



Annual Programme Report No.3 EEA Grants 2009-2014

**Programme CZ02 – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services &
Environmental Monitoring and
Integrated Planning Control & Adaptation to Climate Change**

Reporting period: 1/1/2015– 31/12/2015

Programme Operator: Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic

**Programme Partner: Ministry of the Environment of the Czech
Republic**

Donor Programme Partner: The Norwegian Environment Agency

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1. Executive summary

In comparison with the previous annual report for the 2014, the major progress has been made in the programme implementation. All individual projects are fully in the realization process, as well as the SGS sub-projects. The pre-defined project has been realised as well. Evaluation of the finished or realized project activities are monitored via regular interim reports submitted through the CEDR system, which was developed by the Programme Operator (PO) to simplify the administration process of selected projects. Through gathering the information about the progress in projects, the evaluation of the progress in the programme outputs and outcomes is possible. As seen in chapters 3 and 4 outputs are being fulfilled, except three outputs whose target value will not be possible to reach due to absence of any selected projects. On the other hand, most outputs will reach higher target value than originally expected in the Programme Agreement.

Besides an evaluation of interim projects reports, the PO is responsible for realization of on-site controls of the individual and pre-defined projects. In the monitoring period 13 regular on-site controls took place, the rest projects will be monitored during 2016. Projects to be monitored on site are generally selected via the risk analysis which is regularly updated by the PO. The results show the most risky projects where the control is relevant. The SGS Operator (the Programme Partner - the Ministry of the Environment) is responsible for monitoring of SGS sub-projects (12 controls took place in the monitoring period). The list of selected sub-projects to be controlled is being updated regularly in the monthly reports submitted by the SGS Operator to the PO.

The risk analysis mentioned in the previous paragraph shows the positive effect of the extension of the programme to its implementation. In July (via the first turn of extension requests) and September (the second turn of the extension requests) the PO was given an opportunity to extend the selected projects financed from the programme in DoRIS system. This option led to decrease of time risks with the highest level of importance. In the current analysis, no risk with such a level is evidenced. The project promoters were informed about the programme extension through the CEDR system which allowed submitting projects modification requests to prolong the projects implementation phase. Till the end of the monitoring period 11 extension requests were accepted by the PO for open-call projects and 4 by the SGS Operator for the SGS sub-projects.

At the beginning of the monitoring period, a bilateral-fund open call was launched which led to a submission of overall of 20 applications by the project promoters, out of 16 were accepted. 12 of the approved initiatives were implemented in cooperation with partners from donor states, 4 were realized with international organisations. In November 2015, the first update of the Guideline for applicants and promoters was published on the EEA website. The modification within the eligible expenditures (the date of the final date of eligibility was postponed to 30 April 2017, new types of eligible expenditures were defined), methodology for submitting changes of the initiative were set up and chapter with eligible applicants was broadened for the project promoters who finished realisation of their accepted project.

All relevant information about the programme is provided mostly via the EEA Grants website (www.eeagrants.cz) which is regularly updated. Updates of guidelines and manuals are presented on the website, as well as other information about the programme or individual projects.

2. Programme area specific developments

Financial resources in the sector

The programme partner (PP - the Ministry of the Environment) pre-finances management expenditures, Small Grant Scheme and planned expenditures for projects which are defined as sectoral organisations of the PP. Such organisations as the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape of the Czech Republic are not allowed to send grants to their project partners due to modification of the state budget rules. Therefore several problems and delays occurred in refunding of project expenditures. Moreover, lack of financial funds in the PP's chapter of the state budget which is defined for the EEA Grants (caused by the unplanned pre-financing) has caused delay in reimbursement of such project expenditures. Financial resources are remitted directly to project's partners, based on separately issued Grant Award Decision by the PP, after the payment request is approved by the PO. The lack of financial funds was solved and missing finance has been allocated in the state budget for 2016.

Furthermore, despite of specified non-investment resources within the project implementation, costs of investment character emerged in several projects. In this case, it was decided to modify the programme documentation related to the PP's investment allocation within the state budget and increase its relevant chapter.

New legislation, new policy in the sector

A significant change in the Czech legislation was entering into force with the Act no. 234/2014 Coll., on the civil service, which brings a number of changes in the general system of administrative. The amendment to Act no. 100/2001 Coll. assessment of impacts on the environment came into force in 2015.

Act no. 2005/2014 Coll., on amendment to laws related to adoption of the civil service law was adopted on 1 January 2015. The result was an establishing of the Agency for Nature and Conservation and Landscape as an administrative authority, which has become an umbrella government body for administration of protected areas except national parks. Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council no. 1143/2014 on the prevention and control of introduction and spread of invasive species is implemented by the European Union in 2015. The Czech Republic is currently solving the factual law draft, which can this regulation fully integrate into Czech legal system. The list of alien invasive species of European Union has been approved in December 2015 and it will affect the robustness of the new system settings in the Czech Republic.

The new protected landscape area called Brdy has been declared by government regulation in the national level. Proposal for enlargement of the national list of European important sites in the Natura 2000 was submitted and discussed with stakeholders this year and it is going to be approved by the Czech government at the beginning of the 2016.

Mid-term evaluation of the National Environmental Policy 2012-2020 ran through in 2015 and State Programme of Nature and Landscape has been evaluated as well. New Biodiversity Strategy for period 2016 – 2025 has been prepared this year and it is going to be soon approved by the government.

Trends in sector

No major changes *regarding the trends in the sector*, related to the focus on the programme, have occurred in 2015. Several improvements have been made in the platform of individual steps forward which can be mainly use within the project implementation level. Several data systems and technologies used for nature conservation are being further developed; namely the wetland database of the Czech Republic is being prepared for further use. Moreover, the enlightenment of nature conservation issue is

also widely improved at national level e.g. training and some practical issues, houses of nature “Blaník” and “Moravský kras” were opened in 2015.

3. Reporting on outputs

Open-call projects and PDP

The indicators of the individual projects realized within the programme have been fulfilled in the monitoring period. The implementation of these projects continues; its fulfilment is summarized in the table below.

Expected Outcome: Increased capacity to manage and monitor Natura 2000 sites effectively

		Baseline	Target planned (in the Programme Agreement)	Target reached (monitored via monitoring reports)
Output:	Data from species and/or habitats monitoring are available and used for evaluation and reporting			
Output indicator	Number of Natura 2000 sites (or mapping grids/plots) monitored within the Programme	0	8	77
Output	Implementation of management plans measures intensified			
Output indicator	Number of measures implemented	0	24	0

Expected Outcome: Increased awareness of and education in biodiversity and ecosystem services, including awareness of and education in the linkage between biodiversity and climate change, and economic valuation of ecosystems

		Baseline	Target planned (in the Programme Agreement)	Target reached (monitored via monitoring reports)
Output:	New environmental education programs and campaigns created and/or implemented			
Output indicator	Number of environmental education programs and campaigns created and/or implemented	0	3	0
Output	New interpretative infrastructure created			
<u>Output indicator</u>	<u>Number of localities with the newly created interpretative infrastructure</u>	0	3	0

Expected Outcome: Improved integration of biodiversity considerations in sectoral policies and legislation

		Baseline	Target planned (in the Programme Agreement)	Target reached (monitored via monitoring reports)
Output:	Implementation of action and management plans for endangered species enhanced			

Output indicator	Number of action and management plans for endangered species created or implemented within the programme	0	6	0
Output	National biodiversity policy documents fulfilled with a special emphasis on collaboration with regional and local communities and NGOs implemented			
Output indicator	Number of measures of national biodiversity policy documents implemented	0	2	0

Expected Outcome: Avoided fragmentation of ecosystems

		Baseline	Target planned (in the Programme Agreement)	Target reached (monitored via monitoring reports)
Output:	Ecosystems status analysed and monitored			
Output indicator	Number of surveys, analyses or application studies focused on status or threats of the landscape, biodiversity and their protection/conservation created	0	3	0
Output	Habitats/ecosystems established, restored or improved			
Output indicator	Number of implemented measures decreasing threats and fragmentation (green bridges, powerline protection etc.) and increasing habitats/ecosystems resilience and stability	0	3	9

Expected Outcome: Improved environmental information on impact, status and trends

		Baseline	Target planned (in the Programme Agreement)	Target reached (monitored via monitoring reports)
Output:	Implementation of environmental monitoring programmes enhanced			
Output indicator	Number of surveys or studies on impacts, status and trends of the environment and its components created	0	3	2
Output	Environmental monitoring in geoparks intensified			
Output indicator	Number of geoparks monitored	0	2	0

Expected Outcome: Developed systems for information exchange on climate change adaptation

		Baseline	Target planned (in the Programme Agreement)	Target reached (monitored via monitoring reports)
Output:	New systems for information exchange on climate change impacts and adaptation developed			
Output indicator	Number of web databases, awareness raising campaigns,	0	3	9

	workshops/conferences, surveys, monitoring systems on climate change impacts and adaptation developed			
Output	New systems for information exchange on climate change impacts and adaptation implemented			
Output indicator	Number of web databases, awareness raising campaigns, workshops/conferences, surveys, monitoring systems on climate change impacts and adaptation implemented	0	3	0

Expected Outcome: Developed strategies and measures for adapting to a changing climate

		Baseline	Target planned (in the Programme Agreement)	Target reached (monitored via monitoring reports)
Output:	New adaptation measures and strategies on climate change impacts developed			
Output indicator	Number of vulnerability impact assessments, costs and benefits analysis, strategies and adaptation measures created, including e.g. eco-innovation measures.	0	5	1
Output	New adaptation measures and strategies on climate change impacts implemented			
Output indicator	Number of vulnerability impact assessments, costs and benefits analysis, strategies and adaptation measures implemented, including e.g. eco-innovation measures.	0	5	0

The regular observation of indicator progress within the open-call projects shows that these have started to be fulfilled in the monitoring period. As showed in the tables above, the biggest progress is reached in the “*Data from species and/or habitats monitoring are available and used for evaluation and reporting*” output, where the target value reached within the two monitoring periods over the planned target value stated in the Programme Agreement. This is caused mainly by the overall amount of Natura 2000 sites within the Czech Republic, which highly oversteps the planned target value. This is also accompanied by the possibility of project extension requests. The postponement of the project will allow reaching all planned project outputs and outcomes in higher quality and ranging as planned in project applications. Several activities across projects focused on monitoring and biodiversity were influenced by unusual climatic situation in 2015 (dry weather, not sufficient amount of rainfalls) which did not allow gathering relevant data across monitoring activities. Outputs of these activities might be enriched from data from another vegetative season to provide more relevant information. It is highly expectable then; that all programme outputs will reach higher values than originally planned.

On the other hand, three outputs, “*Implementation of management plans measures intensified*”, “*Environmental monitoring in geoparks intensified*” and “*New systems for information exchange on climate change impacts and adaptation implemented*”, will not reach the planned target value at all. This is influenced by the Selection Committee results and the final number of supported projects. The main reason is an absence of any realised project within these outputs.

Pre-defined Project

The pre-defined project *Protection and Sustainable use of Wetlands in the Czech Republic* has been in realization since 5 August 2014. According to the project plan, main activities are divided between project partners, which are in connection with other partners via emails, skype connection or personal meeting venues. Since the beginning of the implementation several Steering Committee Meetings were held with participation of project promoter, projects partners and donor project partner – The Norwegian Environment Agency. These meetings are connected to providing actual information about the implementation process among all relevant parties connected to implementation phase.

In the overall progress within the project activities implementation, the major outputs are possible to see within the publicity. The project promoter has been active in activities focused on providing information about the project, its activities and expected outputs on several national and international conferences as well as seminars organized in the Czech Republic. The project promoter attended i.e. the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP12) in Uruguay, from 1 to 9 June 2015; 10th annual meeting of the SWS Europe from 10-13 May, 2015 in Slovenia; Meeting of the Czech Ramsar Committee in Jizerske Mountains which was organized on 26-27 May, 2015. The major publicity action was an international five-days-long conference Wetlands in Agricultural Landscapes on 11-16 October 2015 in České Budějovice, Czech Republic. This venue became an important part of the project due its content. The conference was organized in order to evaluate the potential for wetland integration in the intensively managed landscapes in Europe. Over 170 participants of 20 countries included both wetland and agriculture scientists as well as nature conservation and agriculture managers contributed to the success of the conference.

The most problematic issue in the implementation process are public procurements procedures, which caused major delay in the project schedule. Due to the possibility of extension of the implementation period, the project promoter will prolong its activities to reach qualitatively completed outcomes. This also ensures the effective usage of financial resources within the project.

Small Grant Scheme

The fulfilment of indicators within the Small Grant Scheme (SGS) sub-projects could be done after completion of project's activities focused on current Action Plans updates and preparation of new Action and Management Plans for Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna.

Only two implemented SGS sub-projects has been completed till the end of the monitoring period of 2015, but the final reports of the projects have not been submitted yet. The outputs of both projects could be assessed after the submitting and checking the final reports. Both projects are focused on Action Plans for European ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*) within the outcome "*Improved integration of biodiversity considerations in sectoral policies and legislation*".

Overall there are 48 projects within the SGS in the implementation phase, which outputs are highly expected to be fulfilled after their realisation is completed. To ensure this, several projects within the SGS plan to extend their implementation period.

4. Reporting on Programme outcomes

Individual projects and Pre-defined Project

Total of 35 individual projects and one pre-defined project are being implemented. As reported in the previous Annual Programme Report for 2014, overall 34 projects were selected for funding and three were put on a reserve list. Nevertheless, one project rejected the grant during the verification process, thus two reserve projects were offered instead of resigned project to use the remaining outcome allocation. By the end of verification, 35 projects were issued the grant decision award (see the chapter 5 – Project selection) and started their implementation.

According to the information provided in chapters above and the programme outcomes overall, 35 projects and one pre-defined project have started its implementation:

- 22 projects and one pre-defined project are implemented within the outcome No. 2:
 - o 4 projects are implemented within the outcome *Increased capacity to manage and monitor Natura 2000 sites effectively (PA 2.1)*,
 - o 10 projects within the *Increased awareness of and education in biodiversity and ecosystem services, including awareness of and education in the linkage between biodiversity and climate change, and economic valuation of ecosystems (PA 2.2)* outcome,
 - o 3 projects in the outcome *Improved integration of biodiversity consideration in sectoral policies and legislation (PA 2.3)* and
 - o 5 projects and the PDP are implemented in the *Avoided fragmentation of ecosystems (PA 2.4)* outcome).
- 5 projects have started its implementation within the outcome *Improved environmental information on impact, status and trends* under the PA 3.1.
- 8 projects are implemented within the outcome No. 7 (2 projects in the outcome *developed systems for information exchange on climate change adaptation (PA 7.1)* and 6 projects in the outcome *Developed strategies and measures for adapting to a changing climate (PA 7.2)*).

Due to delay in projects implementation phase, mainly caused by the public procurements preparation process by the project promoters, the completion date of individual projects was decided to postpone, which was allowed by the extension of the whole programme. The fulfilment of the indicators within the programme outcomes is expected to be reached after all projects and the pre-defined project are completed. Due to the project extension, which postpones the termination of their realization, the outcomes will be possible to monitor in the next annual report at the earliest (for a list of all extended projects in the monitoring period see the Chapter 7 – Monitoring).

Small Grant Scheme

A total of 48 SGS sub-projects were selected for funding, 3 projects were put on the reserve list. Two project promoters resigned from realization and therefore 2 reserve projects are being implemented now instead. Currently 47 SGS sub-projects are contracted and implemented. One selected project (MGSII-57) has not been contracted yet, due to the problems with investment costs. The grant decision for this project is expected to be issued on January 2016 which allows a start of its implementation.

One of the highest risks – time risk – was reduced by the possibility to prolong approved projects. Four projects have been extended until the end of 2015. The PP has been solved 6 official requests for a project change, including requests for project extension (see the table of extended SGS projects in the Chapter 7 – Monitoring).

4.1. Progress on horizontal concerns

The horizontal concerns are not the main target of the programme and its projects. However, monitored horizontal policies which apply other principles such as good governance and sustainable development might be mainly implemented within all open-call projects, the pre-defined project and the SGS sub-projects. Nevertheless several exceptions are being made. Some projects are able to focus their activities, besides the environmental issues within the project initiatives, to the horizontal concerns as well. During the implementation process of the i.e. “National strategy of building adaptation to climate change” project, the Gender equality and Anti-corruption measures are relevant. The project promoter focus its effort also to influence the comfort of people who are mainly home-based as well as to the aim to realize rather small developing projects, which are not as endangered by corruption than the more complex ones.

5. Project selection

As reported in the Annual Programme Report (APR) 2014, the only open call for **individual projects** was carried out with the deadline on 2 June 2014. Altogether, 54 applications were submitted, where 2 had to be rejected due to not fulfilment of formal criteria. Subsequently, 52 applications were assessed by the external evaluators in line with the Regulations. The financial amount of required grants was approx. 22,23 mil. EUR, while the available allocation of the call was 13,76 mil. EUR.

The selection committee was held in October 2014. 34 proposals were selected for funding and 3 were put on the reserve list. The verification process was started in November 2014 and 16 projects were approved during the first wave within the reporting period. The second wave of approved projects (15 projects) was processed in January 2015. The remaining 4 projects were approved (incl. 1 from the reserve list) by the end of February 2015. All beneficiaries were awarded with grant decision by June 2015. All resources within the Open Call were thus completely used for 35 individual projects.

As also mentioned in the previous APR, the **pre-defined project** “Protection and Sustainable use of Wetlands in the Czech Republic” was submitted in May 2014 and approved in August 2014. It is now fully in the process of implementation.

As regards the **Small Grant Scheme**, all projects were selected in 2014. As stated in report for 2014, 48 SGS sub-projects were selected for funding out of 59 submitted; 3 projects were put on the reserve list. Two project’s promoters resigned from realization and therefore 2 reserve projects are being implemented now. Currently 47 sub-projects are contracted and fully in the process of implementation which started at the beginning of the monitoring period when initial payments to the final beneficiaries were provided. One selected project (MGSII-57) has not been contracted yet, due to the problems with investment costs. The grant decision for this project will be issued on January 2016. None of the SGS sub-projects is realised in cooperation with donor partners, nevertheless some projects have consultants from donor states.

Beside of the selection procedures of open-call and SGS sub-projects mentioned above, one open call for the **Bilateral Fund on programme level – measure “B”** was launched in January 2015. In total of 20 applications, which have been submitted via CEDR system since launching the call, 16 initiative proposals were accepted, four applications were rejected due to absence of relevant connections of activities within the planned initiative to the realised individual project. Bilateral applications have been evaluated by the PO in line with the Guidelines for applicants and beneficiaries within the Bilateral Fund

at Programme level – measure “B”. In some cases, the PP has been involved in evaluation of submitted applications; mostly when the proposal was connected with the SGS sub-project (in such case the PO does not dispose detailed information about the realised SGS project and must ask for detailed information and relevance of the planned initiative) or other difficulties with evaluation process occur (the connection with the realised project is not clearly described, etc.).

6. Progress of bilateral relations

The Bilateral Fund on programme level within the programme CZ02 is divided in two parts: Bilateral Fund at program level – measure “A” (BFA) and Bilateral Fund at programme level – measure “B” (BFB). As reported in the previous APR for 2014, the BFA was successfully completed in previous monitoring period by organising the contact seminar in January 2014. Another action within the BFA is not planned. The allocation which was not reimbursed completely was transferred to the BFB, to be used for bilateral initiatives of the final beneficiaries of the approved projects.

Bilateral Fund at programme level – measure “B”

The open call of the Bilateral Fund at programme level – measure “B” was launched in January 2015. The final beneficiaries, as well as the Donor programme partner (DPP) and PP, were informed about the launching of the open call via CEDR Information system which is used for communication and monitoring of realized projects and on EEA Grants website. The PP in a role of the SGS Operator was proposed to inform its beneficiaries within the SGS and provide them with all relevant information and documents (Guideline and open-call text).

Since the opening of the call till the end of the monitoring period, 20 applications for bilateral initiatives were submitted; where 16 were accepted as relevant activities to the main project and 4 were declined (the applicant did not prove the relevance of the planned initiative which should have a connection to the realized project). Two of the approved applications for the initiative were submitted by the project promoter within the Small Grant Scheme, though the PP which has the role of the SGS Operator, took major part in the evaluation process of the application.

An update of the Guideline for applicants and promoters was realized at the end of the monitoring period. The modified rules were in line with the Regulations on the implementation of the EEA Grants 2009-2014 (and consisted of broadening eligible expenditures for expert fees, including definitions of the initiative modifications and rules for submitting requests for modification, prolongation of the eligibility of costs until 30 April 2017 and including project promoters of completed projects into eligible applicants). All potential applicants (final beneficiaries, the PP and the DPP) were informed about the modified version of the documentation and its attachments. Updated document as well as the text of the open call was put on the EEA website to be available to all applicants. The English modification of the documents is available on the websites as well.

The total allocation of the approved application in the monitoring period reached to 3 123 632 CZK (approx. 117 873 EUR) which is 45 % of total allocation of the BFB. The accepted initiatives mainly focus their activities on bilateral meetings in forms of participation on conferences, seminars or study journeys. Out of 16 initiatives, 9 were focused on bilateral cooperation within the conferences or workshops through active or passive participation of the applicant and 7 initiatives were implemented via know-how and good-practice-exchange meetings. In supported 12 applications following donor state institutions participated in a role of a bilateral partner: Society for Conservation Biology, The Norwegian Environment Agency, The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO), The Department of Ecology and Natural Resource Management in Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Naturvernforbundet i Buskerud (NiB), Institute for the Sustainability Studies - University of Iceland, Natural History Museum (NHM) - University of Oslo, Telemark University College and Norwegian

Institute for Nature Research (NINA). The rest of the approved initiative were realised in cooperation with international organisations.

Besides the bilateral activities of the final beneficiaries, two Cooperation Committees were held in 2015 with participation of all sites actively involved in the programme (PO, PP, DPP). The first meeting in this monitoring period took place in April 2015 in Tromso, Norway, where the progress in the programme was discussed. The second Cooperation Committee Meeting was organised in Strážné in the Czech Republic, with attendance of a representative of the FMO, where similar agenda discussing the progress of projects implementation was discussed. Both actions were connected to the field trips. If necessary to discuss or comment some issue, the PO contacts the DPP via emails.

The Ministry of Finance organized evaluation survey of bilateral cooperation between Czech and donor state entities within EEA and Norway Grants at the end of November 2015. The results from the evaluation will be presented in the Czech Republic at the end of February 2016. All involved participants will be informed about the results. The returned feedback from donor state project partners (for all programmes) amounts to 80 %. The results for individual programmes will be known in 2016.

6.1. Complementary action

No complementary actions were organised in 2015 so far, nevertheless potential applicant (PP) is highly encouraged to submit an application for such an initiative. The fund can be used for action to strengthen cooperation between the relevant Czech bodies and its counterparts in the donor states and in other beneficiary state.

In the monitoring period the complementary action realized by the PP in October 2013 was reimbursed by the PO. Delay was caused by the CEDR system which was necessary to set up prior the payment of the used financial funds. The amount of CZK 49 801 (approx. 1879 EUR) were requested for reimbursement. 2% of the overall allocation for the Complementary action Fund was used.

7. Monitoring

The monitoring is being realised by the PO and the PP in four different levels:

- monitoring of the individual projects and the pre-defined by the PO project via CEDR system (see the part of the chapter – Individual projects),
- monitoring of the SGS by the PO via the CEDR system (see the part of the chapter – Small Grant Scheme),
- monitoring of the SGS by the SGS Operator (see the part of the chapter – Small Grant Scheme),
- on-site monitoring realised by the PO for individual projects and the PDP and by the PP for the SGS sub-projects (see the part of the chapter – Individual projects).

For the whole programme the regular quarterly interim financial reports are being submitted by the PO to the FMO.

Individual projects

During the previous monitoring period the monitoring system was set-up. The major part of monitoring process of projects is being held via the CEDR system which was completed during the monitoring period. The open call projects are requested to submit each four months a report about a progress in their implementation. These reports are filled in via the CEDR system (They are submitted electronically). The electronical character of the reports and projects was developed to simplify the monitoring and

evaluation process of all selected projects.), and controlled by the PO's project managers. The reimbursement requests are attached to an each report. These reports are used to gather all relevant information about the progress within the projects. The main responsibility for evaluation and monitoring mechanism is on the PO for the open call projects and the PP (in the role of the SGS Operator) for the SGS sub-projects. Along the regular submitting of the reports, on-site monitoring will take place at each project. According to the monitoring plan (annexed to this report) a public tender for technical assistance at on-site controls was launched in December 2014. The contract was signed in June 2015 and first monitoring visits in July 2015. The aim of the on-site control is to verify, whether the project progress and financial status comply with the information declared in monitoring reports and whether the project management is efficient to meet the planned objectives. Representatives of the PP are invited to participate at the monitoring visits as observers. Since then 13 regular monitoring visits were carried out in cooperation of the external technical experts and the PO project managers. Regular visits address the most risky projects within the programme at a given time during their implementation. The projects for ordinary controls are selected in the context of a quarterly updated risk analysis based on pre-defined risk factors (financial, technological, organisational, legal, external).

The Monitoring Plan for 2016 is enclosed to this report. As there are projects that still are in the implementation process, the final on-site controls will not be realized earlier than in the third and fourth quarter of 2016.

As seen in the table below, 11 modification requests were submitted to the PO till the end of the monitoring period. The project promoters mostly asked or will ask for extension for several months (until 10/2016, 11/2016, 12/2016), two projects submitted modification requests for an extension until 30 April 2017. In some cases, extension requests have still been prepared by the project promoters. Out of all realized projects, nine projects do not plan the project extension by now.

Project no.	Name of the project	Planned completion date	Extended until
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-007-2014	Monitoring of NATURA 2000 sites as a tool for effective management and conservation of autochthonous crayfish	30/04/2016	31/12/2016
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-008-2014	Creation of environmental education programs for the study of the response to climate change	30/04/2016	31/07/2016
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-011-2014	Support of information exchange and education about the impact of climate change and adaptation measures on national and regional level	30/04/2016	30/06/2016
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-012-2014	The red book of woody plants of the Czech Republic, The red book of threatened species of the floodplain forests of the Dolní Morava Biosphere reserve and The red list of threatened species of UFE Křtiny	30/04/2016	30/04/2017
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-013-2014	Vysočina Region Biodiversity	30/04/2016	30/04/2017
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-018-2014	Monitoring of long-term changes in biological diversity of running waters during climate change: design, realisation and implementation into the public information system ARROW	30/04/2016	31/12/2016
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-021-2014	Monitoring of natural forests of the Czech Republic	30/04/2016	31/10/2016
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-022-2015	Monitoring of carnivore species of European importance in selected Natura	30/04/2016	31/10/2016

	2000 sites		
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-032-2015	Raising awareness and publicity of the importance of forest functions in the landscape and near-natural watercourses in urban areas as a part of basin ecosystem services	30/04/2016	30/06/2016
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-035-2015	HUMAN TO NATURE, NATURE TO HUMAN	30/04/2016	31/12/2016
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-040-2015	Education and scholarship support in the field of importance of forest ecosystems and the conditions for maintaining their diversity	30/04/2016	30/09/2016

Small Grant Scheme

The monitoring system was set up after issuing the grant decisions. The progress reports should be submitted in 6 months periods; is divided into technical part and financial part including the payment request. The project monitoring is carried out continuously. The PP checks the formal part (completeness of report, signatures, annexes), financial part and fulfilling of outputs after submitting the sub-project progress report, as well as the public tender public tender procedures. If some parts are missing, the project promoter is asked for additional information to the report. When the report is approved, the payment is provided. Total amount of 57 progress reports have been submitted in 2015, 48 reports have been approved.

Besides the reporting, the on-site monitoring within the SGS is being realized; first controls took place in the second half of the year 2015, 12 sub-projects have been monitored. The PP assumes the on-site control will continue at 32 projects in 2016. 4 other projects will be checked in 2017 (see the annex).

The possibility for extension of the implementation period of the SGS sub-projects led to an expectation that more than half of the implemented sub-projects will submit the modification request for extension of the implementation period in 2016. By the end of 2015, four projects prolonged the final date for completion of the project.

The list of prolonged SGS projects

Project no.	Name of the project	Planned completion date	Extended until
MGSII-53	Management of Selected Sites of the European Ground Squirrel (<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>) in the Czech Republic in 2015	31/12/2015	30/11/2016
MGSII-46	Distribution and biology of the Red Cicada (<i>Tibicina haematodes</i>) in the Czech Republic	31/12/2015	31/12/2016
MGSII-21	Conservation of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel Populations against municipal pollution in the key area of river Blanice	31/12/2015	31/08/2016
MGSII-14	Aeroklub Mladá Boleslav - protection and care of European Ground Squirrel colony in the area of Bezděčín	31/12/2015	31/01/2016

The progress within the SGS (re-granting and the management of the SGS Operator) is being monitored by the PO through regular monthly monitoring reports submitted via CEDR system. The SGS Operator informs about fulfilment of outcomes and outputs, expenditures, bilateral partnerships within the SGS

etc. These reports started to be filled in during December 2014 and will be completed monthly in the upcoming project periods.

8. Need for adjustments

In the monitoring period all projects within the open call and SGS were extended in the DoRIS system. According to this, programme management defined for the Programme Operator and the Programme Partner will be prolonged as well. Several projects have already submitted their request for extension within the CEDR system; SGS sub-projects submitted a request for extension only in two cases. However, other modifications requests are expected. The Programme Amendment was issued with the extended programme final date of eligibility till 31 December 2017 (for management costs).

The realization of the SGS will be prolonged until April 2017, as well as the management of SGS. The SGS Operator must submit a request via CEDR system which is used for the administration of the projects.

9. Risk management

The PO updates the programme risk analysis regularly under the guidance of the NFP. The risk analysis for CZ02 is attached to the report in Annex I., however the summary is highlighted in table below. According to the information based on updated risk analysis from December 2015, the time risk, monitored in previous report with the highest level of importance, lowered to middle level by the end of 2015. This occurred by the possibility to extend projects and the program itself, which was realised by the NFP in July in the first round for extension, in the second round in September 2015. The programme prolongation has a positive effect to the time risk in SGS sub-projects too. The level of importance decreased which will cause that more than half of the implemented sub-projects will submit the modification request for extension of the implementation period.

In general, there is a positive trend in the evaluation of the risk analysis made in 2015 in comparison with that made in 2014. Importance of all the programme risks decreased to low or middle level, which means that no risks with high importance are presented. As mentioned above, the elimination was caused by the extension of the programme. The specific programme risk "*Seasonal works within project activities*" relates to unpleasant weather conditions in the monitoring period. The unusual dry weather across the monitored localities within the Czech Republic affected the gathered data within the project activities. The prolongation of project implementation for several months (mostly one season) can assure including more relevant information from monitoring and evaluation process into the expected project outcomes.

Year	Programme Title	Management and control structures, programme management	Programme implementation set up	Time risk - delay in commitment and disbursement of funds	Programme absorption capacity	Legislation changes	Reports and irregularities	Programme audits/controls	Bilateral relations	Information system	Corruption risk	Specific programme risk	Specific programme risk - description	Total - programme
2014	CZ02 - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services & Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning Control & Adaptation to Climate Change	10	12	20	10	3	4	12	9	9	4	20	Failure to fulfil indicators	113
2015		10	8	10	5	3	4	12	9	9	4	12	Seasonal works within project activities	86
Difference		0	-4	-10	-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	-8		-27

10. Information and publicity

Information about all the activities and events in the programme are continuously provided via several information forms. The PO has been primarily updating the central websites www.eeagrants.cz for the EEA Grants 2009-2014 to ensure in the most transparent manner the awareness of the whole programme and all subjects involved in the programme implementation. The social network Facebook is used for providing information as well. It is possible to find there the basic information about the programme, information about the calls (incl. results of the open calls) and especially about all approved projects. Information is provided in English and Czech. The updated documents as guidelines and manuals for the project promoters are published there as well.

The most important publicity event for this monitoring period was a seminar for final beneficiaries held in Prague on 12 February 2015. The aim of the seminar was to inform the beneficiaries about all the information relevant for implementation of their projects (e.g. about the monitoring and reporting, bilateral fund and also about the publicity within the projects itself). Almost all the representatives of beneficiaries were present at this event.

As all the projects are already in the implementation phase, the beneficiaries have organized lots of interesting events within the projects. One of the most attractive was the Conference *Wetlands in Agricultural Landscapes: Present State and Perspectives in Europe* that was held in České Budějovice on 11-16 October 2015. This conference became a forum for exchange of scientific knowledge and practical experience regarding wetlands, their state and role in agricultural landscapes of Europe. This event was realized within the pre-defined project *Protection and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in CZ* that is focused on protection of wetlands in the Czech Republic, identifying measures to ensure their sustainable use

and raise public awareness on the importance and function of wetlands. Scientists, agricultural policy makers and other stakeholders from the Czech Republic and from especially Scandinavian countries participated at this event.

As the period of the implementation of projects will end in April 2016 or later, in case of extended projects, it is expected that the beneficiaries, whose projects will end by this date, will organize final conferences or seminars to present the results of their projects.

Small Grant Scheme

Within the Small Grant Scheme, the major publicity actions were organized by the project promoters itself. Within these activities several opening seminars according to the project schedules took place in 2015. For example following seminars were realized:

- The SGSII-29 project (Revision of the Action Plan for the Long-stalked Pondweed (*Potamogeton praelongus*)) organised an introductory seminar at the beginning of June 2015. The expert responsible for project implementation presented to the attendants what has already been carried out as part of the action plan. Over thirteen years, when the action plan has been underway, many circumstances have changed and much new knowledge has been obtained. The project has been realised by the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic.
- The thematic workshop of project No. MGSII-38 (*Conflicts, current state and population development of Eurasian Beaver in the Czech Republic*) took place in November 2015. More than 30 experts from various fields could discuss with the project promoter over the methodological manuscript. The content and the objective of the methodological manual were presented. The project has been realised by the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague.

Beside of the project publicity presented by the project promoters, the SGS Operator produced its promotional material in a form of post stamps (100 pcs) with pictures of endangered species. The distribution will be done in 2016.

11. Cross - cutting issues

Good governance

The Programme and project promoters remain active in the principles of good governance as defined at the beginning of their implementation in programme or project agreements. Steps to ensure the good governance are held via guidelines and manuals with are being updated if necessary. The promoters are familiar with a professional realization based on transparency, effectivity, clearly defined responsibilities of each project partner, the setting up of a control system, etc.

The Small Grant Scheme is aimed at professional realization of measures supporting specially protected species of flora and fauna. Good governance is supported by published Guidance for SGS Operator and Guidance for project promoters and their revisions if necessary. Those documents contain clearly defined competencies, tasks and responsibilities of individual SGS managers. SGS implementation process is documented through continuous monitoring reports.

Environmental considerations

Negative environmental impacts are not expected during the programme implementation period. As programme areas refer, it is highly assumed that none of the individual projects, the pre-defined project or the sub-projects within the SGS would have negative effects on the environment. SGS, as well as other realized open-call projects, encourage the biodiversity conservation and quality of the environment.

Economic sustainability

The economic sustainability of preserving biodiversity is incalculable. The supported projects and sub-projects contribute to strengthening it, even though it is difficult to estimate the impact. The project promoters are allowed to create new jobs within projects which can lead to a positive impact on economic development at national, regional or local level.

The project outputs will mostly contribute to the sustainable development of the environment protection. Management and action plans within several projects will be created and used in accordance with the biodiversity protection by involved organisation, such as Ministry of the Environment, the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape of the Czech Republic etc.

Social sustainability

Projects and sub-projects deal with issues of social character only in terms of promotion, raising public awareness and encouraging a public positive relationship to preserve biodiversity and natural environment. Promoters are informed about the risks that could have a negative impact in the case of unprofessional interventions and their effects on the natural environment.

According to the social issue, the PO realised seminar for project promoters, mentioned in chapter 10 – Information and publicity, which created basement for future cooperation at the national level within the project promoters and the PO.

Gender equality

Projects within the programme CZ02, as well as the SGS sub-projects, are not primarily aimed at promoting gender equality; however, if such opportunity arises during the implementation process, project promoters are encouraged to act in line with gender equality. Implementation of the projects is provided with diversity - by both, men and women.

12. Attachments to the Annual Programme Report

Annex 1: Risk assessment of the programme

Annex 2: Monitoring plan 2016

Annex 3: List of projects for communication purposes or as examples of best practices

SIGNATURE:**For Programme Operator**

I certify that I am duly authorised to sign this Annual programme report and that I have thoroughly reviewed the progress of the programme, reporting on outcomes and outputs, risk management provided in this report and the information are correct and accurate.

				Optional second signature		
Name	Zuzana Kudelová			Martina Bečvářová		
Position	Head of the Department of International Relations			Head of the Monitoring Unit		
Organisation	Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic			Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic		
Signature						
Date	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
	09	02	2016	09	02	2016

For the National Focal Point

The National Focal Point certifies that the status of reporting of the programme described above is accurate.

				Optional second signature		
Name	Lenka Jurošková					
Position	Deputy Minister of Finance					
Organisation	Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic					
Signature						
Date	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
	12	02	2016			

Annex 1: Risk assessment of the programme

Type of objective ¹	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood ²	Impact ³	Importance ⁴	Mitigation planned/done
Cohesion (Programme) outcomes:	Programme absorption capacity	Absorption capacity of the programme was exceeded. Applications submitted within the programme exceeded the planned allocation by approx. 220 mill. CZK. Similarly, the allocation within the SGS was exceeded by approx. 50 mill. CZK. Request for re-allocation between programme outcomes was sent. The Bilateral fund capacity seems to be sufficient.	Low	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - effective implementation of projects within all defined outcomes for the programme - selection of relevant BFB initiatives
	Legislation changes	Programme is not directly connected to implementation of legislation changes. There are no planned legislation changes for the implementation phase nor the sustainability period.	Low	Middle	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regular monitoring of possible changes in legislation connected to the environmental area
	Time risk - delay in commitment and disbursement of funds	The programme is in its implementation phase. Since January 2015 till June 2015, all	Low	High	Middle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - extension of the project implementation phase - effective communication

¹ The risks should be categorised in one of 3 ways, depending on whether it poses a risk to the cohesion objective, the bilateral objective, or is more of an operational issue.

² Likelihood is described as Low, Middle or High according to its scoring gained in the risk analysis. (Low: 1-2, Middle: 3-4, High: 5)

³ Impact is described as Low, Middle or High according to its scoring gained in the risk analysis. (Low: 1-2, Middle: 3-4, High: 5)

⁴ Importance is counted as Likelihood multiplied by Impact and described as Low, Middle or High according to its scoring gained in the risk analysis (Low: 1-8, Middle: 9-15, High: 16-25).

Type of objective ¹	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood ²	Impact ³	Importance ⁴	Mitigation planned/done
		selected projects within the open call and SGS were receiving the grant award decision. Time risk has been significantly eliminated by possibility of extension of the project implementation period.				and reporting mechanism with project promoters
	Specific programme risk (seasonal works within project activities)	Highly amount of project activities are focused on seasonal works which are difficult to proceed during an unpleasant outside condition.	Middle	Middle	Middle	- extension of project implementation phase
Bilateral outcome(s):	Bilateral relations	The PO supports bilateral cooperation via bilateral initiatives financed from the Bilateral Fund at the national and programme level (measure B) and via Complementary Actions if relevant.	Middle	Middle	Middle	- providing information to the project promoters about possible bilateral partnerships and giving clear instructions for submission of applications for bilateral initiatives
Operational issues:	Management and control structures, programme management	Implementing System of the PO is based on systems of manuals and guidelines. The most complex manual "The Programme Operator intern manual" was completed in March 2014 and is updated	Low	High	Middle	- regular updates (if necessary) of the guidelines and manuals - well-functioning system of control structures - effective communication and cooperation between

Type of objective ¹	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood ²	Impact ³	Importance ⁴	Mitigation planned/done
		when necessary. Management structure requires deep coordination between Units of the PO.				Units - setting up system of regular controls of management and control structures
	Programme implementation set-up	System of implementation of the programme was successfully set up. Internal PO's manual and Guidelines for project promoters were completed as well as guidelines of the PP for the SGS. Programme is implemented in deep cooperation within Departments of the PO, PP and DPP if necessary.	Low	Middle	Low	- systematic updates of guidelines and manuals - regular controls from the Audit Department - actualisation of the control system by the PO - regular meetings within Steering and Cooperation Committees
	Reports and irregularities within programme	No reports and irregularities were noticed within the programme.	Low	Middle	Low	- regular programme monitoring
	Programme audits/controls	No audits or controls were planned for 2015. An extra audit control of the PO's management structures and administrative procedures was realised in August 2014.	Middle	Middle	Middle	- setting up plan of audits and controls
			Middle	Middle	Middle	

Type of objective ¹	Risk	Description of risk in the reporting period	Likelihood ²	Impact ³	Importance ⁴	Mitigation planned/done
	Information system	Programme is realised within the IT system CEDR developed by the PO. All selected and implemented projects (modification requests, Bilateral applications, etc.) are being realised within this system. The system is functional; however some difficulties while proceeding monitoring reports, project changes, etc. might occur.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - training project managers in the system - functioning hot line - fast responses to problems within the system from the system provider
	Corruption risk	Implementation system is set up transparently. Programme is realised in line with guidelines and manuals published by the NFP where responsibilities of the Programme Managers are defined.	Low	Middle	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - setting up transparent implementation system and regular controls - actualization of manuals and guidelines - control of interim and financial reports by the Head of Unit

Annex 2: Monitoring plan

Project no.	Name of the project	Planned date of on-site control/review	Note
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-010-2014	Implementation of retention and infiltration adaptation measures in Morava river basin	13/01/2016	PO plans to monitor 10 projects on-the-spot during the first quarter of 2016. These projects are planned to finish their implementation till 30 April 2016. The control will be mainly focused on factual status of the implementation. After the project completion there will be a final financial control on-the-spot in realized at the end of 2016 or in 2017.
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-015-2014	Silvicultural measures to improve forest biodiversity in protected areas	08/02/2016	
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-019-2014	Frameworks and possibilities of forest adaptation measures and strategies connected with Climate change	17/02/2016	
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-020-2014	Monitoring of small forested catchments GEOMON – research tool for strategic policy decisions in the environment	24/02/2016	
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-021-2014	Monitoring of natural forests of the Czech Republic	01/03/2016	
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-023-2015	Actual damage extend of forest and water ecosystems on the territory of SAC Krkonoše and harmonization of a basic monitoring network for observing their further development as fundamental data set for improving their management towards their higher stability and biodiversity	21/03/2016	
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-029-2015	DA VINCI – DATA Visualisation, INTERpretation and Comparison Improvements for organic pollutants in long-term monitoring networks	10/02/2016	
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-031-2015	Krkonoše - men and nature	22/03/2016	
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-034-2015	Raising Public Awareness of Biodiversity in Artificial Biotopes in the Czech Republic	11/01/2016	
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-043-2015	PROTECTING OUR MOST ENDANGERED BIOTOPES – WETLANDS AND STEPPES – BY THE LAND TRUSTS	10/03/2016	
EHP-CZ02-MGS-1-002-2014	Action Plans for Endangered Species II	2.Q.2016	PO plans to monitor next 13 individual projects and the Small Grant Scheme on-the-
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-007-2014	Monitoring of NATURA 2000 sites as a tool for effective		

Project no.	Name of the project	Planned date of on-site control/review	Note
	management and conservation of autochthonous crayfish		spot during the second and the third quarter of 2015. The control will be mainly focused on factual status of the implementation. These projects extended their implementation phase, though it is possible to realize the on-the-spot monitoring after 30 April 2016. The final on-site controls of these projects will be realized after project implementation, expectably in 2017.
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-013-2014	Vysocina Region Biodiversity		
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-014-2014	Czechadapt – System for Exchange of Information on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation Measures on the Territory of the Czech Republic		
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-016-2014	Development of strategy for mitigation of river fragmentation impacts in the hydrological network of the Czech republic		
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-017-2014	Resiliency and adaptation to climate change in regional strategies		
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-018-2014	Monitoring of long-term changes in biological diversity of running waters during climate change: design, realisation and implementation into the public information system ARROW		
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-022-2015	Monitoring of carnivore species of Eurpean importance in selected Natura 2000 sites	3.Q.2016	
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-025-2015	BIOM: Biodiversity education centre Mohelský Mill		
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-026-2015	Measures for stopping the loss of biodiversity at statewide and regional level		
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-027-2015	The reduction of habitat fragmentation consequences in various types of landscape in the Czech Republic		
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-028-2015	Complex approach to the protection of fauna of terrestrial ecosystems from landscape fragmentation in the Czech Republic		
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-032-2015	Raising awareness and publicity of the importance of forest functions in the landscape and near-natural watercourses in urban areas		

Project no.	Name of the project	Planned date of on-site control/review	Note
	as a part of basin ecosystem services		
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-039-2015	Complex planning, monitoring, information and educational tools for adaptation to the impacts of climate change, with the main emphasis on agriculture and forestry management in the landscape		

Final on-site controls

EHP-CZ02-OV-1-008-2014	Creation of environmental education programs for the study of the response to climate change	4.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-011-2014	Support of information exchange and education about the impact of climate change and adaptation measures on national and regional level	3.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-014-2014	Czechadapt – System for Exchange of Information on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation Measures on the Territory of the Czech Republic	4.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-019-2014	Frameworks and possibilities of forest adaptation measures and strategies connected with Climate change	3.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-023-2015	Actual damage extend of forest and water ecosystems on the territory of SAC Krkonoše and harmonization of a basic monitoring network for observing their further development as fundamental data set for improving their management towards their higher stability and biodiversity	3.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-025-2015	BIOM: Biodiversity education centre Mohelský Mill	3.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-027-2015	The reduction of habitat fragmentation consequences in various types of landscape in the Czech Republic	3.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-029-2015	DA VINCI – DATA Visualisation, INTERpretation and	3.Q.2016	final on-site control

Project no.	Name of the project	Planned date of on-site control/review	Note
	Comparison Improvements for organic pollutants in long-term monitoring networks		
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-030-2015	Improving the public perception on sustainable use of water resources and landscape planning for increase of ecosystem services in global changing environment. (LaPlaNt)	4.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-031-2015	Krkonoše - men and nature	3.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-032-2015	Raising awareness and publicity of the importance of forest functions in the landscape and near-natural watercourses in urban areas as a part of basin ecosystem services	3.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-033-2015	Adaptation of the settlements to the Climate change - practical solutions and sharing experience	3.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-034-2015	Raising Public Awareness of Biodiversity in Artificial Biotopes in the Czech Republic	3.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-037-2015	Nature, who cares?	3.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-039-2015	Complex planning, monitoring, information and educational tools for adaptation to the impacts of climate change, with the main emphasis on agriculture and forestry management in the landscape	3.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-040-2015	Education and scholarship support in the field of importance of forest ecosystems and the conditions for maintaining their diversity	4.Q.2016	final on-site control
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-043-2015	PROTECTING OUR MOST ENDANGERED BIOTOPES – WETLANDS AND STEPPES – BY THE LAND TRUSTS	3.Q.2016	final on-site control

Small Grant Scheme

Project no.	Name of the project	Project promoter	Planned date of on-site control/review
MGSII-14	Aeroklub Mladá Boleslav - protection and care of European Ground Squirrel colony in the area of Bezděčín	Aeroklub Mladá Boleslav o.s.	1.Q.2016
MGSII-59	Support colony European Ground Squirrel Public domestic aerodrome Vyškov (Natural Heritage site and major European Airports Marchanice)	Aeroklub Vyškov, o.s.	1.Q.2016
MGSII-42	Implementation of Selected Measures of the Management Plan for the European Otter in the Czech Republic	ALKA Wildlife, o.p.s.	1.Q.2016
MGSII-56	Implementation of action plan for Aeculapian Snake in the Valley of Horní Hrad	Horní hrad, o.p.s.	1.Q.2016
MGSII-46	Distribution and biology of the Red Cicada (<i>Tibicina haematodes</i>) in the Czech Republic	Masarykova univerzita	1.Q.2016
MGSII-07	Conservation of Endangered European Ground Squirrel at the Medlanky Airport	Aeroklub Brno - Medlánky	1.Q.2016
MGSII-40	Management plan for Eurasian lynx, grey wolf, and brown bear in the Czech Republic	Česká zemědělská univerzita v Praze	1.Q.2016
MGSII-44	Chemical monitoring and biomonitoring of Horní Malše focused on freshwater pearl mussel demands	Výzkumný ústav vodohospodářský T.G.M. v.v.i.	2.Q.2016
MGSII-57	Restoring Freshwater-Pearl-Mussels habitat in the alluvial plain of Lužní brook and monitoring	AOPK ČR	2.Q.2016
MGSII-21	Conservation of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel Populations against municipal pollution in the key area of river Blanice	Obec Křišťanov	2.Q.2016
MGSII-47	Support to the European Ground Squirrel within the action program - measures 3.1.1. - providing the management of European Ground Squirrel habitat at the airport Raná	Aeroklub Raná u Loun	2.Q.2016
MGSII-16	Preparation of action plan for natterjack toad (<i>Epidalea calamita</i>)	HERPETA - Česká asociace pro ochranu a výzkum obojživelníků a plazů	2.Q.2016
MGSII-22	Preparation of the Action Plan for Bath Asparagus (<i>Ornithogalum pyrenaicum</i> subsp. <i>sphaerocarpum</i>)	AOPK ČR	2.Q.2016
MGSII-41	Implementation of selected measures of the Action Plan of the European ground squirrel in the Southern Moravia region	ALKA Wildlife, o.p.s.	2.Q.2016

MGSII-24	Establishment of New Breeding Sites of European Ground Squirrel and Educational Activities within the Implementation of its Action Plan	AOPK ČR	2.Q.2016
MGSII-11	Preparation of expert documents for the decision if create action plans for specially protected species horeweed, smooth cat's-ear and hairy stonecrop	AOPK ČR	2.Q.2016
MGSII-35	Detailed monitoring of the Little Owl in the Southbohemian Region	EnviEduca	3.Q.2016
MGSII-45	Monitoring of the little owl in Moravia region	ZO ČSOP Nový Jičín 70/02	3.Q.2016
MGSII-10	Implementation of management measures and monitoring of <i>Gentianella praecox</i> subsp. <i>Bohemica</i> within its action plan	AOPK ČR	3.Q.2016
MGSII-03	Implementation of the Action Plan for Scarce Fritillary for 2015-2016	AOPK ČR	3.Q.2016
MGSII-31	Implementation of action plan for Aeculapian Snake	ENKI, o.p.s.	3.Q.2016
MGSII-18	Collection of expert documents for updating the Action plan of <i>Gentianella praecox</i> subsp. <i>bohemica</i>	Botanický ústav AV ČR, v. v. i.	3.Q.2016
MGSII-36	The study and preparation of technical documents for protection of Tiger Moths (<i>Watsonarctia casta</i> , <i>Chelis maculosa</i>) in 2015/2016	Společnost pro ochranu motýlů (SOM)	3.Q.2016
MGSII-17	Action Plan for Lady Bells (<i>Adenophora liliifolia</i>)	AOPK ČR	3.Q.2016
MGSII-48	Preparation of technical documents for the decision about action plans for species: Rusty Bogrush and Black Bogrush, Alpine Asphodel and Fleawort	Sagittaria - Sdružení pro ochranu přírody střední Moravy	3.Q.2016
MGSII-09	Update of the Action Plan for Marsh Angelica (<i>Angelica palustris</i>)	AOPK ČR	4.Q.2016
MGSII-29	Updating the action plan for Long-stalked Pondweed	AOPK ČR	4.Q.2016
MGSII-19	Population studies and influence of succession in populations of Bohemian Sand Pinks within the implementation of its action plan	Botanický ústav AV ČR, v. v. i.	4.Q.2016
MGSII-04	Propagation of the conservation of Freshwater Pearl Mussel and its habitat	AOPK ČR	4.Q.2016
MGSII-23	Preparation of action plan for Pulsatilla patens	AOPK ČR	4.Q.2016
MGSII-27	Preparation of the Action Plan for Jewel beetle (<i>Eurythyrea quercus</i>)	AOPK ČR	4.Q.2016
MGSII-52	Preparation of technical documents for the decision on preparation of action plans for species: Little Owl (<i>Athene noctua</i>) and ortolan bunting (<i>Emberiza</i>	Česká společnost ornitologická	4.Q.2016

	<i>hortulana</i>)		
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4 SGS projects are planned to be monitored in the first quarter of 2017.

Annex 3: List of projects for communication purposes or as examples of best practices

Project no.	Name of the project	Note
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-006-2014	Increasing public awareness for an active protection of biodiversity in the Czech Republic	<p>The project promoter - Hnutí DUHA - Friends of the Earth Czech Republic is one of the largest and best-known Czech non-governmental environmental organizations. It focuses especially on the fields of energy and climate protection, resources and nature protection. Hnutí DUHA systematically informs the public about major environmental issues through targeted communication campaigns, cooperation with journalists and municipalities and also specializes in public mobilization. The website, very professionally designed, was created in the project, should help to involve the public actively in the protection of wild nature in the Czech Republic.</p> <p>http://ceskadivocina.cz/?lang=en</p>
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-036-2015	The bilateral initiative <i>“Support for Icelandic-Czech partnerships in the field of adaptation to climate change”</i> aimed to promote and enhance an international cooperation in the main project <i>“UrbanAdapt - Developing adaptation strategies to climate change in urban conditions with the use of ecosystem-based approaches adaptations”</i>	<p>The bilateral initiative aimed to promote and enhance an international cooperation in the main project <i>UrbanAdapt</i>. Icelandic-Czech bilateral workshop in Reykjavik was focusing on exchanging and sharing experience with participatory approaches in adaptation and incorporation of ecosystem approaches and ecosystem services in adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>The seminar featured a number of interesting presentations and held a number of discussions on topics related to the risks faced by society in different types of natural environment. While in Central Europe will increasingly very likely deal with extreme weather events such as droughts or flash floods, issues related to the urban heat island and infiltration of rainwater. Iceland faces problems such as sea level rise and flooding the coast, drooping of the soil and of course natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.</p> <p>The seminar brought a number of common topics for both of these areas which became especially mitigation of natural disasters and their possible solution. The initiative has brought a number of incentives for future bilateral cooperation and exchange of experiences between these project partners.</p>
EHP-CZ02-OV-1-037-2015	Nature, who cares?	Several interesting activities were carried out during the project implementation. The project promoter focuses on seminars, workshops, photo-workshops with the aim to bring the environmental issue closer to people. Within the project activities a photo competition was organized.