

## Positive example

### **Retrofitting 20 kV power line stretches in order to improve bird-safety on the territory of the Hevesi Füves Puszták Nature Reserve**

**Country, region:** Hungary, Northern Hungary region

**Name of the organisation which implemented the project:**

Bükk National Park

**Total size of the project in EUR:** 770 000 000 HUF

**Amount of EU funding: 85%; 654 500 000**

**Name of the EU fund that supported the project:**

Structural Funds (ERDF)

**Name of the Operational Program:**

KEOP (Environment and Energy Operational Programme)

### **Short description of the project, aims, targets, project activities**

The aim of the project is to insulate, transform, replace pole elements and wires posing danger to birds and to put underground a particularly dangerous section of the 406.7 km long bare medium-voltage overhead power line stretching over the territory of the Hevesi Füves Puszták Landscape Conservation Area and its wider environment (an important part of the Bükk National Park Management's operation area).

### **Estimated impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services.**

The overhead power line sections affect conservation areas of national importance (protected area, landscape conservation area), Natura 2000 areas (the Hevesi-sík special bird-protection area /HUBN10004/ and several high priority nature conservation areas), environmentally sensitive landscapes and the area of the National Ecological Network. On the above mentioned protected areas

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and in their environment several protected and specially protected bird species nest and a significant daily and seasonal bird activity can be observed between the areas. The bare overhead power lines therefore pose a constant threat to birds.

As a result of the project the frequent severe casualties due to the electrocution of protected and specially protected bird species nesting, migrating and wintering on the territory affected by the planned bird-protection measures, can be prevented.

The insulation and transformation of power pole elements prevent severe losses due to electrocution of protected nesting and migrating bird species and also provide undisturbed migration and wintering.

In some respects, the project is a unique undertaking in the country as it aims to provide a concerted and final solution to the complex management of not only a particular site, but a whole conservation area.

The project meets several requirements of conserving biodiversity through a better use of structural funds:

- The development has an impact on biodiversity during the entire life cycle, not only at the time of installation.
- The project takes into account the ecological conditions of the development's impact area, does not change them, but instead adapts to them.

The project is the implementation of one of the 'good' project types having direct positive impact on biodiversity (undergrounding of overhead power lines, insulation of cable poles).

### **How did stakeholders tried to multiply positive impacts, if project had any?**

The National Park made impressive presswork (radio and television interviews, and online news coverage) and also organised publicity events and made brochures and posters to promote the importance of the project.

**Author of the case study, name of the CEEweb member, email, phone number:** Klara Kis, [klara@mtvsz.hu](mailto:klara@mtvsz.hu); +36-1-216-7297

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