



LIFE Project Number
LIFE11 NAT/PL/000431

MIDTERM Report
Covering the project activities from 01/10/2012 to 30/11/2013
Reporting Date
31/12/2013

LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym
**Czynna ochrona zagrożonych gatunków i siedlisk na obszarze
Natura 2000 „Ostoja Wigierska”**

Project Data

Project location	Podlaskie Voivodeship , Poland
Project start date:	01/10/2012
Project end date:	11/12/2017
Total Project duration (in months)	63 months
Total budget	€ 3 046 808,00
Total eligible budget	€1 523 404,00
EU contribution:	€1 523 404,00
(%) of total costs	50%
(%) of eligible costs	50%

Beneficiary Data

Name Beneficiary	Wigry National Park
Contact person	Mr Lech Krzysztofiak
Postal address	Krzywe 82, PL-Poland, 16-402, Suwałki
Visit address	Krzywe 82, PL-Poland, 16-402, Suwałki
Telephone	+48-87-5632540, mobile: 50-24-78720
Fax:	+48-87-5632541
E-mail	krzysztofiak.lech@gmail.com
Project Website	http://www.life.wigry.win.pl/

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1. List of Contents

2. Executive Summary

The project is implemented almost entirely in accordance with the schedule. The information about the project is being published regularly on the project's website (<http://www.life.wigry.win.pl/>) and additionally, in WIGRY Quarterly published by Wigry National Park, which has a nationwide coverage. One milestone step was reached within the time limit (signing of the project's realization contract) and 8 deliverable products of the project were obtained: folder about the project – E.1 Action, gadgets promoting the LIFE+ logo – E.10 Action, technical projects of the manure plates and reservoirs – A2 Action, building permits for reservoirs – A.2 Action, arrangements regarding the construction of the manure plates – A2, set of posters on alien invasive species – E.9 Action, technical projects of tunnels for amphibians – A.3, building permits for the amphibians' tunnels – A.3. Technical projects of the tunnels for amphibians – A.3, as well as the building permits for those tunnels – A.3, will be enclosed as attachment no 2 to this report.

Minor changes (delays) occurred in the course of the realization of E.10 Action - gadgets promoting the LIFE + logo and E.8 - organization of workshops. Most of the gadgets were purchased at the beginning of 2013, but the entire operation was completed in September, when the missing 1,000 linen bags with print were produced. Educational activities in the form of workshops were supposed to begin in the fourth quarter of 2012, but due to the prolonged phase of the contractor's selection, the first workshops were held in late February of 2013.

The changes also occurred in the implementation of E.3 Action - Production of the informative and educational boards on selected activities, D.1 Action - Monitoring, and F.2 Action - Creating the network with other projects. The production of the informative and educational boards was supposed to take place after the completion of activities related to the building of the tunnels for amphibians. These boards were supposed to present also the photographs of the created tunnels. The delay in the completion of one of the tunnels system and unfavorable weather made the preparation of the materials for some of the boards impossible. Therefore, it was decided to terminate the preparation of the boards and to install them in the area the next year, in the spring. In the case of D.1 Action the official start of works was delayed due to the decision to undertake the procedures to shift the burden of this task on the staff of the Beneficiary, rather than outsourcing a unit from the outside (corresponding letter was sent to the European Commission, the letter was sent on September 2nd 2013. Within the F.2 Action, in the spring-summer period, an abroad study trip was

planned, but due to the extended selection procedure of the most corresponding program and dates to carry out such visit, the Beneficiary has decided to postpone the trip until the next year.

Other activities were carried out efficiently and without significant changes or difficulties. In the current reporting period the following Actions have begun: A1, A2, A3, B1, C3, C4, C5, C6, E1, E2, E4, E7, E8, E9, E10, F1, F2, F5, F6. Actions: A2, A3, C5, C6, E1, E2, E9, E10, F6 has been completed. After the end of the procedures for the selection of contractors and the completion of the Actions: A2, A3, C5, C6, E1, E2, E9, E10, F6, it became clear that all funds planned for these activities were not spent – 12 315,02 EUR and remained in the budget.

In total, until now the amount of financial savings resulted from the verification of the costs of the individual activities within the tendering procedures is 90 690,69 EUR and taking into account the additional contract on the placement of asphalt concrete road surface on the 1153B Okuniowiec-Wiatrołuza county road, related to the C.4 Action - 56143,24 EUR. The Beneficiary intends to use those funds to extend the area of the removal of *Impatiens glandulifera* (C.3 Action), as well as to establish the appraisal reports for lands planned to be purchased (A.1 Action).

This will not be a significant change in the meaning of the Common Rules as it does not increase the costs provided in one or more categories of expenditure by more than 10% and 30 000 EUR. More than half of the savings comes not only from the same category of expenditure, but also with the same activities for which funds are to be spent.

3. Introduction

The aim of the project is to protect the endangered species and habitats in the Natura 2000 'Wigry Refugium'. Objectives adopted for implementation are still valid, and possible actions are to perform. The natural conditions have not changed so drastically that they would threaten the implementation of the activities envisaged in the project. Only the significant enlargement of the area of occurrence of *Impatiens glandulifera* constitutes a certain problem that can be solved by covering the new places of occurrence of *Impatiens glandulifera* with the scope of activity C.3. The biggest threats to native wildlife in the area of 'Wigry Refugium' include: urbanization of valuable natural areas, their fragmentation and devastation, the expansion of alien species, omission or change in land use, pollution and excessive growth of the automotive industry. As a result of these factors, there is a significant

reduction in species diversity and population sizes of valuable plant and animal species. The specific objectives of the project are:

- Reduction in mortality during seasonal migration of amphibians
- Improvement of the living conditions of valuable plant and animal species (eg orchids, butterflies, dragonflies)
- The protection of indigenous flora against invasive species - *Impatiens glandulifera*
- The protection of valuable natural habitats.

Main procedures: the reduction in mortality of amphibians - construction of culvert system for amphibians in areas where their migration routes intersect with communication routes; improvement of the quality of habitat of dragonflies: *Leucorrhina pectoralis* and *Ophiogomphus cecilia*, and butterflies: *Lycaena dispar* and *Lycaena helle*, lipped mussel *Unio crassus* and the corncrake *Crex crex* - mowing and cutting of shrubs in wet meadows, construction of manure boards and tanks for liquid manure; improvement of the quality of habitats of valuable plant species – the purchase of private land, mowing and cutting of shrubs, construction of footbridges.

Some of the activities planned in the project have a very specific socio-economic dimension, as they are implemented on private land, within the boundaries of the Natura 2000 site, and represent a form of economic aid for farms (the construction of manure plates protecting the environment from pollution by animal husbandry - action C.5). The construction of access for amphibians under the roads (action C.4) and new footbridges on tourist routes (action C.6), which are elements that protect selected natural components, also has a social connotation: it is helpful in organizing classes aimed at understanding of indigenous wildlife. The culverts limiting the amphibian mortality on roads are a great didactic aid in teaching nature. In addition, through a series of meetings and workshops (activities E.6, E.7, E.8), and a variety of publications (Action E.1, E.4, E.9) the project has large impact on society (mainly the local community) by shaping its positive attitude to the activities undertaken in the field of active protection of the environment. An important element of these activities is to familiarize the public with the core of the Natura 2000 network, its rules, limitations and advantages. It is expected that as a result of widespread information and educational activities the community attitude will be friendly to the protective actions, including those planned in the project.

The expected results after the implementation of the project: reduction of mortality of amphibians during the seasonal migration in two local populations – by at least 80%; increase in the number of households equipped with devices to reduce pollution from farms (by 4

farms); reduction in the size of the population of invasive plant species of foreign origin - *Impatiens glandulifera* in selected areas by at least 80-90%; increase of the coherence of the Natura 2000 'Wigry Refugium' through the purchase of at least 68 hectares of land; raise of the ecological consciousness in the local community; improvement of the quality of or restoration of habitats in the areas purchased (with a total area of at least 68 ha).

Administrative part

4.1. Description of the management system

According to the project outline, the project management is based on close and constant cooperation between the external company (specifically employed for this purpose and selected in a tendering procedure) and the employees of the Beneficiary.

On 30 October 2012 an agreement was signed with an external company responsible for managing the project. According to the agreement the Project Management Team consists of a Project Coordinator (Lech Krzysztofiak - Beneficiary Employee), his Assistant (Krzysztof Paszko - commissioned externally: with effect from 1 September 2013 there was a change of employment of the assistant project coordinator, because the previous assistant resigned from the Tomas Consulting SA), a Financial Manager (Beata Koncewicz - Beneficiary Employee) and his Assistant (Agnieszka Jankowska - commissioned externally) and Technical Director (Thomas Janecki - Beneficiary Employee) and his Assistant (Anna Rynkiewicz - commissioned externally). Diagram shows the scheme of the team's organizational structure (Fig. 1). The terms of cooperation between the Beneficiary employees and the external company are regulated by an ordinance of the Director of Wigry National Park (Appendix 1 to this Report), and an agreement between the Park and Tomas Consulting Company SA.

Within the framework of the project management the following activities were conducted:

1. The work related, inter alia, with the preparation of tenders for: construction of culverts for amphibians, construction of manure plates and tanks for liquid manure, construction of footbridges, removal of *Impatiens glandulifera*, purchase of technical equipment, purchase of gadgets that promote the project, print of posters about alien plant species.
2. Regular monthly meetings of the entire Project Management Team were conducted, on which the ongoing work was discussed and the schedule of specific actions for the next period was determined (the transcript of these meetings are in the Attachment 7 to the report).

3. External management company has established a project office, which is located within a few kilometers from the headquarters of the Beneficiary in the nearest city - Suwalki. Regular contacts between members of the management team are held either by mail, by telephone and through direct contacts.
4. In some cases individual members of the management team (while taking into account the interdependencies scheme) if needed met in the narrow circle. These meetings took place in connection with the preparation of tender procedures for the selection of contractors, works and supplies; the preparation of financial statements; the monitoring the correctness and timeliness of construction work; the removal of *Impatiens glandulifera*; and the reception of performed works.
5. With effect from 1 September 2013 there was a change in the position of assistant project coordinator - Mrs. Elżbieta Kiwierowicz-Mogielnicka was replaced by Krzysztof Paszko (this change was due to the resignation of Ms Elżbieta Kiwierowicz-Mogielnickiej from work at Tomas Consulting SA).

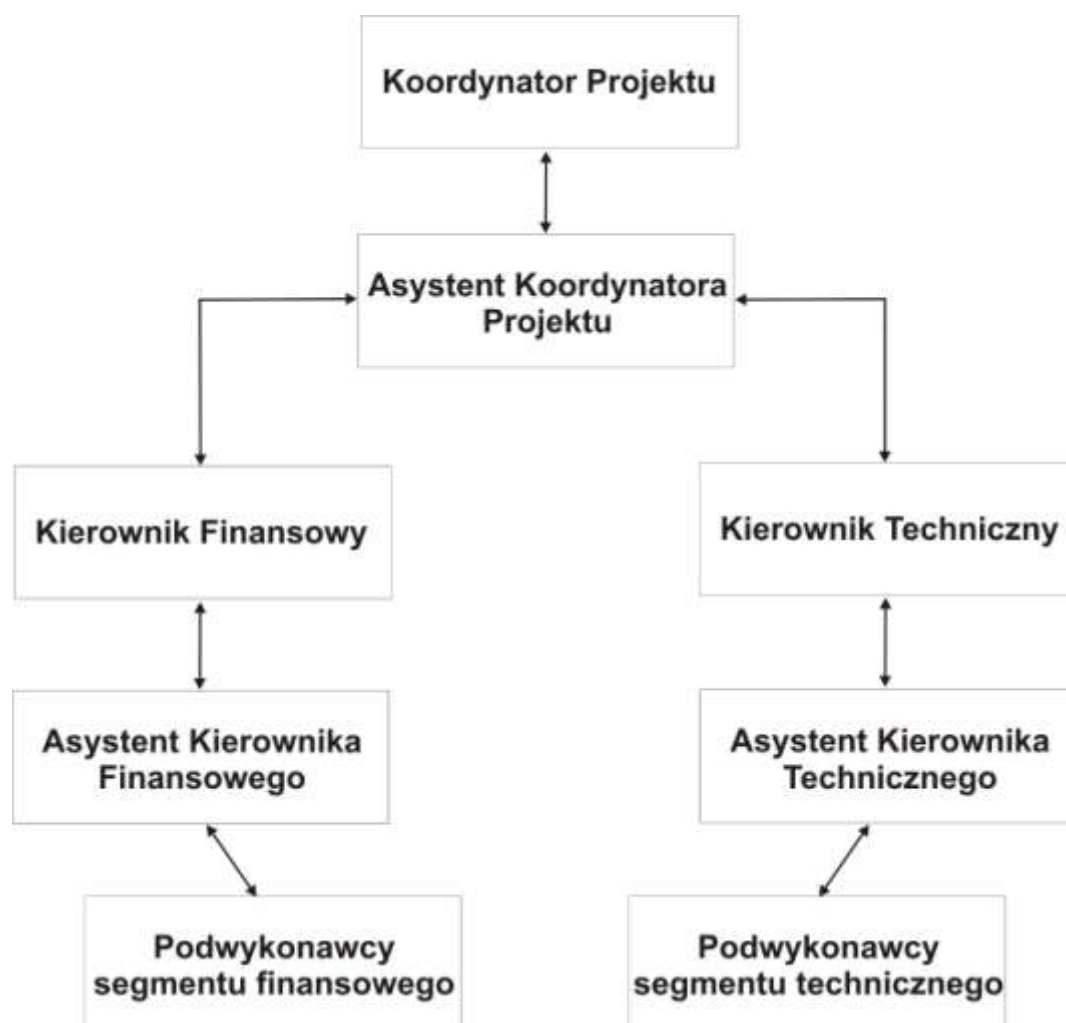


Figure 1. Diagram of the structure of the project management.

Director of Beneficiary by Order No. 24/2012 dated 17.12.2012 on the implementation of the project "Active protection of endangered species and habitats in the Natura 2000 'Wigry Refugium' LIFE11 NAT/PL/000431 had established Project Management Team, responsible for project implementation (Appendix No. 1 to the report). This document indicates persons involved in project management and regulates the responsibilities of each person and the circulation of documents related to the project.

During the project implementation it was found that a reduction in the number of reports to the European Commission from 6 planned to 5 is justified. The planned dates reports to the Commission are as follows:

Type of report	Deadline
Inception report	30-06-2013
Mid-term report	31-12-2013
Progress report	30-06-2015
Progress report	30-09-2016
Final report	28-02-2018

4.2. Evaluation of the management system

The project management process has been described in Ordinance No. 24/2012 dated 17.12.2012 on the implementation of the project "Active protection of endangered species and habitats in the Natura 2000 'Wigry Refugium' LIFE11 NAT/PL/000431, issued by the Director of Wigry National Park and in the agreement for the provision of management services concluded between the Beneficiary and the Tomas Consulting SA. Initially, before the best methods of communication between the Project Management Team were formed, certain difficulties at work emerged, mainly in the timeliness of individual tasks. When the entire team developed better methods of co-operation the project management proceeded without major disruption. Original delays in the implementation of some of the activities planned in the project, due to initial difficulties in management, have been compensated and management process is carried out smoothly.

A significant element in project management are frequent contacts with the representative of the External Monitoring Team - Dr. Stanislaw Tworek (EEIG Astrale +48 602 756 241, e-mail: stanislaw.tworek @ astrale.org). His comments and suggestions on the implementation of the project are very helpful and have prevented many mistakes. The great convenience of the cooperation with the Monitor is the possibility of contacting him almost any time, both by telephone and email. A visit of the Monitor at the headquarters of the Beneficiary, which was held on 25-26 June 2013 was very significant and helpful.

Participation in various meetings concerning the LIFE + is an opportunity not only to exchange information between the beneficiaries of various projects, but also to contact with representatives the European Commission. Such direct meetings are extremely valuable. They allow significantly better and more comprehensive presentation of their problems and expectations, and at the same time demonstrate a strong commitment and interest in our project with the European Commission. The most crucial conversations with representatives of the European Commission's occurred during the Kick-off Meeting, which took place on September 24, 2012 and November 5, 2013, in Warsaw. Especially this last meeting was an opportunity to discuss some of the important issues related to the implementation of the project.



Fig.1. Discussions during the inaugural meeting in Warsaw in 2013

4. Technical part

In general it can be concluded that the implementation of the activities planned in the project until now did not pose any greater problems that could significantly affect the implementation of the project or accomplishment of the objectives. However, there have been some difficulties which were quickly removed. They were related to: *construction of footbridges* (action C.6), *removal of *Impatiens glandulifera** (C.3), *construction of culverts for amphibians* (C.4), *land purchase* (B.1), *monitoring* (D.1), *networking with other projects*

(E.3). In addition to mentioned above problems other activities were implemented in accordance with the original assumptions and schedule, without any significant problems.

The project area lies in the the middle of the basin of Czarna Hańcza, and its central part is a direct catchment area of lake Wigry. The aim of the project is to protect endangered species and habitats in the Natura 2000 ‘Wigry Refugium’. In this area the following risks have a negative impact on species and habitats covered by the project: secondary succession; urbanization, large fragmentation of the area, habitat destruction due to excessive penetration by tourists, a large amphibian mortality on roads, the disappearance of native plant species, the disappearance of native species. All activities planned in the project result from the aforementioned threats.

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Actions

A. Actions Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or of action plans.

A.1. Preparation of the land purchase

Action is being implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Planned date of completion of the action: fourth quarter of 2013.

On 10 January 2013 an agreement was signed with the contractor, Andrzej Trocki, selected by the procedure "Creation of valuation reports on undeveloped agricultural land and forests in 2013 in the Wigry National Park." As part of the entire operation, simultaneously with the procedure of identifying the evaluator, there were conducted negotiations with the owners of selected parcels. Formal and legal verification of the possibility of purchasing the land was also made. Once passing such procedure an appraisal report was prepared by an evaluator selected in a tendering procedure in order to value the land and to allow the price negotiations. Until now 31 protocols has been prepared on the negotiated conditions of the purchase and sale of real estates. On this basis, the preliminary arrangements to carry out a valuation of land were entrusted and prepared for all selected plots. Until now 31 valuation reports have been prepared (on 57.3422 hectares of land), on which 29 protocols negotiating the final price were written and 53.5822 hectares of land were purchased. Due to the protracted negotiations and agreements concerning the purchase of land, this action has not yet been fully completed. Beneficiary expects that its completion will take place in the first quarter of 2014.

In total, 8 817.24 EUR was spent on this action.

A.2. Preparation of the technical documentation obtaining the building permit of liquid manure tanks and arrangements concerning the construction of manure plates.

Action is completed.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Planned date of completion of the action: first quarter of 2013

Actual date of completion of the action: second quarter of 2013.

On 31 January 2013 an agreement was signed with the contractor, Natural Construction Company DANBUD – Aleksander Daniłowicz. It was selected by the procedure "Design and construction of culverts for amphibians and construction of manure plates and tanks for liquid manure." The procedure was intended to select a contractor for tasks in the system 'design and build' and all of the duties associated with the preparation of the technical documentation and obtaining building permits were ceded to the contractor. The contractor has done technical plans for manure plates and tanks for liquid manure and obtained the appropriate permissions for the construction in the second quarter of 2013. Beneficiary received the documents for all four manure plates and containers necessary to start construction from the Contractor in June 2013. The contractor has obtained the relevant documents for the construction of plates and tanks consecutively in the period from the second quarter of 2013. The delay in the closing of this action resulted from lengthy administrative procedures associated with permits for the construction of tanks for liquid manure and had no significant impact on project implementation or achievement of its objectives.

In total, 4 419,67 EUR was spent on this action.

A.3. Preparation of technical documentation and permits for the construction of culverts for amphibians

Action is completed.

Planned commencement date of the action: first quarter of 2013

Actual date of commencement of the action: first quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: second quarter of 2013

Actual date of completion of the action: third quarter of 2013.

On 31 January 2013 an agreement was signed with the contractor, Natural Construction Company DANBUD – Aleksander Daniłowicz, selected by the procedure "Design and construction of culverts for amphibians and construction of manure plates and tanks for liquid manure." The contractor has drawn up the plans of the technical systems of culverts and obtained permissions to build a system of culverts in the village of Krzywe and Wiatrołuża. The Beneficiary received by protocol from the Contractor the documents necessary to undertake the construction of both systems culverts in August 2013. The first construction design together with the decision authorizing the construction of system of culverts on county road No. 1150B Krzywe - Słupie was prepared in June, which allowed the Contractor to undertake the construction work. The second project, concerning the construction of culverts on county road No. 1153B Okuniowiec - Wiatrołuża, has been prepared only in August 2013. A slight delay in the implementation of this action was caused by the need of creating the basic maps, necessary for the implementation of the project for the construction of culverts on the road Okuniowiec - Wiatrołuża (relevant maps were not in the geodesic database). Validation of the decision authorizing the construction of a second system of culverts took place at the beginning of September and only then The contractor could proceed with the construction work. The delay in the closing of this action had no significant effect on project implementation or achievement of its objectives.

In total, 12 276,87 EUR was spent on this action.

B. Purchase/lease of land and/or compensation payments for use rights

B.1. Purchase of land

Action is being implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: first quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: second quarter of 2014.

In February 2013, a tender procedure for the task "Services including notarial acts concerning the Wigry National Park purchase of the real estate located in the Park in 2013-2014 for an irrevocable nature conservation" was announced. The contractor was: Notary's Office Jerominek Krystyna Jankowska. Purchase of parcels with a total area of 53.5822 hectares have been finalized so far, with 68 hectares planned to be purchased for a total amount of 885 970,50 EUR (29 notarial acts were drawn - their list is attached as **Appendix 3**). All purchased parcels are located in the area of Natura 2000, the purchase price results from market conditions (ultimately, this price has been determined on the basis the appraisal report of real estate, drawn by the valuer and negotiations with land owners) and were purchased in accordance with the objectives of the project. All the purchased parcels are assigned to the purposes nature conservation, which has been duly noted (entry of an irrevocable land use for nature conservation purposes) in both notarial acts concerning the sale and purchase of lands, as well as in land registers. Maps of the location of the purchased parcels are in the **Appendix 6** to this report.

Few parcels of utmost importance for maintaining an adequate state of nature in 'Wigry Refugium' were selected to be purchased. It turned out that four municipalities were the owners of these parcels - Municipality of Suwalki (three plots) and the Municipality of Nowinka (one parcel). Given the fact that the project LIFE11 NAT/PL/000431 does not cover the purchase of these plots (they are not private property), based on the instructions to the grant application, Wigry National Park asked the two municipalities for the free transfer of the parcels to the Park. Unfortunately, the Municipalities have not expressed interest in such solution, claiming that the sale of those parcels is one of the sources of funding, which Municipalities anyway spend for investments relating to nature conservation. At the same time, both Municipalities have allocated a number of their land for sale, including parcels that are in the interest of the Park. Due to the lack of acceptance by the European Commission the possibility of purchasing the land owned by the municipality (letter of 09.08.2013 - ENV.E3

MM / jv ARES (2013) 2858557), the Beneficiary selected other parcels to buy, which met the conditions imposed in this action.

In total, 885 970,50 EUR was spent on this action.

5 Copies of notarial acts together with the appraisal reports, which were asked by the European Commission in a letter dated 09.08.2013 - ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2013) 2858557, are included in the **Appendix 4** of this Report.

C. Concrete conservation actions

C.1. Deforestation

Action is being implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2013

Actual date of commencement of the action: third quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: first quarter of 2016.

Under this action, on August 28, 2013, a tender was announced. The proceedings of the tender resulted in the selection of the contractor for this task: Zakład Usług Leśnych Antoni Olszewski. The agreement was signed on 29 October 2013. The first deforestation took place in the following villages: Wysoki Most - 0.10 ha; Lipowe - 0.35 ha; Krzywe - 0.16 ha; Słupie - 1.59 ha; Lipniak - 3.82 ha; Leszczewek - 0.94 ha; Gawarzec - 0.10 ha; Krusznik - 0.58 ha. In total, deforestation has covered 7.64 hectares from 20 hectares planned in the project.

In total, 2 782,99 EUR was spent on this action.

C.2. Mowing

Action is being implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2013

Actual date of commencement of the action: third quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: fourth quarter of 2016.

Under this action, on August 28, 2013, a tender was announced. The proceedings of the tender resulted in the selection of the contractor for this task: Zakład Usług Leśnych Antoni Olszewski. The agreement was signed on 29 October 2013. The first mowing took place in the following villages: Wysoki Most - 3.11 ha; Lipowe - 4 ha; Krzywe - 0.6 ha; Słupie – 3.20 ha; Lipniak – 7.46 ha; Leszczewek - 0.08 ha; Gawarzec - 0.68 ha; Krusznik – 1.52 ha. In total, mowing has covered 20.65 hectares from 120 hectares planned in the project.

In total, 7 100,26 EUR was spent on this action.

C.3. Removal of *Impatiens Glandulifera*

Action is being implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: second quarter of 2013

Actual date of commencement of the action: second quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: second quarter of 2017.

On 29 April 2013 an agreement with the contractor, Natural Construction Company DANBUD Alexander Daniłowicz selected by the procedure "Removal of *Impatiens Glandulifera* - invasive species of foreign origin" was signed. The first stage of this action (works of removal of plants during the vegetation season 2013) was completed in the first half of September. A special commission for the reception of the works concluded the correctness of the procedure of removal of *Impatiens Glandulifera* in the area covered by the agreement (**Appendix 14** to this Report). Implementation of this action, however, had encountered some problems, which may be considered on two levels: the first related to the area of action and the other - resulting from differences in the methodological approach in relation to the original assumptions.

The size the area covered by C.3 action has been determined just before the preparation of the application for LIFE + financial instrument. Since that time, acreage of *Impatiens Glandulifera* widened and now occupies a large part of the valley of the Czarna Hańcza in the section from Sobolewo to estuary in the lake Wigry. The acreage of the area occupied by the species also increased around the lake Czarne, as well as around the Klasztorny Peninsula and in the valley of the river Wiatrołuza. The location of the areas covered to date by the action C.3 and additional areas proposed are provided in **Annex 5** to the report. The Beneficiary believes that in order to achieve the project objective (limiting the size of the population of *Impatiens Glandulifera*) it is necessary to extend the area of this action, at least with the areas directly adhered, on which the species has occurred in the last period and to allocate additional resources. This amendment will not be a significant change in the meaning of the Common Rules - the vast majority of funds saved in the project can be used to expand the C.3 activities, they are in the same category of expenditure as action C.3. The Beneficiary has already received European Commission's acceptance for such solution - the Commission concluded that enlargement of the area of the removal of *Impatiens Glandulifera* will contribute to achieving of the project objectives (letter of 09.08.2013, ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2013) 2858557).

Following a suggestion from the team which evaluated the Beneficiary's application form on the occasion of the implementation of this action, the work has been undertaken on the assessment of the effectiveness of various methods of removing *Impatiens Gladulifera*. The tested methodological approaches of eradication of *Impatiens Gladulifera* rely primarily on the change in frequency of removal of plants in one growing season. Previous use of single removal of plants in the season does not seem to guarantee the full achievement of expected project objective, that is to eliminate the species from the project area. A large amount of the seeds of *Impatiens Gladulifera* still remains in the soil and it will be partially activated in the next season and, with favorable weather conditions, already in the same vegetation season (fall). The key is therefore to get rid of lingering seeds in the soil. This can not be done mechanically – by replacing the top layer of soil (with seeds); but one can cause the growth of bigger amount of plants in the same season, which will then be removed. It is therefore necessary to use multiple (eg 4-7 times) removal of plants, starting from late May until September. Especially at the beginning of vegetation season the next generation of plants appears very quickly in the place of the removed *Impatiens Gladulifera*, which also strongly competes with native species. It is also important to determinate properly the date of the last procedure of removal of plants in the season. It should be designated late enough so that the newly emerged plants would not manage to bloom and give seeds. Given that the seeds of *impatiens* deposited in the soil are characterized by the greatest durability in the first three years, there is a very high probability of eliminating this species from the project areas within 5 years of its implementation. If a new methodological approach will give good results; what partially will be known in May 2014 when *Impatiens* seeds will germinate; they should be put into action in the coming seasons. Any changes in the further implementation of this action concerning the detailed methodology of removal of plants, must not change the budget for this task, and must be approved both by the Beneficiary and the Contractor.

The results of this action will be prepared in the form of publication and will provide detailed instructions for removal of this species.

In total, 60 033,88 EUR was spent on this action.



Fig. 2. The plots related to the experiments with methods for removing Impatiens Glandulifera.



Fig. 3. Removal of Impatiens Glandulifera from the valley of Czarna Hańcza.

C.4. Construction of culverts for amphibians

Action is being implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: third quarter of 2013

Actual date of commencement of the action: third quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: fourth quarter of 2013.

On 31 January 2013 an agreement was signed with the contractor, Natural Construction Company DANBUD Alexander Daniłowicz, selected by the procedure "Design and construction of culverts for amphibians and construction of manure plates and tanks for liquid manure." In August 2013, work was completed on the construction of culverts system for amphibians in Krzywe, on the district road connecting the village of Krzywe, Sobolewo and Gawrych Ruda. In September 2013, works on the construction of the second system of culverts, located on the district road Okuniowiec-Wiatrołuża, intersecting the area of 'Wigry Refugium' in the northern part, have started. The works covered by the agreement with the Natural Construction Company DANBUD, were completed in October 2013. The subject of the contract (two systems of culverts) was received by protocol from the Contractor in October 2013. This action, however, has not been fully completed, because there is the need to secure the construction of culverts built on the district road No. 1153B Okuniowiec-Wiatrołuża through the renewal of an existing bituminous surface with the mineral-asphalt, at the length of 250 m. Agreement for the execution of these works was signed 21.10.2013 year, with the Strabag Sp. from the o.o. Directorate PLN - East PF, Group Augustow BB appointed after the open tender. The Beneficiary did not foresee this action in the application form, it was not taken into account the Functional and Utilitarian Programme as well, which was prepared for tender procedure for the design and construction of culverts for amphibians. Also, the preliminary findings from the Management of Roads District in Suwalki have not included the performance of resurfacing the road. During the development of the construction project, however, it was found that the entrance of heavy machinery onto the road and mechanical infringement of layer of asphalt is associated with a high risk of significant deterioration in the construction of the road. This can impede and even prevent the proper insertion of construction of culverts on the road and their permanent usage. Specialists (designers and builders) clearly recognized that without resurfacing, the progressive erosion of the surface threatens the integrated systems of tunnels which will run across the road at the distance of over forty meters. In this situation the change of place of the construction of

culverts for amphibians was considered, without renewal of the asphalt pavement layer, but natural conditions influenced the decision to retain this place. The legitimacy of decision to construct the passages for amphibians along this road section was seen already this year, while receiving construction works (11/21/2013). The Commission which received the works had the opportunity to observe personally hundreds of amphibians crossing the road by the newly built tunnels. This additional work will not impact negatively on the overall objective of the project and will not change the budget of the project (costs of the works can be covered by unused project funds, e.g. from the action D.1 Monitoring). The corresponding letter to the European Commission, with a request to accept the action associated with the renewal of the road surface and the recognition of the cost of these works as eligible, necessary to perform the task was sent on 09.02.2013 (PN-070-74/13-LIFE11). So far, the beneficiary has not received an official response on the matter, although during the kick-off meeting on 5 November 2013 in Warsaw EC representative agreed with the argumentation, which gives great hope for a positive answer to the request of the Beneficiary.

Other change in this action was related to the amount of tunnels. In the planning phase there has been a pre-determined number of tunnels under roadways and portals, and the length of the guiding barriers as well as stop-gutters. During the preparation of technical projects the Contractor adjusted the planned systems of installations to the road conditions, including the width of the roadway, roadside, and the road lane. The exact calculation of quantities of components of culvert systems, to ensure their correct functioning, indicated that the guiding barriers should be about 71 feet longer than originally planned, while the length of tunnels under roadways should be shorter. Consequently, few meters of tunnels remained, and the designer proposed to use them to create one more pass in each system of culverts, to slightly shorten the distance between the tunnels. This way, instead of 4 and 5 passages for the animals (tunnels under roadways, 8 m in length each) there were built respectively 5 and 6. The increased number of tunnels resulted in an increase in number of portals - the elements connecting the tunnels with guiding barriers. Analysis of the costs of changes that should be introduced for this reason showed that the differences are not significant - of 150 PLN. Thus, the cost of the entire operation remains almost at the primary level. This solution is advantageous from the point of view of the protection of amphibians - amphibians need to cross a short distance into the tunnel along the fences and a longer section of the road protected by the guiding barriers. In the material and financial schedule of the project culverts are described by the number of items (systems), and not by length of the individual components and the amount of tunnels. Thus, the changes described above do not modify the

task outcome indicator. After consultation with an external monitor of the project, it was established that the Contractor can make changes to the number of the passages for amphibians, which would not adversely affect the implementation of this action and will not jeopardize the other activities foreseen in the project. Also, the European Commission agreed to these changes in of the project (letter dated 08.09.2013 - ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2013) 2858557).

The expected date of definitive completion of the action - December 2013.

In total, 578 731,55 EUR was spent on this action, without resurfacing the road.



Fig. 4. The entrance (portal) into the tunnel for amphibians in Krzywe.



Fig. 5. Guiding barriers to the tunnels for amphibians in Krzywe.



Fig. 6. The system of culverts for amphibians in Wiatrołuża.

C.5. Budowa płyt obornikowych i zbiorników na gnojówkę

Action is completed.

Planned commencement date of the action: second quarter of 2013

Actual date of commencement of the action: second quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: fourth quarter of 2013

Actual date of completion of the action: second quarter of 2013.

On 31 January 2013 an agreement was signed with the Contractor, Natural Construction Company DANBUD Alexander Daniłowicz, selected by the procedure "Design and construction of culverts for amphibians and construction of manure plates and tanks for liquid manure." In the second quarter of 2013 (in June) the Contractor completed the construction of 4 manure plates and 4 tanks for liquid manure. The action was completed ahead of schedule and put into use.

In total, 96 987,25 EUR was spent on this action.



Fig. 7. Manure plate, together with the reservoir (on the left), located in Sobolewo.

C.6. Budowa kładek

Action is completed.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Planned date of completion of the action: second quarter of 2013

Actual date of completion of the action: second quarter of 2013.

On 21 November 2012 an agreement was signed with the contractor, Natural Construction Company DANBUD Alexander Daniłowicz, selected by the procedure "Construction of footbridges and fences on the educational path Suchary and the tourist trail 'Around Wigry'". This task was performed as follows: a fragment of the bridge was built in the valley of Czarna Hańcza, as well as a palisade and piece of trail with gravelling and a fence made from the poles, a new footbridge on the educational path "Suchar II" was also built with a balustrade made from the sawn timber. As additional work there was the construction of 24 meter wooden footbridge with a width of 1.5 m, also one part of a track with the length of 25 m and width of 3.0 m on the tourist trail "Around Wigry" was cleaned and graveled.

During the quantity surveys on the construction works in the process of implementation of the action it has been established that despite the proper execution of works, there are two sections where the trail is not protected from treading, and where there is a threat to people moving on the tourist trail. The first section with a length of 24 m is a wetland area on which after a momentary thaw emerged some water. This place is adjacent to the newly made footbridge. Omission of this section during the design was caused by the fact that the measurement and inspection of the area were drawn up about two years ago, during the summer drought, when the groundwater level was much lower and the performance of footbridge at this point seemed to be unjustified. During this period, the tourists traveling on the outdoor, marshy ground caused infringement of the once compact vegetation cover. A swamp created in this sector caused that people traveling along the trail trampled new paths in the adjoining area. It was therefore decided to perform an additional section of footbridge of the same type, with the length of 24 m and width of 1.5 meters. A little further down the trail, on the section leading on the edge of the hill towards the village Sobolewo, during the period from preparation of project documentation to declaration of the proceedings, condition of the road at length of approximately 25 meters has deteriorated significantly. As a result of the natural soil erosion, intensified a fairly high pedestrian flow volume and cycling, there has

been a considerable amount of exposure of the roots of trees growing at the track. Similarly, as in the previous case, the tourists tried to avoid a dangerous place, and trampled the plants around the trail. To prevent this, it was decided to cover the entire segment of the trail with 30 cm layer of gravel. All changes made in this action have been consulted with an external monitor, and their performance did not affect the size of the original budget of this action. The European Commission, by letter dated 08.09.2013 (ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2013) 2858557), positively responded to these changes.

In total, 96 063,31 EUR was spent on this action.



Fig. 8. Fragment of a new footbridge on the trail around Suchary.

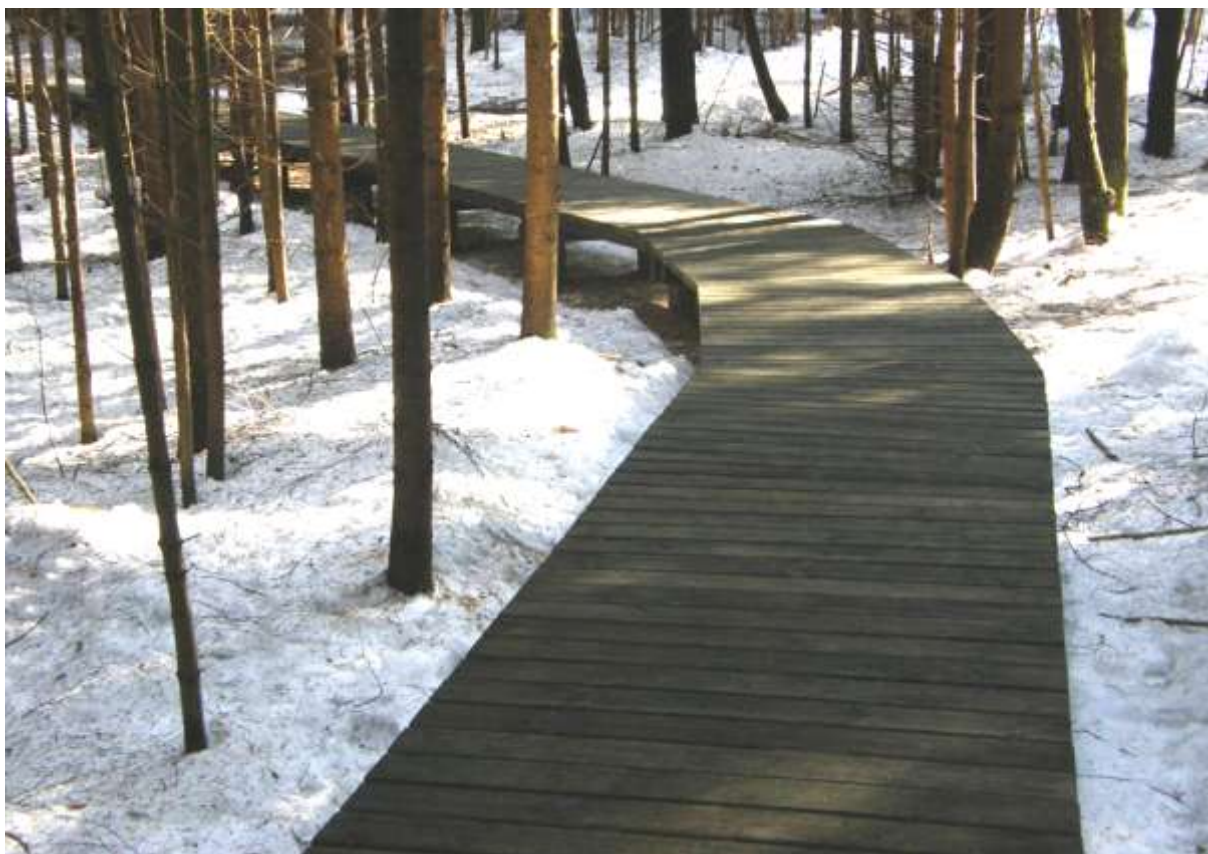


Fig. 9. Fragment of a new footbridge on the trail "Around Wigry".

D. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions (obligatory only if there are concrete conservation actions)

D.1. Monitoring

Action is planned to be implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: second quarter of 2013

Actual date of commencement of the action: action is not yet implemented

Planned date of completion of the action: fourth quarter of 2017.

The Beneficiary, while preparing a tender procedure to conduct monitoring, tried to identify the market and re-estimate the cost of the entire operation. It turned out that the specialists required to implement this action (who know the area and work in the region) have already scheduled other works and are not interested in taking part in the tender. In this situation the only solution is to complete the action D.1 by the Beneficiary. It will allow to accomplish the entire task on time and to achieve the target anticipated in the project. This approach is associated with a significant change in the project and in the meaning of Article 15.2 of Common Provisions requires the consent of the European Commission. Beneficiary has already applied to the Commission to agree to the change, together with the detailed justification (letter dated 02.09.2013 - PN-070-74/13-LIFE11). Beneficiary without waiting for the consent of the European Commission has already taken action related to the execution of this task. In case of refusal to transfer the obligation of conducting the monitoring of environmental effects by the Beneficiary, the results will be made available to the Contractor of this action, which Beneficiary will try to choose through a tendering procedure. If this change is accepted, Beneficiary will continue the work and all incurred to date costs will be presented for settlement within the project budget.

In total, 00,00 EUR was spent on this action.

D.2. Evaluation of the socio-economic impact of the project

Action is planned to be implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: second quarter of 2017

Actual date of commencement of the action: action is not yet implemented

Planned date of completion of the action: third quarter of 2017.

In total, 00,00 EUR was spent on this action.

F. Overall project operation and monitoring of the project progress (obligatory)

F.1. Project management

Action is being implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Planned date of completion of the action: fourth quarter of 2017.

On 30 October 2012, as a result of the tender for project management, has signed a contract with an external company Tomas Consulting SA. Agreement covers the supply of services by an assistant project manager, technical assistant of the project manager and assistant financial manager of the project and the establishment and operation of the project office. These persons are part of the Project Management Team, which also involved three people from the Beneficiary. Since the beginning of the project there were held 12 Project Management Team meetings, during which current and urgent issues related to the execution of individual actions planned in the project and the preparation of reports to the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and the European Commission (including the Inception Report and Mid -Term Report) were discussed. The minutes of these meetings are **Appendix 7** to this report.

In total, 55 972,88 EUR was spent on this action.

F.2. Networking with other projects

Action is being implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: second quarter of 2013

Actual date of commencement of the action: first quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: third quarter of 2016.

Within this task, in February 2013, three people participated in the LIFE + Information Day, organized by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Warsaw, and two people were involved in the academic session organized by the Naturalists Club from the Lagow in April 2013, concerning the protection of species - "Why are endangered species at risk? (the program of the session is attached as **Appendix 12**). During this academic session a contact made with other beneficiaries of the LIFE + program and number of aspects related to project management were discussed. It was also an opportunity to present posters on invasive plant species of foreign origin, done for the project LIFE11 NAT/PL/431). So far any of the 5 scheduled study visits abroad have not been implemented. Due to the protracted procedures for the selection of the best project and the most appropriate term to carry out such visits, Beneficiary has decided to postpone the trip until next year. This change does not represent a threat to the project and occurred delay may contribute to a better (provide more precise) selection of the beneficiary of the project, with which the contact should be made. After intensive work in the past season, many important issues, problems and solutions will be verified during the a well-planned study visits, which Beneficiary intends to make in the next year.

On 28 August, 2013, the Wigry National Park hosted a group six people from Sweden (from the city of Orebro), which participates in the project RECLAIM (Restoring the Conservation status for wetLand habitats and species Intrinsic to long term Management practices in Sweden), co-financed by LIFE + Financial Instrument (project LIFE11 NAT/SE/000848). During the visit, the guests got acquainted with the current results of the project LIFE11 NAT/PL/431. They were shown the manure plates - protecting the aquatic environment from pollution from farms, the construction of culverts for amphibians and the preliminary effects of Impatiens Glandulifera removal.

In total, 503,27 EUR was spent on this action.



Fig. 10. Participants of academic session organized by the Naturalists Club from Lagow.



Fig. 11. Groups of visitors from Sweden (connected with the project LIFE11 NAT/SE/000848).

F.3. Developing an action plan at the end of the "After-Life"

Action is planned to be implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: third quarter of 2017

Actual date of commencement of the action: action is not yet implemented

Planned date of completion of the action: third quarter of 2017.

In total, 00,00 EUR was spent on this action.

F.4. External financial audit

Action is planned to be implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2017

Actual date of commencement of the action: action is not yet implemented

Planned date of completion of the action: first quarter of 2018.

In total, 00,00 EUR was spent on this action.

F.5. Monitoring the progress of project implementation

Action is being implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Planned date of completion of the action: third quarter of 2017.

On 12 November 2012, an agreement was signed with the contractor Ms Agnieszka Zackiewicz for: "Monitoring the progress of the implementation of the project". Selection of the contractor of this task was carried out through an open tender. Under this action it is planned to draw 20 quarterly reports (so far four were drawn). The task is proceeding accordingly to the plan and assumptions. Copies of the report "Monitoring the progress of the implementation of the project" is attached as **Appendix 8** to the Report.

In total, 00,00 EUR was spent on this action.

F.6. Purchase of the equipment necessary for project implementation

Action is completed.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Planned date of completion of the action: first quarter of 2013

Actual date of completion of the action: first quarter of 2013.

On 21 December 2012, an agreement was signed regarding "Purchasing a car". Contractor of this task, Auto-Lakus, Stanislaw and Robert Winckiewicz Sp. J. with its registered office in Suwalki, was selected within the open tender. On 10 January 2013, an agreement was signed regarding "Purchase of computer equipment". Supplier of equipment was the company ACTIWA from the Suwalki, which was chosen within the open tender. On the same day the agreement on "The purchase of measuring equipment" was signed. Supplier of equipment, WTW Pomiarowy i Analityczny Sprzęt Techniczny Sp. z o.o from Wrocław, has also been selected within the open tender. After recognizing the market price also the lens and two binoculars were purchased. According to the schedule of project implementation it was assumed to accomplish this task in the fourth quarter of 2012, but due to the protracted preparatory procedures associated with the development of tender documentation, its implementation has been slightly postponed. This shift did not affect the other objectives of the project. In addition, bearing in mind the fact that the project is still in the initial phase of implementation, the monthly shift in this action had no impact on efficient implementation of the remaining tasks.

In total, 26 270,39 EUR was spent on this action.

5.2. Dissemination actions

5.2.1. Objectives

5.2.2. Dissemination: overview per activity

E. Public awareness and dissemination of results (obligatory)

E.1. Publication of informational folder about the project

Action is completed.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: first quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of completion of the action: first quarter of 2013.

On 10 January 2013 an agreement was signed with the company DAKA, Marek Ugniewski, Rotmanka, chosen by the case: Delivery of gadgets and folder promoting the project (the tender was conducted in the framework of implementation of the tasks E.10. 'Gadgets promoting the project with the logo of the LIFE +' and Tasks E.1. 'Publication of the informational folder about the project'). According to the schedule it was supposed to be fully completed in the fourth quarter of 2012, but due to the inclusion of this task to tender for gadgets promoting the project and delays in preparing the specifications of the contract, there was a slight delay in the implementation of this task. The delay did not affect the execution of other tasks in the project nor the completion date of the project. According to the application, folders were distributed among the local communities, local governments, tourists and students. Given that the delay occurred in the initial phase of the project, it has been compensated, and the folders were distributed on a regular basis during price negotiations for buying and selling plots of land purchased for the project, or during educational activities with children and youth conducted by the Beneficiary. As a result of the implementation of this action there were printed 2000 pieces informational folders, in accordance with the plan.

In total, 317,11 EUR was spent on this action.

E.2. Creation of informational plates about the project

Action is completed.

Planned commencement date of the action: second quarter of 2013

Actual date of commencement of the action: second quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: second quarter of 2013

Actual date of completion of the action: second quarter of 2013.

In the second quarter of 2013, 5 plates on the action C.5 ‘Construction of manure plates and tanks for liquid manure’ were made according to the plan. They were made in A3 format, with galvanized steel and mounted on buildings constructed under Action C.5. Signs include subsidizing logotypes, and the name of the project and action. Photos of the plates are **Annex 9** to the Report.

In total, 52,85 EUR was spent on this action.



Fig. 12. Identification of manure plates with informational plaques about the project (plaque attached to the fence).

E.3. Creation of informational and educational boards about selected activities

Action is planned to be implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2013

Actual date of commencement of the action: action is not yet implemented

Planned date of completion of the action: fourth quarter of 2013 (The proposed revision of the completion date - the second quarter of 2014).

The task was scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2013, after the completion of activities related to the construction of culverts for amphibians. On these boards should be found, inter alia, photographs of culverts. The postponed completion of one of the system of culverts and unfavorable weather made the preparation of materials for some of the tables impossible. The Beneficiary therefore made the decision to continue the task in the spring. At that time preparation of the tables and their installation in the field will be completed. This change will not affect other tasks of the project, and only contribute to better implementation of the action E.3.

In total, 00,00 EUR was spent on this action.

E.4. Website about the project

Action is being implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Planned date of completion of the action: fourth quarter of 2017.

On 26 November 2012, an agreement was signed with the contractor, the company Like Apps Małgorzata Miszkiewicz based in Sejny on: "Developing and maintaining (updating) web pages on the site Wigry National Park, concerning the project." The contractor of this task has been selected within the an open tender. Since that time, all information about the project, news and calendar are updated regularly. Access to the site is possible through the link provided on the home page Wigry National Park or directly at www.life.wigry.win.pl. According to the recommendations of the European Commission after the Preliminary Report (INCR). The beneficiary made efforts to ensure that the page will be edited in English to greater extent than previously. From 2014 calendar of the project will be published in English.

In total, 464,19 EUR was spent on this action.

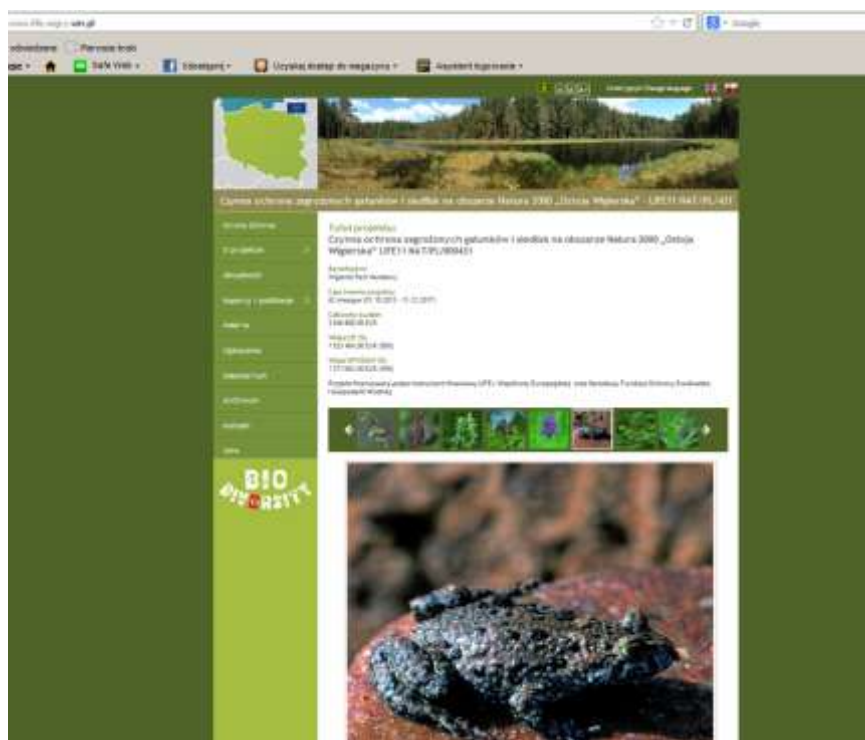


Fig. 13. A fragment of the website about the project

E.5. Report of the layman

Action is planned to be implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: third quarter of 2017

Actual date of commencement of the action: action is not yet implemented

Planned date of completion of the action: third quarter of 2017.

In total, 00,00 EUR was spent on this action.

E.6. Organization of the conference

Action is planned to be implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: second quarter of 2014

Actual date of commencement of the action: action is not yet implemented

Planned date of completion of the action: second quarter of 2014.

In total, 00,00 EUR was spent on this action.

E.7. Organization of educational classes

Action is being implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Planned date of completion of the action: second quarter of 2016.

Action presupposes carrying of 10 educational classes. As part of the activities, three educational classes have been carried out during Winter Academy of Nature (2 classes) and Summer Academy of Nature (1). The first class was held on 15 December 2012 and the second from 29.01-1.02.2013. During the summer, on 24-26.07.2013 Summer Academy of Nature was held. The theme of the classes was the color. Children and adolescents, along with their parents, discovered the natural beauty of the Natura 2000 'Wigry Refugium'. 4 meetings were attended by 47 people. Four days of the Academy were devoted to four different topics: Day 1 - The colors of the forest, Day 2 - The colors of meadows, Day 3 – The colors of water, and Day 4 - The colors of nature; it was the time of games and contests. A copy of the programs of educational classes is provided in **Annex 10**.

In total, 1991,37 EUR was spent on this action.



Fig. 14. The youngest participants of the classes of the Summer Academy of Nature

E.8. Organization of workshops

Action is being implemented.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: first quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: third quarter of 2016.

Action aims to conduct 15 workshops. Beginning of this action took place with a slight delay, which did not have a negative impact on the further implementation of the action. So far, three workshops were held. On 28 February 2013 a workshop for farmers, which concerned the agricultural economy in areas of high natural value, and in particular agri environmental programs as well as the struggle with alien plant species - for example *Impatiens Glandulifera*. On 4 October 2013 a workshop devoted to the natural advantages and the forms of sharing the protected area which are conducive to nature, linked to the cyclic meetings summarizing the tourist season ending. On 18 October 2013 a workshop was organized for teachers interested in nature and its conservation, in particular teachers of nature, biology, chemistry and geography, all levels of education. Copies of the programs of the workshops are attached as **Appendix 11**.

In total, 2 435,07 EUR was spent on this action.



Fig. 15. The speaker conducting workshops on agri-environmental programs.

E.9. Publication of posters about invasive plant species of foreign origin.

Action is completed.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: first quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: first quarter of 2013

Actual date of completion of the action: first quarter of 2013.

On 28 February 2013 an agreement was signed with the contractor, Drukarnia PETIT Skład – Druk – Oprawa, Wojciech Guz and Associates, Limited Partnership from Lublin to: "Publication of posters of invasive plant species of foreign origin." Contractor of the action was selected through an open tender. According to the schedule this action was to be initiated in the fourth quarter of 2012, but for reasons of the protracted process of preparing the photographic material a slight delay in the implementation of this task occurred. Resulting delay did not affect the completion date of this action. As a result of the task there were prepared and printed 12 000 posters informing about invasive plant species (4, 000 sets of 3 types of posters). Posters were distributed in local schools and communities, and on the occasion of various informational and educational events.

In total, 4 167,75 EUR was spent on this action.



Fig. 16. One of the posters regarding invasive plant species of foreign origin.

E.10. Gadgets promoting the project with the LIFE logo

Action is completed.

Planned commencement date of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of commencement of the action: first quarter of 2013

Planned date of completion of the action: fourth quarter of 2012

Actual date of completion of the action: fourth quarter of 2013.

On 10 January 2013 an agreement was signed with the contractor, Sitodruk SC, Suwalki, on the execution and delivery of 500 imprinted T-shirts, 1000 canvas bags with an imprint and 500 pcs of USB memory. September 30, 2013 an agreement was signed with the contractor, the company ATUT.PL Krakow to create additional 1000 pieces of imprinted canvas bags. Thus all the gadgets planned in project were purchased. The delay in action was associated with prolonged preparation of the tender for the gadgets. The whole task, according to the schedule, was to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2012, but due to the delay in the commencement of the action and, most of all, because of the wrong (under 1000 copies) specification of the amount of imprinted canvas bags in the tender, it became necessary to order the missing bags. When the error was detected, Beneficiary prepared a separate procedure (tender) for the supply of 1000 pieces of imprinted bags, which was completed in November 2013. Resulting delay in the manufacture of 1000 pcs of canvas bags did not affect other tasks foreseen in the project (beneficiary had in reserve all the gadgets related to the project), or the date of realization of the project. Gadgets are **Appendix 15** to this report.

In total, 12 988,78 EUR was spent on this action.



Fig. 17. Gadgets promoting the project.

The list of Deliverables of the project:

Name of the Deliverable	Number of the associated action	Deadline
Folder about the project	E.1	17-12-2012 (completed, attached to IncR)
Gadgets promoting the project with logo LIFE+	E.10	31-12-2012 (completed, attached to MTR)
Technical projects of manure plates and containers	A.2	29-03-2013 (completed, attached to IncR)
Permits for the construction of reservoirs	A.2	29-03-2013 (completed, attached to IncR)
Arrangements regarding the construction of manure plates	A.2	29-03-2013 (completed, attached to IncR)
A set of posters (3 pieces) on alien species	E.9	29-03-2013 (completed, attached to IncR)
Technical projects of culverts for amphibians	A.3	28-06-2013 (completed, attached to MTR)
Permits for the construction of culverts for amphibians	A.3	28-06-2013 (completed, attached to MTR)
Appraisal reports	A.1	31-12-2013 (changed)
Beneficiary proposes to postpone the deadline for this product to 31.03.2014		
Copies of notarial contracts for the purchase and sale of land	B.1	30-06-2014 (without changes)
Report of the layman	E.5	29-09-2017 (without changes)
Plan After Life	F.3	29-09-2017 (without changes)
Evaluation of socio-economical impact of the project	D.2	29-09-2017 (without changes)
Monitoring reports	D.1	02-10-2017 (without changes)
The audit report	F.4	03-10-2017 (changed)
Beneficiary proposes to postpone the deadline for this product to 02.28.2018, the financial audit should be conducted after the completion of all activities planned in the project, and the project ends 12/11/2017, the audit report will be attached to the final report.		
Reports on project implementation	F.1	18-12-2017 (without changes)
Periodic monitoring reports of progress	F.5	18-12-2017 (without changes)

By the end of the reporting period (30 November 2013). 8 deliverables of the project were obtained. These are: the folder about the project (action E.1) - was submitted to the European Commission together with the Inception Report, which was submitted on 30 June 2013, the gadgets promoting the project with the logo of the LIFE + (E.10) - attached to the

Midterm Report (Appendix 15), a set of posters on alien species with a total circulation of 12,000 units (E.9) - their prints in A4 format were submitted to the European Commission along with the INCR, technical projects of manure plates and containers (A.2) - were submitted to the European Commission with the INCR, building permits for manure tanks (A.2) - were passed to the EC, together with INCR, arrangements concerning the construction of manure plates (A.2) - have been submitted to the European Commission, together with the INCR, technical projects of culverts for amphibians (A.3) - in accordance with the European Commission (letter (ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2013) 2858557) dated 9 August 2013) a draft of the system of culverts on county road No. 1153B Okuniowiec-Wiatrołuża was attached to the MTR (**Appendix 2**), permission for the construction of culverts for amphibians (A.3) - in accordance with the European Commission (letter (ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2013) 2858557) dated 9 August 2013) a permit to build a system of culverts on county road No. 1153B Okuniowiec -Wiatrołuża was attached to the MTR (**Appendix 2**). The preparation of a set of appraisal reports (A.1), in accordance with the application, should be completed by December 31, 2013. Due to a slight increase in time of preparation all of appraisal reports, the beneficiary requests the move the final deadline for completion of this action until 31 March 2014. According to the decision of the European Commission in the letter regarding the preliminary reports (ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2013) 2858557) dated 9 August 2013, the Beneficiary attach to this Report 5 copies of appraisal reports and their respective notarial acts (**Appendix 4**):

A/2584/2013 dated 21/05/2013

A/2541/2013 dated 20/05/2013

A/2125/2013 dated 30/04/2013

A/2970/2013 dated 07/06/2013

A/2932/2013 dated 06/06/2013.

New appraisal reports, created after 30 November 2013, will be forwarded to the European Commission with Progress Report in June 2015, or upon request after 31 March 2014.

Beneficiary during the whole period of the current implementation of the project tried to widely disseminate information about the project and its financing sources. A permanent element of this was to use the information about the current implementation of the project on the website and in the quarterly WIGRY (in the previously published Nos. 4 of 2012, and 1, 2 and 3 of 2013 - copies of these quarterly numbers are Appendix 13 to this report) . Information about the project were also included on the USB memory stick - one of the

gadgets promoting the project (it is one of the elements of **Appendix 15** to this Report). In addition, during all meetings organized within the framework of the project (workshops, educational activities) information about the project and its funding sources is transferred to participants of these meetings. All tender documentation (terms of reference, the attachments, the contract, the notice of initiation and completion of proceedings etc.) always bear the logo of LIFE and Natura 2000, together with the title of the project. During the opening of tenders, sent in tendering proceedings, the persons involved in these events are informed about the origin of the funds from which services or goods are purchased. All reports, records of receipt, minutes of meetings, letters about the project, etc. also bear the respective logos and the title of the project. Logo LIFE and Natura 2000 are also on objects purchased for the project - including a passenger car, gadgets (bags, T-shirts, USB drives), computers, scanners, printers and pH-meter. These logos are also issued on the project folders and posters about invasive plant species of foreign origin. The headquarters of the Beneficiary doors of all rooms where persons involved in the project are working, have been marked with special labels containing the LIFE logo and NATURA 2000. Moreover, a separate information board has been installed in (labeled logo LIFE and Natura 2000), on which to-date information are published, eg . the tenders carried out within project.

5.3. Evaluation of Project Implementation

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
Land purchase	68 ha	53,5822 ha	Action implemented according to plan. It is expected that the whole operation will be completed in the first quarter of 2014. Probably, within the financial allocation for this activity, there will be purchased 1 hectare of land more than foreseen in the proposal.
Preparation of drafts of technical designs and building permits for manure plates and tanks for liquid manure	4 cps	4 cps	Action implemented according to plan. A set of these documents is in the headquarters of Beneficiary.
The preparation of technical designs and permits for construction of culverts for amphibians	2 cps	2 cps	Action completed according to plan. A set of these documents is in the headquarters of Beneficiary.
The preparation of notarial acts concerning land acquisition	32 pcs.	29 pcs.	Action implemented according to plan. Latest notarial acts will be drafted in the first quarter of 2014. These documents are stored in headquarters of the Beneficiary. No problems are foreseen in the further implementation of the task.

Construction of manure plates and tanks for liquid manure (4 plates and 4 tanks) - built	4 plates and 4 tanks	4 plates i 4 tanks	Action completed according to plan.
Construction of footbridges	2 footbridges	2 footbridges	Action completed according to plan.
Publication of the folder about the project	2000 pcs.	2000 pcs.	Action completed according to plan. Distribution of folders takes place at various meetings, including the ongoing project activities.
Creation of informational boards about the project	5 pcs.	5 pcs.	Action completed according to plan.
Creation and maintenance of the project website	1 site	1 site	Action implemented according to plan. Since the new year the beneficiary will increase the number of texts in English. No problems are foreseen in the further implementation of the task.
Organization of educational classes	10 classes	3 classes	Action implemented according to plan. No problems are foreseen in the further implementation of the task.
Organization of workshops	15 workshops	3 workshops	Action implemented according to plan. No problems are foreseen in the further implementation of the task.
Publication of posters about invasive plant species	12 000 pcs.	12 000 pcs.	Action completed according to plan. Distribution of posters is carried out continuously.
Purchase of gadgets promoting the project	3000 pcs.	3000 pcs.	Action completed according to plan. Gadgets are mainly distributed to the participants of the project meetings.
Purchase of the equipment necessary for the project	5 pcs.	5 pcs.	Action completed according to plan. The equipment is used during the implementation of the project (eg. binoculars are used in the control of the disposal of Impatiens Gladulifera, computers - during the development of materials related to the project, the car is used in the process of project management.

The beneficiary on 2 September 2013 addressed to the European Commission asking for permission to make changes relevant to the project. These changes consist of:

- moving 59.469 Euro from the budget category *External assistance* to the *Personnel* budget category in the task D.1. *Monitoring* (this change will be equivalent to performing an action D.1. *Monitoring* by the staff of the beneficiary, namely the Scientific-Educational Laboratory ESL);
- moving 4,950 Euro from the budget category *External assistance* to the budget category *Other costs*, within the task D.1. *Monitoring* (this change is related to the intended use of the cost of action D.1. to transport employees of the Park who monitor the project);

- moving 28,000 Euro from the budget category *External assistance* from action D.1. *Monitoring* to the budget category *Infrastructure*, to the task C.4. *Construction of culverts for amphibians* (this change is related to the necessity of the renewal of the existing bituminous surface mass of mineral-asphalt at the length of 250 m, on the district road No. 1153B Okuniowiec-Wiatrołúza, where one of the systems of culverts for amphibians is built).

The acceptance of these changes by the European Commission will significantly influence the implementation of the project - first of all the improvement of the road surface on the section where culverts were built, guarantees a long durability of built-in components; and shift of the obligation of conducting the monitoring of environmental effects of the planned activities for employees of the Beneficiary ensures timely and accurate execution of this task. Until the submission of midterm report, beneficiary has not received official approval from the Commission to the aforementioned changes.

5.4. Analysis of long-term benefits

Detailed analysis of the long-term benefits of the project will be carried out at the stage of the final report. However, it can already be determined that the project will contribute to a better (more complete) protection of selected species of plants and animals and habitats. One of the most important results of the project, which can contribute to a substantial improvement of the conservation status of species and habitats, will be the development of a detailed, efficient and economically reasonable method of control of *Impatiens Gladulifera* - invasive plant species of foreign origin.

5. Comments on the financial report

6.1. Summary of Costs Incurred

The actual costs of the project can be divided into those that have already been spent within the past activities (Table 1) and those that will result from the contracts signed but not yet completed (Table 2).

Table 1: List of completed activities with their budget

No.	Title of the agreement	Date of the agreement / Invoice date	Agreement No / Invoice No.	Funds (€)		
				Planned	Actual	Difference
1.	A.2. Preparation of technical documentation, obtaining a building permit for the manure	31.01.2013	4/2013/LIFE11	8 000	4 419,67	3 580,33

	tanks and agreements concerning the construction of manure plates					
2.	A.3. Preparation of technical documentation and obtaining a building permit for culverts for amphibians	31.01.2013	4/2013/LIFE11	5 500	12 276,87	-6 776,87
3.	C.5. Construction of manure plates and tanks for liquid manure	31.01.2013	4/2013/LIFE11	97 623	96 987,25	635,75
4.	C.6. Construction of the footbridges	21.11.2012 8.04.2013	3/2012/LIFE11 9/2013/LIFE11	99 376	96 063,31	3 312,69
5.	E.1. Publication of the informational folder about the project	10.01.2013	2/2013/LIFE11(2)	1 000	317,11	682,89
6.	E.2. Creation of informational plates about the project	27.06.2013	VAT nr FV 19/06/2013	500	52,85	447,15
7.	E.9. Publication of posters about invasive plant species of foreign origin	28.02.2013	7/2013/LIFE11	6 160	4 167,75	1 992,25
8.	E.10. Gadgets promoting the project with the logo of the LIFE +	10.01.2013 30.09.2013	2/2013/LIFE11 11/2013/LIFE11	18 250	12 988,78	5 261,22
9.	F.6. Purchase of the equipment necessary for the project	10.01.2013 07.01.2013 08.01.2013 21.12.2012 14.12.2012	1/2013/LIFE11(2) FV nr 7288538 FVS/13/0108 5/2012/LIFE11 GV-P 2/063485	29 450	26 270,39	3 179,61
TOGETHER				265 859,00	253 543,98	12 315,02

Following the procedures of the selection of contractors and after the completion of activities: A.2, A.3, C.5, C.6, E.1, E.2, E.9, E.10, F.6 it was found that not all funds planned for these actions were used - 12 315.02 EUR remained. In addition, the already completed procedures for selecting contractors of further actions, who have already signed the agreements indicates that the amount of unspent money will increase by EUR 78 375.67. In total, so far the amount of financial savings resulting from the verification of costs of individual activities in tendering procedures is 90 690.69 EUR.

Table 2: List of signed contracts that generate savings in the project

No.	Action	Date	Agreement No.	Funds (€)		
				Planned	Actual	Difference
1.	A.1 Preparation of the land purchase	10.01.2013	3/2013/LIFE11	9 000	8 264,78	735,22
2.	C.3 Removal of Impatiens	29.04.2013	10/2013/LIFE11	292 500	245 357	47 143

	Gladulifera					
3.	C.4 Construction of the culverts for amphibians	31.01.2013	4/2013/LIFE11	599 839	578 731,55	21 107,45
4.	E.4 Website about the project	26.11.2012	4/2012/LIFE11	5 000	4 731	269
5.	F.1 Project management	30.10.2012	1/2012/LIFE11	288 000	279 125	8 875
6.	F.5 Monitoring of the progress of project implementation	12.11.2012	2/2012/LIFE11	15 000	14 754	246
TOGETHER				1 209 339	1 130 963,33	78 375,67

In addition, the beneficiary signed another agreement related to the operation C.4 *Construction of culverts for amphibians*, which relates to laying an asphalt concrete pavement on the road district Okuniowiec-Wiatrołęża 1153B, in the amount of EUR 34 547.45. In the event that the European Commission will find these costs eligible, as requested by the beneficiary in a letter dated 2 September 2013, while also giving consent to transfer the part of the expenditure from *External Assistance* category to *Personnel* in the task D.1. *Monitoring*, of costs an additional agreement to lay a new surface will be covered by funds unused in action C.4 (the amount of EUR 21 107.45) and D.1 (39 570 EUR). In this case demonstrated savings in signed but not yet completed agreements will amount to EUR 43 828.22 and Table 2 will be as follows:

No.	Action	Date	Agreement No.	Funds (€)		
				Planned	Actual	Difference
1.	A.1 Preparation of the land purchase	10.01.2013	3/2013/LIFE11	9 000	8 264,78	735,22
2.	C.3 Removal of Impatiens Gladulifera	29.04.2013	10/2013/LIFE11	292 500	245 357	47 143
3.	C.4 Construction of the culverts for amphibians	31.01.2013 21.10.2013	4/2013/LIFE11	599 839	578 731,55 34 547,45	-13 440,00
4.	E.4 Website about the project	26.11.2012	4/2012/LIFE11	5 000	4 731	269
5.	F.1 Project management	30.10.2012	1/2012/LIFE11	288 000	279 125	8 875
6.	F.5 Monitoring of the progress of project implementation	12.11.2012	2/2012/LIFE11	15 000	14 754	246
TOGETHER				1 209 339	1 165 510,78	43 828,22

Then the total amount of unused funds from the budget of projects will amount to 56 143,24 EUR.

Whatever will be the final amount of funds unused in the project budget (90 690.69 or 56 143,24 EUR) The beneficiary intends to allocate them on financing two actions: A.1 *Preparing the purchase of land* and C.3 *Disposal of Impatiens Gladulifera*. Implementation of action A.1 will require minor additional funds (range of 1 thousand. EUR), which will be used to develop appraisal reports of land planned for the purchase. The remaining part of unused amount will be used to expand the removal area of Impatiens Gladulifera. Location of additional areas that the beneficiary intends to include in this action is presented on maps which are **Appendix 5** to this report.

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED				
Cost category		Budget according to the grant agreement*	Costs incurred within the project duration	%**
1.	Personnel	0,00	0,00	0,00
2.	Travel	18 925,00	795,11	4,20
3.	External assistance	875 030,00	170 458,30	19,48
4.	Durables: total <u>non-depreciated</u> cost	826 288,00	798 052,51	96,58
	- <i>Infrastructure sub-tot.</i>	796 838,00	771 782,12	96,86
	- <i>Equipment sub-tot.</i>	29 450,00	26 270,39	89,20
	- <i>Prototypes sub-tot.</i>	0,00	0,00	0,00
5.	Consumables	10 625,00	2 290,08	24,38
6.	Other costs	4 000,00	761,37	19,03
7.	Purchase of land	1 190 500,00	885 970,50	74,42
8.	Overheads	121 440,00	6 386,10	5,26
TOTAL		3 046 808,00	1 864 713,97	61,20

*) If the Commission has officially approved a budget modification indicate the breakdown of the revised budget. Otherwise this should be the budget in the original grant agreement.

**) Calculate the percentages by budget lines: e.g. the % of the budgeted personnel costs that were actually incurred

6.2. Accounting system

All issues relating to the accounting system regulates Ordinance No. 16/2012 of the Director of Wigry National Park dated 10.10.2012 in the matter of financial control procedures and accounting principles in the use of EU funds for the project LIFE11 NAT / PL / 000431. A copy of this decree is attached as **Appendix 1** to this Report. Ordinance regulates, inter alia, circulation of documents related to the project. All external documents flowing into the unit through the Secretariat shall be communicated to the Director and after the assignment made by the of the Director, go to the employees who are commissioned to the project. Documents relating to financial matters go to the Financial and Accountant Team

which checks and controls the documents for formal compliance of accounting and compliance with the financial plan. Verification of accounting evidence in terms of content involves determining the reliability of the data contained in the proof, and also checking purposefulness, thriftiness and legality of transactions made on the basis of evidence. Verification of accounting evidence in terms of formal compliance of accounting is to determine whether the document has been issued in a technically correct manner, if it includes all the features of proper evidence and that the figures do not contain arithmetic errors. Accounting evidence adequately described, checked in accordance with the above requirements, shall be submitted for approval to the head of the unit. The books of account of the Beneficiary for the project are conducted using the computer while maintaining separate accounting records in the Financial Accountant System FK-Focus. In addition, the Ordinance defines the bookkeeping - gives the chart of accounts and methods for assets evaluation, liabilities and determination of the financial results and describes the system of protection of the accounting records

6.3. Partnership arrangements (if relevant)

Lack of co-beneficiaries.

6.4. Auditor's report/declaration

Financial audit of the project is planned after the (the first quarter of 2018). As part of the funds allocated to this task beneficiary nevertheless decided to conduct a mid-term audit - at the beginning of 2015. The person who will conduct two audits is a statutory auditor Alicja Łabacz (tel. 22 428 16 39, e-mail: alabacz@spec.suwalki.pl).

6.5. Summary of costs per action

Action no.	Short name of action	1. Personnel	2. Travel and subsistence	3. External assistance	4.a Infra-structure	4.b Equipment	4.c Prototype	5. Purchase or lease of land	6. Consumables	7. Other costs	TOTAL
A.1	Preparation of the land purchase			8 817,24							8817,24
A.2	Preparation of technical documentation, obtaining a building permit for the manure tanks and agreements concerning the construction of manure plates			4 419,67							4419,67
A.3	Preparation of technical documentation and obtaining a building permit for culverts for amphibians			12 276,87							12276,87

B.1	Land purchase							885 970,50			885970,5
C.1	Deforestation			2 782,99							2782,99
C.2	Mowing			7 100,26							7100,26
C.3	Removal of Impatiens Gladulifera			60 033,88							60033,88
C.4	Costruction of culverts for amphibians				578 731,55						578731,55
C.5	Construction of manure plates				96 987,25						96987,25
C.6	Construction of footbridges				96 063,31						96063,31
E.1	Publication of informational folder about the project			317,11							317,11
E.2	Creation of informational boards about the project			52,85							52,85
E.7	Organization of educational classes			622,06					1369,31		1991,37
E.8	Organization of workshops			1 213,52					920,77		2435,07
E.9	Publication of posters about invasive plant species of foreign origin			4 167,75							4167,75
E.10	Gadgets promoting the project with the logo of the LIFE +			12 988,78							12988,78
F.1	Project management		608,34	55 665,32							55972,88
F.2	Networking with Rother projects		186,77							316,51	503,28
F.6	Purchase of the equipment necessary for the project implementation					26 270,39					26270,39
F.6	Purchase of the equipment necessary for the project implementation - insurance									444,86	444,86
Over-heads											6 386,10
	TOTAL	0	795,11	170 458,30	771782,11	26270,39	0	885970,5	2 290,08	761,37	1 864713,96

7. Annexes

7.1. Administrative annexes

Appendix 1 - A copy of Ordinance No. 16/2012 of the Director of Wigry National Park dated 10.10.2012 (1 pc.)

7.2. Technical annexes

Appendix 2 - Construction designs along with a decision regarding construction permit for culverts for amphibians in Wiatrołuża (1 pc.)

Appendix 3 - List of notarial acts (1 pc.)

Appendix 4 - 5 Copies of notarial acts and appraisal reports 1 pc.

A. A / 2584/2013 dated 05.21.2013

B. A / 2541/2013 dated 20.05.2013

C. A / 2125/2013 dated 30/04/2013

D. A / 2932/2013 dated 06.06.2013

E. A / 2970/2013 dated 06.07.2013

Appendix 5 - Map of the location of areas where the removal of *Impatiens Gladulifera* is implemented or planned (4 pcs.)

Appendix 6 - Map of the location of the parcels purchased under the project (8 pcs.)

Appendix 7 - Copies of the minutes of the meetings of the Project Management Team (12 pcs.)

7.3. Dissemination annexes

7.3.1. Layman's report – does not apply

7.3.2. After-LIFE Communication plan – for LIFE+ Biodiversity and LIFE Environment Policy and Governance projects – does not apply

7.3.3. Other dissemination annexes

Appendix 8 - Copies of the reports of monitoring progress (4 pcs.)

A. for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2012,

B. for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2013

C. for the period from 1 April to 30 June 2013.

D. for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2013.

Appendix 9 - Photos of informational boards about the project (4 pcs.)

Annex 10 - Copies of the programs of educational activities

A. Winter Academy for Nature, December 15, 2012.

B. Summer Academy for Nature, 23-26 August 2013.

C. Winter Academy for Nature, 29-31 January 2013 .; 1 February 2013.

Appendix 11 - Copies of the programs of the workshops

A. Workshops program from 28 February 2013.

B. Workshops program of 4 October 2013.

C. Workshops program of 18 October 2013.

Appendix 12 - Copy of the program of the academic session organized by the Naturalist Club (1 pc.)

Appendix 13 - Quarterly WIGRY (4 issues)

Appendix 14 - Copy of the reception protocol of the works connected to removal of Impatiens Gladulifera (1 pc.)

Appendix 15 - Gadgets promoting the project:

A. USB memory stick with information about the project (units. 1).

B. T-shirt with imprint (piece. 1)

C. Canvas bag with imprint (piece. 1)

Appendix 16 - The electronic version of the **Annexes 1 to 14** on CD (1 pc.)

7.4. Final table of indicators

Does not apply

8. Financial report and annexes