**Overview on Project’s results**

In September 2011 Nature Conservation Agency in close collaboration with three associated beneficiaries: Institute for Environmental Solutions, Latvian Fund for Nature and ELM MEDIA started the implementation of the project " Restoring the Hydrological regime of the Ķemeri National Park” (abbrev. Hydroplan).

The main objective of the project was to establish hydrological restoration programme and to carry out hydrology restoration measures within three different ecosystems to eliminate impact of altered hydrological regimes and restore natural or semi-natural hydrological conditions of:

a) bog woodland and swamp forest habitats - peripheral forests at the western edge of the raised bog Ķemeru tīrelis;

b) raised bog habitats - the raised bog Zaļais purvs;

c) floodplain meadows - floodplain of the river Skudrupīte - Melnragu meadows.

The following secondary objectives were set for the project:

1) Elaboration of a hydrological restoration programme for priority areas within the Kemeri National Park, serving as an example for hydrological modelling in the region.

2) Implementation of hydrology restoration measures aiming at improvement of conservation status of bog woodland and swamp forest habitats, raised bog habitats and riparian meadow habitats.

3) Adaptation of airborne remote sensing data interpretation methods for hydrological modelling, habitat conservation status assessment and hydrology restoration planning, and distribution of know-how to other countries.

4) Awareness rising and attitude change of the local society about hydrology restoration measures targeting habitats of EU importance.

Several actions and means were involved to reach the objectives and secondary objectives set by the project. During the implementation of the project we did a full mapping and evaluation of conservation status of the 12 habitats of EU importance by using combined data that we got from the airborne remote sensing and on-ground inventories. Inventory of drainage systems carried out by mapping (using LiDAR data and on-site surveys) of current conditions of every ditch or stream within area of the project actions as well as impact on surrounding territories. We elaborated three long-term hydrological regime restoration programmes that were actively used while implementing actual management actions on sites. We implemented innovative and well known restoration and management measures on high priority forest, grasslands and bog areas which were losing their nature conservation value and/or functions. We organized seminars and experience exchange trips to forest and bog habitat restoration sites in Latvia and abroad and produced informative audio-visual materials on habitat restoration and management issues.

**Key deliverables and outputs**

Within the framework of the project, we had to achieve the following outputs and quantifiable achievements that would highlight the previously mentioned activities:

1) Remote sensing data available for planning for more than 10’000 hectares of habitats. Project and adjacent areas with a total area of 2500 ha have been surveyed and 12 habitats of EU importance (3160, 6510, 7110\*, 7120, 7140, 7210, 7230, 9010, 9020, 9080, 91D0, 91E0) with a total area 1640.1 ha have been identified. Inventory of drainage systems carried out by mapping (using LiDAR data and on-site surveys) of current conditions of every ditch or stream within area of the project actions as well as impact on surrounding territories. The data will be used as well for the update of the Ķemeri NP Nature Protection Plan.

2) Three long-term hydrology restoration programs developed.

3) Three technical projects for hydrology restoration prepared and three purchased.

4) Restoration/management activities implemented and further degradation of bog, forest and grasslands habitats averted of high priority for restoration or management actions:

- in 550 ha of habitat Active raised bogs 7710\*;

- in 1’100 ha of Bog woodland (91D0\*) and Fennoscandian deciduous swamp forests (9080\*);

- in 85 hectares of floodplain meadows (habitat types 6450 and 6510).

4) Sites of habitat restoration and management used as demonstration sites of efficient restoration and management measures to nature conservation experts from Latvia and wide range of other countries as well as private land owners and other stakeholders.

5) Printed materials (project leaflet - 1000 copies), a report on restoration (electronically) and audio-visual materials (two short films) on bog, forest and grasslands habitat restoration/management produced and distributed.

6) Eleven seminars/ workshops and four experience exchange trips organized for nature conservation specialists, representatives from local municipalities and local society.

7) Project’s website created and served as a permanent source of information on projects activities.