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I. <u>Basic Information</u>

Application ID	Slovakia 02			
Application Name	Conservation_Senne/Med		zibodrozie SPAs	
Application Location	Country:	Slovakia	Country 2:	
71ppileadoil Location	NUTS2 Code	оточана	SK04-Východné Slovensko	
	River Basin District Code		SK40000-Danube	
	WFD Water Body Code		3KT0000-Dunnot	
	Description	ouy douc	The project take place in the	ne Canal O2
	Beschpash		south from village Senné and	
			the site Blatá in municipal area	
			within Senné Special Protection	
			situated in districts Micl	nalovce and
			Sobrance, in municipal area	s of villages
			Senné, Iňačovce, Blatná Pol	ianka, Blatné
			Remety and Hažín.	
			And in Ostrovik, near villa	
			Medzibodrožie SPA, situated i	
			district, in Beša and Čičarov	ce municipal
A 1: ti	T - 4'4 J		areas.	
Application Site Coordinates	Latitude: -WGS84(G.g): 4	10 75115	Longitude: -WGS84(G.g): 21.921	
Target Sector(s)	Primary:	+0./ J ++ J	Nature Nature	
Possibility to select more than				
1 sectors (primary vs.	Secondary:		Agriculture	
secondary)				
Implemented NWRM(s)	Measure #1:		N2	
Application short	The application	n objective w	as to restore favorable conserva	tion status of
description	0	0 0	(Spoonbill, Purple Heron, Whit	0 '
	0		Ferruginous Duck, Corncrake, N	
			wit, Avocet, Whiskered Tern)fro	
			e and Medzibodrozie SPAs throu	igh improving
	habitats in key		C L-4- CDA- ++	41
			on up for both SPAs targeted by developed to ensure the imple	
			aim to improve small water	
			favorable water regimes at the	~
				-
	localities. An aqua-environmental scheme was developed and tested order to secure sustainable financing of environmentally friends			
	management of wetlands.			y
	_		a total of 54.4 ha of land by	SOS/BirdLife
	± /	-	vsin order to secure control over	
	for breeding and migrating identification birds. Conservation managen			~
	of meadows leading to the restoration and subsequent maintenance			
	favorable conservation status of bird habitats is to achieve			-
		_	nental schemes at both SPAs. I	
		_	bitat for qualifying birds would a	Iso be created
	in the Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs.			

II. Policy context and design targets

Brief description of the	The Senné depress	sion as well as lowlands of	Medzibodrožie were regularly	
problem to be tackled	The Senné depression, as well as lowlands of Medzibodrožie were regularly flooded in the past on spring, economic activities were limited on catching			
problem to be tackled	of fish and pastoralism, arable land was situated only on better soils, mainly			
	at slightly higher positions of the lowlands.			
	Often flooded lowlands were also habitats for waterfowl as long as the			
			not drained by a network of	
			s, which completely changed	
	the whole landscap			
			parts of the lowlands large	
		1 0	er levels dropped down. But	
	•		, that most of these originally	
		suitable for intensive agricu	lture because of permanently	
	rewetted soils.	1 11 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 6	
			shes, once being habitats for	
			a consequence of unsuitable	
	0	*	only in the spring, but during	
	-	•	f wetlands, once giving home	
	to birds is slowly d			
What were the primary &	Primary target	, , ,	ool conservation in riparian	
secondary targets when	#1:	areas		
designing this application?	Primary target	Regulation of hydrological	l cycle and water flow	
	#2:			
	Remarks	-	ing and feeding habitats for	
		birds		
		- increasing awareness	of local people and	
		environmental educatio	n	
Which specific types of	Pressure #1:	WFD identified pressure	4.1.5 Physical alteration of	
pressures did you aim at			channel/bed/riparian	
mitigating?			area/shore – unknown	
	Pressure #2:	Other EU-Directive's	Birds Directive 2009/147/EC	
		identified pressure	Directive 79/409/EEC -	
		(specify)	"Conservation of wild	
			birds"	
Which specific types of	Impact #1:	WFD identified impact	Altered habitats due to	
adverse impacts did you		_	hydrological changes	
aim at mitigating?	Impact #2:	Other EU-Directive's	Loss of natural habitats and	
		identified impact	wild fauna and flora	
		(specify)	J	
Which EU requirements	Requirement #1:	WFD-achievement of	Elaborate Management	
and EU Directives were	1	good ecological status	plan	
aimed at being addressed?			for SPA Senne and water	
J			regime restorations in SPA	
			Senne and Medzibodrožie	
	Requirement #2:	WFD-restoring a	Restored meadows and	
	1	HMWB	wetlands directly through	
			implementing tailored	
			restoration measures	
Which national and/or	Management plan	for SPA Senne	3330 57-20	
regional policy challenges	0 1	oration Plan for SPA Senne	and Medzibodrožie	
Simple point, chancinges	acci regime reste		I.IOGLIDOGIOZIO	

and/or	requirements	Environmental Impact Assessment Study
aimed to	be addressed?	

III. <u>Site characteristics</u>

	Dominant land use	411: Inland marshes	
	Secondary land use	321: Natural grassland	
Dominant Land Use type(s)	Other important land use		
	Remarks		
Climate zone	cool temperate dry		
Soil type	N/A info		
Average Slope	gentle (2-5%)		
Mean Annual Rainfall	600 - 900 mm		
Mean Annual Runoff	150 - 300 mm		
Average Runoff coefficient (or %	0.2 - 0.3		
imperviousness on site)	Remarks		
Characterization of water quality status (prior to the implementation of the NWRMs)	Not relevant for this application		
Comment on any specific site characteristic that influences the effectiveness of the applied NWRM(s) in a positive or negative way	he floodplain forests, marshes, fields, sand dunes ar		

IV. <u>Design & implementation parameters</u>

Project scale	Large (e.g. watershed, city, entire water system)	Senné fish por a buffer zone Medzibodroži The Latorica a part of the M An axis of t which togetl Ondava river The spa-ce b	Protected Landscape Area is Medzibodrožie SPA (33754 ha). The area is the Latorica river, ther with the Laborec and is make up the Bodrog river. The etween flood-protection dykes ica river was designated as a
Time frame	Date of installation/construction (MM.YYYY) Expected average lifespan (life expectancy) of the application in years	Date of installation/construction (MM.YYYY) Expected average lifespan (life expectancy) Specify November 2010 Specify November 2010	
	Name of responsible authority/ stakeholder 1. The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic		Role, responsibilities Responsible, Initiation and implementation of the measure
Responsible authority and other stakeholders involved	2. Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife3. Ministries of the project localities		Supporting in monitoring Responsible for monitoring
	4. Slovakia Hunting Association Ostrovík, Senné (HA Ostrovík)		and maintenance Supporting
	5. Zemplinske Museum in Michalovce raising		
The application was initiated and financed by	Initiated by the Nature Co Financed by the EU and r		ency of the Czech Republic ution (50:50)%
What were specific principles that were followed in the design of this application?	and fish-ponds with permanent water surface provide conditions for		
	Number of hectares treate the NWRM(s).	,	imately 990 ha of restored gregime.
Area (ha)	 More than 200 hectares of restored meadows 14,5 ha directly restored wetlands 427 ha of restored wetlands as result of implementing restoration measures 		

	 Breeding habitats at Senne SPA with are Feeding habitats at Senne SPA with are Feeding and breeding habitats at Me 3 000 m² 	ea 21 700 m ²	
Design capacity	Creation of: - 9 100 m² of new breeding - 21 700 m² of feeding habitats in Senné SPA - 400 m² of new breeding and feeding habitats in Medzibodrožie SPA Purchase of more than 55 ha plots tied to meadows and wetlands in Senné SPA Restoration of more than 1500 ha of wet meadows: Restoration was based on mulching, mowing, removing of self (seeding woods and removing illegal waste dumping. Priority was given to waterlogged depressions, which were not intensively used for agriculture or even were abandoned. Favorable water regime on the restored meadows and wetlands will be kept by operation of two larger water gates and three smaller sluices in Senne SPA and 2 water gates in Medzibodrozie SPA. Water regime was thus improved on 990 ha of wet meadows. Dyke at the Senne NNR was restored and consequently water table level on the pond in the reserve was stabilized at levels favorable for water birds. Improved water level in the NNR positively affected bird habitats and populations including qualifying species of European concern.		
	Reference	URL	
Reference to existing engineering standards, guidelines and manuals that	National standards and protocols		
have been used during the design phase	2. EU WFD guidelines		
	3. Bird and Habitat directive guidance		
Main factors and/or constraints that influenced the selection and design of the NWRM(s) in this application?	it is a Ramsar site, a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area). One of the factors threatening this site was a lack of		

threatened bird species, especially of waterfowl, but also for some other species, preferring dryer habitats, including sand dunes.

A majority of local population in area of the Senné depression and in Medzibodrožie is not aware of high natural value of the landscape, in which they live and of its importance for sustainable living in their regions. This factor, together with increasing negative impact of activities of some local stakeholders (commercial fishpond industry, hunting on protected bird species) on bird populations together with inadequate capacity of state institutions in nature protection to solve the problems lead to unfavorable status of target bird species in both SPAs.

V. <u>Biophysical impacts</u>

Impact category (short	Impact description (Text, approx. 200	Impact	quantification
name)	words)	(specifying	
		Parameter	% change in
Select from the drop-		value;	parameter
down menu below:		units	value as
U			compared to
Ť			the state prior
			to the
			implementation
			of the
			NWRM(s)
Runoff attenuation /	Favorable water level restoration by building	%	75%
control	water gates and sluices on channels and	restored	
	management plans prepared for both sites	water	
		regime	
Peak flow rate reduction	Not relevant for this application		
	Wet meadows maintaining and favorable water	0/0	
Impact on aroundwater	regime controlling	restored	80%
Impact on groundwater	Old meanders and loops at the Cibava stream	areas	0070
	revitalization	areas	
	Wet meadows maintaining and favorable water	0/0	
Impact on soil moisture	regime controlling	restored	80%
and soil storage capacity	Old meanders and loops at the Cibava stream	area	0070
	revitalization		
		%	
Restoring hydraulic	Restoration of damaged dyke, reparation of	restored	90%
connection	water inlet and outlet in NNR Senne	water	7070
		regime	
Water quality	Not relevant for this application		
Improvements	U 11		
	Proven positive impact on morphological	%	
WFD Ecological Status	parameters (connectivity) as well expected	returned	- 00 /
and objectives	positive impact on BQEs.	and new	30%
	NWRM contributes to the conservation	species in	
	objectives of water-dependent protected areas	the areas	
Reducing flood risks	Not relevant for this application		
(Floods Directive)	JTI		

Mitigation of other biophysical impacts in relation to other EU Directives (e.g. Habitats, UWWT, etc.)	In genera implemented measures managed to ensure the establishment, improvement and maintenance of suitable nesting and feeding conditions not only for the target species of the area, but for most other water and aquatic specious nesting and migrating.	identified nesting	50%
Soil Quality Improvements	Not relevant for this application		
Other			

VI. Socio-Economic Information

Environmental benefits of the project are clearly visible and measurable after finalizing of all planned construction works (sluices, water gates, reparation of dyke). Areas of restored meadows and wetlands exceeded the original targets and status of breeding/feeding/migrating birds, with priority value for conservation in Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs in restored habitats have generally improved. project team promoted availability of environmental schemes (AES) applicable at project areas and conditions for benefiting from them through personal conversations and through distribution of information materials in the whole project span. Free advisory service was offered in respect of preparations of applications for entering into the agro-environmental scheme. Furthermore, farmers at project area participated in agroenvironmental schemes available in Slovakia in shortened programming; thus a training for land users on AES was held, with participation of 33 land users. Participants were also What are the benefits and co-benefits informed on preparation of management plan for Senne SPA. Presence of SPAs in vicinity of villages in combination with of NWRMs in this application? extensive tourist infrastructure established within a framework of the project and outstanding opportunities for bird watching within a framework of Slovakia, shall attract local and foreign visitors. Consequently, the local people can benefit indirectly through provision of services to tourist in villages. This is particularly important because the region where the project sites are located is less developed with high unemployment rate and local communities through the project activities gradually started appreciate natural values of their surrounding: wetlands and water-birds. Some of project actions were specifically designed to support attitude of the public towards nature conservation: successful exhibition on natural values of Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs with over 9 700 visitors, info-desks on "Birds Day" in center of Michalovce visited by hundreds of citizens, presentations for schools in the region, media outputs on project achievements and distribution of promotion and information materials.

Total:

Financial costs

Value

Text / Specify

		1242576 €	Design and construction
	Capital:	507646 €	Includes: External assistance costs, direct personnel costs and Consumable materials
	Land acquisition and value:	210000 €	54,3731 ha of land purchased in the Ostrovik Meadow area within Senne SPA.
	Operational:		
	Maintenance:		
	Other: Investment	524930 €	Includes: infrastructural costs and equipment costs
Were financial compensations required? What amount?	for Senne Fish pondut not included in the Slovak Republication suggested that 10% Fisheries Operation payments. Activity to Elaborate protection of birds a habitats in intensive	paid (in €): lot –aqua environds that has been to the Operation in 2007-2013", and of funds that hal Program be a lotted pilot aquation its	conmental scheme proposal on prepared and promoted, onal Program "Fisheries of Ministry of Environment would be regulated by the allocated for compensation environmental scheme for
Economic costs	Actual income loss: N/A info Additional costs: N/A info Other opportunity costs. N/A info Comments / Remarks:		
Which link can be made to the ecosystem services approach?	protection as economics generate revenue - Agro-environme - Public awareness increase the likel	o-tourism potent c. ntal schemes for s of environmen ihood that futur	associated to habitat tial of the region will r local farmers tal values and benefits will e anthropogenic pressure) will be reduced.

VII. Monitoring & maintenance requirements

Monitoring requirements	 Regular monitoring requirements include bio-diversity monitoring and assessment of endangered bird species, water regime monitoring and habitat monitoring. Results are presented in annual and summary monitoring reports: 1. Installation of small infrastructures to improve control of the sites and allow regulated access of public: 5 towers for monitoring/bird-watching built in Senne SPA and 2 monitoring/visitors towers in Medzibodrozie SPA 2. Monitoring of restoration progress and development of habitats (performed by Daphne and by local expert Mr. Bogoly): Regular monitoring of ground water in dip-wells Habitat monitoring in project sites (2009, 2010) Regular monitoring of dip-wells done (2010) 3. Monitoring of bird populations and assessment of conservation status in project sites: Regular monitoring of birds (2006, 2007, 2008) 3 monitoring camps organized during breeding season (04/2008, 05/2008, 06/2008) 1 monitoring camp in SPA Senne in 1st Q 2009 organized Regular monitoring of birds done in both project areas and 5 coordinated bird counts done in SPA Senne during 2010 (in March, April, May, June and November)
Maintenance requirements	The Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia will continue maintenance activities focused on preservation of reestablished natural conditions in the area, as favorable water regime on the restored meadows and wetlands by operation of water gates and sluices built at in SPA Senne and Medzibodrožie Regular monitoring of impact of management practices on flora and fauna will be done with a special attention to populations of criterion bird species, condition of groundwater and on corresponding habitats for at least 5 years after finishing the project. They will continue as well to take care for purchased plots at Senné by their mowing, maintaining optimal water levels, maintaining new feeding and breeding habitats for birds and also renewal of extensive pasture of cattle is planned in Senné SPA. Opening of a further part of the nature trail Through the Birds Paradise is planned in municipal area of villages Blatná Polianka and Blatné Remety in summer 2011
What are the administrative costs?	N/A info

VIII. Performance metrics and assessment criteria

Which assessment methods and practices are used for assessing the biophysical impacts?	The main assessment method is the comparison of the ecological status of the restored wetlands pre vs. post implementation.
Which methods are used to	No economic and financial analysis were carried out prior the

assess costs, benefits and cost-effectiveness of measures? How cost-effective are NWRM's	Project start because of the emphasis on wetlands restoration and biodiversity conservation. No specific methods were established within a framework of the Project to assess costs, benefits and cost-effectiveness of measures. Therefore, the assessment can only be based on quantity of a long term indicators as Conservation status of targeted habitats and specious and indirectly targeting employment opportunities or revenue generation mechanisms for local population.	
compared to "traditional / structural" measures?	N/A info	
How do (if applicable) specific basin characteristics influence the effectiveness of measures?	Both project sites are typical lowland habitats. The Senne Fish Ponds Special Protection Area features typical wetlands habitats, confirmed to be of international importance since 1990, when it was designated as Ramsar site. The site is located in a formerly seasonally-inundated large, flat depression within the Vychodoslovenska nižina Lowland (East Slovakian Lowland) on an important waterbird migration route. It includes one large pond with adjacent seasonally-flooded grasslands and shrub swamps and commercial fish-farming ponds. Commercial fish farming conflicts with birds conservation objectives. Medzibodrozie Special Protection Area is another complex of wetlands comprised of numerous habitats and plants associated with lowlands. The site has a high density of oxbows, shallow wetlands, canals and alluvial meadows. In the contexts of bird conservation, this area was heavily affected by several unfavourable factors: first of all it was a construction of the polder — an occasional accumulation area for floodwaters of Latorica and Laborec rivers. The polder is surrounded by dykes. This led to drying up the area, abandonment of meadows and consequent overgrowing by bushes.	
What is the standard time delay for measuring the effects of the measures?	10-15 years are expected for the restored wetlands to reach the desired ecosystem value.	

IX. Main risks, implications, enabling factors and preconditions

	- Difficulties with technical design due to insufficient national	
	expertise in wetlands restoration	
	- Need to change a project area and modify some action because	
	substantial part of the land planned to be influenced by	
	restoration measures was sold to a new owner, who did not	
What were the main	support proposals for any restoration actions;	
implementation barriers?	- Inability of the State Nature Conservancy (SNC) to ensure the	
	committed level of the project co-financing	
	- Failure to test and introduce aqua environmental schemes into	
	conservation practice in Slovakia;	
	- Delayed legal designation of the Senne SPA	
	- Severe weather conditions and consequent heavy floods in 2010.	
What were the main enabling	- Available financing for capital investments;	
and success factors?	- Commitment and support provided by competent authorities,	

	 partners in the project; regular communication with stakeholders and prepare a visit to properly managed Natura 2000 site; Project actions that were specifically designed to support attitude of the public towards nature conservation; Nationally established Criteria and Indicators for assessing the conservation status of habitats and species of European importance (published by SNC in 2005) Regular monitoring of habitats, project reports, monitoring reports by SNC to EC on the conservation status of European importance (published by SNC in 2005) 	
Financing	 EU life nature Project 50% National Funds 50% The targeted purchase of 50 hectares of wet meadows important for birds in Senne SPA was exceeded. Total of 54,3731 ha of land was purchased by SOS/BirdLife Slovakia at Ostrovik Meadows Infrastructure costs were incurred at 66.56 % compared to original budget. Discrepancy compared to original budget is caused by the fact that some infrastructure, notably water gates at Medzibodrozie project site, was financed through Norwegian/EHP Financial Mechanism and accordingly, it was not accounted to the present budget. Non-recurring management activities in Medzibodrozie SPA were subject of Project modification and mostly were financed through the financial assistance from EEA/Norwegian Financial mechanism that the SNC received for implementing the project "Conservation of diversity of water birds at the Eastern Slovakian Lowland. 	
Flexibility & Adaptability	Adaptation to changing hydrological and habitat conditions have been achieved by a width range of structures reflecting surface, soil and geological conditions that are flexible concerning operation and further improvement of hydraulic conditions	
Transferability	The project included numerous activities with reliability potential for the protection and management of other SPAs in Slovakia or for nature conservation approaches in general, as Management plan for Senne SPA, Land purchase for conservation objectives Bird watching infrastructure in Senne SPA was a pilot infrastructure of this kind in Slovakia. It has huge reliability potential. Already in the Project span, the infrastructure was replicated in Medzibodrozie SPA within a framework of the project "Conservation of Diversity of Waterbirds and their Habitats in Eastern Slovakian Lowland "supported from EEA /Norwegian Financial Mechanism	

X. <u>Lessons learned</u>

	- Importance of existing proper legal and financial instruments - Good, project, implementation, was achieved generally, through
Key lessons	- Good project implementation was achieved generally, through
	good co-operation and communication with local stakeholders established in both project areas.

- Especially good relationship was maintained with local villages, who were the project partners as well as with farmers, local schools, etc. Most of farmers/lands users supported key project activities, such as restoration of flooding regime at meadows and establishment of tourist infrastructure that was overall pilot one within the region.
- Good co-operation was also maintained with state water management agency "SVP" that was contracted for all the construction works related to restoration of dyke, water inlet and outlet in Senne NNR.
 Cooperation was not, however established with fish farming company "DONA", that was expected to implement pilot aquaenvironmental scheme. When refusing cooperation, they gave reason of general insufficiency of compensation and incentives system for nature protection in Slovakia and consequent repeating economic loss of their company caused by birds feeding on fish from commercial fishponds. The process of implementation of the project was negatively influenced by several external factors including, inter alia, changes in land ownership in vicinity of project area within Medzibodrozie SPA in 2006 and severe weather conditions in 2010.
- Innovation and demonstration value of the project was in demonstrating approaches to nature conservation that are, so far, not common ones in Slovakia
 Needs for dissemination of project results, exchange of scientific expertizes and conservation experience with other practitioners / regions particularly in addressing opportunities and challenges characteristic for individual sites

XI. References

Note: To enter more references and key people please add rows as necessary

Source Type	Project Report	
Source Author(s)	Zuzana Guziova (Project Manager), in cooperation with Miroslav Demko, Samuel Pačenovský, Ján Uhrín, Eva Lukáčová, Jan Gugh (SOS/Birdlife Slovakia), Matej Repel, Peter Chrasc (SNC)	
Source Title	FINAL REPORT Covering the project activities from 15/11/2005 to 14/05/2011	
Year of publication	2011	
Editor/Publisher	LIFE06 NAT/SK/000114 Conservation of Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs in Slovakia	
Source Weblink	blink http://www.life-senne.sk/download/final_REPORT_SENNERESTSK.pdf	

Source Type	Project Report	
Source Author(s)	N/A	
Source Title	Report from monitoring of Birds in LIFE Project Conservation of Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs in Slovakia LIFE06NAT/SK/000114 (LIFE projekt Ochrana chránených vtáčích území Senné a Medzibodrožie na	

	Slovensku)
Year of publication	
Editor/Publisher	
Source Weblink	

Source Type	Project Report	
Source Author(s)	N/A	
Source Title	Ochrana chránených vtáčích území Senné a Medzibodrožie na Slovensku	
Year of publication		
Editor/Publisher	Správa pre verejnosť / Layman`s report	
Source Weblink	http://www.life- senne.sk/download/Senne LaymanReport web.pdf	

Source Type	Website		
Source Author(s)	N/A		
Source Title	LIFE06 NAT/SK/000114 Conservation of Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs in Slovakia		
Year of publication			
Editor/Publisher			
Source Weblink	http://www.life-senne.sk/english/index_eng.php?page=project		
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XII. Photos Gallery



Figure 1. The area of Medzibodrožie, characteristic by various habitat types and lowland communities, (© SOS/BirdLife Slovakia)

Source: http://www.life-senne.sk/english/index eng.php?page=photos



Figure 2. The Senné wetland between villages Iňačovce, Blatná Polianka, and Senne is on the other hand a land of ponds and flooded meadows. A paradise for birds and fishes. (© SOS/BirdLife Slovakia) Source: http://www.life-senne.sk/english/index.eng.php?page=photos