



LIFE09 NAT/SI/000374

Progress Report
Covering the project activities from 01/02/2011 to 31/12/2013

Reporting Date
28/01/2014

WETMAN

Conservation and management of freshwater wetlands in Slovenia





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Data Project

Project location	Slovenia (6 pilot areas)	
Project start date:	01/02/2011	
Project end date:	01/02/2015	Extension date: /
Total budget	€ 2.144.376	
EC contribution:	€ 1.072.188	
(%) of eligible costs	50	

Data Beneficiary

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2. List of key-words and abbreviations

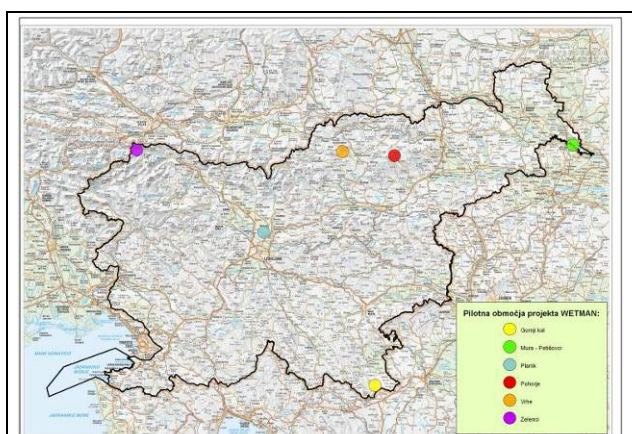
- AB Associated beneficiary
- CB Coordinating beneficiary
- EC European Commission
- EU European Union
- CB ZRSVN Coordinating beneficiary - Zavod Republike Slovenije za varstvo narave (Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation)
- AB IzVRS: Associated beneficiary 2 - Inštitut za vode Republike Slovenije (Institute for water of the Republic of Slovenia)
- AB ZZRS: Associated beneficiary 3 - Zavod za ribištvo Slovenije (Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia) -
- AB ZGS: Associated beneficiary 4- Zavod za gozdove Slovenije (Slovenia Forest Service) -
- AB RTV SLO: Associated beneficiary 5 - Radio televizija Slovenije (Slovenian Radio Television) –
- PA Project Pilot area
- CG - The “Conservation Guidelines for the pilot area management”
- ARSO - Environmental Agency, Ministry of agriculture and environment
- UE - Administrative unit
- MKO- Ministry of agriculture and environment
- SKZGRS - Forest and farmland fond of the Republic of Slovenia (institution responsible for management of state owned land)

3. Executive summary

3.1 General progress.

The LIFE+ project **Conservation and management of freshwater wetlands in Slovenia** (LIFE09 NAT/SI/000374 WETMAN) started on the 1st February 2011. This Progress report covers the period from the 1st of February 2011 until the 31th of December 2013, and is submitted as required by the EC. The Progress report is sent both to the EC and to the external monitoring team Astrale Timesis in paper and electronic versions.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the favorable conservation status of Slovenian freshwater wetland by demonstrating how to revitalize different types of freshwater wetland namely: alpine raised bogs, transition mires, wet meadows, river oxbow lakes and pond. The aim is to establish better conditions for 8 Natura 2000 sites (project pilot areas - PAs), 8 targeted freshwater habitat types and 6 habitats of targeted species as well as biodiversity of the sites.



Picture 1. Project area with locations of the six pilot sites.

General progress of the project is good and work on the project actions is according to the time plan (see Table 1 and refer to chapter 5.1 for the detailed description of the general progress by the action).

LIST OF ACTIONS WITH A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE GENERAL PROGRESS

Action	General progress
A1 - Elaboration of Conservation guidelines	Action completed. Draft "Nature conservation guidelines for pilot area management" (NCG) for all six pilot areas are prepared. Workshops of the working groups and communication workshops were organized as planned.
A2 - Permit procedure	Action completed. All needed nature conservation consents, water permits and consensuses were obtained. Building permit for the construction of the gravel barrier in Zelenci PA and Operating permit for the gravel barrier at Zelenci PA has been obtained.
A3 - Car purchase	Completed. Škoda Yeti was purchased.
B1 - Land purchase	Resolved.
C1 - Hydrology	Hydrological work at PAs Zelenci, Gornji kal, Pohorje bogs and Planik are completed. Works are still underway at PA Mura Petišovci and Vrhe and will be finished by spring 2014.
C2 - Overgrowth	Overgrowth removal completed at PAs Planik, Pohorje bogs, Gornji kal. The action is underway on PA Vrhe and PA Mura and will be finished in spring 2014.
C3 - Invasive species	Invasive fish population is low at pond Hrast (PA Gornji kal) and oxbow lakes at Mura Petišovci.
C4 - Habitat protection	Foot paths on Pohorje bogs PA (Lovrenška jezera, Ribniško jezero, Črno jezero and in addition according to the Mid-term report Ostruščica bog) were constructed and watching tower on Lovrenška jezera renewed. Visitors' surveillance on Pohorje bogs PA is established. Data is being regularly downloaded. Additional educational trail according to the Mid-term report on Črno jezero will be constructed in spring 2014.
C5 - Incorporation of Conservation guidelines into plans	In progress and in line with the planned timetable
D1 - National and local authority awareness campaign	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. Several events for National and local authority awareness campaign were organized
D2 - General public awareness campaign	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. The project WETMAN, NATURA 2000 and LIFE program are promoted through events for general public and local community as well as written media, TV and radio.

D3 – Promotional material	Completed. We have produced the project info list, project brochure on eight pages, 4 leaflets, 4 transportable banners, 8 post cards, 3 posters, promotional folders and paper bags. We have purchased promotional hats, caps, three types of T-shirts, umbrellas, calendars, USB keys, pens and drinking bottles.
D4 - Boards	Completed. The boards announcing LIFE + project at all partner locations have been installed. Information boards for all pilot sites are prepared.
D5 - Project www & project graphical identity	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. The project graphical identity has been produced and the project webpage (www.wetman.si) is accessible over the internet and is being regularly updated.
D6 - TV material	Completed. The documentary film and 3 short TV spots have been produced.
D7 - Layman's report	Action not due.
E1 - Project management	The project administration, coordination and management are organized and running well.
E2 - Project evaluation	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. Initial surveys of PAs (covering the following groups: Amphibians, Aves, <i>Emys orbicularis</i> , Odonata and Habitat types) are completed. All subcontractors produced the first reports (Reports of the initial survey). CB ZRSVN prepared "Reports of the initial status of the pilot area".
E3 - Revision of the Conservation guidelines	Action not due.
E4 - Audit	Action not due. External audit chosen.
E5 - After LIFE	Action not due.

The actual samples of promotional products as requested in the Midterm report are provided in the Annex 1.

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

The overall objectives of the project will be reached. We plan to achieve the set goals as proposed in the project proposal.

3.3 Problems encountered.

Refer to Mid-term report for details. We tried to find solutions to all the problems which arose during the project.

4. Administrative part

Description of project management

The project team consists of a coordinating beneficiary (CB) and six associated beneficiaries (AB). Project manager was employed by the CB ZRSVN. Each AS assigned a coordinator for respective organization (e.g. 5 AS coordinators). All AS coordinators provided the project manager letters of the nomination of the AS project staff. In the first months of the project CB ZRSVN signed all six contracts with the ABs and also with all the co-financers.

For the easier management of the work Local coordinators (from the CB ZRSVN) were nominated. They coordinate the work of project local teams consisting from CB and AB staff and representatives of target groups in the specific pilot area. The project is organized as shown on the organograms (Annex 2). Four Scientific board and four Management board meetings were organized where project work was overawed from the management and financial part as well as from the scientific part. Since now an Inception report and a Mid-term report were delivered. No extension the project is needed. The project will finish according to the planned timetable.

5. Technical part

5.1 Actions

5.1.1 Action A.1: Elaboration of the “Conservation Guidelines for project area management”

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-III/2012.

Actual starting and expected end dates: August 2011- July 2012

Status of the activities: Completed

Problems encountered or identified: /

We prepare inter-sectorally harmonized draft “Basis for the management of the pilot area” for all six pilot sites, covering the area of 4.439,28 ha. Drafts “Basis for the management of the pilot area” were reviewed by the projects’ Quality management board on the 21st of September 2012, who approved its structure and contents. These draft documents will be reviewed aging after project activities take place (in action E.3). A series of workshops (12) with project partners, relevant national authorities and other relevant stakeholders, depending on the specifics of the project area, were carried out (Described in Midterm report). Additional 8 workshops communicating “Conservation Guidelines for the pilot site management” to the local community were organized (Described in Midterm report). All planned equipment purchased. The Management database in Access for the successful keeping of the data of the pilot area management is developed and provided in Annex 3.

5.1.2 Action A.2: Permit procedures

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-III/2012, for building license for the construction of the gravel barrier on Zelenci PA till December 2012 (according to the inception report)

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011 – December 2012;

Status of the activities: completed

Problems encountered or identified: complex procedure to obtain consensus from the Forest and farmland fund of the Republic of Slovenia (manager of the state land).

Following permits and consensuses were obtained: Nature conservation consents (6); Permission for intervention in nature (9); Statement that the Nature conservation consent is not needed (1); Water permits (7); Permission for intervention in nature: to carry out activities on forests of a special status (7); Consensus from the other relevant authorities (7); Consensus from the landowners (44); Decision on the regulation of border (1); Building license for the construction of the gravel barrier in Zelenci PA (1), Operating permit for the gravel barrier in Zelenci PA from the Administrative unit Jesenice (1).

Refer to Annex 4 for copies of all obtained permits as asked for in the Mid-term report communication from the EC.

5.1.3 Action A.3: Car purchase

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-I/2012.

Actual starting and end dates: June 2011- September 2012

Status of the activities: completed

Problems encountered or identified: /

The public tender according to the Slovenian legislation for the purchase of a field car was prepared. The tender was closed on the 13th July 2011 and a subcontractor Porsche Slovenia contracted with the car Skoda Yeti. The car has been purchased, registered and is now in use. Petrol costs of this car are been charged to this action.

5.1.4 Action B.1: - Purchase of land for the gravel barrier building in the Zelenci project area

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-II/2012 (according to the inception report)

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011- September 2012

Status of the activities: resolved

Problems encountered or identified: Described in detail in Midterm report.

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the time table from the inception report

Refer to Annex 13 for further clarification of the incurred costs, as asked for in the Mid-term report communication from the EC.

5.1.5 Action C.1 Improvement of hydrological conditions

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: IV/2011-IV/2013.

Actual starting and expected end dates: December 2011- March 2013

Status of the activities: hydrological works completed at PAs: Pohorje bogs, Zelenci, Gornji kal and Planik. Works are still underway at PAs Mura Petišovci and Vrhe

Problems encountered or identified: see below

AB IzVRS prepared preliminary technical documentation "Conceptual projected of the hydrological works for each PA". These "Conceptual projects" were used to obtain all the project conditions from all institutions involved and needed permits according to Slovenian legislation. AB IzVRS later incorporated the project conditions and prepared "Projects for construction" for all the hydrological activities in the project.

5.1.5.1 Action C.1.1 Improvement of hydrological conditions of the Klopnovrška barja bogs, Javorski vrh bogs and Lovrenška barja bogs.

Changes to the initial proposal were approved by the Desk officer by mail on the 9th of July 2012.

External subcontractor Gozdno gospodarstvo Maribor altogether built 82 dykes on water outflow on PA Pohorje barja bogs. 17 dikes type A were built on Javorski vrh bog and 16 dikes type A and 49 dikes type B on Klopnovrška barja bogs.

External subcontractor Gozdno gospodarstvo Slovenj Gradec built 5 dikes type A on Lovrenška jezera bogs.

All together 87 dikes were constructed on water outflows at PA Pohorje barja bogs. The works were carried out from June to December 2013.

6 waterholes were dug, 2 on Javorski vrh and 4 on Klopnovrška barja bogs.

See Annex 5. for detailed maps of locations of constructed dykes and Photo documentation.

5.1.5.2 Action C.1.2 Improvement of hydrological conditions in Zelenci project area

A gravel barrier on Čošelnov graben stream was planned to be built according to the change approved by the EC on the 12th of November 2012.

According to the public tender an external subcontractor Vodno gospodarsko podjetje Kranj was subcontracted for hydrological works and an external building supervisor Besanesse s.p. subcontracted by CB ZRSVN. External subcontractor Vodno gospodarsko podjetje Kranj built a gravel barrier on Čošelnov graben stream according to prepared Project for the construction of the gravel barrier", prepared by AS IZVRS. The works were carried out from June to December 2013. The gravel barrier is 110m long and has a capacity of 220m³ of gravel. We already obtained the Operating permit from the Administrative unit Jesenice on the 31st of December 2013.

See Annex 5. for detailed location of the constructed gravel barrier according to the official cadastre and photo documentation.

5.1.5.3 Action C.1.3 Improvement of hydrological conditions in Vrhe project area

According to the changes approved by the Desk officer by mail on the 9th of July 2012 the dispersal channels, distributing the water over the entire pilot area were planned to be constructed till December 2013.

Eternal subcontractor SGP Pokeržnik d.o.o was chosen according to the public tender rules. Works are underway and will be finished by spring 2014.

5.1.5.4 Action C.1.4. Improvement of hydrological conditions of ponds in the Gornji kal pilot area

Changes to the original proposal were approved by the Desk officer by mail on the 2nd of August 2012.

In order to identify the structure of ground at location of the pond Kršeljivec, we carried out probing of the ground (20th of April 2012) where the external contractor dug 5 holes under the supervision of the representatives of IzVRS and a geologist. IzVRS then used the results in the preparation of project documentation.

According to the public tender an external subcontractor Vodnogospodarsko podjetje Novo mesto was subcontracted for hydrological works (13th of December 2012) and an external building supervisor Ambiens, projektiranje in inženiring Črnomelj d.o.o subcontracted by CB ZRSVN. External subcontractor enlarged and revitalized banks of the pond Krivače (0,15 ha). Banks of the pond Hrast were revitalized (0,9 ha) and pond Kršeljivec entirely renewed from the overgrown garbage disposal area (0,6 ha). The hydrological works were carried out in total on 1,28ha. Nesting and sun backing areas for *Emys orbicularis* were constructed at all three locations. We received the 10 years Bank guarantee for removal of defects during the warranty period from the external subcontractor on 19th of December 2013.

Hydrological works were carried out from December 2012 to November 2013.

See Annex 5. for photo documentation.

5.1.5.5 Action C.1.5 Improvement of hydrological conditions of ponds in the Mura Petišovci pilot area

Problems encountered or identified: extreme working conditions (methods have to be constantly adjusted according to high water table - flooding)

Changes to the original proposal were approved by the Desk officer by mail on the 9th of July 2012.

According to the public tender an external subcontractor EHO projekt d.o.o. and Pavčnik d.o.o. were subcontracted for hydrological works (13th of December 2012) and an external building supervisor Regnum – inženiring, nepremičnine, svetovanje in zastopanje Tomislav Regent s.p. subcontracted by CB ZRSVN. External subcontractor is carrying out works. Works are finished on the oxbow lake Nagy Parlag (1,95ha). Approximately 19.000m³ of material was dug and transported to the disposal site till now. Works are still underway on the oxbow lake Csiko Legelo. According to the contract with the external subcontractor the works will be finished till March 2014.

See Annex 5. for photo documentation.

5.1.5.6 Action C.1.6. Improvement of hydrological conditions on Planik pilot area

Addition of hydrological works at Planik PA to the project was approved by the officer by mail on the 9th of July 2012.

5 dykes (type A) were constructed on water outflows on Planik bog by the external subcontractor Gozdno gospodarstvo Bled in December 2013.

See Annex 5. for photo documentation.

5.1.6 Action C.2 Removal of overgrowth

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2012-I/2014.

Actual starting and expected end dates: January 2012- spring 2014.

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: see below

Photo documentation of the activities we undertook are under Annex 6.

5.1.6.1 Action C.2.1. Removal of overgrowth on Pohorje bogs pilot area

Problems encountered or identified: extreme working conditions prolonged the works (the new winch methods had to be applied since the area was so wet)

AB ZGS carried out a field marking of the trees to be removed, assigned transport paths and prepared a forest silviculture plan for the planned overgrowth removal activities. A public tender for the overgrowth removal on Pohorje bogs PA was prepared and the contract for the removal of overgrowth on Pohorje bogs PA was signed with the external subcontractor Gozdno gospodarstvo Maribor on the 19th of October 2012. The overgrowth was selectively removed on 10,5ha of bogs on Pohorska barja bogs (Javorski vrh bog (1ha), Klopnovrška barja bog (7,2ha), Mulejev vrh bog (0,8ha) and Ostruščica bog (1.5ha). The overgrowth removal was being supervised by the AB ZGS and CB ZRVN.

Four volunteer overgrowth removal actions were organized (15th of October 2011 - 38 participants; 10th of November 2012 – 15 participants and 18th of November 2012 – 10 participants; 15th of November 2013 – 90 participants pupils and teachers) jointly by CB ZRSVN, AB ZGS, municipalities Zreče and Mislinja as well as Secondary school Slovenj Gradec and Pohorje nature conservation fund.

The works started in autumn 2012 and are planned to be finished in spring 2014.

5.1.6.2 Action C.2.2. Removal of overgrowth on Zelenci pilot area

Problems encountered or identified: extreme working conditions prolonged the works (hand moving had to be carried out)

AB ZGS prepared forest silviculture plan accordingly (basis for the overgrowth removal activities according to national legislation). A public tender for the overgrowth removal on Zelenci PA was prepared and the contract signed with the external subcontractor Gozdarske storitve Matic Šuštar s.p on the 25th of February 2013. Till now overgrowth was removed over the area of 2,1 ha. We will finish the works according to the contract with the external subcontractor by spring 2014.

5.1.6.3 Action C.2.3. Removal of overgrowth from *Liparis loeselii* habitat in the pilots areas Vrhe and Planik

PA Planik

External subcontractor Gozdni možje storitve za gozdarstvo, Gregor Kemperl s.p., carried out overgrowth removal over the area of 0,75ha in December 2011. In addition 0,25ha of overgrowth was removed by Vili Rozman s.p. in December 2013. All together 1ha of the overgrowth was removed on PA Planik.

Two volunteer overgrowth removal actions were organized jointly by AB ZRSVN and Nigritella - Society for the conservation of Slovenian native orchids (10th of December 2011,

7th of December 2013) and one jointly AB ZRSVN and Biotechnical centre Naklo students (15th of February 2012)

PA Vrhe

AB ZGS prepared forest silviculture plan accordingly (basis for the overgrowth removal activities according to national legislation) and marked the trees to be removed on the field. Till now overgrowth was removed over the area of 0,8 ha. We will finish the works according to the contract with the external subcontractor by spring 2014.

An overgrowth removal action was organized jointly CB ZRSVN, AB ZGS for 3rd year pupils of the Secondary school Slovenj Gradec (90 participants).

5.1.6.4 Action C.2.4. Removal of overgrowth on Gornji kal pilot area

1,23 ha of overgrowth was removed over the area of the three ponds on PA Gornji kal.

5.1.6.5 Action C.2.5. Removal of overgrowth from oxbows Nagy Parlag and Muriša in Mura Petišovci pilot area

External subcontractor is carrying out works in parallel to the hydrological works. Works are finished on the oxbow lake Nagy Parlag (1,95ha). Works are still underway on the oxbow lake Csiko Legelo. According to the contract with the external subcontractor the works will be finished till March 2014.

5.1.7 Action C.3 Removal of the invasive species

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2012-III/2013.

Actual starting and expected end dates: July 2011- September 2013

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

In the project proposal a removal of invasive species was foreseen in a context of a significant reduction of number of specimen of invasive species present a given water body. Further management and control of invasive species (if any left) was foreseen in a proper future management of revitalized water bodies thought incorporation of nature conservation guidelines into fishing management plans by AS ZZRS and education of local fishing societies (so no invasive species would be entered in a future and in a promotion of an unlimited catch of invasive species if present). See Annex 7. for photo documentation.

Following equipment was bough (fishing lines and fishing fyke nets (instead of sub water camera - approved by EC) by AB ZZRS.

5.1.7.1 Action C.3.1 Removal of the invasive fish species from the "Hrast" pond in the Gornji kal project area

During the years 2012 and 2013 in all four water bodies elimination of alien fish species was carried out. Different fishing methods like electrofishing, fishing with different fishing nets, fishing traps and fishing with special bottom stationary single hook fishing system were used as well as regular angling of fishermen and fishing competitions were organized.

The total catch of alien fish species in the Hrast fish pond was under our expectations. No wels cat fish, the target fish species, were caught. It has been shown, that regular angling and fish competitions are most effective methods for wels cat fish removal. Therefore

fishing management plans were prepared with very liberal fishing regime. On the other hand the results of all those fish removal methods of alien fish species shows that wels cat fish are no more present in large numbers.

5.1.7.2 Action C.3.2 Removal of the invasive species from all three project oxbow lakes in the Mura Petišovci project area

Removal in the Mura Petišovci project area was carried out with different fishing methods like electrofishing, fishing with different fishing nets, fishing traps as well as regular angling of fishermen. During the years 2012 and 2013 floods were present and migrations of different fish species from one to another water body occurred. We concluded that most effective measure for elimination of invasive and alien fish species will be the regular angling of anglers and fishing competitions. Therefore the management plans were prepared in the way to achieve this goal for the long term effect.

5.1.8 Action C.4: Prevention of the habitat destruction and disturbance of species

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: VI/2011-IV/2014.

Actual starting and expected end dates: July 2011- December 2014 (works have started a bit in advance)

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

Photo documentation in the Annex 8.

5.1.8.1 Action C.4.1 Prevention of habitat destruction and disturbance of species in Pohorje bogs project area

Foot paths were re-built (from local European larch wood) in the width of 80 cm and following length: Lovrenška jezera bogs 664m, Ribniško jezero bog 175m, Črno jezero 864m. Total length of the new foot paths is 1703m external subcontractor Gozdno gospodarstvo Slovenj Gradec and by volunteer work. For a detailed description see Mid-term report.

In the mid-term report to additional foot paths were added namely Ostruščica and an educational trail on Črno jezero. Foot part on Ostruščica was built in the length of 180 m by an external subcontractor G7 in September 2013.

The watching tower on Lovrenška jezera bogs was reconstruction by an external subcontractor G7 in July / August 2013.

5.1.8.2 Action C.4.2 Prevention of habitat destruction on Zelenci project area

Will not be carried out. Approved by EC.

5.1.8.3 Action C.4.3 Visitors' surveillance on the Pohorje bogs project area

The supplier was chosen (ExseGesIS, UK) on a public tender. The sensors (3 passive infra red body heat sensors) and associated software were purchased and installed at visitors main entrances at "Lovrenška barja" bogs, »Ribniško barje« bogs and »Črno jezero« bogs in September 2011 by the supplier.

Data are downloaded every two months and are analyzed and processed. In addition CB ZRSVN conducted a one day (27th of August 2011) counting of the visitors on Lovrenška barja bogs. Data combined from the IR counters and the one day classification gives us a good insight into visitors' structure and 24h dynamics.

Data from the counters and photo documentation is in the Annex 8.

5.1.9 Action C.5 Incorporation of the "Conservation guidelines" for the project area management into the sectoral management plans

Planned duration of the action in the proposal III/2012-I/2015.

Actual starting and expected end dates: September 2012 - January 2015

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified:

When we were preparing the project proposal the Ministry for the Environment and Spatial planning was planning to prepare Detailed water management planes for rivers (e.g. Mura) according to wider Water management plan of the Danube river. The Ministry of agriculture and environment is no longer planning to prepare the Detailed Management planes for specific rivers in the duration of the project. We will incorporate management of oxbows into the yearly programs of the Slovene Environmental Agency Units in further management will be needed.

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

CB ZRSVN in cooperation with AB ZGS, AB ZZRS and AB IzVRS prepared harmonized "Guidelines for pilot area management". They are being incorporated into relevant sectoral plans. According to the prepared "Guidelines for pilot area management" AB ZGS (Regional offices Maribor, Slovenj Gradec and Celje) prepared Regional forest management plans covering the area of PA Pohorje and AB ZGS (Regional office Murska Sobota) prepared Regional forest management plan covering the area of PA Mura Petišovci. They were adopted by Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the 8th of November 2012.

According to the prepared draft "Guidelines for pilot area management" AB ZGS (Regional office Slovenj Gradec) prepared Hunting management plan for Pohorje (covering PA Pohorje bogs) which was adopted by Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the 8th of November 2012.

On the basis of "Guidelines for pilot area management" AB ZGS prepared Forest unit management plan for: Dolinsko (covering PA Mura Petišovci); Adlešiči (covering PA Gornji kal); Lobnica (partially covering PA Pohorje bogs). They were adopted by Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment in 2013.

A management plan for PA Zelenci was prepared through a series of workshop with a participation of local stakeholders. The Management plan was adopted by Municipality Kranjska gora (legally protector the area Zelenci) on the 9th of October 2013.

5.1.10 Action D.1 National and local authority education project

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: IV/2011-IV/2014.

Actual starting and expected end dates: June 2011 - December 2014.

Progress report LIFE+

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

Till now 32 meetings with municipality representatives, 18 meetings with representatives of the Ministries and Slovenian Environmental agency, 5 meetings with Slovenia Agricultural and Forestry Chamber, 12 meetings /workshops with Farming and forestry fond of the Republic of Slovenia, 15 meetings with representatives of the Hunting and Fishing clubs. Workshops for Slovene Police and Nature environment Inspectors are planned for 2014.

5.1.11 Action D.2 General public and local community awareness campaign

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-I/2015.

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011- January 2015.

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

For the easier implementation of the public awareness actions CB ZSRVN prepared Communication planes for each pilot area (See Mid-term report). Till now following events were organized: 3 press conferences, 51 events for general public, local community and other interested groups, several volunteer actions, 33 events for elementary and secondary school children and youth, 6 photo exhibitions. Project WETMAN and LIFE+ were also promoted at the Nature health fair. From the beginning of the project till 86 printed newspapers articles, at least 91 internet were published. In addition 14 radio and television broadcasts took place.

In order to record the events digital camera with HD camera was purchased by CB ZRSVN.

External const also include costs of the fair, organization of the press conferences and student support.

5.1.12 Action D.3 Promotional material

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-I/2015.

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011 – January 2015

Status of the activities: completed

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

See Annex 1.

A double sided laser color printer was purchased for the printing of different promotional material by the CB ZRSVN.

All project publications are available in .pdf format at project web page:

<http://www.wetman.si/publikacije/o-projektu> and

<http://www.wetman.si/publications/about-the-project>

5.1.13 Action D.4 Information and notice boards

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: III/2011-II/2012, III/2113 – III/2014.

Actual starting and expected end dates: June 2011- September 2014.

Status of the activities: completed

Problems encountered or identified: /

10 notice boards announcing LIFE+ project WETMAN at all project partners' locations have been placed. Information boards are prepared for all PA. See Annex 1 for photo documentation.

5.1.14 Action D.5 The project's web page and project graphical identity

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-I/2015.

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011 - January 2015.

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

Project graphic identity was produced The project webpage (www.wetman.si) is accessible over the internet and is being updated regularly. Project results can be found under chapter "about pilot areas".

5.1.15 Action D.6 Project documentary and 3 TV spots

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: III/2011-II/2013.

Actual starting and expected end dates: April 2011- July 2013.

Status of the activities: completed

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

AB RTV (the Slovene national TV,) in cooperation with CB ZSRVN prepared a 30 minutes long documentary and 3 (3 minutes long) TV spots. Documentary film scenario was prepared according to the results from the workshop by the AB RTV SLO and CB ZSRVN, the speaker (Mr. Miho Šalehar) and film cure were subcontracted (Mr. Rado Likon cameraman and Ms. Maja Senekovič film director) by the AB RTV SLO. The documentary is prepared in the format which can be widely used in all awareness rising activities. They will also be accessible through the project web site. See Annex 9. for CD with the Documentary and Tv spots.

5.1.16 Action D.7 Layman's report

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: III/2014-IV/2014.

Status of the activities: not due

Problems encountered or identified: /

5.1.17 Action E.1 Project co-ordination and management

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011 - I/2015.

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011 - January 2015

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

For the organization of the project management and work refer to chapter 4 and Mid-term report.

The Project Quality board and the Project Steering committee were formed. Each of the two boards met four times till now (30th of March 2011, 14th of February 2012 and 21st of September 2012, 9th of April 2013). Three meeting of the partnership were organized (30th-31st of March 2011 and 14th-15th of September 2012, 6-7th of September 2013). Regular coordination meetings are organized for the CB ZRSVN staff where project manager and all local coordinators review the work and plan future activities. Coordinating beneficiary also organized meeting, workshops and joint field trips (CB, ABs and others according to needs). The coordination of the project is going on well.

Durable goods of the CB (laptop computer with software and digital camera) were purchased following the public procurement rules. The project manager used a trial version the Project managing software but found it too time consuming. We propose to use the money to occasional support project management.

5.1.18 Action E.2 Project monitoring and evaluation

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-I/2012, II/2013 – IV/2014.

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011- October 2011, April 2013 – December 2014

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

The CB ZRSVN then prepared an open Public tenders covering initial surveys of pilot areas and monitoring of the effect of the project actions (separately covering following groups: Amphibians, Aves, *Emys orbicularis*, Odonata and Habitat types and *Liparis loeselii*). The external subcontractors produced Report of the initial survey of the pilot area (see Mid-term report for details).

Water level measuring stations were installed by AB IzVRS at PA Mura Petišovci, Gornji kal, Zelenci and Vrhe (see Mid-term report for details). Data are being recorded and processed by the AB IzVRS.

In order to be able to monitor the level of ground water and the effect of WETMAN activities on PAs CB ZSRVN constructed “self made piezometers”. 22 piezometers were installed on PA Pohorje bogs (Klopnovrška barja bogs and Javorski vrh bogs) and additional 9 piezometers on PA Plank. Data are being captured every two weeks. Data from the piezometers and photo documentation are in the Annex 10).

Following equipment was purchased: 3 SLR digital cameras, 4 binoculars, 6 GPS with program support, 1 telescope.

5.1.19 Action E.3 Revision of the “Conservation guidelines”

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: III/2014-IV/2014.

Progress report LIFE+

Planned starting and expected end dates: July 2014 - December 2014.

Action not due.

5.1.20 Action E.4 Audit

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: IV-IV/2012 and I-I/2015.

Planned starting and expected end dates: October – December 2012; January – March 2015

Action not due.

Public tender was organized and the Contract with the external subcontractor signed.
(see Mid-term report).

5.1.21 Action E.5 After LIFE conservation plan

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2014-IV/2014.

Actual starting and expected end dates: January 2014 - December 2014

Action not due.

5.2 Envisaged progress until next report.

current report

next report

Action	2011				2012				2013				2014				2015	
Number/name	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or action plans :																		
A1- Elaboration of CG																		
A2-Permit procedure																		
A3-Car purchase																		
B. Purchase/lease of land and/or rights :																		
B1-Land purchase																		
C. Concrete conservation actions :																		
C1-Hydrology																		
C2-Overgrowth																		
C3-Invasive species																		
C4-Habitat protection																		
C5-CG into plans																		
D. Public awareness and dissemination of results:																		
D1-N&L authority AC																		
D2-GP AC																		
D3-Promotional material																		
D4-Boards																		
D5-Project www																		
D6-TV material																		
D7-Layman's report																		
E. Overall project operation and monitoring:																		
E1-Project management																		
E2-Project evaluation																		
E3-CG revision																		
E4-Audit																		
E5-After LIFE																		

according to proposal
 action completed
 in progress
 not due yet

5.3 Impact:

The prepared draft "Basis for management of the pilot area" (Action A.1) and their incorporation into sectorial planes (Action C.5) has an overall positive effect onto the harmonized inter-sectorial management of the PA so favorable conservation conditions of the targeted species and habitats (and other species present on all the PAs) can be improved. The hydrological conditions of the PA Pohorje bogs, Zelenci, Gornji kal and Planik are improved and overgrowth removed on PAs. This will result in an improvement in conditions of the targeted habitat types and species. The foot paths on Pohorje bogs are reconstructed which improved the condition of the targeted habitats Bog forest – Sphagnum spruce woods, Active raised bogs, Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds and transition mires and quaking bogs. The visitors' surveillance has been established and gives us good information for necessary management of visitors.

Several events which were organized for national and local authorities, targeted audience, general public and local community as well as new and internet articles and TV and radio broadcasts and promotional material the awareness of the public about the Natura 2000 sites, wetlands, their importance and functions and threats as well as the LIEF + mechanism was raised.

5.4 Outside LIFE:

See Annex 12.

6. Financial part

6.1 Costs incurred (summary by cost category and relevant comments).

Budget breakdown categories	Total cost in €	Costs incurred from the start date to 28.01.2014 in €	% of total costs
1. Personnel	881.840,00	675.180,20	76,6 %
2. Travel and subsistence	80.270,00	56.486,74	70,4 %
3. External assistance	777.534,00	474.521,40	61,0 %
4. Durable goods			
Infrastructure	90.000,00	91.855,86	102,1 %
Equipment	102.100,00	80.624,09	79,0 %
Prototype	0,00	0,00	0,0 %
5. Land purchase / long-term lease	6.400,00	2.733,60	42,7 %
6. Consumables	35.390,00	34.159,33	96,5 %
7. Other Costs	30.976,00	17.561,11	56,7 %
8. Overheads	139.866,00	58.524,64	41,8 %
TOTAL	2.144.376,00	1.491.646,97	69,6 %

Action number and name	Foreseen costs	Spent so far	Remaining	Projected final cost
A1-Elaboration of CG	121.972,00	118.258,91	3.713,09	121.972,00
A2-Permit procedure	25.680,00	25.424,10	255,90	25.680,00
A3-Car	24.500,00	29.149,61	-4.649,61	24.500,00
B1-Land purchase	13.380,00	8.064,67	5.315,33	13.380,00
C1-Hydrology	575.132,00	404.218,53	170.913,47	575.132,00
C2-Overgrowth	152.910,00	93.265,30	59.644,70	152.910,00
C3-Invasive species	46.520,00	34.062,27	12.457,73	46.520,00
C4-Habitat protection	119.910,00	119.566,84	343,16	119.910,00
C5-CG into plans	45.080,00	34.778,03	10.301,97	45.080,00
D1-N&L authority AC	19.350,00	12.862,94	6.487,06	19.350,00
D2-GP AC	72.930,00	51.181,87	21.748,13	72.930,00
D3-Project promotion	65.486,00	51.909,70	13.576,30	65.486,00
D4-Boards	45.100,00	39.897,07	5.202,93	45.100,00
D5-Project www	14.000,00	8.177,07	5.822,93	14.000,00
D6-TV material	59.402,00	55.929,39	3.472,61	59.402,00
D7-Layman's report	4.300,00	0,00	4.300,00	4.300,00
E1-Project management	347.350,00	217.791,38	129.558,62	347.350,00
E2-Project evaluation	212.508,00	128.584,67,00	83.923,33	212.508,00
E3-CG revision	13.800,00	0,00	13.800,00	13.800,00
E4-Audit	25.200,00	0,00	25.200,00	25.200,00
E5-After LIFE	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Overheads	139.866,00	58.524,64	81.341,36	139.866,00
TOTAL	2.144.376,00	1.491.646,99	652.729,01	2.144.376,00

7. Annexes

- 7.1 Deliverables and Milestones**
- 7.2 Project Organogrammes**
- 7.3 Management database**
- 7.4 Permits obtained**
- 7.5 Improvement of hydrology**
- 7.6 Overgrowth removal**
- 7.7 Reduction of invasive fish species population**
- 7.8 Prevention of habitat destruction**
- 7.9 Documentary and TV spots**
- 7.10 Monitoring of levels of ground water**
- 7.11 Awareness raising and communication activities**
- 7.12 Outside LIFE**
- 7.13 Answers to Question from the European Commission**