



Project „Securing sustainable farming to ensure conservation of globally threatened bird species in agrarian landscape“ **Projekto Nr. LIFE09 NAT/LT/000233**

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Project partners:



**EVALUATION OF PROJECT REALIZATION SUCCESS
Report for year 2012 (second field season)**

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Methodology of the evaluation

This evaluation is carried out according to the *ACTION E.2: Monitoring/evaluation of project success*. (The expert will provide direct scientific advice to the project manager as well as nature conservation measures, he will travel to the project sites analyses data of post-ante monitoring and provide regular reports to the steering group).

Evaluation based on a preparatory study of documents related to the project cycle (project document, progress reports).

Information and data for the assessments of this evaluation have been obtained from :

Conduct desk-reviews, interviews and site-visits in order to obtain objective and verifiable data to substantive evaluation ratings and assessments;

Validate the strategies for management of project sites and monitoring of rehabilitation processes applied within the project;

Verify on-site immediate effects of rehabilitation from the biodiversity perspectives;

Interviews with Project Management Unit and key project stakeholders, and experts.

EVALUATION OF ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT OUTCOMES AND RECOMENDATION

Objective 1 – Ensuring favorable conservation status of the Aquatic warbler* by means of restoration of unfavorably managed or abandoned habitats in most important known sites in Lithuania and Latvia and forming favorable habitat conditions for species conservation

***ACTION A.1: Ex-ante and Post-ante monitoring of Aquatic warbler in the project sites
Development and approval of methodic for counts and mapping of singing males and breeding females.***

Methodic for counts and mapping of singing males development and approval. Methodic is developed considering the features of study areas, the necessary maps are prepared. Methodic envisages involvement of volunteers into counts.

Mapping of singing males two times during the breeding season on all project sites every year during project implementation (according to methods approved); Absolute counts of singing males were carried out two times during the breeding season according to the methodic at all the project sites. Volunteers passed preliminary training were involved into counts. Position of each singing male was mapped. Thus, a quality results on number and location of all singing males at all the project territories were obtained in 2011. Counts of birds' number will be implemented early. Obtaining of knowledge on species number dynamics and changes in locations of singing males will be the main indicator of project implementation success.

Mapping of breeding females two times during the breeding season on all project sites.

Mapping of breeding females was carried out in 2011. As a result, the important data on timing of breeding and distribution of Aquatic Warbler breeding females were obtained. These data are used for planning of area management (timing of mowing, the area of plots that should not be mowed, etc.).

Development and approval of methodology for biotopes' mapping and description of vegetation structure.

During the developments of this methodology the experience of a number of other projects was used. As a result, methodology for biotopes' mapping and description of vegetation structure is developed and approved in practice. The main feature and merit of this methodology is usage of high-resolution satellite images and detailed description of vegetation at project territories. This methodic could be successfully used in similar projects aiming the habitats management.

The prolonged field works and processing of material with use of GIS technologies are necessary for implementation of this methodic. However, higher human and financial resources are needed mainly only for initial vegetation mapping. In subsequent years the considerably lesser efforts will be needed for evaluation of dynamics of vegetation associations under influence of management actions.

Implementation of mapping and description of vegetation structure before and after the implementation of the proposed management actions (according to methodology approved).

For the first time for the projects on conservation of Aquatic Warbler the comprehensive description and study of distribution of vegetation communities were done. As a result

the detailed maps of vegetation with the description of each association are prepared for all project sites. Data on distribution of vegetation communities and recommendations made by botanists allow detailed planning of management activities at Aquatic Warbler habitats:

- to define the type of biotope of the project area – fen mire or floodplain meadow. This is very important for subsequent planning of different approaches to habitat management.
- to define plots to be mowed once or twice in the year;
- to define the timing of mowing on different plots to form optimal conditions for Aquatic Warbler;

Besides, mapping of vegetation is the very important instrument for evaluation of effectiveness of project activities. The area (sedge communities) suitable for Aquatic Warbler should enlarge considerably as a result of project activities on mowing and removal of vegetation, which, in turn, will lead to increasing of Aquatic Warbler numbers. Mapping of vegetation after implementation of planned actions should demonstrate changes of areas and structure of vegetation communities.

Recommendations:

- to conduct yearly research of changes of vegetation structure at territories with intensive management for studying dynamics of vegetation from reeds to sedge communities (projective coverage and other standard indicators). This will allow if necessary to recommend additional measures of habitat management. These works are especially important for project territory Tyrai.

ACTION A.2: Development of specific regional agri-environmental measures for important Aquatic Warbler sites in the Nemunas delta

Development proposal for an agri-environmental scheme for the Nemunas delta region;

Development proposals for specific agri-environmental measures relevant for the region;

Economic analysis and calculation of reasonable agri-environmental payments for practicing these measures.

Agri-environmental scheme is developed considering all interested parties: scientific experts from AWCT, main local stakeholders, Ministry of Agriculture. Prepared agri-environmental measure for AW conservation shall enter into negotiation process with EC in the 4th quarter of 2012 with opening new RDP negotiation package.

ACTION A3: Formation of ecological priority land-use plot in LT02-Tulkaragė project area (start – Sep. 2010; end – June 2012)

Despite the best efforts of management group the question of **Formation of ecological priority land-use plot in LT02-Tulkaragė project area** is in delay. Decision of this question is expected to be taken to March 2013. Despite the delay of this activity from the project timetable, it does not yet have negative impact to the project results. Habitat restoration in Tulkaragė project area (action C4) is implemented by local stakeholders without delay with all necessary permits to carry out the activities.

The great achievement of management group is that the local stakeholder company Golden Grass was convicted to take this land on lease to organize mowing with subsequent use of biomass for pellets production.

ACTION A.4: Development of the recommendations on the solutions for landowners to manage properly Aquatic Warbler breeding habitats, ensuring sustainable economic benefit

Development of the recommendations on the solutions for landowners to manage properly Aquatic warbler breeding habitats, ensuring sustainable economic benefit;

At present the project team intensively collect and process the material for preparation of publication. There are many approaches to removal and use of marsh biomass at present, but it should be stated that there is no effective and logistic way of mowing, drying, removal and usage of vegetation biomass of marshes at the moment. Thus, this is the reason of difficulties with development of recommendations.

Holding of workshops for acquaintance with practical experience in alternative methods of usage.

The project team has done a great job with local landusers, explaining the importance of conservation of Aquatic Warbler habitats and sustainable landuse on rare bird species habitats. In particular, the owners of the most plots at project sites were revealed. Private meetings with farmers were conducted. Besides, the workshops were organized with presence of the most of farmers; after busy discussions the most of landuser agreed to implement proposed schemes of mowing. During this work the project employees have shown a high professionalism in organization and implementation of work with public and land users.

C. Concrete conservation actions

LT1 TYRAI Action C1: Restoration of the main Aquatic warbler breeding site of Lithuania – Tyrai flooded meadows

(The area of habitat suitable for AW is 950 ha. 450 ha of Aquatic Warbler habitat restored/managed eliminating dense reed stands and scarce bushes).

Mowing for reed elimination on area of 450 ha two times per year (June and after breeding season in August) removing the mowed vegetation from the area;

Procurement of mowing machinery. It is recommended to use machinery with minimal pressure on the ground for mowing on fen mires with presence of peat layer. Crawler tractors (ratrak) with wide track and pressure on the ground about 0.07 kilos/sm² are widely used for mowing of mires in Poland. However after long discussions with landusers it was decided to procure wheel tractor Valtra with pressure on the ground about 0.35 kilos/sm². Usage of this tractor during season of 2012 has shown that pressure on the ground is higher than the Ratrack, however is acceptable, especially if double-wheels are attached to the machinery (reducing pressure to 0,175 kg/sm²). The tractor modification occurs to be suitable as it performs mowing more quickly and efficiently, petrol consumption is significantly lower.

The usage of wheel tractor for marsh mowing was a testing of new methodic. Usage of wheel machinery at typical fen mires is unacceptable because of increased pressure to the soil. However considering the features of Baltic marshes (peat layer not more than 40 cm, presence of dry period in July-September) the usage of wheel tractor proved to be very effective here. Thus, taking into account that the wheel machinery mowing was applied at the marsh practically for the first time, re-equipment of technique was needed and

together with gaining of experience it took a considerable amount of time (establishment of double wheels on the tractor and the baler, establishment of leading ski on mower).

Mowing and removal of reeds on an area of 450 hectares

About 300 ha of the area were mowed to the end of October 2012. A part of reed stands was remained at area of not more than 50 ha due to presence of large stones in this place. Reeds at the area of about 200 ha were mowed, rolled and removed from the area. Just in separate spots the mowed rows of reeds were remained at the mire.

There are no reed sprouts at the territory that was mowed at the end of August-September. The reed sprouts grew up to 60-80 cm long at the territory of about 100 ha that was mowed at the end of July.

Taking into account the absence of world experience in management of marsh vegetation, it is necessary jointly with botanists to define the optimal terms for reeds mowing so that after the mowing the reeds sprouts grow up not more than 30 cm. This will ensure decrease of mire's trophic status due to removal of phosphates and nitrates; result in weakening and gradual vanishing of reeds; create optimal conditions for Aquatic Warbler. Besides, it is very important to keep the condition that all the mowed vegetation should be removed from the mire; in case of impossibility of removal, vegetation should be milled at place with mulching machine.

Mowing of habitat favorable for AW (open fen mire plots) by stripes of 50-meters wide alternating with uncut stripes of 20 meters wide for increasing productivity of habitat;

It is recommended to test this method during the season of 2013.

Establishment of monitoring wells and water level control once per 2 weeks;

Three wells were established for water level monitoring. Results of measurements are on processing at present. After the processing is finished the water level dynamics will be analyzed and on the basis of these data the recommendations on the timing of mowing will be done.

Recommendations:

- to set dual wheels on the tractor;
- to set additional wheels on press-pickup machine.
- it is appropriate to conduct the controlled burning of uncut spots of reeds and rows of mowed and remained at the mire reeds during November 2012 – March 2013. Tyrai mire due to its placement on the coast is an ideal object for use of controlled burning method. Applying of this method is especially important during the first year of mowing, when the old vegetation stocks are very abundant and thus it is quite difficult to remove all the mowed biomass from the mire. Accumulations of old grass, remained at the mire, prevent the formation of sedge communities.
- Special investigations should be carried out by botanists to define the terms of reeds mowing ensuring the repeated reeds sprouts grow not more than 30 cm long. This will let mowing of reeds just once during the season and reaching the necessary effect of gradual vanishing of reeds and its replacement with sedge communities. Repeated growth of reed sprouts up to 30 cm will ensure its weakening and will not disturb the vegetation structure suitable for the Aquatic Warbler during the next season.

LT04 ZUVINTAS Action C2: Restoration and further demonstrational management of the fens in the Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve – the oldest known breeding site of the Aquatic warbler in Lithuania

(The area of suitable for AW habitat is 328 ha).

- Removal of reeds by means of controlled fire;

Controlled fire management method has been applied after which it was concluded that such management method does not provide additional added value to the habitat restoration quality compared to other methods and in principal it is not sustainable due to loss of the biomass by burning, which could be used for other purposes. The major benefit of such method is that it can be applied when all other methods with machinery are not possible. After the mowing of the whole planned territory, the necessity of controlled burning will be considered.

Mowing of reeds in the late autumn/ winter time with the prototype tractor;

Process of procurement of tractor and mowers for hay making has been just started in 2011. However project administration has reached an agreement with local private company to borrow machinery for removal of shrubs and mowing the reeds in 2011. Thus, the considerable part of the project territory overgrown with close reed stands was cleared.

It is planned to finalize the procurement of necessary machinery in 2012 and start mowing in such a way that mowed biomass will be used for production of fuel pellets.

Removal of trees, bushes and cutting of the reed stands with the prototype tractor and manually, taking-away the biomass.

The local private company removed bushes by mulch machine in 2011, which is acceptable solution for the first year of vegetation management. In subsequent years the mowing at these areas shall be done by tractor procured by the project with obligatory removal of biomass from the place.

PAPE SITE, LAKE LIEPAJA Action C3: Demonstrational restoration management of the wet meadows at lake Liepaja and Pape site – the former breeding site and stopover sites of the Aquatic warbler in Latvia

Removal of trees and bushes, cutting of reed stands with the prototype tractor and manually, taking-away the biomass

Removal of trees and bushes at Pape site was conducted according to all rules. Trees and bushes were cut and removed from the territory. The result was reached due to successful work on partners search. The company was detected, for which the removal and further usage of reeds turned out to be economically effective. Besides other benefits, this ensures sustainability of the project after its completion.

Removal of woody vegetation has also been performed in Liepaja project site (LV06), to date, shrub cutting is finished on 19.4 ha area out of 100 ha planned.

Recommendations:

In following years it is necessary to cut growing underbrush at places where bushes and trees were removed. This work could be done with use of mulch machine.

Cutting reeds in the late autumn/ winter time with the prototype tractor.

Habitat restoration has not been performed in 2011. Preparatory works has been conducted to find appropriate machinery for the restoration activities and reach agreement with land-owners to perform activities for the next season.

As a result, the land-owner was revealed who is interested in reeds mowing at this area with subsequent usage of biomass for roof construction. About 10 ha of reeds were mowed by special machine Seiga to the end of October; the rest of the territory about 80 ha will be mowed and removed from the mire when the mire will be completely dry

during the winter. A reed mowing at the area of 40 ha was conducted without removal of biomass from the mire. However we can conclude the expediency of such a way of mowing during the first year due to small density of reeds and its pressing by the wheels to the ground.

Recommendations:

In subsequent years it is necessary to test the following cycle of mowing for this mire:

- Seiga mows and removes vegetation as sheaves to the edge of the mire near the road;
- the usual tractor with stationary press forms a rolls of vegetation;
- rolls are transported to the place of its usage.

To implement this scheme of mowing it is necessary to find a partner who will be interested in business on production of fuel pellets from vegetation biomass.

Another scheme assumes annual mowing of reeds for its usage in roofs construction. To implement this scheme it will be necessary to prepare the territory for effective usage of Seiga by means of shrubs removal.

LT02 TULKIARAGE Action C4: Restoration of the former important Aquatic warbler breeding site – Tulkiarage polder of the Nemunas delta SPA
(The area of habitat suitable for AW is 400 ha. 400 ha of Aquatic Warbler habitat restored/managed eliminating dense reed stands and scarce bushes).

100 ha of the area are restored by cutting of bushes and trees once a year during two years;

- works were conducted in 2012, and will be evaluated later.

200 ha of the area are restored by removing of dense reed stands at least during two years repeating action twice a year;

During 2011 season, habitat restoration has been carried out in 200 ha area, in 2012, restoration has been performed also in 200 ha area (which is partly overlapping with 2011 season mowing and partly new area).

Due to very high humidity level, it was not possible to take out biomass from the field. On the basis of discussions the decision was taken to use mulch machine and apply shredding where biomass take out is not possible due to high water table. For other areas where biomass can be removed – it shall be done so.

The whole area of 400 ha is managed by removing old vegetation.

To mow the whole territory of polder with use of usual agricultural machinery it is necessary two weeks before mowing to decrease a water level to 20-40 cm below soil surface. After drying of the upper soil layer the applying of usual wheel machinery became possible. A portable water pump of necessary power could be used for this. After the reconstruction of the isolating dam is finished the water level could be managed by way of water swap.

Establishment of monitoring wells and water level control once per 2 weeks;

Two wells were established for water level monitoring. Results of measurements are on processing at present. After the processing is finished the water level dynamics will be analyzed and on the basis of these data the recommendations on the timing of mowing will be done.

Restoration of 2 water gates in the polder system and 200 meters of polder dyke.

The partner AB2 has fulfilled works on closing of water gates in a dam that barriers polder from the bay. The recommendations on usage of excavator and dam repair with the local ground were implemented during the constructions. Closing of washouts in dams will let regulations of water level in a whole polder.

Besides, the AB2 has established regulating gates, which prevent excessive water release from the polder.

Recommendations: The regulating gates in sluices should be installed at the level recommended by experts on the basis of water level measurements and soil surface level. For successful mowing by usual agricultural techniques it is recommended to pump the water with portable water pump from the whole territory of the polder till the water level decreases to 20-40 cm below soil surface. The works on water pumping should be started from the first of July. The detailed calculations of pump capacity should be done before pump procurement on the basis of the area of the territory and volume of pumping water. It is important that the leasers of the territory should decide on the way of biomass use. The local company Golden Grass builds at present a mini factory for the production of fuel pellets from the vegetation biomass. This will ensure sustainable mowing of the mire after the finishing of the project.

LT03 SYSA Action C5: Demonstration management of grasslands for Aquatic warbler conservation in Šyša polder

The area of habitat suitable for AW – 300 ha. The area suitable for AW, sustainably managed (late mowing, without nests disturbing) – 60 ha in 2014. Water level in May-June is about the soil surface.

Development and implementation of agricultural and environment-friendly plan of use on the whole area: late mowing (from since 20th of July, the exact terms of mowing should be defined on the base of data on nesting phenology). It is possible as a compromise to start mowing from 1st of July, which allows AW to finish first clutches successfully.

Project territory Sysa is a high-productive floodplain meadow, which is owned by many landusers and is intensively used for hay making. Thus, it is extremely important to develop an agricultural and environment-friendly plan of use of this area for conservation of Aquatic Warbler. The project team has conducted a great job on development of such a plan: meetings and consultations with most of landusers are carried out; plan versions are discussed at AWCT workshops. At present it is agreed to use several kinds of landuse for areas occupied by Aquatic Warbler and where the species is absent at this year. These variants will be tested during subsequent years.

Regulation of water level by means of restored water gates so that the water level is maintained at soil surface from 1st of May till 15th of June.

Negotiations were conducted with management structures responsible for exploitation of sluice regulating water level at polder, but final agreement was not reached.

Establishment of monitoring wells and water level control once per 2 weeks;

Three wells were established for water level monitoring. Results of measurements are obtained and on processing at present. After the processing is finished the water level dynamics will be analyzed and on the basis of these data the recommendations on

exploitation of water gates and pumping station will be done for maintenance of optimal water levels.

Recommendations: to develop and approve with local authorities the regulations of exploitation of polder system for maintenance of optimal water levels for conservation of Aquatic Warbler and ensuring stable hay making. Optimal water levels at polder could be reached by means of regulating of water release by pumping station and establishment of overflow optimal level on the sluice.

Objective 2 – Establish and promote favorable and sustainable conditions for farmers/landowners to implement conservation measures by renewed agro-environmental schemes and supported by alternative economic solutions

ACTION C.6: Demonstration of the innovative usage of late-cut biomass

The briquetting facility is not setup. Associated beneficiary 4 is searching for available location where to place the facility. In parallel research work is ongoing on the type of the machinery to purchase. Market research indicates that pelleting instead of producing briquettes is preferred option. Progress of the action shall be evaluated in 2012.

Carrying of quality evaluation of fuel briquettes and its economic potential to sell it in the market (Analysis-study and market research of briquetting facility potential for Lithuanian conditions (results incorporated into publication made in action A4); The draft publication is prepared by the project expert. At present the material is on editing.

Purchase of machinery and installed briquetting facility.

At present the process of procurement of machinery for briquetting facility is ongoing.

ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS

Indicator	Target	Level of achievement
Action D1: Setup and maintenance of project website	Project website setup 30.12. 2010	project website www.meldine.lt has been regularly updated, website has been visited by 2111 unique visitors (above 5000 visits)
Action D.2: Setup of visual infrastructure in the project sites	8 information stands setup in all project sites before end of December 2014. Set-up special exposition in the protected area's visitor centre in project area LT04.	Six information stands in Lithuanian project areas are already setup. Remaining two in Latvian project sites will be placed in November 2012. Exposition installation will be completed on schedule in June 2013.
Action D3: International conference on Aquatic warbler conservation achievements	(start – Sept. 2013; end – June 2014)	Not started
Action D4: Work with media	Foreseen indicator target in Progress report	Achieved indicator target in Progress report. Most of indicators tasks are overfulfilled at 10-50%.
Action D5: Production and distribution of printed information materials about Aquatic warbler and agri-environmental measures	Project leaflet, Publication about Aquatic Warbler, Brochure on conservation measures, Book-toy for children, Poster, Wall calendar 1 st year, 2 nd year, 3 rd year	Project leaflet - Completed Publication about Aquatic Warbler - Ongoing Brochure on conservation measures - Ongoing Book-toy for children - Ongoing Poster - started Wall calendar 1 st year, 2 nd year - Completed

Action D6: Project film	Project film produced 30.06.2014	Ongoing
Action D7: Dialogue/negotiations with land-users to join implementation of the agri-environmental schemes	a) mapping of landowners in the project area and awareness raising about the project and AW; b) farmers consultation and involvement into design of new agri-environmental measure (action A4) and c) negotiations with farmers to postpone mowing activities in breeding sites of AW	Five meetings with local stakeholders conducted during the reporting period (number of participants – 124). Individual meetings with local landowners and farmers conducted during the reporting period (farmers consulted – 101).
Action D8: Seminar on dissemination of project results	30.08.2015	Not started
Action E2: Monitoring/evaluation of project success	1 st – 4 th monitoring reports	1 st monitoring reports completed “Overview and analysis of scientific data obtained during project implementation, aiming development of management strategy for project areas” 30.12.2011. 2 st monitoring reports “Evaluation of project realization success (2012)” will be finished 30.12.2012.
Action E4: Gathering of international know-how experience related to Aquatic warbler conservation – study visits and networking with other projects	Three study visits	First study visit has been organized to AW breeding sites in Belarus (June 2012). Second study visit to Poland targeting authorities for getting knowledge about habitat management and use of biomass has been organized (August 2012). Third study visit dedicated for farmers to gain experience about balancing nature conservation needs and economic interest is planned in 2013.

EVALUATION OF ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT OUTCOMES

1. The project achieved considerable improvement of the enabling environment for sustainable use of Aquatic Warbler habitat. A number of clear and concrete directives has been (or will be) incorporated in the current framework for sustainable use of fen mire and floodplain meadows, such as (a) ***an agri-environmental scheme for the Nemunas delta region***; (b) Development of the recommendations on the solutions for landowners to manage properly Aquatic Warbler habitats, ensuring sustainable economic benefit, (c) Formation of ecological priority land-use plot in LT02-Tulkaragė project area (d) Purchase of privately-owned key Aquatic warbler habitat areas in Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve site, (e) Demonstration of the innovative usage of late-cut biomass. All these results are expected to be approved before the end of 2013. The main result of this is that political and economic conditions will be created for sustainable use of Aquatic Warbler habitats. Sustainable use will become economically beneficial for landusers. Besides, the examples of sustainable use of mires’ biomass (pellets production) will be demonstrated.

2. The most important achievement of the project is that all conditions have been or are being created for deriving direct benefits to local authorities and landowners from sustainable use of Aquatic Warbler habitats, such as: agri-environmental scheme payments (all the farmers in all Lithuanian project sites); benefit from sale of vegetation biomass (Kretinga State Forest Enterprise, Tyrai project site); benefit from sale of fuel pellets (Golden Grass, Tulkerage and Zuvintas NP). All local farmers during communications show interest in participation in agri-environmental scheme and not only due to economic reasons.
3. The important achievement of the project is that possibilities of sustainable use of biomass have been demonstrated in all project sites already at the third year of project implementation: mowing system and collection of vegetation biomass are practically adjusted. The necessary machinery is procured with participation of landusers and is being used already; and besides, there are different techniques and different ways of mowing in every site considering territories' features. Landusers gained necessary experience of sustainable mowing. It is important to note that at some areas where the process of machinery procurement was not finished, the project management group and landusers conducted a planned mowing with mobilization of other companies and other machinery. It is extremely important to demonstrate not only possibilities of mowing, but also a ways of effective usage of biomass for fuel pellets production. Thus, the purchasing and establishment of mini factory for biomass processing in Zuvintas Reserve should be accelerated, as well as accelerated building of such a factory by company Golden Grass should be encouraged.
4. Within the framework of the project the complete monitoring system has been developed and tested for assessment the effects of project activities on state of the habitats for globally important biodiversity. Based on intensive field studies the initial state of habitats and biodiversity in all project territories were assessed (GIS maps of distribution of vegetation communities developed, absolute counts of numbers and distribution of Aquatic Warbler males carried out). The assessment of effectiveness of implemented project actions will be based on study of the state of vegetation communities and numbers and distribution of birds. Scientific approaches, applied within the project, were tested and approved by AWCT (Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team) experts.
5. Success of any project is largely determined by proper system of project ideas promotion at all levels, starting from work with local people till Ministries level. It should be noted that the project management group has reached a considerable success in this component, which is proved by not only quantitative indicators of Promotional actions (see progress report), but also by changes in problem understanding by authorities, local people, landusers. Promotion work is conducted with all interested parties and by different methods. It is expected that as a result of the project implementation, the sustainable management of floodplain meadows and fen mires will be conducted not only in project sites but will also expand to other territories.