



LIFE Project Number

LIFE11 NAT/PL/431

Progress Report

Covering the project activities from 01/10/2012 to 31/05/2015

Reporting Date

30/06/2015

LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym

Active protection of endangered species and habitats in the Nature 2000 ' Wigierska Mainstay''

Data Project

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

Data Beneficiary

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2. Executive summary

2.1. General progress

The project is implemented in accordance with the schedule. Information about the project implementation is published regularly on the project website as well as in WIGRY Quarterly, which is nationwide, published by the Wigierski National Park. Since the submission of the Mid-term Report three milestones have been completed: *"Completion of construction of culverts for amphibians"* - Action C.4, *"Conference"* - Action E.6 and *"Completion of land redemption"* - Action B.1 (4 since the beginning of the project). At the same time, two project products were obtained: *Valuation survey* - Action A.1 and *Notarial Acts of Land Purchase and Sale Agreements* - Action B.1. Copies of all valuation surveys and notarial acts are attached - Annex No. 1 to this Report.

List of project deliverable products:

Name of the Deliverable	Number of the associated action	Deadline
Folders about the project	E.1	17-12-2012 (done, attached to IncR)
Gadgets promoting the project with logo LIFE+	E.10	31-12-2012 (done attached to MTR)
Technical Project of the manure tanks and manure concrete slabs	A.2	29-03-2013 (done, attached to IncR)
Building permission for manure tanks	A.2	29-03-2013 (done, attached to IncR)
Arrangements concerning the building of manure concrete slabs	A.2	29-03-2013 (done, attached to IncR)
Set of posters (3 pcs) of alien species	E.9	29-03-2013 (done, attached to IncR)
Technical Project of passages for amphibians	A.3	28-06-2013 (done, attached to MTR)
Permits for construction of culverts for amphibians	A.3	28-06-2013 (done, attached to MTR)
Valuation survey	A.1	29-08-2014 (done, attached to ProgR)
Copy of the Notarial Acts of Land Purchase and Sale Agreements	B.1	29-08-2014 (done, attached to ProgR)
Layman's report	E.5	29-09-2017
After Life Plan	F.3	29-09-2017
Assessment of socio-economic impact of the project	D.2	29-09-2017
Monitoring Report	D.1	02-10-2017
Audit Report	F.4	31-01-2018

Project implementation Reports	F.1	18-12-2017
Periodic progress monitoring Reports	F.5	18-12-2017

List of the project milestones:

Name of Milestone	Number of the associated action	Deadline
Signing contract for project implementation	E.1	28-09-2012 (achieved)
Completion of construction of culverts for amphibians	C.4	23-12-2013 (achieved)
Conference	E.6	20-06-2014 (achieved)
Completion of land redemption	B.1	30-06-2014 (achieved)
Finishing of mowing	C.2	19-12-2017 (change)
We propose to change the deadline of this milestone achievement on 31.10.2017		
Completion of work on fighting off the alien species	C.3	26-12-2016 (change)
Due to an error in recording the date of achievement of this milestone in the application form - MILESTONES OF THE PROJECT table, the date should be corrected to conform to the description of action C.3 and the contract for the removal of <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> , ie on 30.08.2017.		
Final Audit	F.4	02-10-2017 (change)
Due to the need for a financial audit after the completion of the project we propose to change the date of this milestone achievement on 31.01.2018		

During the reporting period, ie from the submission of the Mid-Term Report, three actions were completed: *Land redemption preparation* - Action A.1, *Land redemption*- Action B.1 and *Construction of amphibious culverts* - Action C.4. Other activities are carried out without interruption.

2.2. Assessment as to whether the project objectives and work plan are still viable

All the goals of the project are still valid and achievable. Planned actions have been largely completed and others are still feasible. By expanding the area from which the *Impatiens glandulifera* plants are removed (C.3), there is a real possibility of limiting the size of the population of this species in the Wigierska Mainstay area to such a level that the native plant species could compete successfully with this alien stranger.

2.3. Problems encountered

Despite some delays in the implementation of some activities, the project was running smoothly and without problems during the reporting period. All arrears have been completed and currently there are no threats to the implementation of the individual activities or to the achievement of the strategic goal of the project.

3. Administrative part

3.1. Description of Project management

In the reporting period, the project management rules did not change. The project management team carried out the following activities:

- coordinated and monitored the preparation of land purchases from the private owners (task A.1), purchase of private land (B.1), bushes removing (task C.1) and mowing of overgrowing open areas (C.2), removal of *Impatiens glandulifera* (C.3), construction of culverts for amphibians (task C.4), monitoring (D.1), implementation of information and education boards on selected activities (E.3), project website creation (E.4) organization of the conference (E.6), organization of learning activities (E.7), organization of workshops (E.8), networking with other projects (F.2) and monitoring of project progress (F.5);

- organized a monitoring visit of the European Commission on 10, 11 July 2014 at the Wigry National Park headquarters. From the EC side two people took part in the meeting - Maja Mikosińska - technical officer and Anna McClintock - financial officer.

The meeting was also attended by a representative of the External Monitoring Team - Stanislaw Tworek.

- On September 25, 2014, a group of representatives of the project: Nature in the mosaic - protection of species and habitats in the "Pieniny" area (LIFE12 NAT / PL / 000034) of the Pieniny National Park. Cooperation was established, which resulted in a joint study trip to Slovenia;

- established cooperation with beneficiaries of other LIFE projects (LIFE12 NAT / PL / 000034, LIFE11 NAT / PL / 000034, LIFE11 NAT / PL / 428 and LIFE12 NAT / PL / 000063;

- organized four study visits: to Spain, Portugal, Italy and Slovenia.

Between March 8 and 15, 2014, four people took part in a trip to Spain where they visited two EU projects, funded under LIFE - LIFE12 NAT / ES / 0001091 and LIFE10 NAT / ES / 000572. On 4-10 May 2015, four people took part in a trip to Portugal, where they met with representatives of two projects - LIFE12 NAT / PT / 950 and LIFE13 BIO / PT / 000386.

Between 30 May and 4 June 2015 five people took part in departure to Italy and Slovenia (LIFE11 NAT / IT / 000094);

- on 18-20 November 2014 organized a visit of the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management to the Wigry National Park to monitor the implementation of the project

- on 23 May 2015, organized Nature Day 2000 with representatives of two other projects (LIFE12 NAT / PL / 000063 and LIFE11 NAT / PL / 428);

- Organized the meetings of the entire Project Management Team, during which the current work and a timetable for specific actions for the future were discussed and set;

- monitored the project budget and timetable for implementation of the future actions.

3.2. Organigramme of the Project team and the Project management structure

Diagram of the project management structure has not changed in relation to the objectives of the grant application, and therefore placed in a report in its original form.

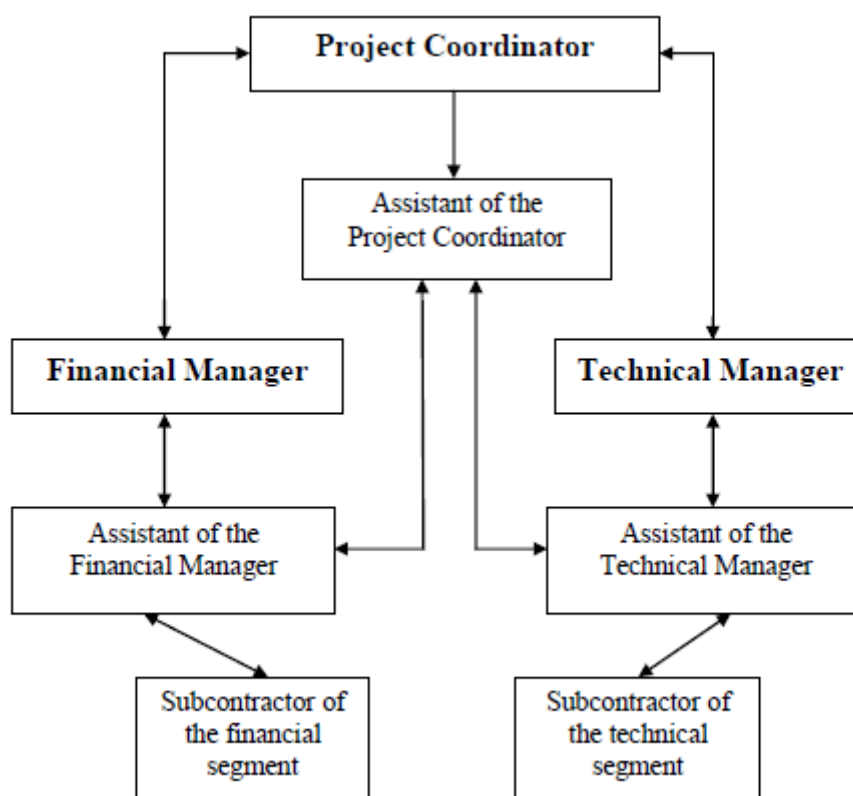


Diagram 1. Project management structure

3.3. Reports delivered since the start of the project

Since the beginning of the project implementation, two reports have been submitted to the European Commission: Inception Report - prepared for the period 01.10.2012-30.06.2013 and Mid-Term Report - prepared for the period 01.10.2012-30.11.2013. The preliminary report was accepted by the European Commission (letter of 9.08.2013) with the main comments on the purchase of land - excluding 4 plots of redemption plans and website management - lack of full English version. All the EC remarks were taken into account – one has resigned from the purchase of land belonging to the Suwałki Commune and the texts on the project website were added to achieve the full English version. The mid-term report was accepted by the European Commission (letter of 11.04.2014) with minor comments, which were taken into account by the Project Management Team.

3.4. Extension of the project duration

The project does not require an extension of the deadline implementation.

4. Technical part

The project is being implemented in the area of the "Wigrska Mainstay" characterized by high flora and fauna richness, which results from the varied sculpture of the area and associated mosaic of diverse habitats. This area is an important site for the occurrence of many species of plants and animals, both local and national. The project concerns the protection of selected elements of the natural environment, with particular emphasis on species and habitats covered by the Natura 2000 network. Its main objective is to protect endangered species and habitats in Natura 2000 "Wigierska Mainstay".

4.1. Actions

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

4.1.1. Action A.1 *Preparation of the land redemption*

The Action has been completed.

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: IV quarter of 2012

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2013

Actual deadline: III quarter of 2014

In the reporting period, the last two Valuation survey were estimated for two plots with a total area of 1.4129 ha, which were the basis for the valuation of land and the start of price negotiations with their owners. These plots are located in Leszczewek. The deadline for

implementation was extended due to prolonged negotiations with landowners. The last valuation was made on 19.08.2014. In total, 40 valuation surveys were made concerning 64 plots. Thus, the assumed plan for the number of valuation survey was reached. Copies of all valuations are enclosed in Annex 1 to this Report.

4.1.2. Action A.2. *Preparation of technical documentation, obtaining a building permit for the construction of manure tanks and manure concrete slabs.*

The Action has been completed

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: IV quarter of 2012

Planned deadline: I quarter of 2013

Actual deadline: II quarter of 2013

The whole activity was described in the mid-term report and also the products of the activity were passed along with it. In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued.

4.1.3. Action A.3. *Preparation of technical documentation and obtaining the building permits for the construction of culverts for amphibians*

Działanie zostało zakończone

Planned start date: I quarter of 2013

Actual start date: I quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: II quarter of 2013

Actual deadline: III quarter of 2013

The whole activity was described in the mid-term report and also the products of the activity were passed along with it. In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued.

B. Purchase of land

4.1.4. Action B.1. *Land redemption*

The Action has been completed

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: I quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: II quarter of 2014

Actual deadline: III quarter of 2014

In the reporting period, two plots with a total area of 1.32 ha were purchased (the last purchase was made on 22.08.2014). The purchased plots are located in the Natura 2000 area, their purchase prices are based on market rates (ultimately the price was determined based on the valuation survey made by the real estate appraiser and negotiations with the landowners) and were purchased according to the project's assumptions. All purchased land is designated for wildlife conservation purposes, which is appropriately marked (entry of irrevocable land allocation for the nature protection purposes) both in notarial act of land purchase and sale and in land and mortgage registers. The postponement of the deadline was related to delays in the preparation of parcel valuation and the preparation of complete documentation related to its redemption.

A total of 69,3301 hectares of land from the 68 hectares planned for the project were purchased from private individuals.

Copies of all notarial acts are enclosed in Annex No. 1 to this Report.

C. Concrete conservation action

4.1.5. Action C.1. *Bushes removing*

The action is implemented

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2013

Actual start date: III quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: I quarter of 2016

During the reporting period, the process of bushes removing was completed in the Protected Area Mikołajewo on an area of 0.3 ha.

Altogether, from the beginning of the project, the treatment of bushes removing was covered on 7.94 ha, out of 20 hectares planned in the project. In the next few years, it is planned to carry out this treatment on an area of over 12 hectares.

4.1.6. Action C.2. *Mowing*

The action is implemented

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2013

Actual start date: III quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2016

In the reporting period mowing was carried out in the Protected Area: Lipniak - 2,50 ha and Mikołajewo - 2.76 ha. The total mowing area is 5.26 ha, and since the beginning of the project

25.91 ha of 120 ha planned in the project. In spite of the fact that only 22% of the planned area is executed, the action is not threatened. In the next years - 2016-2017 mowing is planned on a much larger area, which will allow for the achievement of planned goal.

4.1.7. Action C.3. *Impatiens glandulifera* removal

The action is implemented

Planned start date: II quarter of 2013

Actual start date: II quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: II quarter of 2017

In the reporting period, further work (second season) related to the removal of *Impatiens glandulifera* from the "Wigierska Mainstay" area was carried out. These works were carried out on the area of 49.97 hectares, on plots located along the Black Hańcza and Wiatrołuży rivers, on the banks of the Wigry Lakes (in the western part thereof), and on the Black Lake near Bryzgiel as well as and on the Monastery Peninsula and on the east side of it. An increase in the affected area by 19.97 hectares was due to the appearance of *Impatiens glandulifera* in new locations, which would significantly threaten the results of the conducted works. This change was accepted by the European Commission by the letter of 11 April 2014 (ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2012) 1148545).

4.1.8. Action C.4. *Construction of culverts for amphibians*

The action has been completed

Planned start date: III quarter of 2013

Actual start date: III quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2013

Actual deadline: IV quarter of 2013

During the reporting period, the final work on the construction of the second amphibious culverts system, located on the district road 1153B Okuniowiec-Wiatrołuża, crossing the area of the "Wigierska Mainstay" in its northern part. These works were related to the laying of concrete asphalt surface on road sections 4 + 700 to 4 + 950, which resulted from the modification of C.4 to the original plans. These changes will have a positive effect on the final effect, with little increase in costs, and did not affect the overall budget of the project. All modifications to this action are described in the details in the mid-term report and its

approval by the European Commission was confirmed by letter dated on 9 August 2013 (ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2013) 2858557).

4.1.9. Action C.5. *Construction of manure tanks and manure concrete slabs*

The action has been completed

Planned start date: II quarter of 2013

Actual start date: II quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2013

Actual deadline: II quarter of 2013

The whole action was completed before the deadline, and manure slabs and manure concrete slabs were put into operation. In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued.

4.1.10. Action C.6. *Construction of footbridges*

The action has been completed

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: IV quarter of 2012

Planned deadline: II quarter of 2013

Actual deadline: II quarter of 2013

The whole operation was completed according to the schedule, although some changes were made to the original assumptions. These changes are described in detail in the mid-term report and did not affect the overall budget of the project. All modifications to this action were accepted by the European Commission by letter dated 9 August 2013 (ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2013) 2858557). In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued.

D. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions

4.1.11. Action D.1. *Monitoring*

The action is implemented

Planned start date: II quarter of 2013

Actual start date: I quarter of 2014

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2017

Difficulties in starting this activity have been described in the mid-term report. Despite the officially stated delay in monitoring the effects of selected activities, the beneficiary started

the first research already in the third quarter of 2013. In many cases, baseline studies have been carried out, to which later monitoring results will be reported. Action, with the agreement of the European Commission (letter dated 20 June 2014 - ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2014) 119735), is carried out by the beneficiary himself.

Currently, the results of the study of the *Lycaena dispar* and the *Lycaena helle*, carried out in the years 2013-2014, have been collected on selected surfaces for bush removal and mowing (monitoring of invertebrates); Loessel, low birch, royal bush, Buxbaum sedge, marsh sedge, mudstone, common thistle, blue pea, cucumber moth, peat violet, cuckoo variety ochroleuca, and Fuchs cuckoo, conducted in 2013 Surfaces for milling and descaling (plant monitoring); Results of gonorrhea examination in the years 2012-2014 on the areas subjected to its removal (plant monitoring); Results of studies of roses in 2012 and 2014 on areas affected by the activity related to the construction and modernization of tourist footbridges (monitoring of effects connected with the construction and modernization of tourist routes); Results of physicochemical studies of river waters, over which manure slabs and manure tanks were built (monitoring of the environmental condition of the green shade and thick slime); Results of the amphibian survey in 2012-2014 along the roads where passage systems were built (vertebrate monitoring); Corncrake survey results for the years 2012-2014 on selected surfaces for milling and abrading (vertebrate monitoring).

All research results will be developed in the form of reports after the end of the whole operation. Currently, these are only reports containing short-term results, which do not allow for detailed analyzes and conclusions (according to the project the reports are to be prepared at the end of all monitoring).

4.1.12. Action D.2. *Evaluation of the socio-economic impact of the project*

Action is planned to be implemented:

Planned start date: II quarter of 2017

Actual start date: The action is not implemented yet

Planned deadline: III quarter of 2017

According to the project action plan, the action is not implemented yet.

E. Public awareness and dissemination of results

4.1.13. Action E.1. *Publishing the information folder about the Project*

The action has been completed

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: I quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2012

Actual deadline: I quarter of 2013

Action has been described in the Inception report and the action product has also been forwarded within. In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued.

4.1.14. Action E.2. *Implementation of the project information plates*

The action has been completed

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: I quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2012

Actual deadline: I quarter of 2013

The action was described in the mid-term report and it was also accompanied by the product of the action (photos of the installed plates). In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued.

4.1.15. Action E.3. *Wykonanie tablic informacyjno-edukacyjnych o wybranych działaniach*

The action has been completed

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2013

Actual start date: II quarter of 2014

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2013

Actual deadline: III quarter of 2014

The action has been completed in the reporting period. The Contractor, outlined in the public proceedings, made and distributed 10 information and education boards in the area (in the places indicated by the Contracting Authority). Photos of the boards, along with a map of their locations, are shown in the Annex No. 3 to the Report.

4.1.16. Action E.4. *The Internet webpage about the project*

The action is implemented

Planowany termin rozpoczęcia działania: IV kwartał 2012 r.

Faktyczny termin rozpoczęcia działania: IV kwartał 2012 r.

Planowany termin zakończenia działania: IV kwartał 2017 r.

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: IV quarter of 2012

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2017

The action is implemented according to the project schedule. According to the European Commission's recommendation, the English version of the project was completed with missing information (Calendar).

4.1.17. Action E.5. *Laymen report*

The action is planned to be implemented

Planned start date: III quarter of 2017

Actual start date: is not implemented yet

Planned deadline: III quarter of 2017

According to the project schedule the action is not implemented yet.

4.1.18. Action E.6. *Organization of the conference*

The action has been completed

Planned start date: II quarter of 2014

Actual start date: II quarter of 2014

Planned deadline: II quarter of 2014

Actual deadline: II quarter of 2014

In May 27-28 in "Hotel nad Wigrami" in Gawrych Ruda, held a conference on the project and the issues tackled in it. The conference was attended by over 50 people, including representatives of several national parks, universities and nature conservation institutions. There were 16 speeches presented, including other LIFE projects. The Conference Report is Annex No. 4 to this Report.

4.1.19. Action E.7. *Organization of educational classes*

The action is implemented

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: IV quarter of 2012

Planned deadline: II quarter of 2016

During the reporting period three educational classes took place. The program schedules and attendance lists are Annex No. 5 to the Report. On February 3-6, 2014, the Winter Academy of Nature held classes on natural experiments (Young Explorer's Day), bats (Bat Bats flying), owls (Buboboros) and flying insects (Meadow squadron). The educational classes took place in the Wigry National Park management building, 32 people took part in it.

On 22-24 July 2014 at the Center for Environmental Education of the WNP on the Słupiańska Bay, another classes within the Summer Academy of Nature cycle took place. Four days of intense natural learning activities brought together a group of 45 people of all ages. The Academy program was designed to get participants, in the biodiversity campaign's slogan: "Small or large to be useful for the nature", to know the world of nature on a macro and micro scale and from a different perspective. So, on the first day, they moved on "In the labyrinth of trees", in the second they got to know the world from the perspective of birds ("Bird Workshop"), on the third day they looked at living organisms "In a drop of water" and finally learned about the amphibia horizon, studying carefully "Amphibia ABC's".

On February 3-6, 2015, the Winter Academy of Nature held in Krzyw, where 32 people participated. During the course, participants learned an interesting information about wolves, looking at the trails of wolves in the field, getting to know the wonders of the bird world, finding out where the birds came from, why they are so good in every environment and know life trapped in water (they watched zooplankton under the microscope).

A total of 6 educational sessions were conducted, with 10 planned in the project.

4.1.20. Action E.8. *Organization of workshops*

The action is implemented

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: I quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: III quarter of 2016

During the reporting period, five workshops took place. Workshop programs and attendance lists is Annex No. 6 to the Report. On May 31, 2014, workshops for teachers of natural science, biology, chemistry and geography, all levels of education, were held at the Environmental Education Center in Słupie - an educational base of the Wigry National Park. The main theme was Nature Conservation, the Natura 2000 network. The workshops consisted of a chamber and a field part. Participants received a number of materials, including guides for the recognition of plant and animal species, posters with invasive species and map

of Natura 2000 sites in Poland. In the field part, the participants improved their ability to recognize plants along the educational trail "Jeziora" and "Dabek" walking path. The workshop program included Presentations of novelties in the educational and tourist offer of the Wigry National Park, presentation of the project "Active protection of endangered species and habitats in the Natura 2000 area "Wigierska Mainstay" and a presentation devoted to the threats to biodiversity by alien species. The meeting was attended by 30 people.

On September 27, 2014 another workshop was organized, this time for tour guides. The meeting was attended by 40 people - present and future tour guides, tour operators and travel agents, teachers, tour operators operating in the "Wigierska Mainstay" area. During the workshop the principles of making available the Wigry National Park and Natura 2000 sites, tourist news and tourism development plans in the Suwałki-Augustow Lake District were presented. During the field session participants of the workshop had a chance to get acquainted with the a gord in Posejnele and to get to know the native and foreign species of WNP plants on the educational trail "Las".

On March 21, 2015, workshops for farmers were held in Old Folwark (Wigry Museum), concerning valuable natural habitats in agricultural areas within the boundaries of the Wigry National Park. The program included, among others, speeches of Dr. Dan Wołkowicki, "Natura 2000: a difficult community of interests", and "Values and conservation of grasslands of the Wigry National Park", and lectures by Dr. Piotr Sikorski, "Values and protection of greenery of Wigry National Park" and "Biodiversity of cultivated fields in Wigry National Park in tourism" and the presentation of Jarosław Borejszo, MSc" Landscape protection in the Wigry National Park ". 35 people took part in the workshops.

On May 8, 2015, workshops for tourist guides were held. Workshops took place in the Wigry National Park, Metel Regional Park and the Zuwintas Reserve in Lithuania. During the field session, workshop participants learned examples of the impact of anthropopression on the Natura 2000 habitat and solving the resulting problems (on the example of the Wigry National Park, the Meteoski Regional Park and the Zuwintas Reserves). The workshop was attended by 35 people.

On May 23, 2015, workshops for farmers devoted to plant species of foreign origin in Old Folwark (Wigry Museum) were held. During the meeting, issues related to the dangers posed by alien plant species to native nature, practical identification of invasive species of plants of foreign origin and methods of combating alien species were discussed. The workshop was attended by 37 people.

A total of 8 workshops were carried out, with 15 planned in the project.

4.1.21. Action E.9. *Posters edition of invasive plant species of foreign origin*

The action has been completed

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: I quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: I quarter of 2013

Actual deadline: I quarter of 2013

The activity was described in the mid-term report and was accompanied by the product of the action. In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued.

4.1.22. Action E.10. *Gadgets promoting the project with the LIFE logo*

The action has been completed

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: I quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2012

Actual deadline: IV quarter of 2013

The activity was described in the mid-term report and was accompanied by the product of the action. In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued.

F. Overall project operation and monitoring of the project progress

4.1.23. Action E.1. *Project management*

The action is implemented

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: I quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2017

The principles for implementing this action are described in detail in previous reports (Inception Report and Mid-term Report). Activities carried out in the reporting period are described in section 3.1 of this Report.

4.1.24. Action F.2. *Networking with the other projects*

The action is implemented

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2013

Actual start date: I quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: III quarter of 2016

During the reporting period several meetings with representatives of other LIFE projects took place. Between March 8th and 15th, 2014, the first, out of five scheduled foreign visits, took place. Group of four people participated in the trip to Spain, visiting the sites of two LIFE-financed projects funded by the EU. Contacts with the project "PRO-Izki - Ecosystem Management of Iznik Quercus pyrenaika forest and habitats and species of community interest related to it." established in the IZKI Landscape Park in the Basque Country. In Catalonia, the project "PROYECTO ESTANY - Improvement of the Natura 2000 habitats and species found in Banyoles: a demonstration project" was introduced. The trip was an opportunity to exchange experiences and establish closer contacts between specialists, as noted in the local press (Photo 1). The report of the trip is Annex No. 7 to the Report.



Photo 1. Mention in the local press about the visit of specialists from Poland.

On July 1, 2014, the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management organized another LIFE Information Day. Mr. Lech Krzysztofiak, Project coordinator LIFE11 NAT / PL / 000431 was invited to give a presentation on the experience of preparing application and project management - all presentations were broadcast live on the Internet. In

addition, two other representatives of the Wigry National Park presented the results of the project achieved so far. 210 participants participated in the meeting and over 400 people followed the on-line transmission.

On September 25-26, Wigry National Park hosted a group of representatives of the project: Nature in the mosaic - protection of species and habitats in the "Pieniny" (LIFE12 NAT / PL / 000034) the area of the Pieniny National Park. During the meeting the issues and experiences related to the implementation of projects financed by the LIFE financial instrument were discussed and a cooperation platform was drawn up.

On February 20, 2015, a visit to the Forest District of Głęboki Bród, implementing the project LIFE11 NAT / PL / 428 "Active Protection of lowland populations of grouse in Dolnoslaski Forests and Augustowski Primeval Forest" took place. During the several hours of the meeting the experience of managing the projects and some of the results obtained from the projects were discussed. One of the effects of co-operation was planning a joint study trip to Portugal.

On 4-10 May 2015 a study trip of four beneficiary employees to Portugal took place. As part of the trip, participants referred to the project results "TAXUS - Restoring yew thickets [9580 * Mediterranean *Taxus baccata* woods]", implemented by the Association "Quercus" - Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza. Another meeting for this foreign visit took place at Barreiro near Lisbon and was aimed at acquiring the "Biodiscoveries" project - Invasive species control through public participation "LIFE13 BIO / PT / 000386. The participants of the study visit met the representatives of the municipality and the staff involved in the project, visited the community-based Environmental Education Center, and during their field trip they were acquainted with the Machada forest environment located in the Tagus Valley. They also looked at indigenous species as well as invasive alien species, methods of removing them, realized within the LIFE project. Study visit resulted in many fields. Meetings with project executives - representatives of the nature protection services, the central nature conservation and forest management office in Portugal and local government representatives were an opportunity to share experience in project implementation, both in terms of technical, technical and administrative issues. The report of this trip is Annex No. 8 to the Report.

On May 23, 2015, the Wigry National Park, together with the "Human and Nature" Association - implementing the project "Protecting amphibians in Natura 2000 areas in north-eastern Poland" LIFE12 NAT / PL / 000063, Głęboki Bród Forest District - co-beneficiary of the project "Active Protection of Lowland Populations Grouse in the Lower Silesian Forests

and the Augustów Primeval Forest "LIFE11 NAT / PL / 428 organized the Natura 2000 Day, a picnic for all interested. In Stary Folwark, at the Wigry Museum, you could see three LIFE projects, take part in games and nature walks, and take part in the workshop: "Swing a goldenrod on a hollyhock at the fence" implemented within E.8 Activity. You could also taste some regional delicacies. The event was attended by more than 200 people. Invitation to the program is Annex No. 9 to the Report.

4.1.25. Action F.3. *Developing an action plan at the end of the „After-Life” project*

Action is planned to be implemented

Planned start date: III quarter of 2017

Actual start date: not implemented yet

Planned deadline: III quarter of 2017

According to the schedule, the action is not implemented yet.

4.1.26. Action F.4. *External financial audit*

The action is implemented

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2017

Actual start date: I quarter of 2015

Planned deadline: I quarter of 2018

Due to the long duration of the project, it was decided that an external audit of the project will take place in two stages - the first stage will be conducted in the second quarter of 2015 and the second phase in the first quarter of 2018. In the reporting period, an open tender was launched in which the contractor of this activity was selected (Audit Lab Sp. Z oo, Armii Krajowej 15/7, 45-071 Opole, KIBR registration number 3584). The first audit report will be submitted to the contracting authority in July 2015.

4.1.27. Action F.5. *Monitoring the progress of the project*

The action is implemented

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: IV quarter of 2012

Planned deadline: III quarter of 2017

During the reporting period, six quarterly reports describing the progress of the project were drawn up. A total of 10 reports of the 20 planned in the project have already been made. Copies of reports prepared in the reporting period are enclosed in Annex 2 to this Report.

4.1.28. Action F.6. *Purchase of equipment necessary for the project*

The action has been completed

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2012

Actual start date: IV quarter of 2012

Planned deadline: I quarter of 2013

Actual deadline: I quarter of 2013

The action is described in the mid-term report. In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued.

4.2. Envisaged Progress until next report

Further action plan is presented in the following timetable.

Tasks/ Activities		2012				2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018
		1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T
Overall project schedule	Proposed				PS			P		PR			PR				MR				PR				FR	
	Actual				PS		IP		MR						PR				PR							FR
A 1	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
A 2	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
A 3	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
B1	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C1	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C2	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C3	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C4	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C5	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
C6	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
D1	Proposed																									
	Actual																									

Information and Communication:

The results of some actions taken so far, show that the project has a strong impact on the habitats acquired by adenocarcinoma - an alien plant species coming from the Central Asia, and has a strong impact on a local community attitude creating a positive attitude to active environmental protection. After two years of intensive control of *Impatiens glandulifera*, in a large part of the area covered by the procedure, the size of the population of this alien species decreased significantly. In place of impatiens emerged mass native species of plants, which effectively compete with strangers. More and more people are reporting information on effective methods of combating undesirable plant species - alien species, amphibian protection methods and advice on the construction of slabs. Increasingly public interest in nature conservation issues means that nature calls for more natural events than originally planned. An example of this is the recently organized farmer's workshop on plants of foreign origin, with 72 people registered, with only 35 places available. Nature conservation symposia and conferences, organized in the last two years, have enjoyed enormous success throughout Poland - and in this case, the number of participations has far exceeded the limit. Self-protection measures by residents of some localities have also been observed - in some cases, the removal of *Impatiens glandulifera* from private parcels has begun.

There is also a growing interest in the project and the LIFE program from neighboring municipalities that plan to undertake various actions to protect the natural environment. The Wigry National Park gives information about the LIFE financial instrument for parties interested in, its rules and scope of action. The project was also interested by the national media - Polish Television, which devoted one of the episodes of the series "Dancing with Nature" to the results of the project (the nationwide broadcast of this episode will be in September). Thanks to the numerous meetings with children, young people and adults, educational classes and workshops, the knowledge about the Natura 2000 network, its principles, limitations and advantages is increasing.

Information about the implementation of the project was included in the Wigry quarterly, published by the Wigry National Park. During the reporting period, five issues of the quarterly were published - see Annex No. 10 to the Report.

4.4. Outside LIFE

The implementation of the project has resulted in some activities that go beyond the schedule of works and expenditures of the project. These include organizing in Old Farm Natura 2000's

Day (described in Section 4.1.24, Activity F.2, Creating a Network with Other Projects), participating in the preparation of one of the episodes ("Friends of the Frogs") in the series "Dances with Nature" preparation and presentation of information about the project and its results at the meetings of the Scientific Council of the Wigry National Park and the scientific symposium "Invasive species of foreign origin threat to native nature" (paper: "*Impatiens glandulifera*" - two years of removal, results achieved, preliminary conclusions." Izabela Puza, Lech Krzysztofiak). The project has also contributed to research into biology, ecology, and effective methods of fighting against *Impatiens glandulifera*. The initial results of the project on this subject were used to develop an application form for funding of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism under Operational Program PL02 "Protection of biological diversity and ecosystems." This has led to an inventory of invasive plant species of foreign origin, with particular emphasis on *Impatiens glandulifera* in the Black River Valle, works on testing methods of combating *Impatiens glandulifera* and the studying the ways of spreading its seeds.

5. Financial part

5.1. Costs incurred

Budget breakdown categories	Total cost in €	Costs incurred from the start date to 31.05.2015 in €	% of total costs
1. Personnel	59 680,00	5 708,68	9,57
2. Travel and subsistence	18 925,00	10 377,31	54,83
3. External assistance	782 400,00	336 782,55	43,04
4. Durable goods	854 288,00	832 599,95	97,46
Infrastructure	824 838,00	806 329,56	97,76
Equipment	29 450,00	26 270,39	89,20
Prototype	0,00	0,00	0,00
5. Land purchase / long-term lease	1 190 500,00	1 164 580,05	97,82
6. Consumables	10 625,00	5 885,17	55,39
7. Other Costs	8 950,00	1 423,49	15,90
8. Overheads	121 440,00	86 974,09	71,62
TOTAL	3 046 808,00	2 444 331,29	80,23

Action number and name	Foreseen costs	Spent so far	Remaining	Projected final cost
A.1 Preparation of the land redemption	9 000	9 354,05	-354,05	9 354,05

A.2 Preparation of technical documentation, obtaining a building permit for the construction of manure tanks and manure concrete slabs.	8 000	4 419,67	3 580,33	4 419,67
A.3 Preparation of technical documentation and obtaining the building permits for the construction of culverts for amphibians	5 500	12 276,87	-6 776,87	12 276,87
B.1 Land redemption	1 190 500	1 164 580,05	25 919,95	1 164 580,05
C.1 Bushes removing	9 000	2 930,65	6 069,35	9 000,00
C.2 Mowing	57 600	9 512,66	48 087,34	57 600,00
C.3 Impatiens glandulifera removal	292 500	118 676,82	173 823,18	244 500,00
C.4 Construction of culverts for amphibians (including asphalt 34 547,46)	627 839	613 279,01	14 559,99	613 279,01
C5 Construction of manure tanks and manure concrete slabs	97 623	96 987,24	635,76	96 987,24
C.6 Construction of footbridges	99 376	96 063,31	3 312,69	96 063,31
D.1 Monitoring	78 250	6 688,77	71 561,23	78 250
D.2 Evaluation of the socio-economic impact of the project	1 520	0,00	1 520,00	1 520,00
E.1 Folders about the project	1 000	317,11	682,89	317,11
E.2 Implementation of the project information plates	500	52,85	447,15	52,85
E.3 Wykonanie tablic informacyjno-edukacyjnych o wybranych działaniach	12 500	3 068,14	9 431,86	3 068,14
E.4 The Internet webpage about the project	5 000	1 835,24	3 164,76	4 727,00
E.5 Laymen report	500	0,00	500,00	500,00
E.6 Organization of the conference	7 500	7 011,65	488,35	7 011,65
E.7 Organization of educational classes	15 625	6 864,42	8 760,58	15 625,00
E.8 Organization of workshops	21 750	7 858,96	13 891,04	21 750,00
E.9 Posters edition of invasive plant species of foreign origin	6 160	4 167,75	1 992,25	4 167,75
E.10 Gadgets promoting the project with logo LIFE+	18 250	12 988,78	5 261,22	12 988,78
F.1 Project management	288 000	134 883,08	153 116,92	278 964,00
F.1 Project management (Travel)	6 300	1 139,66	5 160,34	6 300,00
F.2 Networking with the other projects	13 625	9 602,12	4 022,88	13 625,00
F.4 External financial audit	4 500	0,00	4 500,00	3 715,00
F.5 Monitoring the progress of the project	15 000	6 083,09	8 916,91	14750,00
F.6 Purchase of equipment	29 450	26 270,39	3 179,61	26 270,39

necessary for the project				
F.6 Purchase of equipment necessary for the project - insurance	3 000	444,86	2 555,14	3 000,00
8. Overheads	121 440	86 974,09	34 465,91	121 440,00
TOTAL	3 046 808	2 444 331,29	602 476,71	2 926 102,87

In case of two actions, higher costs were incurred than originally anticipated: A.1 costs were € 354.05 higher than expected and A.3 expenses exceeded planned costs by € 6,776.87. Both of these activities have already been completed. Activities: A.2, B.1, C.4, C.5, C.6, E.1, E.2, E.3, E.6, E.9, E10 and F.6 have also been completed, which savings generated (these savings covered higher costs in actions A.1 and A.3). In the case of actions C.3, E.4, F.1, F.4 and F.5, which are executed, contracts are signed and the amount of savings can already be determined at this stage (€ 58 344). Regardless of the results of the project and the progress of the activities, it is advisable to continue the selected tasks using these savings. Wigry National Park, as the beneficiary of the project, proposes to increase the scope of such activities as: Purchase of land (B.1), Removal of adenoma (C.4), Organization of conferences (E.6), Networking with other projects (F. 2) or issuing the Project Information Folder (E.1) - this would be the publication summarizing the results of the project. A detailed list of savings and amounts for the extension of the various actions will be presented in the next Progress Report.

6. Annexes

6.1 Deliverables

Annex No 1 - *Valuation surveys* (Action A.1) and *Notarial Acts* (Action B.1):

- Valuation survey, Plot No 33; Notarial Act 2125/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 32, 42; Notarial Act 2357/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 23/1, 23/2, 50/1, 50/2; Notarial Act 2541/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 31, 41; Notarial Act 2956/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 17/1, 37/1; Notarial Act 2963/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 36; Notarial Act 3229/2014
- Valuation survey, Plot No 40, 55; Notarial Act 2447/2014
- Valuation survey, Plot No 209, 214; Notarial Act 2465/2014
- Valuation survey, Plot No 159; Notarial Act 3430/2014
- Valuation survey, Plot No 58/2, 59/5; Notarial Act 180/2014
- Valuation survey, Plot No 217, 219 Notarial Act 5576/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 218 Notarial Act 5487/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 225/5 Notarial Act 5479/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 72/1 Notarial Act 2926/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 76/5 Notarial Act 2919/2013

- Valuation survey, Plot No 77/1 Notarial Act 2912/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 58/1, 59/4, 59/6 Notarial Act 2584/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 56/3 Notarial Act 2131/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 188, 213/2 Notarial Act 2322/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 73, 195, 206 Notarial Act 2314/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 59/1 Notarial Act 2119/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 80/1 Notarial Act 1851/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 74, 208 Notarial Act 1843/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 96, 127 Notarial Act 1836/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 90, 121, 197 Notarial Act 1743//2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 526/1 Notarial Act 2453/2014
- Valuation survey, Plot No 527/1 Notarial Act 2459/2014
- Valuation survey, Plot No 41 Notarial Act 3237/2014
- Valuation survey, Plot No 133 Notarial Act 3243/2014
- Valuation survey, Plot No 267/11 Notarial Act 3423/2014
- Valuation survey, Plot No 598 Notarial Act 4284/2014
- Valuation survey, Plot No 266/10 Notarial Act 5627/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 26, 57, 58 Notarial Act 5546/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 32/22 Notarial Act 5500/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 16, 17 Notarial Act 5494/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 272 Notarial Act 2976/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 170/1, 173 Notarial Act 2970/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 7, 60 Notarial Act 2932/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 11 Notarial Act 2759/2013
- Valuation survey, Plot No 4/7 Notarial Act 1722/2013

Annex No 2 - Reports on Implementation of Measure F.5 Monitoring progress of project implementation:

- for the IV quarter of 2013
- for the I quarter of 2014
- for the II quarter of 2014
- for the III quarter of 2014
- for the IV quarter of 2014
- for the I quarter of 2015

6.2. Dissemination materials

Annex 3 - Photos of information and education boards (Action E.3)

Annex 4 - Conference Report (Action E.6)

Annex 5 - Programs and attendance lists for educational activities (Action E.7):

- on 3-6.02.2014
- 22-24.07.2013
- 3-6.02.2015

Annex 6 - Programs and attendance lists at the workshop (Action E.8):

- on 31.05.2014

- on 27.09.2014

- on 21.03.2015

- on 8.05.2015

- on 23.05.2015

Annex 7 - Report on departure to Spain (Action F.2)

Annex8 - Report on departure to Portugal (Action F.2)

Annex 9 - Natura 2000 Day Program

Annex 10 - "Wigry" Quarterly :

- No. 4/2013

- No. 1/2014

- No. 2/2014

- No. 3/2014

- No. 4/2014

Annex 11 - CD with digital version of the Report