



LIFE Project Number

LIFE11 NAT/PL/431

Progress Report

Covering the project activities from 01/10/2012 to 31/10/2016

Reporting Date

14/11/2016

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 being implemented in line with the schedule, with minor modifications connected with extension of the scope of some activities. Information on the implementation of the project is published regularly on the project website as well as in WIGRY quarterly (issued by the Wigry National Park), which is nationwide. According to application dates, milestones have been completed since the start of the project: "Signing the contract for the project" - action E.1, "Completion of the amphibious culverts" - Action C.4, "Conference" - Action E.6 and "Completion of land redemption" - Action B.1.

Since the last report (May 31, 2015), two project deliverables have been obtained that have already been reported as achieved - this concerns Valuation survey (Action A.1) and Notarial Acts of Land Purchase and Sale Agreements (Action B.1). These changes are due to the extension of these activities. Copies of additional valuation surveys and notarial acts are enclosed in Appendixes 1 and 2 to this Report (copies of previous valuation surveys and notarial acts were included in the previous progress 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	31-12-2013 (done attached to PR1, An additional list of valuation surveys is attached to the current report PR2)
Copy of the Notarial Acts of Land Purchase and Sale Agreements	B.1	30-06-2014 (done attached to PR1, additional list of notarial acts is

		attached to the current report PR2)
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 on 04.10.2012)
Completion of construction of culverts for amphibians	C.4	23-12-2013 (achieved on 09.12.2013)
Conference	E.6	20-06-2014 (achieved on 29.05.2014)
Completion of land redemption	B.1	30-06-2014 (achieved on 22.08.2014)
Finishing of mowing	C.2	31.10.2017
Completion of work on fighting off the alien species	C.3	30.08.2017
Final Audit	F.4	31.01.2018

During the reporting period, four activities were completed: Land redemption preparation - Action A.1, Land redemption - Activity B.1, Organization of educational classes - Activity E.7 and Organization of workshops - Activity E.8. However, it is planned to extend the scope of action of E.7 and E.8, which will involve the extension of deadlines. So, in fact, only two actions (A.1 and B.1) were completed. It is also planned to increase the range of other activities that have already been completed (C.6, E.1, E.6). A detailed description of these changes is described in Chapter 5. Other activities are implemented as planned.

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. The planned increase in the scope of some activities will also contribute to the achievement of the project's previously planned objectives.

2.3. Problems encountered

During the reporting period, the project was running smoothly and without problems. There are currently no threats to the implementation of individual actions or the achievement of the strategic objective of the project, which is to protect endangered species and habitats in the Natura 2000 " Wigierska Mainstay" area.

3. Administrative part

3.1. Description of Project management

During the reporting period, the project management rules did not change, although the composition of the Project Management Team changed. From 1 September 2015, Tomasz Janecki, technical project manager, was replaced by Aleksandra Mackiewicz, from 1 April 2016 Anna Rynkiewicz, assistant manager of the project was replaced by Łukasz Olędzki. From 1 May 2016, Agnieszka Jankowska, assistant of the project financial manager was replaced by Marta Arciszewska. These changes were due to health considerations (in the case of Anna Rynkiewicz) and changes of employment (in other cases). During the reporting period, the Project Management Team implemented the following actions:

- 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);
- On 23-24 July 2015, at the headquarters of Wigry National Park, he organized a monitoring visit by Stanisław Tworek, representative of the External Monitoring Team.
- organized a study trip to Italy; Between March 28 and April 4, 2016, three people took part in the trip to Italy, where they visited the two LIFE-funded projects LIFE08 NAT / IT / 000372 and LIFE08 NAT / IT / 000326;

- organized on 21 May 2016 together with representatives of LIFE12 NAT / PL / 000063 Natura 2000 Day;
- Organized the meetings of the entire Project Management Team, which discussed the current work and set a timetable for specific actions for the future;
- monitored the project budget and timetable for implementation of the actions envisaged.

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.

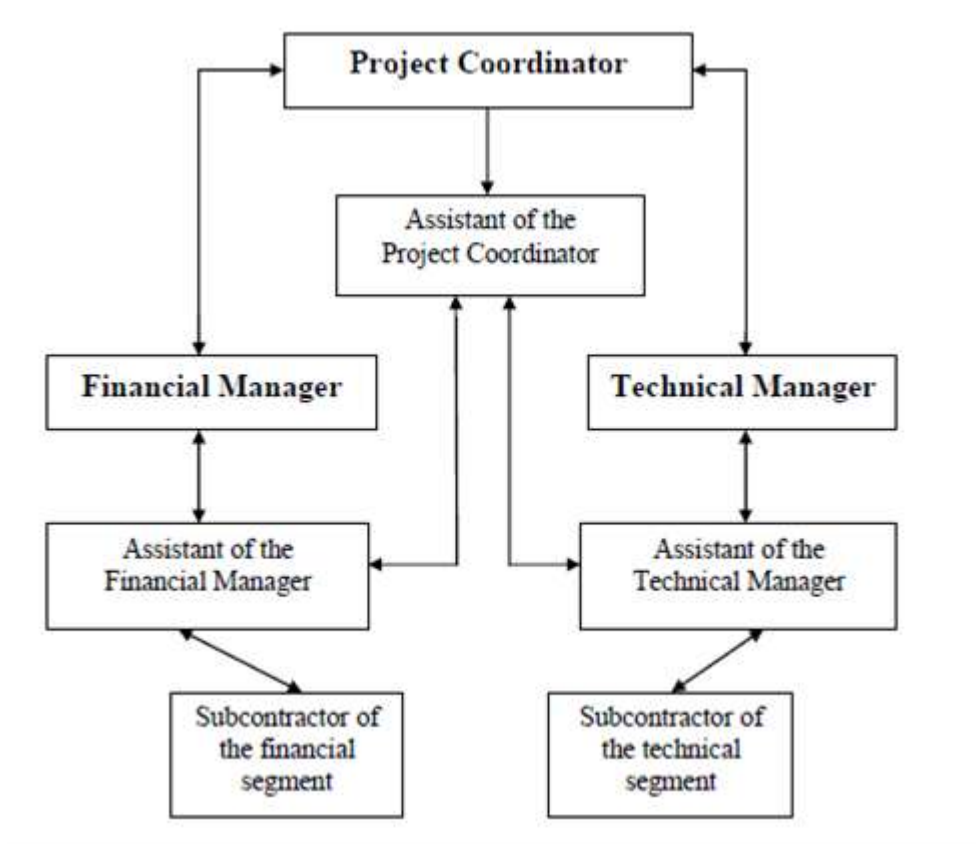


Diagram 1. Project management structure

3.3. Reports delivered since the start of the project

Since the beginning of the project implementation, three reports have been submitted to the European Commission: Inception Report - prepared for the period 01.10.2012-30.06.2013, MidTerm Report - prepared for the period 01.10.2012-30.11.2013 and Report from Project progress (Progress Report) - prepared for the period 01.10.2012-31.05.2015. The Inception report was accepted by the European Commission (the 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 - the purchase of land belonging to the Suwałki Commune was abolished and the texts on the website of the project were added to achieve the full English version. The mid-term report was accepted by the European Commission (the letter of 11.04.2014) with minor comments, which were taken into account by the Project Management Team. The progress report was accepted by the European Commission (letter of 14.08.2015) with minor remarks concerning the need to send the EC: copies of the land registry entries for the final destination of the purchased parcels for the nature conservation purposes, a copy of the list of participants, a copy of the report from the first stage of financial audit of the project and the detailed plan for the use of savings resulting from the project, with justification. Considering the Commission's comments to this report, we include the documents that were lacking in the previous Report (Attachments 3, 5 and 9).

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 2016

In the reporting period, the last Valuation survey was estimated for the plot with a total area of 1,9316 ha, which was the basis for the valuation of land and the start of price negotiations

with its owner. This plot is located in Leszczewek, in the area of "Wigry Mainstay" and includes valuable natural areas located in the vicinity of Błotniste Lake (in this area there is a large population of the *Leucorrhinia pectoralis* (code 1042), *Lycaena dispar* (1060) and *Bombina bombina* (1188). The deadline for the implementation of this action was extended due to the planned redemption of additional land from the pool of funds saved in the project. The last valuation was made in April 2016. A total of 41 estimates were made for 65 plots. A copy of the valuation surveys is attached as Annex 1 to this Report (other copies of the documents were sent to the EC together with the previous Progress 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

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*

The Action has been completed

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: II quarter of 2016

During the reporting period a plot of 1.9316 ha was purchased. The purchased plot is located in the Natura 2000 area, its purchase price was based on market conditions (the price was determined on the basis of the real estate appraisal made by the appraiser and negotiated with the land owner) and was purchased according to the project's assumptions.

Purchase of this plot resulted from the need to protect the complex of natural habitats ("Mountain and lowland peat bogs, sedges and mosses" - code 7230, "Central European and sub-continental marshes Galio-Carpinetum and Tilio-Carpinetum" code 9170 and " Poplar

albae, Populetum albae, Alnenion glutinoso-incanae, spring algae - code 91E0), located around a small water reservoir (Błotniste Lake). The plot almost directly borders the first two habitats (7230 and 9170). Partly includes the riparian habitat (91E0). All of these habitats are dependent on high groundwater levels. Particularly valuable is the basic peat bog, which belongs to the group of habitats that have been disappearing in recent years or significantly worsen its condition. The reasons for this include drainage meliorations as well as lack of mowing and descaling. There is a large population of the *Leucorhina pectoralis* (code 1042), the *Lycaena dispar* (1060) and the *Bombina bombina* (1188). The park plans to take measures to maintain the condition of groundwater, including mowing and cutting down the saplings and shrubs. 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 termination date involved the planning of additional land from the pool of resources saved in the project. These funds came from other budget categories (including Equipment and Other Costs), but their transfer to the Land Purchase category does not result in a significant change within the meaning of art. 15.2 of the Common Provisions. The total area of 71.2617 hectares from the 68 hectares planned for the project was purchased from private individuals.

The copy of the notarial act is enclosed in Annex No. 1 to this Report. (copies of all previous acts were included in the previous Progress 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: IV quarter of 2017

During the reporting period, the process of bushes removing was completed in the protected areas: Mikołajewo, Lipniak, Krzywe, Leszczewek, Gawarzec i Powały, on the total area of 4,55 ha. Since the beginning of the project, 12.49 hectares have been covered by the project, with 20 hectares planned in the project. In the next periods (IV quarter of 2016 and IV quarter of 2017), it is planned to carry out this action on an area of 11.89 hectares (the contractor of these treatments is already selected as part of the tender). In total, the bushes removing process will be performed on an area of 24.38 hectares, ie 4.38 hectares larger than originally

assumed. Financial sources to increase the scope of this action will come from the budget of this action - from unused funds.

4.1.6. Action C.2. *Mowing*

Planned start date: IV quarter of 2013

Actual start date: III quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2017

In the reporting period mowing was carried out in the Protected Areas: Krzywe, Mikołajewo, Leszczewek, Gawarzec, Lipniak i Krusznik; total mowing area- 28,76 ha. From the beginning of the project, the treatment covered 54.67 ha of 120 ha planned in the project. In the next periods (IV quarter of 2016 and IV quarter of 2017), it is planned to carry out this treatment on an area of 65.95 hectares (the contractor of these treatments is already selected as part of the tender). Total mowing will be performed on an area of 120.62 hectares, which is 0.62 hectares larger than originally assumed.

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: III quarter of 2017

In the reporting period, further work (3rd and 4th season) related to the removal of *Impatiens glandulifera* from the "Wigierska Mainstay" area was carried out. These works were carried out on an area of 54,155 hectares in 2015 and 55,405 hectares in 2016, on land plots located along Czarna Hańcza and Wiatrołuza rivers, on the banks of the Wigry Lakes (in the western part thereof) and Czarne near Bryzgiel, and on the Peninsula Monastery - east side of it. The need to increase the area from which *Impatiens glandulifera* is removed (originally planned for an area of 30 hectares) resulted from the rapid spread of this species to neighboring areas and the discovery of new, previously overlooked sites of this species. Enlargement of the scope has been previously accepted by the Commission (ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2013) 2858557 dated 09.09.2013 and ENV.E3 MM / jv ARES (2012) 1148545 dated 11.04.2014).

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

The action has been completed

The whole operation was completed according to the project schedule and described in the MTR and PR1. In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued.

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

The action has been completed

The whole action was completed before the deadline, and manure slabs and manure concrete slabs were put into operation. The action is described in the MTR. In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued. Monitoring of the action results indicates that the built-in concrete slabs and tanks are properly used by the owners of the farms and function properly.

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

The action has been completed

The entire operation was completed according to the schedule and described in the MTR. In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued. However, it is planned to expand the scope of this activity by using the financial resources saved in the project. It is planned to reconstruct the viewing platform, located above the dystratic tank Suchar IV. This platform was built many years ago on the peat moss surrounding the reservoir. This results in a strong impact of tourism on vegetation and animal habitats, including several species of peat bogs, sundews and dragonflies. It was necessary to reconstruct the wooden structure, replace the construction material and move it away from the slab towards the mineral edge. The implementation is planned for the first quarter of 2017. A detailed calculation of the extension of this scope is provided in Annex 10. Financial resources to extend the scope of the action will come mostly from the same budget category (Infrastructure) and from the Personal category. The expected transfers of funds do not entail a significant change within the meaning of art. 15.2 of the Common Provisions.

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

During the reporting period studies on butterflies were continued, including the *Lycaena dispar*, on selected areas for mowing and bush removal (invertebrate monitoring), plant tests including peat bog, Loesel, low birch, common greyhound, blue peat, peat violet,

Dactylorhiza incarnate - ochroleuca type and *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (plant monitoring), conducting researches on *Impatiens glandulifera* at the areas covered by its removal (plant monitoring), rosemary studies on areas affected by the construction and modernization of tourist footbridges (monitoring of effects related to the construction and modernization of tourist routes). Physicochemical studies of river waters, over which manure slabs and manure tanks were built (monitoring of the environment quality of *Ophiogomphus cecilia* and *Unio crassus* occurrence), amphibian studies along the roads where the systems of culverts for amphibians were planned (vertebrate monitoring) and corncrake studies on selected surfaces for mowing and bush removal (vertebrate monitoring). According to the plan all research results will be developed in the form of reports after the end of the whole operation.

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

Action is implemented:

Planned start date: II quarter of 2017

Actual start date: II quarter of 2016

Planned deadline: III quarter of 2017

It was decided to accelerate the start of this action, which should bring a better quality of the report. The contractor of the action who submitted the best bid in the tender referred to the Art. 70.1-70.5 of the Civil Code. The contractor has already begun to develop research methodology, including the development of questionnaire content and the scope of in-depth individual and group interviews.

E. Public awareness and dissemination of results

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

Action completed.

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

However, it is planned to expand the scope of this activity by using the financial resources saved in the project. It is planned to prepare and issue a book describing the results of the project. The only publication planned earlier in the project was a small folder that informs about the project's implementation (it was released at the beginning of the project). In our opinion it is advisable to consolidate the results of the project, which are undoubtedly very interesting and valuable, also in the form of a literary position. The implementation is planned for the third quarter of 2017, so that the publication will be printed on the final project

conference. A detailed calculation of the extension of this scope is provided in Chapter 5. The financial sources for extension will be from the same budget category (External).

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

The action has been completed

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.

The action was described in the progress report and it was also accompanied by the Photos of the boards, along with a map of their locations. In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued.

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

The action is implemented.

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. During the reporting period information about the stage of its implementation is included on the project website. In the structure of the web page there is a tab "News", from where information is transferred to the tab "Calendar" after some time. Recently, there was an incorrect transfer of content from the "News" tab, which resulted in no display of the transferred text (with graphics). This error has already been fixed and the text is visible on the page. We will do our utmost to translate the texts into English as quick as possible.

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.

The action was described in Progress Report 1. At the request of the Commission (a letter of ENV E3 IM / AmC / ip Ares (2015) 3398987 of 14.08.2015) a copy of attendance list of conference participants was attached to this Report (Attachment 5). In the reporting period, the action was no longer continued.

However, it is planned to extend the scope of this activity by using the financial resources saved in the project. It is planned to organize a final conference of the project. It will be an opportunity to present the results of the project to the participants of the conference, but at the same time it will be a platform for sharing experiences both in terms of active nature conservation and project management. The idea of organizing a conference to summarize the project was born as a result of numerous questions related to the project of the interested parties, including representatives of other projects of the LIFE Program. We are convinced that the presentation of concrete, very interesting results of the project at the public forum will bring tangible benefits to current natural beneficiaries of the projects and the potential ones. The implementation of the measure is foreseen at the turn of the third and fourth quarter of 2017. A detailed calculation of the extension of this scope is provided in Chapter 5. The financial sources for extension will come from the same budget category (External).

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

The action has been completed.

During the reporting period four educational classes took place. Activity reports and attendance lists are attached as Attachment 6 to the Report. On 28-31 July 2015, under the Summer Academy of Nature, classes were devoted to: flying organisms, mainly birds and trees. 34 people took part in the building of the management of the Wigry National Park. On 3-4 August 2015 in the seat of the Wigry National Park in Krzyw, there were further classes from the Summer Academy of Nature. In two days, 34 participants took part in the study of nature using a microscope, magnifier or binoculars. On February 2-5, 2016, in the headquarters of the Wigry National Park in Krzywe, the Winter Academy of Nature took place. This time the main theme of the class was "Young Naturalist's Laboratory". During the course, attended by 41 children with tutors, a workshop was held: "The inhabitants of a drop of water from Wigier", "In the land of bees and honey", "What in the head squeaks, or how people and animals perceive the world", and - "Fire - element." On 25-28 July 2016, on the

area around the Environmental Education Center in Slupie, the Summer Academy of Nature held, where 36 participants took part in it, with the theme "Journey to the interior ..." One day the participants traveled inside the meadow, then into the water and into the depths forest. Since the beginning of the project, 10 educational classes have been conducted, out of 10 planned in the project, with 350 participants. However, it is planned to expand the scope of this activity by using the financial resources saved in the project. Very high interest in the educational activities carried out within the project led us to plan two additional winter science classes (in the first quarter) and the Summer Academy of Nature (in the third quarter) in 2017. It turned out that the form of teaching activities used in the project is an excellent way to communicate the knowledge about nature, the methods of learning and protection. Extremely high involvement of participants (often whole families) and problem solving indicates that it is worth pursuing also in the last year of project implementation. It is planned that 30-50 people will participate in every class. A detailed calculation of the extension of this scope is provided in Chapter 5.

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

Action has been completed.

During the reporting period, seven workshops took place. Workshop reports and attendance lists are attached as Annex 7 to the Report. On August 8, 2015 in Krzywe, workshops for farmers and residents of "Wigry Mainstay" took place. The theme of the workshop was the protection of wild bees. Workshops consisted of the intimate and the field. The workshop participants first got acquainted with bee biology and ecology, with particular emphasis on the importance of this group of insects for the natural environment. During the practical part, under the guidance of an instructor, they performed constructions - so called "Cottages for bees". In the field part they have visited the educational trail "Forest", with wild beehive stations - wild beehives cut in the pine trees and hanged up ones. The meeting was attended by 30 people.

On September 26, 2015, another workshop was organized, this time for tour guides and people involved in tourism. Participants in the workshop mainly represented active guides from Podlaskie Voivodeship and teachers working with children and youth with various degrees of disability. The meeting was attended by 35 people. The main topic of the workshop was an opportunity to learn about the possibilities of exploring nature and the closest surroundings for the blind people. Participants were able to learn how blind people can perceive the surrounding reality and how to interact with such people. At the field session,

elements of the tourist infrastructure limiting tourist pressure in the area of Natura 2000 "Wigierska Mainstay": a bridge on the Łysocha peninsula, viewing platform at Powały and Bartny Dół and a platform on the Słupiańska bay were presented. Part of the trip was also a short visit to the modernized Environmental Education Center, where the guides learned about the educational background and offer of the Center's activities. On November 13, 2015, workshops for teachers took place at the headquarters of the Wigry National Park in Krzywe. The meeting was attended by 35 people - teachers of different levels of teaching - mainly primary schools and junior high schools, but also kindergartens. The workshops concerned, among other things, the rules of bird observation, NGO projects on birds that schools can take part of it, events integrating bird observers available online, free education materials on birds - keys, atlases, guides, scenarios, work cards, birds' voices - what to look for, how to recognize selected species of birds, work with pupils with the use of the birds' voices - practical activation exercises. In addition, games to motivate students to learn about ornithofauna were presented.

On May 14, 2016, at the Environmental Education Center on the Słupia Bay at the Wigry Lake, workshops for teachers were organized. "Why in the forest is dead wood?" The workshop was attended by a 30-person group of teachers, mainly teaching from the upper primary, middle and high school classes. The workshops were divided into two thematic blocks, one dealing with the concept of biodiversity and introducing the second part of the workshop, which specifically addressed the role of dead wood in enriching biodiversity in forest ecosystems.

On May 20, 2016, workshops for tourist guides were held. These were away workshops - mostly in the Wisztyniecki Regional Park (Lithuania). 10 people took part in the 10-hour workshop - tour guides, teachers, tour operators, tourism industry representatives, hotel and agrotourism owners, employees of the Suwalski Landscape Park and the Wigry National Park. Participants of the workshop were acquainted with the natural and cultural values of the Wisztyniec Regional Park, the protection activities and the principles of access to the park for education and tourism. During the field session the protected areas and the tourist infrastructure of the park were presented.

On May 21, 2016, workshops for farmers and residents of Natura 2000 "Wigierska Mainstay", concerning invasive species of plants of foreign origin, were held during the Natura 2000 Day celebration. During the workshop, 30 participants discussed in details about issues such as the impact of alien species on the environment, the occurrence of foreign invasive plant species in Poland and the area of the "Wigry Mainstay", the identification of

selected invasive species of plants of foreign origin, methods of their combat in protected areas and in households, ornamental plants - native species as substitutes for alien species and the code of responsible gardener conducting.

On October 22, 2016, further workshops for teachers took place - this time mainly teachers of primary schools took part. The workshop, whose motto was "Natural experiments in practice", was attended by 30 teachers. The main aim of the workshops was to: learn educational tools to help diversify scenarios of natural activities, to learn about the methods of nature experiments fictionalization, to develop the ability to use the research method, to learn how to adapt the educational space to active learning, to learn how to use the space of the Wigry National Park to implement the basis of the program in natural science teaching. Paweł Jaskólski and Tomasz Ruszkowski, experienced animators of the Copernicus Science Center, known as the "Heveliuses of Science", were leading the workshops.

Since the beginning of the project, 15 workshops have been carried out, out of 15 planned in the project, involving 470 people. It is planned to extend the scope of this activity by using the financial resources saved in the project. Extensive interest in workshops and the need to educate local communities have led us to plan for three additional workshops to be carried out in the second, third and fourth quarter of 2017. Additional workshops result from the local community's need for practical information on how to participate in active nature conservation. They are a good platform for the transfer of knowledge and practical application in the protection of the natural environment. It is planned that 30 people will participate in each workshop. A detailed calculation of the extension of this scope is provided in Chapter 5.

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

The action has been completed

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

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: IV quarter of 2012

Planned deadline: IV quarter of 2017

The principles for implementing this action were described in previous reports (Preliminary Report and Mid-term Report) in the details. 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: II quarter of 2013

Actual start date: I quarter of 2013

Planned deadline: III quarter of 2016

Proposed deadline: IV quarter of 201

During the reporting period several meetings with representatives of other LIFE projects took place. On 30 May - 4 June 2015, the third foreign study visit was held, with five planned in the project. Five employees of the Wigry National Park took part in a business trip to Italy and Slovenia, where they visited two EU projects implemented by the LIFE program. The purpose of the trip was to establish contacts and exchange experiences with the LIFE Program (LIFE06 NAT / SI / 000069 and LIFE11 NAT / IT / 000094). In addition, representatives of two other LIFE projects - LIFE12 NAT / PL / 000034 and LIFE12 NAT / PL / 000063 - participated in the trip. It was also an excellent opportunity to exchange the experience gained during the implementation of EU projects by three Polish beneficiaries. Participants met with representatives of the LIFE06NAT / SI / 000069 "Presihajoce Cerknisko Jezero" project in the headquarters of the Regional Park in Cerknica (Notran Rugijski Park) and the representatives of the management of LIFE11 NAT / IT / 00094 "SOS Tuscan Wetlands" project. The report of the trip is Annex No. 11 to the Report.

Another study visit took place on 28.03-03.04.2016. Three employees of the Wigry National Park took part in the trip to Italy. The purpose of this visit was to familiarize ourselves with the projects implemented in the area of Matera (ARUPA - URGENT PROTECTION ACTIONS FOR AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN THE MATERA GRAVINA - LIFE08 NAT / IT / 000372) and in the Gargano National Park (FAUNA DI MONTENERO - URGENT PILOT ACTIONS FOR AMPHIBIANS , REFERENCE AND CHIROPTERA OF

MONTENERO - LIFE08 NAT / IT / 000326). The report of this trip is Annex No. 12 to the Report.

On May 21 2016, the Wigry National Park, in partnership with the "Man and Nature" Association - implementing the project "Protecting amphibians in Natura 2000 areas in north-eastern Poland", organized the Natura 2000 Day - a picnic for all interested parties. In Stary Folwark village, at the Wigry Museum, you could see LIFE projects, taking part in games and natural events, and in workshops dedicated to invasive plant species of foreign origin. A brief report of this event is enclosed in Annex14.

On June 1-3, 2016, employees of the Wigry National Park participated (as the co-organizer) in the conference. "Amphibians - significance, threats and protection" held in Gawrych Ruda in the Wigry National Park. It was a conference that concluded the implementation of the LIFE12 NAT / PL / 000063 project. During the conference, in which Representatives of national parks, landscape parks, NGOs, regional environmental management boards and universities have delivered two papers on the results of our project: "Active amphibians in the Wigry National Park" (Anna Krzysztofiak, Lech Krzysztofiak) and "Amphibians in the education of the Wigry Park National" (Joanna Adamczewska, Katarzyna Łukowska). During the field session, participants of the conference were able to familiarize themselves with the construction of the passages for amphibians in Wiatrołuża and Krzywe. At the end of the discussion panel, which held on the last day of the conference, participants were able to watch the film "Friends of the Frogs", shot in the cycle "Dances with nature". The film presented the results of the implementation of two amphibious protection projects funded by the European Union LIFE Fund (LIFE11 NAT / PL / 000431 and LIFE12 NAT / PL / 000063).

Out of the five planned foreign study visits, only one remained unrealized; its implementation was postponed for the second quarter of 2017. Due to the planning of events related to contacts with representatives of other LIFE projects, it is proposed to postpone the completion of this activity for the fourth quarter of 2017.

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

In the reporting period, the first stage of the external audit was conducted by a consortium: Audit Lab Sp. (Leader) and DPC A. Danylchenko & Company Sp. J (Partner) from Opole. A copy of the report from the 1st stage of audit is Annex No. 3 to the Report.

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, five quarterly reports describing the progress of the project were drawn up. A total of 15 reports have already been made, out of 20 planned in the project. Copies of reports prepared in the reporting period are enclosed in Annex 4 to this Report.

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

The action has been completed

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			IR			PR		PR				MR				PR				FR	
	Actual				PS			IR		MR					PR						PR					FR
A 1	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
A 2	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
A 3	Proposed																									
	Actual																									
B1	Proposed																									
	Actual																									

[illegible]

Legend of the markings in the table:

-  - assumed execution of activities
-  - updated execution of activities

PS – Project Start, IR – Inception Report,

MD – Mid term report; PR – Progress Report,

FR – Final Report,

One new action was launched in the reporting period - D.2. Assessment of socio-economic impact of the project. C.1, C.2, C.3, C.6 (extended range), D.1, D.2, E.1 (extended range), E.4, E will continue in the next reporting period. E.4, E.5, E.6 (extended range), E.7 (extended range), E.8, F.1, F.2, F.3, F.4 and F.5. The next report will be the final report whose deadline, according to the application form, is due in 4th quarter of 2017. Due to the need to submit a financial audit report together with the final report, its deadline for submission to the Commission was postponed to 1st quarter of 2018 as presented in the MTR, which has already been approved by the Commission. All other activities planned in the project will be completed before the project completion date.

4.3. Impact

An assessment of the impact of ongoing or already completed actions on the population of plant and animal species and on the natural habitats covered by the project is the subject of separate actions planned in the project (Action D.1). The results of this monitoring will answer the question whether the planned protective measures have been planned and carried out properly and whether they bring the expected environmental effects. Detailed results of monitoring will be known only at the end of the project, ie in the fourth quarter of 2017. However, it has already been established that activities such as " *Impatiens glandulifera* removal " (C.3), " Construction of culverts for amphibians " (C.4) or "Construction of footbridges" (C.6) significantly affect protected nature. After four seasons of removal of invasive species of foreign origin (*Impatiens glandulifera*), the size of its population was significantly reduced in the area of "Wigry Mainstay". In the areas covered by these treatments, the occurrence of indigenous plant species, that effectively competing with foreign visitors, is emerging. Many positions of rare and endangered species have been rescued from destruction by alien elements. Also the lower passages (culverts) for amphibians are very effective. Previous monitoring results clearly indicate that these devices, in their construction sites, reduce the mortality of amphibians by almost 100%. Very satisfactory results also brings the change of the footbridge location around the dystrophic tank and building the footbridges on the selected sections of the tourist paths. The current impact of tourists on

vegetation along these paths is minimized, and many of the species that have been under the high pressures are now rebuilding their populations.

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 Sary Folwark the Natura 2000's Day (described in Section 4.1.24, Activity F.2, Creating a Network with Other Projects). Also, the method of combating *Impatiens glandulifera*, developed in the project, was the basis for the other projects development concerning the protection of native nature against invasive alien species. They have been used, among others, to plan activities under several projects submitted to the Forest Fund of the Forest State.

5. Financial part

5.1. Costs incurred

Budget breakdown categories	Total cost in €	Costs incurred from the start date to 30.09.2016 in €	% of total costs
1. Personnel	59 680,00	13 289,57	22,27
2. Travel and subsistence	18 925,00	15 835,40	83,67
3. External assistance	782 400,00	624 834,56	79,86
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	1 195 353,31	100,41
6. Consumables	10 625,00	8 518,32	80,17
7. Other Costs	8 950,00	4 135,02	46,20
8. Overheads	121 440,00	105 478,45	86,86
TOTAL	3 046 808,00	2 800 044,58	91,90

Action number and name	Foreseen costs	Spent so far	Remaining	Projected final cost *
A.1 Preparation of the land redemption	9 000	9 528,64	-528,64	9 528,64
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	1 195 353,31	-4 853,31	1 195 353,31
C.1 Bushes removing	9 000	4 895,49	4 104,51	8 909,11
C.2 Mowing	57 600	20 998,25	36 601,75	43 260,50
C.3 Impatiens glandulifera removal	292 500	315 630,29	-23 130,29	345 847,96
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	16 668,90	61 581,10	78 250,00
D.2 Evaluation of the socio-economic impact of the project	1 520	0,00	1 520,00	2 758,70
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	3 153,57	1 846,43	4 450,00
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	13 437,01	2 187,99	13 437,01
E.8 Organization of workshops	21 750	17 210,83	4 539,17	17 210,83
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	198 931,82	89 068,18	276 989,96
F.1 Project management (Travel)	6 300	1 469,26	4 830,74	6 300,00
F.2 Networking with the other projects	13 625	15 155,22	-1 530,22	15 155,22
F.4 External financial audit	4 500	1 035,36	3 464,64	3 456,70
F.5 Monitoring the progress of the project	15 000	8 994,03	6 005,97	14 829,19
F.6 Purchase of equipment necessary for the project	29 450	26 270,39	3 179,61	26 270,39
F.6 Purchase of equipment necessary for the project - insurance	3 000	2 058,53	941,47	3 000,00
8. Overheads	121 440	105 478,45	15 961,55	121 440,00

TOTAL	3 046 808	2 806 901,73	239 906,27	3 037 579,90
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** In the case of signing the contract / contracts for implementation of the whole activity in the column "Projected final cost" the amounts resulting from the contract / contract are stated.*

For actions A.1, A.3, B.1, C.3 and F.2, higher costs were incurred than was originally assumed. Sometimes these exceedances were small, such as in case of actions A.1 or F.2. The reasons for the higher costs of actions A.3, B.1 and C.3 have already been reported in the mid-term and progress reports 1. Three of the above activities have already been completed (A.1, A.3, B.1), and the other two Are underway (C.3 - remained the last season of *Impatiens glandulifera* removal, F.2 - last remaining study visit). In the reporting period, action D.2 will also incur higher costs than originally planned (€ 1238.00). This is the result of a tender to determine the contractor of this action. Activities A.2, C.4, C.5, C.6, E.1, E.2, E.3, E.6, E.7, E.9, E10 and F.6 have also been completed, which generated savings (these savings were already covered by higher costs in actions A.1 and A.3). In the case of completed activities: C.6, E.1, E.6, E.7 and E.8, it is proposed to extend their scope.

C.6 Construction of footbridges - it is proposed to reconstruct the viewing platform located above the dystrophic tank Suchar IV. The platform was built many years ago and is located directly on the peat marsh, surrounding the water reservoir, on the hiking trail around the "suchar". The need to preserve this tourist development facility, while at the same time protecting the reservoir with the surrounding rug of live and peat plants floating on the water surface, with many valuable natural plant species (several species of peatmoss, sundews) and animals (dragonflies, water beetles), force them to rebuild the structure and move it away from the rug towards mineral bank. The detailed costs of the reconstruction of the platform and the construction project are attached as Annex 10 to the Report. The estimated cost of construction works is € 128263 (€ 29860). Proposed deadline: 1st quarter of 2017.

E.1 Publishing the project information folders - It is proposed in this activity to develop and publish a book presenting the most important results of the project. So the book will concern, among others: conservation of amphibians, protection of native nature from invasive plant species, protection of groundwater and surface waters from pollution from animal breeding and protection of open spaces, their fauna and flora, from overgrowing. Costs of 20 000,00 PLN (4656 €) include printing - full color, paper - chalk 150 g, cover 4 + 4 on paper 300 g on both sides foil , binding, translation of a comprehensive English summary.

E.6 Organization of the conference - It is proposed to organize a conference summarizing the project implementation at the turn of September and October 2017. The conference, which was organized two years earlier, focused mainly on the assumptions of the project, and will

now outline the concrete results of the various activities. This will be a great opportunity to exchange experiences on active nature conservation between LIFE beneficiaries as well as academics and practitioners. It is planned that the conference will last for 3 days (including one day off) and will be attended by 80 people. The cost of such an event is as follows: food - 80 people x 3 days x 120 PLN = 28 800,00 PLN; Accommodation - 80 people x 3 nights x 120 PLN = 28 800,00 PLN; Conference materials - 90 pieces x 60 PLN = 5400,00 PLN; Transportation during field session – 1 000,00 PLN; Total - 64 000,00 PLN (14 666.51 € at the current rate).

E.7 Organization of educational activities - it is suggested to organize and conduct educational activities from the Winter Academy of Nature series and the Summer Academy of Nature (one of each kind). Extending the scope of this activity results from the very high interest of the local community (the younger one) of the educational activities carried out within the project. The cost of two classes (usually several days), for 30-50 people at one meeting, is as follows: teaching aids - 2 classes x 750 € = 1500 €, fees and educational materials - 2 classes x 875 € = 1750 €; Total 3250 €. The classes are scheduled for the first and third quarter of 2017.

E.8 Organization of workshops - it is proposed to organize and carry out three additional workshops. These classes are very popular and there is a need for three more workshops. Their costs are as follows: fees for lecturers - 2 people x 3 workshops x 350 € = 2100 €, training materials - 30 sets x 3 workshops x 12.5 € = 1125 €, catering - 30 people x 3 workshops x 12.5 € = 1125 €; Total 4350 €. The workshop is scheduled for the second, third and fourth quarter of 2017.

For the full activities C.1, C.2, D.2, E.4, F.1, F.4 and F.5, which are under way, contracts are signed and the amount of savings can already be determined at this stage (This amount is € 25971,84). Significant savings were also generated in other activities that have already been completed (A.2, C.4, C.5, E.1, E.2, E.3, E.6, E.7, E.8, E .9, E.10, F.6). As shown in the table on page 25, the sum of the remaining funds in the project is € 239 906,27. After subtracting from this amount the obligations resulting from the contracts already signed, the amount of approximately € 120 000 remains. This amount will cover the costs of extending C.6, E.1, E.6, E.7 and E.8, which are estimated at € 56,782 and higher than those planned for some activities, such as F2.

None of changes in the costs of the individual actions will result in a change in budget categories above the 10% and 30000 €, meaning no significant change within the meaning of art. 15.2 of the Common Provisions.

6. Annexes

6.1 Deliverables

Annex 1 - Copy of the Valuation Survey (Action A.1)

Annex 2 - Copy of Notarial Act (Action B.1)

Annex 3 - Copy of the Report from the first stage of the audit (Action F.4)

Annex 4 - Progress Monitoring Reports (Action F.5):

- for the second quarter of 2015
- for the third quarter of 2015
- for the fourth quarter of 2015
- for the first quarter of 2016
- for the second quarter of 2016

6.2. Dissemination materials

Annex 5 - Copy of the attendance list at the conference (Action E.6)

Annex 6 - Reports and attendance lists for educational activities (Action E.7):

- on 28-31.07.2015.
- 3-4.08.2015
- 2-5.02.2016.
- 25-28.07.2016.

Annex 7 - Reports and attendance lists at the workshop (Action E.8):

- on 8.08.2015
- on 26.09.2015
- on 13.11.2015
- on 14.05.2016
- on 20.05.2016
- on 21.05.2016
- on 22.10.2016

Annex No. 8 - "Wigry" Quarterly:

- No. 1-2 / 2015
- No. 3-4 / 2015

6.3. Other annexes

Annex 9 - Copies of entries in the land register (Action B.1)

Annex No. 10 - Detailed calculation of the cost of reconstructing the viewing platform with the technical drawing (Action C.6)

Annex 11 - Report on the trip to Italy and Slovenia (Action F.2)

Annex 12 - Report on the trip to Italy (Action F.2)

Annex 13 - Photographs of fixed assets marked with LIFE and Natura 2000 logo and project number and abbreviated project name

Annex 14 - Report on the celebration of Natura 2000 Day

Annex 15 - CD with digital version of the Report