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Vilnius, 20.06.2006

European Commission  
Directorate-General  
Environment  
Directorate E – International affairs & LIFE  
ENV.E.4 – LIFE  
Attn: Deputy Head of Unit, Mr. Joaguim CAPITÃO  
B-1049 Brussel  
BELGIUM

**Subject: LIFE05NAT/LT/000094 “Protection of Emys orbicularis and amphibians in the north European lowlands” – additional information concerning 1<sup>st</sup> Progress report**

Dear Mr. Capitão,

We are happy to be able to confirm the majority of your initial hope concerning kick-off meeting and partner agreements. The first kick-off meetings has been held and the big majority of partners has signed or are in signing procedure of partners authorisation agreements.

As such authorisation agreements is signed by Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve, Veisiejai Regional Park, Meteliai Regional Park, Bialowieza National Park, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Natur- und Artenschutz e.V. (Agena), and Landschaftsförderverein (LFV) Oberes Rhinluch e.V. Concerning Klub Przyrodników authorisation agreement is expected to be signed in this week, i.e. before 24.06.2006.

The last two authorisation agreements with the North Podlasian Society for Bird protection (PTOP) respectively Georg-August-University of Göttingen (AGUG) are not signed yet. The former mainly because of long translation procedures during authorisation negotiations, the later mainly because of juridical negotiations. As summer holidays is now approaching, implying that translation will take longer time and as both law-, EU- as personnel offices of Georg-August-University Göttingen has to agree on the agreement, it is expected that the partner authorisation agreements will first be signed in end August.

The delay in signing partner agreement with PTOp will postpone their turtle rearing programme with one year. However the total human effort will remain the same which means a more intensive rearing programme in 2007 to 2009. Evaluation of their rearing programme in 2007 will show if the delay has consequences for the fulfilment of the project objectives. Concerning the nature management activities in PTOp's project areas, a delay of signing until August 2006 will not effect the project objectives as PTOp's nature management activities are scheduled form October 2006.

To speed up the participation of AGUG's experts in the project implementation, a short term authorisation agreement is submitted the partner. The delay in signing partner agreement with AGUG will not influence the project serious in the first two project years, because the needed knowledge on turtle rearing, - monitoring, and – habitat evaluation exist within Agena.

Concerning maps, annex 3 page 24 and annex 4 page 26 in the first PR, we are also not satisfied with the greyscale background bitmaps which are used for Brandenburg in Germany. These bitmaps do however only exist in greyscale. In the budget we have not calculated with the cost related to purchase of digital land cover (coloured) GIS layers. We are therefore still working on finding a solution how to get coloured background maps, or as an alternative greyscale orthophotos. Until the challenge is solved, we are only able to provide the background maps in greyscale.

The maps used in annex 3 page 25 and annex 4 page 27 in the first PR is out prints from the local land register database. As these maps only exists with borders marked with colour or in black and white and because the maps only shows details of the maps presented on page 24 respectively 26, we request these two maps to be deleted from the PR.

We take cognisance of your remarks concerning our formulations on page 5 and 6 in relation to the late start of the project.

Please find the following annexes attached:

- a) the additional information requested by your letter of 22.05.2006.
- b) folder on project species in English and Lithuanian (to be found other place on the homepage)
- c) monitoring methods for *Emys orbicularis* and amphibians,
- d) report from kick-off meeting of 18.03.2006 to 19.03.2006 and follow up kick-off meeting of 06.05.2006 to 07.05.2006,
- e) recovery plan,
- f) maps with updated NATURA 2000 Site codes for internal site number Da01 to Da05 (to prevent collecting of *Emys orbicularis* for illegal trade, the maps are not available on the homepage).

Your sincerely

Pranas Mierauskas, Director of Lithuanian Fund for Nature

c.c. External Monitoring Team: Astrale GEIE – ELLE

Annex a – additional information to 1<sup>st</sup> PR requested by the Commission

1. The following deliverables and meeting reports has been finalised by June 2006:
  - a. Folder on project species in English and Lithuanian language (action E4), attached as annex b
  - b. Monitoring methods for Emys orbicularis and amphibians (action A1), attached as annex c
  - c. Report from kick-off meeting of 18.03.2006 to 19.03.2006 and follow up kick-off meeting of 06.05.2006 to 07.05.2006, attached as annex d.

2. Management agreements are made for 2005 on the sites where project actions has been conducted in 2005. In each project year, the deadline for making management agreement is defined as the end of the year in order to secure a regular update of the management agreements. We are aware about our formulation mistake in PR page 11, first line under Action D1, where the formulation has to be: “In timetable scheduled to autumn 2005 until autumn 2009, deadline for 2005 was 31.12.2005. In progress, but management agreements for 2005 completed” (additional formulation underlined).

In PR table 1, deadline for monitoring carried out (action F2) is typed to be 31.12.2005. We apologize the mistake, as the deadline should have been 15.10.2005 according to the approved project proposal. The monitoring indicators was agreed finally on the follow up kick-off meeting on 06.05.2006, which is the real date of completion.

3. During revision of the project proposal in spring and summer 2005, communication about details on purchase of cattle (action C4) was held with ZBR and VRP and in January 2005 meeting was held between IPM and ZBR concerning clarifying details on the purchase of cattle as preparation of the purchase itself. This planning of the cattle purchase should have been mentioned in the PR.

During revision of the project proposal in summer 2005, communication and planning of details concerning information boards and especially educational trails (action E3) was held with the relevant project partners. This planning communication should have been mentioned in the PR.

4. On NATURA 2000 Site code DE 3050-301 in project site Da05, Brodowin-Parstein, application to BVVG on purchase of 17,20 ha land has been rejected. Reason for the rejection has not been given. In order to secure the project objectives, Agena has with the owner of the area concluded agreement which contain the preservation and improvement of the water habitats for *Emys orbicularis*. The area is replaced by an essential part on 2,0 ha of water habitats which can be purchased in the project site and 3,38 ha already purchased on NATURA 2000 Site code DE 3450-301 in project site Da02, Stobbertal. By renaturation of the purchased area in DE 3450-301 by restoration of water habitats for *Emys orbicularis* it is expected that the project objectives in the combined project sites Da02 and Da05 can be kept.

In the approved project proposal, there exist different amounts of land to be purchased:

- a. According to table B.1 (page C3/2) the details on purchase of lands reach a total amount of 229,79 ha.
- b. According to the formulations under expected results on page C3/3 the total amount is 124 ha,
- c. According to budget form F9, land purchase or lease of land / use rights, the total amount is 124 ha.

We will like to underline, that the amounts of ha foreseen to be purchased is as reflected in the budget. The information in table B.1 in the approved project proposal reflects the German land

parcels to be partitioned and official registered, after which a total of 123,76 ha was foreseen to be purchased. By 20.06.2006 information about the partitioning gives a total foreseen area of 125,59 ha. Table I gives a overview of the relation between area size before partitioning according to table B.1 in the approved project proposal and the area size after partitioning (= ha foreseen to be purchased). Further table 1 gives an overview of areas where purchase has been rejected and replacement areas.

All area size in Ha		Area size before partitioning according to project proposal	Change because of writing mistake	Corrected area size before partitioning	Change because of partitioning	Area size after partitioning (=Ha foreseen)	Rejection of purchase	Replacement area planned	Purchase status by 20.06.2006	ha purchased to date and notes
Site	Natura code									
Da01	DE 2950-301	1.40		1.40		1.40			1.40	
Da02	DE 3450-301			0.00		0.00		3.38	3.38	* purchased
Da02	DE 3450-320	77.30		77.30		77.30			77.30	applied
Da03	DE 2848-305	17.76	-15.98	1.78		1.78			1.78	** purchased
Da03	DE 2948-304	90.00		90.00	-84.22	5.78			5.78	*** applied
Da04	DE 2847-303	0.13		0.13		0.13			0.13	
Da05	DE 3050-301	17.20		17.20		17.20	-17.20		0.00	*
Da05	DE 3149-303			0.00		0.00		2.00	2.00	*
DI01	DE 3243-301	26.00		26.00	-4.00	22.00			22.00	applied
SUM		229.79	-15.98	213.81	-88.22	125.59	-17.20	5.38	113.77	

\* The rejected area of 17,2 ha is replaced by an essential part of water habitats which can be purchased in the project site. We conclude, in addition, agreements with the owners of the first planned area which contain the preservation and improvement of the water habitats for the pond turtles.

\*\* The original proposal must be corrected because of an writing error.

\*\*\* The area of 89,998 ha has to be partitioned. Now the real part to purchase is 5,78 ha.

**Table I:** Area size before partitioning according to the approved project proposal, area size after partitioning (=ha foreseen), and current purchase status.

At the time where table B.1 in the approved project proposal was developed, it would not be possible to give exact numbers of ha for the partitioned land parcels to be purchased, because in the partitioning procedures adjustments from the expected partitioning almost always occur. We therefore request the Commission that we can change the name of the table to “*Details of land parcels to be partitioned in Germany. After partition a total of 125,59 ha is foreseen to be purchased during the project*”. If the Commission can approve this reformulation, table 2 on page 9 in PR has to be updated by table II in this annex.

Further, we are aware about that the text in the approved project proposal under expected results, Germany (page C3/3) is not clear enough. We therefore request the Commission to consider the following formulation: “*Land acquisition to protect the turtle areas: 3 nesting sites of a total of app. 4 ha, 4 lake areas of app. 17 ha, 13 ha, 20 ha respectively 65 ha, and 5 buffer zones of app. 1 ha each, gives a total of app. 126 ha which will be established in intensive agricultural areas. Of this 22 ha is located in the Upper Rhinluch.*”

**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
DE 2950-301	1.40			PLH 320026	8.33	0.00
DE 3450-301	0.00	3.38 replacement area				
DE 3450-320	77.30	applied				
DE 2848-305	1.78	1.78				
DE 2948-304	5.78	applied				
DE 2847-303	0.13					
DE 3050-301	17.20	purchase rejected				
DE 3149-303	0.00	2.0 ha replacement planned				
DE 3243-301	22.00	applied				
<b>SUM</b>	<b>125.59</b>	<b>5.16</b>		<b>SUM</b>	<b>8.33</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Table II:** Foreseen and realized land purchase and land lease in the project LIFE05NAT/LT/000094.

In the approved project proposal, page B2/19, B2/21, B2/22, B2/23 and B2/24 the NATURA 2000 Site codes and corresponding Site names are not complete and it is not clear which Site codes belongs to which sites. To avoid further unclearness, maps with updated NATURA 2000 Site codes are attached in annex f. We request the Commission to consider these maps as updates of the corresponding maps in the approved project proposal.

5. According to page C4/10 (action C.5) in the approved project proposal, it is foreseen that:

- a. 40 water bodies in Lithuania,
- b. 23 water bodies in Poland, and
- c. 11 water bodies in Germany, equals
- d. a total of 74 water bodies in all project sites will be cleaned from unwanted vegetation.

According to the approved project proposal budget form F5, external assistance cost, it is foreseen that:

- e. 40 water bodies in Lithuania,
- f. 18 water bodies in the project sites of the partner PTOA,
- g. 5 water bodies in the project sites of the partner BN P, and
- h. 11 water bodies in the project sites of the partner Agena, equals
- i. a total of 74 water bodies in all project sites will be cleaned from unwanted vegetation.

We therefore consider table 4 in PR to reflect the number of water bodies to be cleaned from unwanted vegetation as foreseen in the approved project proposal.

6. Recovery plan is attached as annex e.

7. As soon we have information available we will inform you about the expected conclusion of action B1.

8. According to decision on our kick-off meeting, the web page must be updated quarterly and when breaking news occurs. After clarification from the monitoring team, we are now aware that progress reports must be available on the web page as soon it is submitted to the Commission and that news from project meetings must be available shortly after the meetings are held.

## **Monitoring of the European pond turtle within the scope of a protection of endangered species program**

### **Monitoring der Europäischen Sumpfschildkröte im Rahmen eines Artenschutzprogrammes**

#### Art und Populationserfassung

- Recherche und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit  
Fundmeldungen aus der Bevölkerung, Behörden, Betrieben, Naturschutzverbänden
- Sichtbeobachtung an Gewässern  
Spurensuche im Rahmen von Exkursionen, Pirschgängen, gezieltem Ansitzen vor allem in bekannten Vorkommen (Schwanz- bzw Panzerabdrücke oder sonnenbadende Schildkröten)
- Fallenfang  
in Wohngewässern mit Kastenfallen oder speziellen Reusen (hoher Zeitaufwand besonders in größeren Gewässern)
- Hand oder Kescherfänge  
nur an sehr kleinen gut durchforschten Gewässern  
Aufnahme morphologischer und genetischer Merkmale  
in Gebieten mit einer Vielzahl von Aussetzungen allochthoner Schildkröten  
Ziel: Erkennung der Unterart
- Individuelle Wiedererkennung  
Markierung durch Kerbung erlaubt Wiedererkennung nach langer Zeit aber auch durch Fotodokumentation möglich (Musterung, Streifen, Flecke insbesondere der Vorderbeine)  
gute Erkennung bei Narben oder Panzeranomalien
- Radio-telemetrische Erkundungen  
Erfassung der Wanderbewegungen  
Auffinden der Eiablageplätze durch das Verfolgen von Weibchen mit Sendern (Untersuchung mittels Palpation auf Gravidität)  
Aufenthaltsorte, Überwinterungsplätze, räumlichzeitliche Habitatnutzung
- Kontrolle von Eiablageplätzen  
Abundanzen der Weibchen  
Gelegezahl je Eiablageplatz  
Zeitraum der Eiablage
- Kontrolle von Gelegen im Herbst und Frühjahr  
Aussagen zum Reproduktionserfolg

### **Monitoring of the European pond turtle within the scope of a protection of endangered species program**

#### Species and population monitoring

- Search and public relations  
Finding recordings from the population, authorities, companies, nature conservation organizations
- View observation in bodies of water  
Trace search within the scope of excursions, deerstalking walks, specific observation above all in known occurrences (tail or carapax impressions or sunbathing turtles)
- Trap catch  
in residential bodies of water with box traps or special fykes (high time involved especially in bigger bodies of water)
- capture by hand or fishing net  
only in very small and well explored bodies of water  
Recording of morphological and genetic signs  
in areas with a huge number of releases of allochthonous turtles  
  
Target: Detection of the subspecies
- Individual recognition  
Mark by notching permits recognition after long time  
but also by photo documentation possibly (pattern, strip, dots especially of the forelegs)  
good detection with scars or carapax anomalies
- Radio-telemetrical investigations  
Capture of the migrations  
Discover of the egg-laying places by tracing of females with transmitters (investigation by means of palpation on gravidity)  
Places of residence, hibernation places, spatial-temporal habitat use
- Control of egg-laying places  
Abundances of the females  
Clutch number per egg-laying place  
Period of the egg-laying
- Control of clutches in autumn and spring  
  
Indicaton of the reproductive success

### Habitaterfassung

- Übersichtskartierung  
Beurteilung der Qualität und  
Feststellung von Veränderungen im  
Gesamtlebensraum  
Habitaufnahmen von  
Wohngewässern  
Morphometrie, Wasserstand und  
Trophie sowie strukturelle und  
vegetationskundliche Parameter  
(Flachwasserbereiche, besonnte  
Flächen, Brüche,  
Verlandungsgesellschaften)
- Bekannte und potentielle Eiablageplätze  
Lage, Größe, Vegetation, Bodenart,  
Exposition, Inklination, Besonnung im  
Sommerhalbjahr, Windexposition und  
Bodentemperatur  
Dokumentation der Nutzungsart sowie  
Sukzessionsaspekte mit  
Auswirkungen auf die Eiablageplätze

### Habitat monitoring

- Overview mapping  
Assessment of the quality and statement  
of changes in the whole living area  
  
Habitat investigations of residential  
bodies of water  
Morphometry, water level and trophy as  
well as structural and vegetation  
parameters (shallows areas, sunny  
surfaces, succession)
- Known and potential egg-laying places  
Position, size, vegetation, soil type,  
exposition, inclination, sun exposition in  
the summer, wind exposition and soil  
temperature  
Documentation of the species of  
utilization as well as succession aspects  
with consequences on the egg-laying  
places

## MONITORING METHODS for amphibian populations

### Species and population monitoring

Monitoring indicators	Method (target species)	season of data collection
number of observed <b>adults</b> per site and year	- amphibian fens (B.bombina/T.cristatus)	spring – autumn
	- Registration of the number of shouting males in dimensions classes (B. bombina)* Small bodies of water: Counting of the single callers and combination with view observations Great bodies of water: Estimation of the caller number in sections and addition per body of water	April till the end of June 3x per site and water body Registration during the main call activities (at seasonal beginning mostly during the midday hours / in the main season mostly in the evening) Registration dates in different call periods
	- Registration at the bodies of water (T.cristatus)	April till the middle of May
	- Bottle traps (T. cristatus)	spring
	- catch net (Kescher) on defined sample areas (B.bombina)	summer
number of observed <b>juveniles/subadults</b> per site and year	- catch net (Kescher) on defined sample areas (B.bombina/T.cristatus)	May till end of June
	- amphibian fens (B.bombina/T.cristatus)	autumn

\* Overstocking classes for amphibian populations in Brandenburg on the basis of quantitative capture methods (Adulti)

Species	single animals	small stock	medium-sized stock	great stock	very great stock	extremely great stock
Great crested newts	< 5	5-50	51-100	101-200	201-1000	>1.000
Fire-bellied toad	< 5	5-50	51-100	101-200	201-500	> 500
Tree frog	< 5	5-50	51-100	101-200	201-500	> 500



## **Habitat monitoring**

### abiotic factors

<b>Monitoring indicators</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>season and frequency of data collection</b>
water levels	control of water-gauge	monthly (March – October)
shadow on water surface	estimation of shade on the whole water (percent), in bigger lakes only the shore zone	about monthly (March – October)
algae content of the water body	qualitative estimation (less – more – middle)	irregular (March – October)
distance to arable land	Measurement of the closest distance to arable field	once per year

### biotic factors

<b>Monitoring indicators</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>season and frequency of data collection</b>
presence of predators	observations of fish	irregular
human impact	div. observations	irregular
structural richness of the water body	estimation of submers vegetation (percent)	about monthly (March – October)

Annex d – Report from kick-off meeting of 18.03.2006 to 19.03.2006 and follow up kick-off meeting of 06.05.2006 to 07.05.2006

**Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> kick-off meeting LIFE05NAT/LT/000094 project, Glambeck, Germany, 18.03.2006.**

**Participants:**

Pranas Mierauskas, Project director, Lithuanian Fund for Nature  
Torsten Seeger, LVF Oberes Rhinluch e.V.  
Martina Meeske, University of Goettingen  
Heidrun Beckmann, Agena e.V.  
Bernhard Beckmann, Agena e.V.  
Manfred Wolf, Agena e.V.  
Norbert Schneeweiss, Agena e.V.  
Marek Maciantowicz, Klub Przyrodnikow  
Mariusz Rybacki, Klub Przyrodnikow

**Agenda of the meeting: internal discussions on:**

1. Current situation on contract status;
2. Possibilities of next meeting;
3. Website improvement and follow up;
4. Folder leaflet;

**Participants agreed on the following issues:**

Project management is insufficient and participants strongly request:

1. To improve communication with IPM (Lars Christian);
2. IPM (Lars Christian) should react and answer to partners questions or requests no later than during 5 days, early information to all partners in case of holidays, substitute for longer absence
3. confirmation of receipt of all mail immediately
4. IPM should allocate majority of time to finalise rest of the contracts during the forthcoming 4 weeks; interim information after 14 days and decision on measures
5. The next partner meeting do not have a reason to take place if all contracts are not signed;
6. In order that contracts are not signed, partners can not follow timetable of the project activities;
7. IPM/PD should prepare financial guidelines on using financial resources;
8. Next kick off meeting should be earlier, proposed date is 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of April, since recently proposed dates 13 – 15 May is already in time of field season;

**In the case if the project management team will not fulfil the requirements, project partners are going to send complain to EU to replace IPM (Lars Christian).**

Chairman of the meeting

Pranas Mierauskas  
Project director

## **Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006 kick-off meeting**

### **Participants:**

Pranas Mierauskas, Project director, Lithuanian Fund for Nature  
Torsten Seeger, LVF Oberes Rhinluch e.V.  
Martina Meeske, University of Goettingen  
Heidrun Beckmann, Agena e.V.  
Bernhard Beckmann, Agena e.V.  
Manfred Wolf, Agena e.V.  
Norbert Schneeweiss, Agena e.V.  
Marek Maciantowicz, Klub Przyrodników  
Mariusz Rybacki, Klub Przyrodników  
Lars Briggs, Amphi Consult

### **Minutes approved:**

The minutes was written on notebook with screen projection during the meeting and running approved.

### **Agenda:**

1. Workshop / follow-up kick-off meeting program,
2. Project administration,
3. Genetic study,
4. Monitoring methods,
5. Time plan for authorization agreements,
6. Prepayment,
7. How to prepare the field season parallel to the negotiation on authorization agreements,
8. Study tour,
9. Web page,
10. Project logo,
11. Leaflet,
12. Natura 2000 Site designation,

### **Ad 1) Workshop / follow up kick-off meeting program:**

Time reservation for the workshop / follow up kick-off meeting program is: 27.04.2006: arrival, 28.04.2006: discussion day, 29.04.2006: half excursion day and departure. LFN, PTO, KP, Agena, LFV Oberes and AGUG agrees on the dates. It was not able to reach BNP.

#### Program:

Thursday 27.04.2006:

- arrival in the evening.

Friday 28.04.2006:

- agree on monitoring methods,
- agree on leaflet,
- agree on web page
- plan study tour
- presentation of project partners and areas (10-20 min per partner),
- demonstration and distribution? of telemetric equipment,
- agree where and how to sample genetics

Saturday 29.04.2006:

- morning: Project administration including financial issues (how to send the bills, how to fill in the EU forms), progress reports,
- afternoon: Excursion.

## **Ad 2) Project administration:**

To the next meeting, Pranas will bring 10 stamps, one for each partner for invoices with LIFE project number.

## **Ad 3) Genetic study:**

For collecting genetic materials, DMSO liquid has to be used. The genetic analysis will be performed by Heidelberg.

## **Ad 4) Monitoring methods:**

### *Emys orbicularis:*

1. Find turtles and take them by hand if possible,
2. Set traps,
3. Make telemetry of females
4. Put dataloggers for temperature measurement.

Norbert and Martina must make guideline (a technical direction) for all type of turtle monitoring, population estimation and population evaluation.

### *Bombina bombina:*

- Calling males (number counted by binocular or estimated by listening), and
- Breeding success (dip netting larvae or drift fence)

### *Triturus cristatus:*

- Presence of adults (eggs or observing adults (flash lights or bottle traps),
- Breeding success (dip netting larvae or drift fence)

Norbert and Lars must make a technical direction for amphibian monitoring for *B. bombina* and *T. cristatus*. Proposal for monitoring methods must be ready for next meeting.

## **Ad 5) Time plan for authorization agreements:**

Lars Christian must make all authorization agreements within 4 weeks.

## **Ad 6) Prepayment:**

As soon as contracts is signed a prepayment can be available for workshop travel.

## **Ad 7) How to prepare the field season parallel to the negotiations on authorization agreements:**

There is a URGENT NEED to gather all turtle field equipment under Agena for 2006. Purchase of transmitters, receivers and traps if possible for all partners must be initiated. Pranas will get the bills. Procedure will be: Norbert and Martina organize the purchase. Norbert orders and Martina receive the equipment in Göttingen and drive it to Poland and Lithuania. Lars Christian will 01.05.2006 send equipment budget to Norbert and Pranas will when back in office sign confirmation to Norbert for the purchases.

Distribution of equipment, expert advice is:

Receiver: 1 receiver per partner (except west Poland 3 receivers), 2-10 transmitters (Lithuania 10, Brandenburg 10, west Poland 10, east Poland 10, Bialowieza (ask Renata)).

Traps: West Poland has 4-5 traps. New traps not needed this year as they catch by hand. Lithuania has 4 traps. It's unknown how many traps east Poland (Martina, Lars and Lars Christian will ask them) and Bialowieza (Lars and Lars Christian will ask them) has.

Temperature loggers: This equipment is 3<sup>rd</sup> priority after telemetry equipment and traps. Price for one logger type is EUR 130,00. When nesting sites are known, the loggers must be installed if the partner has the equipment. It will be very useful if all partners install dataloggers.

West Poland agree that Norbert orders 3 receivers and 10 transmitters now and that the money is subtracted later.

East Poland will be informed about the receivers and transmitters and will hopefully agree on e-mail to order the receivers and transmitters. Lars, Norbert and Martina will communicate this to Iwona.

### **Ad 8) Study tour:**

Time reservation from 26.06.2006 to 03.07.2006. To be held in Brandenburg. Weekend must be included to get Polish partners involved.

It is suggested to perform the second study tour in 2007 instead of 2008. Pranas informed, that there could be a lack of money in summer 2007 since this is waiting time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment from EU. We must therefore in winter 2006/2007 be flexible and plan according to the expected payment.

Lars Christian will extract study tour 2006 budget.

### **Ad 9) Web page:**

Colours are not good. The picture of turtle is no good, and its taken by Polish photographer Robert Drozd who is not asked for permission. The picture will be cancelled as soon as possible and replaced by a photo from Agena. Agena will send a photo to Lars Christian who in turn send it further to Pranas. Web page must contain pictures of habitats from all partners. All partners must send pictures of their sites to Pranas and Lars Christian to be added to the web page.

Because it is feared that we can inspire to not legal collection of turtles, there should be no information, that can lead people to the project sites. Detailed information about the sites must be taken out.

With deadline of 01.04.2006 all partners shall provide information (inclusive links to own organization) to and comments on the web page to Pranas.

### **Ad 10) Project logo:**

Mariusz and Heidrun has both developed a project logo with a turtle. They will send the logo to all partners for e-mail competition on the best suggestion.

### **Ad 11) Leaflet:**

#### General:

English version must be developed first, then translated. Partners are invited to give their leaflet a local touch. All leaflets in all language can be layouted and printed cheap in Vilnius.

Martina and Norbert makes the first version for turtle and a habitat example.

Norbert and Lars makes the first version for amphibians and a habitat example.

The text must contain the species requirements for habitats and explain favourable conservation status.

Each partner will comment on local habitat requirements and contribute with local pictures of habitats and the species (to be send to Pranas).

#### Content:

A text on each of the three species: *Emys orbicularis*, *Bombina bombina* and *Triturus cristatus*.

One picture of each species.

One picture of a typical habitat (country specific) for each species.

Remember web page address, LIFE logo and NATURA 2000 logo.

Front page (Emys adult cover picture by proposal from Agena. LT and everybody can propose other Emys picture)	Emys Species picture	Emys Habitat picture	Big photo (Lithuanian or German) Pond with habitats of all 3 species
Next site??  Hatchling picture  Picture of people (Doing nest site management (German or Polish picture))	Bombina  Habitat picture, Species picture	Triturus  Species picture, Habitat picture Maybe with a managed pond	Maybe with a managed pond or nest site. Bag page All logos.

### **Ad 12) Natura 2000 Site designation:**

The limited designated areas by now can entail problems for the project, as not all actions can be carried out as planned. The situation is:

#### Lithuania general:

Natura 2000 areas will be enlarged and probably all project sites will be inside Natura 2000.

#### - Stratunai:

The turtle pond is 1 km North-north-east of the Natura 2000 site. No turtle are inside the Natura 2000 site. Proposal to enlarged Natura 2000 site: Follow the forest line to the west, enlarge 2 km to the north of the Natura 2000 border since the Emys pond is located 1 km to the north. Around the pond should be a 600 meter zone with Natura 2000. To the east the site should go to the village border or even better include the village where there is ponds with Bombina bombina.

#### - Kusuliske:

Proposal to enlarged Natura 2000 site: Include all open areas on the project maps which are now outside the Natura 2000 site. The enlargement is app. 100 to 300 meter in all directions. To the west the site must go to the road.

#### - Petroskai:

Proposal to enlarged Natura 2000 site: In general enlargement with 300 meter in all directions, for precise information ask Jonas.

#### - Slavantai:

Proposal to enlarged Natura 2000 site: Enlarge with 500 meter to the south and west so all forest edges and some hundreds meter of open land is included.

#### - Bastrailiske:

Proposal to new Natura 2000 site: The ministry has promised to appoint the area as Natura 2000. The site should be enlarged at least 1 km to the north into open land, ask Arunas and Kuba for further details.

#### - Meteliai:

Proposal to enlarged Natura 2000 site: Include the turtle locality on the north side of the road. Include the whole Natura 2000 site south of the road.

#### Poland:

West Poland should be ok.

East Poland: The turtles are often outside the Natura 2000 borders.

Germany: All project sites are inside Natura 2000.

Lars Briggs, Glambeck, March 19<sup>th</sup> 2006

## **Final minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2006 kick-off meeting**

### **Participants:**

Pranas Mierauskas, Lithuanian Fund for Nature (LFV),  
Giedrius Trakimas, Lithuanian Fund for Nature (LFV),  
Mariusz Rybacki, Klub Przyrodników (KP)  
Marek Maciantowicz, Klub Przyrodników (KP)  
Norbert Schneeweiss, Agena,  
Heidrun Beckmann, Agena,  
Bernhard Beckmann, Agena,  
Jana Albrecht, LFV Oberes Rhinluch,  
Torsten Seeger, LFV Oberes Rhinluch,  
Martina Meeske, AGUG  
Lars Christian Adrados, Amphi Consult

### **Minutes approved:**

Comments received and worked in the minutes from Jana Albrecht and Martina Meeske (on point 10, action E4). Until May 22<sup>nd</sup> no other participants had given feedback. According to procedure it is recognised as approval of the minutes.

### **Agenda:**

1. Status on purchase of equipment,
2. Communication in the project
3. Action A1: Monitoring methods for turtles and amphibians (decisions to be taken)
4. Action A7: Local management plans (initiation of action)
5. Action A8: Genetic investigation (decisions to be taken)
6. Action E6: Web page (improvement and decision)
7. Action F2: Monitoring of the effects of projects actions (decision)
8. Constitution of the SC
9. Discussion of project problems encountered
10. Evaluation of planned project progress until next reporting date of the project, including:
  - a) Action E4: Folder on project species,
  - b) Action D3: Purchase of terrestrial management equipment,
  - c) Action A1: Monitoring methods,
  - d) Action E1: Study tour, and
  - e) Action C4: Purchase of cattle.
11. Approval of content of project procedures manual.

### ***Postponed to next meeting:***

- I) Action A5: Evaluation of the characteristics and structure of turtle hibernation sites.
- II) Action D2: Rearing of turtles
- III) Presentation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Progress Report
- IV) Evaluation of project liquidity
- V) Oversee the work of PMT and IPM

### ***New on next meeting:***

- VI) Presentation of monitoring team's LIFE project administration power point show,
- VII) Presentation of requirements for financial and activity reporting

### **Attachments: *(not included in this additional information to 1<sup>st</sup> Progress report)***

- A) Monitoring of the Emys orbicularis within the scope of a protection of endangered species program
- B) Monitoring amphibians, update
- C) Monitoring methods amphibians
- D) Draft informal guideline for LIFE's project managers and bookkeepers

- E) Example of Triturus cristatus distribution map
- F) Example of Pelobates fuscus distribution map

### **Ad 1) Status on purchase of equipment:**

Heidrun has ordered dataloggers for all partners. Based on company offer on equipment, prepayment will be done by Pranas to secure partners liquidity for payment. There must be made a document, where it is cleared, that beneficiary has purchased and delivered the equipment for the purpose of each single partner. By doing so, at least the Polish partners can use the equipment as co-financing.

Receivers are not ordered by now. Martina ask the company how many receivers are available by now. If possible Martina shall order 7 receivers to be paid by Pranas. The receivers is expected to be delivered in app. 4 weeks. Until then, KP lent 2 receivers from Agena.

Concerning traps, Lars Christian send information about finances to each partner. Traps must be ordered for Poland and Lithuania. Each partner orders their own traps.

### **Ad 2) Communication in the project:**

When a former agreement do not function, it has to be possible to adjust agreement – to be written into the procedures manual.

Communication within the project is not sufficient among the project leadership. E-mails for Pranas should also be send to Giedrius.

### **Ad 3) Action A1: Monitoring methods for turtles and amphibians:**

Agena has translated the German standard of monitoring species on Natura 2000 sites to English. For our purpose, the monitoring seems to comprehensive. Jana and Torsten has written down the methods foreseen to be used by LFV Oberes Rhinluch concerning amphibians. All methods will be send around until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Then all partners has one week – until May 22<sup>nd</sup> to comment and the methods will be completed by Martina, Norbert, Lars B and Lars Christian by June 5<sup>th</sup>.

In the methods it must be clear what is obligatory to monitor in order to compare results within this LIFE project and what is additional monitoring parameters which is free for the partners to use.

Attached: Monitoring methods from Agena and LFV Oberes Rhinluch.

Fist success criteria: Demographical structure of population known, however the criteria can not in practice be measured,

Next success criteria: Nesting site found, only valid for Emys orbicularis,

Biggest success criteria: Reproduction of population.

Agena demonstrated their equipment for trapping turtles, how to place a radio transmitter on a turtle and how to handle radio receivers.

### **Ad 4) Action A7: Local management plans**

Because the requirements for local management plans are highly different in the different countries, it make no cense to formulate cross-project guideline for minimum contents of local management plans.

### **Ad 5) Action A8: Genetic investigation:**

Samples for genetic test should be ready. Methods must be same all over. Norbert and Heidrun send pdf with description of how to collect enough spit to all partners. Lars Christian takes photos and gives to Heidrun this



weekend. Standard DMSO is used as buffer. Norbert has a lot of tubes for genetic samples, so if any partner lack tubes, they can get some from Norbert.

#### **Ad 6) Action E6: Web page**

From partners web pages, beneficiary quarterly select project news to be included in the main project web page. Beneficiary can ask partners for further information on a specific action to be described in the main project web page.

The main web page should include a table with management methods for the three main species, and there should be a row with special aspects on management in the different project sites. Lars Christian will make a proposal to be discussed on the next meeting.

#### **Ad 7) Action F2: Monitoring of the effects of project actions**

For all management actions, it is needed that all partners report exactly where the management has been done. This can probably most easily be done by the use of GPS, and send to Lars Christian as GIS layers. When creating the database for project monitoring, Lars Christian will make GIS layers in which project partners can draw their areas of project management.

It is important that all management actions is documented by before and after photos. Photos must be send to either Pranas or Lars Christian, who makes a photo database. More information on the subject in late summer 2006.

#### **Ad 8) Constitution of SC**

Pranas is official nominated by Lithuanian Fund for Nature,  
Arunas Pranaitis from Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve will probably be nominated as representative from Lithuanian partners,  
It is yet unclear who will be representing PTOP and BNP,  
It is yet unclear who will be representing KP,  
Agena will be represented by Heidrun, official nomination needed,  
LFV and AGUG will be represented by Martina, official nomination needed.

As the SC is a official instrument in the project and the SC is specific requested to be established by LIFE, it is needed that Pranas receive official nomination letters from the relevant partners. There are no specific form to use.

#### **Ad 9) Discussion of project problems encountered**

##### ***Designation of Natura 2000.***

Following the latest bio geographical seminar, the designation in Lithuania is now progressing fast and proposal to the official list includes all project areas.

In Poland the situation has developed different than expected, as the Government rejected to designate shadow list 1 proposal as official pSCI. It can be important to back up the further designation in Poland by submitting examples on how cases with factual not official pSCI has been handled in Germany. Lars Christian gives feed back to all group as soon further is known about the process in Poland<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> During meeting of May 10<sup>th</sup> with Klub Przyrodników in Swiebodzin, the designation of pSCI in Poland was discussed with Pawel Pawlaczyk, who is the main co-ordinator of the shadow-list process in Poland. Pawel' analysis of the situation is rather clear. He states, that because the EU find the Polish designation unsatisfying, Poland will be requested to designate further areas. If Poland repeatedly rejects to do so, a court procedure is expected to durate 3 years from autumn 2006, which is timely concerning designation of the NELEAP project areas, which should be terminated within

### **Land purchase**

No news

## **Ad 10) Evaluation of planned project progress until next reporting date of the project**

### **Action E4: Folder on project species**

Final deadline is that the folder must be ready for the study tour June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

To reach this deadline, the further timetable is:

What	Deadline	Send to
<u>Norbert</u> write Emys part and submit photos <u>Lars Christian</u> write amphibian part and submit photos	20-05-2006	LCA, who send to partners for correction and beneficiary for layout
<u>Partners</u> correction of English text	27-05-2006	LCA, who send to Martina and Lars B
<u>Layout bureau</u> makes layout of English version <sup>2</sup>	27-05-2006	LCA who send to all partners
<u>Martina</u> and <u>Lars B</u> makes final English text <u>Partners</u> translate to Polish, Lithuanian and German And submit own pictures	03-06-2006	LCA who send to beneficiary for layout
<u>Layout bureau</u> makes pdf and word version of English, Lithuanian, Polish and German versions	10-06-2006	LCA who send to partners for proofreading
<u>Partners</u> makes final corrections	13-06-2006	LCA
<u>Lars Christian</u> compile all corrections	15-06-2006	Layout bureau via beneficiary
<u>Printing office</u> print folder	24-06-2006	Beneficiary who gives to partners at study tour

All partners send their logo to LFN,

Giedrius will inform about the format to be used for text.

Giedrius will inform about the format to be used for pictures.

Maps must be developed showing known and expected distribution. Lars Christian send around a map of *Triturus cristatus* as inspiration. If the map is ok, Lars Christian can make maps for *Bombina orientalis* and *Emys orbicularis* after same model, if materials will be received.

### **Action D3: Purchase of terrestrial management equipment**

Agenda expect to terminate the purchase in the next days. This is far before the deadline stipulated in the 1<sup>st</sup> progress report. When the purchase is terminated, Heidrun inform Lars Christian who in turns inform our monitoring team.

### **Action A1: Monitoring methods**

According to 3), monitoring methods is planned to be completed by June 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Action E1: Study tour is carried out**

The study tour is planned to last 5 days (excluding travel to and from) in the period June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>. To inspire the work in Lithuania and north east Poland, the workshop will take place in these areas with 3-4 days in Lithuania and 1-2 days in Poland. Giedrius co-ordinate the field visits in Lithuania and Lars Christian co-ordinate the field visits in Poland.

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the project time – i.e. the latest in the end of 2009. Klub Przyrodników had therefore no objections to enter into the project with actions on sites where the designation timetable is as described above.

<sup>2</sup> Because the taste of a good layout is rather individual and consensus about the layout will be very time consuming, LFN has the full mandate to decide about the layout of the folder.

Keywords for the study tour:

- practical testing of monitoring methods,
- evaluation of ponds,
- evaluation of indicators,
- evaluation of habitat parameters,
- evaluation of reproduction parameters,
- discussion about actions on site visited
- Emys and amphibians in Lithuania,
- Emys and amphibians in PTOF area,
- Amphibians and Emys sites in BNP,

The final decision about logistics depends on the detailed planning of the field visits. It is therefore still open if we return to Lithuania after visiting Poland or the study tour ends in Poland.

In order to make the meeting(s) during the study tour more clear, inspiring and progressive, Lars Christian has invited Torsten to be moderator during the meetings.

***Action C4: Purchase of cattle***

Purchase of cattle is foreseen in the summer 2006.

***Remaining project progress until next reporting date***

Is postponed to be discussed during the study tour.

**Ad 11) Approval of content of procedures manual**

Project participants has until May 22<sup>nd</sup> to comment on the content of the procedures manual. See also note on 2).

The procedures manual must be seen as a dynamic document, which can be updated according to later needs.

Lars Christian Adrados, Årup May 24<sup>th</sup> 2006

Annex e: Recovery plan on actions with delay of completion up to June 2006

<b>Deliverable or milestone</b>	<b>No of action</b>	<b>Dead-line</b>	<b>Accu-mulated delay</b>	<b>Completion date (expected)</b>	<b>Actions to take in the delay</b>	<b>Consequences in terms of fulfilment of the project objectives</b>
Project manager nominated	F1	01.07.05	Yes	20.12.05	In practice the IPM was working on the project since summer 2005.	Due to delays in signing authorisation agreements, PTOp's Emys rearing programme in 2006 can not be performed. Evaluation of the partners intensified rearing program in 2007 will show if the delay has consequences for the fulfilment of the project objectives.
Kick-off seminar carried out	E1	30.09.05	Yes	07.05.05	To speed up communication and inspiration processes in the project, study tour in 2006 is planned to be terminated 03.07.2006 instead of the projected deadline of 01.09.2006	The kick-off seminars most important function was to inform project partners about project procedures and to co-ordinate project progress until the holding of the study tour. Project partners has been informed about project procedures via e-mail. Concerning project progress, please refer to specific actions.
20% of unwanted vegetation removed	C5	31.12.05	Yes	(31.12.06)	ZBR has tendered the removal of unwanted vegetation. Will manage 20 areas in 2006 and the remaining 20 areas in 2007.	No consequences is foreseen
Project Web Page created	E6	31.12.05	Yes	24.02.06	No further actions needed.	No consequences foreseen, as project web page mainly is seen as presentation of project towards other partners. Internal in project all important communication goes through e-mail or fax.
Terrestrial management equipment purchased	D3	30.03.06	Yes	(15.10.06)	Purchase of mowing machine has to be investigated again as it turned out that the intend machine could not be carried into the project areas. A compromise had to be found between mobility and performance. Another problem displays the retrofitting on vegetable oil, which is necessary to exclude emission to the soil. At the moment comparative offers are caught up. The sales contract can be closed probably still in June.	For the appropriate management of terrestrial habitats, the management equipment must be ready for use the latest 15.10.2006. As the delivery of the new machine is expected in August 2006 it is early enough for the cutting actions in autumn 2006.
Monitoring methods elaborated	A1	01.04.06	Yes	07.05.06	No further actions needed.	Monitoring methods needed first time for the baseline monitoring in 2006, which is carried out from June to August. No consequences is foreseen.
Folder on project species	E4	30.03.06	Yes	18.06.06	English and Lithuanian folder now in print. German and Polish folder under translation.	Most important function of the folder is to increase local involvement and understanding of environmental problems and solutions. As such the folder target is long termed, and direct consequences of the delay on fulfilment of project objectives is difficult to access.