

1. Country/Organization:

Ms. Ildikó Varga

Ministry of Rural Development, Hungary

2. Title of the action committed to in 2011 (see the annex)

Monitoring of wetland habitats and their communities (AWA Paragraphs 11d, e, l, m; 12b)

3. Overview of progress made

(a) *Has the action been implemented?*

Yes / In progress / No

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

In the frame of the Hungarian Biodiversity Monitoring system (HBMS) the monitoring of fish and macroinvertebrate communities was continued according to the standard protocols. Fish communities were surveyed in 20 and 11 water bodies with 62 and 24 sampling units in 2011 and 2012, respectively. The sampling water bodies represent all main water types of Hungary and mostly cover the most important water bodies from nature conservation point of view located in protected and Natura 2000 sites. The sampling method is electrofishing. Aquatic macroinvertebrate communities were examined in 25 sampling plots with quantitative, modified AQEM method in each year and some additional faunistical samples were collected targeting species of community importance. The following taxa are identified at species level from the samples: snails, mussels, leeches, crustaceans, mayflies, dragonflies, water bugs, stoneflies, water beetles and caddisflies.

Samples were collected once a year and the same site is sampled in every three year concerning both components. The actually used sampling methods for both components have been developed using the experience of several years' research and in line with the requirements of the European Union.

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(b) *What challenges were encountered during the implementation of the action?
What lessons were learned?*

The most important challenge is to get the permissions in time, because the permission procedure for research is long and complicated.

We have taken some comparative survey, which confirmed that for certain species and in certain water bodies two samples in a year give more representative data

(c) *What future steps, if any, are planned in relation to the action implementation/follow up?*

We plan to continue the monitoring according to the standard protocol in the future, but the number of sampling sites has to be extended further. In certain cases, we have to consider to survey fish communities two times a year.

4. Usefulness of the Astana Water Action

please see our reply at the other actions on remediation

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements and provide an explanation, as appropriate.

(a) *The Astana Water Action was useful to strengthen political support related to sustainable water management issues:*

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

please see our reply a the other action

(b) *The Astana Water Action has helped my country to comply with its international obligations:*

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

If agreeing, please elaborate how (e.g. European Union Directives, UNECE and other environmental agreements, Millennium Development Goals, Commitments made within the "Environment for Europe" process) (up to 250 words)

...

(c) *Would your country be interested in continuing to submit and monitor new actions within the AWA framework in the future?*

Yes / No

Please elaborate (up to 250 words)

...