

## PROJECT INFORMATION

Updated: October 2012

# Nemunas River Delta: Nature conservation for regional development

## Establishing of a round table



Round table Nemunas-Delta (Foto: Julia Bolzek)

### Background

The Nemunas River Delta (Lithuanian: Nemunas) is an extended wetland area of national and international importance. In 1993 the site was entered in the list of wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Thereby it is an outstanding component of the European NATURA 2000 network. Till this day the site is sparsely populated, extensively unto hardly used and shows an outstanding potential for nature conservation, but suffers under increasing human pressure to intensify the use of the area, with strong impacts on the susceptible nature conservation sites. As a result there is an increase of typical goal conflicts between economic and nature conservation interests. This is where the project starts.

### Project

The aim of the project was to pick up the challenge of evolving a nature orientated regional development in co-operation with the local stakeholders. Representatives of different stakeholders should discuss all occurring questions and prepare consensual proposals for a regional development. Goal conflicts should be

identified and solved in advance. The acceptance of environmental and nature conservation measures should be improved. The round table tool has proved of value to handle, manage and find solutions for extensive issues and complicated conflicts. The communication process, which was initiated and chaired by the Bundesverband Beruflicher Naturschutz e.V., resulted in a joint mission statement and the establishment of a Delta Council, which is meant to facilitate the introduction of nature conservation interests into the civil society. The DVD "Voices of the Neman River Delta", the project flyer, the electronic map of the area, the website ([www.ndn.lt](http://www.ndn.lt)) produced by the project as well as local and regional public relation activities supported the communication process. As a result of the integration in the moderated communication process the administration of the regionalpark became an accepted partner of the local population. Furthermore the round table process triggered a border-crossing co-operation with the adjacent Kaliningrad region. The Lithuanian government as well as the municipality supported and accompanied the project. They indicated that they consider transferring the round table tool to other regions of Lithuania. They classified the integration of civic involvement into the Delta Council as exemplary.

- Target country/region: Lithuania
- Duration: 07/10 - 10/12
- Beneficiary: Ministry of Environment of Lithuania, local Regionalpark Administration, County Administration, the citizens' initiative „Nemuno Deltos Namai“, Institutions of the Kaliningrad Region
- Implementing organisation: Bundesverband Beruflicher Naturschutz e.V.
- Project number: 380 01 228