

TECHNICAL REPORT

Conservation of wetlands in Ķemeri National Park, Latvia

Project LIFE2002/NAT/LV/8496



INTERIM REPORT WITH PAYMENT REQUEST
Covering period 1 September 2002 – 31 December 2005



Picture: renaturalised Slampe river, 12th May 2005

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Section 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the project

Ķemeri National Park is a comparatively new (1997) nature conservation area in Latvia, comprising 380 km² of diverse habitats of EU priority such as mire woods, black alder swamps, raised bogs, rich fens etc. About a half of the territory (19 500 ha) is directly targeted by the project. The territory of the park and the project area host rich populations of species listed in the Bern Convention and EC Birds and Habitats Directives, e.g., *Crex crex*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Porzana porzana*, *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Lynx lynx*, *Canis lupus* etc. The lake Kaņieris is designated as an internationally important wetland under Ramsar Convention and is an important site for migratory and nesting bird species. Ķemeri National Park is an Important Bird Area and CORINE site. The area holds about 30 habitats of Community importance listed in the Bern Convention and EC Habitats Directive. Due to such a high biodiversity whole area of Ķemeri National Park is NATURA 2000 site.

In 2000-2001, with the support from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, the nature protection (management) plan for the park was elaborated and its practical implementation was necessary. This LIFE project serves as the first step toward implementation of the management plan through specific management measures related to the on-site protection of valuable wetland areas within the park. At the same time should be recognised that the nature protection plan is not detailed and numerous issues have to be developed while implementing this project.

Section 2. SUMMARY

2.1. Summary table of activities

Tasks	Foreseen start-date	Actual start-date	Foreseen end-date	Actual end-date	Status
A1 Hydrological and engineering investigations	Sep 2002	Dec 2002	Jun 2006	-	Investigations for C2 in final stage, design for E6 started, others completed
A2 Announcing Call for Tender for construction works	Apr 2003	Jul 2004	Jun 2006	-	Tenders for C2 and E6 remaining
B1 Land purchase	Dec 2002	Dec 2002	Oct 2005	Dec 2005	Completed
C1 Restoring the hydrological monitoring system	Jun 2004	Jan 2004	Oct 2006	Dec 2005	Completed, additional tasks might come from requirements for C2
C2 Blocking drainage ditches and ensuring access to the bog surroundings after raising water level	Jan 2005	-	Oct 2006	-	Not started due to complicated approvals
C3 Restoring natural riverbed of the Slampe River	Jan 2005	Jan 2005	Jul 2005	Jul 2005	Completed
C4 Renewal of fish migration way between the lake Kaņieris and sea	Jan 2005	Feb 2006	Oct 2006	-	Not started due to necessity to repeat tendering four times
C5 Lowering the level of dry land of 4 artificial islands on lake Kaņieris	Jun 2005	-	Mar 2006	-	Not started due to long permitting and search of technology
C6 Natural grazing of the floodplain meadows by the River Slampe	Jun 2003	May 2004	Dec 2006	-	All animals arrived, fences built
C7 Aerial photography of the territory	Mar 2003	Mar 2003	Jun 2006	-	Photographs supplied, additional to be made
D1 Removing reed and scrubs in the area of 66 ha of meadows and calcareous fens	Jul 2003	Aug 2003	Oct 2006	-	Done every year so far
D2 Mowing the hay in the area of 140 ha of meadow	Aug 2003	Jul 2003	Oct 2003	Sep 2003	Done in 2003, later EU agro-environmental subsidies started
D3 Remove reed and scrubs from the islands on the lake Kanieris	Dec 2002	Dec 2002	Sep 2006	-	On-going on regular basis since Dec 2002
E1 Creating a home page of the park and the project	Jul 2003	Aug 2003	Dec 2006	-	Webpages made, updated
E2 Preparing the layman's report	Sep 2006	-	Dec 2006	-	
E3 Producing a video for visitors of the information centre about nature conservation and rare and endangered species in the park	Jan 2003	Sep 2003	Oct 2006	-	Company contracted, most material ready, waiting to cast LIFE project activities
E4 Producing DVD with info on the park and the project	Apr 2006	-	Dec 2006	-	
E6 Establishing a field station near river Slampe	Mar 2005	Not started	Jul 2006	-	Delayed due to waiting for project modifications (changed location)
E7 Media work	Sep 2002	Sep 2002	Dec 2006	-	On-going

F1 Establishment of project office and administration	Sep 2002	Sep 2002	Oct 2003	Dec 2002	Done
F2 Project administration	Sep 2002	Nov 2002	Dec 2006	-	On-going
F3 Project monitoring	Jan 2003	Jan 2003	Dec 2006	-	On-going

2.2. Land purchase situation

Land/rights purchase			Land/rights lease		
NATURA 2000 site code	ha foreseen	ha purchased to date	NATURA 2000 site code	ha foreseen	ha leased to date
Kemeri National park LV0200200	163,2	163,2	-	-	-

2.3. Milestones during report period and checklist of identifiable products

2.3.1. SUMMARY OF PROJECT MILESTONES

Milestone	Number of action	Initially planned	Accomplished
Project office arranged	F1	September 2002	Yes, December 2002
Project staff contracted	F1	December 2002	Yes, December 2002
Meadows fenced	C6	December 2004	Autumn 2004
Technical investigations finished	A1	May 2006	Planned in May 2006
River Slampe meandered	C3	May 2005	May 2005
Call for Tender announced	A2	May 2006	Last planned in May 2006
Free-ranging horses and cows released	C6	September 2005	15 wild cows in Slampe – October 2004 10 horses - August 2005
Purchase of land completed	B1	September 2005	Completed in summer 2005, registered in December 2005
Sluice reconstructed	C4	September 2006	Planned in September 2006
Greater Kemeri Bog monitoring system established	C1	October 2006	Completed, some activities for C2 can take place in 2006
Level of 4 artificial islands on the Lake Kanieris is decreased	C5	February 2006	Planned in February 2006
Field station by river Slampe built	E6	June 2006	Planned in June 2006
Aerial photos of the territory taken	C7	June 2006	Last photos to be taken in spring 2006
Drainage ditches blocked; culverts, road repaired	C2	September 2006	September 2006
Meadows and fens cleaned from reeds and scrubs	D1	Continuous, 22 ha/year	The planned area has been cleared every year
Reeds and scrubs removed from islands of Kanieris	D3	Continuous, 12 ha/year	The planned area has been cleared as often as necessary
Media work	E7	Continuous	Started in December 2002, ongoing
Administration of the project	F2	Continuous	Started in September 2002, ongoing
Project monitoring	F3	Continuous	Started in January 2003, ongoing

2.3.2. SUMMARY OF DELIVERABLE PRODUCTS

Deliverable	Foreseen due date	Transmission date	Accomplished
Çemeri NP home page with highlights on the project established (E1)	August 2005	March 2005	Project homepage made in August 2003, major updates two times. Çemeri NP homepage made in March 2005
Layman's report (E2)	December 2006	-	-
Video about nature conservation in the ÇKNP (E3)	September 2006	-	-
DVD produced (E4)	December 2006	-	-
Final report (F2)	March 2007	-	-

2.4. Budget breakdown – situation in 31st December 2005

PROJECT FUNDING

Sources of direct financing + Applicant and partners' share of costs	Planned amount EURO	Spent amount EURO
1. Community contribution requested	990 908	391 173,97
2. Applicant's share of project costs	311 552	120 334,54
3. Partners' share of project costs	18 750	-
4. Co-financiers' contribution (other than EC)	-	-
TOTAL PROJECT COST	1 321 210	511 508,51

PROVISIONAL BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Budget item	Total costs EURO	Spent EURO
1. Personnel	382 812	154 271,37
2. Travel	24 000	3 983,43
3. External assistance	461 807	94 686,68
4. Durable goods	183 612	70 639,25
5. Land purchase/lease	113 421	108 666,76
6. Consumable material	70 439	36 472,67
7. Other costs	21 660	4 013,53
8. Overheads	63 459	38 774,82
TOTAL	1 321 210	511 508,51

2.5. Problems or difficulties experienced

Main difficulties throughout the project have been the following:

- **Fast increase of land prices.** This forced us to scale down the land purchase actions in modified project document. Land purchase according to modified project document has been done, while the non-purchased land has got stronger protection regime during the project life time and is not endangered by human activity now.
- **Refuse to sell/use land in key locations.** Fast increase of land prices had changed the mind of many landowners refusing to permit long-term nature conservation activities on their land. This has forced us to decrease the area of activity C6 (grazing) and to change the locality of action E6 (field station), as well as to exclude action E5 (management station at Lake Kanieris).
- **Long permitting procedures** by authorities have seriously delayed the most complicated, unique actions, especially C2 (renaturalisation of Kemeris bog) and C3 (Renaturalisation of Slampe river). This has forced us to ask for prolongation of project which has been accepted.

As a result throughout 2005 there were elaborated **project modifications** which were accepted by Commission in December 2005. There were made multiple modifications to the project but the main have been – decrease of land purchase program, decrease of the meadow area to be grazed, extension of project by one year - until the end of 2006.

Section 3. TECHNICAL REPORT (BY ACTIVITY)

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

ACTION A.1. Hydrological and engineering investigations:

Overall progress:

Project proposal envisaged that this activity is covering all the investigation and designing needs for the following six activities of current project: C.1., C.2., C.3., C.4., C.5., E.6. Each of these activities is planned separately and is having each its own time schedule. This has resulted in separate timing for each of the hydrological and engineering investigations.

Investigations for C1, C3, C5 completed, for C2 and E6 on-going, for C4 – included into action C4 and on-going.

Restore the hydrological monitoring system (C1)

Progress:

Completed in December 2005.

The aim to develop sound, cheap and efficient groundwater monitoring system in Kemerī Great bog met with problems of past monitoring system. Long history of earlier hydrological monitoring in this unique bog left enormous amount of rather chaotic information as well as unknown amount of existing monitoring boreholes in bog. This project was excellent opportunity to bring this enormous amount of information in order by creating comprehensive data layers in Kemerī National Park GIS system and other data files.

Important task was development of hydrological monitoring system for the unique nature conservation activity – Slampe River renaturalisation project located at the western rim of Great Kemerī bog.

May 2003 – July 2004	Preparation of preliminary requirements to hydrological monitoring system in Great Kemerī bog, done by external expert Robertas Gavenas.
November 2003 – December 2004	Compilation of existing hydrological information about Greater Kemerī bog from various sources (Geology Library, Hydrometeorological Agency, private enterprises), preparation of MS Access database of information sources – done by project hydrogeologist and external expert Robertas Gavenas.
November 2003 – May 2004	Compilation and digitisation of data from the former hydrological monitoring station (years 1946 – 1996) – done by project hydrogeologist under action F2
November 2003 – December 2005	Creation of Kemerī National Park borehole database. Currently in GIS system database included information about 1 203 boreholes. Done by project hydrogeologist under action F2.
May 2004 – August 2004	Elaboration of requirements for hydrological monitoring system in Slampe River renaturalisation site, done by project team under action F2.

Block drainage ditches and ensure access to the bog surroundings after raising water level (C2)

Progress:

To be completed in March 2006.

There has been made topographical measuring, elaborated technical project, made mathematical modelling of Great Kemeris bog, preliminary environment impact assessment made, approvals from three municipalities and technical conditions from Jelgava Environmental Protection Board and Ventspils Environmental Protection Board received and included in the project design (project is located in area of three Environmental Protection Boards). Technical conditions by Lielriga Environmental Protection board to be issued in March 2006.

December 2002	Price quotation to select the designer. One valid bid from company "Meliorprojekts" received.
December 2002 – February 2006	Design contract concluded with "Meliorprojekts", company responsible for design and approval procedures
December 2003 – January 2004	Preliminary approval from Valgunde, Sala, Slampe, Dzukste municipalities for design works
January 2004 – March 2006	Elaborated conditions for the design, Lielriga, Ventspils and Jelgava Regional Environmental Boards. Lielriga Environmental Protection Board transfers the project to Environment Impact Assessment Bureau in May 2005
June – September 2004	Public hearings about the project in Sala, Slampe, Valgunde municipalities
September – October 2004	Receiving of construction permits from municipalities
September – December 2004	Debates with Ventspils and Jelgava Regional Boards, receiving of conclusions from the boards
May 2005 – February 2006	Environmental Impact Assessment Bureau assessing the project. Project is located in area where unique sulphuric water is generated – thus mathematical modelling is asked to assess the impact on these resources. When conclusion is received, permit for works issued and project returned to Lielriga Environmental Protection Board for further assessment.
August 2005 – January 2006	Mathematical modelling of Great Kemeris Bog done by company "Procesu analizes un izpetes centrs". Result – planned activities will decrease the total resources of sulphuric water by 0,05%, there is no influence on main directions of sulphuric water flows. These changes are considered to be of minor importance.
Beginning of February 2006	Results of the mathematical modelling have been approved by State Environment Impact Assessment Bureau, the project has been approved by this institution without rising any other requirements. Now only the permit from Lielriga Regional Environmental Board is pending.

Additional information:

- Appendix 1 – Report, mathematical modelling of great Kemeris Bog

Restore natural riverbed of the river Slampe (C3)

Completed in January 2005. This has been unique exercise for involved institutions as this was the first large scale river renaturalisation project in Latvia. To large extent this explains the long permitting procedure.

Progress:

December 2002	Price quotation to select the designer. One valid bid from company "Meliorprojekts" received.
December 2002 – December 2004	Design contract concluded with "Meliorprojekts", company responsible for design and approval procedures
December 2002 – July 2005	Purchase of land in project site under activity B1. All the land in project site was owned by private owners in December 2002.
17. August 2004	North Kurzeme Regional Agriculture Board rises additional requirements for the project to be approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - groundwater monitoring system to be developed in project site. In November 2004 this requirement is implemented. - Approval from all the land owners around the project site. The consultations with several landowners have been done in August - September. In all cases landowners required state paid long-term investigations of groundwater changes in their land, in one case (Jaunbrigi land) the idea of the project on neighbouring land was not supported at all. In October North Kurzeme Regional Agriculture Board lifted this requirement after receiving repeated calculations showing that groundwater change will not affect neighbouring lands.
February – October 2004	Unsuccessful conversations with the owner of neighbouring land parcel "Jaunbrigi"
October – November 2004	Changes in the design of project to avoid the influence on "Jaunbrigi" land. The estuary of the "new" Slampe river is moved to the east.
November – December 2004	Final approvals from municipalities and Ventspils Regional Environmental Board. Project handed over to Kemeri National Park for further implementation.
December 2004 – January 2005	Independent revision of the project by Ministry of Agriculture. No significant changes required.

Renewal of fish migration between the lake Kaņieris and sea (C4)

Activity included in C4, on-going.

Progress:

After initial technical assessment (done in winter 2003/2004) it became clear that the initial plans to build new fish migration way around the sluice gates are not realistic. Another solution – to reconstruct the two existing sluice gates – provides even better results than the fish migration way. Consecutive opening of sluice gates in migration periods allow for any migrating species to enter the lake, while fish migration way can be built only for specific species. Renovation of sluice gates requires close, simultaneous cooperation between designers, developers of mechanical equipment and construction company. Thus here was taken decision to make single "turn-key" project for design, production of mechanical equipment and construction. All these activities will go under action C4.

Bureaucratical procedures in case of this project were simplified by the fact that this is not new project but reconstruction of existing sluice gates.

November 2003 – January 2004	Technical assessment of condition at Lake Kanieris sluice gate by “Meliorprojekts” (the same people who designed the current sluice gate)
15 th June 2004	Lapmezciems municipality takes decision to transfer the land around sluice gates to Kemeru National Park
April – June 2004	Kemeru Park prepares documents and Lapmezciems municipality announces public hearings about the reconstruction of sluice gate. No negative replies received.

Lower the level of dry land of 4 artificial islands on the lake Kanieris (C5)

Completed.

Progress:

Although the activity itself does not have large scale, there are two factors complicating it: 1) islands are located in protected nature area. Even if Kemeru National park itself is managing this area, there is needed good concordance with other environmental authorities and municipality to do this action. 2) it is technically complicated to move technics over the shallow lake to the islands. Here are possible only two options – use the time when the lake is frozen or use floating excavator/leveller.

November – December 2004	Public hearings in Lapmezciems municipality about the draft project
November 2004 – September 2005	Elaboration of design documents, technical solutions, getting necessary approvals from municipality and Ventspils Regional Environmental Board
August – September 2004	Repeated inventory of the habitats of EU importance on the islands by park employees. Alkaline fens on islands mapped, excluded from levelling.
December 2004 – January 2005	Receiving of the necessary approval from municipality and Ventspils Regional Environmental Board

Additional information:

- Appendix 2 – Report, design for lowering the level of 4 islands on the Lake Kanieris

Establish a field station near river Slampe (E6)

On-going, to be completed in May 2006.

Progress:

Initially project envisaged establishment of field station in another location – near River Lielupe. Due to unsolved land issues at River Lielupe site and due to higher public interest in Slampe River project site there was proposed modification in project – to move the site of field station over to River Slampe. This was supported by EU in late December 2005. No design works have been started before this decision.

January 2003 – August 2003	Conversations with the landowner in the southern part of Lielupe meadows (Gneiss dolostone quarry) about the access to the planned field station. The owner is not willing to give sufficient warranties for long-term support to environmental tourism through his land.
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August 2004 – October 2004	Conversations with the landowner in the northern part of Lielupe meadows (Odini) about the establishment of field station at his land. Finally the owner rejected the idea about field station near his home and visitors passing through his land.
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ACTION A.2: Announcing Call for Tender works

Overall progress:

Project proposal envisaged that this activity is covering all the tendering for the following activities of current project: C.1., C.2., C.3., C.4., C.5., E.6. Each of these activities is planned separately and is having each its own time schedule. This has resulted in separate timing for each of the tenderings.

Tendering for C1, C3, C4, C5 completed, for C2 and E6 – to be organised after completion of design.

Restore the hydrological monitoring system (C1)

July - August 2004	Elaboration of tender documents, tendering procedure for the development of Slampe river project (C3) monitoring system. Done by project team.
23. August 2004	Concluded agreement with the winner of price quotation - company "VentEko" about the development of hydrological monitoring system in Slampe river project site with 13 monitoring boreholes, analyses of the first samples.
August – October 2004	Elaboration of tender documents, price quotation procedure for the technical assessment of the existing Greater Ķemeri bog hydrological monitoring system – checking the technical condition of 90 boreholes, measuring, sampling the water and giving conclusion about the state of each borehole. Done by project team.
4 October 2004	Concluded agreement with the winner of price quotation (3 bids) – company "Firma L4"
August – September 2005	Elaboration of tender documents, price quotation for the mathematical modelling of Greater Ķemeri bog – assessment of potential impact of action C2 on the sulphuric water genesis in Great Ķemeri bog. Done by project team.
23 September 2005	Concluded agreement with the winner of price quotation (2 bids) – company "Procesu analyzes un izpetes centrs"

Restoration of natural riverbed in Slampe River (C3)

November - December 2004	Project team organised price quotation for Slampe River meandering project – three bids received. Winner – company "Visko Ltd."
4 January 2005	Concluded agreement with the winner of price quotation – company "Visko" Ltd.

Renewal of fish migration between the lake Kaņieris and sea (C4)

This turned out to be the most complex tendering procedure – the work to be done is very complicated and at the same time – of small scale. This requires high expertise but at the same time does not promise high profits for the winner of the bid. As a result project team had to organise 4 (!) tenders until we got a valid bid and made an agreement. The price of works asked in the

winning bid was considerably higher than in initial project proposal and we had to wait for approval of modifications in project (December 2005) before making agreement.

July 2004	Price quotation on construction and detailed design works of sluice gate. The only bid - from company "DHB" wins, price 33 626 EUR. Started contract negotiations, agreed to make the contract after contracting the supplier of mechanical equipment.
July 2004 – August 2004	Project team prepares tendering documents for the supply of mechanical equipment with the (non paid) assistance of consultants from "DHB".
24 August 2004 – 10 October 2004	Tendering procedure about supply of mechanical equipment for Kanieris sluice gate.
10 October 2004	Opening of the tender bid. Received one proposal, it complies with the requirements – Czech company "MVE technika". Price – 42 714 EUR.
October 2004 – March 2005	Contract negotiations with the companies. In meantime the prices on metal have sharply risen, several other costs have risen as well. As there is no profit from these works expected anymore, both winners have no interest in this contract and negotiations fail.
March – April 2005	Consultations with the hydroengineering companies in Latvia about the conditions for tendering
22 April– 20 May 2005	Next open tender organised, invitations sent out to hydroengineering companies in Latvia. No bids received.
16 June – 14 July 2005	Next open tender organised, one valid bid from company "VND 2" received. Bid is valid but the price (185 000 EUR) exceeds the planned price for activity (150 000 EUR).
July – December 2005	Waiting for approval of project modifications by EU.
30 January 2006	Agreement about implementation of works concluded with "VND 2".

Lowering the level of dry land of 4 artificial islands on the lake Kanieris (C5)

Similar to previous situation, it is hard to find companies willing to implement this activity due to technical complexity (transport of technics over the shallow water). One tendering procedure ended with no bids, second got one valid bid but later the winner could not realise the works as planned and there was no agreement concluded. Winner of the tender – company " VND 2" is ready to realise the works though during the winter 2005/2006 or in the worst case in summer 2006.

April – May 2005	Preparation of price quotation documents by project team, announcement of price quotation. No bids received.
May – July 2005	Consultations with different companies about the problems regarding these works. Observations taken into account while preparing new price quotation.
August – September 2005	Preparation of new price quotation. One valid bid from company "VND 2" received.
September – December 2005	The technics aimed at implementation of the action (the only floating excavator in Baltics) not available and agreement with company "VND 2" not concluded. Still "VND 2" maintains their readiness to implement the action throughout 2006.

Establish a field station near river Slampe (E6)

Price quotations would be organised after the completion of design works in May 2006.

Budget, activity A: (red figures – spent so far)

Actio n	1. Perso nnel	2. Travel	3. Extern al assist ance	4. Durabl e goods	5. Land purchas e/ lease	6. Con sum able mate rial	7. Other costs	8. Overh eads	TOTAL
A1	23 000 1765,68	-	45 000 9 171,75	-	-	1 570	- 21,34	6 608 3 391,05	76 178 14 349,82
A2	4 000	-	- 35,93		-	1 000	1 000 355,7	-	6 000 391,63
Total costs, EURO	27 000 1765,68	-	45 000 9 207,68	-	-	2 570	1 000 377,04	6 608 3 391,05	82 178 14 741,45

B. Purchase/lease of land and/or rights

ACTION B.1: Land purchase

Progress:

This action has been implemented as described in modified project document. In total there have been purchased 163,2 ha of land for nature conservation purpose.

Initial project document envisaged more ambitious program of purchase – due to this land valuations and correspondence has been made about other, non-purchased land parcels as well.

For successful meandering of Slampe river project (C3) we made an attempt to purchase the neighbouring land parcel „Jaunbrigi” (area 6,1 ha). Independent evaluation showed that the market price of this land parcel is 390 EUR per ha. Unfortunately the land owner repeatedly asked price which considerably exceeded the market price – 1480 EUR. Project refused this purchase.

Owner did not agree to any changes in hydrological regime on his land as well. To avoid influence on this land the Slampe River meandering project was redesigned and approved during September – December 2004.

December 2002 – March 2004	Announcements about land purchase program placed in respective municipalities. Letters about our intent to purchase the land sent to landowners, correspondence on-going.
10 June 2003	Notary certification of purchase agreement of three land parcels;
19 July 2003	Concluded agreement about purchase of three land parcels in Slampe River meadows (two parcels named “Dunduri” and one – “Parupes”, total area – 159,3 ha)
June – September 2003	Independent evaluation of land parcels “Dunduri” and “Parupes”
March 2004	In former correspondence with European Commission agreed the following: - approved purchase of three land parcels (two “Dunduri” parcels and “Parupes”); - agreed possible purchase of land parcel “Jaunbrigi” (was not done);
23 July 2004 – 1 September 2004	Independent evaluation of land parcels “Pārslas” and “Jaunbrigi”
February – October 2004	Unsuccessful conversations with the owner of “Jaunbrigi” at Slampe River area. As a result we refuse to buy land from him (price well above market prices asked) and order the redesign of River Slampe renaturalisation project.
March – June 2005	Preparation of documentation for government order on purchase of “Pārslas”. Legislation has changed and now there is needed government order to purchase the land from private owners.
8 June 2005	Government order No. 380 on purchase of “Pārslas” issued.

13 July 2005	Agreement about purchase of "Pārslas" (3,9 ha, 2 134 EUR) concluded, price paid and land parcel officially becomes owned by state for nature conservation needs.
December 2005	Registration of purchased land. Paid registration fee and land is formally entered in land register as state property – thus project obligations fulfilled.

Additional information:

- Appendix 3 – Map, overview of the purchased land.
- Appendix 4 – Independent valuations of purchased land.

Total budget, activity B: (red figures – spent so far)

Action	1. Personnel	2. Travel	3. External assistance	4. Durable goods	5. Land purchase/ lease	6. Consumable material	7. Other costs	8. Overheads	TOTAL
B1	-	-	2 279 1 544,68	-	113 421 108 666,76	500	2 000 2 467,64	-	118 200 112 679,08
Total costs, EURO	-	-	2 279 1 544,68	-	113 421 108 666,76	500	2 000 2 467,64	-	118 200 112 679,08

C. Non-recurring management

ACTION C.1: Restore the hydrological monitoring system

Progress: Completed.

Project set the following aim – to bring in order the information about the former monitoring systems as well as to check the current condition of existing boreholes. This goal was complicated enough to keep us occupied for several years and led to conclusion that new hydrological monitoring system is needed as far as to monitor the results of action C2 and C3.

Mathematical modelling done for action C2 decreases need for long-term hydrological monitoring. Monitoring of action C2 will not require installation of new boreholes, there will be developed simple system of surface water level monitoring by the company implementing action C2.

Monitoring will be done by Kemerri national Park staff.

There has been developed complex system of hydrological monitoring for action C3

(renaturalisation of Slampe River), monitoring is done by project team until the end of project and will be continued by Kemerri National Park staff after the end of the project.

January 2004 – December 2005	Search of old monitoring boreholes in Kemerri Great bog, preliminary assessment of the state of boreholes, inclusion of information in GIS system. 207 old boreholes found and assessed so far. Done by project hydrologist under action F2.
5 May - 6 June 2003	First open tender about car (together with car for C2). Bid too expensive, decided to make simpler requirements and announce one more tender.
19 June – 21 July 2003	Second open tender about car (together with car for C2). Dealer "Baltic Motors" wins.
18 August 2003	Car "Ford Ranger" supplied
August – November 2004	Development of Slampe river hydrological monitoring system (10 shallow monitoring boreholes and 3 deeper boreholes), first sampling and analyse. Done by company "Vent Eko".
October – November 2004	Technical assessment of 99 existing and monitoring boreholes in Greater Kemerri bog which have better condition visually. There were made technical conclusions about each borehole. Done by "Firma L4". As a result – out of 1 203 boreholes only 23 former boreholes can be used for some simple monitoring exercises, f.e. measurements of groundwater level. None can be used for hydrochemical analysis. Assessment shows - there is no need to make new caps for boreholes for protection of groundwater.

ACTION C.2: Blocking drainage ditches and ensuring access to the bog surroundings after raising water level

Progress: Not started due to long permitting procedures (see A1). Durable goods purchased and supplied.

January – February 2003	Price quotation about the supply of ATV organised. "Kesko Agro" bid wins.
8 April 2004	ATV "Yamaha" supplied by "Kesko Agro".
5 May - 6 June 2003	First open tender about car (together with car for C1). Bid too expensive, decided to make simpler requirements and announce one more tender.

19 June – 21 July 2003	Second open tender about car (together with car for C1). Dealer “Baltic Motors” wins.
18 August 2003	Car “Ford Ranger” supplied

Time plan:

June - September 2006	Implementation of works in the eastern part of Greater Kemeris Bog, former peat quarries. Reconstruction of dam, construction of dams from concrete
June - September 2006	Construction of 22 smaller dams on the dikes around Greater Kemeris Bog
June - September 2006	Technical supervision of the works, external assistance.

ACTION C.3: Restoring natural riverbed of the river Slampe

Progress: Completed in May 2005. As a result of this project there has been realised the first large scale river renaturalisation project in Baltic states – instead of straight less than 2 km long stretch of river we have got more than 4 km long meandered stream.

Time plan:

January – May 2005	Meandering of the Slampe river according to the technical project, external assistance, company “Visko Ltd.”
January – May 2005	Technical supervision of the works, external assistance, company “Meliorprojekts”

ACTION C.4: Building the fish migration way at the sluice by the lake Kanieris

Progress: Started in January 2006 (as described at A1 and A2).

Time plan:

January– May 2006	Design of construction works, permitting
January – August 2006	Production of mechanical equipment by Czech “MVE tehnika”
April – November 2006	Technical supervision of works
May – July 2006	Electrical works, site preparation
June – August 2006	Construction works before installation of mechanical equipment
August – September 2006	Supply and installation of mechanical equipment
September – November 2006	Testing and running the equipment, training, transfer to Kemeris National Park
November 2006 – November 2009	Warranty period

ACTION C.5: Lowering the level of dry land of 4 artificial islands on the lake Kanieris

Progress: Not started.

Time plan:

Works are planned for February 2006, when Lake Kanieris would be frozen and levellers would have a possibility to access the islands by ice. There exists a risk that the soil would be frozen too much, in such case there is possible another option – to use floating excavator “Watermaster” in July 2006. This device has been reserved to escape the situation of autumn 2005 when it was not available for works in Lake Kanieris.

ACTION C.6: Natural grazing of the floodplain meadows by the rivers Lielupe and Slampe

Progress:

Completed. Built 6 300 m of fence around 105 ha large area in Slampe River renaturalisation site (action C3), in nature released 15 wild cattle and 10 konik horses. Serious crisis happens in late February – early March 2005 when after strong frost die three cattle. Happily cattle survive even stronger and longer frost in January 2006 - thus we hope that they have adapted to local conditions which are considerably more harsh than in Belgium where they have born.

May 2004	Experience exchange trip to Lake Pape area, WWF wild animals grazing area. Farmers - future managers of the grazing sites in Kemer National Park participate.
May – June 2004	Correspondence between Kemer National Park and project partners <i>WWF Latvia</i> and <i>Stichting Ark</i> about the terms of further cooperation. Kemer National Park is interested in cooperation which does not involve high fee for consultancy. Reached agreement, which envisages that <i>WWF Latvia</i> takes over the obligations of <i>Stichting Ark</i> regarding the supply of animals to Kemer National Park. <i>Stichting Ark</i> is not partner to the project anymore, this is agreed by official letter (2. July 2004).
May – August 2004	After price quotation selected external assistant, made contract about the construction of fence. Built fence in Slampe river area which includes 161 ha of grazing area, length 6 300 m.
July – September 2004	Conversations, preparation of draft agreement about the grazing of animals in Jaunbrigi land – shrub area next to Slampe meadows. Initial positive agreement fails and owners is against the animals on his land. See description at B.1. – the intent to buy this land fails as well. The fence is reconstructed to exclude this land from the grazing area. Now the area inside the fence – 158 ha.
August 2004 – December 2005	Preparation of agreements with WWF Latvia about supply of animals to Kemer National Park, Slampe meadows and Lielupe meadows. The agreements involve also the managers – farmers.
June 2004 – August 2004	Establishment of fenced monitoring plots in Slampe meadows, collection of initial data
21 September 2004	Seminar for the landowners of Lielupe meadows about the agro-environmental funds, biological values of their land and the plans of Kemer National Park to develop here grazing area. Participate owners of 8 land parcels, the other owners of 4 parcels are not found. Some agree to let the animals on their land, others ask for time to analyse the situation. Lielupe River meadows are excluded from project by project modifications in December 2005.
4 – 10 October 2004	Experience exchange trip to Netherlands together with the future managers of grazing sites. Visited wild animal grazing sites in Oostvaardersplassen, Blauwe Kamer and several more places. With local managers discussed numerous technical and financial matters, agreed transportation of animals to Kemer National Park.
October 2004	Release of 15 wild cows in Slampe meadows

October 2004 – December 2005	Maintenance of fence, supervision of animals by farmer and park employees.
February – March 2005	After strong frost and wind several cattle die. Some days later there is supplied hay and built an bridge over Slampe River for the animals to access the forest. This unlucky event causes bad publicity and later explanations to the public by WWF Latvia and Ķemeri National Park. There is correspondence between project and European Commission (March, April and July 2005) about this event in order to find out if all the necessary actions have been taken.
June 2005	After the cattle escape from the fenced area there is installed electrical fence in part of fenced area. No escape happened since then.
21 August 2005	10 konik horses arrived in Slampe meadows. Two different species of large grazers will help to maintain meadow habitats here.
Late December 2005	After warnings about strong frost hay is supplied to Slampe meadows.
30 January 2006	Signed supplement to partnership agreement between Ķemeri National Park and WWF Latvia

Additional information:

- Appendix 6 – Supplement to partnership agreement between Ķemeri National Park and WWF Latvia;
- Appendix 7 – Financial documentation regarding purchase of Heck cattle

ACTION C.7: Aerial photography of the territory

Progress:

On-going. Ķemeri National park has received full set of high quality aerial photographs taken in 2003 and 2004. This work was done by State Land Service and maps were available for free for state institutions – this was not known initially when project proposal was written.

In spring 2006 there is planned repeated aerial photographing to be done by private company over a considerably smaller area in Slampe meadows and Lake Kanieris.

March 2003	Air photographing over the eastern area of Kemer National Park, State Land Service
June 2003 – July 2004	Postprocessing of photographs
August 2004	Handing over the aerophotographs to Kemer National Park
March 2004	Air photographing over the western area of Kemer National Park, State Land Service
June 2004 – May 2005	Postprocessing of photographs
May 2005	Handing over the aerophotographs to Kemer National Park

Time plan:

March – June 2006	Repeated photographing in the following areas: - Slampe meadows - Kanieris islands
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Total budget, activity C: (red figures – spent so far)

Action	1. Personnel	2. Travel	3. External assistance	4. Durable goods	5. Land purchase/ lease	6. Consumable material	7. Other costs	8. Overheads	TOTAL
C1	-	-	4 400 20 838,33	18 200 15 150,06	-	2 400	-	1 540 1 446,91	26 540 37 435,3
C2	38 000	-	114 000	24 900 24 484,77	-	14 350	-	860 260,92	192 110 24 745,69
C3	-	-	32 725 32 725,52	-	-	-	- 57,15	-	32 725 32 782,67
C4	6 000	-	124 420	58 062	-	7 000	660	-	196 142
C5	2 500	-	13 270	-	-	-	-	-	15 770
C6	14 476 529,74	-	8 280 8 284,79	18 750	-	8 700 3 438,77	3 000	2 501 686,37	55 707 12 939,67
C7	-	-	30 500	-	-	215 22,17	-	500 944,98	31 215 967,15
Total costs, EURO	60 976 529,74	-	327 595 61 848,64	119 912 39 634,83	-	32 665 3 460,94	3 660 57,15	5 401 3 339,18	550 209 108 870,48

D. Recurring management

ACTION D.1: Removing reed and scrubs in the area of 66 ha of meadows and calcareous fens

Progress: On-going. We do not use for this activity agro-environmental subsidies because for getting these subsidies meadows should be freed of bush. After this project it would be possible to continue maintenance of those meadows by agro-environmental subsidies.

August - September 2003	Cutting bushes in south-eastern part of Lake Kanieris, area 2 ha
September – November 2003	Cutting bushes in Lielupe meadows, 11 ha
9 September	Supply of 2 chainsaws by company “WESS Instrumenti un Tehnika”
October – November 2004	Cutting bushes in south-eastern part of Lake Kanieris, area 10 ha
August – October 2005	Cutting bushes in the following overgrown meadows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- bush near Lake Aklais (1,4 ha)- Antinciems calphyllous meadow (1,5 ha)- Kaski overgrown meadows (25,9 ha)- Labais purvs overgrown meadows (1,2 ha)

Time plan:

August – September 2006	Cutting bushes near Lake Aklais, Antinciems, Kaski, Labais purvs, circa 30 ha
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Additional information:

- Appendix 7 – Locations of action D1 and D2;

ACTION D.2: Mowing the hay in the area of 140 ha of meadows

Progress: On-going

July - September 2003	Mowed 21,2 ha of Lielupe meadows and 139,5 ha of Slampe meadows
Since July 2004	Agro-environmental subsidies for management of biologically valuable grasslands available. Kemeru National park has assisted local farmers to apply for these subsidies and to include the needed meadows in the list. There is not used LIFE financing for further activities in these meadows. Kemeru national park continues to follow the activities in these meadows.

Additional information:

- Appendix 7 – Locations of action D1 and D2;

ACTION D.3: Remove reed and scrubs from the islands on the lake Kanieris

Progress: On-going

March 2003	Cutting of scrub on islands, 4 ha
August 2003	Mowing the reed around islands in Lake Kanieris, 16,2 ha
September – October 2003	Cutting scrub on islands, 5 ha
February 2004	Cutting scrub on islands, 4 ha
December 2005 – April 2006	Removing of scrubs from islands, 12 ha

Total budget, activity D: (red figures – spent so far)

Action	1. Personnel	2. Travel	3. External assistance	4. Durable goods	5. Land purchase/ lease	6. Consumable material	7. Other costs	8. Overheads	TOTAL
D1	11 000 1 452,01	-	- 2 655,26	4 000 930,85	-	3 620	-	-	18 620 5 038,12
D2	-	-	4 000 4 258,11	-	-	-	-	-	4 000 4 258,11
D3	14 200	-	- 853,73	2 200	-	1 560	-	-	17 960 853,73
Total costs, EURO	25 200 1 452,01	-	4 000 7 767,10	6 200 930,85	-	5 180	-	-	40 580 10 149,96

E. Public awareness and dissemination of results

ACTION E.1: Create a home page of the park and the project

Progress: Completed. Updates to be done throughout 2006.

August 2003	Development of the first LIFE project Webpage.
January - March 2005	Development of new home page for Ķemeri National Park by project team and Ķemeri National park staff. Since early April 2005 on www.kemeri.gov.lv there is available new Webpage with much more comprehensive information about Ķemeri National park, its values, employees, goals, news (the last – in Latvian only).
August 2005	Making of new design for LIFE project homepage (http://www.kemeri.gov.lv/life/life_indexENG.htm) in order to coordinate its design with the design of Ķemeri National Park homepage. Updates to content. Done by the project team under action F2.
December 2005 – January 2006	Overhaul of LIFE project homepage, inclusion of modified project document and update of project descriptions, done by project team under F2.

Time plan:

February – December 2006	Placing LIFE project news in homepage
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ACTION E.2: Prepare the layman's report

Progress: Not started.

Time plan:

September – December 2006	Creation of layman's report
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ACTION E.3: Produce a video for visitors of the information centre about nature conservation and rare and endangered species in the park

Progress: This action is progressing well – we have hired services of experienced casting crew and there is expected good quality product at the end.

September 2003 - now	Casting crew has been fixing the important events in the life of project and National Park
February – May 2003	Preparation of tender documents to select the company to do this work. During this time period we made slight modifications to initial plans – we ordered to make three different products – two video films and short advertisement clip. This modification was approved by European Commission and included in modified project document.
12 May – 11 June 2003	Open tender, one valid bid received from "Vides Filmu Studija";
June – August 2003	Contract negotiations;
18 August 2003	Concluded agreement with company "Vides Filmu Studija" about casting two films and a short clip about Ķemeri National Park.

September 2003 – December 2005	Operators of Vides Filmu Studija take part in important events of LIFE project and other events in Ķemeri National park in order to make more informative movies. Landscape and wildlife stories casted.
January 2004	First report and scenario by Vides Filmu Studija prepared;
23 January 2004	Radiomicrophone and accessories supplied by company "Muzikala Dizaina grupa"
March 2005	Second report by Vides Filmu Studija prepared;
January 2006	Agreement with Vides Filmu Studija extended as the project is extended until the end of 2006. This does not involve additional costs.

Time plan:

September 2003 – September 2006	Casting and producing movies, montage, copying, presentation
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ACTION E.4: Produce DVD with info on the park and the project

Progress: Not started.

Time plan:

May – June 2006	Price quotation, contracting
July – December 2006	Producing the DVD

ACTION E.6: Establish a field station near river Slampe

Progress: Not started.

Time plan:

May – June 2006	Construction of facilities in the field station
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ACTION E.7: Media work

Progress: On-going. There have been multiple articles about the actions of LIFE project in local and national newspapers, TV, radio, Internet.

27 January – 4 February 2003	Price quotation about supply of server and programs. Company "Balta" wins.
25 February 2003	Server, its accessories and programs supplied.
25 February – 17 March 2003	Price quotation about supply of video projector and screen organised. Company "Balta" wins.
29 April 2003	Video projector and screen supplied by company "Balta", installed.
2 February 2005	World Wetlands day – Ķemeri National Park (including project team) informs local school about the uniqueness of Great Ķemeri bog and planned activities there.
15 July 2005	Official presentation of Slampe River renaturalisation project to the public. Opening by Minister of Environment. Participate more than 40 people – mainly journalists and representatives from other nature conservation authorities and NGO's.

Time plan:

September 2006	Presentation of works done in Great Ķemeri bog
October 2006	Gala presentation of movies
November 2006	Presentation of reconstructed sluice gate
Whole project time	Work with media

Total budget, activity E: (red figures – spent so far)

Action	1. Personnel	2. Travel	3. External assistance	4. Durable goods	5. Land purchase/ lease	6. Consumable material	7. Other costs	8. Overheads	TOTAL
E1	7 000	-	1 560	-	-	-	-	-	8 560
E2	4 000	-	1 000	-	-	5 000	-	-	10 000
E3	-	-	34 500	2 500	-	2 560	-	2 330	41 890
			9 888,74	638,02		175,43		2 988,05	13 690,24
E4	-	-	11 500	-	-	1 000	-	-	12 500
E6	-	-	8 000	21 600	-	1 430	-	-	31 030
E7	12 000	-	1 500	14 400	-	1 130	-	600	29 630
				13 047,53		494,17		561,69	14 103,39
Total costs, EURO	23 000	-	58 060	38 500	-	11 120	-	2 930	133 610
			9 888,74	13 685,55		669,6		3 549,74	27 793,63

F. Overall project operation

ACTION F.1: Establishment of project office and administration

Progress: Completed.

September – December 2002	Recruitment of project team. Core project team (Project manager, project co-ordinator, secretary, bookkeeper, land purchase manager) starts working in 1 st December 2002.
November – December 2002	Minor repairs in the rooms of project management (External assistance).

ACTION F.2: Project administration

Progress: On-going. Project team works on continuous basis, the work is supervised by Consultative Board of Ķemeri National Park (includes representatives of all the local municipalities, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Latvian Fund for Nature). In September 2005 – January 2006 there was organised financial auditing of project in order to prepare better for this – interim report.

November 2002	Participation in “Eurosite” seminar in Slovenia by future project team.
1 December 2002 – December 2006	Core project team (Project manager, project co-ordinator, secretary, bookkeeper) working for the project.
December 2002 - March 2004	Land purchase manager Z. Berezovskis works for project, he organises announcements about our land purchase program, makes correspondence, organises independent land evaluation, prepares first land purchase agreement. The prices for land have risen and there is no possibility to continue land purchase program (as described in B1).
27 January – 4 February 2003	Price quotation about supply of two computers for project team. Company “Balta” wins.
27 January – 4 March 2003	Price quotation about supply of program Arc View 8.0, 2 sets. Company “Envirotech” wins.
25 February 2003	Two computers by company “Balta” supplied.
10 February 2003	Digital camera purchased.
5 – 28 March 2003	Price quotation about supply of colour laser printer organised. Company “Balta” wins.
15 April 2003	2 sets of Arc View 8.0 supplied by company “Envirotech”.
29 April 2003	Colour laser printer “Minolta” supplied by company “Balta”.
September 2003	First progress report prepared and sent to European Commission
2 – 3 October 2003	Experience exchange visit to Teici Nature Reserve LIFE project LIFE00NAT/LV/7124. Teici Nature Reserve has provided us with valuable information about the management of LIFE project, provided necessary support.
24 October 2003	One more computer supplied by company “Balta” (the price was below 1000 LVL, thus price quotation was not organised)

November 2003 – December 2005	Project hydrogeologist I. Maļika works part-time for project. She is the first geologist ever employed in Ķemeri National Park, does valuable work as described at A1, A2 and C1.
27 May – 4 June 2004	Price quotation about computer and programs, tender won by company “Balta”.
1 July 2004	Fourth computer supplied.
5 – 8 October 2004	Participation in “LIFE Co-op” seminar in Netherlands by two members of project team and Ķemeri National Park director.
January 2005	Second progress report prepared, initial set of project changes proposed for amendment.
April 2005	Initial response to European Commission about crisis in action C6 (death of three cattle) prepared.
July 2005	Final response to European Commission about crisis in action C6 prepared. Modified project document prepared.
August 2005	Price quotation organised about auditing of LIFE project. Three valid bids received, bid of company “Inspekcija AMJ” selected.
August – October 2005	Contract negotiations, waiting for EU decision about project modifications (received only in December 2005)
6 October 2005 – 31 January 2006	Auditing of LIFE project.
November - December 2005	Modified project document with time extension discussed and approved in European Commission.

Additional information:

- Appendix 8 – Auditor’s conclusion, auditor’s details;
- Appendix 9 – Letter from Ministry of Finance about application of VAT;
- Appendix 10 – Copies of orders regarding overhead expenses

ACTION F.3: Project monitoring

Progress:

Monitoring plan has been elaborated, monitoring systems have been set up under other actions and monitoring on-going. Employees of Ķemeri National Park during 2004 – 2005 have been collecting the initial information about the biology and hydrology.

January – April 2003	Elaboration of LIFE project monitoring plan by “Latvijas Dabas fonds”
May – June 2003	Establishment of network of biological monitoring stations, 23 stations for botanical monitoring and 8 stations for hydro-biological monitoring.
June – September 2003	Collection of biological monitoring data
May – September 2004	Collection of biological monitoring data
May – September 2005	Collection of biological monitoring data
March 2005 – November 2005	Collection of hydrological data, River Slampe renaturalisation project.

Time plan:

Further monitoring activities would be done according to the corresponding plans for hydrological and biological monitoring. There is elaborated comprehensive biological monitoring plan, Slampe river project hydrology monitoring plan.

Total budget, activity F: (red figures – spent so far)

Action	1. Personnel	2. Travel	3. External assistance	4. Durable goods	5. Land purchase/lease	6. Consumable material	7. Other costs	8. Overheads	TOTAL
F1	1 014	-	- 1 159,98	-	-	500	-	6 520 3 631,36	8 034 4 791,34
F2	225 622 147 127,02	24 000 3 983,43	16 780 262,19	19 000 16 388,02	-	15 200 32 342,13	15 000 1 111,70	42 000 24 864,49	357 602 226 078,98
F3	20 000 3 396,92	-	8 093 3 007,67	-	-	2 704	-	-	30 797 6 404,59
Total costs, EURO	246 636 150 523,94	24 000 3 983,43	24 873 4 429,84	19 000 16 388,02	-	18 404 32 342,13	15 000 1 111,70	48 520 28 495,85	396 433 237 274,91