restoration of habitats.

KP organised seminar-workshop in Lagow, near to project site pk02. The aim of the seminar was to discuss conservation problems of Pond turtle in West Poland. Around 30 representatives from local forest management departments, from three Voivodship nature conservation offices and land owners participated in the seminar.

#### *Germany*

9 seminars organized in all project sites out of 3 planned. The seminars covered wide range of interest groups related to the conservation of turtles and amphibians: Nature reserve managers, foresters, nature conservation authorities, farmers and NGO, totally more than 200 specialists, experts, landowners and other stakeholders took part in the seminars. Detailed list presented in annex. More seminars were organized without increasing the budget. More seminars were organised because German partner Agena needed more discussions with stakeholders.

### **6.5.3. Action E3: On site education**

#### Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Lithuania: nature education trail (1 km) on local nature landscapes, habitats and species will be set up at the Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve. Information board will be placed to seven project areas.

Poland: 3 nature trails (1 km) will be built to 3 West-Polish project sites. 14 information boards will be placed to 8 project sites.

Germany: 15 information boards will be placed to project sites.

Totally 36 boards and 4 nature trails.

#### Deadline 30/09/2009

#### Revised deadline --

#### Completion date 31/12/2009

#### Results of action

44 information boards in 20 project site and 4 nature trails in 4 sites of total length more than 3 km were installed. Notice boards were placed in all 20 project sites. Information boards were placed in every project site. They provide information for local people and visitors about the values of the site, regulation and restrictions, and also contain project description and logos of Life. Some information boards, e.g. in Polish sites are small, therefore the total number is increased without consequences on budget.

#### *Lithuania*

Notice boards were placed in all project sites, which in the end of 2009 were replaced by 7 information boards in 6 sites, but in L01 2 boards have been installed.

In Lithuania nature trail was installed in Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve, where 700 m long paths goes along the shoreline and 300 m path follows through newly dug ponds for amphibians. Visitors may observe the amphibians, hardy grazers nearby and rare birds, gathering around the water bodies.

The information boards contain information about the target species, their importance, threats and management measures. The information boards and notice boards attached in pictures in annex 17.

#### *Poland*

22 information boards: 10 bigger and 10 smaller erected in 8 project sites and 3 nature trails of total length more than 2 km were set up in West Poland pk01-pk06 sites. 2 boards installed in bp01, 2 boards within site pp01 and pp02, ant 8 main boards installed in sites pk-01-pk06, additionally 10 smaller boards were installed for 10 small stop.

The longest trail is 1100 m long (Cybinka forest department), the rest are about 800 m. The main point of each path is educational board with short description of biology and ecology of turtle and amphibians in a year cycle. For each nature path a separate leaflet was printed with short



description of presented of species and habitat restoration. The trails will be used for field excursions in order to guide the children in right directions.

### Germany

15 out of 15 information boards erected. 9 information boards have been installed in all the sites da01-Da05 and 6 in project site DI01.

24. Table. Implemented information boards and nature trails

Country /project site	Lithuania*							Poland						Germany								
	L01	L02	L03	L04	L05	L06	L07	Bp01	pp01	pp02	pk01	pk02	pk03	pk04	pk05	pk06	da01	da02	da03	da04	da05	DI01
Information board, No.	2	--	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	4	3	3	3	2	1	3	1	1	3	6
Nature trail	1	--											1	1	1							

### 6.5.4. Action E4: Printed educational materials

Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

1. Folder on Emys orbicularis and its habitats protection (in 4 languages Lithuanian, Polish, German, English), 2. Poster on Emys orbicularis and its habitats (Lithuanian, Polish, Germany) 3. Folder on pond restoration (in Lithuanian, Polish, German),

Deadline 31/11/2007

Revised deadline --

Completion date 31/12/2009

Results of action

1. Folder on species and their habitats prepared and printed in 4 languages (Lithuanian, Polish, German, English), 2. Poster on turtles prepared and printed in Lithuanian, Polish, German and additionally in English for wider distribution and information exchange on project.

3. Folder on pond restoration, pond life and habitats printed in Lithuanian, Polish.

Additionally 2 books in Lithuanian and Polish and postcards in German have been printed. The total amount of budget is not exceeded. The publications bear Life Nature logos.

### Lithuania

Folder on species and their habitats printed in 1000 copies and distributed among Directorates of protected sites, various governmental institutions and NGOs. The folder used in many meetings with stakeholders, land owners, foresters, and also used for distribution in seminars and workshops.

English folder used in international meetings and seminars as distribution material.

Poster in Lithuanian printed in 200 copies. Poster more used for distribution for students and school pupils. Many copies of poster distributed via Center of Young Naturalists of Lithuania.

Poster in English printed in 500 copies and distributed among the partners by sending per post or handing over in seminars, also used for wider audience in other international workshops and conferences: IUCN meeting in Barcelona in Wageningen, Netherlands, in Schleswig Holstein, Final seminar of Bombina project etc.

Folder on habitat restoration printed in 1000 copies and used mainly for education of farmers, land owners, who usually take care about their environment, plan pond digging, fishing activities etc.

additionally 1 book about project target species in 500 exemplary and 1 cd in 100 exemplary published in Lithuanian.

### Poland

Folder on species and their habitats printed in 3000 copies and distributed among Directorates of protected sites, various governmental institutions and NGOs. The folder used in many meetings with stakeholders, land owners, used for distribution in seminars and workshops.

Poster in Polish printed in 100 copies in 2009. attached as annex 21.

Additionally - Book "Protection of e.o., T.c., and b.b in North Europe" printed in 1000 copies.

Folder on habitat restoration printed in 2009 in 500 copies and used mainly for education of farmers, land owners, who usually take care about their environment, plan pond digging, fishing activities etc. Attached as annex 21.

### Germany

4000 copies of German folder on species printed and distributed. Folders distributed by partners during different events (turtle days, amphibian days, seminars, excursions) and in different information centres, protected areas administrations, regional and local municipalities, schools  
1000 Poster copies printed and distributed to different information centres, protected areas administrations, regional and local municipalities, schools.

Postcards were printed in 16 units every in 100 copies=1600 copies.

Folder on pond habitats printed in 1000 copies in 2009.

The educational materials have been already sent in MtR as Annexes No. 14, 15, 16 and 2nd PR as Annexes No.12.

## **6.5.5. Action E5: Best practice guideline / protection guideline 15.11.2009**

### Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Best practice guidelines on the management of habitats of emys orbicularis published in English.

Deadline 15.11.2009

Completion date 31/12/2009

### Results of action

The Best practice guidelines finished and printed. The brochure published in English. Best practice contains 70 pages, where species ecology, habitat characteristics, examples of habitat management, and other project activities are described and presented for specialist reading. The report printed in 70 copies. Attached as annex 22.

#### **6.5.6. Action E6: Web page**

Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Constantly updated homepage in the internet under [www.glis.lt](http://www.glis.lt)

Deadline 15.11.2009

Completion date 15/11/2009

Results of action

1 project homepage has been created as a part of the homepage [www.glis.lt/life](http://www.glis.lt/life) of Lithuanian Fund for nature, and constantly updated with news about the project, materials and downloadable files: reports, brochures etc. The Reports and printed materials are prepared for downloading under the “downloads”.

The rest of partners have their own local project homepage in Lithuanian, Polish and German. The main project homepage is in English

Every partner has also local website information with the basic information on the project and a link to the main project site:

*Lithuania*

ZBR [http://www.zuvintas.lt/m9\\_.php](http://www.zuvintas.lt/m9_.php) ; VRP - <http://www.veisiejuparkas.lt/node/19>; MRP - [www.meteliuparkas.lt/](http://www.meteliuparkas.lt/)

*Poland*

BNP - [www.bpn.com.pl/](http://www.bpn.com.pl/); PTOp - <http://www.ptop.org.pl/index.php/biologia-owia>; KP - ([http://kp.org.pl/life\\_zolw/index.php?go=news](http://kp.org.pl/life_zolw/index.php?go=news))

*Germany*

Agna - [www.herpetopia.de](http://www.herpetopia.de) – under Life Projekte ; LFV [www.oberes-rhinluch.de](http://www.oberes-rhinluch.de) under EU Life; AGUG - <http://www.conservation.uni-goettingen.de>.

#### **6.5.7. Action E7: Layman’s report**

Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Layman report produced in Lithuanian, German, Polish and English version.

Deadline 31/12/2009

Completion date 31/12/2009

Result of action

The layman report prepared in English, German, Lithuanian and Polish. Printed in 100 copies each. The copies will be used for distribution in future and information exchange on project. Attached as annex 24.

## **6.6. F Overall project management**

### **6.6.1. Action F1: Project management and accountancy**

#### Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Project results achieved and delivered at a level of high quality, taking into account the interests of stakeholders.

#### Deadline --

#### Revised deadline --

Completion date 31/12/2009

#### Results of action

The management of the project is set by organigram (framework). The first organigram was set in project application and later changed with several adjustments. The main administration units for the project are Project management team and Steering committee.

The project management team consist of Project Director, International Project Manager, external consultants and representatives of 9 partner organisations.

Project Director, International Project Manager is nominated by the Beneficiary.

Every partner is represented by Local project manager.

The Steering committee was represented by the same person from partner organisations.

Pranas Mierauskas has been appointed as PD and chairman of SC on 08.07.2005 by the LFN board.

The IPM, Lars Christian Adrados was nominated 29.08.2005 by PD Pranas Mierauskas,

Heidrun Beckmann from Agena and Martina Meeske from AGUG (also representing LFV) was nominated to the SC by 06.06.2006,

Arunas Pranaitis from ZBR (also representing VRP and MRP) was nominated to the SC by 29.11.2006,

Mariusz Rybacki from KP was preliminary nominated to the SC by 14.06.2006,

Iwona Mirowska-Ibron from PTOp (also representing BNP) was preliminary nominated to the SC by 31.01.2007.

The beneficiary, Lithuanian Fund for Nature, carries out bigger part of management in Lithuania. The Lithuanian partners ZBR, VRP, MRP carry out preparatory actions for management of project sites. PTOp, BNP, KP, Agena, and LFV carry out major part of the project management in their project areas. The partner AGUG carries out monitoring and management consultancy of the partners and beneficiary in Lithuania (LFN, ZBR, VRP, and MRP) and the partners in Poland (PTOp, BNP and KP).

The personnel working for the project was increased twice comparing to what was foreseen. Such increase was needed to ensure proper management.

Project Team meetings:

Since the start of the project, the kick off meeting was held and two follow up meetings were held in Germany in spring and summer 2006. more than 30 administrative meeting were held by partner organisations mainly for the agreements, discussions on main issues, purchase of equipment etc. later such meetings were substituted by Skype meetings.

Deadlines for submitting the reports are either quarterly report is 30.04.2007, 31.07.2007, 31.10.2007, respectively 31.01.2008, half year or yearly. Partners can choose which period to report.

The organigram of the project was improved corresponding to remarks by EC as illustrated in 1 figure. Due to insufficient management the PD was changed by the board of beneficiary organisation by 27/11/2008. The new director Nerijus Zableckis, who since 01/04/2008 is an executive director of LFN, was nominated a new PD. The decision taken by the board annexed as annex 25.

## **6.6.2. Action F2: Monitoring of the effects of project actions**

### Expected results (quantitative information when possible):

Updated database reflecting the conditions of turtles and amphibians populations. Reports after each season must be sent to relevant authorities.

Deadline 15/10/2009

Revised deadline --

Completion date 31/12/2009

### Results of action

Monitoring was continued throughout all years of project duration using monitoring tables produced by the project.

#### General conclusions:

Restored ponds are used by turtles after 2-3 years when the pond gets typical vegetation and has enough structures, e.g. the logs of dead wood, tussocks for basking or hiding for turtles. Such ponds are used for short summer stay during migration. In rare case well suited ponds, e.g. dug in highmoors, might be used for hibernation. Amphibians, especially Fire bellied toads are more easy adapting to new habitats, therefore abundant species is observed in most of water bodies in restored sites in Lithuania, Poland and Germany, however Great crested newts were less abundant than toads. However B.b. being more easy observable species due to its' calling is registered more often.

Restored nesting sites after removal of vegetation or upper soil layer must be adopted in 2-3 years to be like natural. Usage of nesting sites of turtles can be proved within longer time span because it needs quite accurate observations of turtle females laying eggs, or finding predated nests. Further monitoring of project sites will show whether there is increase of specimens in ponds, which will mean better reproduction of turtles.

Evaluation of favourable conservation status of every site status according to criteria set in A3, the status provided in Annex No.26.

#### *Lithuania*

Radiotracking and visual observations proved that 11 out of 54 restored ponds in Lithuanian sites were used by turtles either for migratory purposes when turtles stopped in the ponds for short time, and in rare cases the ponds were used for overwintering. Turtles were registered in 4 restored ponds in site L03, where 1 pond restored on the edge of highmoor was used for hibernation, 3 ponds in L04, 2 ponds in L05 were used for summer stay, and huge highmoor pond in project site L06 was used for hibernation. The forest pond in L07 is in use all year round. The usage of nesting sites is hard to estimate up to date, but results will be proven by state species

monitoring, which will be carried out every third year. The estimation of general number of specimens in sites, found predated nests and observation of females laying eggs will provide evidences about usage of nesting sites.

Positive trends were observed by amphibian b.b. and t.c. The fire bellied toads successfully use most of restored ponds in project sites L01, L03, L05, L06, where 75% of ponds in 2009 had at least several calling males. Only the sites L05 and L07 in forested areas have less abundant bombina species. Great crested newts were registered in L01 for first time in L01 in spring 2010, however no significant increases were observed by triturus cristatus in project sites L03, L04 and L05, while in L06 and L07 they are not registered yet, but it could be the result that species need more time to colonize new habitats. State monitoring of amphibians in 2010 will prove it.

### *Poland*

In West Poland better breeding success have been observed by *Emys orbicularis* in project site pk03 after release of reared juveniles, and in project site pk05 more turtles have been observed after pond restoration and installment of hibernation sites. Significant increase of fire bellied toad populations was registered in most of sites pk01, pk02, pk04, and pk06, where the species was observed in restored water bodies. Great crested newts were observed in sites pk01, pk02, and pk04. New places with both b.b. and t.c. species were found for first time in project site pk04.

In Eastern Poland a young turtle used one of the new ponds in Napiwodsko Reserve in project site Pp02, adult turtles were observed in one of the new ponds in Piska forest Pp01. In 2009 the monitoring proved that fire belied toads used new dug ponds in both project sites. The monitoring, which will be led by the Regional Environmental Department (RDOS) will prove more exact number of ponds and wetlands, colonized by target species.

In project site Bp01 in Bialowezha National Park all three target species are rare. Only 2 individuals of the pond turtles were observed in period 2005-2009. *Bombina bombina* was observed only twice within project area, the other three localities in the remaining part of the Bialowieza Forest. *Triturus cristatus* is more widely spread, however the population is not numerous. The Directorate of the Park is obliged to carry out monitoring once in 3 years, therefore further observations will be led.

### *Germany*

The results of habitat restoration and supporting of populations in German sites Da01-Da05 were not much successful as it was suggested. Such results might occur because of external factors like invasive species raccoon, which destroys most of turtle nests, and also predated juveniles in water. Positive changes are observed for amphibians *Bombina bombina* and *Triturus cristatus* in restored ponds in sites Da02, Da03, and Da04.

In the project site DI01 8 amphibian species including b.b. and t.c. were observed in 2009, they were proved by Standard monitoring program collecting field data 5 times (once per month from March till July) and inspecting amphibian fence. Method of catching larve by bottle trap was used to test success of breeding; however breeding success so far was observed only in 1 restored pond.

### **6.6.3. Action F3: After-LIFE conservation plan**

*Expected results (quantitative information when possible):*

After life conservation plan.

Deadline 31/12/2009

Revised deadline --

Completion date 31/12/2009

Results of action

The plan is prepared for all three countries encompassing all project sites. The plan includes main nature conservation institutions like regional departments or administrations of protected sites, which carry out monitoring of species. The plan attached as annex 27.

## 7. Evaluation and Conclusions

### *a The process*

The project has been successful in action B and C, with land buying and aquatic and terrestrial habitat restoration. These B and C actions are considered to be the most important actions to secure favourable conservation status for the 3 target species in the Natura 2000 sites selected for the project. Action D2 was considered not needed in North Eastern Poland where enough habitats were restored, while rearing ex-situ was much needed in Germany and West Poland. Action D3 was a failure in planning as we were too inexperienced in managing larger areas of wetlands with relative rare and new machinery, however also this action has been done in way and amount so it will secure favourable conservation status for its target species *bombina bombina*. The completion of A actions was severely delayed. There were several reasons to explain such delay. First of all the collection and evaluation of data on habitats took longer than expected. The analysis of parameters and reports on habitats were more useful for international workshops and experience exchange with experts than on preparation of habitat restoration actions. The explanation for this is that herpetologists working in Polish and German sites are much experienced and they don't need extra knowledge for habitat restoration. In Lithuania digging and restoration of ponds was performed by the supervision of Amphi Consult, which has a lot of experience on habitat restoration. The preparation of national/regional plans on target species was delayed due to lack of available data on species outside the project sites. In fact, such plans shouldn't be the target by Life project because collection of data in whole state or administrative region is out of competence by local NGOs. However local management plans with foreseen activities on the sites for target species were prepared for all sites. The deadlines of every action were revised in 2 Progress Report and completed in 2009.

The monitoring persons were changed several times within project, which was also some sort of lesson. Sometimes advices and comments of CP by Monitor were misleading. The most important and useful lesson on Life project management was provided by Monitor Mikko Tiira.

Another important lesson learned in relation to formulation of a project, is that the many actions may have been a little too high, as the partners and beneficiary implementing the actions rather think holistic on the species needs at each project site than on the strict project description of threats and corresponding actions. The consequence of this divergence in thinking has in practice resulted in some questions about where to place a certain performed activity. An example of this divergence is seen in the actual performance of action C3 where in timesheets they performed work is reported under action C1 or C2, because the action C3 did take place when majority of effort was made in one project site on action C1 or C2.

### *b The project management*

The partners were chosen properly since beginning of the project. However there were problems in the beginning. The partnerships have been signed with most partners, which had clear co-financing like AGENA, LFV, KP, BNP, VRP, MRP, ZBR. The short term contracts were agreed only with PTOP and AGUG due to changed project budgets. The last contracts with new partners: Nature Heritage Fund and Forestry Directorate in Olsztyn have been signed in 2009.



The steering committee was formed by the representatives of every partner organisation, additionally a representative from MoE was included into committee. However SC did not function properly and remained during whole project duration formal body. Most of needed consultations and advices were given and agreed informally without opinion of the SC as a whole. Cooperation with stakeholders went smooth in most countries. The landowners or responsible institutions have been involved in the processes, however some times decisions are taken longer than expected.

#### Reference to project management system

Following problems in the management of the project occurred:

Beneficiary was not controlling the project processes, and lost its' control on the management.

Lack of communication between project partners and Beneficiary. As a consequence not all information and corresponding documents were present in LFN office.

Regular delays in reporting to Commissions' requests.

The consultants' role was not clear. As the project was one of 2 first LIFE project in Lithuania and the first one for Lithuanian Fund for Nature, LFN did ask several companies for helping to prepare the LIFE turtle project. Only Amphi Consult responded positively as they also have experience in writing and being assistant manager for governments and NGOs in several LIFE projects. LFN started the project with having only a project director and a young national manager. Amphi Consult has worked and helped to build capacity in LFN for project management as well as LFN staff has learned from themselves and all partner, which has result in that LFN had a real fully employed international project manager for the project and project assistant in addition to the national manager. The staffs in LFN have switch positions according to skills and time available for the project. The rather complicated international project has build capacity in LFN, so they can run more simple national LIFE project in future, as it is expected that LIFE project in future will be more national based .

### *c Success and failures*

The b actions and c actions has been a great success. The international experience exchange has been absolutely vital to take right decisions on how to do habitat and population management to benefit the species in sites by each partner. It's normal that it takes a country or partner up to 20 years to learn all aspect of successfully implementing active protection of just one difficult species. We are dealing with 2 difficult species (emys orbicularis and Bombina bombina) and one relatively easy species (Triturus cristatus). The project concept with its international experience exchange provides each partner (situated in relatively poor European regions) to take a frog leap in herpetological conservation. The long term international project is needed for this experience exchange in order that all local and international experts gain trust in each other and start freely to exchange data, techniques and information, without risking that one partner take too much advantage of common knowledge for promotion and publications etc.

Success and failures of the methodologies applied in the recurring as non-recurring management partly are proved with final monitoring in 2009. The monitoring shows that restored habitats can be rather very fast be colonized by species. New dug or restored ponds gain within 2-3 years typical features: water vegetation, wildlife, water quality and other parameters, which are favourable for target species. Amphibians, being more fast adopting species than pond turtles, have been observed in many Lithuanian, Polish and German sites already in years 2008 as well as in 2009. The Fire bellied toads were the most common species, observed in restored habitats, then

great crested newts were found also. For example in Lithuanian site L01, and also in pk05 the great crested new was found for first time. The success on habitat occupation by pond turtles can be assessed within the next 5-10 years period since the species reacts into changed habitats rather slowly. However radiotracking observations in Lithuania have shown that turtles used new ponds in L03 and L04 as summer ponds and stayed there for few summer months, while some ponds were used for temporary migration staying.

### ***dComparison against the project-objectives***

The project reached objective by restoring habitat within main 80% of turtle populations found in their northern distribution area. Thus, the favourable conservation status of *Emys orbicularis*, and *Bombina orientalis* as *Triturus cristatus* where they occur together with *E. orbicularis*, can be assessed as being significantly improved by habitat restoration. The evaluation of sites according to favourable conservation criteria have shown, that most of sites in Germany have rather low scores due to big damage, which was caused by intensive agriculture some decades ago. The same situation has to be tackled in West Poland, where agriculture and melioration have destroyed many suitable habitats for reptiles. Therefore additional measures like support of populations by artificial rearing and breeding of turtles ex-situ and releasing them into wild after first months or 1-2 years of their life. However the effects of such measures might be evaluated only within longer time span since many other factors have influence on populations. Over -predating by invasive species like racoon in Germany destroys nests and predate many juvenile turtles, therefore action plans and local management plans, which were approved by local authorities foresee activities to solve these problems.

In Lithuania most of sites have good or almost good favourable conservation status due to stable relict populations, which survived in last non-touched places in South Eastern part of Lithuania. These places in early 1979 were announced as herpetological reserves with strict management regulations, which however brought negative effects. Interference of human activities like traditional farming caused degradation of habitats, which usually were supported by grazing and mowing. Therefore restoration of habitats and setting up grazer farms restored former conditions. The genetic analysis proved that populations are autochthonous without alien genes, but still additional rearing is needed not only for German or Polish populations, but also for Lithuanian turtles as well because habitats are too fragmented and isolated, thus, potential high risk of inbreeding exists.

The exchange of information and education of specialists within countries contributed to the awareness raising of people, especially foresters. The experience of the project actions have been widely distributed among other countries experts and institutions during international workshops and printed materials, also website.

### ***eEnvironmental benefits, polity and legislation implications***

The project sites Piska and Napiwodsko-Ramucka were appointed as Natura 2000 sites in 2009 by Polish government. In Lithuania 3 project sites (L03, L05, L06) were extended as natura 2000 sites, 1 new site was established (L07) as important site for European pond turtles.

### ***f Innovation, demonstration value***

In Poland and Lithuania, the use of the LIFE-nature scheme is known as being very difficult. The project demonstrates that LIFE-nature projects are an option in Polish and Lithuanian nature conservation. All 3 countries the local or national NGO are the driving organizations in implementing the project as well as taking the habitat directive and management of Natura 2000 species serious. The NGOs are actively implementing the management of Natura 2000 sites and facilitating that the public institutions start to take Natura 2000 serious. An example is that the Polish State forest district wants to become a partner of the project, something that was not possible or likely in 2004, when the project was designed.

For the first time herpetologists from North European lowland from both western countries and post communist countries work so closely together over so long time to protect herpetological values.

For first time pond restorations on a large scale has been done in Lithuania and West Poland.

For first time in Europe large scale land purchase has been done for European Pond turtle (Germany)

For the first time the most modern pond turtle conservation techniques are being used in Poland.

For the first time hardy grazers systems with Galloway cattle are introduced in the Lithuania countryside to find a socio economically good way to manage herpetological Natura 2000 sites.

### ***g Socio-economic effects***

The marginal areas concerned in this project provide little possible income for local people and large nature values, The local “farmers” in Lithuania in this project has a possibility to try to grow Galloway or Hereford to provides a additional source of income. The cattle “produced” during the project belongs to the farmers and hopefully counter balance the farmers expenditure on keeping the cattle in the long term and provides income on the long term. Hopefully the idea will spread so more area will be nature areas will be managed by the offspring of the cattle in future. Much education in schools with turtle days and other events should make the investment more sustainable in future generations. Hopefully herpetological values will be an interesting conversation aspect for visitors in the bed and breakfast places in the farms in southern Lithuania.

### ***h The future sustainability***

The future sustainability of the project is described in the “After-LIFE conservation plan”. Most of the actions for continuation and keeping restored habitats will be ensure via governmental institutions in Lithuania (State parks) which are obliged to take care on natura 2000 sites, but usually due to insufficient financing can only partly carry out the assistance, e.g. using the public works. Usually 2-3 people from local job market are given for the state parks to implement public works. The grazer farms in project sites will ensure long term management so far using the agri-environmental schemes, and also growing of cattle will bring some profit in future for farmers.

In Poland Directorate of Forestry in Olsztyn is taking care in the Nature Reserves in forest areas, therefore the north eastern Polish sites Pp01 and Pp02 will be managed in accordance to turtle habitat requirements. In West Poland the sites will be managed by Klub Przyrodnikov by

continuation of other national projects. Bialowiezha National park also has long term programmes for management of Nature Reserve in Bialowiezha forest and surroundings.

In Germany land purchase and registry of nature conservation clause will help to keep the habitat. Two new life+ projects in Poland and Lithuania will help to keep habitats suitable for pond turtles. The project on habitats for Lesser spotted eagles will create more ponds and open habitats in Bialowiezha forest surroundings. In Lithuania the new Life+ project on creation of ecological corridors will diminish the isolation of populations and ensure long-term survival.

### ***Long term indicators of the project success***

Long term indicators are numbers of ponds, hibernation and nesting sites colonized or being in usage by target species. The structure of populations, e.g. more juveniles within sites, will indicate success of breeding and processes towards good conservation status.

## 8. Commitments on financial report

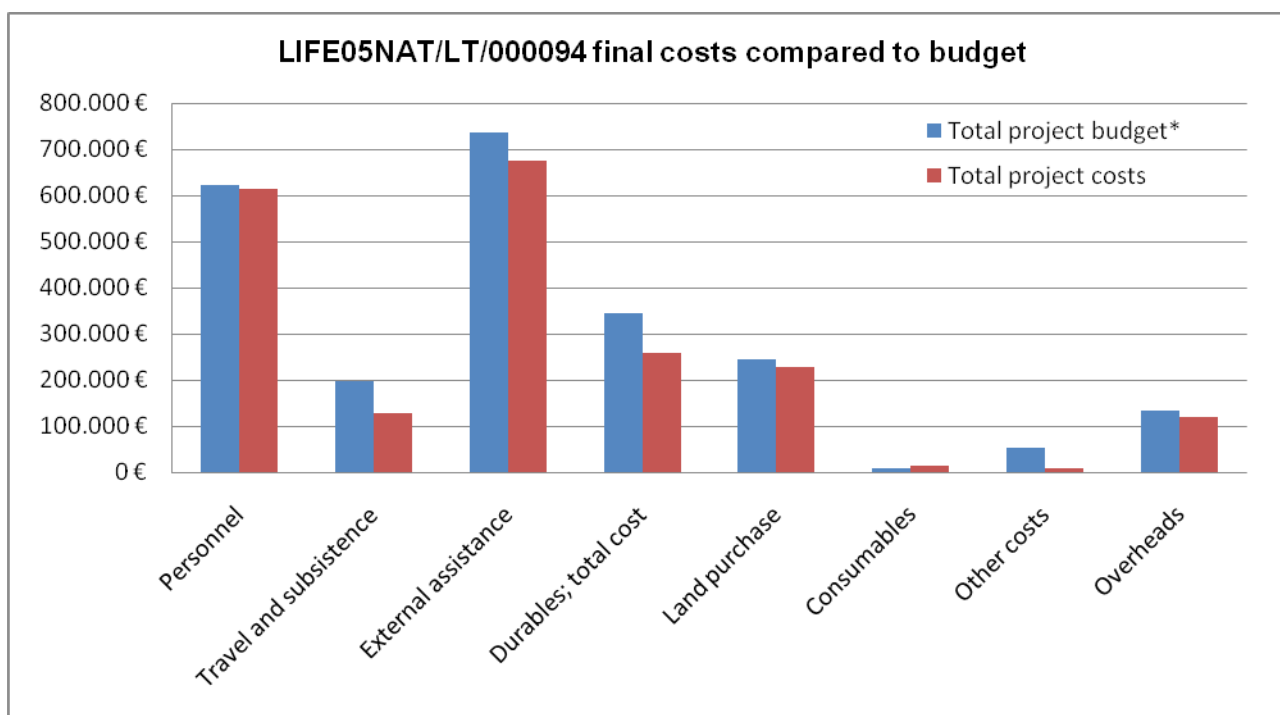
The overall consumption during project implementation is shown in table 91 and illustration 91. This however reflects big differences among the different partners implementation status of the project, table 92 and illustration 92. These commitments are structured with first part commenting on costs sorted after cost category and second part commenting on costs sorted after actions.

	Cost category	Total project budget*	Total project costs	%**
1.	Personnel	623.564 €	615.341 €	98,7%
2.	Travel and subsistence	197.696 €	129.558 €	65,5%
3.	External assistance	737.622 €	675.106 €	91,5%
4.	Durables; total cost	346.056 €	258.210 €	74,6%
5.	Land purchase	244.582 €	227.395 €	93,0%
6.	Consumables	9.000 €	13.240 €	147,1%
7.	Other costs	52.724 €	7.936 €	15,1%
8.	Overheads	134.544 €	118.825 €	88,3%
	<b>SUM TOTAL</b>	<b>2.346.185 €</b>	<b>2.045.610 €</b>	<b>87,2%</b>

\*) or, if there has been an additional clause with budget modification, to the revised budget included in that additional clause

\*\*) Calculate the percentages by budget lines: How many % of the budgeted personnel costs are incurred by reporting date

**Table 91:** Project costs divided in main cost categories incurred in whole project period compared to total budget.

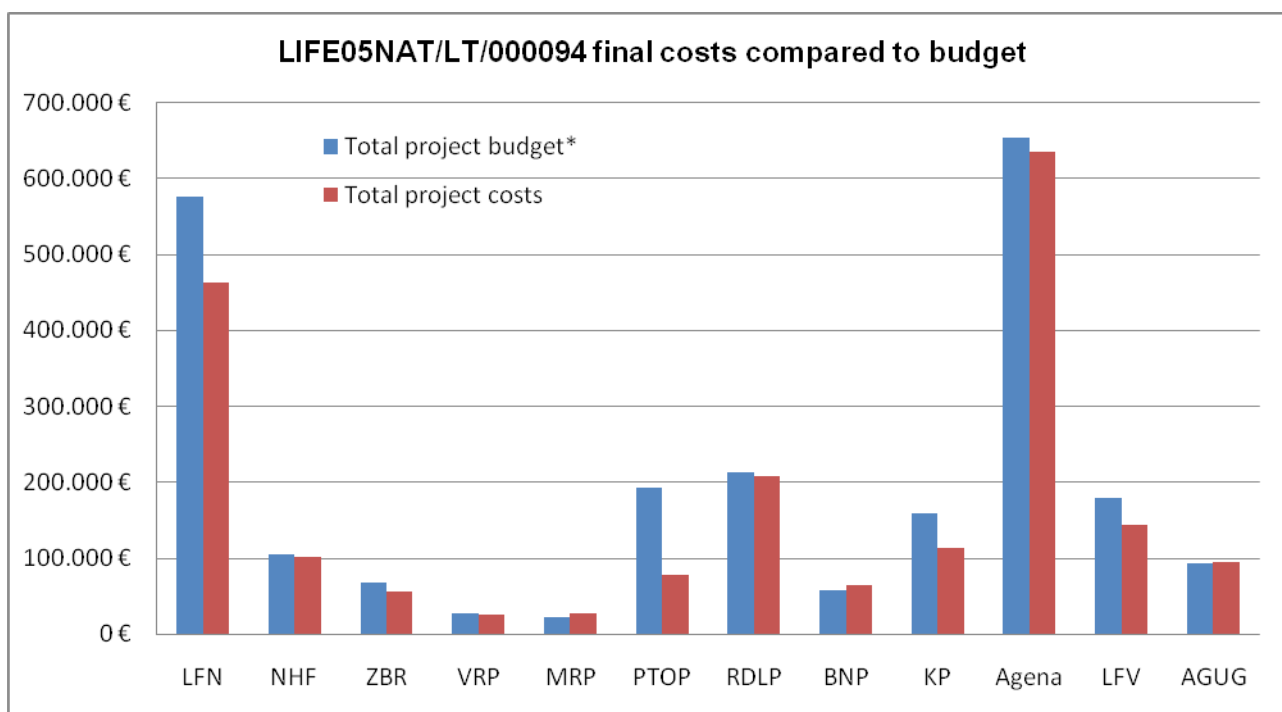


**Illustration 91:** Project costs divided in main cost categories incurred in whole project period compared to total budget.

	Beneficiary / partner	Total project budget*	Total project costs	%
1.	Lithuanian Fund for Nature	576.497 €	535.097 €	92,8%
12.	Nature Heritage Fund	104.611 €	61.677 €	59,0%
2.	Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve	67.713 €	56.599 €	83,6%
3.	Veisiejai Regional Park	27.145 €	26.022 €	95,9%
4.	Meteliai Regional Park	22.324 €	26.788 €	120,0%
5.	Północnopodlaskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków	192.449 €	78.297 €	40,7%
11.	RDLP w Olsztynie	212.864 €	207.744 €	97,6%
6.	Białowieża National Park	57.840 €	64.637 €	111,8%
7.	Klub Przyrodników	159.348 €	113.480 €	71,2%
8.	Agena e.V.	654.179 €	635.547 €	97,2%
9.	LFV Oberes Rhinluch e.V.	178.585 €	144.043 €	80,7%
10.	Georg August University Göttingen	92.630 €	95.679 €	103,3%
	<b>SUM TOTAL</b>	<b>2.346.185 €</b>	<b>2.045.610 €</b>	<b>87,2%</b>

\*) or, if there has been an additional clause with budget modification, to the revised budget included in that additional clause

**Table 92:** Beneficiary and partners project costs in whole project period compared to their budgets.



**Illustration 92:** Beneficiary and partners project costs in whole project period compared to their budgets.

## 9.1 COMMITMENTS ON COSTS SORTED AFTER COST CATEGORIES

### General considerations on the different expenses categories:

Personnel: In Lithuania, the partners ZBR, VRP and MRP did not until 31.12.2005 invoice personnel costs, and the partner PTO did not invoice personnel costs until 31/12/2006 and after 01/01/2009 because of insufficient documenting on timesheets. The use of personnel allocated the

project can therefore not be documented for these partners in 2005 respectively 2005, 2006 and 2009. Even though the work performed cannot be reported, the output of the work has been reported in the final technical report.

Travel and subsistence costs: In Lithuania, the partners ZBR, VRP and (with one exception) MRP and in Poland the partner PTOp has until 31/12/2006 not invoiced travel costs because of insufficient documentation on driving sheets. Consequently the use of travel used on the project cannot be documented until 31/12/2006. Further the project management travel has been reduced considerable compared to budget, because of the introduction of new time and travel reducing communication technologies (Skype).

External assistance: The insured cost presented in this report is for LFN lower than the real costs related to the implementation of the project. The reason is that external mentioned under point 20 is taken out of this reporting due to ineligibility. In the view of LNF, this means that its participant contribution is some bigger than the EUR 20,246.76 indicated in the Income summary.

Durable goods: The incurred cost presented in this report is for NHF lower than the real costs related to the implementation of the project. The reason is that equipment of real cost on EUR 64,546 is reduced to expected eligibility of EUR 23,600, as the implementation of the corresponding action have been minor than foreseen and the equipment itself more expensive than budgeted (EUR 33,829).

Consumables: Is considerable higher than budgeted. The reason is that the project monitor has requested us to relocate a number of costs original budgeted under equipment to consumables in the financial report, as these cost logically should belong to consumables.

Particular PTOp have incurred costs much lower than budgeted. Main reason is the aforementioned lack of documentation of personnel and travel costs.

**Comments on financial issue from Commission's letters of 11/02/2008, 27/11/2008, 23/04/2009 and monitors requests of 13/04/2010.**

**General:**

1. Concerning especially the selection procedure of subcontractor Amphi Consult, we have been aware about that the awarded fully comply with Common Provisions article 6.4 (Commission's letter of 11/02/2008 point 1 and Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 21). The conclusion was that tender procedures was not needed, because A) at the time for awarding, Lithuania had not yet implemented the EU tender directive, so the threshold to be followed was the ones expressed in directive 2004/18/EC of March 31, 2004, chapter II, article 7, which were higher than the value of the subcontracts; B) at the time for awarding, only the chosen subcontractor was potential subcontractor, being the only company having comprehensive knowledge and experience on I) practical habitat management for amphibians in Poland AND II) corporation with the Polish partners AND III) implementation of EU-LIFE projects (Commission's letter of 11/02/2008 point 10 and Commission's letter of 27/11/2008 point 3). Remaining is the documentation of applying the principles of sound financial management, in particular value for money and cost-effectiveness (Common Provisions article 21.1 third bullet point). An argumentation for that the conditions of this formulations in the Common Provisions is followed (Commission's letter of 11/02/2008 point 10), will, taken the conditions in considerations

be rather academic. Off course it could be argued, that a Lithuanian or Polish company would be more cost-effectiveness partly because of lower salary level than what is the condition in Danish companies and partly because of less travel expenses, giving that any company in Lithuania or Poland had the experience of the Danish company. As no Lithuanian or Polish company could just nearly compete with the Danish company's experience at the beginning of the project, the question could be turned into: Could any company through knowledge gained during the project period gain such level of experience that it for the project would be a more cost-effectiveness solution at a later stage (for example from project year 3) to engage the company, than engaging with a existing Danish company with the needed experience at the start of the project? The answer to such question will forever blow in the wind, because no company got the chance in two years to gain the experience that Amphi Consult had used almost 20 years to gain. However, to secure best cost-effectiveness, in the contracts with Amphi Consult, the daily rates to be refunded were cleared from normal company overhead only leaving the pure personnel costs of the company. AND to secure transparency in Amphi Consults invoices, all other costs were to be documented as detailed as the requirements to project partners and beneficiary.

As the certification of the contracts of Amphi Consult comply with Common Provisions article 6.4 is crucial for the financial situation of the beneficiary, the beneficiary requested a statement from their auditor (annex 6) prior to the submission of the modification request. As the audit statement certified, that the contracts with Amphi Consult comply with Common Provisions, article 6.4 (Commission's letter of 27/11/2008 point 2), beneficiary took the conclusion, that Amphi Consult should continue as external assistance. The conclusion of audit attached as annex No. F 2.

2. Two transactions 20100848 of 17/03-2010 on EUR 24,800.00 and 676 of 12/01-2010 on EUR 22,560.00 have only been partly paid. Still unpaid is EUR 18,735.00 respectively EUR 17,042.06 in total EUR 35,777.06. These transactions relates to the contracts concluded with Amphi Consult, respectively Authorization agreement no. LIFE05NAT/LT/000094-04 concluded with Amphi Consult by Lars Christian Adrados and Authorization agreement no. LIFE05NAT/LT/000094-01 concluded with Amphi Consult by Lars Briggs. These authorization agreements are conclude very similar to the Authorization agreements concluded with the project partners, and include in article 3.1.1.3 a formulation, that "the third installment .... shall be paid within 21 days after the receipt of the third EU installment and submission of the corresponding invoices". We are aware that according to normal procedures, only costs paid until the submission of the final report shall be considered eligible, but in the view of the special Agreements concluded with Amphi Consult and because LFN lack the needed liquidity to pay the last part of the invoices, we kindly request the Commission exceptionally to consider these transactions to be eligible.
3. It was in the project foreseen that ZBR in the project should establish a nature trail. This nature trail was however financed by Interreg, and we accept that for the calculation of the final payment, the budget will be reduced by the amount which was foreseen for this purpose (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 2). This amounts to EUR 14,800 in total, being EUR 10,000 under external assistance and EUR 4,800 under infrastructure.



### Auditors report

4. We do not consider to reduce the reported project costs as the auditor report propose, because:
  - After auditor report has terminated, we have received documentation of personnel costs of BNP and LFV,
  - Auditor could not accept a general flat rate overhead of 7%. This is however included in this final financial report.

### Modification request

5. We inform, that the financial report includes all costs incurred for RDLP Olsztyn Poland and Nature Heritage Fund, Lithuania, as these unites have become project partners (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 3). The contracts attached as annex No. F3.

### Personnel

6. The majority of partners have used full time employed personnel. The use of full time employed personnel to be found in annex 4 and is indicated in table 93. The detailed calculations of these full time positions are to be found in annex 5 (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 5). For some partners, like BNP and PTO, weekends only count 1½ day, as Saturday is half working day.

<b>Full time employments in the project</b>		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Lithuanian Fund for Nature:</b>						
Nerijus Zableckis	National manager/project director			X	X	X
Migle Simanaviciene	Assistant of project director					X
<b>Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve:</b>						
Arunas Pranaitis	Local Project Manager		X	X	X	X
Gytis Salys	Conservation specialist		X	X		
Antanas Petraška	Conservation specialist				X	
<b>Vesiejai Regional Park:</b>						
Alius Baranauskas	Local Project Manager		X			
Irma Maciuleviciene	Conservation Specialist					X
Veronika Mulioliene	Local Project Manager					X
Arunas Stanulis	Worker					X
<b>Meteliai Regional Park:</b>						
Romualdas Bagdziunas	Local Project Manager		X			
Inga Kondrataviciute	Conservation specialist and in 2007 also Local project manager		X	X	X	X

Algimantas Amsiejus	Conservation specialist			X	X	X
<b>Polskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków:</b>						
Iwona Mirowska-Ibron	Local Project Manager				X	
<b>Białowieża National Park:</b>						
Krzyściak-Kosińska Renata	Local Project Manager	X		X	X	
Dackiewicz Aleksy	National park worker	X	X			
Kurzawa Monika	Biologist	X				
Świć Marek	Technician assistant	X	X	X	X	X
Joanna Bober	Biologist			X		X
Grażyna Kowalczyk	Biologist		X	X	X	X
Marek Lickiewicz	National park worker			X	X	
Andrzej Milko	National park worker			X	X	X
<b>Klub Przyrodników:</b>						
Andrzej Jermaczek	Local Project Manager		X	X		X
Maria Stankiewicz	Accountant		X	X		X
Hanna Garczyńska	Project assistant		X			
<b>Arbeitsgemeinschaft Natur- und Artenschutz e.V.</b>						
Loberenz, Hans	Emys keeper	X	X	X	X	X
Beckmann, Bernhard	Local Project Manager	X				
<b>Georg-August-University Göttingen:</b>						
Michael Mühlenberg	scientific expert			X	X	

*Table 93: Overview of full time employments in the project.*

Therefore the total number of annual working days becomes rather high (365 days/year less 78 days of weekends less 21 days of annual holidays less 14 statutory holidays equals 252 productive days. For the remaining personnel, the employments have been part time temporary specific for undertaking work in this specific project, i.e. the total working time is equal to the time reported to this project (the annual gross salary equals the personnel costs reported for these persons), (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 6).

7. The use of temporary contracts by partners PTO, Agena and LFV among others, entail that even the time unit rate seems to be based on an average time unit rate (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 7), this is actually the rate used for the temporary contracts.
8. Special attention should be made to temporary contracts used by partner LFV Oberes Rhinluch. They have made specific contracts with personnel on two levels. On the higher level is to be found academic work as planning of actions with a daily payment of EUR 240, and on the lower level is to be found physical work as carrying out nature management with a daily payment of EUR 120. Where the temporary personnel have carried out both type of work within the same year, in the financial reporting of personnel, the work has been reported in one line which combine the work performed for EUR 120/day respectively EUR 240/day (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 8), consequently the time unit rate is between EUR 120 and EUR 240. Similar, the work performed by Martina Meeske for partner Georg-August University Göttingen is reported in one yearly

line, even the salary consisted of different component depending on the type of work carried out.

9. For the Commission's control of reported time and corresponding calculations, in annex F5.1-F5.4. is for the whole project period attached for Hans Loberenz from Agena; Iwona Mirowska-Ibron from PTOPI, Renata Krysiak-Kosinska from BNP; and Martina Meeske form AGUG copies of salary slips, copy of contract of employment, where relevant explanation and justification for the obligatory social charges and copies of time sheets respectively print out from time recording systems where the time actually worked for this project is recorded (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 9).

#### *LFN*

10. The reported annual personnel costs of Pranas Mierauskas and Nerijus Zableckis has in this final financial report been recalculated so it correspond to the value of their specific plus general agreements (Commission's letter of 34/04/2009 point 10).
11. As the specific agreements for Pranas Mierauskas and Nerijus Zableckis do not contain any instructions to work exclusively for the LIFE project, the time worked for the project covered by these specific agreements have been registered in their timesheets (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 11).
12. Timesheets for Nerijus Zableckis for the whole project period provided in annex F6 (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 12).
13. Documentation of the change in management is provided in annex 23 which show responsibilities effectively transferred to Nerijus Zableckis (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 13).

#### *Agena*

14. In 2006, the annual gross salary including social security contribution for Bernhard Beckmann was EUR 10,985.98. Of this social charges (health insurance) was EUR 3,791.11, representing 34.5 % of the annual gross salary (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 14). We do not consider this rate to be substantial higher than the rate commonly used for German employees.
15. Timesheets for Bernhard Beckmann is for the whole project period provided in annex F7 (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 15).

#### *LFV*

16. All work carried out for LFV have been on specific part time agreements, i.e. the total working time is equal to the time reported to this project. In the midterm financial report, there were mistakes in calculating the annual gross salary in 2007 for Jana Albrecht,

Torsten Seeger and Ekkehard Hinke. These mistakes have been corrected in final financial report (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 16).

## **Travel**

17. In the midterm financial report, three travel transactions were reported with date of invoices before the project starting time. The dates for these invoices were mistakenly typed in. Instead of year 2002 it should have been year 2006. The mistakes are corrected in the final financial report (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 17). In general to avoid more date mistakes, we have introduced the notation of date as "dd/mm-yyyy" in the final financial report. This makes proofreading more easily and secures that the day is not mistaken by the year if typed opposite.
18. The rate for using own car of the partner Agena is 0.30 EUR/km. This rate is used in the final financial report (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 18).
19. Invoice 45/2006 for travel carried out by Heidrun Beckmann and Norbert Schneeweiss from Agena is in the final financial report split in two invoices: 45a/2006 corresponding to the former 45/2006 on EUR 646.76 and 45b/2006 on EUR 106.85. The later covering accommodation during the study tour. We apologize, that we not earlier have included the later invoice (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 19).

## **External assistance**

20. In the midterm financial report there were costs related to services provided by persons listed among the staff of the beneficiary and/or partners. This applied to transactions:
  - GEF-01-06, service provided by Nerijus Zableckis,
  - GEF-06-06, service provided by Nerijus Zableckis,
  - GEF-12-07, service provided by Nerijus Zableckis,
  - GEF-02C-06, service provided by Jonas Sidaravicius,
  - GEF-03-07A, service provided by Martina Meeske, and
  - GEF(A)-08-07, service provided by Martina Meeske.Subsequent Common Provisions article 4.11 and 5.9 these costs are not reported in the final financial report (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 20).
21. In the final financial report remain costs related to services provided by persons not listed among the staff of the beneficiary and/or partners at the time the services were conducted, but listed among the staff before and/or later than the services were conducted. This applies to transactions:
  - GEF(A)-01-08, service provided by Jonas Sidaravicius 02/01-2008 to 31/01-2008, EUR 202.73

- LIFE-NAT-01, service provided by Jonas Sidaravicius 06/11-2008 to 11/11-2008 and 18/05-2009, EUR 2,896.20,
  - LIFE05NAT/LT/000094-Nr.19, service provided by Jonas Sidaravicius 28/07-2008 to 02/09-2008, EUR 1,158.48. (Until October 2007, Jonas Sidaravicius was working for partner VRP and from June 2009 he was working for beneficiary).
  - LIFE-Nat-04, service provided by Gytis Salys 01/10-2009 to 31/11-2009, EUR 579.24. (Until April 2008, Gytis Salys was working for partner ZBR)
22. In the final financial report remain also a few costs, where the services provided by persons are listed among the staff of the beneficiary and/or partners at the same time. This is exclusively done, where the persons task in the service contract is clearly distinct from the task as personnel. This applies to transactions:
- GEF(A)-06-07, service provided by Gytis Salys 05/11-2007 to 19/12-2007, EUR 1,448.10, where he was working for partner ZBR. The service contract is however on action E6, whereas his work as personnel was on action A2, C1, C3, D1, D3, E2, F1, F2.

### **Durable goods**

23. LFN has bought two computers to be used by the subcontractor Amphi Consult. These computers have in the project period been used exclusively for the project. The first computer, transaction 20060769 of 31/01-2006 have been depreciated fully during the project period and is now “retired”, whereas the second computer, transaction 486 of 13/02-2008 is not yet fully depreciated and it have been delivered back to LFN (Commission’s letter of 23/04-2009 point 22).
24. NHF has bought a track laying mowing machine, transaction 13250 of EUR 64,546.00 of which we only consider EUR 23,600.00 eligible. In the project proposal budget the cost of this technical devise was EUR 33,829.00. The reason for the reduction in claimed eligibility is that in the project proposal was as target listed the mowing of 650 ha of moist areas and 180 ha of grasslands in Lithuania, whereas during the project only 277 ha of foraging habitats (grasslands and moist areas) in Lithuania actually were mowed. However, the receiver of the machinery has declared (annex 16) that they in the coming years will mow rest 550 ha of grasslands , and that the technical device bought will after the termination of the LIFE project exclusively will be used for nature management in the project sites.
25. The partner Agena (not LFV) has bought and reported a car, transaction 710/103932 of 27/07-2007, EUR 18,871.30 which was not foreseen in the project proposal. The purchase must be understood together with the purchase of mowing machine, transaction 6241 of 12/09-2006 on EUR 55,886.22, in total for the two transactions EUR 74,757.52. In the project proposal budget, EUR 45,000 was reserved purchase of mowing machine and EUR 30,000 reserved purchase of special trailer for the mowing machine, in total EUR 75,000. Initial intended was to purchase a mowing machine which could drive fast speed on public roads when going between the project sites and a trailer for the removal of the mown grass. However the mowing machine original planned could not be transported between the project sites with defensible expenses, partly because it could not drive fast enough on public roads and partly because it was too big for driving on some of the local roads near the project sites. Therefore the technical solution had to be evaluated, but

still fulfilling the purposes: Mowing, removal of the mown grass and driving on public roads between the project sites. The solution found was the mowing machine TTR 4400 HAST which can mow and remove the mown grass, but it cannot drive on public roads (too low speed). To solve this part of the technical design, a trailer for the mowing machine and a pulling vehicle Ford Ranger was bought. The mowing machine, the trailer and the vehicle have been exclusively used for the purpose of the project, and will after project termination continuously be used for the purpose of nature management in the project sites. As we were aware about possible risk of ineligibility due to another technical solution than reflected in the project proposal budget, the issue was discussed during monitoring visit at Agenas project sites 09/11-2006 to 10/11-2006, where the monitor concluded that as long the purpose of the technical devices are kept, the technical solution itself is less important. We of course acknowledge that the responsibility is entirely ours, and that we should have communicated our wish of changing technical device to the Commission previous the purchase. As this has not been done, we stay in the hope that the aforementioned technical justification will be considered satisfying for considering the cost eligible.

26. In the midterm financial report, rather some costs related to fuel, soap and illumination etc. were reported under durable goods. As these costs more have character of consumables (or overhead), they have in this final financial report been included in the 7% flat rate overhead (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 24).

### **Consumables**

27. Under consumables we have reported transaction ARV 0003754 of 07/12-2006 for beneficiary not earlier reported. And we have relocated transaction F000608/07/12-01 of 10/12-2007 for partner KP from equipment to consumables, because the purchase of working clothes has more the character of consumables, despite the costs in the project proposal budget were budgeted under equipment.

### **Land purchase**

28. For transaction 539/2006 of 03/01-2007 (Notaries Act no. 539/2006 of 09/11-2006) of EUR 121,500.00 is transferred to BVVG and not the owner of the land Thomas Crasemann, because BVVG is the institution in Germany which is a successor of the governmental Holding company that was established to privatize the national property of the former DDR. After receiving the money, BVVG is in turn obliged to transfer the money to the appropriate owner, Thomas Grasemann (Commission's letter of 23/04/2009 point 25).

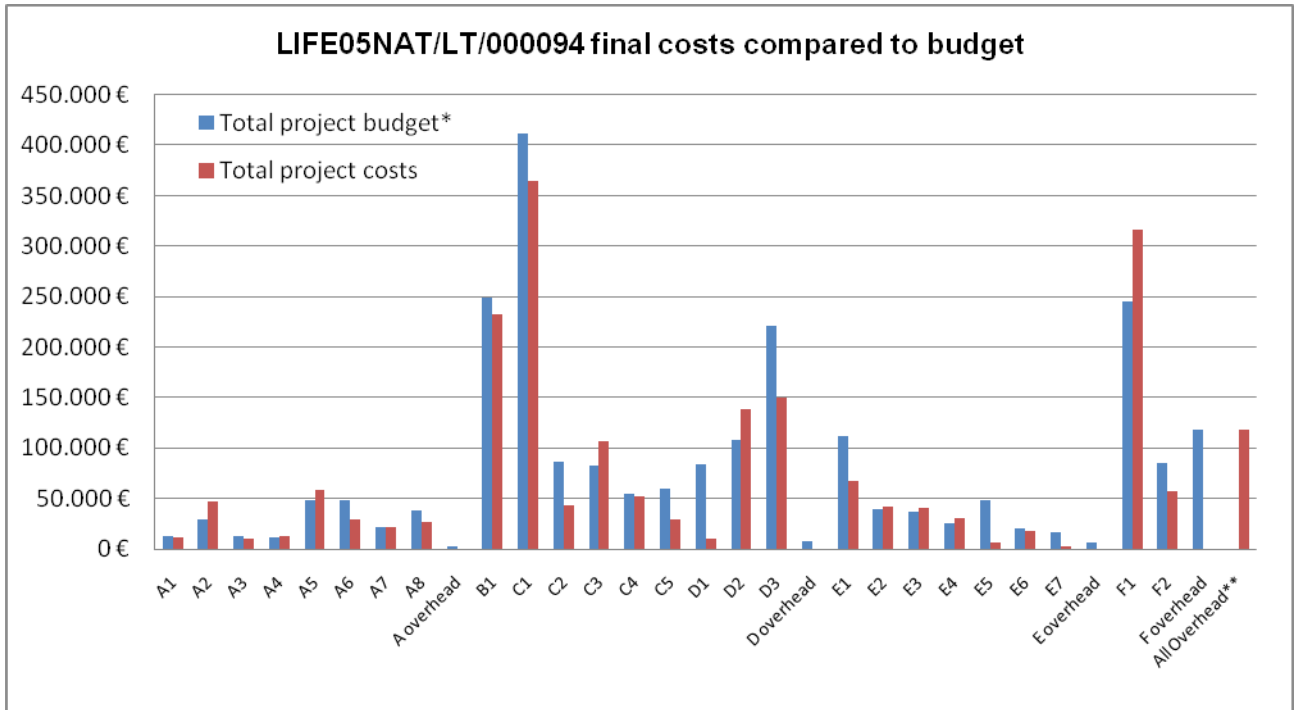
## 9.2 COMMITMENTS ON COSTS SORTED AFTER ACTIONS

	Action	Total project budget*	Total project costs	%
A actions	A1. Monitoring methods for turtles and amphibians	12.456 €	11.253 €	90,3%
	A2. Evaluation of ponds	29.089 €	46.602 €	160,2%
	A3. Defining favourable conservation status	13.273 €	10.657 €	80,3%
	A4. Action plans	11.568 €	12.342 €	106,7%
	A5. Evaluation of turtle hibernation sites	48.299 €	58.373 €	120,9%
	A6. Evaluation of turtle nesting sites	48.918 €	29.368 €	60,0%
	A7. Local management plans	22.276 €	22.035 €	98,9%
	A8. Genetic investigations	38.867 €	26.197 €	67,4%
	Overhead**	2.600 €	0 €	0,0%
	<b>All A actions</b>	<b>227.346 €</b>	<b>216.826 €</b>	<b>95,4%</b>
B	B1. Buffer zones	249.382 €	232.617 €	93,3%
	<b>All B actions</b>	<b>249.382 €</b>	<b>232.617 €</b>	<b>93,3%</b>
C actions	C1. Pond digging and restoration	411.154 €	364.908 €	88,8%
	C2. Creationg nesting sites for turtles	86.151 €	43.016 €	49,9%
	C3. Hibernation sites for turtles and amphibians	82.057 €	106.957 €	130,3%
	C4. Suitable grazing regime	55.251 €	51.650 €	93,5%
	C5. Removal of unwanted vegetation	60.220 €	29.759 €	49,4%
	<b>All C actions</b>	<b>694.833 €</b>	<b>596.290 €</b>	<b>85,8%</b>
D actions	D1. Management agreements	83.995 €	9.847 €	11,7%
	D2. Rearing of turtles	107.560 €	138.050 €	128,3%
	D3. Management of foraging habitats	220.982 €	149.784 €	67,8%
	Overhead**	7.500 €	0 €	0,0%
	<b>All D actions</b>	<b>420.037 €</b>	<b>297.681 €</b>	<b>70,9%</b>
E actions	E1. International education	111.247 €	67.215 €	60,4%
	E2. Education of lalcal community	39.742 €	42.586 €	107,2%
	E3. Onsite education	37.433 €	40.877 €	109,2%
	E4. Printed educational maaterials	26.114 €	31.140 €	119,2%
	E5. Best practice guideline	47.977 €	7.055 €	14,7%
	E6. Web page	20.370 €	17.569 €	86,2%
	E7. Layman report	16.399 €	3.278 €	20,0%
	Overhead**	6.700 €	0 €	0,0%
	<b>All E actions</b>	<b>305.982 €</b>	<b>209.719 €</b>	<b>68,5%</b>
F	F1. Project management and accountancy	245.742 €	316.471 €	128,8%
	F2. Monotoring project actions	85.119 €	57.181 €	67,2%
	Overhead**	117.744 €	0 €	0,0%
	<b>All F actions</b>	<b>448.605 €</b>	<b>373.651 €</b>	<b>83,3%</b>
	Overhead**	0 €	118.825 €	88,3%
	<b>SUM TOTAL</b>	<b>2.346.185 €</b>	<b>2.045.610 €</b>	<b>87,2%</b>

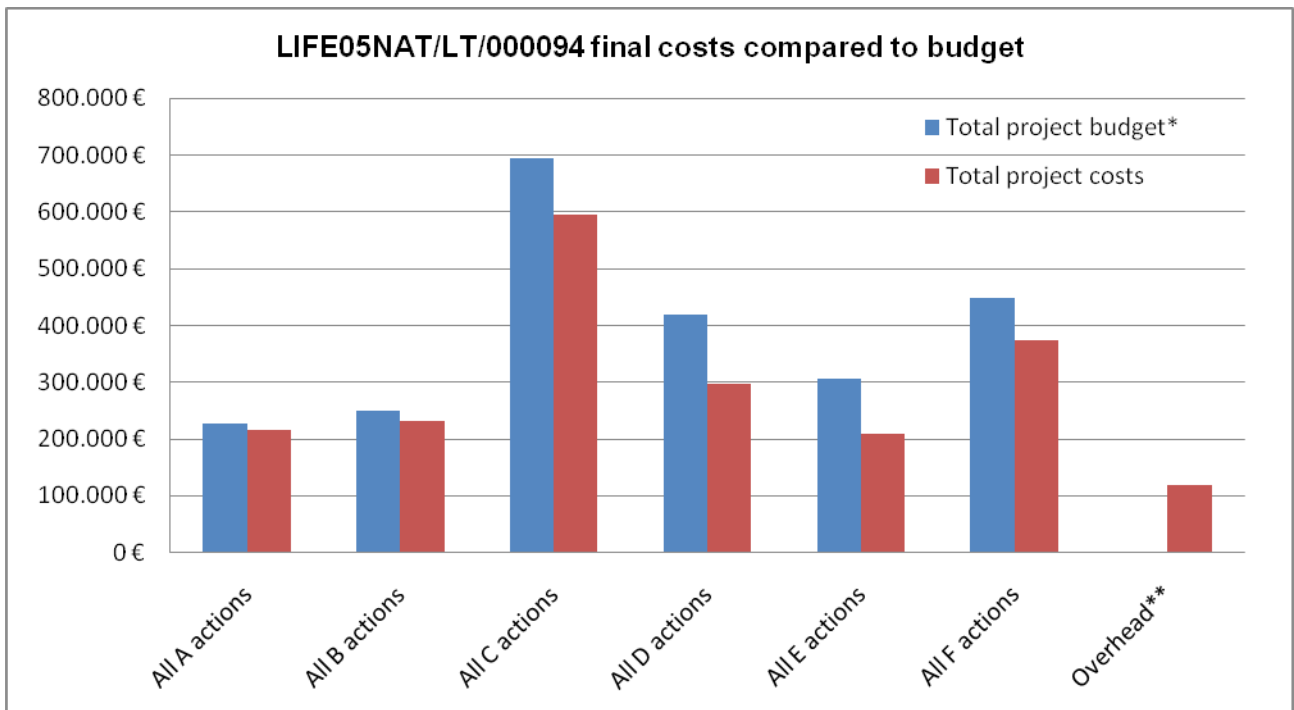
\*) or, if there has been an additional clause with budget modification, to the revised budget included in that additional clause

\*\*\*) Overhead is listed under actions according to budget, but in total under costs, as it has not been reported in relation to actions

**Table 94:** Project costs divided to actions in whole project period compared to budget.



**Illustration 93:** Project costs divided to actions in whole project period compared to budgets



**Illustration 94:** Project costs divided to action types in whole project period compared to budgets

The insured costs on action level during project implementation are shown in table 94 and illustration 93 and 94. In general the incurred costs are smaller than budgeted. The following notes



are focusing on actions where either the target was not reached or the insured costs have been higher than budgeted.

29. Action B1 land purchase. The purchased land 119.36 ha represents 95.0 % of the actually planned purchase of 125.59 ha. Subtracting the budgeted EUR 5,000 for compensation of fish pond in Poland, the remaining budget is on EUR 244,382. The insured costs of EUR 232,617 represent 95.2 % of this budget. We off course acknowledge that the lacking purchase of 6.23 ha entails a corresponding reduction of available budget. As reaming in both ha and budget is 5 % we consider the whole sum for the land purchased eligible.

## Annexes

No.	Action	Name
<b>technical</b>		
1.1	A1	Lithuanian National monitoring of emys orbicularis
1.2.	A1	Lithuanian National monitoring of amphibians B.b. and T.c.
1.3.	A1	Proposals for monitoring methods
2.	A2	Evaluation of pond statistics
3.	A3.	Report on Favourable conservation status
4.- 4.9.	A4	National action plans
4.1.		Action plan of Eo. For Lithuania
4.2.		Action plan of B.b for Lithuania
4.3.		Action plan of T.c. For Lithuania
4.4.		Approval of plans by Lithuania
4.5.		Action plan of B.b. for West Poland
4.6.		Action plan of T.c. for West Poland
4.7.		Action plan of Eo. For Germany, Brandenburg
4.8.		Action plan of T.c. for Germany, Brandenburg
4.9		German acceptance of plans
5.	A5.	Hibernation sites report
6.	A6	Nesting sites report
7.1-7.	A7	National action plans with approval
7.1.		Local management actions for Lithuanian project sites L03-L07
7.2.		LMP for pk01
7.3.		LMP for pk02
7.4.		LMP for pk03
7.5.		LMP for pk04
7.6.		LMP for pk05
7.7.		LMP for pk06
7.8.		Approval letter of pk 05
7.9.		LMP for Bp01
7.10.		Approval of plan
7.11		LMP for Da01-da05
7.12.		LMP for Da02
7.13.1-7.13.5	Approval letters by responsible authorities	
8.	A8.	Genetic report
9.1-9.8.	B1	Land registry clauses
9.9.		Table showing all purchased land
9.10.		Transfer of land to Agena as National Heritage Fund
10.	C1	List of dams installed in Pp01 and pp02
11.	C1	Description of habitats within pp01 and pp02
12	C1	Maps of actions
13	C2	Detalization of activities
14	C3	Detalization of activities
15.1.	D1	Lithuanian examples of agreements
15. 2.	D1	Polish examples of agreements
16.	D3	Letter of obligation by ZBR to mow the rest of meadows
17.		Pictures
18.	E1	Programmes of seminars
19.	E2	List of education activities
20.	E2.	Articles and press releases
21.	E4	Polish poster on pond turtles and leaflet

22.	E5.	Best practice brochure
23.	E7.	Layman Report in English
24.	E7.	Layman report in German (not printed, pdf)
25.	F1	Agreement by the board to appoint Nerijus Zableckis as PD
26.	F2.	Evaluation of favourable conservation status of every site status according to criteria set in A3.
27.	F3	After Life conservation plan
28		CD with pictures
Financial		
F 1	F1	Audit Report - submitted
F2	F1	Audit conclusion on tender procedurs
F3	F1	Contracts with new partners
F4	F1	VAT documentation
F5.1		Hanz Loberenz, salary, time sheets
F5.2.		Mirowska-Iwona Ibron, salary, time sheets
F5.3.		Krysciak Koszinska salary, time sheets
F5.4.		M. Meeske salary, time sheets
F6.		Nerijus Zableckis,P time sheets
F7		Mr. Beckman time sheets