

AFTER-LIFE CONSERVATION PLAN

The project

*"Implementation of the National Action Plan for
Great Snipe - stage I"*

LIFE17 NAT/PL/000015



Lublin, Białystok 2024

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I. Introduction

The declining trend in the population of Great Snipe, first observed and described in the late 19th century by Władysław Taczanowski in his remarkable work "Polish Birds", continues to this day, with the current Polish population of this species estimated at around 510 - 575 lekking males. Despite being under legal protection and no longer subject to hunting as it was in the past, unfavourable habitat changes, especially peatland drainage and agricultural intensification, have led to further declines in its numbers.

In response to the drastic decline in the species population, the National Action Plan for Great Snipe in Poland was developed and approved by the General Directorate for Environmental Protection in 2017. This document consolidated existing knowledge about the species and outlined conservation actions for a ten year period, including active conservation, systemic solutions, research and monitoring as well as dissemination of knowledge. Active protection of the areas surrounding the most important great snipe sites is necessary and requires substantial financial investments. The aim of this project was to implement priority actions outlined for the first five years of the Action Plan implementation.

II. Projects aims

The main aim of the project was to stop the population decline and to achieve the favourable conservation status of great snipe *Gallinago media* in Poland. This would be achieved through the implementation of six specific objectives and accompanying actions. They derived directly from the assessment of the great snipe conservation status, its habitats and the threats identified in the National Species Action Plan (SAP). The plan was approved by the Director of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection (GDOŚ) on 2 March 2017. Consequently, the project's main aim, objectives and actions are identical with those identified in the SAP.

The main reason for the decline of great snipe abundance and the reduction of its range in Poland from 1980s to 1990s was the loss of nesting habitats due to unfavourable environmental changes caused mainly by anthropogenic factors. In the 1990s, the domestic population of great snipe was estimated at 750-900 displaying males and at the beginning of the project (2019) its population was estimated at 400-550 males. Therefore, in comparison to the 1990s, we can talk about a drastic decline of the species reaching over 40%. By far, the most serious current threats, found in all the key sites, are low water levels and the loss of habitats due to succession. The predation by native and introduced species was also thought to be significant.

Halting the population decline and achieving the favourable conservation status of great snipe was achieved through the following objectives:

- 1) Restore and maintain habitats in the appropriate conservation status;
- 2) Increase breeding success by reducing predation;
- 3) Monitor population parameters and habitat condition;
- 4) Consult legal acts and strategic documents;
- 5) Study great snipe ecology, habitat utilisation range and selectivity
- 6) Coordinate the implementation of the Great Snipe SAP and dissemination of knowledge about the species.

III. Project accomplishments

Objective 1. Restore and maintain habitats in the appropriate conservation status

- 7) 89.42 hectares of land were purchased in the Lublin region and 32.65 hectares in Podlasie. The aim was to purchase plots of land located as close to the leks as possible, where the restoration of habitats would bring the best results.
- 8) Infrastructure was constructed (including 24,573 meters of fencing), which allowed to improve grate snipe habitat quality by introducing an extensive grazing on an area of 324 hectares. This type of land management creates strongly preferred

foraging micro-habitats, however due to the low profitability of outdoor grazing, it is becoming rare in the landscape.

- 9) Works related to the restoration of great snipe habitats (bush removal, mowing) were carried out on an area of 89.69 hectares. Thanks to the removal of many linear or point bushes, the great snipe gained over 166,8 hectares of open space.
- 10) 42 hydraulic structures (floodgates, culverts) were built, which improved the moisture conditions on approximately 150 hectares of great snipe habitats located on post peatland meadows and floodplains.

Objective 2. Increase breeding success by reducing predation

- 11) The reduction of ground predators population was preceded by an assessment and monitoring of their impact on great snipe mortality and behaviour on the leks.
- 12) Contracts were signed for ground predators control in five hunting districts in the Lublin region, resulting in the culling of 171 predators, and in three hunting districts in the Podlasie region, where 89 predators were culled. Evaluation the effects of predator reduction actions on the great snipe population turned out to be very difficult, because other factors, especially local changes in predator densities and changes in densities of alternative prey, must be taken into account.

Objective 3. Monitor population parameters and habitat condition

- 13) The comprehensive survey of great snipe leks in Poland was conducted, covering 18 refuges and 146 potential lekking sites scattered in the species breeding range. As a result, displaying great snipes were found in 68 previously unknown locations (in total: 187-201 males).
- 14) Great snipe leks were inventoried, threats and habitat conditions were assessed on the lekking sites located close to the border of Belarus (37 potential sites were surveyed in 2020, which resulted in the discovery of 1 lek) and Ukraine. In 2020 and 2021, approx. 130 potential border sites were checked in Ukraine with eleven new lekking sites discovered and three previously known lekking sites confirmed. A summary of the historical and current distribution of Great Snipe leks in western Ukraine was published.
- 15) Ornithological and botanical monitoring was conducted in the areas where conservation measures were implemented, as well as their impact on avifauna and habitats was assessed.
- 16) Automatic hydrological monitoring was established at the most important 16 Great Snipe lekking sites in order to improve habitats hydrological condition and counteract illegal wetlands drainage.
- 17) The assessment of land use proportion was conducted in 16 great snipe lek areas (8 per region), in order to introduce a mosaic of land use management preferred by great snipe in collaboration with farmers. The orthophoto maps of the land were used to establish the baseline and design the habitat mosaic.

Objective 4. Consult legal acts and strategic documents

1. A strategy of the water distribution in the Siemianówka Reservoir including the Great Snipe habitats conservation needs was developed and shared to National Water Management Authority. This document will be taken into account in the update of Siemianówka Reservoir water management instruction.
2. A new basis for qualifying land for agri-environmental payments was established, allowing for the easier implementation of the great snipe scheme on area of 28,943 hectares.
3. Detailed conservation measures for the Natura 2000 Management Plans (PZO) introducing land use mosaics were developed and submitted to the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection (RDOŚ), as well as General Directorate for Environmental Protection (GDOŚ) for 54 great snipe lek areas (located in 16 Natura 2000 areas), covering 15,661 land parcels with a total area of 17,193 hectares.

In the years 2019-2024, the participation in about 20 procedures related to the environmental impact assessments, the development of strategies, planning documents, and legal regulations that might have affected the conservation status of Great Snipe populations and their habitats in Poland. In result at least partly the Great Snipe conservation needs were taken into account including e.g. a minimalization measures for in S19 highway plans, the rejection of peat mine and the improvement of agri-environmental schemes.

4. Two areas of great snipe occurrence (Zacisówka Valley in the Podlasie region and Krowie Bagno in the Lublin region) were proposed to be included as Natura 2000 sites, as well to recognize the greats snipe as a subject of protection within these areas. In the case of the Krowie Bagno refuge (currently protected as Krowie Bagno SACrefuge, in the proposal sent to RDOŚ Lublin, we applied for including this site within the boundaries of the Polesie SPA PLB060019, in which the great snipe is one of the objects of protection. The site in the Zacisówka Valley has been reported as a new SPA. Further proceedings depend on the decision of the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection.

Objective 5. Study great snipe ecology, habitat utilisation range and habitat selection

1. The habitat selection towards land use types on 8 lek areas within three different habitats types (peatlands in river valleys, alkalic fens, post-peatland meadows) was

determined based on males GPS tracking in order to plan a model mosaic land use proportion around the leks.

2. The lek range size and the foraging sites range in relation to lek location was determined on 8 different leks.
3. Habitat preferences of male and female great snipe towards micro habitat structure, land use and food resources on 4 important great snipe foraging sites was conducted in order to find a local and regional differences in selection process.
4. The diversity of the great snipe food resources between 4 sites in the Podlasie and the Lublin region was determined, along with an assessment of habitat features influencing potential food resources.
5. The breeding phenology of great snipe and the level of nest predation were determined.
6. The females breeding sites preferences and nests location in relation to leks location was determined.
7. A preliminary estimates of female home range size base on GPS-GSM loggers was carried out.

Objective 6. Coordinate the implementation of the Great Snipe SAP and dissemination of knowledge about the species

1. Four symposiums for great snipe conservation practitioners were organized, combined with meetings of the National Protection Working Group.
2. Promotional materials were prepared, including 2 roll-up banners, 4 drawings, 600 T-shirts, and 10 informational board.
3. An informational brochure was prepared for farmers, and direct conversations were held with them, resulting in the restoration of land use on approximately 248 hectares of meadows.
4. A project website was created, and profiles were established on Twitter and Instagram.

IV. Analysis of threats and opportunities for the great snipe conservation

The SWOT analysis presented below briefly illustrates the assessment of the current situation of the great snipe conservation in Poland, with particular emphasis on the areas covered by the project.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - good understanding of great snipe population distribution in Poland, - high level of knowledge regarding the species' ecology, threats, and environmental needs, - confirmed plans for protective actions for the majority of Natura 2000 areas where great snipes have been listed, - detailed analysis of changes to the Natura 2000 management plants (PZO) introducing land use mosaics in 54 great snipe lek areas (16 Natura 2000 sites), covering 15,661 land parcels with a total area of 17,193.42 hectares, - the presence of well-functioning environmental organisations in the region; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - high fragmentation of agricultural plots - an aging society - observed lack of interest in agricultural work, also in the context of NGO collaboration with local farmers, who could potentially carry out commissioned conservation work, - difficulty in acquiring funds for actions outside of protected areas, despite identified genuine needs, - lack of support mechanisms allowing for the sale of harvested biomass, along with a simultaneous decline in livestock numbers (especially in the Lublin region), - relying on the assistance of volunteers for many tasks, - significant distances between leks - logistical difficulties. - difficulty in changing the attitude of some local communities towards the conservation needs, -
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - legal requirements to implement actions outlined PZO), - good prospects for developing cooperation with Farmers utilizing meadows supporting great snipe habitats (especially in Podlasie). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - costs of conducting conservation activities, - lack of interest and positive reception of pro-nature actions in the local community,

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - good prospects securing funds for the continuation of selected activities in the following years. - increasing attractiveness of agri-environmental subsidies for great snipe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - further changes in land use practices and the complete lack of production profitability in small farms, as well as continued decline in interest in biomass collection (due to the smaller livestock population, especially in the Lublin region), - decreased interest in agri-environmental subsidies due to increased bureaucracy, requirements, sanctions, and continually rising agricultural production costs. - climate changes, - armed conflicts - lack of certainty and predictability, volatile markets (e.g., the import of cheap pellets from Ukraine led to the bankruptcy of pellet mills in Zamość, hay purchasing in the region collapsed completely).
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V. Plan of Actions

Aims and Methodology of the Plan

In order to determine the appropriate direction for continuing the conservation actions undertaken as part of the LIFE project, it is necessary to establish priorities for the protection of great snipe and other meadow waders. Based on the available knowledge, the following protective actions have been identified as priorities:

Habitat protection

The most important need is the cause of degradation of the great snipe's habitats as a result of their overgrowing and drying out. It is necessary to promote and support extensive mowing or mowing-grazing management as well as access to plans carrying out hydrotechnical works near the habitats of great snipe.

Reduction of lethal and non-lethal predation effect

Further investigation of brood losses and chick survival is needed. Based on experiences from other projects it is likely that the most appropriate way to reduce a ground predators impact on displaying males and brood survival is the electro-fencing of large great snipe habitats that covers the lek and adjacent breeding sites. If it is not possible to carry out this type of activities, potentially an elimination of predators using live traps or shooting might be considered.

Research and Monitoring

Deepening of the knowledge about great snipe

During the project implementation, valuable information about the distribution of great snipe in Poland and its biology has been obtained. This knowledge has served to plan the protection of this species, both in terms of habitat restoration and planning of great snipe protection at the landscape level in Natura 2000 areas (C.5). It has also led to legislative changes, mainly through adjusting agri-environmental schemes to the species' needs and introducing agri-environmental program classifications based on the latest monitoring data from the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection (GIOŚ).

Publication of collected data

The material collected from lek inventories, regarding foraging biology, predation pressure on leks, and nesting biology of the great snipe, is extensive. Although it has been used to plan the protection of this species, it requires further processing, analysis, and publication in scientific papers. The publication on great snipe nesting preferences was planned to be prepared during the project implementation. However, due to further research in this area, it was decided to summarize the results in this form until 2025, after completing all fieldwork results related to the study of the

female nesting biology, home range size also in other projects involving Natura International Polska Foundation employees.

Another important publication will be a paper on the population size and distribution of the great snipe in Poland based on data obtained from activity A.4, as well as data from the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection (GIOŚ) Monitoring. This publication is scheduled for the end of 2024.

As part of task D.5, surprising results were obtained regarding the absence of predation on great snipe leks. The collected data also showed that disturbance of display by the predators could affect their activity. Therefore, it may turn out that disturbing by predators could have a significant impact on the assessment of lek quality by males and females. However, male activity varies throughout the breeding season and day. It may therefore be difficult to empirically capture the effect of disturbing birds on the lek. Nevertheless, under After Life, we plan to attempt this and, if promising results are obtained, publish the results of the conducted analyses.

VI. Actions maintaining project results after its completion

Selected actions carried out as part of the project will be continued after its completion. These are actions necessary to maintain its results. Additionally, new tasks arising from the Strategy have been added.

Table 1 contains a description of these actions along with the designation of institutions/organizations responsible for their implementation and possible sources of financing for these actions.

Priority	Estimated cost	Potential sources of financing
C = continuation of action critical for species conservation	€ = < 5000 €	PP = beneficiaries
R = recommended for action implementation	€€ = 5,000 to 10,000 €	NGOs = non-governmental organizations

○ = optional to implement if funds are available	€€€ = 10,000 to 50,000 €	IP = government institutions (Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection, General Directorate for Environmental Protection, National Parks)
STOP = no further implementation needed	€€€€ = 50,000 to 100,000 €	EU = European Union funds
	€€€€€ = > 100,000 €	GIOŚ = National Bird Monitoring
		IRSK = Agri-environmental interventions

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
Research activities						
A1	Determining the individual area, habitat preferences, and methods of use favourable to maintaining great snipe habitats in the appropriate state of conservation.	STOP	N/a	N/a	The task does not require continuation. Conclusions regarding preferred land use types, the extent of habitats utilized by great snipe, and the size of lek ranges have been extensively summarized in the final report. The conclusions drawn from it have been utilized in planning model land use proportion at the landscape scale in great snipe habitats within Natura 2000 areas and have been communicated to the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection (RDOŚ). The report itself has also been submitted to the RDOŚ and General Directorate for Environmental Protection (GDOŚ) and will serve as the substantive basis for assessing the extent of	N/a

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
					habitats used by great snipe (e.g., when reviewing environmental impact assessment reports).	
A2	Determining the micro-habitat selectivity of the great snipe and food resources on lowland peat bogs.	STOP	N/a	N/a	The task does not require continuation. Research has shown strong conservatism of great snipes in microhabitat selection, independent of landscape habitat types, and significant variation in food resources of great snipe habitats between regions. This knowledge has been used in planning great snipe conservation activities.	N/a
A3	Studies on the breeding biology, movements, and habitat preferences of female great snipes.	○	€€€	NGOs, academic institutions	The continuation of the task will involve further data collection on the breeding biology of female great snipes (in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute) and subsequent publication of the obtained results.	NATURA, Max Planc

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
A4	Searching for new great snipe locations in their refuges.	R	€€ per year	NGOs, IP	The planned publication of great snipe distribution and abundance results in Poland will be conducted in collaboration with GIOŚ. Leks identified in the project will be monitored as part of GIOŚ's great snipe monitoring. Further cooperation with government institutions and GIOŚ is planned regarding the planning of great snipe leks survey. It is advisable to search for great snipe sites between the dense populations in the Lublin and Podlasie regions.	LTO, NATURA, GIOŚ, RDOŚ
A.5	Inventory and assessment of threats at border locations in Belarus.	STOP	N/a	N/a	The task is carries a high risk of implementation due to the tense political situation.	N/a
Practical actions						
B.1	Land purchase in the Lublin region	R	€€€	PP	Value achieved during the project: 89,42 ha purchased	LTO

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
					<p>Plans for continuation: The Lublin Ornithological Society (LTO) plans to continue purchasing land in the vicinity of plots acquired in the project, with a particular emphasis on parcels located within the Laski Bruskie area.</p> <p>On the land purchased as part of the project, favorable habitat conditions for the great snipe will be maintained through humidity regulation and extensive use (see A1-A3)</p>	
B.2	Land purchase in the Podlasie region	R	€€€	PP	<p>Value achieved during the project : 32,6 ha purchased</p> <p>Plans for continuation: The Foundation plans to continue purchasing land in the vicinity of plots acquired in the project, applying to other non-governmental organizations for financial support. Within 5 years,</p>	NATURA

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
					<p>the purchase of at least 10 hectares of meadows is planned.</p> <p>On the land purchased as part of the project, favorable habitat conditions for the great snipe will be maintained through humidity regulation and extensive use (see A1-A3)</p>	
C1	Improvement of moisture conditions in selected great snipe habitats	R	€€	PP	<p>Value achieved during the project : higher humidity on 185 ha</p> <p>Plans for continuation: In the Podlasie region, the continuation of water management in the ditch network is planned where floodgates have been installed. The process of changing water management instructions for the Siemianówka reservoir will also be monitored to ensure the implementation of guidelines from the Water Management Strategy for the Siemianówka</p>	NATURA, LTO

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
					reservoir. In the Lublin region, water management is planned for the floodgates built as part of the project, along with ongoing maintenance of these water management structures.	
C2	Restoration of great snipe habitats in selected species' habitats	R	€€€	PP	<p>Value achieved during the project: 86,69 ha restored</p> <p>Plans for continuation: It is aimed to sustain the effects of the habitat restoration by continuing the management practices favourable to maintaining the great snipe habitats. In the future, there will be a need for equipment modernization, which will allow for mowing and biomass collection.</p> <p>On the largest of the purchased plots near the Laski Bruskie willage (17 ha), after mowing it, there was a need to perform (in 2024 year) additional measures consisting in</p>	LTO, NATURA

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
					removing old tree trunks using a stump cutters.	
C3	Introducing grazing in selected locations	R	€€€€	PROW, PP, NGOs, EU	<p>Value achieved during the project: introducing grazing on 324 ha</p> <p>Plans for continuation: As shown in studies, grazing has a positive impact on habitat structure and food availability for the great snipe. Therefore, its continuation and expansion are advisable and planned.</p> <p>In the coming years, LTO plans to implement further projects in which we want to introduce grazing in the Krowie Bagno and Laski Bruskie sites.</p>	LTO
C4	Protection of nests and leks from predators	O	€€€	EU, NGOs, PZL	<p>Installation of anti-predator fences</p> <p>- The observed effectiveness of this action in Europe and the country directly indicates the</p>	LTO

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
					necessity of its implementation. If it is not possible to install anti predator fences, collaborating with hunters to reduce the local predator population can be introduced.	
C5	Implementation of Great Snipe Action Plan recommendations into Plan of Protection Tasks (PZO) and consulting on and providing opinions on legal acts and strategic documents.	R	€€	PP, IP, PS IRŚK, NGO	NATURA will continue its activities, especially in consulting on PZO, as well as part of the Agriculture for Nature Coalition to align agri-environmental schemes with the conservation needs of the great snipe.	NATURA, RDOŚ, MRiRW
Monitoring activities						
D1	Monitoring of the ecological effects of protective measures	STOP	N/a	N/a	The action has shown a positive impact of great snipe habitat restoration measures on other bird species and the absence of negative effects on natural habitats. Therefore, the	GIOŚ

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
					continuation of this action is not necessary. Great snipe monitoring will be conducted by GIOŚ as part of the National Bird Monitoring Programme.	
D2	Assessment of the project's impact on local communities	STOP	N/a	N/a	The task does not require continuation.	-
D3	Monitoring of the project's effects at the ecosystem level	STOP	N/a	N/a	The task does not require continuation.	
D4	Hydrological monitoring at permanent sites	R	€	PP, IP	The continuation of readings in the installed monitoring network is planned every two years, along with intervention readings in case of any interference with water relations in the lek area (based on great snipe monitoring by GIOŚ). In the event of significant great snipe habitat drying, this information will be reported to the relevant institutions, Regional Environmental Protection	LTO, NATURA, RDOŚ, GIOŚ

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
					Inspectorate (RDOŚ), and General Inspectorate for Environmental Protection (GDOŚ).	
D5	Monitoring of predation levels at leks	O	€	PP	Due to the extensive material on the male behaviour at leks and the frequency of predator appearances at the lek, collaboration with scientific institutions is planned to summarize the results regarding the variability of great snipe activity and the impact of predator presence on great snipe behaviour.	NATURA
Promotional activities						
E1	Annual symposium for great snipe conservation practitioners in Poland, National Action Plan (KPO)	R	€	PP	The project promotion will be continued through the website (for at least 5 years), as well as promotional materials distribution at outdoor events attended by	LTO, NATURA

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
	working group meetings, project inauguration and final seminar. Promoting the project.				Lublin Ornithological Society (LTO) members.	
E2	Website and promotional materials promoting the knowledge about great snipe and its conservation. Educational activities for farmers and children.	R	€	PP	The project promotion will be continued through the website (for at least 5 years).	LTO, NATURA
E3	Meetings with farmers to implement land use models and maintain proper water relations.	O	€	PP, IP	Further education of individual farmers on implementing agri-environmental-climate schemes (IRŠK) is planned through field activities in the area of purchased and restored meadows, as well as through continued land acquisition. NATURA's employees also plan to continue	LTO, NATURA

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
					collaboration with the Agricultural Advisory Centre (CDR) in Brwinów regarding training for farmers on agri-environmental schemes.	
Coordination activities						
F1	Coordination and monitoring of project implementation	STOP			The task does not require continuation.	-
F2	Project audit	STOP			The task does not require continuation.	-
F3	Zarządzenie projektu – LTO	STOP			The task does not require continuation.	-
F4	Project management - NATURA	STOP			The task does not require continuation.	-
F5	Establishing networks with other LIFE projects.	O	€	PP	The planned maintenance of LTO contacts with beneficiaries of other projects involves participating in conferences, symposiums, and seminars related	LTO

Code	Activity	Priority	Estimated cost	Financing possibilities	Rationale for the need for continuation	Responsible entity
					to the project's themes whenever possible.	
F6	After-LIFE Conservation Plan	STOP			The task does not require continuation.	-
F7	Layman report	STOP			The task does not require continuation.	-

VI. Financial Plan

The majority of the proposed tasks requires financial investment.

In the case of maintaining great snipe habitats through grassland and pastoral management, agri-environmental contracts will be granted based on the GIS layer of the species distribution in Poland, developed as part of the LIFE project.

The implementation of agri-environmental schemes alone is however insufficient to provide high quality of the Great Snipe habitats as they are facultative for the farmers and do not include measures to increase habitat moisture. Therefore there is a strong need to educate farmers and encourage them to undertake AES, while in locations where it is difficult to find willing farmers to participate in AES or they are against water table rise, it is important to purchase land. In the face of climate change and the lack of water management in many areas, there is an urgent need to implement measures to increase water retention in Great Snipe habitats, especially on fens and post-peatland meadows. An important element of the second phase of the National Action Plan is also the support of the legislative process in a Common Agricultural Policy Strategic, especially in agri-environmental schemes to make them more compatible with the conservation needs of the Great Snipe, especially lobbying for increased funding for schemes dedicated to threatened species and water retention in habitats.

Activities related to great snipe population monitoring are conducted within the framework of the State Environmental Monitoring, financed by the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection (GIOŚ).

The implementation of smaller active protection actions can be carried out using for example funds available from the Voivodeship Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management.

In summary, we have developed good systematic solutions for the maintenance of habitats and monitoring. The actions targeted at specific lekking areas will be carried out through externally funded projects, in partnership with government agencies, national parks, academic institutions and NGOs.