



# **Club "Economika 2000"**

## **FINAL REPORT**

### **DESIGN OF PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) SYSTEM FOR THE "WETLANDS RESTORATION AND POLLUTION REDUCTION PROJECT"**

**July, 2004**

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## INTRODUCTION

This report has been drafted in compliance with Contract № CS-4/1, concluded between Club "Economika 2000" (Contractor) and the Ministry of Environment and Water (Client) for "Design of project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for the "Wetlands restoration and pollution reduction project"".

The report includes the results from the contract's implementation.

### **1. Goal and objectives**

The main project goal is to develop a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system, which:

1. To support the evaluation of "Wetlands restoration and pollution reduction project in Bulgaria" by the various stakeholders and mostly by the institutions responsible for its implementation.
2. To allow the evaluation of the project's outputs via measurable and essential indicators showing:
  - the effective and efficient project implementation;
  - the project's effect reaching the target group;
  - the reaching of the goal and objectives, set in the logical framework.
3. To provide adequate quantitative and qualitative information for the evaluation of the project's impacts including the changing opinions of the stakeholders regarding the occurring and the anticipated socio-economic changes from the project's implementation.
4. To allow the obtaining of important feedback from the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) regarding the fulfillment of the selected approach "learning through action" of the component of the wetlands restoration project.
5. Being integrated in the existing institutional framework, the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system allows the incorporation of participation elements.

The following research tasks have been resolved for accomplishing the goal and objectives set in the work process:

### **2. Tasks**

1. Elaboration of detailed time schedule of the project activities allowing the structuring of activities in terms of their influence on the accomplishment of the project's goal and objectives set in the logical framework.
2. Analysis of the stakeholders allowing to identify the stakeholders and define their attitude to and position in the project's implementation.
3. Elaboration of instruments for implementation of social assessment of the project's impact on the stakeholders.
4. Approbation of the instruments and drafting of report with the results from the social assessment of the project's impact on the stakeholders.
5. Evaluation of the agricultural activities performed on the territory of the wetland and in its close proximity – for Kalimok-Brushlen.

6. Elaboration of instruments and their approbation for evaluating the institutional capacity of the local units implementing the wetlands restoration project in both areas.
7. Development of a system of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the project's progress.
8. Development of a proposal for additional reporting to the MOEW beyond the presently selected scheme.

### ***3. Scope and technology of work***

The project work went through 3 time phases, as follows:

#### ***A. Introductory phase – duration 3 months***

The following activities were carried out in this project phase:

1. Study of the written documents provided by the Client and related to the implementation of the project that is subject to monitoring and evaluation. The analysis of the materials allowed:
  - To identify the work done by that moment;
  - To outline the forthcoming activities, which were to be implemented within the six-month period of the survey, as well as afterwards;
  - To identify the stakeholders (groups and institutions) and their attitude towards the project's implementation;
  - To make preliminary assessment of what was done regarding the monitoring and evaluation of the project.
2. Meetings with key MOEW officials and stakeholders from the area of Belene and Kalimok-Brushlen were held in order to verify the conclusions and evaluations made in the analysis of the documents.
3. The performed studies determined that the designing of a monitoring and evaluation system for the "Wetlands restoration and pollution reduction project in Bulgaria" requires the development of action plans for both areas, which aim at fulfilling the project's main goals. These plans were developed and coordinated with the PCU.
4. The outputs from this project phase were presented in the Inception Report.

#### ***B. Research phase – duration 4 months***

The following activities were carried out in this project phase:

1. The main performance indicators that will measure the project's progress were analyzed and evaluated. The analysis was directed towards the selected concrete indicators measuring the achieved progress in terms of the information they give and their position in the monitoring and evaluation system. The analysis was based on the existing documents and materials for the project, as well as on the surveys related to the monitoring and evaluation system. At this stage it was assumed as appropriate that the monitoring and evaluation system for the "Wetlands restoration and pollution reduction project in Bulgaria" to be based on the approach and the principles underlying the system for monitoring and evaluation of the strategy for modernization of

the state administration and its implementation plan<sup>1</sup>. This approach becomes widely used and allows in the future the entire monitoring and evaluation system to be presented electronically via the relevant software.

2. Stakeholders' analysis. The individuals, the groups and the institutions related to the project's implementation were identified based on the available data and the additional information. Those of them, who should be subjects to analysis and for whom evaluation instruments should be developed, were agreed with the Project Coordination Unit (PCU).
3. Institutional analysis. The functions, which the local project implementation units will fulfill, were determined based on the existing documents and the conducted interviews with key MOEW officials. On this basis was determined the supposed optimum capacity of the institutions for meeting the project's challenges related to the needed staff, qualification, facilities, coordination with other projects and institutions, etc. The elaborated optimum model was used for preparation of a questionnaire for evaluating the capacity of the relevant units. In the future the completeness of the project monitoring and evaluation will require systematic efforts for measuring the capacity of institutions which are directly responsible for the project performance.
4. Elaboration of instruments for sociological surveys. On the basis of the stakeholders' analysis were prepared methodological guidelines for the elaboration of samples for the different stakeholder groups, as well as the relevant questionnaires and instructions for the interviewers. The size of samples and their representativeness, as well as the relevant questionnaires were agreed with the PCU.
5. The fieldwork started after the preparation of the sociological survey instruments and the institutional capacity analysis. Physical and logical control on the results was made and the results were processed.
6. An observation on the agricultural activities performed on the wetlands' area and in close proximity to them was carried out during the fieldwork in response to the Client's request. The results from the observation were presented in a report. The results from the monitoring allow to evaluate the eventual assistance, which the agricultural producers will have to obtain in case of accidental flooding of agricultural land, as well as to evaluate the loss of business on the territory of the wetlands.

A draft report was prepared at the end of this project phase, which includes the achieved results. It was sent to the Client, as well as via the PCU to the stakeholders.

### C. Closing phase – duration 1 month

The following activities were carried out in this phase:

1. Discussion with the Client and the other stakeholders was held on the proposals made in the draft final report and project evaluation indicators have been selected.

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<sup>1</sup> - Club "Economika 2000" participated in the development of this system in cooperation with the Danish company "Ramboll Management".

2. A final report containing short description of the conducted discussions on the draft final report and the approved monitoring and evaluation system was prepared. The report on the discussions in the two project territories and the presentations of the results before the stakeholders are given in Appendix 5.

# I. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) SYSTEM FOR THE “WETLANDS RESTORATION AND POLLUTION REDUCTION PROJECT IN BULGARIA”

## (Methodological Framework)

It is important for every project:

*first*, to be implemented according to preliminary set goals, objectives, deadlines and resources;

*second*, to be sustainable in time and to develop the incorporated activities and effects.

Thus it is recommended to perform monitoring and evaluation of the project and to determine the appropriate actions – for adjusting and improving the incorporated activities.

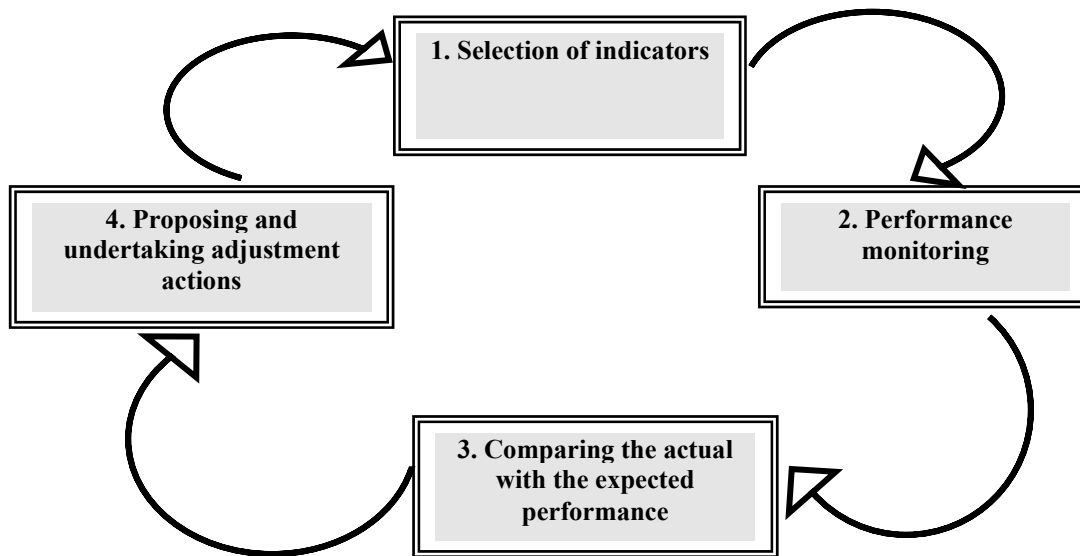
*Monitoring* can be defined as: (a) an integral part of the operating management of the project; (b) an instrument supporting the control on the management and the decision-making process; (c) description of events and conditions within a certain period of time; (d) systematical collection of reliable, up-to-date and important information for the progress, the changes and the consequences from the undertaken program actions. These essential features of monitoring determine it as one of the most important components of the management of strategic documents, programs, projects, etc.

*Evaluation* is a systematic review of the concrete management activities for provision of information for the entire range of short-term and long-term impacts on the beneficiaries and users. The evaluation for the project implementation may include evaluation of the workload, the operating procedures or the staff, however its major purpose remains the effect and the impact from the project’s implementation.

Therefore the monitoring should determine the status and trace the progress in the performance of the particular components and sub-components and thus the project’s performance as a whole. The monitoring should also identify the arising problems, the factors that determine them and suggest possible measure and solutions of these problems. The obtained information is expected to be at the disposal of the relevant managing authority (mostly the Ministry of Environment and Water – The Project Management Unit). The sense of this is to enable this authority and the other competent institutions if they decide – to undertake immediate “adjustment actions”, which would help for achieving the goals and objectives defined in the project documentation.



The cycle for performing the monitoring and evaluation is presented in the following figure:



The main contents of each of these stages are related to the following:

**The first stage** could be conditionally defined as a preparatory one. Then is developed the system of indicators, through which the performance of the monitored project is measured and evaluated. The indicators are qualitative or quantitative measures, which are a simple and reliable basis for evaluating the accomplishments, the changes and the way for action. In other words they “define” the type of information, which has to be obtained for any task performed within the project.

The indicators may be divided into groups depending on the type of information that they provide. There are indicators for the resources, which describe the resources needed for the fulfillment of the task; indicators for the results, which describe the *product* from the tasks or the types of activities needed for the performance of the task; *the efficiency* of the task’s performance is described through indicators for the process, which link the results with the input resources; and finally the project effect is measured with the help of indicators for the impact.

In the development of the system of indicators special attention should be paid on: (a) the way they are defined (calculation); (b) the appropriate and possible ways for collection of information for each indicator; (c) the needed resources.

We have followed these major methodological requirements when selecting and defining the indicators, through which to monitor the performance of the action plans and the achievement of the goals of the present project.

The performance monitoring is prepared and implemented at the **second stage**. The methods for this could be different – documentation study, site monitoring, sociological surveys (questionnaires, interviews, focus groups with stakeholders), collection and systematization of statistical data, etc. The collection of information (the performance of the *current* monitoring) can be made either by the unit that performs the program, or – by an external independent organization. The first option is relatively cheaper, but it is related to the risk for losing important managerial

control. This is so because sometimes exists natural motivation for distorting or concealing information, which can be used as a motive for imposing sanctions or cutting down incentives. In order to counteract this natural trend the PMU (and respectively the project manager) may establish a special group which would perform the monitoring and thus act as some kind of censor for revising certain activities of other organizational units. The performance of such activity as a rule requires development of a good information system. It does not save the problems of the manager, however it makes him be prepared for their occurrence. The option for assigning the current monitoring to an external organization is a more expensive one, but it is a pre-requisite for greater independence and objectiveness. In both cases the existence of an information system is a significant advantage for collection and systematization of the necessary data (or at least for part of them), and on this basis – for their optimum processing and evaluation. These advantages and disadvantages of both possible options should be considered in the further work.

Comparison of the actual with the expected performance, respectively – comparison of the achieved results with the planned (envisaged, anticipated) results and impacts is done at the **third stage**. The comparison determines whether significant differences exist between the defined activities and the anticipated results from them (on one hand) **and** the achieved results (on the other hand), what the deviations are and what is their importance for the overall project implementation (respectively – for achieving the incorporated goals). The questions that should be usually answered are:

- Where is the project in regard to the planned activities, the envisaged resources and parameters of the anticipated performance?
- What is the relation between the incurred costs, the time schedule and the features of the project performance (e.g. achieved results, impacts, effectiveness, efficiency, etc.)?

At this third stage, the information obtained at the second stage could be compared with the preliminary set “benchmarks”, which support the formulation of certain evaluations for the performance of the relevant project. The system for monitoring and evaluation of the project’s performance (respectively – of its goals and of the action plans) proposed by us, includes similar “benchmarks”/ “indicators for success”.

*Current evaluation* of the performance could be made on this basis. This means mostly to evaluate the progress in the project’s performance, to identify the existence of deviations from the set parameters and to determine the reasons that have caused these deviations. Special attention should be paid to those deviations and problems, which would question the achievement of the set goals. In certain cases the finding of discrepancies could lead to revising/updating of the initial plan (or document) either because it has been unrealistically developed in the very beginning or because the changes in conditions have made it such.

This is the basis, from which one can go to the **fourth stage**. Then proposals for adjustment activities are formulated and they are undertaken in order to resolve the identified problems in the project’s implementation. It should not be relied on the belief that the performance of the adjustment actions will automatically eliminate the problems. Evaluation of the adjustment actions is also needed. This could be done within an (*ex-post*) evaluation of the achieved ultimate results and impacts from the major and the adjustment actions undertaken in the project’s implementation.

Summarizing it should be emphasized that if **monitoring** is concentrated on observing: (a) the undertaken actions and the spent resources; (b) the achieved results, (c) the running of process in time, (d) the achieved impacts, then **evaluation** itself aims at determining the extent, in which the interim (specific) and the overall (general) goals of the document are accomplished and also includes a systematic review of the concrete management operations for providing information for the full range of short-term and long-term impacts.

Therefore the major moments that should be monitored in relation to the project's implementation are:

- following of the envisaged time schedule of the activities;
- amount, speed and extent of spending of the resources;
- the accomplished results;
- reaching the defined goals an impact of the document.

Monitoring should be performed frequently enough in the course of the project's implementation in order to adjust successfully and in time the deviations from the preliminary set plan.

**1. System for monitoring and evaluation of the “Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project in Bulgaria”**

The proposed monitoring and evaluation system complies with the main methodological requirements presented above. It includes concrete indicators, according to which the project implementation progress is monitored; benchmarks for making the evaluation, as well as ways for obtaining information.

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
<i>Objective 1: To demonstrate and provide for reduction of transboundary nutrient loads and other agricultural pollution flowing into the Danube River and the Black Sea Basins</i>	Elimination of nutrients due to the wetlands.	Percentage reduction of the nutrient loads between the inflowing and outflowing water from the restored wetlands	At the first stage they are determined according to the drafted by MWH and approved work design.  In the second stage – from the protected areas management plans.	Technical monitoring		Increase of percentage  According to the requirements of the technical monitoring
	Capacity of the protected areas management units to manage the facilities and perform monitoring and evaluation of the nutrients.	% of the people performing functions related to the management of the wetlands operation facilities compared to the ones pointed in the benchmark.	The benchmark for the necessary number of people performing this activity set in the capacity evaluation.  The evaluation from the previous year.	Evaluation for the capacity of the units drafted based on the proposed form.		Increase of percentage  Annually

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		% of the people performing functions related to the monitoring of nutrients compared to ones pointed in the benchmark.	The benchmark for the necessary number of people performing this activity set in the capacity evaluation.  The evaluation from the previous year.	Evaluation for the capacity of the units drafted based on the proposed form.		Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of the people whose qualification is classified as adequate or higher than the needed for performing functions related to the management of the wetlands operation facilities.	The performed preliminary evaluation of the protected areas management units.  The evaluation from the previous year.	Evaluation for the capacity of the units drafted based on the proposed form.		Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of the people whose qualification is classified as adequate or higher than the needed for monitoring the nutrients.	The performed preliminary evaluation of the protected areas management units.  The evaluation from the previous year.	Evaluation for the capacity of the units drafted based on the proposed form.		Increase of percentage  Annually
		A complex indicator incorporating with equal weights the evaluation for the	The performed preliminary evaluation of the protected areas management units.	Evaluation for the capacity of the units drafted based on the proposed form.		The value of the indicator increases

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		sufficiency and the availability of equipment and its quality for performing nutrients' monitoring.	The evaluation from the previous year.			Annually
	Improving the effectiveness in the project's implementation in relation to nutrients reduction	Evaluation of the PCU regarding the achieved effectiveness in the project's implementation – cost-benefit analysis with accumulation through the years.	The preliminary cost-benefit evaluation.  The previous evaluation.	A report from the PCU.		The evaluation improves  Annually
		Annual evaluation of RIEW and the Basin Directorate regarding the achieved results related to the nutrients reduction and cost effectiveness in wetlands restoration compared to other options.	Expert evaluation of the results.	A questionnaire for RIEW; at a later stage – drafting of a questionnaire for the Basin Directorate		The evaluation improves  Annually
		Evaluation of MOEW regarding the achieved effectiveness in the project's	Expert evaluation of key experts from MOEW and EEA.	Report		The evaluation improves Annually

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		implementation.				
<b><i>Objective 2: To provide for conservation of key threatened species in the project areas through wetlands restoration and protected areas management programs</i></b>	Conservation and increasing of the species and the size of populations of typical for the wetlands representatives of the wild flora and fauna.	Number of endangered species from the wild flora and fauna.	At the first stage they are determined according to the drafted by MWH and approved work design.  At the second stage – from the protected areas management plans.	Biological monitoring		Decrease of the number  According the biological monitoring
		Number of species from the wild flora and fauna represented in the wetlands.	At the first stage they are determined according to the drafted by MWH and approved work design.  At the second stage – from the protected areas management plans.	Biological monitoring		Increase of the number  According to the biological monitoring
		Size of the populations of the certain species of the wild flora and fauna represented in the wetlands.	At the first stage they are determined according to the drafted by MWH and approved work design.  At the second stage – from the protected area	Biological monitoring		Increase of the number  According to the biological

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
			management plans.			monitoring
	Capacity of the protected areas management units to manage the facilities and perform monitoring and evaluation of the biodiversity.	% of the people performing functions related to the management of the wetlands operation facilities compared to the ones pointed in the benchmark.	The benchmark for the necessary number of people performing this activity set in the capacity evaluation.  The evaluation from the previous year.	Evaluation for the capacity of the units drafted based on the proposed form.		Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of the people performing functions related to the monitoring of nutrients compared to ones pointed in the benchmark.	The benchmark for the necessary number of people performing this activity set in the capacity evaluation.  The evaluation from the previous year.	Evaluation for the capacity of the units drafted based on the proposed form.		Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of the people whose qualification is classified as adequate or higher than the needed for performing functions related to the management of the wetlands operation facilities.	The performed preliminary evaluation of the protected areas management units.  The evaluation from the previous year.	Evaluation for the capacity of the units drafted based on the proposed form.		Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of the people whose	The performed	Evaluation for the		Increase of



<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		qualification is classified as adequate or higher than the needed for monitoring the biodiversity.	preliminary evaluation of the protected areas management units.  The evaluation from the previous year.	capacity of the units drafted based on the proposed form.		percentage  Annually
		A complex indicator incorporating with equal weights the evaluation for the sufficiency and the availability of equipment and its quality for performing biodiversity monitoring.	The performed preliminary evaluation of the protected areas management units.  The evaluation from the preceding year.	Evaluation for the capacity of the units drafted based on the proposed form.		The value of the indicator increases  Annually
	Improving the effectiveness in the project implementation in relation to reducing the nutrients.	Evaluation of the PCU for the achieved effectiveness in the project implementation – cost-benefit analysis with accumulation through the years.	A preliminary cost-benefit evaluation.  The previous evaluation.	A report from the PCU		The evaluation improves  Annually
		Annual evaluation of RIEW regarding the achieved results related to cost effectiveness for biodiversity	Expert evaluation of the results	A questionnaire from the RIEW.		The evaluation improves

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		conservation in wetlands restoration compared to other options.				Annually
		The MOEW's evaluation for the effectiveness achieved in the project implementation.	Expert evaluation of responsible experts from MOEW and EEA.	Report		The evaluation improves  Annually
<b><i>Objective 3: To provide for the support of stakeholders to adopt environmentally-friendly economic activities in the two project areas</i></b>	Increased local awareness and support for the conservation of biological diversity.	% of the population informed that the project is implemented in at least one wetland.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Representative sociological survey of the population.	Part I. Awareness – question 1	Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of the population informed for at least one project objective.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Representative sociological survey of the population.	Part I. Awareness – question 2	Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of the population informed for at least one project result.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Representative sociological survey of the population.	Part I. Awareness – question 3	Increase of percentage  Annually

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		% of the key municipal officials in all municipalities located in the protected areas informed for at least one major expected project result.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of key municipal representatives – mayor, municipal officials and municipal councilors.	Part I. Awareness – question 1	Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of the stakeholders subjects to the survey – owners and users of land, businessmen, fishermen, NGO, media, school directors and teachers informed for the project's implementation in at least one wetland.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of owners and users of land, businessmen, fishermen, NGO, media, school directors and teachers.	Part I. Awareness – question 1	Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of the stakeholders subjects to the survey – owners and users of land, businessmen, fishermen, NGO, media, school directors and teachers informed for at least one project objective.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of owners and users of land, businessmen, fishermen, NGO, media, school directors and teachers.	Part I. Awareness – question 2	Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of the stakeholders	Base survey in 2004	Sociological survey	Part I. Awareness –	Increase of

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		subjects to the survey – owners and users of land, businessmen, fishermen, NGO, media, school directors and teachers informed for at least one project result.	Preceding survey.	of owners and users of land, businessmen, fishermen, NGO, media, school directors and teachers.	question 3	percentage  Annually
		% of the population, who pointed that the positive project results prevail.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Representative sociological survey of the population.	Part II. Attitude – question 13	Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of municipal key officials, who pointed that the positive project results prevail.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of key municipal representatives – mayor, municipal officials and municipal councilors.	Part “Attitude” – from the in-depth interviews – question 14	Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of municipal key officials, who declared support to the project.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of key municipal representatives – mayor, municipal officials and municipal councilors.	Additional questionnaire – question 17	Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of private owners and users of adjacent	Base survey in 2004	Sociological survey	Part II. Attitude –	Increase of

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		land, who pointed that the positive project results prevail.	Preceding survey.	of the stakeholders.	question 13	percentage  Annually
		% of the business representatives, who pointed that the positive project results prevail.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Part II. Attitude – question 13	Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of the fishermen, who pointed that the positive project results prevail.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Part II. Attitude – question 13	Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of media representatives, who pointed that the positive project results prevail.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Part II. Attitude – question 13	Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of school directors and teachers, who pointed that the positive project results prevail.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Part II. Attitude – question 13	Increase of percentage  Annually
		% of NGO representatives, who	Base survey in 2004	Sociological survey	Part II. Attitude –	Increase of

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		pointed that the positive project results prevail	Preceding survey.	of the stakeholders.	question 13	percentage  Annually
		Level of students' support to the project.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Results from the focus groups' sessions.	Increase of the support  Annually
		% of the annual determined activities contradicting to the status of protected areas compared to the previous year.	% to the previous year.	The monitoring of the wetlands by the Park Directorate "Persina" and the NGO "Kalimok-Brushlen", inspections by the RIEW, inspections by municipal environmental experts.		Decrease of the percentage  Annually
	Increased participation of the local communities in the activities for management and conservation of protected areas.	Annual number of the voluntary participants in activities related to management and conservation of protected areas in the	Number of the voluntary participants in activities related to management and conservation of protected areas in the wetlands in the previous	Reports of the protected areas management units.		Increase of the number  Annually

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		wetlands.	year.			
		Annual number of projects implemented and not completed by December 31 related to biodiversity restoration and conservation in the wetlands.	Number of projects in the previous year	Reports of the protected areas management units.		Increase of the number  Annually
		Annual amount of funds spent in the relevant year on projects related to biodiversity restoration and conservation in the wetlands.	Annual funding for the previous year.	Reports of the protected areas management units.		Increase of the funds volume  Annually
		% of the sessions of the local consulting councils in the relevant year compared to the planned number.	Planned number of sessions of the local consulting councils.	Annual plan and report for the work of the local consulting councils.		Increase or preservation of the percentage  Annually
		% of attendance of the participants in the sessions of the consulting councils – average annual value.	100 % attendance of the members in all sessions.  % of the previous year.	Minutes from the sessions.		Increase of the percentage  Annually

Goals	Group of indicators	Indicators	Benchmark	Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators	Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators	Desired direction of change  Monitoring frequency
	Increased local awareness for the importance of the eco-systems for wetlands restoration.	% of the schoolchildren and students living in settlements in the wetlands, who participated in various training forms for explaining the importance of the wetlands in the eco-systems – compared to their number from the previous year.	% to the previous year.	Reports of the protected areas management units.		Increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of the population (without schoolchildren and students), living in settlements in the wetlands, who participated in various training forms for explaining the importance of the wetlands in the eco-systems – compared to their number from the previous year.	% of the previous year.	Reports of the protected areas management units.	Part I. Information - question 8	Increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of the people in the	The performed	Evaluation for the		Increase of the



Goals	Group of indicators	Indicators	Benchmark	Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators	Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators	Desired direction of change  Monitoring frequency
		protected areas management units, whose qualification is determined as adequate or higher than the needed for performing training related to the wetlands and eco-systems.	preliminary evaluation of the protected areas management units.  The evaluation from the previous year.	capacity of the units drafted based on the proposed form.		percentage  Annually
	Improved agricultural practices within the project's implementation in the Persina Nature Park and the Kalimok-Brushlen Protected Site leading to measurable reduction of nutrients.	Percentage reduction of the nutrient loads between the inflowing and outflowing water from the restored wetlands	At the first stage they are determined according to the drafted by MWH and approved work design.  At the second stage – from the protected areas management plans.	Technical monitoring.		Increase of the percentage  Frequency determined by the technical monitoring
		% of farmers' projects approved, implemented and completed during the year and directed towards the introduction of environmentally-friendly agricultural	% to the previous year.	Reports of the SAPARD Program		Increase of the percentage  Annually

Goals	Group of indicators	Indicators	Benchmark	Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators	Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators	Desired direction of change  Monitoring frequency
		practices (in the plant-growing and stock-breeding) in the protected areas – compared to the previous year.				
		% of funds for farmers' projects approved, implemented and completed during the year and directed towards the introduction of environmentally-friendly agricultural practices (in the plant-growing and stock-breeding) in the protected areas – compared to the previous year.	% to the previous year.	Reports of the SAPARD Program Reports of the "Agriculture" Fund Reports of other funding organizations.		Increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of the farmers who addressed during the year the Farmer Transition Support Fund – compared to the number from the	% to the previous year.	Reports of the Farmer Transition Support Fund		Increase of the percentage  Annually

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		previous year.				
		% of the funds granted during the year by the Farmer Transition Support Fund – compared to the previous year.	% to the previous year.	Reports of the Farmer Transition Support Fund		Increase of the percentage  Annually
	Capacity of the protected areas administrations for working with the local communities.	% of the sessions of the local consulting councils in the relevant year compared to the planned number.	Planned number of sessions of the local consulting councils.	Annual plan and report for the work of the local consulting councils.		Preservation or increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of attendance of the participants in the sessions of the consulting councils – average annual value.	100 % attendance of the members in all sessions.  % of the previous year.	Minutes from the sessions.		Increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of the people in the protected areas management units, whose qualification is determined as adequate or higher than the needed for working	The performed preliminary evaluation of the protected areas management units.  The evaluation from the preceding year.	Evaluation for the capacity of the units drafted based on the proposed form.		Increase of the percentage  Annually

Goals	Group of indicators	Indicators	Benchmark	Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators	Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators	Desired direction of change  Monitoring frequency
		with the local communities.				
	Socio-economic development supported by the wetlands restoration and pollution reduction project.	Quality evaluation of the answers of the interviewed mayors, municipal officials and municipal councilors.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders	Part II. Attitude	Improvement of the evaluation  Annually
		% of the people who got (they or their families) real economic benefits from the project's implementation.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Representative sociological survey of the population.	Part II. Attitude, question 15.6; question 15.8; question 15.9; question 15.10; question 15.11; question 15.13 ( <i>the questions from the base survey will be reviewed as 'expectations', while in the next survey they will be reviewed as 'effects'.</i> ).	Increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of the businessmen, who got real economic benefits from the project's implementation.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Part II. Attitude, question 15.6; question 15.8; question 15.9; question 15.10;	Increase of the percentage  Annually

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
					question 15.11; question 15.13 + question 2 from the Additional Questionnaire	
		% of the fishermen, who got real economic benefits from the project's implementation.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Part II. Attitude, question 15.6; question 15.8; question 15.9; question 15.10; question 15.11; question 15.13 + question 2 from the Additional Questionnaire	Increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of the private owners and users of land, who got real economic benefits from the project's implementation.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Part II. Attitude, question 15.6; question 15.8; question 15.9; question 15.10; question 15.11; question 15.13 + question 2 from the Additional Questionnaire	Increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of the other stakeholders	Base survey in 2004	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Part II. Attitude, question 15.6;	Increase of the percentage

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		(municipal administration, NGOs), included in the survey, who got real economic benefits from the project's implementation.	Preceding survey.		question 15.8; question 15.9; question 15.10; question 15.11; question 15.13 (+ question 5 from the Additional Questionnaire for NGOs)	Annually
		% of the people, who are optimistic and expect positive economic benefits from the project's implementation.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Representative sociological survey of the population.	Part II. Attitude, question 14.6; question 14.8; question 14.9; question 14.10; question 14.11; question 14.13.	Increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of the businessmen who are optimistic and expect positive economic benefits from the project's implementation.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Part II. Attitude, question 14.6; question 14.8; question 14.9; question 14.10; question 14.11; question 14.13.	Increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of the fishermen who are optimistic and expect positive economic benefits from	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Part II. Attitude, question 14.6; question 14.8; question 14.9;	Increase of the percentage

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		the project's implementation.			question 14.10; question 14.11; question 14.13.	Annually
		% of the private owners and users of land who are optimistic and expect positive economic benefits from the project's implementation.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Part II. Attitude, question 14.6; question 14.8; question 14.9; question 14.10; question 14.11; question 14.13.	Increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of the other stakeholders (municipal administration, NGOs), included in the survey, who are optimistic and expect positive economic benefits from the project's implementation.	Base survey in 2004 Preceding survey.	Sociological survey of the stakeholders.	Part II. Attitude, question 14.6; question 14.8; question 14.9; question 14.10; question 14.11; question 14.13.	Increase of the percentage  Annually
		Evaluation of the regional administration about the effect of the wetlands restoration project on the socio-economic development.	Expert evaluation of the results.	A questionnaire for the regional administration.		Improvement of the evaluation  Annually

Goals	Group of indicators	Indicators	Benchmark	Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators	Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators	Desired direction of change  Monitoring frequency
	Increasing the financial independence of the protected areas management units	% of the own source revenues of the protected areas management units – compared to their overall allowance.	Annual plan.  % against the proceeding year	A report of the protected areas management units.		Increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of the revenues from activities in the protected areas (visits in the visitors' centers, organized observation of typical species of the flora and fauna, awarded projects from external institutions, etc.) – compared to the revenues from the preceding year.	Annual plan.  % against the proceeding year	A report of the protected areas management units.		Increase of the percentage  Annually
	Partnership with Bulgarian and regional scientific communities.	% of the scholars involved in resolving problems related to the project's objectives compared to the previous year.	% to the previous year.	A report of the protected areas management units.		Increase of the percentage  Annually
		% of the scientific institutions involved in	% to the previous year.	A report of the protected areas		Increase of the percentage



<b>Goals</b>	<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Ways for obtaining the information for the indicators</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological surveys' questionnaires, which could be used as indicators</b>	<b>Desired direction of change</b>  <b>Monitoring frequency</b>
		resolving problems related to the project's objectives compared to the previous year.		management units.		Annually
		% of the funds spent on scientific research compared to the previous year.	% to the previous year.	A report of the protected areas management units.		Increase of the percentage  Annually
	Improving the effectiveness of project's implementation in providing for the support of stakeholders for adoption of environmentally friendly economic activities in both project areas	Evaluation of the PCU for the achieved effectiveness in the project's implementation – cost-benefit analysis with accumulation in the years.	Preliminary cost-benefit analysis.  The preceding evaluation.	A report by the PCU		Improvement of the evaluation  Annually
		Evaluation by the MOEW for the achieved effectiveness in the project's implementation.	Expert evaluation of key experts from MOEW and EEA.	A report.		Improvement of the evaluation  Annually

The results of the sociological survey (see Section 1) allow qualifying some of the indices in the proposed system of monitoring and assessment, more particularly those related to Strategic objective 3. These values form the basic values of the indices, which may be compared and assessed, based on the results of sociological surveys on the implementation of the project which will be carried out in the next years.

**Table 2. Values of the indices for monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of Strategic objective 3 in the year 2004**

Objectives	Indices	Questions from the sociological survey questionnaire which can be used as indices	Value from the 2004 survey (Protected Site “Kalimok-Brushlen”)	Value from the 2004 survey (Persina Nature Park)
<i>Strategic objective 3: to ensure support of stakeholders for accepting environmentally friendly economic activities in both sites</i>	% of persons aware of the implementation of the project in at least on site.	Part I. Awareness - q. 1	69.1%	40.4%
	% of citizens informed about at least one project objective	Part I. Awareness - q.2	20.0%	39.2%
	% of citizens aware of at least one project result	Part I. Awareness - q.3	10.6%	13.3%
	% of key factors in all municipalities located in protected sites of at least one expected project result	Part I. Awareness – q.1	100%	100%
	% of stakeholders subject to this survey – farmers, businessmen, fishermen, NGOs, media, directors and teacher, aware of the implementation of the project in at least one of the two sites.	Part I. Awareness - q. 1	Farmers – 60% Businessmen – 100% Fishermen – 70% NGOs – 75% Madia – 100% Headmaster and teachers – 100%	Farmers – not interviewed Businessmen – 80% Fishermen – 80% NGOs – 75% Media – 100% Headmaster and teachers – 100%
	% of stakeholders subject to this survey – farmers, businessmen, fishermen, NGOs, media, directors and teacher, aware of at least one project objective.	Part I. Awareness - q.2	Farmers – 60% Businessmen – 100% Fishermen – 50% NGOs – 75% Media – 100% Headmaster and teachers – 100%	Farmers – not interviewed Businessmen – 60% Fishermen – 80% NGOs – 75% Media – 100% Headmaster and teachers – 75%

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Indices</b>	<b>Questions from the sociological survey questionnaire which can be used as indices</b>	<b>Value from the 2004 survey (Protected Site “Kalimok-Brushlen”)</b>	<b>Value from the 2004 survey (Persina Nature Park)</b>
	% of stakeholders subject to this survey – farmers, businessmen, fishermen, NGOs, media, directors and teacher, aware of at least one project result.	Part I. Awareness - q.3	Farmers – 50% Businessmen – 60% Fishermen – 50% NGOs – 75% Media – 100% Headmaster and teachers – 100%	Farmers – not interviewed Businessmen – 40% Fishermen – 50% NGOs – 75% Media – 100% Headmaster and teachers – 75%
	% of citizens of the opinion that positive effects prevail	Part II. Attitude – q. 13	15.1%	39.2%
	% municipal key factors of the opinion that positive effects prevail	Part “Attitude” – from the in-depth interviews – q. 14	90%	100%
	% of municipal key factors pointing out that they support the project	Part “Attitude” – from the in-depth interview – q. 17	100%	100%
	% of owners and users of land who point out that positive project effects are prevailing	Part II. Attitude – q. 13	20%	Not interviewed
	% of representatives of the businesses who declare that the positive project effects are prevailing	Part II. Attitude – q. 13	60%	40%
	% of fishermen who declare that positive effects of the project will prevails	Part II. Attitude – q. 13	50%	80%
	% of media representatives who declare that positive effects of the project will prevails	Part II. Attitude – q. 13	33.3%	100%
	% of school directors and teachers who declare that positive effects of the project will prevails	Part II. Attitude – q. 13	100%	100%
	% of NGO representatives who declare that positive effects of the project	Part II. Attitude – q. 13	50%	75%

Objectives	Indices	Questions from the sociological survey questionnaire which can be used as indices	Value from the 2004 survey (Protected Site “Kalimok-Brushlen”)	Value from the 2004 survey (Persina Nature Park)
	will prevails			
	Level of support for the project by students	Results from focus groups	Support the project	Support the project
	% of interviewed representatives of the population (except students) inhabitants of the settlements in the protected sits who have participated in various forms of training for clarification of the place of the wetlands in the ecosystems, against this percentage in the previous year.	Part I. Awareness - q. 8	2.6%	1.7%
	% of aggregates who/or their family received real economic benefits as a result of project implementation.	Part II. Attitude, q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 (questions from the basic survey are taken as an expectation, and effects will be taken from the next survey).	39.62%	40.42%
	% of businessmen who receive real economic benefits as a result of the project implementation.	Part II. Attitude, q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13+ q.2 from the additional questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 – 80%</li> <li>- q.2 from the additional questionnaire – 80%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 – 80%</li> <li>- q.2 from the additional questionnaire – 20%</li> </ul>
	% of fishermen who receive real economic benefits as a result of the project implementation.	Part II. Attitude, q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13+ q.2 from the additional questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 – 40%</li> <li>- q.2 from the additional questionnaire – 50%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 – 40%</li> <li>- q.2 from the additional questionnaire – 50%</li> </ul>
	% of owners and users of land who receive real economic benefits as a result of the project implementation.	Part II. Attitude, q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13+ q.2 from the additional questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 – 70%</li> <li>- q.2 from the additional questionnaire –</li> </ul>	- no interviewed

Objectives	Indices	Questions from the sociological survey questionnaire which can be used as indices	Value from the 2004 survey (Protected Site “Kalimok-Brushlen”)	Value from the 2004 survey (Persina Nature Park)
			25%	
	% NGO representative who received real economic benefits as a result of the project implementation.	Part II. Attitude, q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 (+ q.5 from the additional questionnaire for NGOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 – 50%</li> <li>q.5 from the additional questionnaire – 100%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 – 50%</li> <li>q.5 from the additional questionnaire – 100%</li> </ul>
	% of media representatives who received real economic benefits as a result of the project implementation.	Part II. Attitude, q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 – 100%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 – 66.6%</li> </ul>
	% of teachers who received real economic benefits as a result of the project implementation.	Part II. Attitude, q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 – 50%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>q. 15.6; q.15.8; q.15.9; q.15.10; q.15.11; q.15.13 – 100%</li> </ul>
	% of the population who are optimistic about the positive economic effects of the implementation of the project	Part II. Attitude, q. 14.6; q.14.8; q. 14.9; q.14.10; q.14.11; q.14.12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q.14.6 – 47.2%</li> <li>Q.14.8 – 41.4%</li> <li>Q.14.9 – 42.5%</li> <li>Q.14.10 – 40.5%</li> <li>Q.14.11 – 43.6%</li> <li>Q.14.12 – 39.6%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q.14.6 – 67.5%</li> <li>Q.14.8 – 67.1%</li> <li>Q.14.9 – 62.9%</li> <li>Q.14.10 – 63.4%</li> <li>Q.14.11 – 68.3%</li> <li>Q.14.12 – 53.7%</li> </ul>
	% of businessmen who are optimistic about the positive economic effects of the implementation of the project	Part II. Attitude, q. 14.6; q.14.8; q. 14.9; q.14.10; q.14.11; q.14.12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q.14.6 – 100%</li> <li>Q.14.8 – 100%</li> <li>Q.14.9 – 100%</li> <li>Q.14.10 – 100%</li> <li>Q.14.11 – 100%</li> <li>Q.14.12 – 100%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q.14.6 – 60%</li> <li>Q.14.8 – 60%</li> <li>Q.14.9 – 60%</li> <li>Q.14.10 – 60%</li> <li>Q.14.11 – 60%</li> <li>Q.14.12 – 40%</li> </ul>
	% of fishermen who are optimistic about the positive economic effects of the implementation of the project	Part II. Attitude, q. 14.6; q.14.8; q. 14.9; q.14.10; q.14.11; q.14.12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q.14.6 – 60%</li> <li>Q.14.8 – 60%</li> <li>Q.14.9 – 60%</li> <li>Q.14.10 – 60%</li> <li>Q.14.11 – 60%</li> <li>Q.14.12 – 60%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q.14.6 – 80%</li> <li>Q.14.8 – 80%</li> <li>Q.14.9 – 90%</li> <li>Q.14.10 – 80%</li> <li>Q.14.11 – 90%</li> <li>Q.14.12 – 60%</li> </ul>
	% of owners and users of land who are	Part II. Attitude, q. 14.6; q.14.8; q. 14.9;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q.14.6 – 100%</li> </ul>	Not interviewed

Objectives	Indices	Questions from the sociological survey questionnaire which can be used as indices	Value from the 2004 survey (Protected Site “Kalimok-Brushlen”)	Value from the 2004 survey (Persina Nature Park)
	optimistic about the positive economic effects of the implementation of the project	q.14.10; q.14.11; q.14.12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q.14.8 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.9 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.10 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.11 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.12 – 100%</li> </ul>	
	% of media representatives who are optimistic about the positive economic effects of the implementation of the project .	Part II. Attitude, q. 14.6; q.14.8; q. 14.9; q.14.10; q.14.11; q.14.12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q.14.6 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.8 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.9 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.10 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.11 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.12 – 100%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q.14.6 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.8 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.9 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.10 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.11 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.12 – 100%</li> </ul>
	% of representatives of NGOs who are optimistic about the positive economic effects of the implementation of the project	Part II. Attitude, q. 14.b; q.14.8; q. 14.9; q.14.10; q14.11; q.14.12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q.14.6 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.8 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.9 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.10 - 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.11 - 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.12 – 75%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q.14.6 – 75%</li> <li>• Q.14.8 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.9 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.10 - 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.11 - 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.12 – 25%</li> </ul>
	% of directors and teachers who are optimistic about the positive economic effects of the implementation of the project	Part II. Attitude, q. 14.6; q.14.8; q. 14.9; q.14.10; q.14.11; q.14.12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q.14.6 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.8 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.9 - 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.10 - 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.11 - 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.12 – 75%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q.14.6 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.8 – 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.9 - 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.10 - 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.11 - 100%</li> <li>• Q.14.12 – 100%</li> </ul>

**Who should perform the project monitoring or how the problem of “recognizing the ownership over the monitoring system” could be solved?**

**(possible solution)**

The concrete solution of this problem is of key significance for the progress and the successful implementation of the project because it is related to:

- the ways of providing, processing and analyzing important information for evaluation of the project implementation, which gives grounds for undertaking or not of necessary corrective actions to overcome emerging problems;
- making different-scaled costs of resources (human, material, financial) to perform the monitoring;
- outlining the overall picture (analytical and evaluation; ongoing and final) of the project and the achieved results.

As already stated in the first part of the report describing the methodological frameworks of the proposed monitoring and evaluation system, the *current monitoring* can be performed in two main ways: (1) by the unit that implements the project **or** (2) by an external independent organization.

The first option is relatively cheaper, however, its use is related to the risk of losing managerial control. This is explained with the assumption that there is natural motivation for distorting or concealing information which can serve as a motive for imposing sanctions or reducing the staff incentives. The option of assigning the current monitoring to an external organization is a more expensive one, but it is a prerequisite for greater independence and objectiveness.

Considering the nature of the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project in Bulgaria on one side and the design of the proposed monitoring and evaluation system on the other, a mixed approach for the organization and performance of the monitoring can be suggested (i.e. – use of the monitoring system).

According to us the use of this approach assumes the following:

Firstly, establishment of a special internal group to be the real “owner of the monitoring system”. This group is under the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and might include (for example two) representatives of the unit as well as of the local management structures - the NGO Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site and of the Persina Nature Park Directorate. The Group leader is a representative of the PCU.

The main tasks of the group are:

- receiving detailed knowledge of the monitoring and evaluation system;
- preparing time schedule for the performance of the current monitoring – activities, period of performance, responsible persons, needed resources;
- performing part of the activities related to collection of information on the current monitoring. Here, we consider mainly the activities envisaged in the proposed system in relation to evaluation of the achieved objectives 1 and 2 (see. p.I.1), and objective 3 (besides the carrying out of the sociological survey);
- assigning the carrying out of sociological survey for collection and assessment of information, necessary for the evaluation of the achievement of objective 3 and approving the results from it;

- drafting a report on the results from the performance of current periodical monitoring and evaluation and formulation of suggestions for possible corrective actions;
- creating and maintaining database from information and analyses, collected in relation to the monitoring and evaluation.

Secondly, development and carrying out of a procedure for the assignment of a sociological survey.

Thirdly, incorporation of the necessary specifications in the monitoring system, which leads to its optimization.

Fourthly, development and carrying out of a procedure for the assignment of a final (ex-post) monitoring and evaluation.

In this way, the proposed approach:

- combines the advantages of the first two “pure” approaches;
- assists for costs reduction;
- and maybe most important - institutionalizes a clear internal “owner” of the monitoring system, responsible for its quality implementation.



**2. Objectives and Action Plan for the “Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project” – Persina Nature Park<sup>2</sup>**

<b>№</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible institution / other organizations</b>	<b>Starting date</b>	<b>Ending date</b>	<b>Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding</b>	<b>Result Certifying documents</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Indicator for success</b>	<b>Relation to subsequent steps</b>	<b>Specific reporting to the MOEW</b>
	<i>Objective 1: To demonstrate and provide for reduction of transboundary nutrient loads and other agricultural pollution flowing into the Danube River and the Black Sea Basins</i>									
	<i>Objective 2: To provide for conservation of key threatened species in the project areas through wetlands restoration and protected areas management programs</i>									
<i>1</i>	<i>Specific objective: Wetlands restoration till.....</i>									
	Development of concept.	MWH	15.09.2003	30.03.2004	GEF	Developed concept - minutes of the municipal technical council sessions	Wetlands restoration	Correspondence to the Assignment. The statements of the technical experts (consultants to the unit for the particular sections) have	It serves for the development of work design. It serves as a basis in the base monitoring by certain environmental components	

<sup>2</sup> The design and the structure of the Action Plans for both wetlands enables the conducting of operating monitoring on the project’s performance, because it includes deadlines, resources, success indicators, reporting, etc., which are elements of every monitoring system.

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								been considered.	before starting the construction.	
	Development of a work design and tender documents.	MWH	30.03.2004	15.05.2004	GEF	Minutes from the session of the municipal technical council. Issued construction permit.	Wetlands restoration	Correspondence to the Assignment. The statements of the technical experts (consultants to the unit for the particular sections) have been considered.	Basis for conducting of procedure for selection of constructor	
	Drafting of invitation for submission of proposals for construction.	PCU	15.05.2004	30.05.2004	GEF	Invitation for submission of proposals	Wetlands restoration	The Assignment does not require numerous additional clarifications.	The Assignment is the main part of the construction contract.	
	Drafting of assignment for the scope of supervision on designing and construction.	PCU	8.03.2004	15.03.2004	GEF	Invitation for submission of proposals	Wetlands restoration	The Assignment does not require numerous additional clarifications and generates the necessary competitive environment (participation of	The Assignment is the main part of the construction supervision contract.	

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								companies).		
	Selection of consultant for performance of supervision on the design and the construction activities (tender procedure)	MOEW/PMU	15.03.2004	30.03.2004	GEF	Concluded contract with the first in ranking, who develops a proposal	Wetlands restoration	The selected supervisor successfully stands up for the investor's interests.	Participation in activities typical for the construction supervision in the relevant type of contract – design and construction.	
	Selection of a company (companies) for construction of the restoration works (tender procedure)	MOEW/PMU	15.05.2004	30.07.2004	GEF	Decision for selection of constructor and concluded contract with a Commission appointed by the Minister of Environment and Water.	Wetlands restoration	The tender procedure is successful	The contract is a basis for fulfilling the construction.	
	Obtaining of all the necessary permits related to the construction.	MOEW, Ministry of Justice (MJ), Municipal	15.05.2004	30.07.2004		Permits	Wetlands restoration	Obtained permits.	They help for gathering all the documentation needed for	

№	Actions	Responsible institution / other organizations	Starting date	Ending date	Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding	Result Certifying documents	Component	Indicator for success	Relation to subsequent steps	Specific reporting to the MOEW
		administration							starting construction.	
	Performance of the restoration activities – construction	Company (Companies)	1.08.2004	1.04.2005	GEF	Permit for the use of the construction site.	Wetlands restoration	The activities are performed in time, in their full range and with the necessary quality. The funds are utilized according to the investment schedule. The construction has been completed before the first flooding.		
2	<i>Specific objective: Drafting of facilities' management plan with the purpose of nutrients reduction</i>							<i>Registered reduction of the nutrients. Achieving of the outputs expected in the concept.</i>		
	Base monitoring – before the flooding.	PCU, MOEW-EEA	30.03.2004	30.03.2005	Mixed - MOEW and GEF	Monthly observations and analyses	Management of the protected area – the wetland	Obtaining of precise data, which can be compared with other such data	Basis for determining the working regime of the facilities.	

№	Actions	Responsible institution / other organizations	Starting date	Ending date	Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding	Result Certifying documents	Component	Indicator for success	Relation to subsequent steps	Specific reporting to the MOEW
							management.			
	Monitoring on the management of the facilities.	MOEW – EEA (laboratories – regional)	01.04.2005		MOEW	Quarterly and annual bulletins for the monitoring results. Monthly tests.	Protected Area Management	Conducting of the monitoring within the schedule.	Basis for determining the working regime of the facilities.	
	Development of guidelines for nutrients reduction – a guide for drafting a strategy for nutrients reduction.	A consultant in close cooperation with MOEW experts	2006		GEF	A drafted guide. Approved by the Steering Committee	Protected Area Management	A reflection of the policy in the country related to nutrient pollution reduction. Inclusion in different legislative documents.		
3	<i>Specific objective: Achieving of effective management of wetlands as part of the protected areas</i>							<i>Improving the effectiveness in the project's implementation in relation to nutrients reduction.</i>		

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	Drafting of Assignment for selection of Consultant for the development of Protected Area Management Plan	MOEW, working group, PHARE Program, The Park Administration	2002	December 2003	PHARE	A drafted Assignment. Approved by the MOEW and the EU Delegation	Protected Area Management	The Assignment does not require numerous additional clarifications and generates the necessary competitive environment (participation of companies). The Assignment precisely determines the place of the wetlands in the scope of work.	The Assignment is a key section of the contract.	
	Selection of a Consultant for development of a Management Plan (tender procedures)	MOEW, PHARE	2004	30.05.2004	PHARE	A selection decision and a signed contract.	Protected Area Management	The selected consultant performs the Assignment in time and with the needed quality. The Consultant has the necessary experience in the field of wetlands.	The contract is a basis for the scope of work and for performance of supervision on the implementation.	

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	Development of a Management Plan (under the guidance of the Park Administration)	Consultant	30.05.2004	February 2006	PHARE	<p>The management plans.</p> <p>A guide for training schoolchildren from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.</p> <p>Conducting of training for improving the institutional capacity of the Park Administrations.</p> <p>Minutes from the Steering Committee and minutes from the public discussion.</p>	Protected Area Management	The analyses and proposals of the consultants are approved and adopted by the local communities and the stakeholders. They precisely outline the place of the wetlands.	The draft Management Plan serves as a basis for development of a framework for the work of the Park Administration.	
	Work plans for the operation of the	Administratio	2005		MOEW,	A draft for	Protected	The wetlands		

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	protected areas administrations	ns			Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MAF), GEF	the frame of work of the Park Administration in the protected areas.	Area Management	management work is regulated precisely and in details.		
	Coordination with the municipalities and the stakeholders from the tourist business (including NGOs) for the location of the trails	The Park Administration	2002	2006	GEF	Designs for the tourist trails	Protected Area Management	Increased participation of the local communities in the activities for management and conservation of the protected areas.		
	Elaboration of a program for tourist trails	Consultant (responsible for the drafting of the management plan)					Protected Area Management			
	Planning of construction activities	The Park Administration					Protected Area Management			
	Selection of a company for performance of construction	MOEW/PMU					Protected Area			



№	Actions	Responsible institution / other organizations	Starting date	Ending date	Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding	Result Certifying documents	Component	Indicator for success	Relation to subsequent steps	Specific reporting to the MOEW
	activities						Management			
	Supervision on the construction activities	The Park Administration					Protected Area Management			
4	<i>Specific objective: Creation of a monitoring system for the wetlands as part of the protected areas monitoring</i>							<i>Capacity of the protected areas management units to manage the facilities and perform monitoring and evaluation of the nutrients.</i>		
	Detailed designing of the monitoring system (final design of protocols, databases, specifications for equipment, training materials, format of reporting for professional purposes, as well as for information purposes), supervision of installation.	MOEW, PHARE Unit The local EEA units RIEW, with the support of Consultants (Drafting of Monitoring Plan)	January 2004	October 2004	PHARE	A written system for monitoring and evaluation of tender dossier for supply of equipment.  Reports approved by the MOEW.	Protected Area Management	A designed system for monitoring and management of the eco-systems and the bio-diversity with accounting the role of wetlands for reduction of nutrients.	The monitoring system	

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	Approval of the monitoring system's design.	The Steering Committee on the project	May 2004			A protocol for approval by the stakeholders	Protected Area Management	Provision of opportunities for management decision making related to the wetlands management. Allowing of effective reporting system.		
	Selection of a company, which is going to supply and install the monitoring equipment	MOEW/PHARE Program, Evaluation Committee,	October 2004		PHARE and MOEW	Decision and contract	Protected Area Management			
	Operation and maintenance of a monitoring system (this activity may be sub-contracted to other entities)	Regional laboratories to the EEA	January 2005		MOEW	Monthly reports	Protected Area Management	Reliable data for the wetlands management.		
	Input of data and its integration in national/regional databases	EEA	January 2005		MOEW	Inclusion in the quarterly bulletins and in the annual EEA report	Protected Area Management	Public access to information		
	Evaluation of the effect from the first flooding	Park Administration	August 2005		GEF	Reports with results from the evaluation	Wetlands restoration	The physical indicators envisaged after the first flooding	The achieved results are used for adoption of adjustment	Operational informing of MOEW and RIEW for

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						of the effect from the first flooding.		have been achieved. No flooding of areas beyond the initially defined has been allowed. No damages to farmers and stakeholders in the area have been made.	activities and measures before the second flooding of the wetlands.	the beginning of the flooding.
	Evaluation of the effect from the second flooding – next year	Park Administration	August 2006		GEF	Reports with results from the evaluation of the effect from the second flooding.	Wetlands restoration	The flooding has been conducted according to the preliminary forecasts.		
	Evaluation of the effect from the third flooding – next year	Park Administration	August 2007		GEF	Reports with results from the evaluation of the effect from the third flooding.	Wetlands restoration	The flooding has been conducted according to the preliminary forecasts.		

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5	<i>Specific objective: Institutional capacity strengthening</i>							<i>Capacity of the protected areas management units to manage the facilities and perform monitoring and evaluation.</i>		
	Evaluation of the needs of all units related to management of natural resources in the Park Administrations.	Consultant (Management Plan)	2004	2005	PHARE	Part of the Management Plans	Protected Area Management	Evaluation of the institutions' needs for improving the capacity related to wetlands.		
	Creation of training program	Consultant (Management Plan)	2002	2004	GEF PHARE	Training materials In the Management Plans	Protected Area Management	Training materials for the wetlands have been included.		
	Performance of a training program including:	Consultant (Management Plan)	2003	2006	GEF PHARE	Performance of seminars	Protected Area Management	Number of participants, who underwent training including for the wetlands.		

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	Organization of English language training courses (total 2): for beginners and advanced – in Pleven (1) and for beginners – in Belene (1) and in Sofia for advanced.	MOEW/PMU	October 2002	June 2003	3	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tours	Protected Area Management			
	Organization of computer training courses –Belene	MOEW/PMU	March 2003	April 2003	1	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tours	Protected Area Management			
	Organization of English language training courses – 2 in Belene and Pleven	MOEW/PMU	January 2004	June 2004	3	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tour	Protected Area Management			
	Organization of computer training courses –Belene	MOEW/PMU	February 2004	May 2004	4	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tour	Protected Area Management			

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	Organization of training abroad /study tours:	MOEW/PMU				Study tours	Protected Area Management	The study tours pay special attention to wetlands-related issues.		
	Organization of a study tour to Kararasi, Romania	MOEW/PMU	August 2003	August 2003	6 (total)	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tours	Protected Area Management	The study tours pay special attention to wetlands-related issues.		
	Organization of a study tour to the delta of Danube river	MOEW/PMU	June 2003	June 2003	16 (total)	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tours	Protected Area Management	The study tours pay special attention to wetlands-related issues and the potential funding opportunities.		
	Organization of a study tour to the restored wetlands in Greece	MOEW/PMU	February 2004	February 2004	8 (total)	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tours.	Protected Area Management			

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	Organization of a study tour to the delta of Danube river (second)	MOEW/PMU	May 2004	May 2004	16 (total)	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tours.	Protected Area Management			
	Organization of a study tour – visitors' centers	MOEW/PMU	April 2004	April 2004	2 (total)	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tour	Protected Area Management			
	Granting of land and buildings for the purposes of the Park Administrations (at least for 40 years)	Municipalities	2002	2003		Documents certifying the transfer of ownership. The land is granted by the municipality of Belene to the National Forest Board.	Protected Area Management	The granted buildings are in good condition and provide opportunities for developing wetlands-related activities.		

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						An apartment and part of a kindergarten have been provided, as well as an office for the local unit.				
	Selection of a consultant for preparation of a detailed architectural and structural design of new or renovated buildings	MOEW/PMU	January 2004	April 2004	GEF	A decision and a concluded contract	Protected Area Management			
	Elaboration of a detailed architectural and structural design of new or renovated buildings	Consultant	May 2004	November 2004	GEF	Architectural and structural design	Protected Area Management	The design is prepared in time and with the necessary quality. All the necessary documents related to the wetlands have been considered.		
	Construction of an administrative building with visitors' center in the Persina Nature Park	A Company	2005			The building is constructed and	Protected Area Management	The adopted document guarantees to the necessary extent	Along with the preliminary evaluation of the needs, it	



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						equipped with the necessary equipment A document from the municipality		the restoration and the regime of the wetlands.	also serves as a basis for the evaluation of the necessary equipment.	
	<b>Objective 3: To provide for the support of stakeholders to adopt environmentally-friendly economic activities in the two project areas</b>									
6	<i>Specific objective: Support to the households, farmers and local stakeholders for transition to environmentally-friendly practices</i>							<i>Improved agricultural practices leading to measurable reduction of the nutrients</i>		
	Elaboration of a design for the Farmer Transition Support Fund	Consultant	01.03.2004	30.06.2004	GEF	Operational Management Approval by the Inter-institutional Consulting	Protected Area Management	The proposed scheme is economically justified. The proposed scheme is a sustainable one	It ensures production of eco-products	

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						Board		and will not require fundamental changes in the future.		
	Establishment and administration of the Farmer Transition Support Fund	PCU – local offices and Park Directorates	2004	2007	GEF	Operational Management	Protected Area Management	The spent funds lead to real change in the agricultural practice and achievement of the set results.	Alleviation of the transition to economic activities compliant with the conservation objectives – environmentally-friendly agricultural practices and sustainable use of resources	
	Establishment of Evaluation Committee (comprising technical experts) to the Fund, which is going to ensure fairness and transparency in the evaluation of the applicants and the monitoring procedures.	Commission	July 2004	2007	GEF	An Ordinance of the Minister of Environment and Water	Protected Area Management	The technical experts are highly acknowledged by the scientific community and the public. The farmers do not have the feeling for	The Fund operates till 2007 – by the end of the project	

№	Actions	Responsible institution / other organizations	Starting date	Ending date	Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding	Result Certifying documents	Component	Indicator for success	Relation to subsequent steps	Specific reporting to the MOEW
								intransparency and corruption regarding the Committee's work.		
	Provision of training, informing the public, additional services (demonstration centers for information dissemination).	The Park Administrations and local PCU offices	July 2004	2007	GEF	Training programs including the regional units of the Agriculture Advisory Board.	Protected Area Management	The farmers are well informed about the operation of the Fund and the opportunities that it provides.  The advises of the Soil Analysis Office will also be used free of charge.		
	Performance of activities related to the operation of the Fund and control on the spending of the funds.	MOEW/PCU	July 2004	2007	GEF	Annual and monthly activity reports	Protected Area Management	The spent funds lead to actual changes in the agricultural practices.		
7	<i>Specific objective: Provision of assistance for development of environmentally-friendly business</i>							<i>Socio-economic development supported by the Wetlands Restoration Project.</i>		

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	Drafting of rules for provision of technical assistance and grant funding to local communities and individual farmers/entrepreneurs (identifying of sources for financing, drafting of project proposals, access to grant funds, training, etc.)	Russe Center for SME business support	2002	2002	The Austrian Government	Rules  Agreement with the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	Protected Area Management	Drafting of “green” proposals for business compliant with the biodiversity conservation.		
	Establishment of a branch of the Russe Center	Russe Center for SME business support	2004	2004	The Austrian Government	Decision of the Regional Court	Protected Area Management	Centers have been established		
	Performance of activities related to environmental agriculture – collection of information for farmers in Nikopol municipality for creation of database, presentation of the conditions of the Russe Business Center, seminars, updating of the information for the livestock-breeding farmers, collection of information for herbs and essential-oil plants, etc.	Locally based offices	2004	2004	The Austrian Government	Progress report	Protected Area Management			
	Establishment of small and medium enterprises in the sphere of green business.	Russe Center for SME business support	2003	2004	The Austrian Government	Annual activity reports	Protected Area Management	The centers perform activities that ensure self-financing and		

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								expansion of the activities in the next years.		
8	<i>Specific objective: Creation of a program for informing the public and for environmental training</i>							<i>Increased local awareness and support for the biodiversity conservation.</i>  <i>Increased community awareness for the importance of the eco-systems of the restored wetlands.</i>		
	Development of a detailed program for environmental training and informing the public for the role of the wetlands management for reducing the nutrients, biodiversity protection and conservation, etc.	PCU Consultant (Management Plan)	October 2003	30.03.2004		Communication strategy with Action Plan  Coordination	Protected Area Management	Increasing the knowledge related to the main objectives of the wetlands restoration project.		
	Organization of educational programs and competitions for children and students – discussions, games, lectures in the open air, cleaning of the rivers' banks, etc.	The Park Administration	2002	June 2003	GEF	A Progress Report	Protected Area Management			

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	Public relations and public information – design of logo, billboard, advertising materials, meetings, presentation of activities in the media, publication of materials, participation in celebrations, participation in seminars, etc.	The Park Administration	2002	September 2003	GEF	A Progress Report	Protected Area Management			
	Development of biodiversity conservation activities – elaboration of habitat maps, collection of information for databases, monitoring and exploration of species, etc.	The Park Administration	2002	September 2003		A Progress Report	Protected Area Management			
	Performance of small construction activities – information signs, place for picnic, places for observation of birds, preliminary design of routes, collection of offers, etc.	The Park Administration	2002	September 2003		A Progress Report	Protected Area Management			
	Establishment and operation of local consulting boards.	The Park Administration	2003		GEF	Annual activity plan and performance report of the local consulting boards.	Protected Area Management	Increased local community participation in wetlands management and conservation activities.		
	Establishment of a visitors' center and an administrative building.	MOEW/PMU	January 2004	30.12.2005	GEF	The documents	Protected Area	The visitors' center is		

№	Actions	Responsible institution / other organizations	Starting date	Ending date	Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding	Result Certifying documents	Component	Indicator for success	Relation to subsequent steps	Specific reporting to the MOEW
						certifying the start of operation.	Management	particularly oriented towards the wetlands-related issues.		
	Purchase of the necessary equipment	MOEW/PMU	February 2004	15.04.2004	GEF	Invoices	Protected Area Management	The equipment allows adequate presentation of the wetlands and performance of monitoring.		
	Development of the activities of the visitors' center.	The Park Administration	2006	2007	GEF and MAF		Protected Area Management	The visitors' center allows self-financing of the protected area's activities related to the operation of the wetland – operating expenditures.		
	Involvement of the scientific community for resolving problems related to the project's objectives	The Park Administration	2004	2007	GEF	A report of the protected areas management units	Protected Area Management	Partnership with Bulgarian and regional scientific communities.		
9	<i>Specific objective: Creation and administration of Biodiversity Conservation Small Grant Program</i>	<i>PCU, MOEW, MAF, the Park Administration</i>				<i>The operating management of the</i>	<i>Protected Area Management</i>	<i>Financing of activities related to the wetlands restoration due</i>		

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	<i>(BCSMP)</i>	<i>n</i>				<i>Biodiversity Conservation Small Grant Program. Coordination with the institutions.</i>		<i>to the results achieved in the implementation of the proposed projects.</i>		
	Drafting and dissemination of an Operating Guide for the Biodiversity Conservation Small Grant Program, of which also composition of the evaluation commission, description of the evaluation and selection criteria, invitations for submission of applications, etc.	The Park Administration and the PCU	May 2003	November 2003	GEF	An Operating Guide	Protected Area Management	The objectives and priorities related to the wetlands are precisely defined and constitute a significant percentage of the total number of projects.		
	Establishment of an Evaluation Commission for BCSMP to ensure the fairness and transparency in the proposals' evaluation and the monitoring procedure	MOEW	February 2004	March 2004	GEF	An approved Commission with an Ordinance of the Minister of Environment and Water	Protected Area Management	The Commission includes experts having good knowledge in the field of wetlands.		
	Conducting of a seminar for	PCU and the	02.02.20			Training	Protected	The seminar		



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	promoting the Program	Park Administration	04			materials	Area Management	allocates sufficient time for explaining the opportunities for applying with projects related to the wetlands. The application conditions are presented.		
	Monitoring of the implementation of the certain grants (contracts)	Local office of the unit and the Park Administration	May 2004	2007	GEF	Monitoring reports on every 6 months as is the application scheme.	Protected Area Management	The project evaluation pays special attention to the relation between the achieved results and their influence on the wetlands and the biodiversity conservation.		
	Publication of the annual summaries for the competition, of which received and selected proposals, selection arguments, etc.	The Park Administration	2004	2007	GEF	In the internet site and bulletins of the protected areas.	Protected Area Management	Review of the issues in the light of the wetlands.		
	Organizing of two seminars (after the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year) for	The Park Administration				Update of the guide	Protected Area	Certain place is allocated for the		

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	reviewing the results and dissemination of the lessons learned	n				and dissemination of the new conditions.	Management	issues related to the wetlands.		

### 3. Objectives and Action Plan for the “Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project” – Kalimok-Brushlen

№	Actions	Responsible institution / other organizations	Starting date	Ending date	Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding	Result Certifying documents	Component	Indicator for success	Relation to subsequent steps	Specific reporting to the MOEW
	<i>Objective 1: To demonstrate and provide for reduction of transboundary nutrient loads and other agricultural pollution flowing into the Danube River and the Black Sea Basins</i>									
	<i>Objective 2: To provide for conservation of key threatened species in the project areas through wetlands restoration and protected areas management programs</i>									
1	<i>Specific objective: Wetlands restoration</i>									
	Development of concept.	MWH	15.09.2003	30.03.2004	GEF	Developed concept - minutes of the municipal technical council sessions	Wetlands restoration	Correspondence to the Assignment. The statements of the technical experts (consultants to the unit for the particular sections) have been considered.	It serves for the development of work design. It serves as a basis in the base monitoring by certain environmental components before starting the construction.	
	Development of a work design and	MWH	30.03.20	15.05.20	GEF	Minutes	Wetlands	Correspondence	Basis for	

<b>№</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible institution / other organizations</b>	<b>Starting date</b>	<b>Ending date</b>	<b>Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding</b>	<b>Result Certifying documents</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Indicator for success</b>	<b>Relation to subsequent steps</b>	<b>Specific reporting to the MOEW</b>
	tender documents.		04	04		from the session of the municipal technical council. Issued construction permit.	restoration	to the Assignment. The statements of the technical experts (consultants to the unit for the particular sections) have been considered.	conducting of procedure for selection of constructor	
	Drafting of invitation for submission of proposals for construction.	PCU	15.05.2004	30.05.2004	GEF	Invitation for submission of proposals	Wetlands restoration	The Assignment does not require numerous additional clarifications.	The Assignment is the main part of the construction contract.	
	Drafting of assignment for the scope of supervision on designing and construction.	PCU	8.03.2004	15.03.2004	GEF	Invitation for submission of proposals	Wetlands restoration	The Assignment does not require numerous additional clarifications and generates the necessary competitive environment (participation of companies).	The Assignment is the main part of the construction supervision contract.	
	Selection of consultant for performance of supervision on the design and the construction	MOEW/PMU	15.03.2004	30.03.2004	GEF	Concluded contract with the first in ranking, who	Wetlands restoration	The selected supervisor successfully stands up for the	Participation in activities typical for the construction	

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	activities (tender procedure)					develops a proposal		investor's interests.	supervision in the relevant type of contract – design and construction.	
	Selection of a company (ies) for construction of the restoration works (tender procedure)	MOEW/PMU	15.05.2004	30.07.2004	GEF	Decision for selection of constructor and concluded contract with a Commission appointed by the Minister of Environment and Water.	Wetlands restoration	The tender procedure is successful		
	Obtaining of all the necessary permits related to the construction.	MOEW, MJ, Municipal administration	15.05.2004	30.07.2004		Permits	Wetlands restoration	The permits are obtained within the set terms.		
	Performance of the restoration activities – construction	Company (Companies)	1.08.2004	1.04.2005	GEF	Permit for the use of the construction site.	Wetlands restoration	The activities are performed in time, in their full range and with the necessary quality. The		

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								funds are utilized according to the investment schedule. The construction has been completed before the first flooding.		
2	<i>Specific objective: Drafting of facilities' management plan with the purpose of nutrients reduction</i>							<i>Registered reduction of the nutrients. Achieving of the outputs expected in the concept.</i>		
	Base monitoring – before the flooding.	PCU, MOEW-EEA	30.03.2004	30.03.2005	Mixed - MOEW and GEF	Monthly observations and analyses. A report for the results from the monitoring and a final report.	Management of the protected area – the wetland management	Obtaining of precise data, which can be compared with other such data	Basis for determining the working regime of the facilities.	
	Monitoring on the management of the facilities.	MOEW – EEA (laboratories)	1.04.2005.		MOEW	Quarterly and annual bulletins for the	Protected Area Management	Conducting of the monitoring within the	Basis for determining the working regime	

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		– regional)				monitoring results. Monthly tests.		schedule.	of the facilities.	
	Development of guidelines for reduction of nutrients – a guide for drafting a strategy for nutrients reduction.	A consultant in close cooperation with MOEW experts	2006		GEF	A drafted guide. Approved by the Steering Committee	Protected Area Management	A reflection of the policy in the country related to nutrient pollution reduction. Inclusion in different legislative documents.		
3	<i>Specific objective: Achieving of effective management of wetlands as part of the protected areas</i>							<i>Improving the effectiveness in the project implementation in relation to nutrients reduction.</i>		
	Drafting of Assignment for selection of Consultant for the development of Protected Area Management Plan	MOEW, working group, PHARE Program, The Park Administration	2002	December 2003	PHARE	A drafted Assignment. Approved by the MOEW and the EU delegation	Protected Area Management	The Assignment does not require numerous additional clarifications and generates the necessary competitive	The Assignment is a key section of the contract.	

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								environment (participation of companies). The Assignment precisely determines the place of the wetlands in the scope of work.		
	Selection of a Consultant for development of a Management Plan (tender procedures)	MOEW, PHARE	2004	30.05.2004	PHARE	A selection decision and a signed contract.	Protected Area Management	The selected consultant performs the Assignment in time and with the needed quality. The Consultant has the necessary experience in the field of wetlands.	The contract is a basis for the scope of work and for performance of supervision on the implementation.	
	Development of a Management Plan (under the guidance of the Park Administration)	Consultant	30.05.2004	February 2006	PHARE	The management plans.  A guide for training schoolchildren from the 1 <sup>st</sup> to the 12 <sup>th</sup>	Protected Area Management	The analyses and proposals of the consultants are approved and adopted by the local communities and the stakeholders.	The draft Management Plan serves as a basis for development of a framework for the work of the Park	



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						<p>grade.</p> <p>Conducting of training for improving the institutional capacity of the Park Administrations.</p> <p>Minutes from the Steering Committee and minutes from the public discussion.</p>		They precisely outline the place of the wetlands.	Administration.	
	Work plans for the operation of the protected areas administrations	Administrations	2005		MOEW, MAF, GEF	A draft for the frame of work of the Park Administration in the protected areas.	Protected Area Management	The wetlands' management work is regulated precisely and in details.		

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4	<i>Specific objective: Creation of a monitoring system for the wetlands as part of the protected areas monitoring</i>							<i>Capacity of the protected areas management units to manage the facilities and perform monitoring and evaluation of the nutrients.</i>		
	Detailed designing of the monitoring system (final design of protocols, databases, specifications for equipment, training materials, format of reporting for professional purposes, as well as for information purposes), supervision of installation.	MOEW, the PHARE Unit The local EEA units RIEW with the support of the Consultants (development of a Monitoring Plan)	January 2004	October 2004	PHARE	A written system for monitoring and evaluation of tender dossier for supply of equipment.  Reports approved by the MOEW.	Protected Area Management	A designed system for monitoring and management of the eco-systems and the bio-diversity with accounting the role of wetlands for reduction of nutrients.	The monitoring system	
	Approval of the monitoring system's design.	The Steering Committee on the project	May 2004			A protocol for approval by the stakeholders	Protected Area Management	Provision of opportunities for management decision making related to the wetlands management.		

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								Allowing of effective reporting system.		
	Selection of a company, which is going to supply and install the monitoring equipment	MOEW/PHARE Program, Evaluation Committee,	October 2004		PHARE and MOEW	Decision and contract	Protected Area Management			
	Operation and maintenance of a monitoring system (this activity may be sub-contracted to other entities)	Regional laboratories to the EEA	January 2005		MOEW	Monthly reports	Protected Area Management	Reliable data for the wetlands management.		
	Input of data and its integration in national/regional databases	EEA	January 2005		MOEW	Inclusion in the quarterly bulletins and in the annual EEA report	Protected Area Management	Public access to information		
	Evaluation of the effect from the first flooding	Park Administration	August 2005		GEF	Reports with results from the evaluation of the effect from the first flooding.	Wetlands restoration	The physical indicators envisaged after the first flooding have been achieved. No flooding of areas beyond the initially defined has been allowed. No damages to	The achieved results are used for adoption of adjustment activities and measures before the second flooding of the wetlands.	Operational informing of MOEW and RIEW for the beginning of the flooding.

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								farmers and stakeholders in the area have been made.		
	Evaluation of the effect from the second flooding – next year	Park Administration	August 2006		GEF	Reports with results from the evaluation of the effect from the second flooding.	Wetlands restoration	The flooding has been conducted according to the preliminary forecasts.		
	Evaluation of the effect from the third flooding – next year	Park Administration	August 2007		GEF	Reports with results from the evaluation of the effect from the third flooding.	Wetlands restoration	The flooding has been conducted according to the preliminary forecasts.		
5	<i>Specific objective: Institutional capacity strengthening</i>							<i>Capacity of the protected areas management units to manage the facilities and perform monitoring and</i>		

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								<i>evaluation.</i>		
	Evaluation of the needs of all units related to management of natural resources in the Park Administrations.	Consultant (Management Plan)	2004	2005	PHARE	Part of the Management Plans	Protected Area Management	Evaluation of the institutions' needs for improving the capacity related to wetlands.		
	Creation of training program	Consultant (Management Plan)	2002	2004	GEF PHARE	Training materials In the Management Plans	Protected Area Management	Training materials for the wetlands have been included.		
	Performance of a training program including:	Consultant (Management Plan)	2003	2006	GEF PHARE	Performance of seminars	Protected Area Management	Number of participants, who underwent training including for the wetlands.		
	Organization of English language training courses (total 3): for beginners –in Tutrakan/Slivo Pole and Russe (2) and for advanced – in Russe (1)	MOEW/PMU	February 2003	May 2003	4	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tours	Protected Area Management			
	Organization of English language training courses – 3	MOEW/PMU	January 2004	June 2004	5	An evaluation report for the	Protected Area			

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						training programs and the study tours	Management			
	Organization of computer training courses – 2	MOEW/PM U	February 2004	May 2004	2	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tours	Protected Area Management			
	Organization of training abroad /study tours:	MOEW/PM U				Study tours	Protected Area Management	The study tours pay special attention to wetlands-related issues.		
	Organization of a study tour to Kararasi, Romania	MOEW/PM U	August 2003	August 2003	6 (total)	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tours	Protected Area Management	The study tours pay special attention to wetlands-related issues.		
	Organization of a study tour to the delta of Danube river	MOEW/PM U	June 2003	June 2003	16 (total)	An evaluation report for the training programs and the	Protected Area Management	The study tours pay special attention to wetlands-related issues.		

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						study tours				
	Organization of a study tour to the restored wetlands in Greece	MOEW/PM U	February 2004	February 2004	8 (total)	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tours.	Protected Area Management			
	Organization of a study tour to the delta of Danube river (second)	MOEW/PM U	May 2004	May 2004	16 (total)	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tours.	Protected Area Management			
	Organization of a study tour – visitors' centers	MOEW/PM U	April 2004	April 2004	2 (total)	An evaluation report for the training programs and the study tour	Protected Area Management			
	Granting of land and buildings for the purposes of the Park Administrations (at least for 40 years)	Municipalities				Documents certifying the transfer of ownership.	Protected Area Management	The granted buildings are in good condition and provide opportunities for		

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								developing wetlands-related activities.		
	Selection of a consultant for preparation of a detailed architectural and structural design of new or renovated buildings	MOEW/PM U	January 2004	April 2004	GEF	A decision and a concluded contract	Protected Area Management			
	Elaboration of a detailed architectural and structural design of new or renovated buildings	Consultant	May 2004	November 2004	GEF	Architectural and structural design	Protected Area Management	The design is prepared in time and with the necessary quality. All the necessary documents related to the wetlands have been considered.		
	Construction of an administrative building with visitors' center	A Company	2005			The building is constructed and equipped with the necessary equipment  A document from the municipality	Protected Area Management	The adopted document guarantees to the necessary extent the restoration and the regime of the wetlands.	Along with the preliminary evaluation of the needs, it also serves as a basis for the evaluation of the necessary equipment.	



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	<i>Objective 3: To provide for the support of stakeholders to adopt environmentally-friendly economic activities in the two project areas</i>									
6	<i>Specific objective: Support to the households, whose incomes temporarily decline or their quality of life deteriorates as a result of the restoration works</i>									
	Development of a model for assessing the impact of the floodings.	MWH	15.09.2003	30.12.2003	GEF	A report, adopted with a protocol of the Inter-institutional Consulting Board.	Protected Area Management – management of the restored wetlands.	The available information and the modern scientific achievements have been entirely used. The evaluation is confirmed in the floodings' impact assessments.	The evaluation served for defining the measuring parameters of the facilities and is a basis for developing of scheme of compensations in case of contingencies.	
	Elaboration of a design for the Contingency Relief Fund	Consultant	2005	2007	GEF	Operational Management Approval by the Inter-	Protected Area Management	The Fund will operate only 2 years and the resources will be transferred to		

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						institutional Consulting Board		other funds. The proposed scheme is an economically justified one.		
	Establishment and administration of the Contingency Relief Fund	PCU	2005	2007	GEF	The management is according to the Operational Management .  An ordinance of the Minister of Environment and Water for the Commission	Protected Area Management	Small funds are spent on covering of damages from incidents caused by the floodings from the wetlands' restoration activities.		Reporting for the scheme's implementation. The report includes number of cases of compensations' provision, total amount spent for the case, production that has been provided, etc.
	Organization of information campaign for dissemination of information – once a year.	Contingency Relief Fund MOEW/PCU	2005		GEF	Elaborated presentations and a conducted	Protected Area Management	An introductory seminar has been conducted. The population		

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						seminar		is fully informed about the conditions and the criteria for granting funds from the Contingency Relief Fund		
7	<i>Specific objective: Supporting the transition of households, farmers and local stakeholders for adoption of economic activities compliant with the new regime of protected areas management.</i>							<i>Improved agricultural practices leading to measurable reduction of the nutrients</i>		
	Elaboration of a design for the Farmer Transition Support Fund	Consultant	01.03.2004	30.06.2004	GEF	Operational Management Approval by the Inter-institutional Consulting Board	Protected Area Management	The proposed scheme is economically justified. The proposed scheme is a sustainable one and will not require fundamental changes in the future.	It ensures production of eco-products	

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	Establishment and administration of the Farmer Transition Support Fund	PCU – local offices and Park Directorates	2004	2007	GEF	Operational Management	Protected Area Management	The spent funds lead to real change in the agricultural practice and achievement of the set results.	Alleviation of the transition to economic activities compliant with the conservation objectives – environmentally-friendly agricultural practices and sustainable use of resources	
	Establishment of Evaluation Committee (comprising technical experts) to the Fund, which is going to ensure fairness and transparency in the evaluation of the applicants and the monitoring procedures.	Commission	July 2004	2007	GEF	An Ordinance of the Minister of Environment and Water	Protected Area Management	The technical experts are highly acknowledged by the scientific community and the public. The farmers do not have the feeling for intransparency and corruption regarding the Committee's work.	The Fund operates till 2007 – by the end of the project	
	Provision of training, informing the public, additional services	The Park Administrati	July	2007	GEF	Training programs	Protected Area	The farmers are well informed		

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	(demonstration centers for information dissemination).	ons and local PCU offices	2004			including the regional units of the Agriculture Advisory Board.	Management	about the operation of the Fund and the opportunities it provides. The advises of the Soil Analysis Office will also be used free of charge.		
	Performance of activities related to the operation of the Fund and control on the spending of the funds.	MOEW/PCU	July 2004	2007	GEF	Annual and monthly activity reports	Protected Area Management	The spent funds lead to actual changes in the agricultural practices.		
8	<i>Specific objective: Provision of assistance for development of environmental business</i>							<i>Socio-economic development supported by the Wetlands Restoration Project.</i>		
	Drafting of rules for provision of technical assistance and grant funding to local communities and individual farmers/entrepreneurs (identifying of sources for financing, drafting of project proposals, access to grant funds,	Russe Center for SME business support	2002	2002	The Austrian Government	Rules  Agreement with the Austrian Ministry of Foreign	Protected Area Management	Drafting of “green” proposals for business compliant with the biodiversity conservation.		

<b>№</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible institution / other organizations</b>	<b>Starting date</b>	<b>Ending date</b>	<b>Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding</b>	<b>Result Certifying documents</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Indicator for success</b>	<b>Relation to subsequent steps</b>	<b>Specific reporting to the MOEW</b>
	training, etc.)					Affairs.				
	Establishment of a branch of the Russe Center	Russe Center for SME business support	2004	2004	The Austrian Government	Decision of the Regional Court	Protected Area Management	Centers have been established		
	Performance of activities related to environmental agriculture – collection of information for farmers in Nikopol municipality for creation of database, presentation of the conditions of the Russe Business center, seminars, updating of the information for the livestock-breeding farmers, collection of information for herbs and essential oil plants, etc.	Locally based offices	2004	2004	The Austrian Government	Progress report	Protected Area Management			
	Establishment of small and medium enterprises in the sphere of green business.	Russe Center for SME business support	2003	2004	The Austrian Government	Annual activity reports	Protected Area Management	The centers perform activities that ensure self-financing and expansion of the activities in the next years.		
<sup>9</sup>	<i>Specific objective: Creation of a program for informing the public and for environmental training</i>							<i>Increased local awareness and support for the biodiversity conservation.</i>		

<b>№</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible institution / other organizations</b>	<b>Starting date</b>	<b>Ending date</b>	<b>Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding</b>	<b>Result Certifying documents</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Indicator for success</b>	<b>Relation to subsequent steps</b>	<b>Specific reporting to the MOEW</b>
								<i>Increased community awareness for the importance of the eco-systems of the restored wetlands.</i>		
	Organization of educational programs and competitions for children and students – lectures in the open air, consultations	The NGO “Kalimok-Brushlen Protected Site”	January 2003	June 2003		A Progress Report	Protected Area Management			
	Public relations and public information – in national and local media, participation in round tables, preparation of brochures, technical assistance to schools and kindergartens, meetings with tourists, etc.	The NGO “Kalimok-Brushlen Protected Site”	January 2003	September 2003		A Progress Report	Protected Area Management			
	Development of biodiversity-related activities – monitoring and exploration of certain species, etc.	The NGO “Kalimok-Brushlen Protected Site”	January 2003	September 2003		A Progress Report	Protected Area Management			
	Establishment and operation of local consulting boards.	The Park Administration	2003		GEF	Annual activity plan and performance report of the	Protected Area Management	Increased local community participation in wetlands management		

<b>№</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible institution / other organizations</b>	<b>Starting date</b>	<b>Ending date</b>	<b>Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding</b>	<b>Result Certifying documents</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Indicator for success</b>	<b>Relation to subsequent steps</b>	<b>Specific reporting to the MOEW</b>
						local consulting boards.		and conservation activities.		
	Detailed designing of a Program for environmental training and informing the public for the importance of wetlands management, nutrients reduction, biodiversity conservation, etc.	PCU Consultant (Management Plan)	October 2003	30.03.2004		Communication strategy with Action Plan Coordination	Protected Area Management	Increasing the knowledge for the main goals of the Wetlands Restoration Project.		
	Establishment of a visitors' center and an administrative building.	MOEW/PMU	February 2006		GEF	The documents certifying the start of operation.	Protected Area Management	The visitors' center is particularly oriented towards the wetlands-related issues.		
	Purchase of the necessary equipment	MOEW/PMU	February 2004	15.04.2004	GEF	Invoices	Protected Area Management	The equipment allows adequate presentation of the wetlands and performance of monitoring.		
	Development of the activities of the visitors' center.	The NGO "Kalimok-Brushlen Protected Site"	2006	2007	GEF and MAF		Protected Area Management	The visitors' center allows self-financing of the protected area's activities related to the operation of the wetland –		



№	Actions	Responsible institution / other organizations	Starting date	Ending date	Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding	Result Certifying documents	Component	Indicator for success	Relation to subsequent steps	Specific reporting to the MOEW
								operating expenditures.		
	Involvement of the scientific community for resolving problems related to the project's goals	The Park Administration	2004	2007	GEF	A report of the protected areas management units	Protected Area Management	Partnership with Bulgarian and regional scientific communities.		
10	<i>Specific objective: Creation and administration of Biodiversity Conservation Small Grant Program (BCSMP)</i>	<i>PCU, MOEW, MAF, the Park Administration</i>				<i>The operating management of the Biodiversity Conservation Small Grant Program. Coordination with the institutions.</i>	<i>Protected Area Management</i>	<i>Financing of activities related to the wetlands restoration due to the results achieved in the implementation of the proposed projects.</i>		
	Drafting and dissemination of an Operating Guide for the Biodiversity Conservation Small Grant Program, of which also composition of the evaluation commission, description of the evaluation and selection criteria, invitations for submission of applications, etc.	The Park Administration and the PCU (Management Plan)	May 2003	November 2003	GEF	An Operating Guide	Protected Area Management	The objectives and priorities related to the wetlands are precisely defined and constitute a significant percentage of		

<b>№</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible institution / other organizations</b>	<b>Starting date</b>	<b>Ending date</b>	<b>Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding</b>	<b>Result Certifying documents</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Indicator for success</b>	<b>Relation to subsequent steps</b>	<b>Specific reporting to the MOEW</b>
								the total number of projects.		
	Establishment of an Evaluation Commission for the BCSMP to ensure the fairness and transparency in the proposals' evaluation and the monitoring procedure	MOEW	February 2004	March 2004	GEF	An approved Commission with an Ordinance of the Minister of Environment and Water	Protected Area Management	The Commission includes experts having good knowledge in the field of wetlands.		
	Conducting of a seminar for promoting the Program	PCU and the Park Administration	01.03.2004			Training materials	Protected Area Management	The seminar allocates sufficient time for explaining the opportunities for applying with projects related to the wetlands. The application conditions are presented.		
	Monitoring of the implementation of the certain grants (contracts)	Local office of the unit and the Park Administration	May 2004	2007	GEF	Monitoring reports on every 6 months as is the application scheme.	Protected Area Management	The project evaluation pays special attention to the relation between the achieved results and their influence on the		

<b>№</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible institution / other organizations</b>	<b>Starting date</b>	<b>Ending date</b>	<b>Value in thousand BGL/ Source of funding</b>	<b>Result Certifying documents</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Indicator for success</b>	<b>Relation to subsequent steps</b>	<b>Specific reporting to the MOEW</b>
								wetlands and the biodiversity conservation.		
	Publication of the annual summaries for the competition, of which received and selected proposals, selection arguments, etc.	The Park Administration	2004	2007	GEF	In the internet site and bulletins of the protected areas.	Protected Area Management	Review of the issues in the light of the wetlands.		
	Organizing of two seminars (after the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year) for reviewing the results and dissemination of the lessons learned	The Park Administration				Update of the guide and dissemination of the new conditions.	Protected Area Management	Certain place is allocated for the issues related to the wetlands.		

## II. STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

### *1. Identification of stakeholders*

The clear identification of stakeholders is a key element of the current and forthcoming social impact assessments. The applied criteria concern the overall design of the project and its impact on various groups of the population, the local economy, environment, etc.; the level of influence on the project implementation; attitude toward the project and level of involvement in the project.

The main stakeholders subject to the current survey are:

1. Inhabitants in settlements in close vicinity to the wetlands.
2. Population groups who are directly impacted by the project:
  - a. Owners and users of land in the Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site
  - b. Fishermen – in both territories.
3. Businessmen developing activities, which may be affected by project's results – owners of hotels and tourist agencies, presidents of agricultural cooperatives, owners or managers of pig-breeding farms, etc.
4. Local and central governments:
  - a. Local governments in Belene, Svishtov, Nikopol, Tutrakan and Slivo Pole – mayors, deputy mayors, municipal environmental experts, municipal councilors, chairpersons of municipal councils, experts and directors of divisions in local government administration.
  - b. Deconcentrated structures of central government – Regional Inspectorates on Environment and Water (RIEW), who are responsible for the protected areas, administration of the regional governor, regional police department, labor offices.
5. Environmental NGOs operating on the territory of Belene, Tutrakan and Slivo Pole municipalities.
6. School principals and biology teachers.
7. Students - 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades.
8. Representatives of local media in municipalities located in vicinity to the wetlands.

## *2. Analysis of the results from the sociological survey of stakeholders*

### **2.1. Analysis of the results from survey of the population living close to the wetlands**

The total number of surveyed persons is 505 – 240 from the region of Persina Nature Park and 265 from the region of Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site. The instrument used is a standardized interview<sup>3</sup>.

The structure of the analysis follows the logic of the questionnaire. Three groups of questions are analyzed: socio-demographic profile of the population, awareness of the project and attitude towards the project.

#### **1. Socio-demographic profile of the population**

The gender structure of the interviewed 505 persons is 51.1% women and 48.9% men. The ethnicity profile is 78.4% Bulgarians, 14.9% Turks, 5.5% Roma population and 1% others. Compared to the average ethnical structure in the country (respectively 84%, 9,4% and 4,7%), the surveyed regions show a lower level of the three groups on the account of the group “Other ethnicity”.

The age structure of the interviewed shows a relatively even distribution of respondents in the age groups 21-30 (16.8%), 31-40 (20%), 41-50 (15.4%), 51-60 (21.8%) and over 61 years (22%). The relative share of respondents in the age group below 20 years (1.2%) is the lowest, which is normal considering the selected approach.

The education structure of respondents shows that the most represented is the group of persons with secondary special education (35.6%), followed by the group of primary educated (27.9%). Some 10% of the respondents are university and college graduates, and 10% have elementary or no education.

As for the economic realization, the largest group of respondents doesn't work - 48.3%, followed by the group of qualified workers – 12.3%, unqualified workers – 10.5%, and public sector employees – 5.5%.

Among the respondents who don't work, pensioners prevail with 48%, followed by unemployed without right to unemployment benefits (25.40%).

As much as 71.9% of the respondents are born in the respective surveyed municipality; similar is the percentage of respondents who work in the same municipality – 74.5%.

Half of the interviewed possess agricultural land. Among them, the biggest share (33.6%) possesses 6-10 decares, and the lowest is the share of respondents possessing 51-100 decares (1.2%) and over 101 decares (0.8%).

The number of household members is not much different from the average household in the country – typically a husband and a wife, their children and sometimes elder parents or relatives.

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<sup>3</sup> The survey methodology and questionnaires are presented as appendices to the report.

The largest part of respondents define their material status as average (40.4%). Total of 27.5% of the respondents define themselves as “rather poor”, and 23.2% - as “very poor”.

According to the average monthly income per household member, respondents fall in the three groups with lower income: up to BGN 50 – 22.8%; BGN 51-75 - 22.4%; BGN 76-100 - 26.9%. The other six higher income groups include 23.4% of respondents.

The prevailing part of interviewed persons (89.1%) doesn't have other than the main job to add to their incomes. Yet, 55.1% of interviewed rely on domestic farms as an income source. Among them 37% rely in a great degree or completely on the domestic farm to form their income. This fact shows that the people from the region do not consider the work in the domestic farm as “additional” but natural, which does not match their general understanding of the concept “work”.

The analysis of the respondents' income structure indicates that the salary is the main source of income. It forms 100% of the households' income of 25.3% of the interviewed, and 50-99% of the income of other 16.4% of the respondents. Pensions are another important income source. They form 100% of the income of 20% of the respondents and 50-99% of the income of other 14% of the respondents, which corresponds to the sample age structure. Social allowances, child benefits, unemployment benefits, income from private business activities, income from domestic farms, assistance by relatives, and income from property are complementary to the salary or pension. They are the sole income source for 7% of the respondents, which is a relatively high share of the population, entirely depending on social transfers.

## **2. Awareness**

The questions in this part of the questionnaire analyze the level of awareness among the population about the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project, implemented in Belene Island and Kalimok/ Brushlen Protected Site.

Some 35% of interviewed persons know about the project. From them 12% know about the parallel implementation of project activities in both wetlands, and the others – only in one of the wetlands. It is interesting to mention that respondents in Persina Nature Park know about the implementation of the project only in one of the two areas, while people from Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site know that a project is implemented in site of the same name. The fact that only one third of the population is aware of the project indicates that additional information activities are necessary in this respect.

Considering the above-mentioned data, it is logical that 76% of respondents in Persina Nature Park and 81% of respondents in Kalimok/ Brushlen Protected Site can not define the project objectives (this percentage includes responses “I am not aware”, “I've only heard about” and “I have very limited information”). The other respondents define the project objectives as follows:

Persina Nature Park:

- Protection of endangered flora and fauna species (47%),
- Restoration of marshes and establishment of a reserve (19%),
- Wetlands restoration (18%).

Kalimok/ Brushlen Protected Site:

- Wetlands restoration (31%),
- Restoration of marshes and creation of a reserve (29%),
- Improvement of the ecological equilibrium (18%).

The awareness of expected project results is even lower than the information about project objectives – almost 90% of respondents in both groups cannot provide answer.

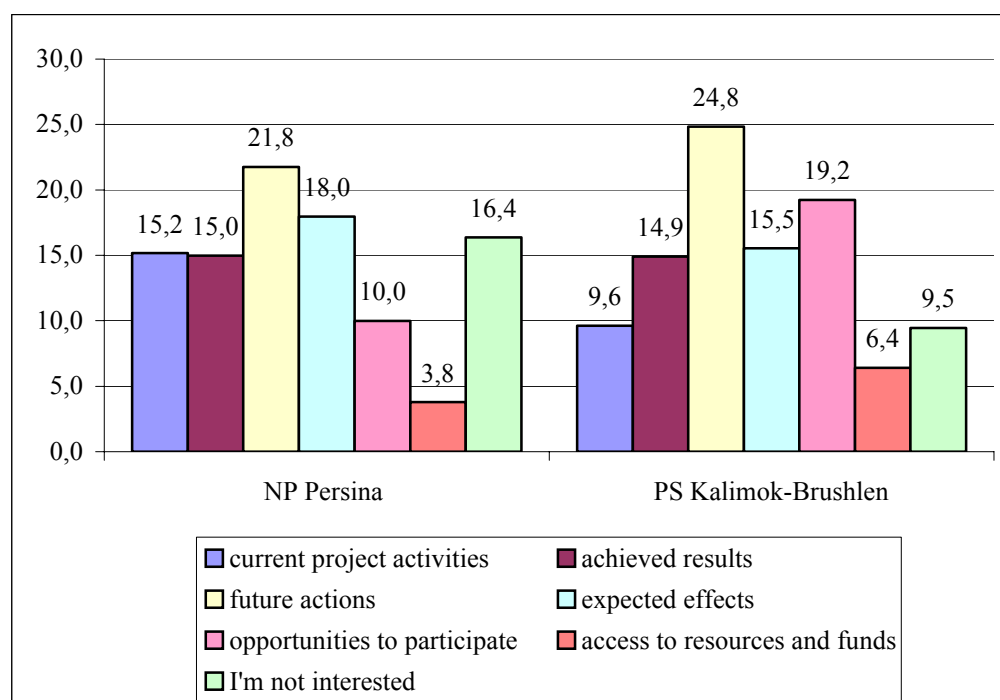
Persons who respond to this question consider that the project implementation will result in: (a) in Persina Nature Park – protection of rare flora and fauna species and improvement of the ecological equilibrium; (b) in Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site – increase in fish quantity in Danube, in addition to the two above mentioned results.

Based on the responses, it may be concluded that the people who are aware of the project only have a general idea, without having a clear picture of its objectives, expected results, effects, etc.

Over 60% of respondents state that they have not received any information about the project implementation. People who consider themselves informed in a certain degree declare that the main sources of information are: friends and neighbors, local and cable TV, information materials and boards in the building of the municipality (mostly in Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site), local newspapers (mostly in Persina Nature Park), project information brochures (in Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site). The conclusion is that the population relies on interpersonal and informal contacts and accessible information sources.

Respondents in both wetlands assess the information about the project as very insufficient. They would like to be periodically informed about the various project activities. The most wanted information in both areas is about upcoming project events (Figure 1). The very low percentage of persons who want to receive information about the access to resources and finances provided to affected persons and institutions is most probably a result of the poor awareness of the available forms of compensation.

**Figure 1: Information that respondents in both wetlands want to receive periodically**



The percentage distribution of respondents' opinion about the preferred sources of information about the project is shown on the table below.

**Table 1: Sources of information**

Information source	Persina Nature Park	Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site
TV	35,4	19,7
Radio	13,5	13,0
Newspapers	10,9	11,2
Web sites of the MOEW and the project	1,3	0,2
Brochures	10,2	23,2
Public hearings	3,3	8,5
Meetings with project team	3,8	12,4
Children	0,5	0,2
Not interested	21,1	11,6

Interviewed persons in Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site are more active in seeking information. They want to be more informed about the project and consider that the most appropriate ways are specialized materials and meetings with the project team. Contrary to them, people in Persina Nature Park prefer more easily accessible sources that provide general information about the project (television, radio). In addition, the declared lack of interest is higher in this area.

Over 95% of respondents have not participated in any activity regarding the project, i.e. public hearings, meetings with the municipal administration, with the project



team, with the staff of the protected sites, etc. This fact reflects the low involvement level of the local communities in the project activities.

Almost 20% of respondents in Persina Nature Park provide the opinion that the interests of the population are taken into account in the project, while as much as 10% of respondents in Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site share this opinion. And vice versa, persons in the Protected Site who think that their interests are violated by the project are less than those in the Nature Park (4.6% against 9.6%). The share of interviewed persons who live in close vicinity to the wetlands and who don't have an opinion whether their interests are appropriately considered, is prevailing – over 85% in Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site and some 70% in Persina Nature Park.

The awareness of respondents from Kalimok/Brushlen (they are the main beneficiaries) is extremely low regarding initiatives of the project – establishment of a Farmer Transition Support Fund and its opportunities for assistance; up-coming elaboration of rules for provision of support for eco-business development and the Biodiversity Conservation Small Grant Program. Only 7% are aware of these initiatives.

### **3. Attitude**

Questions in this group aim to reveal the attitude of the population towards the implementation of the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project.

Over half of interviewed persons (58.4%) can't judge which effects of the project dominate. Respondents from Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site are less oriented (66% respond "can't judge"). The low percentage of respondents who expect negative effects - only 2.8% - is favorable for the project. 39% of respondents from Persina Nature Park and 15% of respondents in Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site expect positive effects. This seems normal, having in mind the fact that in the protected site envisaged flooding concerns private lands, while in Belene the property to be flooded is public.

The expectations for positive effects in the two areas are as follows:

#### *Persina Nature Park*

Expectations of the respondents from Persina are for "average" and "strong" positive effects of most project results. The sum of the relative share of respondents who give such answers is around 50%.

The following are listed as activities with strong positive effects:

- animation of the settlement – 30.8%;
- preservation and restoration of natural resources and improvement of the ecological equilibrium – 35%;
- job creation during the implementation of the project and for the maintenance and guarding of wetlands afterwards- 32.5%;
- investments in new jobs – 31.7%;
- development of tourism– 29.2%.

Greatest skepticism exists regarding:

- introduction of environmentally friendly agricultural practices – according to 28.3% of respondents it will not have a positive effect.

- Increase in fish quantity – 22.9% of respondents declare that it will not have any effect.

The respondents in Persina Nature Park are more active also in defining which positive effects will affect them personally – only 10 percent can't judge. The largest number of interviewed declare that they will be affected by:

- Animation of the settlement – 25%;
- Increase in income and standard of living – 20%;
- New jobs creation during the implementation of the project and for the maintenance and guarding of wetlands - 19.58%.

#### *Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site*

More than half of respondents can't provide an opinion about the effect of each of the project results. None of the project results is expected to have “strong” positive effect. Evaluation of respondents fluctuates between “average” and “low” positive effect.

Average positive effect is expected from:

- Reduction of the pollution of Danube river – 25.5%;
- Increase in fish quantity in the river – 19.8%;
- Creation of new jobs during the implementation of the project and for maintenance and guarding of wetlands - 23.4%;

Low positive effect is expected from:

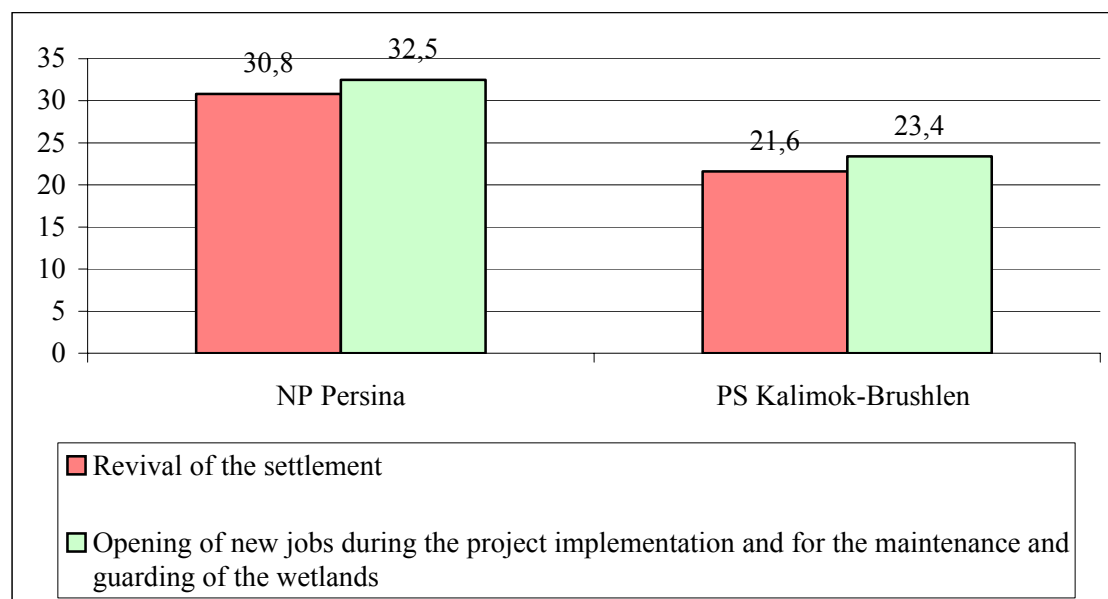
- Animation of the settlement – 21.6%;
- Application of good agricultural practices – 17.9%;
- Income increase – 24%.

Respondents from Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site are less oriented vis-a-vis the question “Which positive effects will have a direct affect on you?” - 41.5% can't judge. Most respondents declare that they will be affected by:

- Creation of new jobs during the implementation of the project and for maintenance and guarding of the wetlands - 22.3%;
- New recreation opportunities for local people - 16.6%;
- Development of tourism – 10.9%.

Figure 2 represents the most largely supported positive effects from the project in the two wetlands.

**Figure 2: Positive effects of the implementation of the project, most often mentioned by respondents**



A high percentage of respondents in both wetlands are not able to articulate the negative effects of the implementation of the project - 64.6% in Persina and 87.2% in Kalimok/Brushlen. The main problem pointed in both wetlands is the proliferation of mosquitoes - 7.9% in Persina Nature Park and 5.3% in Kalimok/Brushlen. Respondents from both regions who mention this negative effect declare that they will be directly affected by it.

Interviewed in both areas can not determine whether the compensation measures envisaged within the project will be sufficient to compensate its negative effects – the total share of responses “I don’t know” and “I can’t judge” in Persina Nature Park and in Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site are respectively 89.6% and 95.5%. This lack of ability to assess the relevance of the compensation measures leads to the lack of ability to propose additional measures - 98.3% for Persina and 95.1% for Kalimok/Brushlen.

The percentage of respondents who can’t provide recommendations regarding the project is high – 95% in Persina Nature Park and 73% in Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site. **The main recommendations concern provision of more information and inclusion of unemployed in the project.**

Based on the analysis of the sociological survey of the population, the following *conclusions* may be drawn:

1. The awareness of the population of the project is poor and limited to the information that “there is such a project”, without more detailed information about its purposes, results and compensation measures. This is valid for respondents from both Persina and Kalimok/Brushlen.
2. The insufficient and not thorough information about the project is a result of several reasons among which: lack of or insufficient information from easily accessible sources (announcing only general information on the project); prevalence of informal information channels for “transfer of information”.

3. Still a low level of involvement of local communities in the project activities. Despite everything else, this leads to poor awareness and passive attitude as a whole and towards the individual project activities and expected results.
4. The lack of detailed information leads to lack of ability among interviewed persons to evaluate the effects of the project. Nevertheless, the respondents have a positive attitude toward the project and a very low percentage of them expect negative effects. This is a favorable social environment for its further implementation.
5. Although respondents from both areas initially connect project objectives with the environment, their expectations are mainly in an economic aspect – incomes, animation of the settlement, creation of new jobs, opportunities for the development of tourism, etc.
6. Despite the relatively high share of interviewed in both areas who can't define the negative effects of the project, the fears of the persons concern mainly proliferation of mosquitoes.
7. The main recommendations provided by the respondents concern provision of more information and employment of unemployed in the project.
8. On this base there could be recommended more active and targeted implementation of the project information campaign regarding its objectives, activities, planned results and opportunities for stakeholders.

## **2.2. Analysis of the results of the survey of land owners and users**

Twenty land owners and users are interviewed, all of them from the protected site Kalimok/Brushlen. This group of the population – as it has been mentioned – is surveyed through two instruments: (1) standardized interviews in the format for the whole population and (2) additional questionnaire with specific questions allowing deeper investigation of the behavior of the interviewed persons.

### **A. Standardized interview**

The analysis of data received through the interviews is prepared in the following aspects:

#### **1. Social and demographic profile of respondents**

The analysis of the responses to the questions included in this section allows drawing of the main socio-demographic profile of the respondents.

Interviewed land owners and users are of 29 to 74 years of age, mainly men - 80%. The ethnical identity of respondents is in the ratio 70% Bulgarians and 30% Turks. Respondents are concentrated in two large groups – pensioners (35%) and unemployed without the right to unemployment benefit (35%). They define their material status as “average” or “rather poor”. The largest part of them have secondary education (8), followed by those with primary education (6) and secondary specialized education (5). Regarding the professional profile, most of the interviewed persons define themselves as unqualified family workers (7) and as unemployed (6), and three persons – as agricultural producers. There are one technician, one qualified worker, one private entrepreneur and one person with a freelance profession.

The households of interviewed and owners and users are not much different from the average household in the country, which comprises a husband and a wife, their children and sometimes elder relatives (most often parents).

Ninety percent of the respondents were born in the respective municipality, and all perform their economic activities in the same municipality.

Incomes in respondents' households are formed by salaries, pensions and property (incomes from lending, rents, dividends). All possess land and in most cases – over five decares. All interviewed persons say that they rely to a certain degree on the domestic farm as a source of income (95%) and don't work outside their main place of work for additional income (95%).

The average monthly income per household family is in the following range: up to BGN 50 – 5 respondents; from BGN 51 to 75 – 5 respondents; from BGN 76 to 100 – 7 respondents; from BGN 101 to 125; from BGN 126 to 150 – one respondent.

## **2. Awareness**

Only one of interviewed owners and users of land declares that he is aware of the implementation of the project in the two sites – Persina Nature Park and Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site. Twelve respondents (60%) declare that they are aware of the implementation of the project only in one of the sites. As all the 20 respondents are from the region of the Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site, it is logical that they are informed about the implementation of the project just in this site. Seven respondents (35%) are not aware of the project.

The relative share of unaware and those who don't know the project objectives is relatively high - 40%. These are the seven respondents who are not aware of the project and one of those who are aware. The positive fact is that respondents who know about the implementation of the project know also the project objectives. This shows a deeper awareness.

Five respondents mention that the project objective is “improvement of ecological equilibrium”. Seven respondents declare that they are only partially aware of the objectives, while one respondent mentions “restoration of endangered wetlands” and one - “protection of endangered flora and fauna species”. Five owners and users of land (25%) point out more than one objective.

Half of interviewed owners and users of land are not aware of the expected project results. They include all respondents who don't know anything about the project and three of the group that show some level of awareness. The prevailing answer regarding expected results is “restoration of marshes and creation of a reserve”.

The main information source for this survey group is the contacts with neighbors and friends (50% of respondents point out this information “channel”. This is understandable, having in mind the small community where the survey is carried out, and the importance of interpersonal contacts as a communication tool in such places. Other information sources as “national TV”, “information boards and materials”, “information from my children” have relatively small importance (5% of respondents for each of these answers). The seven respondents, who are not aware of the project, state that they have not received any information.

In general, this group of participants in the survey gives a negative evaluation of the sufficiency of provided information – 90% negative responses. Matters become worse by the fact that no one gives a positive evaluation. Respondents want to receive

information about expected results and upcoming project activities – each one of these is mentioned 18 times. The response “Opportunities for participation in the project” is mentioned relatively rarely – ten times. The most preferred information tool are meetings with the project team (mentioned 15 times), a fact that demonstrates a serious interest in the project, a confidence in the implementing team, and a willingness for more contacts. The TV is mentioned as a second by importance information source (mentioned 12 times). The other sources – radio, media and information brochures - are not paid a lot of attention by the interviewed persons.

No one from interviewed owners and users of land has participated in project related activities.

The predominant part of interviewees can't provide a response whether the interests of the populations have been taken into account by the project (80%). Only 15% (3 respondents) provide a positive response to this question.

No one respondent is informed about: (1) the upcoming establishment of a Farmer Transition Support Fund and the assistance it will provide; (2) the elaboration of the rules for supporting the development of eco-business; (3) opportunities provided through the Biodiversity Restoration Small Grant Program.

### **3. Attitude**

Three-fourths from interviewees can't judge which project effects (positive or negative) will prevail. As strongly positive project effects are pointed out “animation of the village (more people will come)” and “reduction of the pollution of river Danube”. According to respondents' opinion, “preservation and restoration of natural resources and improvement of ecological equilibrium”, “increase of fish quantity in the river”, “application of environmentally friendly agricultural practices”, “jobs creation during the implementation of the project”, and “tourism development” will have an average effect. “Increase of incomes” and “new opportunities for recreation and tourism” are evaluated as low effect results.

The following positive effects will affect most respondents (and their households): reduction of the pollution of Danube (9 respondents), increase of fish quality in the river (9 respondents); increase of incomes and improvement of the standard of living (9 respondents). In the same time, no one of the respondents mentions the application of environmentally friendly agricultural practices and the decrease of expenditures for operation of draining systems.

Three-fourths of interviewees can't point out negative project effects. One respondent mentions “proliferation of mosquitoes” and three state that negative effects can't be expected. Similar is the percentage of interviewees (80%), who can't define whether some of the negative effects will have an impact on them in person.

No one can judge whether envisaged compensation measures (establishment of an Emergency Fund, a Farmer Transition Support Fund, provision of technical assistance, etc.) will be sufficient to neutralize the negative effects that may occur as a result of the implementation of the project. Another proof of this statement is that 90% of interviewees can't mention additional compensation measures.

Specific recommendations for the project concern mainly provision of more information (70%).

## **B. Additional questionnaire**

The distribution of responses shows that between 10% and 20% of incomes of owners and users of land come from cultivation or lending of land.

Three-fourths of respondents can't judge whether and how the implementation of the project will affect their business. The others declare that changes will be positive because of "expected investment in agriculture", "expected investments in small and medium businesses", "improvement of business conditions" and "jobs creation".

All interviewed persons are unanimous that they will not be affected in a different way as owners and users of land, compared to the other groups of the population in the community.

Three-fourths of respondents don't expect any changes in their income status after the implementation of the project. The remaining part expects changes in positive direction, i.e. from 10% to 30% increase in income.

In case that their incomes increase after the implementation of this project, 25% of respondents intend to enlarge the scope of their business, 25% - "to live better", and 25% - to invest in another field such as eco-tourism, hotels, etc. Two-thirds of interviewees don't know what they will be doing in case their incomes decrease as a result of the implementation of the project. Five respondents state that they will start a business in another sphere.

Based on the analysis of the survey of owners and users of land, the following main *conclusions* are drawn:

1. The level of awareness of owners and users of land is limited to "have heard" about the project. In general, deeper understanding of project objectives, expected results, effects and compensation measures is lacking. To a great extent, this is obvious from the used source of information – neighbors and friends, i.e. informal contacts, just informing about the fact without providing detailed information about the nature and content of the project.
2. The lack of more detailed information explains the desire of most respondents to learn about upcoming project activities and their effects. **Direct** forms of contact are preferred (with project experts) to discuss **real** issues, which will have a **direct** impact on respondents' interests (project activities and expected results).
3. The level of participation of this group of respondents in the project is low.
4. The attitude towards the project is strongly influenced by the lack of participation and detailed information – 75% of respondents can't give an opinion about positive or negative effects. In most cases their responses are "give us more information about the project and we will provide an opinion".

### **2.3. Analysis of the results of the survey of fishermen**

Twenty fishermen are interviewed – ten in each of the two wetlands. They are selected among possessors of boats in the communities near the wetlands. This group of the population is surveyed through two instruments: (1) standardized interview for the whole population, and (2) additional questionnaire with specific questions allowing deeper investigation of their attitude.

## **A. Standardized interview**

The analysis of the information collected through the standardized interview is structured as follows:

### **1. Social and demographic profile of respondents**

The responses to questions included in this section of the questionnaire allow identifying the main socio-demographic profile of respondents.

All respondents are male at the age between 29 and 67 years, born in or out of the respective municipality, with Bulgarian ethnicity. They define their material status as “average” or “rather poor”. Twelve define themselves as professional fishermen. The others declare that they are “public sector servant” (3 respondents) and “unqualified worker” (1 respondent). Most of them have primary and specialized secondary education.

The households of fishermen don't differ by size from the average household in the country where usually there are a husband and a wife, their children and sometimes grandparents.

All interviewed fishermen work in the respective municipality. The incomes of respondents' households come from private business, salary (in Persina Nature Park mainly) and pensions (in Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site mainly). 20% of households in the territory of Kalimok/Brushlen rely in a small degree to domestic farms and property as income sources. Over half of fishermen have a second job in order to increase their household incomes.

Average monthly incomes per household member, declared by fishermen from Persina Nature Park are slightly higher than the incomes of respondents in Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site. In the first group, 30% of respondents declare incomes between BGN 76 and 100, and in the second group the largest part of respondents (again 30%) declare average monthly income per household member from BGN 51 to 75.

### **2. Awareness**

Questions in this section of the questionnaire are designed to investigate the level of awareness of this group of the population of the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project, implemented in Belene and Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site.

A total of 15 respondents are aware of the wetland restoration project. Only two of them know that the project is implemented in both sites. The other respondents state that the project is implemented only in one site – they are informed about the project at the territory of the municipality where they live.

From the 15 respondents who are aware of the project, 13 declare that they know something about project objectives. Their opinion is that the implementation of the project will result in, first, restoration of marshes and creation of a reserve, second, protection of endangered flora and fauna species, third, restoration of wetlands, and fourth, reduction of pollution.

Respondents are less informed about expected project results. Ten interviewees declare that they don't know anything, and three say that they have heard something but are not able to specify any result. The remaining part of respondents relates



expected results to the restoration of wetlands, protection of endangered species, restoration of marshes and creation of a reserve.

Informal information channels (neighbors, friends, acquaintances) are the most used information sources as for the project. Only three respondents say that they received information from the local radio and newspapers and local and cable TVs. Therefore, respondents rely on their personal contacts mainly and then to local media.

The general evaluation of fishermen about the sufficiency of provided information about the project is negative. They would like to receive more information about:

1. further project activities (17 responses);
2. expected results (15 responses, interest in such information expressed mainly by respondents from Persina Nature Park);
3. opportunities to participate in project activities (12 responses, mainly from Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site);
4. achievements up to now (9 responses, mainly from respondents from Persina Nature Park);
5. activities performed (seven responses, mainly from respondents from Persina Nature Park);
6. access to resources and funds provided under the project to interested and affected persons and institutions (6 responses).

The TV is the most preferred source of receiving information on the project (13 responses from both regions). The media is second preferred source for respondents in Persina. In Kalimok/Brushlen respondents prefer meetings with the project team and brochures and other information materials disseminated at public access places (5 responses). The other sources don't have the same weight. Obviously, this group of respondents prefers more accessible and easy to use information sources.

Only two of all interviewed fishermen (one in each wetland) have participated in certain project activities, such as public hearings and public discussions, meetings with the municipal administration, with the project team, etc.

Half of respondents consider that the interests of the population have been taken into account and only two persons from the Persina Nature Park region consider that interests have not been considered. The other interviewees can't judge.

Only one respondent from the region of Persina is informed through the media about (a) establishment of Farmer Transition Support Fund and the opportunities it provides; (b) up-coming elaboration of rules on eco-business development support; and (c) opportunities provided through the Biodiversity Restoration Small Grant Program.

### **3. Attitude**

This group of questions investigates respondents' attitude towards the project and its components, which affect the population.

Respondents are very optimistic concerning the expected project results – 65% share such opinion. Around two thirds of them live in Persina Nature Park region.

Expectations of respondents about positive effects of the project vary by region. In Persina Nature Park expectations include preservation and restoration of natural resources, restoration and improvement of ecological equilibrium (80% of

respondents); development of tourism (60%). Half of interviewed fishermen think that the successful implementation of the project will lead to improvement of opportunities for development of small and medium business close to protected sites; increase fish quantity in the river; animation of the cities and villages; reduction of the pollution of river Danube.

Respondents in Kalimok/Brushlen protected site expect positive effects as to increase of fish quantity and new jobs creation (accumulate 60% of responses “strong positive effect”). Half of interviewed persons associate the strongest positive project results with the reduction of the pollution of Danube, protection and restoration of natural resources and ecological equilibrium, improvement of opportunities for development of small and medium business.

In both wetlands, fishermen expect that they or their families will be mostly favored by the increase of fish quantity in the river. These expectations are explicable, because these effects have the most direct impact on fishermen means of living.

At this stage, about half of respondents can't judge whether the project will produce any negative effects. Seven respondents don't see any negative effects; while three persons think that mosquitoes will increase. The same percentage of opinion applies as for the direct effects on fishermen and their families.

It turns out that the evaluation of compensation measures (for example establishment of funds, provision of technical assistance) to neutralize the negative project effects is very difficult for 90% of respondents in both regions. This could be due, first, to the fact that at this stage they can't identify negative effect and therefore, evaluate the most appropriate compensation measures, and second, they don't expect negative results.

None of interviewed fishermen proposes additional compensation measures. Recommendations about further project development include provision of more detained information about the project (20%).

## **B. Additional questionnaire**

The opinion of this group of respondents is surveyed also through an additional questionnaire allowing deeper investigation of their attitude.

Fishing is the only income source for only one fisherman from the region of Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site. Two respondents from Belene don't rely at all on the fishing as an income source. The other persons rely on the incomes received from the fishing activities at a different extent (almost all options for percentage distribution of the influence of the income from fishing on the total incomes of these household are pointed).

None of interviewed fishermen in Belene consider that the project will have a negative impact on their business. In Tutrakan, only one person thinks that the opportunities for additional incomes will decrease. In both municipalities positive impacts are more expected. In Belene three persons think that their business will not be affected in any way by the project, while in Tutrakan this opinion is not shared. Some 1/3 of fishermen in both wetlands can't judge whether their incomes will be affected as a result of the implementation of the project.

Respondents' opinion about their incomes is based on their expectations of the increased fish quantity (and therefore bigger draught). Only one respondent declare that the positive change will be a result of the development of eco-tourism and trade.

Most respondents in Belene consider that they will not be affected differently than the other citizens of the municipality. In Tutrakan, the larger part of respondents are inclined to admit that they will have more benefits from the project, because of the increased quality of fish and subsequently, of the draught and incomes.

Respondents in both wetlands share a positive opinion regarding incomes changes as a result of the implementation of the project – expectation incomes vary between 10 and 30%.

Regarding actions in case incomes from fishing decrease after the finalization of the project, respondents point out most often (a) closing the activity and seeking other income sources; and (b) fishing to satisfy only personal needs.

Much more are the actions provided in respondents' responses as for the case incomes from fishing increase after the project ends. Some will invest more in fishing and will buy new equipment; others will open fish restaurants and hotels. There are fishermen who want to invest in another business. Some fishermen just point "to live a better life".

The above analysis of the opinion and attitude of fishermen leads to the following main *conclusions*:

1. Around 75% are informed about the project in general. Only two fishermen know about the parallel implementation of the project in two wetlands. In the same time, awareness about individual project activities is very low, therefore the prepared project communication strategy should be applied more actively among stakeholders.
2. Respondents are better informed about the project objectives than about project results.
3. Respondents rely at a great extent to their personal contacts and (secondly) on the local media for receiving information about the project.
4. For better understanding of project objectives and content, it is necessary to provide periodic information - mostly on upcoming events, expected results, opportunities for involvement in project activities – through the TV, media and meetings with the project team.
5. The insufficient awareness of the project parameters is not a factor that influences fishermen expectations. The prevailing part of them declare that the project will have a positive impact on the preservation and restoration of natural resources and ecological equilibrium, the development of tourism, the increase of the quantity of fish in the river and investments in creating new jobs. These opinions are indicative and representative of the overall favorable public attitude towards the implementation of the project.
6. The expectations and hopes of respondents from this group about the positive effects of the project that will directly affect them and their families are: increase of fish quantity (and therefore their incomes) and reduction of the pollution of

Danube. Obviously, the lack of more information creates difficulties for fishermen to identify negative effects, but most of them can't envisage any.

## **2.4. Analysis of results of the survey of businessmen**

The survey covers ten businessmen – five from each of the two wetlands. This group is surveyed through two survey instruments: (1) standardized interview in the format for the whole population; and (2) additional questionnaire with specific questions to investigate deeper respondents attitude.

### **A. Standardized interview**

The analysis of data collected through the standardized interview is structured as follows:

#### **1. Social and demographic profile of respondents**

Businessmen in this sample are between 24 and 58 years of age, mostly women – 80%. The ethnical structure is 60% Bulgarians, 30% Turks and 10% Roma. Half of interviewed persons have special secondary education, and 20% - university degree. 90% of respondents work as private entrepreneurs, and 10% define themselves as “managers on management contract”.

Fifty percent of the surveyed representatives of the business define their material status as average, 20% as satisfactory, and 20% declare that their material status is very good. The incomes of the surveyed group come from private business and, in a very small degree, from salaries and pensions. Two respondents don't declare average monthly income per household member, and the responses of the other interviewees range in the following income limits: BGN 76-100; BGN 101-125; BGN 151-175; BGN 176-200; BGN 201-225; over BGN 251. Two thirds of respondents don't rely on domestic farms as an income source, and 70% don't have other income sources than their main job.

60 percent of interviewees were born in the respective municipality and 90% of them perform their business in the same municipality.

#### **2. Awareness**

Only one respondent knows about the implementation of the project in both wetlands – in Persina and Kalimok/Brushlen, and one respondent is not aware of the project at all. The other respondents know about the project implemented on the territory of their municipality.

Two of interviewees don't know anything about the objectives of the project. From the remaining eight respondents, five state more than one objective. “Protection of endangered flora and fauna species” is the most frequently mentioned objective – four times. “Restoration of the wetlands” and “improvement of the ecological equilibrium” are following by frequency of mentioning – three time for each one. Other mentioned objectives are “restoration of marshes and creation of a reserve” and “reduction of the pollution”.

Fifty percent of respondents are not aware of the expected project results. The answers of the other respondents are grouped around “restoration of the wetlands”.

The small community, from which the respondents come, determines the type of information sources – neighbors and friends, information boards and materials posted in the building of the municipality. Local newspapers, radio and local cable TV receive each one response.

The information received about the project till now is evaluated as definitely insufficient - 90% of respondents.

Business representatives desire to receive information mainly for achievements till now (mentioned 8 times) and upcoming activities under the project (mentioned 6 times). The “actions undertaken till now”, “expected effects” and “opportunities for participation in project activities” are considered as low priority information.

Brochures and other information materials disseminated at public access places are the most preferred information sources (mentioned 7 times). “Television”, “radio” and “newspapers” receive smaller priority.

Only three of the ten respondents have participated in project activities. The awareness is low also on issues such as establishment of a Farmer Transition Support Fund, elaboration of rules on support for development of eco-business and Biodiversity Restoration Small Grant Program.

Four respondents can't give an opinion whether population's interests have been considered in the project. The same number of respondents declare that these interests have been taken into account.

### **3. Attitude**

Fifty percent of interviewees expect that the positive effects of the project will prevail.

Understandably, interviewed business representatives expect positive effects in areas related to the economy of the region – “creation of new jobs under the project and for maintenance and guarding of wetlands afterwards”, “investments for creation of new jobs”, “opportunities for infrastructure development” and “improvement of opportunities for development of small and medium businesses”. An average positive effect is given to results, which are directly related to changes in the environment – “reduction of pollution of river Danube”, “preservation and restoration of natural resources”, “increase of the quantity of fish in the river” and “application of environmentally friendly agricultural practices”. None of listed positive effects receives a low evaluation.

Almost all interviewed representatives of the business will be directly affected by the “animation of the municipality” – eight times out of ten possible responses. The “development of tourism (rural, hunting, fishing, eco-tourism)” is another positive result that will affect these respondents – mentioned six times.

Half of respondents can't point out negative effects related to the project. Three are definite that they don't expect such effects. The only negative effect envisaged by respondents is the proliferation of mosquitoes. It is mentioned by two respondents, who declare that they will be directly affected.

Three-fourths of surveyed persons can't define whether the compensation measures undertaken in the framework of the project will be sufficient to neutralize the negative effects. This percentage is understandable, having in mind the low awareness level of respondents vis-s-vis this project component.

This group of respondents is not very active in providing recommendations. The only proposal for additional compensation measures is “adequate compensation for the lands”, and the general recommendations concern provision of more information.

## **B. Additional questionnaire**

The distribution of responses shows that the business activities form between 70% and 100% of respondents’ incomes. Only one respondent declares 20%, i.e. for this respondent the business activities are only an additional income source.

The implementation of the project will have a positive impact on the business of half of respondents. The other respondents expect that it will not have any impact on their activities. According to respondents’ opinion, expected positive changes will be a result of:

- “re-animation of the city/village and creation of conditions for the development of rural tourism”;
- “opportunities to invest in the production of environmentally-friendly products”.

Four persons declare that, in their capacity of businessmen, they will be affected in a greater degree by the project compared to the other groups of the population because of the creation of conditions under the project for the enlargement of their business:

- “... because I have a restaurant and a motel near Danube and I hope to have more clients – respectively higher incomes if the project is successfully implemented...”;
- “... I have lands near the wetlands and will use them to produce seeds and other environmentally friendly products...”;
- “... the trade will be more intense...”

In case the incomes increase as a result of the implementation of the project, almost all interviewed plan to enlarge their activities. A certain social effect is expected also, because two respondents plan to “invest in an activity in the social sphere in the city” and “to invest funds in recreation areas”.

In case that, as a result of the project, the incomes from business activities decrease, the large part of respondents will find other business alternatives.

Based on the analysis of the survey of the representatives of the business, the following main *conclusions* are drawn:

1. The awareness of business representatives is limited to the general knowledge about the existence of the project and its overall objectives. Deeper understanding of expected results and other project components is missing and the respondents desire to receive more information.
2. A positive attitude towards the project is observed. It is expressed mainly in expectations of respondents regarding economic benefits of the project – jobs, infrastructure, higher incomes and creation of conditions for the development of small and medium businesses - while environmental benefits are ranged lower.

## **2.5. Analysis of the results of the survey of representatives of local governments**

Twenty representatives of local governments are interviewed – 12 from the region Belene and 8 from the area Kalimok/Brushlen. In-depth interviews are used as a sociological instrument.

The following groups of representatives are surveyed: two mayors, three deputy mayors, four municipal environmental experts, five municipal councilors, two chairs of municipal councilors, four experts and directors of divisions in the municipal administration.

The analysis of the information collected through the in-depth interviews is prepared in the following aspects:

### **1. Awareness**

The representatives of local governments show a high level of awareness of the expected project results. Only one respondent declares that he is not aware of the project results. Over half of the interviewed persons in this group list more than one expected result.

The most frequently mentioned project result is “restoration of the natural resources, the biodiversity and the ecological equilibrium” – mentioned 16 times. The next by frequency of mentioning is “development of eco-tourism” – mentioned five times. Other expected results (mentioned one-two times) are:

- Reduction of the environmental pollution, and particularly the pollution of Danube river;
- Creation of new jobs;
- Protection of the environment;
- Restoration of flooded forests;
- Preservation of dwellings of local and migrant birds;
- Increased awareness among the population of the problems related to biodiversity preservation.

According to respondents, the most considerable results of the implementation of the project are “creation of new jobs” (mentioned five times) and “construction of recreation sites, observation points, bicycle paths and indication boards” (mentioned four times). Only two respondents are definite that till now considerable results of the project have not been observed, and two more representatives can’t judge. In the process of the interviews, other results of the project were listed also, but the accumulation of these responses is within one-two times. Some of them are:

- Fortification of embankments around village Brushlen;
- Increased awareness among the population;
- Serious educational program;
- Restoration of flora and fauna species and preservation of biodiversity;
- Creation of conditions for investments;
- Attraction of the attention of central government and international institutions to the respective municipalities;

- Increased popularity of the municipality;
- Positive changes in the attitude of young people toward the nature and attraction of children in protection of the environment activities.

All interviewed receive information about the project. Over half of them point out more than one information source. The most frequently mentioned source is the administration of the respective protected area – nine times. Other used sources are: project manager (coordinators) – seven times, local media – four times, meetings with the project team – three times. Less mentioned but also used are the following information sources:

- Municipal official (mayor, ecologist, PR specialist);
- Workshops;
- Association “Kalimok/Brushlen”;
- Internet;
- MOEW;
- Information materials;

The prevailing evaluation of the provision of information about the project is that it is sufficient – 70% of respondents. This evaluation corresponds with the relatively good level of awareness among the persons from this group.

The representatives of local governments seek more information about the project phases and upcoming activities – mentioned by almost half of respondents. Another often mentioned suggestion is related to project results. One to two respondents want to receive information about:

- Spending of project funds;
- Creation of new jobs;
- Compensation measures;
- Practices of other municipalities in this field;
- Implication of the project on the population;
- Environmentally friendly agricultural practices.

Three fourth of interviewed municipal officials have participated in activities related to the implementation of the project – mainly meetings, public hearings, workshops and expert councils. One respondent participated in “the design of the information campaign” and “construction and repairing activities”. The evaluation of the benefits of these activities is very high. Seven respondents declare that project activities included meetings and partnerships with Bulgarian and trans-boundary scientific institutions and this practice is evaluated high also.

Three fourth of respondents evaluate “high” the coordination and cooperation between local government administration and the project team (local coordinator and experts). Two municipal experts provide a “satisfactory” evaluation, and three can’t judge. The coordination between the local government and the project administration receives a high positive evaluation, “satisfactory” evaluation is provided by two municipal officials, and four respondents can’t judge. The coordination between the



municipality and the MOEW and the PCU receives also a high evaluation, but here the number of respondents who can't judge us highest – seven persons. The fact that no one aspect of the coordination receives even one negative evaluation deserves consideration.

The large part of interviewed local government representatives respond that the interest of the population have been taken into consideration in the process of development and implementation of the project. The most often shared argument in support of this statement is that the population will receive not only economic benefits (jobs, incomes, etc.), but also improved living environment.

Three-fourths of interviewed persons are informed about the upcoming establishment of the Farmer Transition Support Fund and its objectives, as well as the preparation of rules for providing support for eco-business development.

Only half of interviewed local government representatives specify problems in the project implementation till now:

- Coordination between the settlements covered by the project;
- Coordination between project units;
- Delay in the provision of funding;
- Delay in the implementation of some of the project activities;
- Problems related to the provision of information;
- Reduction of arable lands and increase of mosquitoes.

It is worth mentioning that four respondents don't see any problem in the ongoing implementation of the project.

One third of respondents don't see threats in the further implementation of the project on the territory of their municipality. Some of the threats mentioned by the other respondents are:

- Slow pace of project implementation;
- insufficient awareness of the project among the population;
- impossibility to provide finances for the administration;
- compensation of affected persons;
- lack of transparency of the financing process;
- construction of the nuclear power station “Belene”;
- increase of mosquitoes.

## **2. Attitude**

The opinion of interviewed representatives of local government is that positive effects of the project will prevail. Only one respondent points out negative effects.

Respondents mention the following strong positive effects of the project:

- preservation and restoration of natural resources, restoration and improvement of ecological equilibrium;

- creation of new jobs during the implementation of the project and for maintenance and guarding of wetlands;
- opportunities for development of existing and construction of new infrastructure;
- development of tourism (rural, hunting, fishing, eco-tourism);
- investments for creation of new jobs;
- new opportunities for recreation activities of local people;
- liveliness of the city/village (more people will come).

Respondents mention the following average positive effects of the project:

- reduction of the pollution of Danube river;
- increase of fish in the river;
- application of better agricultural practices;
- improved opportunities for development of small and medium private businesses;
- increase in incomes.

It is important to mention the fact that no one of the above listed positive effects is evaluated as low.

Almost half of interviewed persons don't see negative effects of the project. The others point out the following threats, and the answers are distributed almost equally in number.

- Risk of floods and increase of water level;
- Insufficient awareness among the population;
- Restrictions on use of agricultural lands;
- Increased number of mosquitoes.

Analyzing the balance between the foreseen positive and negative effects, all surveyed representative of local governments support the project as a mean to reduce biological pollution of river Danube and to preserve the biodiversity in the protected areas.

Approximately 3/4 of respondents consider that the compensation measures envisaged in the project will be sufficient to neutralize the negative impacts. The other respondents can't judge.

Six additional compensation measures have been proposed in the process of interviews:

- Establishment of a Rural-Tourism Development Support Fund and an Emergency Fund (calamity, flows);
- Additional compensation of farmers;
- A market of ecologically clear agricultural products produced in this areas;
- Increase of the funding for all compensation measures;
- Larger development of infrastructure projects in the field of tourism.

The other specific recommendations for the improvement of the project concern better provision of information to the population and to national and local media. “Greater promotion and publicity is necessary – an information board with promotion materials in the city center” is necessary. Some respondents suggest “more local people to be involved in future design and construction activities”.

The following *main conclusions* are drawn from the analysis of the in-depth interviews with representatives of local governments:

1. The representatives of municipal authorities demonstrate a high level of awareness of all project components. This is a result of their active participation in project related activities, the intensive exchange of information and good coordination and collaboration between municipal authorities, the project team, the administration of protected areas and the MOEW and the Project Coordination Unit.
2. A clear positive attitude toward the project is observed which is demonstrated by the unanimous positive evaluation of project’s effects and the declared support for the project as a mean of reducing the biological pollution of river Danube and preservation of the biodiversity.

## **2.6. Analysis of the results of the survey of central government officials**

Six central government representatives are interviewed through in-depth interviews – three in the region of Belene and three in the region Kaliok/Brushlen.

The following groups are interviewed: two experts from RIEW, two from the office of the regional governor, one from the regional police department and one from the labor office.

The objective of the in-depth interview is to investigate the level of awareness of state officials about the project.

All interviewed persons demonstrate a good level of awareness of the expected project results. The restoration of the natural resources, the biodiversity and the ecological equilibrium is pointed out as a main result (mentioned by almost all respondents). Other results mentioned are:

- Restoration of the ecosystems in river Danube;
- Reduction of the pollution of river Danube;
- Creation of jobs;
- Strengthening of institutions which participate in the project;
- Creation of economic opportunities for the local population.

Respondents define “the construction of recreation facilities, observation points, bicycle paths and instructive boards” as the most important result of the project till now (mentioned by half of the respondents). Other considerable effects are “discussions and meetings with local people”. Only one respondent doesn’t see any considerable result of the project till now.

Experts with functions in the field of the environment (representatives of the RIEW and the regional governor office) participate actively in project activities – meetings, public hearings, and workshops.

Respondents whose everyday work imposes coordination with the project team, the administration of the protected area (nature park), MOEW and the Project Coordination Unit, give a very high evaluation of this coordination.

Four out of six interviewed officials think that the interests of the population have been taken into consideration in the process of development and implementation of the project. “Many discussions were organized before launching the project and people’s worries were considered; a large part of the population has agricultural lands in these areas and it was very important to design adequate compensation measures.” The opinion of the other two respondents is that the interests of local people are only partially taken into account.

Respondents share that the main problems till now concern the delay of the financial aid and, consequently, of project activities.

Based on the analysis of in-depth interviews with central government officials in the region of the implementation of the project, the following main conclusions are drawn:

1. State officials whose direct functions are related to the protection of the environment demonstrate better awareness and deeper understanding of the project. This is a result of their more active participation in project activities and more intensive contacts and exchange of information with all stakeholders.
2. State officials whose job is not directly related to the environment demonstrate only general awareness of the project as they don’t participate in project related activities and don’t have direct contacts with project stakeholders.

## **2.7. Analysis of the results of the survey of representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**

Eight representatives of NGOs are surveyed – four in each of the two wetlands. This group is surveyed by two instruments: (1) standardized interview in the format for the whole population, and (2) additional questionnaire with specific questions allowing deeper investigation of their attitude.

### **A. Standardized interview**

The analysis of the information collected through the interview is structured as follows:

#### **1. Social and demographic profile of respondents**

Two men and six women are surveyed, at different age, with Bulgarian ethnicity and defining their own material status as “satisfactory” or “average”. Four of them are university graduates and the other four have secondary education. Three respondents declare that they work in addition to their main job. Incomes of their households come mainly from salary and pension.

## **2. Awareness**

Questions in this section of the interview are designed to investigate the level of awareness of NGO representatives of the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project implemented in Persina Nature Park and Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site.

Six respondents know about the project and three of them know that it is implemented in two sites.

According to the opinion of respondents who are aware of the project, project objectives are to restore the natural status of wetlands, to protect lost flora and fauna species, to restore the marshes and to create a nature reserve.

The main information channels are local newspapers, radio and TV, as well as brochures promoting the project. Half of surveyed persons consider provided information as insufficient. They would like to receive diversified information about the project periodically, but most of all they want to be informed about project achievements, future activities and expected effects, opportunities for involvement in the project.

The preferred information channels are meetings with the project team, media, web sites of the MOEW and the project.

Five respondents have participated in activities related to the project such as public hearings and public discussions, meetings with the municipal administration, the project team, the administration of the protected areas, etc. The same number of respondents declares that the interests of the population have been taken into consideration, and the others can't judge.

Only one respondent is informed about the establishment of the Farmer Transition Support Fund and the assistance opportunities it will provide and about the upcoming preparation of rules for providing support for eco-business development. Three respondents are aware of the opportunities provided by the Biodiversity Conservation Small Grant Program.

## **3. Attitude**

This set of questions aims at identifying the attitude of respondents toward the project and its components, which have an impact on the population.

Two thirds of respondents expect that the project effects will be positive. Most representatives of NGOs think that the implementation of the project will have the strongest positive effect on the preservation and restoration of the natural resources and the ecological equilibrium, as well as on the improvement of existing and construction of new infrastructure.

Surveyed representatives of NGOs expect that they or their households will be affected in the largest degree by the development of tourism, the reduction of the pollution of Danube, the creation of new jobs during the project and for maintenance and guarding of wetlands afterwards.

Half of interviewed persons expect negative effects such as proliferation of mosquitoes. Still, taken the awareness level they have, they can't judge whether the envisaged compensation measures will be sufficient, applicable and adequate.

Several respondents propose actions that could contribute to the successful implementation of the project:

- To target and work with the young people;
- Project experts to work more closely with the population - "to go out of their offices";
- To organize seminars for dissemination of information about the project;
- To enlarge the dialogue.

## **B. Additional questionnaire**

The respondents contact and cooperate mainly with the following institutions, organizations and persons regarding the project:

1. in Belene – Persina Nature Park, Bulgarian Association for Bird Protection, the municipal authorities in Belene (R.Kondrova – municipal ecologist), the Ministry of Environment and Waters. One NGO from Belene expects to be involved in the project soon, and a representative of another NGO declares "we have a great desire to participate in the implementation of the project".
2. In Tutrakan – with RIEW, the association working on the project, the project coordinators, the Kalimok administration, direct participation.

The common actions of NGOs and the other institutions and organizations are demonstrated by joint educational and protection events; voluntary work; provision of ideas and technical assistance; elaboration of racks, eco-paths, and summer alcoves; organization of out of school activities for pupils and students, public hearings.

Only four respondents may easily articulate tangible achievements and good practices on cooperation among the different stakeholders. Representatives of a NGO in Belene mention "good partnership with the Persina Nature Park administration, other NGOs mention the provided opportunity "to cooperate and enlarge the partners network among NGOs and institutions". In Tutrakan, achievements comprise "organization of out of class activities – development of project of students" and provision of information about the implementation of the project.

Three interviewed persons identify several problems concerning the cooperation between representatives of NGOs and the project team. Two of the reasons are associated directly with the implementation of the project – "no contacts" and "contacts were more intensive at the beginning of the project, now the coordination is not sufficient, the Project Coordination Unit is passive, meetings and activities are not promoted, and the interest in the project is diminishing".

All respondents declare that the implementation of the project will have a positive impact on NGO members. Reasons for the expected positive change include:

- (a) in general, job and contribution opportunities will increase;
- (b) participation in the work in the Nature Park and in project initiatives, mutual interests;

(c) improvement of the living standard of the population, re-animation of the region, job creation and development of eco-tourism, attraction of foreign tourists.

Most of interviewed representatives of NGOs think that the impact of the project on their own will not differ from the impact on the other people in the community. The benefits for their organizations stem from the improved standard of living, the restoration of the ecological equilibrium and others, such as reduction of the pollution of the river, development of fish-breeding and fishing, increase of incomes, development of tourism. Only one respondent mentions specific parameters of the change: “More activities, promotion of the organization, education of the members” (Belene).

In designing the additional questionnaire for the non-governmental organizations several questions have been included to investigate the intention of respondents in case the project increases or decreases the opportunities for their organizations.

If the project increases the opportunities for work, NGOs actions will be directed toward:

- Obtaining financing to further develop and implement project activities;
- Enlarging the scope of their work and creating conditions for work;
- Reconstructing the legend for “Persina”;
- Developing cultural tourism;
- Investing in enlargement of activities and opening of new jobs.

Interviewed persons have rather positive attitude toward the project and are inclined to not expect negative effects. “I don’t think the project will have a negative effect on us.” Even in the case that the project will decrease the opportunities for work, some respondents declare that they have a strategy for development of the organization:

- “We’ll continue to maintain partnership, we’ll provide training of the personnel and we’ll continue to work”.
- “We’ll seek other ways to find better work. ”

The following main conclusions may be summarized based on the analysis of the results of the survey of representatives of non-governmental organizations:

1. Representatives of the NGOs included in the sample, have general information about the project, but are not deeper aware of project objectives, expected results and initiatives.
2. The information on the project is assessed as insufficient. Improved awareness of representatives of the third sector should be sought through organizing regular meetings with the project team, publishing information on the web sites of the Ministry of the Environment and Waters, and publications in the media.
3. NGOs representatives’ expectations about the impact of the project are positive. They hope that the development of tourism, the reduction of the pollution of Danube, the creation of new jobs during the implementation of project activities and afterward for maintaining and guarding the wetlands, as well as investments in new jobs, will be the most positive effects.

4. It is necessary that the project team undertake actions to use the potential of NGOs who declare willingness to participate in the implementation of project activities.

## **2.8. Analysis of the results of the survey of school directors and biology teachers**

A total of eight school directors and teachers are interviewed – one director and three teachers in each one of the wetlands Persina Nature Park and Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site. Two survey instruments are used: (1) standardized interview in the format for the whole population; and (2) additional questionnaire allowing deeper investigation of their attitude.

### **A. Standardized interview**

The analysis of the information collected through a standardized interview covers the following aspects:

#### **1. Social and demographic profile of respondents**

Interviewed directors and teachers comprise seven women and one man, at different age, mainly with Bulgarian ethnicity and defining their own material status as “satisfactory” and “average”. All of them are university graduates. Incomes of their households come mainly from salary, pension and property (lending property, dividends).

#### **2. Awareness**

Questions in this section of the questionnaire aim at investigating the level of awareness of school directors and teachers of the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project implemented in Persina Nature Park and Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site.

All respondents are aware of the project, and five know that it is implemented in the two sites.

According to directors and teachers, the project objectives are to improve the ecological equilibrium, restore the natural resources and the wetlands, and protect endangered flora and fauna species. Expected results coincide with these objectives.

The main information sources are promotion brochures and public hearings. Respondents range as second by importance information boards and materials posted in the municipal building and the administrative office of the nature park/protected site. Probably, due to their professional interest in the project, this survey group seeks such information sources that give deeper and complete information on the project.

Only two respondents find the information sufficient. Nevertheless, all interviewed directors and teachers would prefer to receive periodical information concerning:

- expected effects,
- actions undertaken under the project,
- achieved results,
- upcoming project activities.

The most preferred information source are brochures and other information materials disseminated at public access places, public hearings, meetings, web sites of the MOEW and the project.



Five respondents have participated in activities related to the project such as public hearings and public discussions, meetings with the municipal administration, with the project team, with the administration of protected sites, etc. The same number of respondents declare that the interests of the population have been taken into consideration in the project, one respondent states that he is not, the other can't judge.

Five respondents are informed about the upcoming establishment of the Farmer Transition Support Fund and the opportunities for support provided by the Biodiversity Restoration Small Grant Program. According to most respondents they have a general idea only and the information is "extremely" insufficient.

Seven respondents are aware of the elaboration of rules for support of eco-business development.

### **3. Attitude**

This section of the questionnaire aims at investigating the attitude of respondents towards the project and its components with an impact on the population.

All interviewed persons consider that the positive effects of the project will dominate over the negative effects. They are unanimous that the strongest positive effect will be the preservation and restoration of the natural resources and the restoration and improvement of the ecological equilibrium. The reduction of the pollution of Danube river is the next positive effect, according to six representatives of interviewed teachers and school directors. The lowest priority is given to the application of environmentally friendly agricultural practices and to income and standard of living increase.

Respondents from both regions think that they/their families will be affected by the various project effects. Interviewees in Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site see the direct project effect in the creation of new opportunities for recreation of local people. In Belene, the expectations are associated with the animation of the settlement, the development of tourism and increase of the incomes and standard of living.

Six of interviewed representatives of school authorities don't see any negative impacts of the project, and the others can't judge on the basis of the information they have.

Almost all respondents have troubles to evaluate the compensation measures envisaged under the project. None of them is able to propose additional measures.

Specific recommendations for the project provided by respondents include more and more specific information on the project for them and for the whole population, for example periodical reporting of achieved results and effects.

### **B. Additional questionnaire**

All interviewed teachers and school directors have organized some activities to include the project in the education process:

- In biology classes – information about endangered and protected fauna and flora species, biodiversity of the organic nature.
- Organization of excursions, scientific expeditions and tours;
- Activities under environmental projects (the "biology out of classes club" works on the project).

The director of the secondary school "V.Levski" in Belene presented in details the diverse activities performed in their school – participation and partnership with the

team of the nature park, concourses and exhibitions, biking, test games. The schools hosted an international competition on ornithology.

The opinion of the teachers is that students, particularly from higher grades, who are interested in biology and like the nature, demonstrate an interest in the project.

All teachers and school directors declare that the implementation and the results of the project can be used in the education process at great or average extent. The main tools of cooperation are visits to the sites, direct observations of the site and information on the natural resources, organization of lectures and showing of video films for endangered species.

This way, the theory and the practice will work together, provision of knowledge will be supplemented by direct observations, the impact of human activities on nature will be shown, development materials will be used during the next school year, etc.

Regarding the project, respondents communicate and cooperate with the following main institutions, organizations and persons:

1. In Perisna Nature Park – the administration of the park, the Bulgarian Union for Protection of Birds – Svishtov, municipality of Belene, NGOs, the local project coordination unit (Mr Stoyan Mihov), the Association of Danube municipalities, the prison in Belene, the management of Persina Nature Park (Tihomira Lazarova, Ani Peyzanova).
2. In Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site – the municipal administration, the administration of the protected site (Mr Kutsarov).

The cooperation with the above mentioned institutions, organizations and persons is expressed through provision of information for further activities in order to facilitate the education process, dissemination of brochures, joint visits to protected sites, lectures in biology lessons, cleaning of the park, excursions, competitions for children, open air lessons, etc.

Identified good practices and achievements as a result of the cooperation are in the following directions:

- Achieved practical results (“visit to the reserve “Srebarna”);
- Increased interest of students in the biology and particularly in the project, formation of a behavior of consciousness and diligence among students, development of project development skills, increased environmental culture;
- Restoration of flora and fauna.

All respondents, except one, declare that the cooperation is smooth and without problems. Still, some of them share that it could be improved if more funds are available. One respondent considers that the communication will improve if more information and visual materials are provided.

Based on the analysis of the surveyed school directors and biology teachers, the following main conclusions are drawn:

1. Teachers’ awareness of the project is higher compared with the other groups of respondents, probably because of their professional interest in the project. Some respondents have participated in project activities – public hearings, public

discussions, meetings with the municipal administration, with the project team, with the administration of the protected sites, etc.

2. The specific interest shown by this group of respondents in the project, determines the channels of information – such forms are preferred, which provide more detailed and complete information and personal contacts.
3. Most useful will be to disseminate information about the expected effects, undertaken actions and upcoming activities, achieved results.
4. All interviewees are unanimous that the positive effects of the project will dominate, more particularly: preservation and restoration of natural resources, restoration and improvement of ecological equilibrium.
5. All interviewed teachers and school directors have related the project to education activities in school, for example inclusion in biology lessons, organization of excursions, scientific expeditions, hiking, etc.

## **2.9. Analysis of the results of the survey of local media**

Six representatives of the media are surveyed – three in Belene and three in Kalimok/Brushlen. The group is surveyed through two instruments: (1) standardized interview in the format for the whole population; and (2) additional questionnaire with specific questions allowing deeper investigation of respondents' attitude.

Representatives of printed and electronic media operating on the territory of the respective municipalities are included in the sample. All respondents are female, at the age between 23 and 52 years, with secondary and university education. Five are ethnical Bulgarian and one is ethnical Turk. All respondents perform their main activities in the respective municipality, and four were born there.

### **A. Standardized interview**

The analysis of collected information is structured as follows:

#### **1. Awareness**

All interviewed media representatives know about the project. Half of them are aware of the fact that the project is being implemented in two sites.

All respondents are aware of project objectives and most of them list more than one objective. The most frequently mentioned objective is “restoration of the wetlands” – four times. Each one of the objectives “Protection of endangered flora and fauna species”, “improvement of the ecological equilibrium” and “restoration of marshes and creation of a reserve” is mentioned two times.

Here again, all interviewed media representatives are aware of the expected project results – mainly “restoration of the wetlands”.

The most frequently mentioned information sources are information boards in the office of the nature park/protected site. Other information sources that follow are: neighbors and friends, information boards and materials in the building of the municipality, public hearings.

The prevailing evaluation is that the information about the project is insufficient. All media representatives desire to receive information about all issues related to the project: activities performed, achieved results, upcoming activities, expected effects,

opportunities for participation in project initiatives, access to financing. Fifty percent of interviewed media representatives want to receive information about all of the above-mentioned issues, and the others – at least about three of them.

Four respondents have participated in some activity related to the project.

Media representatives don't share a definite opinion regarding whether the interests of the populations have been taken into account by the project team.

The awareness of respondents of the establishment of a Farmer Transition Support Fund, the elaboration of rules for the provision of support for eco-business development and the opportunities provided under the Biodiversity Conservation Small Grant Program is not very high.

## **2. Attitude**

More than half of interviewed media representatives think that the positive effects of the project will prevail over the negative, while the other representatives don't have an opinion on this question. All positive effects are ranged as strongly and average positive, and no one receives low evaluation. "Preservation and restoration of natural resources and ecological equilibrium", "increased quantity of fish in the Danube river", "improved opportunities for development of small and medium businesses" and "new recreation and tourism opportunities" are evaluated as strong positive effects. Respondents declare that they will be directly affected by the following positive project effects: "increase of incomes and improvement of the standard of living" and "development of tourism".

Only two respondents point out a negative effect resulting from project activities that will affect them directly – proliferation of mosquitoes.

Two thirds of interviewees can't evaluate whether the envisaged compensation measures will be sufficient to neutralize possible negative effects. Only one respondent proposes additional compensation measures regarding adequate compensation for lost lands.

Additional recommendations concern provision of more information about the project.

### **B. Additional questionnaire**

All interviewed media representatives point out that the community is interested in the project. The publications/emissions about the project are estimated as "regular" and "periodic". Only one media representative shares that her media has never provided information about the project.

Surveyed media announce all types of information concerning the project: objectives, activities, financing, campaigns, news, and comments.

The main contacts of the media are with the local project coordinators, with the administration of the protected site/nature park, with the municipality, and with the Association of Danube Municipalities. Forms of cooperation include meetings, reporting, interviews and press conferences. One of surveyed media has participated in the establishment of a center for media practices and services.

The media estimate as their own achievement the better awareness of the project among the population. One of interviewed media defines as a success the

development of a strategy in cooperation with the administration of Persina Nature Park and the establishment of a coordination center with a press center.

Only one respondent mentions problems related to the cooperation with the other project stakeholders: “The problem is that there is not a common vision. The work is done individually, piece by piece, without any coordination ...”

Based on the analysis of the interviews with media representatives, the following main *conclusions* are drawn:

1. The representatives of media are well informed about the project and they are well aware of its objectives, activities and results. This is due to their contacts with the different stakeholders and their direct participation in the project activities. Nevertheless, they evaluate the information as insufficient and declare a desire to receive more information about all issues related to the implementation of the project.
2. The attitude of the media towards the project is highly positive and they see only positive results of its implementation. The media publish/emit information to raise public awareness of the project.

### **2.10. Analysis of the results of the focus groups**

The general purpose of the focus groups is to investigate the opinion of students on the following issues:

- Interests in environmental issues; sufficiency of provided information in schools, participation in environmental initiatives, main sources of information;
- Awareness of the current project, sources of information about the project, preferred ways of receiving information;
- Expected positive and negatives effects of the project;
- Willingness to participate in initiatives and projects related to the protected sites;
- Methods and forms of involvement of students in activities in the wetlands.

For the group discussion, a questionnaire with six basic questions is prepared to investigate students' opinion and attitude.

Group discussions are held with students from 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade in Belene and in Tutrakan.

The focus group in Belene comprises eight students – 4 girls and 4 boys. In Tutrakan ten students participate in the discussion – 4 girls and 6 boys.

#### **1. Interest in environmental issues. Sufficiency of the information provided in schools. Participation in environmental initiatives.**

Most students in both cities demonstrate interest in the environment and its protection. In Belene, students have only general interest and consider the information in this area as insufficient. Contrary, students in Tutrakan demonstrate more specific interests. They participate in different initiatives and school projects in the field of the environment, such as “investigation of the carp population in the region” and “four

daily expeditions to investigate birds and plants”. Participants share that their co-students participate actively in environmental projects organized in their school.

Responses differ also regarding used information sources. The main information source for the children in Tutrakan is the school and more specifically, biology teachers as this subject is related to environmental education. Students in Belene are not unanimous about their main information sources. They point out the TV, friends, and school teachers.

## **2. Awareness of the Wetlands Restoration Project. Information sources. Preferred methods of receiving information.**

The large part of the students are aware of the project or at least heard about the project in the process of preparation for the focus groups. The information is different and varies from very general to specific for some of project components. For example:

*“This is a project for restoration of wetlands and reduction of the pollution. This is a project of the MOEW. It will help Bulgaria to accomplish its obligations for reduction of trans-boundary pollution. I participated in a course and there, we learned about the project.” (Belene)*

*“I know that there used to be several marshes, then they disappeared. Now water from Danube will be directed towards these lands and they will become marshes again – animals and birds which used to be there will come back.” (Belene)*

*“The project is big and important for the region” (Tutrakan)*

*“Lands possessed by people will be taken from them”*

*“The project is very important for the pelican and the reproduction of the carp” (Tutrakan)*

The school is the main source of information regarding the project. Students receive information through participation in school courses and projects. They share that they have not discussed the project with their parents and are not sure whether their parents know about the project (Tutrakan). Media are not among the main information sources for students. They are mentioned by students in Tutrakan only in the context of *“an article about Kalimok in the local newspaper some time ago”*.

Students express willingness to receive more information about the project. Their opinion is that the best way of understanding about the project is to organize excursions to the protected sites because *“this is more interesting and easily understandable”* (Tutrakan). Students prefer also *the project to be explained in internet* (Belene) and to organize *“meetings with students in order to receive information”* (Tutrakan). Students from Tutrakan share that they have an idea to provide information about the project to smaller students through games.

## **3. Expected positive and negative effects of the project**

The attitude of students toward the project is positive in both cities. Yet, their responses differ as for their definiteness. According to students in Belene, the project will have a positive impact on the city and the population, but they don't explain what the positive impact will be. *“Each good action has a positive impact on the development of the city, thus having a positive effect on citizens, and we are citizens too. We should be interested in the development of the city”*.

On the other hand, students in Tutrakan cite specific positive effects expected from the implementation of the project:

- As a result of putting fish in wetlands, there will be more reproduction of fish;
- Export of fish as a result of increased fish quantity;
- Restore city's glory as a "city of fishermen";
- We can make reed-baskets;
- Conditions for the development of eco-tourism will be created;
- Endangered species will be preserved;
- Employment opportunities will increase;
- The economy of Tutrakan will improve and young people will stay in the city.

Students consider that the project will contribute also to the education of young people because it will provide more detailed information about the area as a result of the development of eco-tourism.

In addition to economic and education effects, students expect some more tangible results. Expectations are related to Kalimok/Brushlen becoming an area similar to the reserve Srebarna, a place where the "nature is not touched, and is charming".

What concerns students is the fact that "they will work with machines" which could create pollution (Tutrakan) and the mosquitoes will increase (Belene). Students in Belene think that exactly the proliferation of mosquitoes is among the main reasons for a negative attitude to the project or the lack of any interest on behalf of citizens in Belene. The other reason is the lack of awareness and interest among the inhabitants of Belene:

*"For most people, this project hardly has any importance, because they are not aware, as well as most of us only several days ago. Probably this is why results are not expected." (Belene)*

*"Citizens are against this project mainly because of the mosquitoes. Others are against because they don't know anything and are not interested in the project neither in the environment. Their ignorance is the reason for their negative attitude. (Belene)*

#### **4. Expected benefits for the students or for the clubs where they participate; willingness to participate in projects related to the protected sites**

All students demonstrate willingness to participate in different projects related to the protected sites: *"To be proud not only that our houses are here, close to the river but that we have participated in this project."* (Tutrakan)

Students in Tutrakan share that they have already organized a project on preservation of the carp, and that the restoration of the wetlands is of great importance. Also, they prepare an initiative to inform small students with the project. They want to attract the interest of children in the environment in general and to the wetlands in particular, through a video film for the protected sites and the species in them, and through games. Students in Belene also share their ideas about disseminating information about the project and the environmental issues. Their proposal is to prepare lectures on the basis of available information. One girl from Belene would like to study

“ecology” and she considers that her participation in the project will help to gain more knowledge.

Also, students see their role in the protection of restored wetlands: *“after restoration of wetlands they should be protected to not disappear again – we should participate in this”*.

There are students who declare willingness to participate but don’t know exactly what they can do for the project: *“...I don’t know what can I do in this project – I want to participate, but I don’t know what to do...”* (Belene)

## **5. Methods and forms of involvement of students in activities in the two wetlands**

Students in both cities Tutrakan and Belele point out that the most appropriate way of understanding the project and its objectives is the preparation of video films for Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site and Persina Nature Park.

*“The idea for the restoration of the wetland could be disseminated through video materials that will allow easy understanding of the idea of the project itself. Exactly such films that could be seen on the local TV, can help people to understand what the project is about because what you see is the most easily understood”*. (Tutrakan)

*“To produce a film for Persina Nature Park – how it looks like, what is there, and the film to be shown in schools or through the cable televisions.”* (Belene)

Their attention can be attracted also through:

- Organization of excursions to the protected sites – *“such an excursion was organized once, students received small souvenirs for Kalimok – t-shirts, pens, etc.”*;
- Establishment of a museum of disappeared species (Tutrakan);
- Printing of information leaflets;
- Showing materials on the local cable televisions;
- Organizations of workshops on such topics.

As a result of the discussions in the focus groups with students from ninth and tenth grade in Tutrakan and Belele, the following conclusions are drawn:

1. Students demonstrate a considerable interest in the environmental issues and the protection of the environment. Interests of students in Tutrakan are more specific which fact is probably due to their participation in various school initiatives and projects.
2. Most students are aware of the project on the restoration of wetlands and give an opinion for the expected results.
3. The school is the main information source for students about both environmental issues and in the specific project.
4. Students are willing to receive more information about the environmental issues and about the project.
5. In both cities students demonstrate strong positive attitude towards the project.



6. Most students are willing to participate in different initiatives of the project on restoration of the wetlands, as well as of other environmental projects.

The sociological survey of opinions, attitude and evaluations of the main stakeholders give grounds to summarize the following main **conclusions and recommendations**:

**First**, the level of awareness among most of stakeholders is low. As a rule, it is limited to “there is such a project”, without deeper knowledge of the objectives, expected results and compensation measures. The low awareness level is registered among the population, the land owners and users, the businesses, the fishermen and the representatives of the third sector.

**Second**, information channels of these stakeholders may be defined as “informal” (relatives and friends) and passive (I heard, I read, I saw), and almost never “I participated in...”.

**Third**, the level of awareness is high among stakeholders who are directly involved in some way or participated in the project or (it is expected) are directly affected by its results. This is true for example for the representatives of local and central governments, for teachers and students.

**Fourth**, even the local media mention lack of many-sided information.

**Fifth**, in general, the public environment for the implementation of the project is characterized as rather “favorable”. Negative attitude is registered in none of the surveyed groups. The prevailing expectations include positive results of the project. Some groups (students, NGOs, teachers) express definite willingness to participate in project activities. Maintaining this favorable environment is of great importance for the further successful development and finalization of the project.

**Sixth**, the results of the sociological survey allow qualifying some of the indices in the proposed system of monitoring and assessment, more particularly those related to Strategic objective 3 (see Values of the indices for monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of Strategic objective 3 in the year 2004, Section 1). These values form the basic values of the indices, which may be compared and assessed, based on the results of sociological surveys on the implementation of the project, which will be carried out in the next years.

**Seventh**, for the further implementation of the project it is recommended:

(a) to activate the project information campaign and to provide target information to the different stakeholders. Special attention should be given to undertaken and upcoming actions, to achieved and expected results, to opportunities for participation in specific project activities.

(b) to introduce more active and direct forms of contacts with groups of stakeholders who are more or less directly affected by the project (businessmen, fishermen, land owners and users) on real issues, which are of interest to them – project activities and expected results;

(c) to seek more active involvement of local communities in various project activities. This is valid in a greatest degree for students and NGOs who express willingness and can contribute to the success and sustainability of the project. Such involvement should be considered not only as an instrument of raising the awareness level, but also as a factor for a successful implementation of the project and its long-term sustainability.

### 3. Stakeholders Matrix – analysis, conclusions, recommendations

The matrix below presents the main stakeholders in the implementation of the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project, *surveyed* at local level, as well as their interests, field and level of influence on the implementation of the project.

**Stakeholder Matrix**

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Main interests</b>	<b>Attitude toward the project*</b>	<b>Direction of influence*</b>	<b>Level of influence**</b>
Population living in the vicinity of the wetlands	Increase of incomes Creation of jobs during the implementation of the project Creation of jobs for maintenance and guarding of wetlands Re-animation of the settlement Development of tourism New recreation opportunities	+	~	1
Owners and users of land on the territory of Kalimok/Brus hlen protected site	Increase of incomes Application of environmentally friendly agricultural practices Re-animation of the settlement Reduction of the pollution of Danube river	+	~	1
Fishermen	Increase of incomes Increase of the quantity of fish in the river (draught increase) Development of tourism Reduction of the pollution of Danube river	+	~	1
Businesses	Improved opportunities for development of businesses near the protected sites Animation of the settlement Development of tourism (increase number of tourists) Development of existing and construction of new infrastructure New investment funds (i.e. Investments in environmentally friendly products)	+	~	1
Local government	Animation of the settlement Attraction of tourists Improvement of existing and construction of new infrastructure	+	+	4

Stakeholder	Main interests	Attitude toward the project*	Direction of influence*	Level of influence**
	Creation of investment conditions Increase of the municipality's popularity Preservation and restoration of natural resources and restoration and improvement of the ecological equilibrium Successful implementation of the project and dissemination of its results			
Deconcentrated structures of central government (in the region of project implementation)	Preservation and restoration of natural resources Restoration and improvement of the ecological equilibrium Successful implementation of the project and dissemination of its results	+	+	3
NGOs	Opportunities for participation in project activities Improved relations with the administration	+	+	2
School directors and biology teachers	Opportunities for participation in project activities Animation of the settlement Use of project results in the education process and increase of students' interest in the protection and preservation of the environment.	+	~	1
Media representatives	Satisfy population needs of information about the project Greater promotion and cooperation with the respective media	+	+	2

\* - The attitude and direction of influence may be: *positive (+)*; *negative (-)* or *neutral (~)*

\*\* - The level of influence is evaluated through a 1 to 5 scale:

- 1 – no influence
- 2 – limited influence
- 3 – average influence
- 4 – considerable influence
- 5 – very strong influence

The stakeholder matrix (its elaboration is based on the results of the social assessment and also on all other activities performed in the framework of this project) allows drawing the following conclusions:

1. Most of the interests of the stakeholder groups which include the population living in close vicinity to the wetlands, businessmen and fishermen, land owners and users (who could be defined as target beneficiaries of the project) are logically related to: increase of their living standard (mainly incomes), improvement of opportunities for economic activities and employment, improvement of the living environment and more generally – the nature and the urban development.
2. The interests of central and local governments are related to the successful implementation of the project and to the positive effect of expected results for the municipality and the local community groups (preservation and improvement of the environment, animation of the settlements, improvement of the living environment through rehabilitation of existing and construction of new infrastructure, increase of the popularity of the municipality as an attractive place for investments and tourists, etc.).
3. Part of the interests of some stakeholders are related to the direct participation in the project activities (non-governmental organizations, students, teachers, businesses). In addition to enlarging the public support for the project, this participation would contribute to project sustainability and to the development of the civil society in the settlements where the project is being implemented.
4. The interests of the main stakeholders and the implementation of the project till now form a positive attitude demonstrated by local people. This favorable environment is a key factor for the further development and accomplishment of the project.
5. The real opportunities of most stakeholders (population, businesses, fishermen, land owners and users, students and teachers) for influencing the project (regarding activities, timeframe, resources, implementation) are very limited. This is a result mainly of: (a) poor cooperation with the project decision-making bodies – Project Coordination Unit, respectively the local coordinators; with the management of the nature park and the protected site; and with state and local administration; (b) poor participation in some of the project activities till now.
6. The official structures such as representatives of local and central governments in the respective municipality have more influencing opportunities. To some extent, they are partners to the direct project implementers. Similar is the influence of the local media, which are always an important factor for the formation of the public opinion.
7. From the further project development viewpoint, greater attention could be stressed on the involvement of some of the stakeholders in project activities that would contribute to the public support and project sustainability.

### III. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY ANALYSIS

#### ***1. Management structures of Persina Nature Park and Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site***

The creation of Persina Nature Park and Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site and the establishment of administrative structures for their management in the period 2001-2002 are related to the preparation and the terms for the start of the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project, as well as for the Phare Project for the same areas. The necessity for sustainable management structures of these two protected areas stems from the very projects' goals and the related main activities – establishment and management of wetlands flooding facilities, reduction of nutrient pollution, biodiversity conservation, development and implementation of management plans, etc. This is also linked to the need for observations of main indicators, specifying the condition of the protected areas, the wetlands respectively, and the effect of the activities, implemented under the project. The carrying out of monitoring and a wide range of practical activities on protected areas management is needed not only within the project implementation period, but also in longer term, namely in the process of management plans' implementation. In this relation, the established structures should be developed in respect to their staff, with the view of more effective covering and performance of the management functions of the two protected areas.

#### **Persina Nature Park Directorate**

The determination of the favorable staff number and its functional distribution is based both on the legislation in force (Protected Areas Law and the Forests Law) and on the following circumstances related to the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project:

- together with the establishment of flooding facilities for the Persina marshes emerges the need for staff for observation and management /operation/ of these facilities;
- the establishment of a visitor center and the necessity for ensuring its functioning.

The determination of the effective staff number will be also influenced by the activities under the “Integrated Management Planning and Administrative Capacity Building for Protected Wetlands Areas” Project, financed by PHARE - National Program:

- system/s development;
- a unit for integrated monitoring of environment components – water, air, biodiversity, etc. The determined monitoring indicators under this model and the institutions that will carry out and report the monitoring will show the need for institutional development of the current structures and the experts in the respective areas;
- The elaboration of the management plans will determine the priorities and the volume of activities that will be performed in longer term by the implementation structures, in directions related to tourism infrastructure building, public relations, environmental training, etc.

The current functions of Persina Nature Park Directorate could be summarized in the following way.

1. Carrying out of monitoring of type natural habitats and of the number of priority plant and animal species, of the tourism pressure in the park;
2. Assignment of activities, namely: scientific research of specific biodiversity elements; conservation or restoration measures for plant and animal species or habitats; issuance of advertising and information materials; tourism infrastructure building – eco-itineraries, relaxation sites, information marking, etc.
3. Organization of educational programs for students, the local population and the park visitors;
4. Coordination and maintaining communication with the local bodies and public organizations,
5. Control on the observation of the park regime, determined by the Protected Areas Law and the Management Plan;
6. Creation and maintenance of database for biodiversity and natural resources for tourism-related sites, etc.
7. Sanctioning of people, violating the park regime.

Considering the above and the still unknown outcomes from the currently developed monitoring model, the most favorable structure of the directorate at this stage could be determined as follows:

1. Director
2. Flora protection expert
3. Fauna protection expert
4. Public relations expert
5. Public relations expert – visitor center
6. Expert in tourism and tourism infrastructure
7. Expert in environmentally-friendly agriculture
8. Chief accountant
9. Cashier, book-keeper
10. Steward

**Remarks:**

1. Positions 2 and 3 should be assessed with respect to the effective covering of the monitoring functions, after the elaboration of the monitoring model. The latter could also provide an orientation in relation to the desired narrower specialization /forester, botanist, ornithologist, etc./ of the employees. In case the indicators, subject to monitoring are many and diverse then a shortage of experts may appear. The uncovered monitoring elements could be assigned to specialized institutions in this case, as well as when there is insufficiency of funds for extra staff.

2. Positions 4 and 5 duplicate, however they are needed in view of providing the functioning of the visitor center, which is envisaged to be built.
3. Position 7 is controversial. A program for environmentally friendly agriculture really exists within the project frameworks and this position seems useful, however it is not clear what will be the opportunities after the project for effective activity in this direction on behalf of the directorate.
4. Two positions are not included in the above scheme. They are controversial and difficult to justify in relation to expenditures:
  - Forests expert – firstly because the forests in the park are considerably little in quantity and second because the capacity of the available State Forestry Boards could be probably used.
  - Employee, responsible for flooding facilities management. The need for such an employee and their specialty should be determined by the employment in terms of time and the required skills. In case the flooding model requires 3-4 months of employment it would be difficult to justify such a necessity, unless it requires special knowledge and technical skills. In case the activities are not complicated their assignment to another employee could be considered.

#### **NGO Kalimok/ Brushlen**

The members of the NGO Kalimok/Brushlen are municipalities and State Forestry Boards in the region, RIEW – Rouse, NGO “Green Balkans” and local NGOs.

Large part of the activities that the NGO Kalimok/Brushlen is expected to perform in the protected site of the same name are the same like those related to Persina Nature Park Directorate. The difference is more substantial with respect to the functions linked to the implementation of the penalty-related legislation. In this regard, the functions of the NGO Kalimok/Brushlen are as follows:

1. Carrying out monitoring of natural habitats types and of the number of priority plant and animal species;
2. Assignment of activities like: scientific research of specific biodiversity elements; maintenance and restoration measures for plant and animal species and habitats; issuance of advertising and information materials; tourism infrastructure building – eco-itineraries, relaxation sites, information marking, etc.;
3. Organization of educational programs for students, local population and the park visitors;
4. Coordination and agreement of activities with the local bodies – municipalities, State Forestry Board, RIEW;
5. Creation and maintenance of database for biodiversity and natural resources, for tourism-related sites, etc.

Other factors influencing the evaluation of the organization’s staff number are as follows:

- the relatively small area of the protected site;
- the possible difficulties for providing funds for payment to larger in number staff after the end of the project;

- the establishment of visitor center obligatory requires staff for its servicing.

Considering the above the minimum staff of the organization's executive body is as follows:

1. Executive director
2. Flora protection expert
3. Fauna protection expert
4. Public relations expert, incl. visitor center servicing;
5. Expert in facilities and tourism infrastructure maintenance;
6. Expert in Accounting.

**Notes:**

Some of the notes, made for the Persina Nature Park Directorate are also true for the NGO Kalimok/Brushlen:

1. Positions 2 and 3 should be assessed with respect to the effective covering of the monitoring functions, after the elaboration of the monitoring model. In case there is shortage of experts and funds for extra staff, the non-covered monitoring elements should be assigned to specialized institutions. The possible funds sources for this purpose are under projects directed to international donors or EMEPA to the MOEW.
2. Positions 4 and 5 should also cover several functions due to possible funds shortage;
3. The scheme does not include positions for experts in forests and environmentally-friendly agriculture due to the already specified reasons.

**Monitoring**

Considering monitoring, it should be defined by its subject and time framework:

1. *Monitoring of the implementation and the effect from the activities under the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project*

In this case it is spoken about observation, specification and performance of activities done in short term, namely: facilities building; construction of administrative buildings and visitor centers; support for environmentally friendly agricultural activities, etc. That is, these are specific sites or one-time activities, envisaged in the project and their organization and reporting is in line with the procedures and rules set under the project. Therefore, special monitoring and reporting on behalf of the above-mentioned structures, directed to MOEW is not needed for this type of project activities.

2. *Environment monitoring*

The design of the overall monitoring model in the two sites is assigned under the Phare funded Project, entitled Integrated Management Planning and Administrative Capacity Building for Protected Areas. This, particularly, is the assignment that will provide the answers to the questions What, When and Who. It is expected that the



following will be determined: priority environment indicators, subject of monitoring, frequency of observations, responsible institutions or organizations, as well as the respective reporting levels.

This model by all means should also include monitoring providing the outcomes (the effect) from the activities indicated under point 1 – e.g. from facilities building in the long term. These indicators will be related to the quality of waters passing through the wetlands and indicating the purifying effect. Also a group of biodiversity elements, the observation of which will also provide answers for the effectiveness of the activities implemented under the project.

In any case, the information from this monitoring type should be collected and processed in the EEA and then it should be submitted to the MOEW in the appropriate format. The main information includes analyses of indicators by water, soils, etc. (without biodiversity), covered by the model and surely assigned to the laboratories to the EEA. The established structures for the two Protected Areas should mainly provide the information on the included in the model biodiversity indicators and/or assign them to external organizations. Interesting for the MOEW are the indicators, related to the dynamics of the number of species, i.e. birds, the spreading of reeds, etc, indicating the condition of wetlands, respectively what is their effect and to what extent is achieved the objective “wetlands and biodiversity restoration”.

Operational reporting (informing) to RIEW or MOEW (possibly also municipalities, etc.) on the part of the administrations of both protected areas might be envisaged in the monitoring model or as a separate activity. The reporting should be on the implementation of the facilities management instructions – e.g. beginning of the inflow of Danube water into the wetlands, opening of the output facilities and flooding duration. Besides the general reporting on this issue, this operational informing would be necessary for the performance of the MOEW bodies’ control functions and other stakeholders.

### **Effect from the project implementation for the local population**

Following are the main issues, envisaged to be of interest to the local population both within the project implementation and in the long run:

1. Land flooding. Here, the interest is mainly related to the lands in Kalimok/Brushlen where the property is mixed – state, municipal and private, whereas the Persina marshes, subject to flooding, are on the Persina Island and only the Belene prison, which takes care of them, is interested in the protection of the adjacent lands. The population in the area of the Persina Nature Park does not have access to the island and would hardly have sufficient and also permanent interest in the effect of the restoration activities.

Therefore, periodical questionnaires on the local population’s opinion on this issue are maybe desirable but only for the Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site.

2. Similar is the issue related to the effect from the restoration of the two wetlands with respect to provision of places for fish reproduction and possible fishery.
3. Environmentally friendly agriculture. This issue seems attractive to be assessed at least once till the end of the project. It depends on how intensively the environmentally-friendly agriculture grant scheme will be implemented. It

is possible that the effect from this project activity will influence and provide a positive or negative answer to the question on the perspectives before the development of the environmentally-friendly agricultural practices in both protected areas after the project.

4. Tourism. Besides biodiversity conservation the main purpose of both protected areas is creation of prerequisites for tourism development. Activities in this relation are set in the project frameworks, including: visitor centers, various types of labeling, itineraries, small grants for environment and educational projects. Therefore, it is expected that this issue will be comprehensively developed in the forthcoming elaboration of management plans and will represent an essential part of the administrations' activity. In this respect the periodical evaluation of tourism development would define both the effect from number of activities under the project and the need of corrections in the work of the administrations and the perspectives in this direction.

It is desirable that such survey is conducted by the end of the project. It will serve as basis for the following surveys.

The following is presented below: (a) outline of the optimal capacity and questionnaire for capacity evaluation; (b) outline of the actual capacity of the NGO Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site and (c) outline of the actual capacity of the Persina Nature Park.

An outline for the optimal capacity and questionnaire for capacity assessment are presented below. The filled-out questionnaires for the actual capacity of PS Kalimok-Brushlen and Persina Nature Park are presented in Appendix 4.

## 2. Questionnaire for capacity evaluation

### Optimal capacity - Provision of recommended activities; profile and number of the staff, involved in the implementation; necessary equipment, etc.

Activities	Staff	1. The main part of the work 2. There are regular activities 3. There are activities episodically 4. The activities are of accidental character	How many employees are involved in the implementation	Is the number sufficient with respect to work scope and good implementation 1. sufficient 2. insufficient	What facilities are required for the activity implementation	What qualification is required
1		2	3	4	5	7
Manages and is responsible for the overall activity	Director	1	1	1	Office, office equipment, consumables etc.	Economist/ Lawyer
Manages and controls the spending of funds for maintenance and activities, provided by the SB <sup>4</sup>	Director	1	1	1	Office, office equipment, consumables etc.	Economist/ Lawyer
Manages and controls the spending of funds under projects of the Directorate, financed outside the SB	Director	3	1	1	Office, office equipment, consumables etc.	Economist/ Lawyer
Maintains direct communication with the management and the structural units of NFB <sup>5</sup>	Director	1	1	1	Office, office equipment, consumables etc.	Economist/ Lawyer
Maintains official communication with the regional and municipal administrations, RIEW, RFB <sup>6</sup> , FB <sup>7</sup> , the police and other local state bodies, NGOs and other	Director	2	1	1	Office, office equipment, consumables etc.	Economist/ Lawyer
Provides system for staff qualification and development	Director				Office, office equipment, consumables etc.	Economist/ Lawyer
Applies: nature protection, labor and commercial legislation; acts of the CM <sup>8</sup> ; inter-institutional regulations and instructions	Director	1	1	1	Office, office equipment, consumables etc.	Economist/ Lawyer

<sup>4</sup> SB – state budget

<sup>5</sup> NFB – National Forestry Board

<sup>6</sup> RFB – Regional Forestry Board

<sup>7</sup> FB – Forestry Board

<sup>8</sup> CM – Council of Ministers

Activities	Staff	1. The main part of the work 2. There are regular activities 3. There are activities episodically 4. The activities are of accidental character	How many employees are involved in the implementation	Is the number sufficient with respect to work scope and good implementation 1. sufficient 2. insufficient	What facilities are required for the activity implementation	What qualification is required
Maintains relations with other parks within the country and abroad	Director	2	1	1	Office, office equipment, consumables etc.	Economist/ Lawyer
Issues administrative-punitive orders	Director	2	1	1	Office, office equipment, consumables etc.	Economist/ Lawyer
Carries out monitoring of the condition of specific habitats, communities and populations of certain plant species	Flora protection expert	1	1	1		Biologist/ Botanist
Plans and controls the implementation of specialized studies of flora/fauna, envisaged in the MP <sup>9</sup> by external organizations	Flora protection expert; Fauna protection expert	2	2	1	Office, office equipment, consumables, etc.	
Plans and organizes the implementation of maintenance and restoration measures for plant/animal species and their habitats	Flora protection expert; Expert in fauna protection	1	2	1		
Participates in the area of their competence in Directorate initiatives related to the development of visual materials and the implementation of training and educational programs	Flora protection expert; Fauna protection expert; Expert in tourism and tourism infrastructure; Expert in forests	2	4	1	Office, office equipment, consumables, etc.	
Controls, within their competence, the observation of the regimes in the park set by the PAL <sup>10</sup> and the MP	Flora protection expert; Fauna protection expert; Expert in environmentally-friendly agriculture	1	3	1		
Maintains database of the flora diversity in the park, incl. the outcomes from the introduced monitoring system	Flora protection expert	2	1	1	Office, equipment, specialized	Biologist/ Botanist

<sup>9</sup> MP – management plan

<sup>10</sup> PAL – Protected Areas Law

Activities	Staff	1. The main part of the work 2. There are regular activities 3. There are activities episodically 4. The activities are of accidental character	How many employees are involved in the implementation	Is the number sufficient with respect to work scope and good implementation 1. sufficient 2. insufficient	What facilities are required for the activity implementation	What qualification is required
					software, etc.	
Maintains communication with stakeholder state, public and scientific organizations in the area of flora/fauna protection	Flora protection expert; Fauna protection expert	3	2	1		
Issues indictments for violation of the park regime	Flora protection expert; Fauna protection expert; Expert in tourism and tourism infrastructure; Expert in environmentally-friendly agriculture; Expert in forests	3	5	1		
Carries out monitoring of the condition of specific communities and populations of certain animal species	Fauna protection expert	1	1	1		
Maintains database of the fauna diversity in the park, incl. the outcomes from the introduced monitoring system	Fauna protection expert	2	1	1	Office, equipment, specialized software etc.	
Plans and organizes the implementation of educational programs with students, the local population and the park visitors	Public relations expert	1	1	1	Hall, equipment, consumables, etc.	
Plans and organizes the preparation and issuance of information, advertising and other materials for the park	Public relations expert	1	1	1	Office, equipment, consumables, etc.	
Coordinates the educational programs delivered to the park by other organizations	Public relations expert	3	1	1	Office, equipment, consumables, etc.	
Is responsible for the operation of the visitor centers	Public relations expert	1	1	1		
Organizes the carrying out of specific types of sociological surveys among the local population and the visitors	Public relations expert	3	1	1	Office, equipment, consumables, etc.	
Maintains communication with the mass media, NGOs	Public relations expert	1	1	1		

Activities	Staff	1. The main part of the work 2. There are regular activities 3. There are activities episodically 4. The activities are of accidental character	How many employees are involved in the implementation	Is the number sufficient with respect to work scope and good implementation 1. sufficient 2. insufficient	What facilities are required for the activity implementation	What qualification is required
Ensures the all day operation of the visitor center	Public relations expert – visitor center	1	1	1		
Self-implements educational programs	Public relations expert – visitor center	2	1	1	Hall, equipment, consumables, etc.	
Coordinates with other experts the implementation of educational programs in the center	Public relations expert – visitor center	2	1	1	Office, equipment, consumables, etc.	
Provides information to the center's visitors	Public relations expert – visitor center	1	1	1	Office, equipment, consumables, etc.	
Maintains the park library and information database	Public relations expert – visitors center	2	1	1	Office, equipment, specialized software, etc.	
Participates in sociological surveys	Public relations expert – visitors center	3	1	1	Office, equipment, consumables, etc.	
Implements or organizes specialized monitoring of the tourism pressure and the tourism activities and the park	Expert in tourism and tourism infrastructure	1	1	1		
Plans and organizes the building and maintaining of infrastructure – itineraries, relaxation sites, marking information labeling of the area, shelters, etc.	Expert in tourism and tourism infrastructure	1	1	1		
Maintains communication and provides consultation to local natural and legal entities, performing activities, related to tourists servicing – tour operators, hoteliers, guidance services, etc.	Expert in tourism and tourism infrastructure	2	1	1		
Maintains database for recreational and tourist sites in the park and the adjacent areas	Expert in tourism and tourism infrastructure	2	1	1	Office, equipment, specialized software, etc.	
Carries out and organizes monitoring of the agricultural activities in the park	Expert in environmentally-friendly agriculture	1	1	1		

Activities	Staff	1. The main part of the work 2. There are regular activities 3. There are activities episodically 4. The activities are of accidental character	How many employees are involved in the implementation	Is the number sufficient with respect to work scope and good implementation 1. sufficient 2. insufficient	What facilities are required for the activity implementation	What qualification is required
Provides consultation to the local agricultural producers for the preparation of projects and programs for sustainable agricultural practices	Expert in environmentally-friendly agriculture	1	1	1		
Organizes the development of projects and programs for the protection of local plant sorts and animal breeds	Expert in environmentally-friendly agriculture	2	1	1		
Maintains communication with local agricultural services and organizations of agricultural producers	Expert in environmentally-friendly agriculture	2	1	1		
Maintains database of agricultural lands and practices	Expert in environmentally-friendly agriculture	2	1	1	Office, equipment, specialized software, etc.	
Carries out or organizes the implementation of specialized monitoring of the situation of forest ecosystems	Expert in forests	1	1	1		
Controls the implementation of the structural projects for the forests in the park and the observation of the regimes set in the park.	Expert in forests	1	1	1		
Maintains communication with RFD <sup>11</sup> and the FB on issues of forests	Expert in forests	2	1	1		
Maintains databases of the forests in the park	Expert in forests	2	1	1		
Attends meetings related to forestry planning	Expert in forests	3	1	1		
Carries out specialized monitoring and nutrient monitoring determined by the model	Expert in draining facilities management	1	1	1		
Operates with the appliances according to the instruction	Expert in draining facilities management	1	1	1		
Maintains communication and coordination with the	Expert in draining	2	1	1	Office, office	

<sup>11</sup> RFD – Regional Forest Directorate

Activities	Staff	1. The main part of the work 2. There are regular activities 3. There are activities episodically 4. The activities are of accidental character	How many employees are involved in the implementation	Is the number sufficient with respect to work scope and good implementation 1. sufficient 2. insufficient	What facilities are required for the activity implementation	What qualification is required
stakeholders – municipalities, Irrigation Systems, the Belene prison, RIEW, etc.	facilities management				equipment, etc.	
Maintains database related to draining	Expert in draining facilities management	2	1	1	Office, equipment, specialized software, etc.	

Remark:

1. The positions “Flora protection expert” and “Fauna protection expert” should be evaluated with regard to the effective covering of the monitoring functions, after the preparation of the model. In case the monitoring indicators are very diverse there is an opportunity a lack of experts to emerge. In this case it is possible that additional staff is employed or the uncovered elements are assigned to specialized institutions.
2. The positions “Expert in forests” and “Expert in draining facilities management” are controversial and difficult to justify with respect to costs. They should be employed in case the monitoring model and the MP justify the need of such experts.



**IV. AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT ON THE TERRITORIES OF THE WETLAND “KALIMOK-BRUSHLEN” AND IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY OF IT**

1. Territories in the Wetland, planted with crops

Dates of observation: 27, 28, 29, 30 и 31 of May 2004.

<i>Number No.</i>	<i>Type of crop</i>	<i>Area - DKr</i>
1	corn	350
2	wheat	130
3	tabacco	160
4	corn	94
5	corn	22
6	wheat	28
7	corn	35
8	wheat	80
9	wheat	202
10	wheat	208
11	wheat	112
12	barley- flooded areas	783
13	sunflower stubble- flooded areas	346
14	tabacco, cucumbers - flooded areas	40
15	sunflower - flooded areas	25
16	tabaco - flooded areas	25
17	sunflower	32
18	melon field	20
19	wheat	20
20	sunflower	580
21	corn - flooded	170
22	wheat	284
23	sunflower	262
24	corn - flooded	139
25	flooded field	56
26	sunflower	235

<i>Number No.</i>	<i>Type of crop</i>	<i>Area - DKr</i>
27	uncultivated land	98
28	sunflower	546
29	flooded corn	176
30	wheat	29
31	sunflower	445
32	flooded field	202
33	sunflower	166
34	tabacco	100

2. Territories on the border of the Wetland, planted with crops (data about the sizes of the areas are approximate)

Dates of observation: 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 of May; 1, 2 and 3 June 2004.

<i>Number №</i>	<i>Type of crop</i>	<i>Area - DKr</i>
1	corn, squash	20
2	sunflower	20
3	corn	25
4	fruit tree garden - appricots, peaches	50
5	wheat	53
6	sunflower	52
7	wheat	76
8	corn	100
9	wheat	100
10	wheat	30
11	strawberries	59
12	corn	400
13	corn	40
14	corn	92
15	tobacco	360
16	wheat	150
17	wheat	40
18	corn	8
19	sunflower	10
20	corn	20
21	alfalfa	5
22	corn	3

<i>Number №</i>	<i>Type of crop</i>	<i>Area - DKr</i>
23	wheat	5
24	alfalfa	10
25	alfalfa	3
26	alfalfa	15
27	tobacco	15
28	corn	15
29	corn	6
30	tobacco	80
31	wheat	30
32	corn	25
33	wheat	35
34	corn	40
35	tobacco	65
36	wheat	400
37	tobacco	180
38	wheat	50
39	sunflower	30
40	corn	80
41	uncultivated lands	60
42	tobacco	60
43	sunflower	40
44	tobacco	5
45	sunflower	10
46	tobacco	5
47	wheat	5
48	tobacco	3
49	tobacco	20
50	sunflower	2
51	wheat	10
52	tobacco	10
53	wheat	10
54	tobacco	10
55	uncultivated lands	60
56	tobacco	40
57	corn	10
58	tobacco	8

<i>Number №</i>	<i>Type of crop</i>	<i>Area - DKr</i>
59	corn	10
60	wheat	5
61	tobacco	3
62	alfalfa	2
63	corn	40
64	tobacco	10
65	sunflower	10
66	onions	20
67	corn	30
68	sunflower	20
69	corn	30
70	tobacco	20
71	wheat	20
72	barley	5
73	alfalfa	5
74	alfalfa	10
75	wheat	10
76	sunflower	6
77	melon field	4
78	tobacco	5
79	corn	3
80	sunflower	40
81	alfalfa	45
82	corn	30
83	alfalfa	55
84	wheat	60
85	corn	27
86	alfalfa	34
87	wheat	24
88	sunflower	30
89	corn	40
90	sunflower	30
91	tobacco	5
92	corn	5
93	tobacco	40
94	tobacco	30

<i>Number №</i>	<i>Type of crop</i>	<i>Area - DKr</i>
95	tobacco - flooded	40
96	sunflower	20
97	tobacco	100
98	wheat	80
99	flooded land- land settlement	

### 3. Identification of activities during the tour of the Wetland

Dates of observation: 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 May 2004.

The inventory is made according to territories within the map of restored ownership of the respective settlement.

#### **Tutracan (town)**

- Two people – collecting firewood
- Single person – Mowing the grass

#### **Staro Selo(village)**

- Two people – Mowing the grass
- A flock of goats – 42 goats with a single goatherd
- A herd of cows – 28 cows with a single herdsman

#### **Nova cherna (village)**

- Gazing cattle
- On the territory of property number № 001073 there were:
  - A herd of cows– 57 cows – one cow-herd
  - A herd of sheep – 170 sheep- one shepherd
  - A herd of sheep– 68 sheep – one shepherd
  - A flock of goats– 120 goats – goatherd
  - Three owners, which took out grazing 4, 5 and 15 cows respectively
- On the territory of property number № 001070 there were:
  - A herd of sheep – 160 sheep - one shepherd
  - A herd of sheep – 76 sheep - one shepherd
  - A herd of sheep – 230 sheep - one shepherd
  - Tree herds of cows –with 7, 11 и 25 cows respectively, the later including + 21 sheep as well, with one herdsman each

All herds of sheep had made sheepfolds for the season (1.05 – 31.10. 2004), the shepherds specified that they are expecting to join the offspring herds.

- Five people- mow the grass
- Two fisherman

### **Tsar Samuil (village)**

- two people- mow the grass

Along the whole border of the Wetland, irrigation systems were installed. Depending on the season, the local residents worked on the field and that is why they were not to be seen in the Wetland. Other activities, which were undertaken on these territories are- herb and snail collection, in the river valley of Dunav there are places suited for sun bathing and relaxation.

#### 3. Types of crops within the Wetland – total DKr

<b>Type of crop</b>	<i>area - DKr</i>
melon field	<b>20</b>
barley- flooded land	<b>783</b>
wheat	<b>1093</b>
sunflower	<b>2266</b>
sunflower- flooded land	<b>25</b>
sunflower stubble – flooded land	<b>346</b>
tobacco	<b>260</b>
tobacco – flooded land	<b>25</b>
tobacco, cucumbers – flooded land	<b>40</b>
corn	<b>501</b>
corn – flooded	<b>485</b>

#### 5. Types of crops on the border of the wetland- total DKr

<b>Type of crop</b>	<i>Area - DKr</i>
melon field	4
barley	5
onion	20
alfalfa	184
fruit-tree field –appricotes, peaches	50
wheat	1193
sunflower	320
tobacco	1074
tobacco- flooded	40
corn	1079
corn, squash	20
strawberries	59

6. Data regarding the average production of some crops for the country, which are grown in the Wetland or on the borders with it

<b>Type of crop</b>	<b><i>average production for the country 2003 - kg/DKr*</i></b>
barley	194
alfalfa	335
wheat	238
sunflower	120
tobacco	112**
corn	277
corn- irrigated	331

\* according to MAF data

\*\* according to MAF data from 2001

7. Supposed production of some agricultural crops, according to data regarding average production from past years

<b>Type of crop</b>	<b>Area-DKr</b>	<b>Average production for the country 2003 - kg/DKr</b>	<b>Supposed production</b>
barley	788	194	152872
alfalfa	184	335	61640
wheat	2286	239	546354
sunflower	2611	120	313320
tabacco	1399	112**	156688
corn	1580	277	437660
corn-irrigated	485	331	160535

\*according to MAF data

\*\* according to MAF data from 2001

## **V. REPORTING PROPOSAL BEFORE THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER**

The reporting on the project is done before the Management Committee according to a predefined schedule. The reporting proposal before the Ministry of Environment and Water is derived from the suggested system for monitoring and evaluation. It is an addition to the already existing scheme. The reporting must be implemented as follows:

### For Persina Nature Park

1. Providing operative information to the Ministry of Environment and Water and the RIEW for the flooding start in August 2005, Responsible: The Park's Administration.
2. Reporting to EEA of data from the base monitoring and other studies of biological sites and abiotic parameters.

### For Kalimok/Brushlen protected site

1. Providing operative information to the Ministry of Environment and Water and the RIEW for the flooding start in August 2005, Responsible: NGO Kalimok/Brushlen protected site "Kalimok/Brushlen".
2. Reporting on the implementation of the Contingency Relief Fund in the period 2005-2007. The report covers: a number of cases of granting compensations, total amount spent on each case, production which has been granted and so on. Responsible: NGO Kalimok/Brushlen protected site "Kalimok/Brushlen".
3. Reporting to EEA of data from the base monitoring and other studies of biological sites and abiotic parameters