

Experience of  
WWF Poland  
with the realization  
of nature conservation  
projects funded from EU  
ERDF funds

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Presented by:

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## Background:

ERDF for Nature Conservation is coordinated through a special agency (CKPŚ) Centre for the coordination of environmental projects.

Funding is available through a specific priority axis (Axis 5) of the sectoral operational programme Infrastructure and Environment

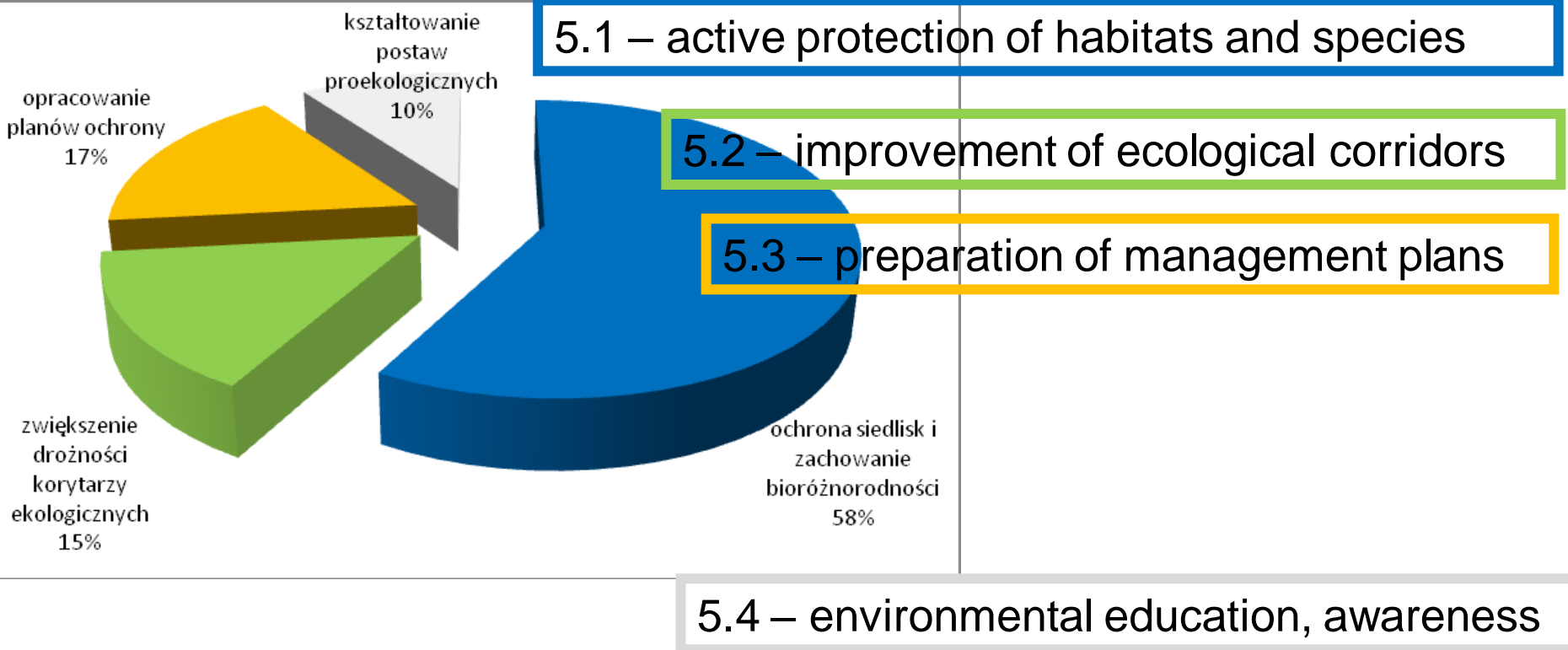
**CKPS is an intermediate body that acts as implementing agency for the priority axis**

### **Tasks:**

- Evaluation and selection of projects
- Signing co funding agreements
- Management of payments
- Support the beneficiaries throughout the entire project cycle

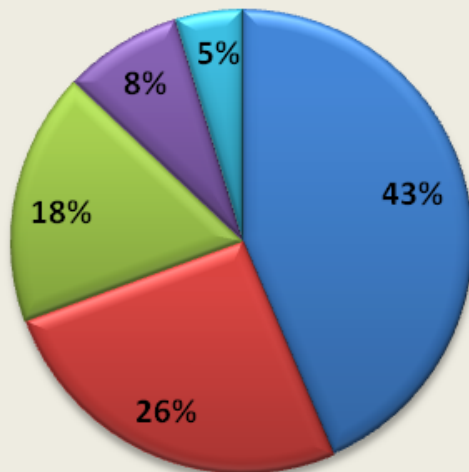
# V priority axis funding from OP Environment

**Total: 105 mio EUR,  
90 mio EUR from ERDF**

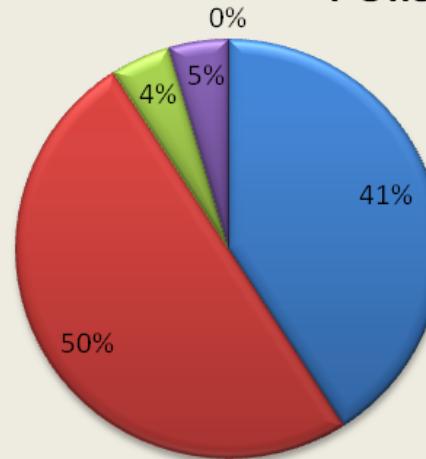


# Beneficiaries

Udział Beneficjentów realizujących projekty w ramach działań 5.1-5.3 V osi POIiŚ



Udział Beneficjentów realizujących projekty w ramach działania 5.4 V osi POIiŚ



- Public administration
- NGO
- State Forests
- Research institutions
- Other



## WWF projects realized by WWF Poland from priority axis 5 of the OP Environment

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- „Support for reintroduction and protection of baltic mammals in Poland”
- „Protection of marine mammals and birds”
- „SOS for the World – ecological awareness raising campaign for Polish citizens”
- „Restoration of the ecological corridor in the valley of river Biala Tarnowka”
- „Active protection of the Lynx population in Poland”
- „Protection of the brown bear *Ursus arctos* in the Polish part of Carpathian mountains”

Total budget of all projects - ca.9 mio EURO

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# Project „ Support for reintroduction and protection of baltic mammals in Poland”

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## FUNDING:

85% - European Regional Development Fund

15% - own funds (provided by Foundation for the development of the University of Gdansk)

Total budget: 1,5 mio EURO

duration: 4 Years

03.02.2009-28.02.2013



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*Projekt współfinansowany przez Unię Europejską ze środków Europejskiego Funduszu Rozwoju Regionalnego w ramach Programu Infrastruktura i Środowisko*



## Ecological results

- Support recovery and protection of seals and harbour porpoise (foca; marsopa) in Poland in line with international conventions (Bonn, Helsinki) (18 seals put in freedom, nearly 1400 observations)
- Protection of marine mammals from human pressure (fisheries, tourism, investment)
- Preparation of management plans for grey seal and harbour porpoise
- Strengthening the seal population by releasing seals born or saved through Marine Station of the Oceanologic Institute of University Gdansk





## Socio economic benefits

- Increased knowledge amongs people about the role of mammals in the baltic sea
- Mobilization of peoples action, 42 volunteers and many supporters for active protection – inhabitants along the whole costline
- Establishment of continious exchange and collaboration between all institutions along the cost: Marine Departments, Border control, National and Landscape Parks, Genberal Directorate for Environment Protection, Police, Municipalities, Army and other
- 2 full time jobs for project implementation, 1 University employee
- Around 300 contracts for experts and subcontractors (data base management, video monitoring etc.)







# Project „Protection of marine mammals and birds”

## FUNDING:

85% - European Regional Development Fund

10% - National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management

5% - own funds (provided by WWF and University of Gdańsk)

Total budget: 0,9 mio EURO

duration: 2 Years

01.11.2011-31.12.2014



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Dofinansowano ze środków Narodowego Funduszu Ochrony Środowiska i Gospodarki Wodnej



## Ecologic goals

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- Protection of baltic mamals as well as marine birds against human pressure
- Proposition of management measures in the regions of Vistula estuary and lagoon,
- Strengthening the seal population through release of individuals rehabilitated in the marine station of the University of Gdansk





## Expected socio-economic benefits

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- Increased ecological awareness amongs population
- Activate people to act for nature protection, 200 volunteers along the whole baltic coast
- Cooperation with institutions related to marine areas
- 2 full time jobs, sucontractors, a nature guard employed for the Vistuly estuary
- Partnership with University of Gdansk





# Project „ Protection of the brown bear *Ursus arctos* in the Polish part of Carpathian mountains”

## FUNDING:

85% - European Regional Development Fund

14% - National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management

1% - own funds (provided by WWF)

Total budget: 0,45mio EURO

duration: 2,5 Years

01.11.2011-30.06.2014



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## Activities

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- Recovery of 3000 fruit trees
- Protection of 10 wintering places for bears
- Creation of an observatory base for bears
- Telemetric monitoring of 6 bears
- Instalation of 50 bear safe rubbish bins
- 50 electric fens to protect from bears



Fot. Miroslav Šmiedana

## Ecologic goals

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- Improving the food situation for bears in Bieszczady and Beskid Niski
- Legal protection of 10 wintering places
- Creating a platform for information exchange and monitoring of bears
- Preparation of management activities o improve bear habitats
- Reduce potential man – bear conflicts



## Expected socio-economic benefits

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- Increase acceptance of bear population in the regions
- Activate people to engage with nature conservationa – 30 local supporters for field work
- Reduce risks of conflicts between bears and tourists or local inhabitants
- Increase knowledge about bear cology



## Positive experience from project implementation

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- Not too many details are expected for project activities in the phase of project submission
- Possibility to cover 100% staff costs for project coordination and administration
- Possibility to finance legal advisers for public procurement procedures and other administrative topics
- Possibility to move budget across different budget categories





## Positive experience from project implementation

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- Very committed staff in the agency coordinating the budget (CKPS), often engaged in events and present in the project to keep track
- Very fast support if changes in the project where necessary
- Very good financial management and control through the agency
- Open days to gain information
- Trainings e.g. about financial management of projects
- Development of good practice that can be transferred to other projects





## Negative experience from project implementation

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- Very long project selection procedures
- Very bureaucratic procedures, often the need to present same information in different formats, lots of documents on paper
- Application of public procurement principles for every investment even if there is not such legal obligation
- Too often changes in guidelines for financial project management
- Very long procedures for reimbursement – necessity to get bank loans in order to keep cash flow linked with additional costs for WWF





## Recommendations



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- Keep eligibility of staff costs for administration and coordination
  - Provide continuous trainings for beneficiaries before and during project implementation
  - Need shorter selections procedures, faster payments and preferably flat rate payments for administrative costs
  - Reduce paper based documentation and keep flexibility for project activities during implementation
  - Consider during programming that the character of nature protection projects is different from infrastructure
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# Muchas gracias!

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