

## SUMMARY

The study of the evaluation of the impact of the consequences of the implementation of two EU directives – 79/409/EEC *on the conservation of wild birds* and 92/43/EEC *on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora* was based on the following:

- The demand for the transposition of the requirements of these directives into the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania;
- The development of institutions aimed at the implementation of the requirements of directives;
- Necessary measures for conserving species and habitats;
- Prospects to apply possibilities offered by reservations to achieve social and economic benefit;
- Evaluation of investments, compensations and expenditure.

Apart from the authentic studies and investigations conducted, the studies carried out by different institutions and the summarized material were made use of. The evaluation of the opinions of nature protection specialists, experts and other strata of the society (direct users of land areas and fauna in particular).

By separately discussing consequences of the implementation of directives assessed during the study, it is necessary to identify the following main aspects:

1. **During the study the scope of the transposition of the requirements of directives on wild birds and habitats into the Lithuanian legislation, theoretical and practical ways of solution were determined.** Since without the below results of studies the adaptation of legal documents could not be clearly understood, the attention was paid to the prospects of the possible application of legal acts in practice (See preconditions for establishing Natura 2000 territories and other);

Authors of the project propose the following:

- 1) to coordinate the drafts of the documents under the preparation with all interested groups, not to rush their preparation;
  - 2) not to be content with a formal transposition of requirements into legal acts, but to assess the public opinion about national peculiarities in particular;
  - 3) to forecast possible negative consequences of documents, which would not justify the set objectives;
  - 4) to establish the priority state objectives in the documents, which would not be subject to disputes. For these purposes there should exist habitats of species of special conservation interest and other objects, which could not be privatized only due to this reason and having privatized them in the obligatory procedure they would be protected, in the form of taking out land by means of pledging it in kind. By the way, this is a common practice in Germany and other countries.
2. **The necessity for institutional development should be analysed in essence, rather than partially (as the PHARE project report proposes), analysing the issue in a complex way.** In the opinion of the authors of the study the

Environmental Protection Agency should have the subdivision of nature protection, whose divisions of directives and conventions, as well as nature would implement the provisions of directives. The optimum variant is a separate Nature Protection Agency (as in many EU states) which in its turn would realize the said goals.

**3. Adaptation of nature protection management structures to conditions.** If we consider this period as transitional, we have to establish not only the systems of nature protection management and other functional structures, but also its evolution. We suggest carrying out institutional changes in a flexible way, adapting oneself to varying conditions, establishing the operation of each chain and its life, the sequence of transition. This is particularly necessary for systems carrying out monitoring, condition research and handling data bases, because the experience shows that there is always a lack of transition.

1. **The main goal which was the starting point in this study is to ensure the protection of species and habitats.** Since the legalization of reservations is the priority of the negotiation chapter, the most important objective is the legalization of these reservations on terms acceptable to the society without violating the requirements of directives and the condition of species and habitats. Therefore, during the study marked attention was paid to the adaptation of management structures and the possibilities to make functional changes to local conditions.
2. **Functional changes in protected and valuable territories.** To a great extent the implementation of the requirements of directives discussed by us and its consequences depend not only on the approach or the legal base but also on the development of the new conception of nature use.

We consider the following factors the most important:

- 1) the promotion of eco-farms;
- 2) the promotion of rural tourism and nature tourism. This activity field the prospects of which cannot be doubted, faces difficulties in implementing it because of many reasons, one of which could be the lack of primary information. This is especially applicable to specific nature tourism for which one should make preparations purposefully.
- 3) Grants to ecological products;
- 4) Nursing of forests in infertile or land unfit for agriculture. Since reproduction of forest is hardly possible without the support of different funds, the forest afforestation project material that has been accumulated so far should be taken as the basis. "Afforestation of Abandoned Agricultural Land" project financed by Lithuania and Denmark has been already carried out for three years and initiated the increase in forest areas in four districts of the country;
- 5) Programme supporting pond fishery farms. As pond fishery is not really profitable, many farms are faced with the danger to be closed down. In few years pond systems which are currently valued as exceptional bird gathering places would simply disappear;
- 6) A very important goal which should be established in creating the system of territories important for habitats and birds and evaluating the existing protected areas, is the scientific investigation of every potential territory. All these territories are candidates to be included into Natura 2000 network.

3. **Social and economic benefit is a very important aspect which could not only influence the public opinion, approval of the reforms but also the success of the reforms.** Therefore, great attention has been paid to the discussion of the compensation principle and the mechanisms, possibilities of the change of the area of the used land. Without the promotion of eco-farms, the elucidation of the effectiveness and profitability of agritourism and economy (we have in mind rural infrastructure) reforms are hardly to justify themselves. This could especially be said about the necessity to coordinate the areas of the used land with the purpose and requirements of nature protection set forth in the directives and their annexes.

The regulation of some species, i.e. woodcocks, beavers, wolves, water birds could serve as a typical example:

Not taking into consideration the volumes of hunting it is necessary to solve the following main aspects:

- How to compensate to the users and lessees of hunting ground for a hunting-season which is shortened by two months;
- How to determine the possibilities for the reproduction of population;
- How to set the hunting periods, i.e. from 1 June when woodcocks still do not perform nuptial flights and the period of reproduction has not ended yet.

With the exception to Annexes II and IV to directives concerning the wolf and the beaver made to Lithuania, the economic benefit would be first of all derived from organizing commercial hunting for foreigners. In total about 80 – 100 wolves can be hunted annually, and 10 – 15 wolves - in commercial hunting for foreigners, therefore, in total the annual economic benefit can reach 20 – 30 thousand Litass.

The economic benefit can be derived from the commercial hunting of beavers in an analogous way. Up to 30 percent of beaver population could be hunted annually, that is 12,000 beavers a year. Commercial hunting of this animal is still poorly organized in the country, however, it has to become more popular. After the hunting service structure has improved, hunters from foreign countries will be able to hunt 200-300 beavers a year, and the economic benefit would reach 100,000 Litass. New jobs would be created, trained dogs are needed for the organization of hunting of beavers. Enterprises buying up beavers and beaver fur would come into existence.

An important measure is the prevention of and compensation for the damage done by beavers to crop, meadows and amelioration systems.

Seeking to protect the wintering population of steller's eider, it is necessary:

- a) to create and implement the new generation net technologies,
- b) to foresee the possibility to buy such nets and compensate for their acquisition,
- c) to compensate the amount of the fish that was not potentially caught and to support the work of fishermen by other measures.

The major problem which has not been solved yet is the damage done by beavers and their activities because:



Table 7. Terms and costs of the of the implementation measures of the Directives

Purpose of action	Name of action	Expenses, thousands of Litas	Implementation
Conservation of white stork ( <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> )	Development computerised data base	80 (total)	1 <sup>st</sup> stage – in 2002 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage – in 2004-2009
Conservation of red – backed shrike ( <i>Lanius collurio</i> )	Conservation and control (monitoring)	20-30 (yearly)	1 <sup>st</sup> stage – in 2003-2005 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage – in 2006-2009
Conservation of Steller’s Eider ( <i>Polystica stelleri</i> )	Conservation. Compensations  <b>As alternative</b> – introducing new fishing means	100 (yearly) 3200-4000 (granted payments)  430 (yearly)	Since 2004
Conservation of Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )	Conservation  Compensations	2 (yearly)  1,5-4 (granted payments)	Since 2004
<i>Corvidae</i> birds	Compensations for damage	40-50 (yearly)	Since 2004
Conservation of wolf ( <i>Canis lupus</i> )	Establishment of protected areas Conservation Compensations for caused damage	10 (total) 50 (yearly) 20 (yearly)	Since 2004
Conservation of beaver ( <i>Castor fiber</i> )	Compensations for caused damage	1440 (yearly)	Since 2004
Improvement of national legislation		100-150 (total)	Since 2004
Capacity building	Staff fund	1468-1708 (yearly)	Since 2004
Yearly Granted (extraordinary) payments		3.570-3.830 2.961,5-3.814	Since 2004
Total costs		20.909-28.864	2004-2009

**8. Public participation in discussing problems raised in the study. From the answers of 264 respondents who filled in 4 questionnaires it is clear that:**

- The public wants to solve many problems related to the implementation of EU directives,
- Approves of many unpopular solutions, for example – hunting,
- Would approve of restrictions which would be aimed at protecting natural objects.

Having conducted the survey which asked whether the trade in hunted birds is an urgent issue, we have drawn a unanimous conclusion that by providing an opportunity to the hunting objects to decide themselves on the disposition of legally acquired hunting production, the trade in the species of hunted birds, at least on the local market, should remain. In a long run it might become the source of funds with the hunters compensating for the damage done to the crops by geese.

The public opinion prevails that the damage done by geese is slight (72.4%). Only 22.4% of respondents think that the damage done by geese is excessive. Therefore, we can draw a conclusion that in general in Lithuania the opinion is such that the damage done by geese is insignificant and this opinion coincides with that of the specialists of nature protection.

The public opinion about compensations for the damage done by animals varies: 39.8% of respondents think that the cash compensations are necessary, and another 24% think that the damage should be compensated by special protection measures – repellents, electric equipment scaring away animals and other.

In summarizing this chapter we can draw a conclusion that the society views the implementation of directives *on the conservation of wild birds, natural habitats and wild fauna and flora* positively. The opinion is entertained that it is inexpedient to prohibit the trade in wild birds. The damage done by geese on the whole territory of Lithuania is slight, only in separate regions geese cause significant damage. It is necessary to create the mechanism for compensating for the damage done by beavers and wolves.