LIFE Project Number

LIFE09 NAT/PL/000260

Final Report - abbreviated version

Covering the project activities from 1/09/2010 to 31/03/2015

Reporting Date

<14/07/2015>

LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym

Biomass use for Aquatic Warblers

Data Project

Project location	East Poland, Podlaskie and Lubelskie region
Project start date:	01/09/2010
Project end date:	31/03/2015 **Extension date:**
Total budget	€ 3,278,815
Total eligible budget	€ 3 233 137
EC contribution:	€ 2,424,852
(%) of total costs	€ 73,96%
(%) of eligible costs	75%

Data Beneficiary

Name Beneficiary	Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków (OTOP) Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP)
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1. Table of contents.

List of key-words and abbreviations.

- AES - agri-environment schemes
- AW - Aquatic Warbler
- Aquatic Warbler Project or LIFE Aquatic Warbler Project – LIFE05 NAT/PL/000100 project
- Base - the built-up land in Trzcianne owned by OTOP for biomass storage and pelleting facility, a former sawmill.
- Biebrza – SPA Biebrza Valley
- BPN – Biebrza National Park / Biebrzański Park Narodowy
- Bubnów – SPA Bubnow Marsh
- Bug / Bug Valley - SPA Middle Bug Valley
- CAP - Common Agriculture Policy
- Chełm / Chełm marshes – SPA Chełm Calcereous Marshes
- Ciesacin / Ciesacin mire – part of SPA Polesie
- EC – European Commission
- EU – European Union
- ITP - Institute of Technology and Life Sciences in Falenty / Instytut Technologiczno-Przyrodniczy w Falentach
- LTO - Lublin Ornitological Society / Lubelskie Towarzystwo Ornitologiczne
- Lubelskie – region in East Poland that covers project sites: Bubnów, Ciesacin, Chełm marshes, Bug Valley
- MoA - Ministry of Agriculture
- MP – Management Plan
- Narew – SPA Marshy Valley of the Narew River

- NFOŚiGW- National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management / Narodowy Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska i Gospodarki Wodnej.
- NPN – Narew National Park / Narwiański Park Narodowy
- OTOP – Polish Society for the Protection of Birds / Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków
- PPN – Poleski National Park (Poleski Park Narodowy)
- Ratrak - common, Polish name for piste basher
- RDOŚ - Regional Directorate of Environment Protection / Regionalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska
- RDP - Rural Development Program
- RSPB – the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, project partner
- SPA – Special Protection Area

2. Executive summary (max 5 pages).

2.1. General progress.

Overall, most of the project actions were implemented in accordance with the planned results, it was spent 82,98% of the project budget.

Preparatory actions

The Aquatic Warbler site management recommendations were prepared (A1), state owned grounds (nearly 1000 ha) were leased to farmers/entrepreneurs (A2), advocacy for suitable Natura 2000 payments were run very energetically - the vision for Natura 2000 payments was developed and discussed, a review for AES in Poland published, the conference on the Natura 2000 payment and future AES organized, OTOP took very active part in the consultation process of the Polish RDP and AES Regulation, the AW AES is well schaped for the species (A3), a feasibility study on small-scale biomass ovens (A4) and a feasibility study for an electric power plant fuelled by biomass were prepared (A5).

The land purchase (B1) - at the end of the project it was purchased 19,9791 ha (out of up to 20 ha planned) of land at the Biebrza Valley SPA and 0,9557 ha (out of up to 2 ha planned) of land in the vicinity of the Trzcianne village as a location for biomass storage and processing.

Concrete conservation actions were implemented nearly in accordance with plans: the bush removal (C1) has been completed in c. 94%, the first time mowing (C2) in c. 156,7% (70,3% of planned area mown for the project sources, 86,4% out of project budget), preparation of infrastructure to facilitate biomass collection (C3) is done in over 100% of plans and pelleting facility at Biebrza (C6) set up and running. To summarise, the conservation actions are implemented in nearly 100%.

Public awareness and dissemination of action results are implemented fully. All project boards, including the boards on entry roads to Trzcianne commune were set up (D1), the project website is online and regularly updated (D2), project branding and awareness raising materials were prepared, newsletters were issued, environmental classes and excursions for schools organized, the pelleting facility open day was held on 21 June 2013, the information stands were on site (D3), media monitoring was running and showed that 199 items about the project have been published in media, information on the project were published (D4), an interim workshop was organized on 23-25 April 2013, the final conference on 28-29 October 2014 (D5), 12 exchange visits to exchange experience with similar initiatives took place, project partner hosted groups interested in nature conservation methods and biomass utilization, six international conferences on Aquatic Warbler and its habitats were attended by

the project staff (D6), the brand for pellets produced in the project was created, products promoting pellets were prepared (D7).

The project operation and monitoring was running well, as planned. The project management was set up, the problems with partner agreements were solved (two partners resigned from the project implementation and the OTOP overtook their responsibilities, one withdrew and was replaced by a new partner who joined the project). It was necessary to prepare and submit two modification requests in relation to the project implementation (E1), nine project steering group meetings were held (E2), four meetings of the Technical Task Force took place (E3), the progress project reports were submitted on time to the EC and the NFOŚiGW, the mid-term report was prepared in March 2014 (E4), the financial report data were collected and updated regularly (E5), the Aquatic Warbler population was monitored (E6), other monitoring actions (E7-E10) were running (data is collected, reports prepared according to the plan).

In general, the project achieved its objectives. The main threats related to the project implementation were: a problem of land purchase formalities, a delay in the second instalment from the EC needed to fully implement all actions (low project's financial liquidity), excessive drainage (cleaning of ditches) of project priority areas (Laskowiec-Zajki), and AW habitats damage or deterioration, as well as unpredictable weather conditions (the threat to the conservation actions and biomass collection), lack of experience in running the pelleting facility what caused delays and needs for adjustments.

3. Introduction

– Description of background, problem and objectives

An earlier LIFE Project funded in 2005 and implemented by the OTOP (the Aquatic Warbler Project – LIFE05 NAT/PL/000100) has tested and developed conservation methods at the Biebrza Marshes in north-east Poland, the country's prime site for this species. The present project was built on this experience, but concentrates on six Polish Aquatic Warbler sites, which are located in eastern Poland and together hold 98% of the Polish and 24% of the world population of the species.

Being an initiative with a strong demonstration character, the project aimed at securing ongoing Aquatic Warbler habitat management through well shaped Agri-Environmental Scheme and modern, economically viable systems for the use of biomass that arises from this activity. OTOP has teamed up with another NGO and two conservation-minded commercial companies, which recognise the economic viability of investments into biodiversity-friendly business.

It was planned to demonstrate that the harvested low-quality biomass is not an unwanted by-product, but a valid source of biomass fuel, and the biomass processing is economically viable. The project is run in six project sites, all designated SPAs, to achieve the following key objectives:

1) Innovative systems for the use of biomass from the Aquatic Warbler sites set-up, improved and tested

2) Area of suitable habitat for the Aquatic Warbler in Eastern Poland increased and its quality improved

3) Regular ongoing management of major parts of the project sites secured through income from the use of biomass with additional support from agri-environmental schemes.

4) Plans in place to guide pure conservation and business-minded conservation efforts to achieve maximum benefit for both aspects

5) Awareness is raised amongst conservation and business managers, site administrations and the public for the wider benefits incurred through the cooperation of conservation and business, using the example of biomass business for Aquatic Warblers

– Expected longer term results

The most important both short and long term result is stabilisation of population size of AW in Eastern Poland. One of the most important factors of stabilization of AW population is securing proper habitat use. Now due management agreements within AES, and preparation of well shaped payments proper land use is secured in long term at least 6344 ha of AW habitat. What more, the monitoring run in this project showed that the population of AW has risen by 26% on the project priority areas in the period 2009-2014. Therefore we can expect stabilisation of AW population in Eastern Poland as a whole. There will be local fluctuations of numbers within particular sites along of current management but the total number should be stable or little increasing.

In the same time there is strong decrease of population in two core populations of neighbouring countries Belarus and Ukraine and extinction in Hungary (Flade M. 2013. Overview on the Aquatic Warbler global population dynamics, occurring challenges and successes for its conservation – available at: http://www.meldine.lt/images/stories/Leidiniai/1__FladeM__AW_Global_population_Vilnius2013.pdf). Decrease in Belarus and Ukraine is linked with typical threat for open fen species – eutrophication and overgrowing of mires by bushes and reeds (Kozulin A. & Malashevich U. 2013. The strategy of Aquatic Warbler conservation under conditions of habitat degradation and fragmentation in Belarus http://www.meldine.lt/images/stories/Leidiniai/4_Kozulin_AW_Conservation_Belarus_Vilnius2013.pdf and Poluda A.2013. Aquatic Warbler core population dynamics and its possible reasons in Ukraine http://www.meldine.lt/images/stories/Leidiniai/4_PoludaA_IliukhaO__AW_Ukraine_Vilnius2013.pdf). Exactly this threat might also lead to population decrease in Eastern Poland. However it was just in time addressed and due LIFE project stopped.

Within the priority project areas, land covered by recurring management increased from c. 1.550 ha to 6344 ha at the end of the project. The area occupied by AW has risen from 3602,26 to 3879,90 ha, that is by 277,67 ha or by 7,71% as expected and the number of singing Aquatic Warblers by by 575 individuals (from 2198 to 2773 individuals; 5,75 times more than assumed in the aproject application!) between start and the end of the project. The land management is supported by the biomass processing facility. At all, the expectation of the stabilisation of AW population in Eastern Poland as a whole is valid and due to project implementation much more probable then before its start.

4. Administrative part

Reports delivered

Four reports were delivered to the EC: the Inception report – sent on 28 February 2011, the first Progress Report – 28 February 2012, the second Progress Report (sent as Mid-Term Report but due to not reached spending threshold is treated as the progress one) – 14 August 2013 and mid-term report - 11 March 2014.

Partnership agreements status

The agreements were signed by three associated beneficiaries: FUT Zelent, RSPB and Eko-Różanka

Project Modifications:

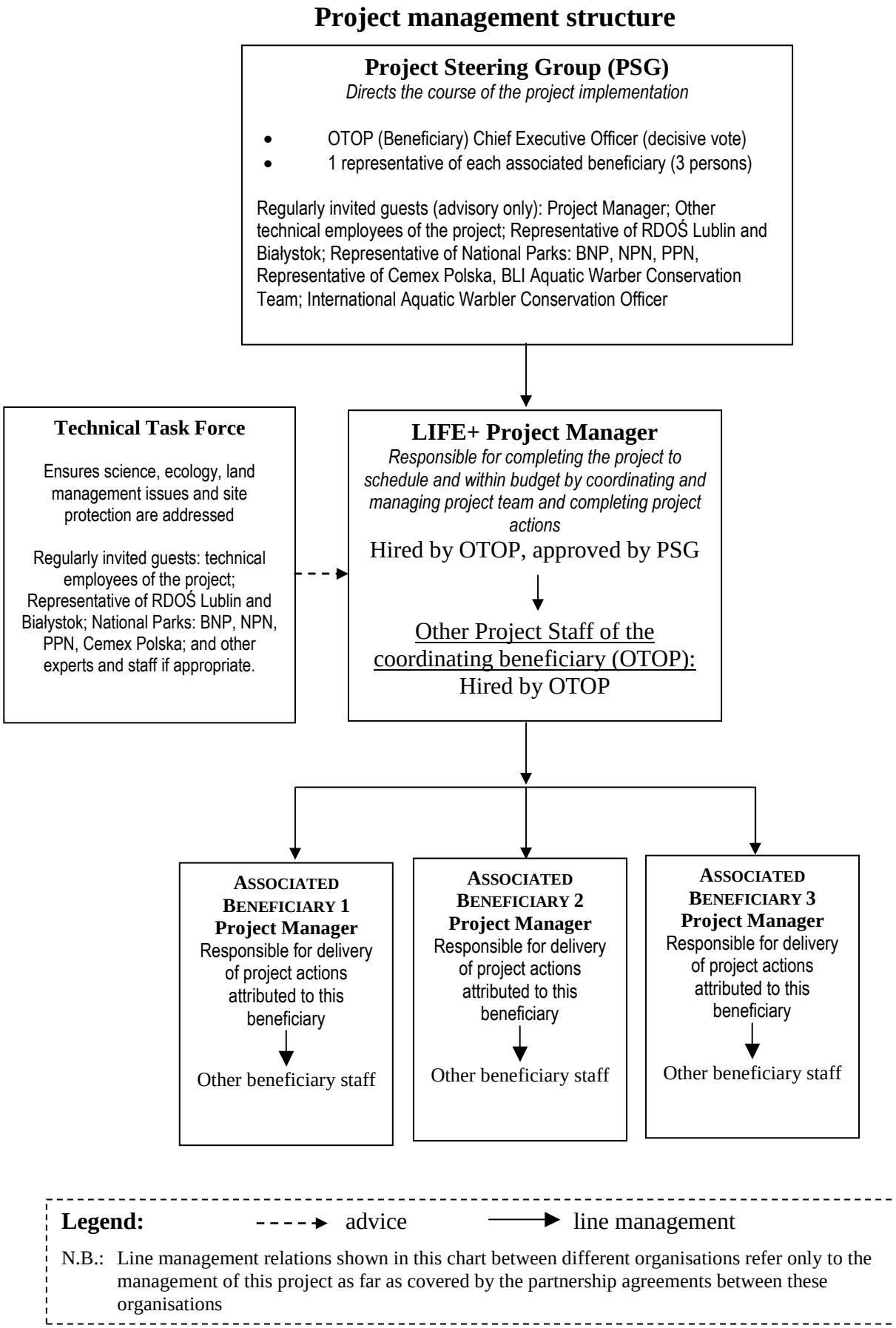
Due to changes in the conservation activities needs, available sources of funding, changing costs, market on biomass products and other external factors, there was a need for modifications in the project, which would adjust the plan to the real conservation requirements, and the assumptions made at the beginning of the project to the real opportunities. All proposed modifications, leading towards reaching the project objectives, were sent in a request to the European Commission on 23 May 2013, accepted on March 2014 and the annex was signed on 26 March 2014.

The list of significant and non-significant modifications and changes is presented below:

- Partnership changes
- Changes in project actions
- Substantial changes in the project budget

On 22 December 2014, OTOP sent the second modification request to EC. In the letter dated on 23 February 2015 Commission accepted the proposed modification and the annex was signed on 9 March 2015. The second modification concern mostly the budget, and results mainly from adjustment of incurred eligible costs to proper categories. It also provides an update of the budget regarding the costs already accepted by the Commission. The main modification, and the only one which is substantial, was increase of the infrastructure cost category. This change was caused by shift of part of the costs for preparation and renovation of place (the buildings and the surrounding area) for set up and run the pelleting facility, from ‘external assistance’ category to ‘infrastructure’ category. Other changes updated the budget by costs previously approved by Commission.

Organigramme of the project team and the project management structure



Technical part

4.1. Actions

Action A1: Prepare Aquatic Warbler site management recommendations

Expected results: Aquatic Warbler Management Plan Recommendations prepared and agreed with the relevant authorities at four project sites.
Activity status: completed in 100%
Foreseen start/end date: 1.03.2011/31.03.2014
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/30.08.2014

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
Aquatic Warbler Management Plan Recommendations prepared and agreed	31/12/2013	13/08/2014 – date of last letter with acceptation

The template for preparation of Aquatic Warbler site management recommendations was prepared. All Aquatic Warbler Management Plan Recommendations were ready in January 2013. Then they were carefully checked completed or adjusted and when accepted sent to relevant authorities managing Natura 2000 habitats with the request to join its text to the planned management plans for appropriate Natura 2000 areas. Aquatic Warbler Management Plan Recommendations are prepared in such way to allow to just copy-paste the text to appropriate place of the management plan.

Additionally, in order to assure the proper AW management at the Biebrza Valley, Narew Valley and Poleski National Park, OTOP was taking part in the process of preparation and approval of management plans for Natura 2000 sites there. The whole process of management plans preparation (Plany Ochrony/Plany Zadań Ochronnych) and consultation was followed by OTOP to ensure that documents include all AW management requirements.

At the beginning of 2014 the management plans for Narew National Park and SPA Marshy Valley of the Narew River (PLB200001) were prepared and sent to the Ministry of Environment for the approval. Documents are available on-line at: http://www.bagiennanarew.pl/index.php/dokumenty-do-konsultacji. These plans include all needed requirements for the AW habitats management from the Aquatic Warbler site management recommendations prepared in the project. OTOP was involved in the whole process of management plans preparation. Aquatic Warbler management recommendations are described in detail in following document on page 83 (5. Cele działań ochronnych) and pages 99-101 (6. Ustalenie działań ochronnych): http://www.bagiennanarew.pl/images/konsultacje-projektow/SDP/SDP_PO_BDN23.12.2013.pdf

The management plan for the Poleski National Park, that include whole Bagno Bubnów project site (SPA Bubnow Marsh PLB 060001), is prepared and now is being consulted Documents are available on-line at: http://www.poleskipn.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=22&Itemid=198 . These plans include all needed requirements for the AW habitats management from the Aquatic Warbler site management recommendations prepared in the project. OTOP was

involved in the whole process of management plans preparation. On 29 September 2014, OTOP representative was present at the consultation meeting. Aquatic Warbler management recommendations are described in detail in following document on page 123 (Chapter 4.), page 132 (Chapter 5.) and page 179 (Chapter 7.): http://www.poleskipn.pl/images/projektplanu.pdf.

Since December 2014 new project for the preparation management plans for other AW sites in Lublin region was started by Regional Directorate of Environmental Protection in Lublin (http://trawiaste.rdos.lublin.pl/pl/strona-glowna_n/) It includes SPA Middle Bug Valley (Natura 2000 PLB 060003), SPA Polesie (Natura 2000 PLB 060019 and SPA Chełm Calcereous Marshes (PLB 060002 and PLH 060023). These sites were not included in the earlier project for the management plans preparation "Preparation of Management Plans for the Natura 200 sites in Poland" ("Opracowanie Planów Zadań Ochronnych dla obszarów Natura 2000 na obszarze Polski" POIS.05.03.00-00-186/09). First Stakeholder Meeting take place in 23 of March 2015 and OTOP representative was present on this event.

All Aquatic Warbler Management Plan Recommendations were sent to the managing institutions. OTOP has got answer letters on the all recommendations sent from:

- Polesie NP in the letter dated on 6 November 2013,
- RDOŚ Lublin in the two letters, both dated on 4 July 2014, concerning SPA Middle Bug Valley and SPA Polesie, stated that the recommendations will be used for the preparation of management plans for these Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1: letters from managing institution).
- Narew National Park in the letter, dated on 13 August 2014, the recommendations were used for the preparation of management plans for SPA Marshy Valley of the Narew River (PLB200001 and PLH200003) Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1: letters from managing institution).

These letters are treated as an acceptance of the recommendations for SPA Marshy Valley of the Narew River, Bagno Bubnów, SPA Middle Bug Valley and SPA Polesie and it is assumed that these documents were agreed.

The preparation of Aquatic Warbler site management recommendations for four project sites, together covering an area of 73,470 ha, contributed or will contribute to Natura 2000 management plans, providing detailed input on the wet meadow habitats within these sites and on other Aquatic Warblers habitats.

OTOP recommendations were prepared on the basis of experts knowledge and experience, as well as 20 years of experience of the Society working with Aquatic Warbler conservation and monitoring. It includes also management prescriptions developed for Species Action Plan for Poland and BirdLife International SAP. In effect well targeted habitat management recommendations have been made for different parts of each site. Some recommendation already are implemented and give an effect of population recovery (in Ciesacin mire - SPA Polesie PLB 060019) or strong increase (SPA Bubnow Marsh PLB 060001).

The objectives of the action were achieved within the planned budget. It was spent 46,0% of the planned budget for this action.

Action A2: Arrange the use of agri-environment schemes for existing and restored areas of Aquatic Warbler habitat

Expected results: Area of Aquatic Warbler habitat covered by regular sympathetic land use or land management on c. 5,400 ha by the end of the project.
Activity status: completed in 100%
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2014
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2014

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
At the priority project areas, at least 1500 ha of Aquatic Warbler habitat under suitable management supported by agri-environment schemes	31/12/2010	31/12/2012

In the project application it was assumed, that within the priority project areas, land covered by recurring management increases from c. 1,550 ha at the time of project preparation to over 5,400 ha by the end of the project. Thanks to these measures, within the priority project areas, the area occupied by Aquatic Warblers is expected to increase by c. 550 ha and the number of singing Aquatic Warblers by at least 100 (equal to c. 2.5% of the current EU population) between the time of project preparation and the end of the project. It was planned that the project will facilitate the set-up of a system that provides the basis for further population increases after the project.

Arrange the use of agri-environment schemes by land lease

One of the best ways to assure recurring management on the AW habitats is to arrange the use of Agri-Environment Schemes at project sites. As management bodies which are managing state owned land had no possibility to use it (mowing), the best solution was to lease it and let farmers or entrepreneurs use it in accordance with AW requirements with use of AES funds. Such arrangement of AES on AW habitats and advocacy for state owned land lease by management bodies were based mainly on meetings with management bodies representatives (RDOŚ Lublin, Poleski NP) and land users (Lublin Ornitological Society - LTO) at Lublin region (at Biebrza NP and Narew NP land lease were used in the time of start of the project) as well as advises on possibilities to include AW habitats to the AES.

Two AW sites, with state owned areas (land at SPA Polesie and project site at Bug Valley are privately owned), were in the interest of project: SPA Bubnów Marsh and SPA Chełm Calcereous Marshes. Due to this activity (advocacy, experience sharing and advising) two management bodies decided to lease land to farmers or entrepreneurs to use it in frame of AES:

- SPA Bubnów Marsh - c. 465,17 ha of the AW habitats are leased for the period from 01.01.2013 to 31.12.2018 and is used in accordance with AW habitats requirements in frame of AES by land leasers (a tender for lease of land parcels organized on 5-7 December 2012) and c. 72 ha is managed by the Poleski PN,
- SPA Chełm Calcereous Marshes - 522 ha of the AW habitats are leased (a tender for lease of land parcels organized on 4 April 2012) until 31 December 2017.

The mowing for each year is reported to managing bodies (RDOŚ Lublin, Poleski NP). The report from mowing at all project priority areas are presented in the monitoring of the land use prepared in the action E7 (Annex 2: maps of regular Aquatic Warbler land management at

project sites). After the end of the land lease, management bodies will take decision on the extending of leasing to next periods.

The advocacy run by OTOP has succeeded in an increase of the area of AW habitat managed in a framework of the AES by 987 ha on Bubnów and Chełm marshes.

Aquatic Warbler habitats use

Now, most of AW areas on the project priority sites are covered by appropriate land use. The land use monitoring (activity E7) shows, that area of the Aquatic Warbler habitat covered by regular sympathetic land use or land management for 2014 was equal 6344,37 ha (Annex 2: maps of regular Aquatic Warbler land management at project sites). In the project application it was assumed that the area within priority project areas, covered by recurring AW land management measures by end of project, will equal 5410 ha. In 2014 the target exceeded by 934,37 ha (117% of plans).

Table 1: area of the Aquatic Warbler habitat covered by regular sympathetic land use or land management, plans vs data from 2014 (land use monitoring)

site name	total site area	priority project (PP) area	area within PP areas covered by recurring AW land management before the project (2009)	area within PP areas to be covered by recurring AW land management by end of project (assumption in the application)	area within PP areas to covered by recurring AW land management in 2014
SPA Biebrza Valley	148 509	8 555	1 180	4 500	4 709,92
SPA Marshy Valley of the Narew River	23 471	140	51	100	180,25
SPA Polesie	18 031	130	50	95	118,63
SPA Bubnow Marsh	2 188	1 469	60	245	610,82
SPA Chelm Calcareous Marshes	4 310	2 050	110	320	582,99
SPA Middle Bug Valley	29 780	200	100	150	141,76
area SUM in ha	**226 289**	**12 544**	**1 551**	**5 410**	**6 344,37**

As mentioned before, in 2014 in all project priority areas 6344,37 ha were covered by appropriate land use what exceeds by 934,37 ha plans (5410 ha).

Area occupied by Aquatic Warblers

In the project application it was assumed, that within the priority project areas, land covered by recurring management increases from c. 1,550 ha at the time of project preparation to over 5,400 ha by the end of the project. Thanks to these measures, within the priority project areas, it was expected the area occupied by Aquatic Warblers would increase by c. 550 ha and the number of singing Aquatic Warblers by at least 100 (equal to c. 2.5% of the current EU population) between the time of project preparation and the end of the project. The number of Aquatic warblers is discussed in the report from activity E6, now only short information – the number of singing AW between 2009 and 2014 has risen by 575 individuals (5,75 times more than assumed). In this action implementation description the results of the calculation of area occupied by Aquatic Warblers within priority project areas is presented (discussion is provided in the final monitoring report, see Annex 38).

In the project application it was assumed, that the area occupied by Aquatic Warblers will rise from 6 975 ha to 7 532 ha (see table further in the text). The area calculated in 2009 was an

expert judgement mainly based on the area of sedges habitats (optimal AW habitats). Now, for the detailed assessment, that area was recalculated basing on the scientific background of article Schaeffer et. all 2000. '*Spatial behaviour in the Aquatic Warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola) during mating and breeding*'; Journal of Ornithology, 141: 418-424. In this text, the range use of the Aquatic Warbler was studied during two breeding seasons by radio-tracking. On the basis of the article, with use of GIS software and GIS data (localizarttions of AW at project sites) it was calculated „mean home range" (area occupied by AW) for Aquatic Warbler as an circle with the radius 121 m., that gives the occupancy area c. 4,6 ha (Annex 3: maps of area occupied by AW for main sites). The method and calculations are described in the report from the AW monitoring in the project (Annex 38). The table below shows assumptions from the project application on area occupied by AW, that is based on approximated data of expert judgment, and results of calculation of the area occupied by AW with use of method based on scientific background which gives really detailed assessment.

Table 2: area currently occupied by Aquatic Warblers (within priority project areas), plans vs data from 2014 (AW monitoring)

site name	area occupied by AW in 2009 (assumption in the application)	area occupied by AW by end of project - target value (assumption in the application)	area occupied by AW in 2009 (current calculation*)	area occupied by AW in 2014 (current calculation*)
SPA Biebrza Valley	4 200	4 500	2733,92	2925,40
SPA Marshy Valley of the Narew River	25	60	n/a	n/a
SPA Polesie	-	95	4,60	32,20
SPA Bubnow Marsh	1 100	1 167	362,28	456,49
SPA Chelm Calcareous Marshes	1 450	1 510	501,43	465,81
SPA Middle Bug Valley	200	200	n/a	n/a
area SUM in ha	**6 975**	**7 532**	**3602,23**	**3879,90**

* according to Schaeffer et. all 2000. "*Spatial behaviour in the Aquatic Warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola) during mating and breeding*"; Journal of Ornithology, 141: 418-424.

It is proposed to not base on judgments, as it was done in the project application, but to assess and discuss the area occupied by AW as the „mean home range" based on the scientific background. In order to get good comparison between years it is needed to base only on optimal AW habitats, that is take into account project areas with dominating sedges habitats. The sub-optimal habitats (with dominating meadows, reeds or other not-sedges habitats), that are occupied by AW not frequently (only in some years) are not taken into account, as it isn't making any contribution to comparison areas occupied by AW in two periods and would make too much variation in data. That means, the data from project sites at SPA Marshy Valley of the Narew River and SPA Middle Bug Valley are excluded.

The data from the table shows that the area occupied by AW has risen from 3602,26 to 3879,90 ha, that is by 277,67 ha or by 7,71%. The assumption in the application was that the area will rise from 6975 to 7532 ha, if the data only from optimal AW habitats will be taken into account, the assumption was the area will rise from 6750 to 7272 ha, that is by 522 ha or 7,73%. The area of hectares in this two methods of calculating cannot be compared, as it is

based in different assumptions, but it is possible to compare the percentage of rise. Due to the method employed in the project application, it was assumed the rise will be 7,73%, in the scientific based method the rise was calculated on 7,71%. Basing on the detailed, scientific method, it was shown, the rise of area occupied by AW is nearly the same as expected in time of preparation of the project proposal, so the assumption of the rise of area occupied by AW was fulfilled.

Number of singing Aquatic Warblers

As stated in description of this action, the number of singing Aquatic Warblers was assumed in the project application to rise by at least 100 between the time of project preparation and the end of the project. The number of singing AW between 2009 and 2014 has risen by 575 individuals (from 2198 to 2773 individuals; 5,75 times more than assumed), what is described more detailed in the AW monitoring action (E6).

Summary

In general, all most important indicators has risen at least with line of assumptions from the project application:

- the area within project priority areas covered by recurring AW land management in 2014 was planned to be equal 5410 ha, when reported 6344,37 ha, that means the plans were exceeded by 934,37 ha;
- the area occupied by AW has risen from 3602,26 to 3879,90 ha, that is by 277,67 ha or by 7,71% (calculation with use of scientific based method) when assumed in the application 7,73%;
- the number of singing AW between 2009 and 2014 has risen from 2198 individuals to 2773, that is by 575 individuals comparing to 100 assumed in the project application, what is 5,75 times more than expected.

In this action it was shown that soft activities, as advocacy, experience sharing (visits of representatives of managing bodies at project sites managed with accordance to AW requirements with use of AES) that was running in the action D6 and advising (how to lease land, how to include AES and which scheme is appropriate to specific habitat etc.) may make huge contribution to nature conservation. The action allowed to employ experiences of land lease, use of AES and scale management of AW habitats from Polesie region (Biebrza NP and Narew NP) to Lublin region and as it is described in the E6 action (AW monitoring) the result is the rise of AW population at Lublin region between 2009 and 2014 by 38%, that is by 175 individuals what constitutes of c. 5% of EU population! What more, if we take into account only AW optimal habitats (excluding Bug Valley), the rise of AW population at Lublin region between 2009 and 2014 will be even more visible – 56%, 229 individuals (from 411 in 2009 to 640 in 2014), what constitutes of over 6% of EU population.

The objectives of the action were achieved within the planned budget. It was spent 67,3% of the planned budget for this action.

Action A3: Advocate the introduction of suitable Natura 2000 payments

Expected results: conference, site-visit and publication
Activity status: completed in 100%
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/30.09.2014
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
Publication "Review of and Vision for agri-environment schemes in Poland" published	31/12/2012	05/2012
Planned milestones for that action:		
Conference "Review of and Vision for agri-environment schemes in Poland" organised	31/12/2012	22-23/05/2012
Site-visit for key decision makers on agri-environment schemes organised	31/12/2012	N/A

As reported in the 1st progress report until end of February 2012, when the first progress report was submitted, the Action A3 was focused on on-going work connected with three agriculture policy facts:

1) The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) proposed to launch Natura 2000 payment in the Rural Development Program (RDP) 2007-2013.

2) The Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) 2014-2020 debate was launched by MoA.

3) Polish presidency in the EU was an opportunity to present the OTOP proposition of future Natura 2000 payments and lobby for it among decision makers.

As reported in the 2nd Progress Report:

- The vision of AES, Natura 2000 payments, publication on experiences and content of conference was discussed on the meeting at Gąsiorowo on 11-12 January 2012.
- the OTOP's vision of the future Natura 2000 payments and agri-environmental schemes was issued in May 2012, it is entitled: "Proposal of the shape of the agri-environment / Natura 2000 payments after 2013" („Propozycja kształtu programu rolnośrodowiskowego / płatności Natura 2000 po roku 2013") (delivered with the 2nd Progress Report in the Annex 4: vision of the future Natura 2000 payments and AES).
- the OTOP, based on its own experiences, issued the publication presenting a review of the AES in Poland. In 7 articles of the publication called "How to keep the meadows full of birds?" („Jak zachować łąki pełne ptaków?") the experience with use of AES and impact on birds habitats was presented. The text was prepared by 12 authors and it was printed in 3000 copies (delivered with the 2nd Progress Report in the Annex 5: publication - review for AES in Poland).
- the conference on the Natura 2000 payment and the future of AES was organized in Osieck on 22-23 May 2012 (an agenda, a list of participants and photos delivered with the 2nd Progress Report in the Annex 4-6; described photos from Annex 6 are redelivered in the Annex 5). There were present 34 participants.
- OTOP was intensively involved in the discussion on the new programme, its staff were presenting the vision of the future Natura 2000 payments and agri-environmental schemes on many meetings.

As reported in the mid-term report (August 2013):

The next step of the advocating action was meeting organized on 10 July 2013 in Marki on the new Rural Development Programme (RDP) with preparation of proposition of new Agri-Environmental Scheme (AES) and Natura 2000 payments.

In August 2013 Ministry of Agriculture issued first draft of the Polish AES Regulation. OTOP has taken part in the consultation process, the letter with OTOP's comments basing on the proposition of OTOP's new AES and N2 payment, was sent to Ministry on 15 September 2013. In the first draft of AES, AW package was prepared according to OTOP proposition. As we were looking for compromise between simple but flexible rule we have suggested to set: "leaving 15-85% of unmown plot (according to recommendation of AES ornithological expert)". It means that in some areas when necessary plots can be mown every year (with 15% of unmown area) but in other extreme every 7 years (85% of unmown plot) - according of recommendation of AW expert. Additionally mowing dates were set on 15.08–15.02. It is later than last time (monitoring studies on Biebrza shown that in early August there can still be fledglings) and allow winter mowing.

Activities from January 2014

From January 2014 to March 2015 it was very busy time with advocacy for AW and Natura 2000 payments. It was time of consultations of proposals of RDP and its Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, Regulation on AES and organic farming, system of direct payments and even amendment of Regulation on AES in the RDP 2007-2013. Every document consultation was work intensive (time consuming), it required reading of long document (most commonly 200-400 pages, often with many very specialised law term), discussion, preparation of draft opinion and its final version. The process of preparation of comments on consulted documents is described in following paragraph. Some comments (system of direct payments) were prepared in different way or by other persons, such cases are described in the text with information on specific cases.

The advocacy for proper RDP and AES were running not only on the country (MoA) level. Together with BirdLife OTOP was running advocacy on the European level.

In our opinion, this action, which looks very inconspicuously, was not only huge work (lots of working hours) but has and will have in the future (at least 5 years) a huge impact on AW and other birds and its habitats conservation. It was quirk of fate that the project was lasting to the end of March 2015, time when the preparation process of RDP (12 December 2014) and AES payments (Regulation from 24 March 2015) just ended. Thanks to the project, RDP and AES is much better shaped for nature conservation than in MoA proposals, additionally OTOP was one of leading organization fighting for the proper for nature conservation RDP and AES in Poland and Europe. Activities in details are described below.

On 20 January 2014 OTOP sent the letter to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) on the proposal of RDP 2014-2020. OTOP requested the Minister with an appeal to change part of the proposed records, which will not allow for the sufficient support needed for the effective use of rural areas, their resources and potentials for sustainable development of the country (Annex 4: RDP and AES advocacy - letters).

On 24 January 2014 Ministry of Agriculture announced consultations on the new proposal of RDP 2014-2020 for Poland. OTOP checked it carefully, prepared and sent on 12 February 2014 its comments to the document (Annex 4: RDP and AES advocacy - letters). These comments (summary in English) were sent by email on 13 March 2014 to European Commission DG-Environment, Unit B1 – Agriculture, Forests and Soil, Agriculture sector.

On 18 February 2014 OTOP sent the letter to Ministry of Agriculture with comments to the draft Regulation of Ministry of Agriculture amending Regulation on detailed conditions and procedures for the granting of financial assistance under the measure "Agri-environmental program" in the RDP 2007-2013 from 13 March 2013 (Annex 4: RDP and AES advocacy - letters). The amendment of Regulation was necessary as the RDP 2014-2020 and AES for that

programming period were not ready and RDP 2007-2013 was ending. Amending the Regulation allowed farmers to be in AES in 2014 (there was no gap in AES payments between two programming periods).

On 7 March 2014 OTOP sent the letter to Ministry of Agriculture with comments to the consulted Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment to the draft RDP 2014-2020 (Annex 4: RDP and AES advocacy - letters). The comments were sent by email the same day to other nature organization with information it may be used for preparation their own comments and on 14 March 2014 to European Commission DG-Environment, Unit B1 – Agriculture, Forests and Soil, Agriculture sector.

On 27 March 2014, in the MoA in Warsaw, there took place the meeting of NGOs working in agriculture and environment, with Minister of Agriculture Marek Sawicki. The discussion covered issues of RDP 2014-2020. Representative of OTOP presented the comments of naturalists to the draft RDP and stressed the potential danger of non-implementation of conservation tasks (written in the Management Plans) on high nature value open habitats in national parks and Natura 2000 sites.

On 26 May 2014, OTOP with WWF and Greenpeace have sent the letter (Annex 4: RDP and AES advocacy - letters) to EC (Commissioner responsible for agriculture and rural development – Dacian Cioloș) on shortcomings in the 2014-2020 draft RDP submitted by the Polish government, with request "*to ensure that Poland increases its support to agri-environmental schemes, Natura 2000 payments and organic farming, or at least does not reduce the level of efforts made during the 2007-2013 period, in line with recital 22 of Reg. 1305/2013* […]" Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 obliges member states to allocate at least 30% of the RDP budget to activities aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change, as well as at addressing environmental issues. As one of measures in Polish RDP that is treated as fulfilling the requirements of this Regulation is Less Favoured Areas (LFAs) payment. In the letter to the EC there is provided evidence showing that Less Favoured Areas (LFAs) payment, that has not set any environmental requirements, is not delivering environmental goals and it is stated that proposed LFA cannot be included in the 30% minimum spending of RDP for environmental purposes. NGOs proposed to include environmental requirements to the LFA payments or exclude it from the 30% spending for environment. The budget for environmental payments in RDP constitute c. 30% of total budget, in which 52% is contributed to LFA (!) and only 28% for AES. In OTOP opinion all sources for environmental purposes should have any requirements and the most of the "environmental" budget should be devoted mainly to AES and organic farming.

It was prepared special assessment (Annex 4: RDP and AES advocacy - letters) which check if LFA payment is contributing to environment ("Assessment of the influence of payments for less favoured areas (LFA) - areas affected by natural or other specific constrains - on alleviating climate change or preventing the loss of biodiversity"). It shows that LFA payment are supporting any kind of agriculture, both extensive as well as very intensive one. In fact, LFA may have very negative impact on environment. It was proven, that LFA can not be treated as payment which is benefiting to the environment.

On 11 July 2014 OTOP sent to MoA leter with comments of consulted document: "Direct payment system in Poland in 2015-2020" which include many aspect important for nature protection in agriculture landscape (among others many birds of open wet meadows habitats, including AW, waders, birds of prey) (Annex 4: RDP and AES advocacy - letters). One of the most important issues commented was idea of greening and how it is described (what kind of requirements).

On 15 September 2014 OTOPs representatives took part in the international conference in Brussel “Rural Development Programmes in Action post 2014: How can they work towards a healthier environment?” OTOP representatives presented Polish experiences and OTOPs position on RDP and AES, additionally OTOP took part in the panel discussion “ How effectively will the new RDPs secure ecosystems restoration and protection?” (Annex 4: RDP and AES advocacy - conference agenda). In the shown presentation it was discussed the effects of agri-environmental programs in Poland and the problems that may arise from the limitations of the planned RDP 2014-2020. As one of experiences there was presented AW payments and conservation efforts for the species and its habitats with results from the monitoring (run in the project) showing success story and worries on the species future with wrongly set and with limited budget AES payments. The conference had a great importance for OTOP advocacy for RDP and AES as there were present representatives of EC (see attached conference agenda) from DG Agriculture and Environment who were assessing draft Polish RDP and may influence its shape.

On 16 and 17 September 2014, in Brussels, there had place meeting of BirdLife Europe Agriculture Task Force focused on RDP and AES. OTOPs representatives presented advocacy activities run in the project and our needs of support especially with to reaching EC with our comments to Polish RDP, as BirdLife is very active at this level. The whole process of OTOPs advocacy was communicated to BirdLife and works on EC level was discussed with them (especially with letters to EC).

On 12 December 2014 MoA published the final version of RDP, that was approved by EC (document for is available at MoA web site: http://www.minrol.gov.pl/Wsparcie-rolnictwa-i-rybolowstwa/PROW-2014-2020). One of the main changes comparing to the previous versions, and success of advocacy, it was less strict digressiveness. At the previous version it was proposed RDP will pay only to first 20 ha, now it will be paid for the whole area in AES but from 100 ha the payment will be reduced to 60%, for the land in the national parks the digressiveness is not set. Other big success was the comeback of Corncrake scheme, previously deleted from AES. The final RDP 2014-2020 is much better than previous versions, still it is worse for birds and its habitats protection than RDP 2007-2013 (budget was cut by 50%). Fortunately, for the AW conservation, the new RDP is prepared well. The digressiveness is set only on areas out of national parks, still it is not strict and farmers will use that payment. The dates for mowing are set flexible according to OTOP suggestions, that is from 15 September to 15 February (the winter mowing is allowed!). It is required to mow 15-85% of area (never seen flexibility!). The requirements for mowing are set very well as they are very flexible and may be easily utilized in whole Poland at all range of habitats (until now it was big problem with lack of flexibility of mown area and not permitted winter mowing). The payment is 1199 zł/ha (for all land in AES, even this not mown it particular year) what is enough for mowing even on the hardest land or with hand.

On 20 February 2015 OTOP sent comments to the consulted by MoA draft Regulation of Ministry of Agriculture on detailed conditions and procedures for the granting of financial assistance under the measure "Agri-environmental program" in the RDP 2014-2020 (*Projekt rozporządzenia w sprawie szczegółowych warunków i trybu przyznawania pomocy finansowej w ramach działania „Działanie rolno-środowiskowo-klimatyczne” objętego Programem Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich na lata 2014–2020 (PROW 2014 – 2020)*) (Annex 4: RDP and AES advocacy - letters). Additionally, OTOP comments were sent to other organizations/institutions to use it in preparation its own opinions. The Regulation was published on 24 March 2015 (available at http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU20150000415). Due to consultations it was

possible (among other things) to change, very important for maintenance meadows habitats, requirements for the biomass collection and fines (lowered payments) for not collecting it.

On 27 February 2015 OTOP sent comments to the consulted by MoA draft Regulation of Ministry of Agriculture on detailed conditions and procedures for the granting of financial assistance under the measure "Organic Farming" in the RDP 2014-2020 (*Projekt rozporządzenia w sprawie szczegółowych warunków i trybu przyznawania pomocy finansowej w ramach działania „Rolnictwo ekologiczne" objętego Programem Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich na lata 2014–2020 (PROW 2014 – 2020)*) (Annex 4: RDP and AES advocacy - letters).

In a framework of this action there were on-going meetings and/or discussions of the working group on new AES and Natura 2000 payments, with participation of the OTOP representatives.

Summary:

The expected results of that action are:

- conference (milestone planned for implementation until December 2012) organized in Osieck on 22-23 May 2012;
- publication (deliverable planned for implementation until December 2012) presenting a review of the AES in Poland "How to keep the meadows full of birds?" („Jak zachować łąki pełne ptaków?") issued in 3000 on May 2012;
- site-visit (milestone planned for implementation until December 2012) – planned to organized when needed. Not organized as not needed for the advocacy work.

As stated before, in our opinion, this action, which looks very inconspicuously, was not only huge work (lots of work hours) but has and will have in the future (at least 5 years) a huge impact on AW and other birds and its habitats conservation. Thanks to the project, RDP and AES in Poland is much better shaped for nature conservation than in MoA proposals, additionally OTOP was one of leading organization fighting for the proper for nature conservation RDP and AES. It allowed for setting of well-prepared and well-paid Aquatic Warbler scheme and improvement of payments for other bird species. The process of preparation of AW and Natura 2000 payments ended 24 March 2015 with announcement of AES Regulation, 7 days before the project end.

The objectives of the action were achieved within the planned budget. It was spent 86,1% of the planned budget for this action.

Action A4: Prepare a feasibility study on small-scale biomass ovens

Expected results: Feasibility study on small-scale biomass ovens
Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.10.2012/30.09.2013
Actual start/end date: 1.10.2012/30.09.2013

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
Feasibility study on small-scale biomass ovens	31/09/2013	08/2013
Planned milestones for that action:		
N/A	N/A	N/A

As stated in the 2nd Progress Report, the draft version of the feasibility study on small-scale biomass ovens was ready in May 2013. Then it was checked and completed. The final version

was ready on September 2013 (mid-trm report, Annex 6: feasibility study on small-scale biomass ovens). The study was prepared by external contractor (selected in the bidding contest), company Ciepłownie Ekologiczne Tomasz Gójski.

The study titled: "Feasibility study of Aquatic Warbler agropellet – OTOPellet – for heating in the small-scale biomass ovens in Mońki region" ("Studium zastosowania agropelletu „wodniczkowego" – OTOPelletu - do zasilania mikro i małoskalowych kotłów centralnego ogrzewania w powiecie monieckim") was prepared for assessing possibility of extension of retail market for pellets produced in Trzcianne by OTOP. The study comprises with nine chapters:
1. Characteristics of „Aquatic Warblers" agropellet – OTOPellet
2. Energetic properties of „Aquatic Warblers" agropellet – OTOPellet
3. Application of exemplary ovens
4. Financial analysis of ovens exploitation
5. Sources of financing biomass burning investments in years 2009-2014
6. Sources of financing biomass burning investments in years 2014-2020
7. Principles of granting the financial help from Regional Fund of Environment Protection and Water Management
8. Analysis of market for „Aquatic Warblers" agropellet – OTOPellet in Mońki district.
9. SWOT analysis of usage of „Aquatic Warblers" agropellet – OTOPellet for energetic purposes.

In the study there are presented ovens to be used for different spaces (100, 200, 500m^2) with comparison of the costs of heating of ovens heated by different fuels (oil, coal, wood pellets and OTOPellet). In all cases the cheapest was use of coal, on the second place was OTOPellet. Second important part of the study is a comparison of costs of heating bigger spaces, mainly public utility buildings. The comparison shows, that not taking into account coal (no funds are available for modernization of heating systems working on coal), OTOPellet is cheaper than wood pellets and more expensive than wood chips (but that fuel is less comfortable in use). In summary, it was shown that there is potential for the increase of the market for OTOPellet and working in this direction has a perspective.

The objectives of the action were achieved within the planned budget. It was spent 46,4% of the planned budget for this action.

Action A5: Prepare a feasibility study for an electric power plant fuelled by biomass

Expected results: Feasibility study on biomass-fuelled electric power plant
Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.10.2013/31.03.2014
Actual start/end date: 1.04.2014/30.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
Feasibility study on biomass-fuelled electric power plant	30/06/2014	03/2015
Planned milestones for that action:		
N/A	N/A	N/A

The contractor, ENREX Sp. z o.o., proposed as a the best solution for the investment, the renovation of the power plant at Mońki (PEC Mońki). Such investment assume construction of a power unit fueled by biomass, including pellets. In order to discuss technical details of

content of the feasibility study, on 23 Januray 2015 at Mońki, representatives of OTOP and Enrex had meeting with vice-mayor of Mońki town, Chairman of the Board of PEC Mońki and director of PEC Mońki. After the meeting, OTOP and Enrex representatives visited power plant at Mońki, which was shown by the PEC director and technical employees.

In March 2015 the feasibility study on biomass-fuelled cogeneration (Combined Heat and Power or CHP) power plant in Mońki county was ready and accepted by OTOP (Annex 5: feasibility study on biomass-fuelled cogeneration). The study was delivered to Mońki town and PEC Mońki. They agreed that the study is high quality and it will be used in the process of taking decision on method of modernization of power plant at Mońki (Annex 6: letters on feasibility study). The preparation of the study may result not only with the extension of the market for pellets produced from Biebrza Valley wetland, but it may contribute to the improving quality of environment in the region (switching from coal to biomass for heating power plant), climate issues and may create new jobs in the region (coal comes out of the region, biomass must be "produced" locally due to transport costs).

The objectives of the action were achieved within the planned budget. It was spent 79,4% of the planned budget for this action.

Action B1: Purchase and lease land

Expected results after project modification: up to 20 ha of land purchased at the Biebrza Valley SPA in the priority project areas "Ławki-Szorce", "Laskowiec-Zajki" and "Mscichy" and up to 2 ha bought in the vicinity of the village of Trzcianne as a location for biomass storage

Activity status: completed in 95% or 99,9% if we count only land purchase for AW conservation (without grounds for biomass storage)

Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015

Actual start/end date: 1.03.2014/31.03.2015

Maps of implementation of action B1: Annex 7

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
2 ha of land purchased at Trzcianne for biomass storage	31/12/2010	12/2010 (0,9557 ha)
Up to 20 ha of land purchased in the SPA Biebrza Valley	31/03/2015	18/03/2015 (19,9791 ha)

Land for pelleting facility and biomass storage

As reported in the Inception Report, the land for biomass storage and briquetting facility was acquired in December 2010 (Annex 4 of Inception report and Annex 4 1st Progress report: notary act; Annex 5 of Inception report: maps). The purchased land (0,9557 ha) is a former property of sawmill, now it is so called "base". It constitutes of parcels no.: 15/1 (0,33 ha), 15/5 (0,1157 ha), 16/3 (0,25 ha), 16/5 (0,20 ha), 16/7 (0,06 ha). That land is built-up, there is a production hall with surrounding buildings. Now in these buildings, the pelleting facility is working.

Land purchase for AW conservation

The land purchase started in first half of 2014. The appraisal study (*operat szacunkowy*) was prepared by certified property valuer (*rzeczoznawca majątkowy*). The appraisal study for Biebrza Valley plots was ready at the end of June 2014. Additionally, there was prepared appraisal study for grounds purchased in December 2010 for pelleting facility set up. All appraisal studies are attached to this report (Annex 8: appraisal studies for land purchase).

From August to November 2014 OTOP purchased c. 17,5 ha of AW habits, all plots that were available that time (land owners agreed to sell it and set the price that was not higher than in the appraisal study). As the limit 20 ha was not met, OTOP was seeking land owners of other AW habitats or potential AW habitats, previously not agreed with owners for purchase (owners were not sure if they want to sell it). There were cases that OTOP representative met land owners in the notary office (after many talks and price negotiations), and then it shown up, it was not possible to make a deal as there were not solved law problems as inheritance proceedings not ended/done, joint ownership etc. Eventually, on March 2015 after long negotiations it was purchased last 2 plots at Zajki. Finally, 19,9791 ha of AW or potential AW habitats were purchased (out of up to 20 ha planned).

Table 3: Land purchased

Region	**Plot no**	**Area**
Laskowiec 009	223	1,4436
Mścichy 020	162	5,3887
Mścichy 020	175/2	0,7172
Mścichy 020	176	0,9839
Mścichy 020	178	0,9580
Mścichy 020	159	3,5900
Mścichy łąki 201	7	0,8668
Mścichy łąki 201	8	1,7010
Mścichy łąki 201	289	0,4760
Mścichy łąki 201	704	0,2221
Mścichy łąki 201	705	0,2233
Szorce 017	310	1,0100
Zajki 021	67	0,6319
Zajki 021	68	1,7666
-	**SUMA:**	**19,9791**

All the sales contracts (notary deeds) (Annex 9: notary deeds) contain statement that the purchased land:

- is assigned definitively to nature conservation,
- will be transferred to a legal body primarily active in the field of nature protection, in case of dissolution of the OTOP or its incapacity to manage the land according to nature conservation requirements.

Table 4: Land purchased in the project with information on implemented conservation actions

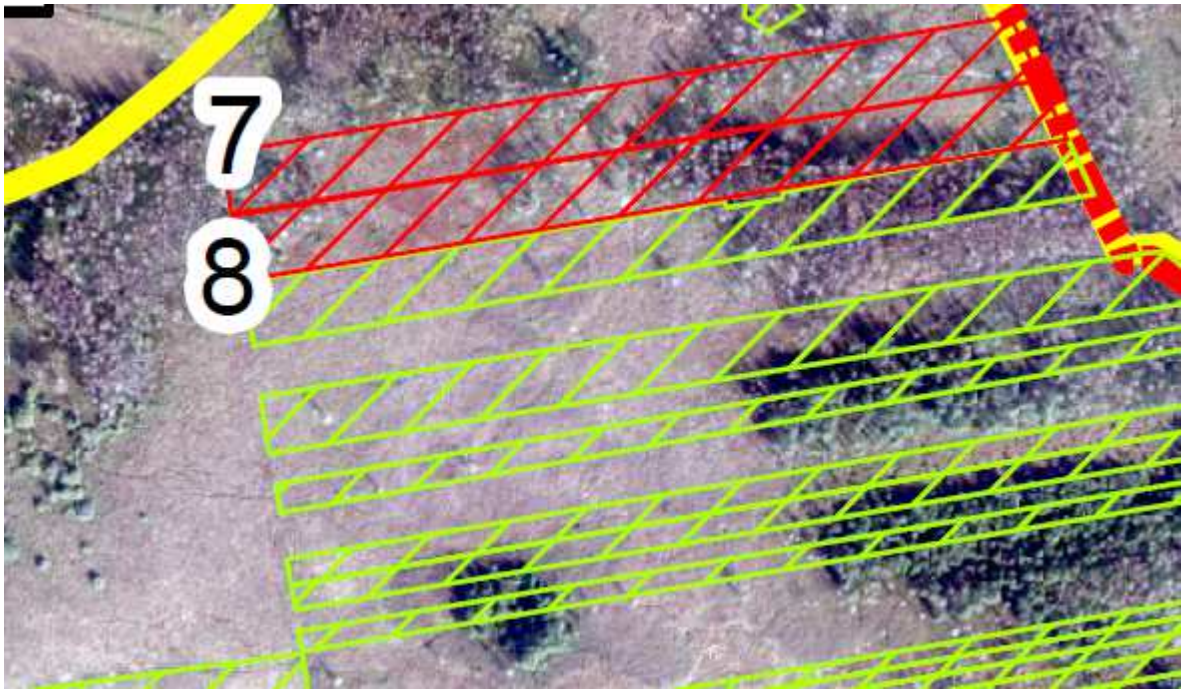
Region	**Plot no**	**Area [ha]**	**Conservation action and area [ha]**	**Date**
Laskowiec 009	223	1,4436	First mowing, 1,4436 ha	September 2014 – January 2015
Mścichy 020	162	5,3887	First mowing, 5,3887 ha	
Mścichy 020	175/2	0,7172	First mowing, 0,7172 ha	
Mścichy 020	176	0,9839	First mowing, 0,9839 ha	

Mścichy 020	178	0,9580	First mowing, 0,9580 ha	
Mścichy 020	159	3,5900	First mowing, 3,5900 ha	
Mścichy łąki 201	7	0,8668	Bush removal, 1,086 ha	October 2014 to February 2015
Mścichy łąki 201	8	1,7010		
Mścichy łąki 201	289	0,4760	First mowing, 0,4760 ha	September 2014 – January 2015
Mścichy łąki 201	704	0,2221	First mowing, 0,2221 ha	
Mścichy łąki 201	705	0,2233	First mowing, 0,2233 ha	
Szorce 017	310	1,0100	First mowing, 1,0100 ha	
Zajki 021	67	0,6319	First mowing, 0,6319 ha	February 2015
Zajki 021	68	1,7666	First mowing, 1,7666 ha	February 2015
-	**Total:**	**19,9791**	**18,4973**	-

At all purchased plots OTOP implemented concrete conservation actions before the end of the project but at plots 7 and 8 at Mścichy, at total area equal 2,5678 ha, the conservation actions could be done only on potential AW habitats. These plots are partly overgrown by bushes (c. 42%) and forest (c. 58%). The latter is a good forest habitat; it is not bushes coming from succession of AW habitats. This is a reason, why it was removed bushes from 42% of plots area that is 1,086 ha. The rest of area (1,4818 ha) will be protected as a forest. As it was not possible to do divide of parcels (owner refused such possibility), the entire plots were purchased.

The purchase of these two plots were crucial for conservation of AW habitats at North-East part of Mścichy project priority area as it is neighbouring from South side with plots with AW habitats that are mown for the species by OTOP (plot no 10), and with forest from North side. That means, running the conservation works (bush removal and then mowing) will restore and protect AW habitats on these two plots (enlargement of AW habitats by 1,086 ha) and will lower pressure of succession on area laying on the South from them. So the land purchase of entire plots with both potential AW habitats and forest will made possible to enlarge AW habitats area and lower succession pressure on other AW areas.

Map with the plots 7 and 8 (marekd on red) and plots in South own by OTOP (the map of the whole land purchase at Mścichy priority area is attached in the Annex 7).



Summary

At the end of the project it was purchased:

- 19,9791 ha out of up to 20 ha of land at the Biebrza Valley SPA in the priority project areas "Ławki-Szorce", "Laskowiec-Zajki" and "Mścichy" and
- 0,9557 ha out of up to 2 ha planned for purchase in the vicinity of the village of Trzcianne as a location for biomass storage and processing.

The action secures enough space for the biomass storage and processing and allow for AW conservation on the land of surface very close to this planned. The costs spent for this action implementation constitute 78,4% of budgeted amount, when the action was implemented in 95% if all planned land is taken into account or 99,9% if we count only land purchase for AW conservation.

Action C1: Restore areas through bush and tree removal

Expected results after project modification: 300 ha restored by bush and tree removal

- Sub-action C1a: 40 ha bush and tree removal at Biebrza by OTOP
- Sub-action C1b: 188 ha of bush and tree removal at Biebrza and 45 ha at Polesie by FUT Przemysław Zelent
- Sub-action C1e: 12 ha of bush and tree removal at Bubnów and 15 ha at Chełm Marshes by Eko-Różanka

Activity status: completed in 94%
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Maps of implementation of action C1: Annex 12

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
50% of bush and tree removal and first-time mowing implemented	31/03/2012	31/03/2012

The action was modified as a result of restoration works (bush removal) for succeeding it recurring mowing in frame of AES funding (2nd Progress Report, Annex 7. Map of bush removal done until 2012 out of project financial sources). Farmers and entrepreneurs cleared small, not dense, bushes in order to get AES payments.

Biebrza

In the Biebrza Valley it was planned to restore AW habitats by bush removal on 228 ha. The table below shows the progress.

Table 5. The bush removal at Biebrza Valley (ha)

Season	Completed by OTOP	Completed by FUT Zelent	Completed in total:	Planned:
2010/2011	0,00	77,47	77,47	
2011/2012	6,00	110,40	116,40	
2012/2013	28,00	0,00	28	

2013/2014	0,53	0,00	0,53	
2014/2015	3,73	0,00	3,73	
TOTAL:	**38,26**	**187,87**	**226,13**	**228,00**

The bush removal works at Biebrza Valley were described for the season:

- 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 in the first progress report.
- 2012/2013 in the second progress report.
- 2013/2014 in the mid-term report.

In the period from October 2014 to February 2015, OTOP was removing bushes from two sites at Biebrza Valley: Laskowiec-Zajki and Mścichy. At Laskowiec-Zajki it was removed 1,64 ha of bushes on the plots 194/10 and 194/11, when at Mścichy 2,09 ha at plots 88, 89, 90, 91 (Mścichy geodetic district) and 7 and 8 (Mścichy Łąki geodetic district). The measurements were running slowly as it was conducted on the very dense bushes of willows. The works was implemented by OTOPs employees using STIHL chainsaws and brushcutter/clearing saw with a blade for bushes. In total, 3,73 ha it was cleared from bushes.

Material from clearing bushes was used for fascine roads construction (Mścichy site) or shredded to chips (Zajki site, November 2014 – March 2015), transported to OTOP base and used as a fuel for drying biomass in the pelleting line.

In total 226,13 ha (out of 228 ha planned area at the Biebrza) of bushes and trees were removed until end of the project (Annex 12: maps of project's conservation actions).

Polesie

At the Polesie SPA, it was planned to restore the AW habitats with bush removal on 45 ha by FUT Zelent. The table belo shows the progress.

Table 6. The bush removal at Polesie in particular seasons (ha)

Season	Completed by FUT Zelent	Planned:
2010/2011	23,00	
2011/2012	20,63	
2012/2013	0,00	
2013/2014	4,05	
2014/2015	0,00	
TOTAL:	**47,68**	**45,00**

The bush removal works at SPA Polesie was described for the season:

- 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 in the first progress report.

As described in the mid-term report, during the season 2013/2014 (November – December 2013), FUT Zelent cut 2,21 ha of bushes from plots 340/7 (Grabniak) and 1/ 2 (Garbatówka).

From February to March 2014 FUT Zelent ended works on plots 340/7 (1,19 ha) and 1/ 2 (0,04 ha) and cut bushes on 0,61 ha of the plot 1/3 (Garbatówka). The works were planned to start at January 2014 but the hard conditions (high water level) did not allowed for entrance to

the field. In the second part of the season 2013/2014 (February-March 2014) it was cleared from bushes 1,84 ha. In total, in the season 2013/2014, 4,05 ha of bushes were removed from SPA Polesie (Ciesacin mire) project site.

High water level did not allow to shred bushes on site. In order to not destroy the mire, all cut material was transported out of the mire and shredded to wood chops (11-31 March 2014). Hard field condition and dense bushes (huge amount of removed bushes) made work slow, it took c. 3 weeks to remove cut buses from site and shred it. All these works were completed by FUT Zelent workers. The wood chips were transported to the storage spot, then were sold. The income from the sale of wood chips from bush removal (all wood chips were sold in 2014) is reported in the financial report (see financial report, Funding from other sources sheet).

At the beginning of April 2014 all machines that were used in the bush removal were cleared, serviced and when needed repaired. All maintenance/service works were done by FUT Zlenet staff.

In total 47,68 ha (45 ha planned) of bush and trees were removed (Annex 12: maps of project's conservation actions).

Chelm Marshes

At the Chelm Marshes, it was planned to restore the AW habitats with bush removal on 15 ha by Eko-Różanka. The table below shows the progress.

Table 7. The bush removal at Chelm Marshes in particular seasons (ha)

Season	Completed by Eko-Różanka	Planned:
2012/2013	5,65	
2013/2014	2,92	
2014/2015	0,00	
TOTAL:	**8,57**	**15,00**

The description of the bush removal works at Chelm Marshes in the season:

– 2012/2013 were in the second progress report.

As described in the mid-term report, from October to December 2013, 2,92 ha of bushes were cut with biomass removal on plots 665 at Srebrzyszcze (2,72 ha) and 17,18,19 at Brzeźno (0,2 ha) by Eko-Różanka.

In months from January to April 2014, the bushes cut in seasons 2012/2013 and 20113/2014 were shredded to wood chips with use of shredder leased for this time (4 months), tractor and chainsaws. In January-mid-February 2014 the material from 2,72 ha at Srebrzyszcze was shredded. In end of January and first half of February 2014 the material from Brzeźno, was processed to wood chips. These works were done by Eko-Różanka workers. In mid-February – beginning of April 2014 the cut bushes from season 2012/2013 (Kępa Kolonia and Srebrzyszcze) was shredded and wood chips were transported to the storage spot at Różanka village – works were done by Eko-Różanka staff.

The wood chips were sold in 2014 and 2015. The income from the sale of wood chips from bush removal is reported in the financial report (see financial report, Funding from other sources sheet).

In total, at Chełm Marshes 8,57 ha of bushes was cut (Annex 12: maps of project's conservation actions). It tuned out that such area was enough for the restoration of the AW habitats and its mowing, so for AW conservation it was not needed run planned 15 ha.

Summary

Restoration of areas through bush and tree removal action (Annex 12: maps of project's conservation actions) was completed on 282,38 ha, out of 300 ha planned, that is 94,1% of plans. If SPA Bagno Bubnów is not taken into calculation (bush removal was implemented out of project sources), the bush removal action is completed in 98% (282,38 ha out of 288 ha).

Table 9. The bush removal on the project sites [ha]

Site	Completed	Planned
Biebrza Valley	226,13	228
Narew Valley	0,00	0
Polesie	47,68	45
Bubnów Marsh	0	12
Chełm Marshes	8,57	15
Bug Valley	0,00	0
TOTAL:	**282,38**	**300**

The costs spent for this action implementation constitute 80,5% of budgeted amount, when the action was implemented in 94% or 98% without Bagno Bubnów site.

Action C2: Restore areas through first time mowing

Expected results: 503 ha restored by first time mowing
Activity status: completed in 156,7%
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Maps of implementation of action C2: Annex 12

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
50% of bush and tree removal and first-time mowing implemented	31/03/2012	31/03/2011

In the action C2, there were shifts due to conservation needs. In the time of the project implementation, it turned out that much more conservation activities are required at the Chełm Marshes, namely on saw sedges (*Cladium mariscus*) habitats. Instead of 150 ha assumed in the project plans, over twice as big area is needed to be first mown. Altogether 306 ha at the Chełm Marshes, on the project priority area, was covered by first mowing in a frame of the project. In parallel, it was planned to mow a bigger area at the Biebrza (c. 185 ha instead of 175 ha) and a smaller one at the Bagno Bubnów (up to 48 ha instead of 138 ha). The potential AW habitats on the project area at the Narew were covered by recurring management in 2012, so there is no need for any additional activities (see map in the 2nd

Progress Report, Annex 3: Maps of regular Aquatic Warbler land management at project sites (action A2)).
According to the project, at least 503 ha were planned to be restored as the Aquatic Warbler habitats through the first time mowing on priority sites of the project. Within the project funds 347,21 ha was planned to be targeted, while the rest of the areas was planned to be restored already under the existing AES schemes or direct payments, assuming that LIFE funds are using only for activities that cannot be financed from other sources.

Expected results as presented to the Commission in the 2nd Progress Report (as not being the substantial change it was not subject of modification):

- 75 ha of first time mowing at Biebrza by OTOP (41,11 ha with support of the project funds and 33,89 ha in a frame of AES or direct payments)
- 110,45 ha of first time mowing at Biebrza by FUT Zelent (all in a frame of AES or direct payments)
- up to 48 ha of first time mowing at Bubnów by Eko-Różanka (most in a frame of AES or direct payments)
- 305,8 ha of first time mowing at Chełm Marshes by FUT Zelent with support of the project funds

Biebrza

As described in the 2nd Progress Report, first mowing was implemented at the Biebrza Valley by OTOP (38,15 ha in 2012) and FUT Zelent (51,59 ha in 2011 and 58,86 ha in 2012). Most of works were not done with the project funds but in a framework of implementing its actions. If only possible to run first mowing from the AES or direct payments, FUT Zelent and OTOP used such a possibility.

As reported in the mid-term report, in the period August-September 2013, at Mścichy project priority area, 9,83 ha of first mowing was implemented from the project funds by OTOP, until March 2014 all biomass was collected and transported, to the pelleting facility in Trzcianne.

In January and February 2014 the first mowing was completed on 9,8 ha on Mścichy site on plots no 246/3, 246/4, 247/3, 247/4, 247/5, 163/5, 321, 163/2, 144, 145/1, 145/2, 145/3, 145/5, 146/6, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150. All works were done by OTOP staff.

In March-June 2014 maintenance and repairs of equipment used for first mowing (ratrak, mowing machine, mowing header, bailer) were running. Listed fluids and filters, caterpillars were repaired in ratrak among others. The big problem when using ratrak out of winter season (that is in August-October) is that the engine cooling is not efficient due to clogging of the cooler with dust from plants. To solve this issue, cooler air inlets were isolated with special removable nets which can be easily cleaned from dust. All maintenance and renovation works were done by OTOP staff.

In the next field works season, in period between August 2014 and February 2015, first mowing on in total 18,21 ha was implemented on plots 337, 344, 343 at Mścichy (3,2 ha) and at plots purchased in frame of the project (17,41 ha) at:

- Mścichy project site: 159, 162, 175/2, 176, 178, 289, 704, 705 (Mścichy geodetic district) and 289, 704, 705 (Mścichy Łąki geodetic district),
- Laskowiec-Zajki site: 223 (Laskowiec geodetic district), 67, 68 (Zajki geodetic district),
- Bagno Ławki-Szorce: 310 (Szorce geodetic district).

All works were done by OTOP Staff.

Bubnów

In 2011 there was no mowing reported, in 2012 mowing covered c. 58 ha (done by Poleski NP out of project sources). In 2013 started mowing in frame od AES at Bagno Bubnów, result of the arrangement of the use of agri-environment schemes by land lease (action A2). In 2013 mown area increased significantly up to 324,54 ha, when in 2014 it was c. 300,03 ha. These results are treated as an ecological effect obtained due to the project implementation, but as the mowing was not done by project partners, it is not treated as an first mowing in the project.

In frame of the project it was planned to mown 138 ha. As this ecological effect was supported by arrangement of AES at SPA Bagno Bubnów, the plans are treated to be fulfilled but in other way than planned. In the report, to avoid not precise calculations, as implementation of first mowing was not run by project partners, the first at SPA Bagno Bubnów mowing is reported out of the scope of implementation of C2 action.

Chełm

As reported in the progress report, in 2011, 305,8 ha were mown: Kolonia Kępa on Błota Serebryskie (113,6 ha), Brzeźno (42 ha) and Roskosz (150,2 ha). Mires were mown by the project partner FUT Zelent. In 2012, in frame of AES (secured due to land lease – action A2), there was mown 152,70 ha (Bagno Serebryskie – 70,44 ha, Błota Serebryskie – 4,02 ha, Roskosz – 78,24 ha) by Eko-Różanka. In 2013, in frame of AES (secured due to land lease – action A2), there was mown 65,11 ha (Bagno Serebryskie – 49,83 ha, Błota Serebryskie – 4,85 ha, Roskosz – 10,43 ha) by Eko-Różanka (Annex 12: maps of project's conservation actions).

In August-October 2014, Eko-Różanka implemented in frame project but financed from AES payments first mowing at 74,23 ha, in details the first mowing was done on Bagno Serbryskie (62,02 ha), Błota Serebryskie (1,81 ha) and Roskosz (10,40 ha) (Annex 12: maps of project's conservation actions).

Biomass utilization at Lublin region

As informed in the 2nd Progress Report, during the project implementation it was find out that there is a possibility to utilize biomass from the Torfowiska Chełmskie and the Middle Bug Valley in the already existing installations: Cement Plant in Chełm and pelleting facilities in Sielec and Teosin, while the biomass collected on the Polesie and Bubnów Marshes SPAs is mainly used in the farms for raising the livestock. Thanks to such an arrangement the problem of biomass use from these AW habitats has been solved.

There was collected information on biomass utilization at Lublin region in 2014 from mowing AW habitats in frame of AES (out of project, different seasons):

- Bagno Bubnów: all biomass mown in 2013 on c. 78ha and in 2014 on c. 77ha, was collected by Eko-Różanka and sold to individuals (farmers) (Annex 13: documentation of AES biomass sale - receipt) which use it for agriculture purposes (bedding, food). At Bagno Bubnów farmers/companies mowing AW habitats, if they do not utilize it by itself, they are selling biomass mainly for agriculture use.
- Polesie: all biomass mown in 2013 (66,4 ha, 99 tons) and 2014 (62,4 ha, 93,6 tons) by FUT Zelent, in frame of regular mowing, was sold or given to the farmers for agriculture use (bedding, food).
- Chełm Marshes: all biomass from mowing in 2014 by Eko-Różanka was sold to local companies for the pellet production and for use at farm (Annex 13: documentation of

AES biomass sale - invoices). All biomass for mowing in 2013 was sold to individuals (farmers) (Annex 13: documentation of AES biomass sale - receipt). At Chełm Marshes farmers/companies mowing AW habitats, if they do not utilize it by itself for farming or other purposes, they are selling biomass for agriculture use (better quality, better price) or to pelleting facilities (low quality, lower price).

Summary

Restoration of areas through the first time mowing (Annex 12: maps of project's conservation actions) was completed on 788,28 ha (353,66 ha with the project funds and 434,62 ha with the other funds), out of 503 ha planned, that is 156,7% of plans.

Table 10. The first mowing on the project sites [ha] with comparison to plans of modified project

Site	Completed, project funds	Completed, other funds	Completed in total	Planned [ha]
Biebrza Valley	47,86	142,58	190,44	175
Narew Valley	0,00	0,00	0,00	0
Polesie	0,00	0,00	0,00	0
Bubnów Marsh	0,00	0,00	0,00	138
Chełm Marshes	305,80	292,04	597,84	190
Bug Valley	0,00	0,00	0,00	0
TOTAL:	**353,66**	**434,62**	**788,28**	**503**

The costs spent for this action implementation constitute 76,9% of budgeted amount, when the action was implemented in 156,7% (70,3% of planned area mown for the project sources, 86,4% out of project budget).

Action C3: Prepare infrastructure to facilitate biomass collection

Expected results after project modification: one existing access track repaired, 2 km of tracks into the project site, 9 access points prepared, 1 points for the short-term storage biomass prepared
Activity status: completed in over 100% of plans
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2014
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Maps of implementation of action C3: Annex 12

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
Infrastructure for biomass collection completed	31/03/2014	31/03/2015

Biebrza

The preparation of infrastructure to facilitate biomass collection were described in the season:

– 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 in the first progress report (c. 240 m of fascine roads (OTOP) with the access point were constructed, 2 access points (FUT Zelent), 1 short term biomass storage 20 x 25m platform (OTOP)),

- 2012/2013 in the second progress report (9 fortified entrances/access points and the fascine track (c. 861m) constructed, renovated Grobla Honczarowska road).
- 2013/2014 in the mid-term report (40 m of fascine road constructed, 100 m renovated).

In July 2014, OTOP was renovating roads on causeways to facilitate biomass collection at Laskowiec-Zajki project site. It was purchased 30 tons of gravel, that was transported to the site and unloaded at causeways roads, then it was levelled on the road with use of load-unload machine. In such way it was renovated two causeways of 1606 m. length. In August 2014 similar actions were implemented on Mścichy site, where roads allowing to enter to the mowing area and biomass transport were destroyed by spring flooding on c. 1017 m. The gravel was levelled on the road by local company with supervision of OTOPs employees. In effect, it was renovated 1 km. of enter road to the mowing sites at Mścichy.

Such works at Laskowie-Zajki and Mścichy were not planned in the project at this site, but the roads were in so bad condition, that entrance to the site for biomass collection and other conservation works was very hard, it was taking time to cross holes in the road and machines were breaking down on them. As the budget was allowing to run such works, it was decided to renovate roads to collect biomass and run conservation works in season 2014/2015 and later.

In August 2014, OTOP was renovating roads on causeway at Bagno Ławki (grobla Honczarowska). It was transported c. 30 tons of gravel to the grobla Honczarowska and unloaded at causeway roads, then it was levelled on the road with use of tractor with trailer. That works, at c. 4870 m. of road, were done by OTOPs employees.

In September-November 2014, the entrances roads to mowing sites were cleared from branches hampering in transport of biomass and machines to/from mowing sites at Laskowiec-Zajki. Roads on the length 2 km. were cleared from branches by OTOPs employees with use of chainsaws. The cut branches were shredded with wood-shredder with tractor, chips were transported to pelleting facility and used for heating pelleting line dryer.

From October 2014 to February 2015, at Mścichy site, there was completed construction of service strips made of fascine at length 962 m. For the construction were uses branches from bush removal, that was laid with use of tractor and ratrak. Works were done by OTOP staff.

Summary

At Biebrza Valley project priority site, there were prepared infrastructure to facilitate biomass collection:

- at the Bagno Ławki site: four fortified entrances/access points (two by OTOP and two by FUT Zelent), the fascine track (358 m) and the renovated Grobla Honczarowska road.
- at the Mścichy site: 1465 m of the fascine road and seven access points (including 6 crossings of ditches).
- at the Szorce site: 205 m of the fascine road with the access point and the 20 x 25m platform for the short-term storage of biomass.

In total, it was constructed 2028 m of the fascine roads, 12 access points (including 6 crossings of ditches); one point for the short-term storage of biomass and there was renovated three existing access track on the total length 7493 m. – at Bagno Ławki (Grobla Honczarowska; 4870 m.), Laskowiec Zajki (1606 m.) and Mścichy (1017 m.) sites (Annex 12: maps of project's conservation actions).

Table 11. The infrastructure to facilitate biomass collection

Type of infrastructure	Completed	Planned
existing access track (Grobla Honczarowska) repaired	1 (4870 m.)	1
existing access track (Laskowiec-Zajki and Mścichy site) repaired	2 (2623 m.)	0
fascine tracks	2028 m	2000 m
access points	12	9
point for the short-term storage of biomass	1	1

The costs spent for this action implementation constitute 62,4% of budgeted amount, when the action was implemented in over 100% of plans.

Action C4: Cancelled in the modification

Action C5: Cancelled in the modification

Action C6: Set up and run biomass pelleting facility at Biebrza

Expected results:

- A new biomass pelleting facility owned and run by OTOP installed in the village of Trzcianne just outside the Biebrza Valley SPA, fit to produce pellets from the biomass arising from habitat management at Aquatic Warbler habitat within the Biebrza Valley SPA.
- Biomass pellets are produced from biomass derived from the regular ongoing management of at least 1,000 ha of current and potential Aquatic Warbler habitat in the Biebrza Valley SPA in 2011, increasing to 4,500 ha by 2014.

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Pictures of preparation works and running the pelleting facility: Annex 14

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
Biomass briquetting facility at Biebrza set-up	31/12/2010	31/12/2012

In December 2012, the pelleting facility was set up, in January and February 2013 tests and machines adjusting took place. Since February 2013, the pelleting facility is processing biomass collected at the Biebrza Valley. The low quality biomass, even 70% of moisture, coming from mowing at the Biebrza Valley is being processed.

Buildings for installation set up and place for biomass storage

As described in the first progress report from February 2012, at the base in Trzcianne, OTOP was renovating and adjusting the buildings for setup of the biomass installation as well as organizing a surrounding area for the biomass storage and parking for machines. These works were continued in 2012 and 2013, as declared in the 2nd Progress Report. Most of them were

done with use OTOP's own staff and equipment, only a specialist part of construction works was sub-contracted.

Pelleting facility set up

As stated in the 2nd Progress Report:

- until February 2012 all obligatory permissions for pelleting facility set up were obtained,
- the contract for pelleting facility set up was signed in June 2012,
- in December 2012, the pelleting facility was set up and in January and February 2013, tests and machines adjusting took place. Since February, the pelleting facility is processing biomass collected at the Biebrza Valley.

As described in the mid-term report, the efficiency of the installation varies depending on the quality of the biomass. The average output from few first months (February-November 2013) of processing high moisture biomass (50-70%) was c. 0,6 t/h of pellets, while the good quality biomass (less than 25%) was giving c. 1 t/h. Such results showed that there is needed some adjustments, which were done (on the cost of contractor setting up the facility) in December 2013 and January 2014.

From January 2014, the time of last reporting, except from running pellets production, in frame of this action it was done by OTOPs employees several changes in the pelleting line adjusting it to the work with very special biomass (e.g. adjusting way of cleaning of the cooler) and doing maintenance works of machines (e.g. welding protective plates of drier, feeder for the pellets). At the end of the project pelleting facility was working with efficiency c. 1-1,2 t/h, pellets was stored in silage (silo), bags or big-bags.

Summary

The long process of setting up of the pelleting facility has succeeded (see mid-term report Annex 9: described pictures of pelleting facility). As informed in the 2nd Progress Report, the ribbon-cutting ceremony was organized on 21 June 2012. Now, the facility is producing pellets made from the very specific material (very high moisture sedges, reeds etc.), which can finally is an energetic product and not a waste.

From January 2014 the efficiency of the pelleting facility was rising to 1-1,2 t/h, the target efficiency, what was one of the goal for 2014. The target efficiency has been reach and confirmed by the test of the pelleting line done by OTOP and representative of contractor, that was organized on 22 September 2014. In the report from the efficiency test (Annex 15: pelleting facility efficiency test report) it is stated, that the line was producing at average 1206,25 kg of pellets per hour.

From January 2014 to the end of the project, the management and production of pellets was improved by moving office to the pelleting facility buildings, preparation of social rooms, setting up silage (silo), purchase equipment for mowing, collection and transport of biomass, acquire of tools needed for maintenance and repairs of machines of the line. Now it is possible to process all biomass arising from conservation works, including the regular ongoing management of Aquatic Warbler habitats, at Biebrza Valley.

The objectives of the action were achieved within the planned budget. It was spent 92,7% of the planned budget for this action.

Action D1: Set up info boards

Expected results:

- at least 20 information boards in at least 7 different designs erected at the six project sites and the four biomass briquetting facilities; thereby, at least one information board erected at each site.
- Information boards erected at the four access roads to the parish community of Trzcianne, the community covering the majority of Aquatic Warbler habitat in the SPA Biebrza Valley

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.06.2011
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.08.2012

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
Information boards produced and installed	31/03/2011	11/2011

By November 2011 (see: the first progress report from February 2012, Annex 9: information boards) all 19 information boards were placed on project sites. The boards are set up in the proximity to the roads and points passed by visitors. Additionally, in August 2012 five welcome boards were set up on Biebrza, at the entry roads to the Trzcianne commune (see mid-term report, Annex 10: Maps of localization of information boards; Annex 11: described photos of welcome-boards).

At Biebrza Valley four boards set up at 2011 were in very bad condition (destroyed) that had to be replaced by 4 new boards. Additionally, one welcome board was stolen and the Trzcianne commune was interested in adding one more welcome board at the entrance to the commune. In total, in March 2015 all boards were produced and set up (four boards at the project sites; two welcome boards at Trzcianne commune borders) and old boards information was updated (it was prepared stickers, with updated information on project partners, and sticked on all old boards). The map of boards at Biebrza is presented in the annex (Annex 16: maps of boards at Biebrza).

Table 13. Information boards set up at project sites.

Project site	Implemented	Planned
Biebrza	9 (4 destroyed were replaced)	
Trzcianne welcome	6	
Narew	1	
Chełm marshes	5	
Bubnów	2	
Polesie	1	
Bug	1	
TOTAL:	**25**	**24**

All information boards have the LIFE and Nature 2000 logos. They present also the logos of all the partners, sponsors and cooperating organizations.

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 93,0% of budgeted amount.

Action D2: Set up and maintain project website

Expected results:

- A dedicated project website has been set up and is maintained and updated regularly
- The website is available in two languages (Polish and English)
- Key outputs of the project are available on the website, as long as technically feasible

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
Project website online	31/03/2011	09/2010

The project website is www.wodniczka.pl. This is the same address as in the earlier LIFE05 NAT/PL/000100 project. It presents information about the species and both LIFE projects as well as all promotion materials, reports and presentations which were published.

The website is updated frequently (the Polish and English version), key outputs of the project are available on the website and every month there is at least one news published. All news concern project implementation as well as specific news related to conservation of the Aquatic Warbler.

At all, in time of project running, between 1 September 2010 and 31 March 2015, 58 news were published (both in Polish and English) and there were reported (Annex 17: web page visits report) 92108 Page Views (1675 per month), in this 68526 Unique Visits (1246 per/month).

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 77,3% of budgeted amount.

Action D3: Project branding and awareness raising

Expected results:

- All project branding material produced and disseminated.
- All educational and awareness raising activities implemented
- One copy of each product attached to the project's technical reports and submitted to the Commission.

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
General project leaflet	31/03/2011	03/2011
Annual project newsletter (1 each year)	31/08/2011 31/08/2012 31/08/2013 31/08/2014	12/2011 10/2012 04/2013 12/2014
Branded T-shirts	31/09/2011	08/2011
Project-branded stickers (changed on magnetic stickers)	31/09/2011	08/2011

Project-branded re-usable shopping bag	31/09/2011	08/2011
Aquatic Warbler pin badges	31/09/2011	08/2011
Poster	31/09/2011	08/2011
Site-specific project leaflet	31/12/2011	01/2012
Planned milestones for that action:		
N/A	N/A	N/A

Promotion materials

In the second modification request, dated on 22 December 2014, it was proposed modification of the action. As such modification was not a substantial change, Commission did not include it to the annex, but accepted in the letter. In the table below it is shown accepted by the EC changes of expected results of this action.

Table 14: Project-branded products and awareness raising and education activities.

Planned project-branded products	**Planned circulation (copies)**	**Proposed circulation (copies)**
General project leaflet	10 000 (PL), 5 000 (ENG)	10 000 (PL), 5 000 (ENG)
Site-specific project leaflets (five sites)	between 5 000 and 10 000 each site	in total 5 000
Annual project newsletter	200 paper copies of each issue, in total 800 copies	4 issues, in total 1800 copies
Mobile information banners	7	6
T-shirts	100	300
Project-branded stickers	2 500	0
Project-branded magnetic stickers	0	1000
Project-branded re-usable shopping bag	1 000	1 000
Aquatic Warbler pin badges	3 000	3 000
Poster	500	1 000
Project-branded mug	0	200

By December 2013, most of promotion materials were produced and sent (items or its picture/layout) to the Commission. Since January 2014, it was prepared:

- newsletter #4, printed in 300 of Polish version and 50 of English (Annex 18: promotion materials). The Polish version was printed in October 2014, English in December 2014.
- pins (reprint, the same as presented in Mid-term report, annex 13). All project promotional materials bear LIFE and Nature 2000 logos.

Production of promotion materials was fully completed (see the table on the next page for details).

Table 15: Project-branded products produced to date.

Product	**Completion date**	**Circulation till now**	**Delivered with:**
Newsletter #4 (Polish language version/ English language version)	12/2014	300 50	Annex 18
Newsletter #3 (Polish language version/ English language version)	04/2013	250 10	Mid-term report, annex 12
Newsletter #2 (Polish language version/ English language version)	10/2012	500 250	Mid-term report, annex 12
Newsletter #1 (Polish language version/ English language version)	12/2011	250 200	1st Progress Report, attachment 10
General project leaflet (Polish language version/ English language version)	03/2011	10 000 5 000	Inception Report, attachment 7
5 Site-specific project leaflets (PL language)	01/2012	5 x 1 000	1st Progress Report, attachment 10
Roll-up (AW and AW conservation)	08/2011	3 3	1st Progress Report, attachment 10
Branded T-shirts	08/2011	300	1st Progress Report, attachment 10
Project-branded magnetic stickers	08/2011	1000	1st Progress Report, attachment 10
Project-branded stickers	N/A	N/A	Changed –it was produced project-branded magnetic stickers (the line above)
Project-branded re-usable shopping bag	08/2011	1000	1st Progress Report, attachment 10
Aquatic Warbler pin badges	08/2011 03/2015	3 000	Mid-term report, annex 13
2 Posters (AW and AW conservation)	08/2011	500 500	1st Progress Report, attachment 10
Project-branded mug	09/2011	200	1st Progress Report, attachment 10

Events

As described in the 2nd Progress Report:

- 16 classes for children (planned 16 presentations), for 297 participants, were organised in April 2013 (mid-term report, Annex 14: described pictures of conducted classes).
- six environmental excursions (planned 5) for 113 children from 14 classes within 3 school were held in June 2013 (mid-term report, Annex 15: described pictures of environmental excursions).
- the opening ceremony of pelleting facility took place in Trzcianne on 21st of June 2013 (mid-term report, Annex 16: described pictures of the opening ceremony).
- the open day in the pelleting facility (planned one open day), attended by c. 200 people, was organized on 21st of June 2013 (mid-term report, Annex 17: described pictures of the open day in the pelleting facility).

Number of events organized was fulfilling the plan.

Information stands on site

On third of May 2014, in Twierdza Osowiec, next to the headquarter of Biebrza National Park twenty Trade Fair of Handicraft and Folk Art, called "Hundred ideas for Biebrza" took place. This event was created to promote folk art and local products and is a great opportunity to purchase products directly from the manufacturers. On that day, over eighty exhibitors gathered in Twierdza Osowiec, the project stand run by OTOP was among them.

The interest of Trade Fair was huge. In total, the onsite appeared about three thousand people. Could not miss the OTOP stand, which promoted project (Annex 19: pictures of project stands). Apart from promotion materials, visitors could get samples of OTOPs pellet. In addition, for children we prepared contests with gifts (birds painting, a maze with Aquatic Warbler and others), adults can test their knowledge about Aquatic Warbler in our quiz. It is assumed at least 600 people visited project stand. For the stand organization, tent purchased in the project was used.

On 6 September 2014, 13th Biebrza Haymaking Day took place in Biebrza National Park (at Bagno Ławki). Important part of event was Mowing Contest, called "Mowing Championships for Nature". Also OTOPs team consisting was present, one of them achieved the title of vice champion (v-ce Champion of the World!) in category of single mowers.

During the event the OTOP organized the information stand of the project, visited by c. 200 people. During the events, information materials (leaflets, booklets) were given to visiting people. Moreover the raffle was organized, in which every participant could win cups, t-shirts, bags, fridge magnets and pin-ups, - all promoting LIFE+ project.

Project promotion events including information stands out site

At 15 June 2014, the event called First Lublin Duck Race took place. It was a charity event but OTOP decided to include also promotion of nature conservation there. At OTOP stand (Annex 19: pictures of project stands) citizens of Lublin had opportunity to find promotional materials of project. For the youngest guest we have prepared different quiz games and drawing contest.

At 21 and 22 June 2014 at Świerże (Dorohusk commune) celebrated Summer Solstice. The event was focused on local community and celebrated together with guests and local government officials from neighboring Ukrainian areas. OTOP was present there with a stand promoting project (Annex 19: pictures of project stands). It was prepared whole information

and promotion block for adults as well as educational plays for kids. OTOP stand events was visited frequently mainly by the children.

On 1 July 2014, the LIFE programme information day, organized by NFOŚiGW, had place in Warsaw. At that event project stand was organized.

On 20 September 2014, OTOP General Assembly of members had place in Izabelin, in the seat of Kampinoski NP. At that event, projects site was organized, which promoted projects results and OTOPellet.

On 5-6 November 2014, the project was presented on the conference „Sustainable grassland management: biodiversity conservation and alternative uses of grassland biomass" organized by Baltic Environmental Forum-Latvia in frame of the project „Alternative use of biomass for maintenance of grassland biodiversity and ecosystem services" LIFE GRASSSERVICE (LIFE12 BIO/LV/001130) in Sigulda, Latvia. There was shown presentation on the project.

On 14 December 2014 and 21 February 2015 two events called Wszechnica Biebrzańska had place at the seat of Biebrza NP in Osowiec Twierdza. The first meeting was devoted to projects implemented in the Biebrza NP (http://www.biebrza.org.pl/808,xlvii.html?). At the second event, focused on renewable energy resources (http://www.biebrza.org.pl/832,xlix.html?), there was presented biomass issues of the project, presentation "*Produkcja pelletu z biebrzańskiego siana*" was shown.

On 15-16 December 2014, on the meeting of the wet meadows and wetlands managers in Rumia, there was presented project. At the field visit, there was discussed problems and solutions of management of open landscape habitats (succession of bushes and reeds, mowing frequency, predatorism).

On 26-28 January 2015, the project was presented to the representatives of National Natural Park "Pripyat-Stokhid" (including director of the Park), National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, National Bohdan Khmelnytsky University of Cherkasy and Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds (USPB). The meeting had place at Lyubeshiv, Ukraine.

On 2-3 February 2015, the project was presented at the conference "Big Bioenergy NGO meeting" at Brussels.

On 4-5 March 2015, the project was presented on the field visit and conference at Belarus. The field visit had place at Zvanets, Sporovo and pelleting facility close to Zvanetz. The field visit was organized mainly in order to visit AW habitats burned (controlled, legal burning) in February 2015. After the visit, it was organized meeting with representatives of the project UNDP-EU "Clima-East: Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands in Belarus to minimize carbon emissions and help ecosystems to adapt to climate change" (http://restoringpeatlands.org). On 5 March 2015, the project was presented on the conference of the project "Clima-East…", additionally there was presented ratrak working at the field (Sporovo).

The last year of the project was abundant in the project presentation meeting and visits as it was time, when it was possible to show results of the project. There were many asks for presentation, not for all project staff could attend. The most valuable were presentations and meetings with Belarussian and Ukrainian site, as these countries holds the most important part of AW population.

Summary

The table below presents summary of project-branded products and awareness raising and education activities.

Table 16: project-branded products and awareness raising and education activities.

	Planned project-branded products	**Planned circulation (copies) after modification**	**Circulation till now**
1	General project leaflet	10 000 (PL), 5 000 (ENG)	10 000 (PL), 5 000 (ENG)
2	Site-specific project leaflets	in total 5 000	5 000
3	Annual project newsletter	4 issues, in total 1800 copies	4 issues, in total 1810 copies
4	Mobile information banners	6	6
5	T-shirts	300	300
6	Project-branded magnetic stickers	1000	1000
7	Project-branded re-usable shopping bag	1 000	1 000
8	Aquatic Warbler pin badges	3 000	3 000
9	Poster	1 000	1 000
10	Project-branded mug	200	200
	Awareness raising and education activities	**Planned number**	**Done until now**
10	Project open day	1	1
11	School site visits	5	6
12	Presentations in schools	16	16
13	Information stands on site	Each year, 2 days	8 days (2 days in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014)

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 78,6% of budgeted amount.

Action D4: Work with media

Expected results: media guidelines produced, at least two press conferences held, at least 20 items published per year about the project in print media, radio or TV
Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
Annually 20 published items in print media, radio or TV	31/08/2011 31/08/2012 31/08/2013 31/08/2014	05/2012 08/2012 01/2013 05/2014
Planned milestones for that action:		
N/A	N/A	N/A

In the progress report, there were described the press conference in Tykocin at 4 October 2010 and results of the media monitoring (12 articles). In November 2010, the media guidelines were produced and updated in November 2012 (2nd progress report, Annex 19: the media guidelines). The opening ceremony of pelleting facility, with the visit of journalists and kind of press conference, was organized on 21st of June 2013 in Trzcianne, was described in the 2nd Progress Report.

On 28 October 2014, in the time of final conference at Marki, there was organized press conference. There was present 6 journalists (press release was sent to several press representatives), in this time TV prepared material on AW and final conference.

As described in the mid-term report, until the end 2013 it was 154 articled about project issued. In 2014 and 2015 media monitoring has been continued. From January 2014 to the end of the project, another 45 were published (Annex 20: sample articles about the project in the media). Since the beginning of the project, 199 items about the project have been published in media (newspapers, web pages etc.), radio and TV. In the project it was assumed to publish at least 20 items per year, in less than 5 years of project implementation, it should be less than 100 items. That goal was overreached.

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 71,0% of budgeted amount.

Action D5: Interim workshop and final conference

Expected results:

- one interim workshop held, attended by at least c. 30 participants
- one final conference held, attended by at least c. 50 participants
- key contents of both meetings will be available on the project website after the meetings

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen dates: 2nd quarter 2013 and 3rd quarter 2014
Actual date: 2nd quarter 2013 and 4th quarter 2014

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
Interim workshop held	31/10/2012	05/2013
Final conference held	31/12/2014	10/2014

The interim workshop was organized in the seat of the Biebrza National Park in Twierdza-Osowiec on 23-25 April 2013 and described in the 2nd Progress Report (Annex 20 to the 2nd Progress Report: agenda, participants list, pictures; described pictures from interim workshop are redelivered on the EC request in the Annex 21).

The final conference „*Ochrona wodniczki Acrocephalus paludicola w Polsce – osiągnięcia i wyzwania*" (*rotection of Aquatic Warbler Acrocephalus paludicola in Poland – achievements and challenges*) was held on 28-29 October 2014 (at the first day journalists were invited for the press conference) in conference centre „Park na Wojskiego" in Marki, which attended 42 participants (Annex 21: agenda and list of participants). The event was organized by Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP) in cooperation with General Directorate of Environmental Protection – the Secretariat of Aquatic Warbler Memorandum.

The conference was focused on the participants from Poland, as it was important to present project and discuss very specific problems for our country as conservation issues on small and sub-optimal habitats (as Narew and Bug valley), types of mowing at different habitats (where to mow with machines and where by hands), the shape of RDP and fight for better AES payments etc. Participants from abroad were invited to the pre-conference meeting at Technical Task Force, when the project works was presented and discussed (field visits at Biebrza and Narew valleys and discussion at the conference room at hotel).

Participants of the conference were representatives of many institutions: General Directorate of Environmental Protection and Regional Directorates of Environmental Protection, national parks, universities and non-government organizations. The meeting was good opportunity to summarize conducted actions and share experience gained during habitat active protection measurements and knowledge from research on Aquatic Warbler ecology. Future, necessary Aquatic Warbler protection actions were proposed and consulted.

The activity was fully completed, at all 89 participants were present at interim workshop and final conference, the cost of implementation constitute 54,3% of budgeted amount.

Action D6: Exchange experiences with similar initiatives

Expected results:

- mutual exchange visits with similar conservation initiatives in Lithuania, Belarus and the UK take place
- representatives from similar conservation initiatives participate in interim workshop and final conference

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
50% of exchange visits with other projects done	31/08/2012	10/2011

In the first progress report, three exchange visits were described: one in Poland (for Lithuanian guests in 2010), two abroad (United Kingdom, Lithuania, both in 2011), and one international conference in Minsk, Belarus (October 2011). In the 2nd Progress Report, for the period between March 2012 and June 2013, four exchange visits were described: one in Lithuania and three in Poland. Additionally, the project staff gave presentations during two international events (in Germany and Poland) attended by representatives of similar initiatives. In the mid-term report, for the period between July and December 2013, one exchange visit were described (Poland, August 2013) and one conference (Lithuania, November 2013).

From January 2014 to the end of the project implementation 5 exchange visits and 2 network meetings had place, which are described below.

On 8 May 2014, representatives of project from OTOP took part in the „Workshop on the conservation of the Pomeranian AW population" organized at Criewen, Germany. OTOP representatives presented experiences from the AW conservation in the project. Additionally, it was agreed, there is need for field visit of the project team, that bring additionally a specialists on AES implementation (such visit was held in July 2014).

On 2-3 July 2014, project sites at Biebrza Valley were visited by representatives of the project LIFE Schreiadler Schorfheide-Chorin (LIFE10 NAT/DE/000012). In the visit took part, as a host, two representatives of OTOP.

On 11-12 July 2014, OTOP representatives visited Aquatic Warbler sites at West Pomerania in Poland and Germany. The visit covered field visits and discussion on the management of AW sites there, especially with use of AES.

On 22-25 July 2014, project staff visited the AW sites at Belarus (Bołoto Dzikoje, Sporava, Zvanec). It was not only an opportunity to exchange valuable experience in field of the Aquatic Warbler and wetlands conservation, but also gave the opportunity to looking for the opportunities for collaboration in joint projects in the future. As learnt at the visit, the biggest AW site, complex of peatland called Zvanec was planned to be legally and controlled burned. It was agreed, that if it will happen, project representatives will revisit the site to see that method of wetland management. The minutes from the visit is available at attachment (Annex 22: minutes from the exchange visit at Belarus).

On 5-6 November 2014, the project was presented on the conference „Sustainable grassland management: biodiversity conservation and alternative uses of grassland biomass" organized by Baltic Environmental Forum-Latvia in frame of the project „Alternative use of biomass for maintenance of grassland biodiversity and ecosystem services" LIFE GRASSSERVICE (LIFE12 BIO/LV/001130) in Sigulda, Latvia. There was shown presentation on the project.

On 26-28 January 2015, the project was presented to the representatives of National Natural Park "Pripyat-Stokhid" (including director of the Park), National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, National Bohdan Khmelnytsky University of Cherkasy and Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds (USPB). The meeting had place at Lyubeshiv, Ukraine.

On 4-5 March 2015, the project was presented on the field visit and conference at Belarus. The field visit had place at Zvanets, Sporovo and pelleting facility close to Zvanetz. The field visit was organized mainly in order to visit AW habitats burned (controlled, legal burning) in February 2015. After the visit, it was organized meeting with representatives of the project UNDP-EU "Clima-East: Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands in Belarus to minimize carbon emissions and help ecosystems to adapt to climate change" (http://restoringpeatlands.org). On 5 March 2015, the project was presented on the conference of the project "Clima-East…", additionally there was presented ratrak working at the field (Sporovo).

In total, 12 exchange visits took place (6 was planned), six exchange visits abroad (one in the United Kingdom and Ukaine, two in Lithuania and Belarus), five in Poland and one in Poland and Germany. Additionally, OTOP hosted groups interested in nature conservation methods and biomass utilization; six international conferences on Aquatic Warbler and its habitats were attended by the project staff.

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 90,6% of budgeted amount.

Action D7: Promote products derived from biomass

Expected results:

In the application in the description of the action D7 it was proposed to produce:

- Regional certification standard for biomass products intended for energetic use and derived from the sustainable extensive use of high-nature value grassland developed, registered and applied to biomass facilities in the region
- common brand developed for biomass briquettes derived from the management of high-nature value grassland in Eastern Poland (Podlasie and Lublin regions)
- 14 advertising boards for biomass briquettes in four designs set up at and near the briquetting facilities within this project
- a leaflet promoting biomass briquettes under the new brand produced and disseminated
- branded sample bags for biomass briquettes produced and distributed
- at least 80% of the briquettes produced annually are being sold

In the modified budget it is proposed to use the whole budget on the promotion of pellets in more flexible way, which is more adjusted to the current situation on the market and needs. In the modified budget it is proposed to produce: promotion set of nature-friendly pellets (e.g. brand development; design+production+distribution of promotion materials, adds, sample bags etc.). Such method is preferred and used in the implementation of the action D7.

In the second modification request, dated on 22 December 2014, it was proposed modification of the action. As such modification was not a substantial change, Commission did not include it to the annex, but accepted in the letter. In the table below it is shown accepted by the EC changes of expected results of this action.

Table 17: Summary of products planned and proposed change in the action D7:

Product	**Planned circulation (copies)**	**Proposed circulation (copies)**
Regional certification standard for biomass products	1	0
Brand creation - the name and logo for the product	1	1
Information boards	14	5
Banner	0	1
Product promoting leaflet	10 000	10 000
Product business card	0	5 000
Branded sample bags for pellets	5 000	0
Branded bags for pellets (for pellets sale and for use as sample bags)	0	10 000
Promotion on the project website (sub-page)	1	1
Advertisement in a newspaper	not precised	3
Rollup	0	2

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.04.2011/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2012/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
Leaflet promoting biomass briquettes under the new brand	30/12/2011	06/2013
Branded sample bags for biomass briquettes	30/12/2011	02/2015
Planned milestones for that action:		
Brand for biomass briquettes developed	30/06/2011	06/2013

The pellets promotion started at the beginning of 2013, when the pelleting facility was set up, but already at the end of 2012 the board informing about OTOP initiative was placed at the base in Trzcianne (2nd Progress Report, Annex 22: the information boards at pelleting facility). As described in the 2nd Progress Report, the following tasks were completed by June 2013: a pellet sub-page on the wodniczka.pl web page, the name (OTOPellet) and logo for the product created, one advertisement in a newspaper, one leaflet (5000 copies) and one information board at the entrance to the pelleting facility.

In June and November 2013, advertisements of OTOPellet were issued in the local newspaper „Wiadomości lokalne" (circulation of 10.000 copies) (mid-term report, Annex 22. The advertisement in the newspaper). In August 2013, 2 roll-ups promoting OTOPellet were produced. In the same month also business cards of OTOPellet facility were prepared (mid-term report, Annex 23: business card and roll-up picture). As a part of creating brand OTOPellet, the Brand Book was prepared.

From the time of mid-term report, it was prepared layout and produced 10.000 branded bags for pellets (February 2015), produced and set up (March 2015) information board at the entrance to the pelleting facility, two advertising boards and one advertising banner (Annex 23: OTOPellet promotion products - layout). Additionally, for it was purchased the domain http://www.otopellet.com.pl/ for the pellets promotion, this domain is linked to www.otop.org.pl/otopellet.

All these promotion materials were prepared by OTOP staff and produced by external contractors chosen in the bidding process (inquiry).

The pellet promotion from the mid-term report included other action than production of promotion materials. From January 2014 there were three advertisements issued, at local newspaper „Wiadomości lokalne", at web sites e-Mońki and www.szuwary.pl. OTOPellet was promoted at two meetings called Wszechnica Biebrzańska that was devoted to projects implemented in the Biebrza NP (14 December 2014) and renewable energy resources (21 February 2015). On December 2014, 1000 leaflets promoting pellets were sent by post to households in the Trzcianne commune.

Table 18: Summary of products created in the action D7:

Product	**Completion date**	**Circulation till now**	**Delivered with**
Common brand: the name and logo for the product	06/2013	1	2nd Progress Report, Annex 22
Information boards	08/2012 03/2015	5	2nd Progress Report, Annex 22 Annex 23
Banner	03/2015	1	Annex 23
OTOPellet promoting leaflet	06/2013	5 000	2nd Progress Report, Annex 22
OTOPellet business card	08/2013	5 000	Mid-term report: Annex 23
Branded bags for pellets (for pellets sale and for use as sample bags)	02/2015	10000	Annex 23
Promotion on the project website (sub page)	01/2013	1	N/A
Advertisement in a newspaper	from 05/2013	3	Mid-term report: Annex 22
Rollup	08/2013	2	Mid-term report: Annex 23

All expected results were obtained, cost of the action implementation was 34,0% of budgeted costs.

Action E1: Set up and implement project management

Expected results:

- project start-up workshop and training run within the first 3 months of the project duration
- Project Management Framework fully established within 6 months from the start of the project
- All project management meetings are well attended and minutes are available from all Project Steering Group Meetings
- Technical and financial progress reports delivered in time and satisfactory quality
- Progress against the expected results of the project is satisfactory and in time

Activity status: completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
Project start-up workshop and training run	31/12/2010	09/2010
Project Management Framework completed	31/03/2011	03/2011

Partnership agreements

The project was implemented by partnership of OTOP, FUT Zelent, Eko-Różanka and RSPB.

Project monitor visit and external controls

The first project visit of the project monitor had place in Marki on 12 January 2011. As presented in the 1st progress report, on 22 and 23 November 2011, the visit of project monitor had place on SPA Chełmskie Torfowiska Węglanowe.

As presented in the 2nd progress report, on 25 and 26 September 2012, the visit of Head of LIFE Nature Unit, Desk Officer and project monitor took place at Biebrza Valley.

As presented in the mid-term report, on 27 and 28 November 2013, the visit of the project monitor took place at Biebrza Valley, in the period 4 September - 9 October 2013 the project was controlled by Supreme Audit Office, Department of Environment (the report is available at: https://www.nik.gov.pl/kontrole/P/13/124/KSI/) and in the period 28-30 October 2013 the project was audited by National Fund of Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFOŚiGW), Department of Enterprises Control (Annex 25: report from the NFOŚiGW audit). The reports from the audits conclude, that both NIK and NFOŚiGW assessed in general positively project implementation.

From the last report, the monitor visit had place at Biebrza Valley project sites and pelleting facility in 19 and 20 December 2014. At the first day, project progress was presented at the office at Trzcianne and pelleting facility was visited. In that time equipment purchased in the project was shown. At the second day, two project sites were visited, Mścichy and Laskowiec-Zajki, the restored habitats and conservation works (bush removal) was presented.

Project reports

In order to fulfil reporting obligations, OTOP is following reporting schedule (modified application):

- 28 February 2011 – Inception report (prepared on 24 February 2011),

- 28 February 2012 – 1st progress report (prepared on 23 February 2012),
- 31 August 2013 – 2nd progress report (prepared on 14 August 2013),
- 28 February 2014 – Mid-term report (prepared on 11 March 2014),
- 30 November 2014 – 3rd progress report (not delivered as EC suggested, confirmed by emails),
- 30 June 2015 – Final report (deadline for submission postponed to 21 July 2015, agreed with the desk officer by emails).

Modification request

As stated in the mid-term report, due to changes in the conservation activities needs, available sources of funding, changing costs, market on biomass products and other external factors, there was a need for modifications in the project, which would adjust the plan to the real conservation requirements, and the assumptions made at the beginning of the project to the real opportunities. All proposed modifications, leading towards reaching the project objectives, were sent in a request to the European Commission on 23 May 2013, accepted on March 2014 and the annex was signed on 26 March 2014.

The main modifications were needed as regards a partnership structure, an area of planned conservation activities, a number and type of biomass processing facilities and a budget adjustment. Most of these modifications were described in the previous project reports, correspondence or discussions with the European Commission representatives and the project monitor.

On 22 December 2014, OTOP sent the second modification request to EC. In the letter dated on 23 February 2015 Commission accepted the proposed modification and the annex was signed on 9 March 2015. The second modification concern mostly the budget, and results mainly from adjustment of incurred eligible costs to proper categories. It also provides an update of the budget regarding the costs already accepted by the Commission. The main modification, and the only one which is substantial, was increase of the infrastructure cost category. This change was caused by shift of part of the costs for preparation and renovation of place (the buildings and the surrounding area) for set up and run the pelleting facility, from ‘external assistance’ category to ‘infrastructure’ category. Other changes updated the budget by costs approved by Commission in the letter dated on 5 May 2014. Additionally, it was proposed to slightly change education and promotion actions: D3 - Project branding and awareness raising, D7 - Promote products derived from biomass. Such change was not substantial so the EC did not include it to the modification, but accepted in the letter dated on 23 February 2015.

The VAT certificate

As stated in the mid-term report, OTOP has prepared and submitted (13 August 2013) to the Tax Chamber (institution authorized by Ministry of Finance) application for individual interpretation of possibility to recover the VAT paid under the project. Tax Chamber, in the individual interpretation dated on 17 December 2013 (mid-term report, Annex 25: the individual interpretation of possibility to recover VAT paid by OTOP) agreed that OTOP can not recover VAT paid in frame most of project actions with exception of few actions. It is possible to recover VAT paid in frame of all costs of actions:

– A4 (Prepare a feasibility study on small-scale biomass ovens),
– A5 (Prepare a feasibility study for an electric power plant fuelled by biomass),

- C6 (Set up and run biomass pelleting facility at Biebrza),
- D7 (Promote products derived from biomass),

when partly it is possible to recover VAT paid in frame of action:

- E2 (Hold regular project steering group meetings – only if costs of meeting are related to actions A4-5, C6, D7).

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 79,1% of budgeted amount.

Action E2: Hold regular project steering group meetings

Expected results:

- 8 Project Steering Group meetings held
- Minutes from all Project Steering Group meetings are available and have been circulated amongst the project partnership.

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.06.2014
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/30.10.2014

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
N/A	N/A	N/A

As reported in the Inception and first Progress report, in 2010 and 2011, 3 steering group meetings were organized. As stated in the 2nd Progress Report, three more meetings took place in 2012 and in 2013 until June: on 24 May 2012 in Osieck, on 30 October 2012 in Marki and on 23-25 April 2013 in Twierdza-Osowiec. As described in the mid-term report, on 6 December 2013 in Marki, the seventh meeting of the steering committee was held.

From January 2014, two meetings of the steering committee were organized: on 24 April and 30 October 2014 in Marki (Annex 26: minutes from PSG, lists of participants).

The meeting of the Steering Group were attended by the Members and invited guests:

- Chair: OTOP Chief Executive,
- Members: representatives of project partners,
- Regularly invited guests: LIFE+ Project Manager, Other technical employees of the project.

The issues discussed during the meetings were: presentation of progress in the project and a timetable for the next year (Coordinating Beneficiary and partners) and other topics were discussed (financial issues of biomass processing and mowing, the monitoring system, proposal of new Rural Development Program and new AES etc.).

At all, 9 meetings of the steering committee were organized (when 8 planned).

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 51,6% of budgeted amount.

Action E3: Set up and involve Technical Task Force

Expected results: six Technical Task Force visits to the project sites take place, and reports from these visits are available and circulated amongst the project partnership
Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.07.2011/30.09.2014
Actual start/end date: 1.07.2011/30.10.2014

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
First Technical Task Force visit	30/10/2011	10/2011

Until end of 2013, there were organized 3 Technical Task Force meetings:

- on 26-28 October 2011, organized in Lublin Area, described in the first progress report,
- on 22-24 August 2012, organized at the Biebrza and the Narew valleys, described in the second progress report (2nd Progress Report, Annex 26: agenda, participants list, pictures),
- on 18-20 September 2013, organized in Lublin Area, described in the mid-term report (mid-term report, Annex 30: agenda, participants list, pictures, report from meeting).

From January 2014, one Technical Task Force meeting was organized, it was held between 8 and 10 October 2014 at the Biebrza and the Narew valleys (Annex 27: agenda, participants list, report from meeting). Experts had possibility to focus on conservation actions conducted during the project and their results. Year 2014 was incredibly dry in Narew and Biebrza valleys and marshes were easily accessible even without rubber boots, what made possible to organize very intensive visit.

Participants visited all Biebrza Valley project sites: Laskowiec –Zajki, Ławki-Szorce, Bagno Ławki and Mścichy and location at Narew valley. The last day of visit was very special as Biebrza NP agreed to walk through middle of Bagno Ławki mire (what is forbidden without permission), the second biggest at the world AW site. In that day there was present Biebrza NP botanists and ornithologist. That day experts visited areas of bush removal conducted in frame of "the project, areas mown in different years and reference area – unmown for more than 30 years (not endangered by succession) and located in the middle of Bagno Ławki. It was great opportunity for best AW experts from all over Europe to see different conservation measures and different mowing regimes at one site. What more, it was visible, the differences in vegetation between reference area and neighbouring mown areas was not significant.

This year's experts meeting was very international, there were present representatives of France, Germany, Great Britain, Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, Ukraine and Poland. Additionally record attendance noticed, 34 people took part in the meeting. Such attendance (many people, international) was done on purpose, as it was decided to invite the best AW and wetland specialists to the field and after the visit discuss all conservation problems, instead of meeting them on the final conference. All project conservation issues were presented in the field and then discussed, what in OTOP opinion make much more added value than just meeting at the room. What more, it was easier to have so good attendance at the field than at conference. Due to such TTF meeting organization, the conference was decided to be focused on the participants from Poland, to discuss with them very specific problems for our country.

On 10-11 October 2014, in Goniądz there was organized Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team meeting, on which problems of AW conservation in the world was presented and discussed.

At the project application it was proposed to organize 6 TTF meetings, when in implementation it was clear it is not needed to visit one region (particular project site) more often than once for 2 years, as there are no visible changes to be seen after one season. It makes sense to visit one site with two years gap, to see the progress and the asses changes.

If we take into account proposition of the visit in one region every 2 years, the activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 77,5% of budgeted amount.

Action E4: Prepare technical project reports, including laymen's report and After-LIFE Conservation Plan

Expected results:

- four technical project reports submitted in time and with satisfactory quality
- one After-LIFE Conservation Plan produced and submitted to the Commission
- one Layman's Report produced and distributed

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.01.2011/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.01.2011/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
Layman's report	31/03/2015	03/2015
After-LIFE Conservation Plan	31/03/2015	03/2015
Planned milestones for that action:		
N/A	N/A	N/A

From the start of the project till now, the Interim report, the first and second Progress Report and mid-term report was submitted to the EC and 18 project progress reports were submitted to the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (Narodowy Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska i Gospodarki Wodnej – NFOŚiGW, the project co-financing institution).

The After-LIFE Conservation Plan was prepared (Annex 28: After-LIFE Conservation Plan) and Layman's Report produced and distributed (Annex 29: Layman's Report).

The Layman's report was written mainly by OTOP staff. It was printed in 4000 copies of Polish version, 1000 English and 400 Russian. It was planned to print in 2 languages in total 500 pieces. The experience with distribution of previous AW LIFE project Laymans report shows there is huge demand for such publication (project stands, conferences, meetings etc.) and this is excellent promotion material. The Laymans report of earlier LIFE project was distributed on the project stand even in 300-400 pieces! The circulation of reports of all language version is calculated to be distributed in c. 3 years. In this time it will be still fresh and have great value for the project promotion, especially the rise of AW population is a great success story. Only until 19 July 2014 it was distributed c. 800 reports via post and additional c. 700 on the stands (in 2 May 2015 at Twierdza Osowiec, Biebrza and 24 May 2015 at Lublin), conferences (19-20 May 2015 at Lithuania and 22 May 2015 at Belarus) and meetings. In two months it was distributed c. 1500 reports, in this c. 700 on stands, conferences and meetings. The circulation is higher and it was translated and printed in one more language – Russian. The information about the project and its success should be delivered to the countries which hold the main AW population, Belarus and Ukraine, it was

essential to produce the Layman report in Russian. It will be distributed on conferences and meetings, the first occasion for the distribution was the conference on 22 May 2015 at Minsk, Belarus. The closest option for distribution at Ukraine will be visit of OTOP representative at North-West part of the country (including National Natural Park "Pripyat-Stokhid"), where there is the biggest population of AW at Ukraine, that will be monitored in 2015 (the result of exchange experiences visit at January 2015).

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 114,8% of budgeted amount. The higher costs are caused mainly by the higher circulation of the Laymans report, and could be covered by savings in other actions.

Action E5: Financial administration and reporting

Expected results:

- financial reports and claims submitted in time and with satisfactory quality
- independent auditor's report produced and submitted.

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
N/A	N/A	N/A

That activity was running on everyday basis by the financial/administrative staff of the Coordinating Beneficiary and the partners. From start of the project, financial report was prepared for Interim, the first and second progress report and mid-term report for EC and for eleven project progress reports for the NFOŚiGW.

The audit report (Annex 30: project audit report) was prepared by Błaszkowski Advisory Services. The official registration number: 3470 in the registry of The National Chamber of Statutory Auditors (Krajowa Izba Biegłych Rewidentów).

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 94,4% of budgeted amount.

Action E6: Monitor Aquatic Warbler population

Expected results:

- Accurate inventories of the number and distribution of singing males are available for each priority project area within the six project sites for each year of the project's duration
- A full national count including all Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in Poland has been implemented in 2012, a report summarising results is available.

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.04.2011/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.04.2011/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
N/A	N/A	N/A

AW Monitoring 2011-2013

The AW monitoring in 2011 was previously reported (1st and 2nd Progress Report) and consisted of the following parts: AW full counts (2nd Progress Report, Annex 27: AW full count report in 2011), AW Transect counts, AW Productivity studies (1st Progress Report, attachment 18).

The AW monitoring in 2012 was reported in the 2nd Progress Report and consisted of the following parts: AW full counts (full national count including all Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in Poland), AW Transect counts, AW Productivity monitoring (2nd Progress Report, Annex 28: AW monitoring report in 2012).

The AW monitoring in 2013 was reported in the mid-term Report and consisted of the following parts: AW full counts, AW Transect counts, AW Productivity monitoring (mid-term Report, Annex 31: AW monitoring report in 2013).

AW full counts in 2014:

In 2014 OTOP has conducted full counts in the priority areas on all project localizations: the Biebrza Valley (the Bagno Ławki, localizations in the BNP buffer zone), the Narew National Park, the Chełm Calcareous Marshes, the Bubnów Marshes, the Ciesacin Mire and the Bug Valley. In 2014 full counts did not cover all area of Biebrza Valley but only the priority areas of the project (Bagno Ławki and project priority areas at BNP Buffer Zone – Zajki, Mścichy and Szorce). All the data from the AW counts in Poland in 2014 was summarized in the report of AW 2014 inventory (Annex 31, AW monitoring report in 2014).

On the areas covered by full counts there were 2773 singing males of Aquatic Warbler registered. The numbers shows that populations in East Poland became stabile and are not decreasing, although annually fluctuations of number of birds may occur.

AW Transect counts in 2014:

The transect counts were continued by OTOP also in 2014 (started in 2011) on three biggest and most important Aquatic Warbler breeding sites: Biebrza Valley, Chelm Calcareous Marshes and Poleski National Park. The birds were counted along 100 transects (20 in Lublin Region and 80 in Biebrza Valley). On all transects the maximum number of singing males was 1275. The data was collected and summarized in the report (Annex 31, AW monitoring report in 2014).

AW Productivity monitoring 2014:

In 2014 OTOP has repeated the monitoring of the Aquatic Warbler productivity in Chelm Calcareous Marshes. The habitat in the Chelm Marshes is unique and rather delicate because of calcareous soils. Drawing any conclusions was not possible if we based only on two breeding seasons (2012 and 2013). The full information about the organisation of the studies and data obtained in Chelm Marshes was summarized in a report on the productivity studies 2014 (Annex 31, AW monitoring report in 2014).

Aquatic Warbler breeding production have recently gained empirical support within OTOP AW productivity monitoring that was presented in the article: Kubacka J, Oppel S, Dyrcz A,

Lachmann L, Barros da Costa JPD, et al. (2014) Effect of mowing on productivity in the endangered Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. Bird Conservation International 24: 45–58 (to be checked at http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=9191676&fileId=S0959270913000154).

That action was very time-consuming as required finding volunteers, organization of accommodation, travels to the site and work of volunteers. After the monitoring of AW at site, it was needed to collect all data and prepare report from all sites. The work was starting on February with planning the season and advertisements on need for volunteers and ended at December or January next year when the report was ready and approved. In other words, it was whole year action.

That action required to find many volunteers who were oriented for the work in the very hard conditions (wetlands with rough surface covered with water, lots of mosquitos and other biting insects, hot sunny days on the open area with no chance for any shadow), with the cooperation with others and be responsible. Three years of the experience with AW monitoring was a great experience with organization and work with exceptional people.

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 118,6% of budgeted amount. The higher costs are caused mainly by the higher personnel costs (very time-consuming action) and external assistance (counts on transects), and could be covered by savings in other actions.

Action E7: Monitor land use and harvesting techniques

Expected results:

- GIS database including cadastre information on all priority project areas prepared
- information about the land use of all parcels in the priority project areas collected each year during the project duration and entered into the database

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.04.2011/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.04.2011/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A		
Planned milestones for that action:		
N/A		

The monitoring of land use report was prepared for 2011 (2nd Progress Report, Annex 29) and 2012 (2nd Progress Report, Annex 30). The land use monitoring for 2013 was not ready at time of mid-term report, it was prepared at end March 2014 (Annex 32: land use monitoring for 2013). The report for 2014 was prepared at March 2015 (Annex 33: land use monitoring for 2014).

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 89,6% of the budgeted amount.

Action E8: Monitor amount and characteristics of biomass

Expected results:

- Data about the amounts and characteristics of biomass harvested at the project sites and processed in the biomass facilities has been collected in each year of the project and is included in the annual monitoring reports.

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
N/A	N/A	N/A

The report for previous season was submitted in the 2nd Progress Report (Annex 31: report from the amount and characteristics of biomass monitoring). On 22nd of February 2013, the characteristics of pellets produced at the Biebrza Valley was tested by the Institute for Chemical Processing of Coal (Instytut Chemicznej Przeróbki Węgla) from Zabrze, Poland (2nd Progress Report, Annex 32: report from the test of pellets). It can be concluded that the caloric value is quite high, while the ash content and chlorine are relatively low, which makes the Biebrza pellet good fuel for heating purposes.

The report from monitoring for 2013 was not ready at time of mid-term report, it was prepared at end March 2014 (Annex 34: report from biomass monitoring for 2013). The report for 2014 was prepared at March 2015 (Annex 35: report from biomass monitoring for 2014).

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 81,9% of the budgeted amount.

Action E9: Monitor economy of biomass use systems
Expected results:
- Data about the financial aspects of the biomass systems within the project collected
- Data summarised each year in the annual monitoring report.

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.05.2011/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
N/A	N/A	N/A

The data required for assessment of economy of biomass use systems was not available in 2013 and previous years due to the fact, that biomass processing facilities were in a preparation or testing phase. In 2013, 2014 and 2015 it was collected and the report was prepared (Annex 36: report from economy of biomass use systems).
The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 85,4% of budgeted amount.

Action E10: Annual and final monitoring report and analysis
Expected results:
- Monitoring framework, guidelines and templates developed
- Staff responsible for the implementation of monitoring actions suitably trained, with one monitoring training workshop having been held

- Three annual monitoring reports, including a summary of the data collected within each monitoring action produced (2011-2013)
- Final monitoring report produced including an analysis of all monitoring data

Activity status: fully completed
Foreseen start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015
Actual start/end date: 1.09.2010/31.03.2015

Planned deliverables for that action:	Planned end date:	Implemented:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Planned milestones for that action:		
Annual and Final Monitoring reports	31/05/2012 31/05/2013 31/05/2014 31/03/2015	05/2012 03/2013 03/2014 03/2015

The first monitoring reports were prepared for the years 2010-2011 (2nd Progress Report, Annex 33) and for 2012 (2nd Progress Report, Annex 34). In March 2014 was ready the report for 2013 year (Annex 37: annual monitoring report) and in March 2015 for 2014 (Annex 38: final monitoring report).

The activity was fully completed, the cost of implementation constitute 79,2% of budgeted amount.

Planned actions in the Gantt chart:

Action	2010	2011				2012				2013				2014				2015
														3rd Progress Report: 30 Nov 2014				
Number/name	Sep +IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I
A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or action plans:																	End date	
A1 prepare AW site management recommendations			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
A2 arrange use of AES for existing and restored areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
A3 advocate introduction of suitable N2K payments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
A4 feasibility study on small-scale biomass ovens									✓	✓	✓	✓						
A5 study on electric power plant fuelled by biomass														✓	✓	✓		
B. Purchase/lease of land and/or rights :																		
B1 purchase and lease land	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C. Concrete conservation actions :																		
C1 restore areas through bush and tree removal	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
C2 restore areas through first time mowing	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
C3 prepare infrastructure to facilitate biomass collection	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
C4-C5 – actions cancelled																		
C6 set up and run biomass pelleting facility at Biebrza	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D. Public awareness and dissemination of results :																		
D1 set up info boards	✓	✓	✓															
D2 set up and maintain project website	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D3 project branding and awareness raising	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Action	2010	2011				2012				2013				2014				2015
														3rd Progress Report: 30 Nov 2014				
Number/name	Sep +IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I
D4 work with media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D5 interim workshop and final conference											✓						✓	
D6 exchange experiences with similar initiatives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D7 promote products derived from biomass			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
E. Overall project operation and monitoring:																		
E1 set up and implement project management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
E2 hold regular project steering group meetings	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓			
E3 set up and involve Technical Task Force				✓			✓	✓			✓	✓				✓		
E4 prepare technical project reports, incl. layman's report and After-LIFE Conservation Plan		✓				✓						✓		✓			✓	✓
E5 financial administration and reporting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
E6 monitor Aquatic Warbler population			✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	End date	
E7 monitor land use and harvesting techniques			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
E8 monitor amount and characteristics of biomass	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
E9 monitor economy of biomass use systems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
E10 annual and final monitoring report and analysis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

4.2. Dissemination actions

5.2.1 Objectives, dissemination (overview per activity) and comments

The objectives of the dissemination plan set out in the revised project proposal is summarised in the table below/on the next page, including information on product, action and planned and realised circulation and where it was delivered.

The plans for products of action D7 are shown in accordance to the proposed modification presented in the second modification request, dated on 22 December 2014, and accepted by the EC in the letter dated on 23 February 2015.

All comments are presented below the table.

Table 25: Dissemination products

Product	Action	Planned circulation (copies)	Circulation	Delivered with:
Publication "Review of and Vision for agri-environment schemes in Poland" [publication: "*How to keep the meadows full of birds?*" („*Jak zachować łąki pełne ptaków?*")]	A3	2000	3000	2nd Progress Report, Annex 5
Information boards set up at project sites	D1	24	25	1st Progress Report, Annex 9
website www.wodniczka.pl	D2	1	1	www.wodniczka.pl
General project leaflet (PL, ENG)	D3	15000	15000	Inception Report, attachment 7
Site-specific project leaflets (five sites)	D3	5000	5000	1st Progress Report, Annex 10
Annual project newsletter	D3	4 issues, in total 1800 copies	4 issues, in total 1810 copies	1st Progress Report, Annex 10 (#1) Mid-term report, annex 12 (#2,3) Final report, Annex 18 (#4)
Mobile information banners	D3	6	6	1st Progress Report, Annex 10
T-shirts	D3	300	300	1st Progress Report, Annex 10
Project-branded magnetic stickers	D3	1000	1000	1st Progress Report, Annex 10
Project-branded re-usable shopping bag	D3	1 000	1000	1st Progress Report, Annex

				10
Aquatic Warbler pin badges	D3	3 000	3 000	Mid-term report, Annex 13
Poster	D3	1 000	1000	1st Progress Report, Annex 10
Project-branded mug	D3	200	200	1st Progress Report, Annex 10
items about the project published in media (newspapers, web pages etc.), radio and TV	D4	80	199	Final Report, Annex 20
Information boards promoting products derived from biomass	D7	5	5	2nd Progress Report, Annex 22 Final Report, Annex 23
Banner promoting products derived from biomass	D7	1	1	Final Report, Annex 23
Product promoting leaflet	D7	10 000	5 000	2nd Progress Report, Annex 22
Product business card	D7	5 000	5 000	Mid-term report: Annex 23
Branded bags for pellets (for pellets sale and for use as sample bags)	D7	10 000	10000	Final Report, Annex 23
Promotion on the project website (sub-page)	D7	1	1	http://www.otop.org.pl/otopellet/ http://www.otopellet.com.pl/
Advertisement in a newspaper	D7	3	3	Mid-term report: Annex 22
Rollup	D7	2	2	Mid-term report: Annex 23
Layman's report	E4	∑=500 (PL, ENG)	∑=5400: 4000-PL, 1000-ENG, 400-RU.	Final Report, Annex 29

As described in the action E4, the Layman's report was printed in 4000 copies of Polish version, 1000 English and 400 Russian. It was planned to print in 2 languages in total 500 pieces. The experience with distribution of previous AW LIFE project Laymans report shows there is huge demand for such publication (project stands, conferences, meetings etc.) and this is excellent promotion material. The circulation of reports of all language version is calculated to be distributed in c. 3 years. In this time it will be still fresh and have great value for the project promotion, especially the rise of AW population is a great success story. In two months it was distributed c. 1500 reports, in this c. 700 on stands, conferences and meetings. The circulation is higher and it was translated and printed in one more language – Russian. The information about the project and its success should be delivered to the countries which

hold the main AW population, Belarus and Ukraine, it was essential to produce the Layman report in Russian.

All durable goods purchased in the project bear LIFE logo and all documents prepared in frame of the project bear LIFE and Natura2000 logo.

4.3. Evaluation of Project Implementation

The project was implemented to achieve the following key objectives:

1) Innovative systems for the use of biomass from the Aquatic Warbler sites set-up, improved and tested.

The set up and test of innovative technologies is associated with risk of failure, need more time, funds or different equipment or infrastructure than planned. This was the case in that project. The change in partnership, need for purchase of not planned infrastructure for the set up pelleting facility made big risk for the project at the first stage of its implementation. OTOP had to decide, if is taking risk and ending project or leave it. It was decided to go on and fight for the successful end. The land with building for the facility was purchased, renovations were made on cheap mainly with OTOP staff (only very specific works were done by professional companies). In 2014 the EC approved all modifications needed for proper implementation of the project, what was a milestone for the project.

The lack of experience caused the delay in setting up the pelleting facility purchasing process was longer than anticipated, especially due to the need of obtaining necessary permissions. Then OTOP was learning lesson how to process the high moisture biomass. It was needed c. 20 months (February 2014-September 2014) to reach target efficiency, when facilities working on much easier material to process, that is straw, need at least 18 months. It wasn't much longer when working on much harder to process material. Now we know it was worth to do it, but at the time of testing and getting to the better efficiency, it was not so easy. The innovative system for processing very specific, moisture and heterogeneous in composition, material was tested and works.

2) Area of suitable habitat for the Aquatic Warbler in Eastern Poland increased and its quality improved

Many AW sites planned for restoration in the project priority areas were cleared from bushes or first mown with use of the AES payments before the start of the project implementation. In such circumstances, it was decided to reduce area of bush removal and concentrate efforts mainly on the restoration of the Aquatic Warbler habitats which is the most difficult (and most expensive) action. This is beneficial for the nature and allows to make more restoration when using both funds of AES (easy-to-do works) and LIFE programme (the hardest one). The arrangement of AES for restored areas assure recurring management on these areas for next years.

3) Regular ongoing management of major parts of the project sites secured through income from the use of biomass with additional support from agri-environmental schemes.

That objective concerns the future, long term, management on AW habitats. Arrangement of the use of agri-environment schemes for existing and restored areas of Aquatic Warbler habitat and generation of income from the sale of pellets is essential to assure recurring management on AW habitats or potential AW habitats.

Thanks to the project, the advocacy work, RDP and AES in Poland is much better shaped for nature conservation than in MoA proposals. The project work allowed for setting of well-

prepared and well-paid Aquatic Warbler scheme and improvement of payments for other bird species. Such actions has a huge impact on AW and other birds and its habitats conservation.

4) Plans in place to guide pure conservation and business-minded conservation efforts to achieve maximum benefit for both aspects

The preparation of Aquatic Warbler site management recommendations for four project sites, together covering an area of 73,470 ha, contributed or will contribute to Natura 2000 management plans, providing detailed input on the wet meadow habitats within these sites and on other Aquatic Warblers habitats. OTOP recommendations were prepared on the basis of experts knowledge and experience, as well as 20 years of experience of the Society working with Aquatic Warbler conservation and monitoring. It includes also management prescriptions developed for Species Action Plan for Poland and BirdLife International SAP. In effect well targeted habitat management recommendations have been made for different parts of each site. Some recommendation already are implemented and give an effect of population recovery (in Ciesacin mire - SPA Polesie PLB 060019) or strong increase (SPA Bubnow Marsh PLB 060001).

5) Awareness is raised amongst conservation and business managers, site administrations and the public for the wider benefits incurred through the cooperation of conservation and business, using the example of biomass business for Aquatic Warblers

The awareness rising was targeted at different types of audience, that is for very important and absorbing lot of work the general public, as well as specialised audience as conservationists, site administrators etc. In general, the aim was not only present project and importance of AW habitats conservation, but to exchange experiences too. For example, the sharing experiences among site managers on land lease has resulted in land lease and use of AW habitats with accordance to the species requirement on Chełm Marhes and Bagno Bubnów.

In the awareness rising actions the flexibility approach was used too. The success in AW conservation, visible on the increase of the number of AW individuals, was used for the presenting good practices at different events in countries holding AW population (Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Germany, Lithuania), without AW population but with wetland management problems (Latvia) and places where decision are made (Brussels, Belgium). The success story was presented in the Layman report, that was printed not only in Polish and English, but additionally in Russian to present the project in two countries holding main AW population – Belarus and Ukraine. In our opinion, the good practices must be presented not only in EU but at all sites where conservation of AW habitats is needed.

The project objectives were set at such way, that allowed for the restoration of AW habitats, awareness rising and, what is very important, secured the proper land use, funds for it and monitoring of AW population in next periods. At all, the five objectives of the project have been achieved in the frame of the planned budget.

Table 26: Comparison of the results achieved against the objectives

Task	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
A1: Aquatic Warbler Management Plan Recommendations prepared and agreed with the relevant authorities at four project sites	Aquatic Warbler Management Plan Recommendations prepared and agreed with the relevant authorities at four project sites	YES	Some recommendation already are implemented and give an effect of population recovery (in Ciesacin mire - SPA Polesie PLB 060019) or strong increase (SPA Bubnow Marsh PLB 060001).
A2: Arrange the use of agri-environment schemes for existing and restored areas of Aquatic Warbler habitat	Area of Aquatic Warbler habitat covered by regular sympathetic land use or land management on c. 5,400 ha by the end of the project	YES	The area within project priority areas covered by recurring AW land management in 2014 was 6344,37 ha, that means the plans were exceeded by 934,37 ha. It was shown that soft activities, as advocacy, experience sharing and advising may make huge contribution to nature conservation.
A3: Advocate the introduction of suitable Natura 2000 payments	conference, site-visit and publication	YES	This action has and will have in the future (at least 5 years) a huge impact on AW and other birds and its habitats conservation. Thanks to the project, RDP and AES in Poland is much better shaped for nature conservation than in MoA proposals. It allowed for setting of well-prepared and well-paid Aquatic Warbler scheme and improvement of payments for other bird species.
A4: Prepare a feasibility study on small-scale biomass ovens	Feasibility study on small-scale biomass ovens	YES	It was shown that there is potential for the increase of the market for OTOPellet and working in this direction has a perspective
A5: Prepare a feasibility study for an electric power plant fuelled by biomass	Feasibility study on biomass-fuelled electric power plant	YES	The study was prepared and delivered to decision makers in Mońki town and PEC Mońki, they agreed that the study is high quality and it will be used for taking decision on method of modernization of power plant at Mońki. The preparation of the study may result not only with the extension of the market for pellets

			produced from Biebrza Valley wetland, but it may contribute to the improving quality of environment in the region, climate issues and may create new jobs in the region.
B1: Purchase and lease land	up to 20 ha of land purchased at the Biebrza Valley SPA and up to 2 ha bought in the vicinity of the village of Trzcianne as a location for biomass storage	in 95% or 99,9 %	The purchase secure use of AW habitats in accordance with requirement of species and made available enough space for the biomass storage and processing. The action completed in 95% or 99,9% if we count only land purchase for AW conservation (without grounds for biomass storage).
C1: Restore areas through bush and tree removal	300 ha restored by bush and tree removal	in 94%	The AW habitats and potential AW habitats were restored. Action completed in 94% (282,38 ha)
C2: Restore areas through first time mowing	503 ha restored by first time mowing	YES	The AW habitats and potential AW habitats were first mown
C3: Prepare infrastructure to facilitate biomass collection	one existing access track repaired, 2 km of tracks into the project site, 9 access points prepared, 1 points for the short-term storage biomass prepared	YES	The access infrastructure needed for the mowing and biomass collection was improved or prepared.
C6: Set up and run biomass pelleting facility at Biebrza	-A new biomass pelleting facility owned and run by OTOP installed in the village of Trzcianne, fit to produce pellets from the biomass arising from habitat management at Aquatic Warbler habitat within the Biebrza Valley SPA. -Biomass pellets are produced from biomass derived from the regular ongoing management of at least 1,000 ha of current and potential Aquatic Warbler habitat in the Biebrza Valley SPA in 2011, increasing to 4,500 ha by 2014	YES	The pelleting facility was set up, tested, adjusted to the vary specific biomass and is working with the efficiency allowing for processing biomass from up to 4500 ha of current and potential Aquatic Warbler habitat in the Biebrza Valley SPA
D1: Set up info boards	-at least 20 information boards in at least 7 different designs erected at the six project sites and the four biomass briquetting facilities; thereby, at least one information board erected at each site.	YES	All planned information boards were set up

	-Information boards erected at the four access roads to the parish community of Trzcianne, the community covering the majority of Aquatic Warbler habitat in the SPA Biebrza Valley		
D2: Set up and maintain project website	-A dedicated project website has been set up and is maintained and updated regularly -The website is available in two languages (Polish and English) -Key outputs of the project are available on the website, as long as technically feasible	YES	At all 58 news were published (both in Polish and English) and there were reported 92108 Page Views (1675 per month), in this 68526 Unique Visits (1246 per/month). All key outputs are available on the website.
D3: Project branding and awareness raising	-All project branding material produced and disseminated. -All educational and awareness raising activities implemented -One copy of each product attached to the project's technical reports and submitted to the Commission.	YES	The action was adjusted in the time of project running to achieve the best results. All planned project materials were produced and education events organized. The project products were delivered to the EC.
D4: Work with media	media guidelines produced, at least two press conferences held, at least 20 items published per year about the project in print media, radio or TV	YES	Media guidelines were produced, two press conferences were held, since the beginning of the project, 199 items about the project have been published in media (newspapers, web pages etc.), radio and TV.
D5: Interim workshop and final conference	-one interim workshop held, attended by at least c. 30 participants -one final conference held, attended by at least c. 50 participants -key contents of both meetings will be available on the project website after the meetings	YES	The interim workshop and final conference were organized, 89 participants were present.
D6: Exchange experiences with similar initiatives	-mutual exchange visits with similar conservation initiatives in Lithuania, Belarus and the UK take place -representatives from similar conservation initiatives participate in interim workshop and final conference	YES	In total, 12 exchange visits took place, six abroad, five in Poland and one in Poland and Germany. OTOP hosted groups interested in nature conservation methods and biomass utilization; six international conferences on Aquatic Warbler and its habitats were attended by the project staff. Representatives from similar conservation initiatives participate in interim workshop and final

			conference.
D7: Promote products derived from biomass	-the name and logo for the product created, - promotion materials produced (Information boards, Banner, leaflet, business card, Branded bags for pellets, Rollup), -Product promoted on the project website (sub page) -Advertisement in a newspaper published	YES	All promotion materials produced, web page created, advertisements published.
E1: Set up and implement project management	-project start-up workshop and training run within the first 3 months of the project duration -Project Management Framework fully established within 6 months from the start of the project -All project management meetings are well attended and minutes are available from all Project Steering Group Meetings -Technical and financial progress reports delivered in time and satisfactory quality -Progress against the expected results of the project is satisfactory and in time	YES	The activity was fully completed. There was need for 2 project modifications and partnership changes that allowed for the proper project implementation.
E2: Hold regular project steering group meetings	-8 Project Steering Group meetings held -Minutes from all Project Steering Group meetings are available and have been circulated amongst the project partnership.	YES	9 meetings of the steering committee were organized, minutes from all Project Steering Group meetings are available and have been circulated amongst the project partnership
E3: Set up and involve Technical Task Force	six Technical Task Force visits to the project sites take place, and reports from these visits are available and circulated amongst the project partnership	YES	Four Technical Task Force visits organized instead of six. It shown up that is not needed to visit site more often than once for 2 years, as there are no visible changes to be seen after one season. It makes sense to visit one site with two years gap, to see the progress and the asses changes.
E4: Prepare technical project reports, including laymen's report and After-LIFE Conservation Plan	-four technical project reports submitted in time and with satisfactory quality -one After-LIFE Conservation Plan produced and submitted to the Commission -one Layman's Report produced	YES	Five technical project reports were prepared (including final report), laymen's report was printed and distributed and After-LIFE Conservation Plan produced and submitted to the EC

	and distributed		
E5: Financial administration and reporting	-financial reports and claims submitted in time and with satisfactory quality -independent auditor's report produced and submitted.	YES	Financial reports and claims submitted in time and with satisfactory quality, independent auditor's report produced and submitted.
E6: Monitor Aquatic Warbler population	-Accurate inventories of the number and distribution of singing males are available for each priority project area within the six project sites for each year of the project's duration -A full national count including all Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in Poland has been implemented in 2012, a report summarising results is available.	YES	-Accurate inventories of the number and distribution of singing males are available for each priority project area within the six project sites for each year of the project's duration (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014). -A full national count including all Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in Poland has been implemented in 2012, a report summarising results is available. -the changes of the number of AW population in 2009-2014 calculated.
E7: Monitor land use and harvesting techniques	-GIS database including cadastre information on all priority project areas prepared -information about the land use of all parcels in the priority project areas collected each year during the project duration and entered into the database	YES	-GIS database including cadastre information on all priority project areas prepared -information about the land use of all parcels in the priority project areas collected each year during the project duration and entered into the database -the changes of the area of land use calculated.
E8: Monitor amount and characteristics of biomass	-Data about the amounts and characteristics of biomass harvested at the project sites and processed in the biomass facilities has been collected in each year of the project and is included in the annual monitoring reports.	YES	-Data about the amounts and characteristics of biomass harvested at the project sites and processed in the biomass facility has been collected in each year of the project and is included in the annual monitoring reports (2012, 2013, 2014). -the characteristics of pellets produced at the Biebrza Valley was tested
E9: Monitor economy of biomass use systems	-Data about the financial aspects of the biomass systems within the project collected -Data summarised each year in the annual monitoring report.	YES	-Data about the financial aspects of the biomass systems within the project collected for 2013, 2014 and 2015 (years of running the pelleting facility) -Data summarised 2014 in the annual monitoring report.

E10: Annual and final monitoring report and analysis	-Monitoring framework, guidelines and templates developed -Staff responsible for the implementation of monitoring actions suitably trained, with one monitoring training workshop having been held -Three annual monitoring reports, including a summary of the data collected within each monitoring action produced (2011-2013) -Final monitoring report produced including an analysis of all monitoring data	YES	-Monitoring framework, guidelines and templates developed -Staff responsible for the implementation of monitoring actions suitably trained, -Three annual monitoring reports, including a summary of the data collected within each monitoring action produced (2011-2014) -Final monitoring report produced including an analysis of all monitoring data

All project results that may be measured in details was visible immediately. Such results are for example numbers of produced items (awareness rising products, information boards, deliverables produced in the project, events organized), area of field works implemented, set up of pelleting facility etc. It is much harder to assess results of exchange of experiences, awareness rising activities etc. Still it is bringing positive effect but it is hard to calculate exactly the influence. The field works effects and results of feasibly studies or recommendations may be visible in the future.

4.4. Analysis of long-term benefits

1. Environmental benefits

    a. Direct / quantitative environmental benefits:

LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity: e.g. conservation benefits for Natura 2000 (SCI/SPA) and species/habitat type targeted. Highlight briefly issues that may have important policy implications on Natura 2000 also in relation to other EC policies if relevant (e.g. new management techniques and procedures, pump priming agri-environment, links with the water framework directive, etc). Please also address incentive/pump priming effects (both in financial and policy terms)

Project shows that well targeted conservation managements can effect in habitat restoration on landscape scale. Succession accelerated due to disruption of hydrological regime of wetlands is the major problem on many fen mires and wet meadows in EU. Scrub removal and adequate mowing regime increase biodiversity of mires but also limit evapotranspiration and in effect has beneficial effect on hydrological regime. Our experience with using of mowing technology followed by application of targeted agro-environmental measures can be replicated in many Natura 2000 sites protecting fen mire habitats facing threat of succession. Project shows that management techniques originally designed on Biebrza National Park area can be successfully replicated into other areas like Narew National Park, Poleski National Park, Ciesacin mire or Chełm Marshes SPA. Nature protection administrations of national parks and regional directorates of environmental protection (responsible for Natura 2000 in Poland) have limited capacity in managing of large areas. Therefore creation of well-shaped AES and subcontracting of habitat management through land leasing for farmers and local entrepreneurs gave good effect in Biebrza National Park. Our project shows that it works also on other Natura 2000 sites like Bagno Bubnow SPA, Polesie SPA and Chełm Celcareous Marshes SPA. Additionally, the problem of utilization of the biomass, may be solved by cooperation with existing biomass processing facilities or by investment in best fitted to the site technical method of processing biomass.

In general, as described in the description of the action A2, between 2009 and 2014 at project sites it was achieved:

- the area within project priority areas covered by recurring AW land management in 2014 was 6344,37 ha (comparing to 1551ha at 2009);
- the biomass at project sites is utilized;
- the area occupied by AW has risen from 3602,26 to 3879,90 ha, that is by 277,67 ha or by 7,71%;
- the number of singing AW between 2009 and 2014 has risen by 575 individuals, that is 5,75 times more than expected.

2. Long-term benefits and sustainability

    a. Long-term / qualitative environmental benefits

What is the outlook for the targeted habitat type and/or species? How do you plan to continue and to develop the actions that were initiated in the LIFE project in the years that follow the end of the project and how will the longer term management of the site(s) be assured? What are the remaining threats? Details should be given regarding what actions should be carried out, when, by whom and using what source of finance. (For LIFE-Nature

projects, you must also annex the After-LIFE conservation plan which shall be delivered in English and also in the language(s) of the beneficiary/ies.)

In the course of the previous project (LIFE Aquatic Warbler project in Poland and Germany in 2005-2011), a targeted study was carried out to identify the exact parameters of an "ideal habitat" for the species, which could then be applied to the project sites. The knowledge fed into site management plans and the official Aquatic Warbler Species Action Plans for Poland.

To identify optimal habitat, researches related numbers of singing males to habitat variables in all core breeding areas in eastern Poland – sites of Aquatic Warbler & Biomass project. Results of this study was recently published in scientific journal: *Optimal habitat conditions for the globally threatened Aquatic Warbler Acrocephalus paludicola in eastern Poland and their implications for fen management*. Janusz Kloskowski, Franziska Tanneberger, Piotr Marczakiewicz, Anna Wiśniewska & Agata Choynowska. 2015. IBIS. DOI: 10.1111/ibi.12247. Aquatic Warbler densities were the highest in areas with extensive ground cover by water and mosses and a thick litter layer. Optimal vegetation height was 60 – 90 cm. Male densities increased with increased biomass of arthropods larger than 10 mm in length, as estimated by sweep netting, and with increased abundance of spiders, as estimated by pan trapping. Prevention of vegetation succession is a conservation priority for open fen mires. However, modern management practices to achieve this, especially mowing using tracked vehicles, should be evaluated and optimised to ensure that is does not adversely affect long-term development of moss cover and litter structure.

Basing on this Optimal Habitat Model well targeted AES measures were developed. Aquatic Warbler package was developed by OTOP, adopted by Polish Ministry of Agriculture and included into Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020. AW package is very flexible and can be adjusted to various habitat types used by Aquatic Warbler – from mesotrophic mires, through Cladium rushes to river floodplains.

In effect longer term management of the sites will be assured by using AES subsidies for mowing and other conservation measures, when biomass utilization was work out at the project, so it will be continued. It includes both - areas owned by OTOP within buffer zone of Biebrza NP and other project areas. Biebrza National Park signed long term lease agreement with farmers. The same pattern is replicated in Narew National Park and Poleski National Park. On Chełm Calcareous Marshes SPA the parts of the mires belonging to Regional Directorate of Environmental Protection in Lublin (whole Bagno Serebryskie Nature Reserve and an important part of Błota Serebryskie, Brzeźno and Roskosz Reserves) are also subject of long term land lease agreement. Some part of Chełm SPA belongs to private owners (Błota Serebryskie West, parts of Brzeźno and Roskosz Reserves. As mire areas are considered as marginal land and recently are not utilised for hay production farmers take advantage of AES subsidies and manage the land according to Aquatic Warbler packages.

The pelleting facility at Biebrza Valley and cooperation with existing facilities at Lublin area is a solution for biomass utilization, for environment it has high importance, as land users will have no temptation to leave biomass at site. That means, if there is solution for utilization of biomass, it will be collected. The habitats with biomass left on the site is leading to the habitats deterioration, including loss of plant species, change of plants structure and in consequence change of living on them invertebrates. The shred biomass left at site is a source of biogenesis and may lead to the eutrophication of the habitats. Overall, the finding biomass utilization solutions allows for leaving habitats in the proper condition.

On areas owned by OTOP within buffer zone of Biebrza NP (Mścichy, Szorce, Zajki) we have established so called OTOP Nature Reserves (private reserves) – one of few in Poland, civic NGO owned grounds focused on nature conservation. On this areas, that include land

purchased in the project (19,98 ha), besides managing the land with use of AES we will continue to optimise habitats for birds and other animals and plants. Aquatic Warbler will remain our main conservation objective as it should be considered as a so-called umbrella species - representative for its specific habitat (fen mires), and all the other animal and plant species that make up the ecological community of this habitat. Many of these species, like Aquatic Warblers, cannot survive anywhere apart from in such wetlands. This means, that protecting Aquatic Warblers means protecting much more than just one species of bird. Aquatic Warbler protection helps many rare plant species and other species of birds, including rare waders.

b. Long-term / qualitative economic benefits (e.g. long-term cost savings and/or business opportunities with new technology etc., regional development, cost reductions or revenues in other sectors)

The set up of pelleting facility allow for creating proper conditions at habitats by avoiding biodiversity losses and eutrophication, as stated in the previous paragraph. Additionally it creates demand on services and labour force at the pelleting facility set up at Biebrza Valley. Now, 4 people are employed at the facility. The services are provided mainly by local providers.

As described in the action A5, in March 2015 the feasibility study on biomass-fuelled cogeneration (Combined Heat and Power or CHP) power plant in Mońki county was prepared. The management of PEC Mońki and Mońki town are using it in the process of taking decision on method of modernization of power plant at Mońki. The preparation of the study may contribute not only to the improving quality of environment in the region but also may create new jobs in the region (coal comes out of the region, biomass must be “produced” locally due to transport costs).

c. Long-term / qualitative social benefits (e.g. positive effects on employment, health, ethnic integration, equality and other socio-economic impact etc.)

As stated in the previous paragraph, the set up of pelleting facility created demand on services and labour force at the pelleting facility set up at Biebrza Valley. Now, 4 people are employed at the facility. The services are provided mainly by local providers. Additionally, the local farmers may give not needed biomass to the pelleting facility what is solving the problem what to do with it.

As described in the action A5, in March 2015 the feasibility study on biomass-fuelled cogeneration (Combined Heat and Power or CHP) power plant in Mońki county was prepared. The management of PEC Mońki and Mońki town are using it in the process of taking decision on method of modernization of power plant at Mońki. The preparation of the study may contribute not only to the improving quality of environment in the region but also may create new jobs in the region (coal comes out of the region, biomass must be “produced” locally due to transport costs).

d. Continuation of the project actions by the beneficiary or by other stakeholders.

As described in the paragraph a) on areas owned by OTOP within buffer zone of Biebrza NP (Mścichy, Szorce, Zajki) it was established so called OTOP Nature Reserves – one of few in Poland, civic NGO owned grounds focused on nature conservation. On this areas, that include land purchased in the project (19,98 ha), besides managing the land with use of AES we will continue to optimise habitats for birds and other animals and plants.

The land managed by FUT Zelent and Eko-Różanka, as well as other land restored in the project, will be used in frame of AES. The AES payments are such developed, that are

beneficial for birds and farmers. In fact, the payment for mowing in frame of AES bird habitats is giving profits to the land user, so at this level of payment, always there will be someone willing to manage such land. The proof may be information on the bid for land lease in the Biebrza National Park. There was leased c. 1,3 thousands hectares of land for next 5 years. The prices for 1 year leasing of 1 ha was varying between 802,17 PLN and 1365,71 PLN. Thanks to the bush removal in previous years and possibility to get AES payment, the management of open wetland habitats, including AW habitats, for the next years will be assured as it is profitable (Annex 39: information on the bid for Biebrza NP land winners).

One of actions was the monitoring of AW. Now, due to OTOP advocacy, it is a part of the environmental monitoring state run by General Inspectorate for the Environmental Protection (GIOŚ). AW monitoring is a part of Monitoring of Birds of Poland programme. (http://www.monitoringptakow.gios.gov.pl/aktualnosci). Such monitoring will be done out of project sources, the funding will be assured by the government.

Aquatic Warbler will remain our main conservation objective as it should be considered as a so-called umbrella species - representative for its specific habitat (fen mires), and all the other animal and plant species that make up the ecological community of this habitat. Many of these species, like Aquatic Warblers, cannot survive anywhere apart from in such wetlands. This means, that protecting Aquatic Warblers means protecting much more than just one species of bird. Aquatic Warbler protection helps many rare plant species and other species of birds, including rare waders.

3. Replicability, demonstration, transferability, cooperation: Potential for technical and commercial application (transferability reproducibility, economic feasibility, limiting factors) including cost-effectiveness compared to other solutions, benefits for stakeholders, drivers and obstacles for transfer, if relevant: market conditions, pressure from the public, potential degree of geographical dispersion, specific target group information, high project visibility (eye-catchers), possibility in same and other sectors on local and EU level, etc.

Aquatic Warbler conservation methods as well as conservation of fen mire habitats developed within this project are fully transferable to other areas. Within project Technical Task Force meetings all knowledge and experience was shared with experts from other parts of Poland and from neighbouring countries – Aquatic Warbler range states. One of the most successful transfer of our management methods is Lithuanian Aquatic Warbler project. Colleagues from Baltic Environmental Forum (http://www.meldine.lt/latest-news/40-project-team-takes-a-trip-to-poland) used our experience in Aquatic Warbler habitat management and adjusting it to local conditions prepared parallel LIFE project. It includes regular mowing and introducing targeted AES packages. In effect in this project, Aquatic Warbler population in Lithuania which was recently declining has doubled during last year (http://www.meldine.lt/latest-news/159-in-lithuania-population-of-globally-threatened-aquatic-warbler-increased-significantly-).

Our project experience was also replicated by experts from Belarus. Within EU/UNDP Project “ClimaEast: Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus to Minimize Carbon Emissions and Help Ecosystems to Adapt to Climate Changes” and the GEF/UNDP Project “Development of Integrated Approaches to Wetland Management based on Multi-Purpose Landscape Planning to Obtain Multilateral Environmental Benefits they work to introduce an efficient system of clearing and use of the shrub and reed biomass in wetlands crucial for the species conservation on Zvanets Republican Landscape Reserve, Sporovsky Republican Biological Reserve and some other Aquatic Warbler sites. Project also

includes establishing of a centre for management of the Aquatic Warbler key habitats at the premises of the Sporovsky Republican Biological Reserve. Both mentioned Belarussian AW sites are situated in distance of less than 100 km from UE border and holds more than 40 % of global population. Both are faced exactly the same threats like EU sites – scrub and tree succession in effect to cessation of extensive management. Replication of habitat management and adjusting it to local conditions is crucial for conservation of global (and in effect EU) Aquatic Warbler population.

4. Best Practice lessons: briefly describe the best practice measures used and if any changes in the followed strategy could lead to possible adjustment of the best practices

Our project areas show many similarities to other mesotrophic fen mires in Belarus and Ukraine and our results may be transferable to these other core population areas. Best Practice guidance on Aquatic Warbler habitat management has focused on hydrological and nutrient conditions and removal of bushes and mowing to halt succession. Diversifying mowing operations in space and time is often recommended to reduce unwanted effects on plant and invertebrate communities. While benefits from increasing mowing intervals on Aquatic Warbler breeding production have recently gained empirical support within OTOP AW productivity study (Kubacka et al. 2014 Effect of mowing on productivity in the endangered Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. Bird Conservation International 24: 45–58 (to be checked at http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=9191676&fileId=S0959270913000154), effects of diversification in space (mowing executed in mosaic like manners with strips or blocks of cut and temporarily uncut sward) are less well understood, although they may mitigate impacts on arthropods.

The pelleting facility is a demonstration of possibilities of utilization biomass arising at wetlands. Such possibility may be used at big scale mowing, so big wetland areas may be good place for set up that facility.

5. Innovation and demonstration value: Describe the level of innovation, demonstration value added by EU funding at national and international level (including technology, processes, methods & tools, organisational & co-operational aspects);

One of the most important our innovation and demonstration products are pelleting the biomass and caterpillar tracked vehicle used for mowing fen mires called ratrak.

Pelleting facility is and innovation and demonstration solution for utilising late mown mire biomass for energetic purposes. For that OTOPs pellet production plant was established in the vicinity of Biebrza marshes with the aim of processing of biomass. It is a specific biomass, as its main shortcoming is the high humidity, due to marsh origin. The solution of this problem was the selection of appropriate pellet production line, to be able to effectively process the biomass. Pellet production process consists of several stages and starts with size reduction of biomass. Next the biomass is placed on the production line in form of bales. The fragmented biomass goes to the dryer and next to the mill, which reduce size of biomass further. In this form, material goes into the press - a device which extrude granules with a diameter of eight millimetres and a length of three and a half centimetres. It goes under high pressure and which is the most important, without using of additional toxic components. Ready-made pellet just has to be cooled down and in such form goes to the store in the form of loose pellets or is being packed in Polypropylene BIG BAGs (1 tone weight). It can also be packed in smaller (15 kg) plastic bags.

OTOPellet proved to be a good fuel and reaches almost 16 GJ caloric content. This is more than comparable pellet made of straw and only slightly less than wooden pellets. However, the pellets produced by OTOP is very price competitive and thus has already gained recognition among the closest inhabitants, and this interest is constantly growing. Currently, the main consumer of OTOPellet's product is the power plant in Ostrołęka. The limitation of such sales is still costs of transport, which at the moment significantly reduce the viability of sales in such distant places.

The pelleting facility is a demonstration of possibilities of utilization biomass arising at wetlands. Such possibility may be used at big scale mowing, so big wetland areas may be good place for set up that facility. The Belarussian colleagues tried to process biomass from Zvanets at the closest pelleting facility to the site, but the transport cost was too high (too far away) and it was not economically viable.

Ratraks during last few year gained popularity and at the moment are being used not only in Poland, but also in Germany and Belarus. It is expected that the machines will be further modified. Still we are all working for new optimal solutions, testing and checking their suitability and trying to find a compromise between best technical solutions and least invasive methods of maintaining conservation measures. Ratraks mowing wetlands went through series modifications and new versions of the machine occurred. For example to the mower made from the snow bit a pipe and blower were added to remove cut biomass . Thanks to that cut biomass can be immediately blown to the trailer pulled by ratrak (which is also driving on tracks). Another version of ratrak has instead of mower, a header from combine harvester, which cuts biomass and leaves it between tracks. There are also ratraks, which are equipped with disk mowers. Thanks to significant rise of the frame they can mow and put the biomass under the machine without smashing it into peat. To be able to collect mown biomass baling press were adapted, by equipping them with tracks instead of wheels and changing the drive from mechanic to hydraulic. Those machines are pulled behind the ratrak and their form from the biomass big bales, which are then taking from the sites on trailers on tracks. Also the tracks have been modified. Sharp, good for snowy slopes were removed and replaced with wider, more plain and better for driving on delicate peatland to ensure that the vegetation will not be destroyed. One of the last modification, which is tested by OTOP is a disk mower with a device to rake the biomass aside. Ratrak in this version doesn't have to have risen frame, because the biomass is put aside the machine, where it is later on baled or pick up. At the moment ratraks have strong engines, solid construction, hydraulic drive and what's important – they drive on wide tracks, which spread the weight on bigger surface. Thanks to that they are perfect for difficult mowing conditions.

6. Long term indicators of the project success: describe the quantifiable indicators to be used in future assessments of the project success, e.g. the conservation status of the habitats / species.

The most reliable long term indicators of the project success is the population status of Aquatic Warbler. OTOP has developed Aquatic Warbler monitoring since 1993 and monitoring data was already presented in this report. Besides of monitoring works implemented within both Polish LIFE project the long term strategy was to include AW monitoring into state run Monitoring of Birds of Poland programme. (http://www.monitoringptakow.gios.gov.pl/aktualnosci) . The project is commissioned by the General Inspectorate of Environment Protection (GIOŚ) and supported by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Managements (NFOŚiGW). A few top institutions involved in nature protection and studies in Poland lead the project: the coordinating role is Polish Society for the Protection of Birds, along with the Museum and Institute of Zoology

PAS, Eagle Protection Committee, Owl Conservation Association and PTOP Salamandra. Monitoring of Birds of Poland (MBP) is an extensive project, which includes 21 separate monitoring programmes designed to collect data on single species or groups of species, during both breeding, migration and wintering periods. In total, MBP covers 170 species, among which 150 are monitored during breeding season (65% of breeding avifauna), 26 in winter and 3 during migrations. The state of avian populations is characterized by two basic parameters: abundance (absolute or relative numbers, i.e., indices) and occupancy (range size). For selected species, reproduction indices are collected as well. MBP covers nearly 20% of the Polish territory in recent years, and over 800 highly skilled observers, both professionals and amateurs, take part in fieldwork.

OTOP introduced Aquatic Warbler monitoring into MBP. In effect it will long term financial and technical support.

The best quantifiable indicators to be used in future assessments of the project success is the stabilisation or increase of population of AW in Poland. The second indicator will be also area of occupancy of Aquatic Warbler as well as the conservation status of the species.

5. Comments on the financial report

The standard statement of expenditure is presented in a separate document, below are presented in table an overview of costs incurred.

5.1. Summary of costs incurred

The financial review shows spending of project for the whole time of project duration, that is from 1 September 2010 to 31 March 2015, that were accepted by European Commission in the letter dated on 18 December 2015. It was spent in total 82,98 % of the budget.

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED [€]			
Costs category	**Budget according to the grant agreement***	**Costs incurred from the start to end date in €**	**% of total costs**
1. Personnel	1 037 792	955 656	92,09%
2. Travel and subsistence	186 607	120 102	64,36%
3. External assistance	330 618	194 071	58,70%
4. Durable goods	1 143 491	917 704	80,25%
Infrastructure	177 968	171 618	96,43%
Equipment	965 523	746 086	77,27%
Prototype	0	0	N/A
5. Land purchase / long-term lease	106 318	94 515	88,90%
6. Consumables	260 246	259 807	99,83%
7. Other Costs	9 185	7 053	76,79%
8. Overheads	204 558	171 807	83,99%
TOTAL	3 278 815	2 720 715	82,98%

*) according to the revised budget officially approved by Commission.

5.2. Auditor report/declaration

The audit was prepared by Błaszkowski Advisory Services (Annex 30: report from the project audit). The official registration number: 3470 in the registry of The National Chamber of Statutory Auditors (Krajowa Izba Biegłych Rewidentów).

Name and address of the auditor: Grzegorz Błaszkowski, 57D Jeziorowa Str., 03-991 Warszaw, Poland

Web page: blaszkowskiadvisory.pl

6. Final table of indicators

OUTCOMES

Part 1 - Preparatory actions

Table 1 - Types of preparatory actions implemented (A, B actions)

Types of preparatory actions	No. of preparatory actions	Species involved (Latin name)	Type of habitats involved	No. of species involved	No. of habitats involved	No. of N2000 sites involved	Surface involved (ha)	Incurred cost (€)
Plans of project measures								
Action plans								
Management plans	1	Aquatic Warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola) and associated species*	fen mires and wet meadows**	12	6	4	73 470	30 924
Guidelines								
Inventories & Studies	2	Aquatic Warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola) and associated species	fen mires and wet meadows**	12	6	6	148 509	15 207
Ex ante monitoring								
Ex post monitoring	5	Aquatic Warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola) and associated species	fen mires and wet meadows**	12	6	6	12 544	226 089
Permit procedures								
New Natura 2000 area								

Land purchased	1	Aquatic Warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola) and associated species	fen mires and wet meadows**	12	6	1	22	97 759
Other (please specify): support design and implementation of agri-environment schemes	2	Aquatic Warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola) and associated species	fen mires and wet meadows**	12	6	6	5 410	55 738
Total (Every item counted only once)	11	N/A	N/A	12	6	6	224 029	425 717

(*) Identification number and name as in the Directives

*associated species:
Botaurus stellaris (Great Bittern)*
Ciconia ciconia (White Stork)
Aquila clanga (Greater Spotted Eagle)*
Circus aeruginosus (Marsh Harrier)
Circus cyaneus (Hen Harrier)
Circus pygargus (Montague's Harrier)
Porzana porzana (Spotted Crake)
Porzana parva (Little Crake)
Crex crex (Corncrake)*
Grus grus (Common Crane)
Gallinago media (Great Snipe)
Asio flammeus (Short-eared Owl)

**type of habitats under "fen mires and wet meadows":
6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)
6510 Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)
7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs
7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion
7210 *Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae
7230 Alkaline fens

Part 2 - Concrete actions

Table 2 - Best practices/concrete techniques/conservation actions/methods implemented (C actions)

Deliverable	No. of concrete actions	Species involved (Latin name)	Type of habitats involved (*)	No. of species involved	No. of habitats involved	No. of N2000 sites involved	Surface involved (ha)	Incurred cost (€)
Natura 2000 site creation								
Natura 2000 site restoration/improvement	4	Aquatic Warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola) and associated species*	fen mires and wet meadows**	12	6	6	12544	1 518 804
Conservation actions								
Reintroduction								
Ex situ conservation								
Removal of alien species								
Others (please specify)								
Total (Every item counted only once)	4	N/A	N/A				12 544	1 518 804

(*) Identification number and name as in the Directives

* see description for the table 1

** see description for the table 1

*Table 3 - Training activities****

No. of training sessions	Total no.of persons trained	Incurred cost (€)
29	389	132177

*** Include all activities focused on training, there are included workshops etc. that are shown in the table 4. Such information is consistent with plans for the project.

Part 3 - Awareness raising and communication

*Table 4 - Workshops, seminars and conferences*****

Target audience:	General public			Specialised audience (e.g. decision-makers)			Very specialised audience (e.g. experts, academics)		
Number of participants:	Local/ Regional	National	EU/ International	Local/ Regional	National	EU/ International	Local/ Regional	National	EU/ International
0-25 participants								12	12
25-75 participants				1	4			1	
75-100 participants									
More than 100 participants	3	6							
Total incurred cost (€)	135396								

**** The numbers in this table is not fully consistent with table from project application as here there is information on number of events, at the project application, there was shown data on participants.

Table 5 - Media and other communication and dissemination work

Type of media	No.
Project website: average number of visitors per month	1246
Press releases made by the project	4
General public article in national press	4
General public article in local press	2
Specialised press article	8
Internet article	177
TV news/reportage	5
Radio news/reportage	3
Film produced	
Film played on TV	
Film presented in events/festivals	
Exhibitions attended	
Information centre/Information kiosk	10
Project notice boards	30
Other (please specify)	
Total incurred cost (€)	37433

Table 6 - Publications

Type of publication	No. published	No. of copies	Languages (*)
Layman's report	1	5400	3 (PL, ENG, RUS)
Manuals			
Leaflets	7	30000	2 (PL, ENG)
Brochures	1	3000	1 (PL)
Posters	2	1000	1 (PL)
Books			
Technical publications			
Other: newsletters Product business card	4 1	1810 5000	2 (PL, ENG) 1 (PL)
Total incurred cost (€)	13228		

Table 7 - Educational activities

Establishment involved	No. of students
Kindergartens/Primary schools	760
Secondary schools	
Higher education establishments	
Total incurred cost (€)	970

7. Annexes

1. Aquatic Warbler site management recommendations, letters from managing institution (action A1)
2. Maps of regular Aquatic Warbler land management at project sites (action A2)
3. Maps of area occupied by AW for main sites (action A2)
4. Rural Development Programme and Agri-Environmental Schemes advocacy documents – letters with comments, conference agenda (action A3)
5. Feasibility study on biomass-fuelled cogeneration (action A5)
6. Feasibility study on biomass-fuelled cogeneration – letters from authorities (action A5)
7. Land purchase maps (action B1)
8. Appraisal studies for land purchase (action B1)
9. Land purchase - notary deeds (action B1)
10. Land register and documents from the court on changes in the land registry (action B1)
11. Land purchase - the court decisions (action B1)
12. Maps of project's conservation actions at project sites (C1-C3)
13. Documentation of AES biomass sale (action C2)
14. Pictures of preparation works and running the pelleting facility (action C6)
15. Pelleting facility efficiency test report (action C6)
16. Maps of information boards localization at Biebrza (action D1)
17. Web page visits report (action D2)
18. Promotion materials: newsletter #4 (action D3)
19. Information stands in 2014 - photos (action D3)
20. Sample articles about the project in the media (action D4)
21. Final conference - agenda and list of participants (action D5)
22. Minutes from the exchange visit at Belarus (action D6)
23. Graphical project of information boards, banner and bags for pellets advertising OTOPellet (action D7)
24. Partnership agreements - amendment of the agreement with Eko-Różanka, FUT Zelent and RSPB (action E1)
25. Report from the NFOŚiGW audit (action E1)
26. Project steering group meeting no 8 and 9 - minutes, lists of participants (action E2)
27. Technical Task Force meeting - agenda, participants list, report from meeting (action E3)
28. After-LIFE Conservation Plan (action E4)
29. Layman's Report - PL, ENG, RUS (action E4)
30. Project audit report (action E5)
31. The monitoring of Aquatic Warbler population: report for 2014 (action E6)
32. The monitoring of land use: report for 2013 (action E7)
33. The monitoring of land use: report for 2014 (action E7)
34. The monitoring of biomass use: report for 2013 (action E8)
35. The monitoring of biomass use: report for 2014 (action E8)
36. The report from economy of biomass use systems (action E9)
37. The annual monitoring report for 2013 (action E10)
38. The final monitoring report (action E10)
39. The information on the bid for Biebrza NP land winners