

The ex-post study aimed to summarize and evaluate the results of individual project activities in terms of achieving the objectives and the effectiveness of achieving the assumed results and solutions to diagnosed environmental problems. Furthermore, **the project "You have the right to effective nature protection" aims to** increase the level of awareness and knowledge of the authorities involved in nature conservation about the provisions of nature conservation law. Also, to improve the coordination of activities and facilitate the enforcement of nature protection law by implementing pilot educational and information activities addressed to various stakeholder groups related to the enforcement of nature protection regulations and the general public.

The study allowed to conclude that participation in the Project to a moderate or high degree contributed to increasing the **level of knowledge regarding nature protection, including the Natura 2000 network among the target groups of the Project**, among others representatives of judicial authorities, prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, other entities and persons dealing with or interested in the subject of nature protection (including General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection, Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection and Regional Inspectorate of Environmental Protection in the field of legal nature protection, as well as people studying law at public universities) and the general public, with particular emphasis on ecological non-governmental organizations that have in their statute activities for nature protection. Thanks to these activities, **the information needs in the field of knowledge regarding nature protection have been met**, even though they have changed over the years (legislative changes, awareness of applicable regulations, loss of biodiversity, destruction of nature, more welds related to nature protection).

As a result of the implementation of the Project (including organized trainings, courses, information activities), the **attitudes of recipient groups towards the law of nature protection have also changed**. The effects **resulting from participation in the Project will be felt in the long run**. The knowledge gained from participation in the Project has been used in professional work by almost half of the recipients. Representatives of judicial authorities, prosecutors' offices, law enforcement agencies, other entities and persons dealing with nature conservation stated that **the activities organized under the Project were useful, interesting and tailored to their needs**.

During the implementation of most project **activities, no problems occurred**. If they appeared, they were quickly solved. **The level of courses and trainings in nature conservation was high**, and the organization of activities was sufficient and appropriate. The majority of respondents stated that **there is no need to implement other actions to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement in the field of crimes and misdemeanours against nature protection**. Among the proposals for such actions were

indicated consultations on the amendment of the regulations with authorities directly acting against offences and crimes against nature protection, expanding cooperation between individuals responsible for nature protection and law enforcement agencies, continuing to conduct educational trainings for the target groups described above, directing information and educational activities to residents of protected or endangered areas and children in schools, and a comprehensive promotion campaign for society, conducted mainly in the media and social media.

Broadening knowledge about nature conservation, obtaining up-to-date information and changing attitudes among law enforcement and judicial authorities may **increase the number of cases related to nature protection that ended with the initiation of proceedings and contribute to facilitating law enforcement in the field of nature protection**. So far, however, relatively few cases regarding interventions in the enforcement of nature protection law have been conducted. Therefore there has also been little cooperation between law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities) and representatives of General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection, Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection and Regional Inspectorate of Environmental Protection. **In order to improve and broaden this cooperation, it was proposed, among others**, to increase the flow of information between institutions in the field of legislation, to organize joint trainings, to sign and implement a cooperation agreement with the definition of the scope of joint action and to create studies describing the scope of competences and possible legal ways of undertaking environmental interventions for both police representatives and municipal and municipal guards. These activities have a chance of success, as the target groups have declared **their interest in continuing their participation in the activities carried out under the Project and cooperation**.

Before the start of the Project, an **ex-ante evaluation was carried out**, which allowed determining the methods by which educational and information activities will be carried out as part of the Project. The Project began **with a conference** attended by 115 people, mainly representatives of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection and Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection. In 2017, as part of the project activities, *an e-learning course* was launched, completed by 10,456 people (with an assumed rate of 300 people), mainly representatives of law enforcement agencies. During the Project, **trainings were also organized in the form of workshops**, where a scheme of conduct in the event of a nature conservation incident was developed. Over the years 2018-2021¹, 17 trainings for police officers, 11 trainings for Prosecutors, 7 trainings for representatives of the Judiciary were

¹ The trainings were planned to be carried out until 2020, however, due to the SARS-CoV-2 virus pandemic, the implementation of the last trainings was postponed until September 2021.

carried out, in which 748 people participated. There were also **trainings and internships for Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection employees** who, in the event of suspicion of committing a crime against nature, will act as "first contact persons" (26 people) and trainings for **representatives of non-governmental organizations** (35 people).

In 2018, a **glossary of basic concepts in legal nature protection** for judicial and law enforcement agencies was developed. In 2021, representatives of the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection, the General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Provincial Police Headquarters and Police Schools developed a **universal cooperation algorithm** between the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection and Provincial Police Headquarters. In addition, a collection of **model court decisions in the field of legal nature protection in Poland** was also developed.

Throughout the Project's duration, **information and promotion activities** were carried out using the website, social networks, YouTube, three spots, and campaigns in urban transport in the six largest provincial Polish cities. **Monitoring** was also carried out using adapted tools, which resulted in partial periodic reports on the implementation of mid-term monitoring.

The expected **results of the Project** include: 1) increasing knowledge about legal nature protection (10% indicator); 2) raising the knowledge and awareness of judicial authorities and the Prosecutor's Office in Poland on the legal aspects of nature protection (rate 5% of judges); 3) raising the knowledge and awareness of the Police in Poland about the legal aspects of nature protection (10% of law enforcement agencies); 4) increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement in the field of crimes and offences against nature protection (rate of 10% of cases transferred to the Police); 5) reaching the recipients with information about the subject matter and activities of the Project (indicator 50,000 recipients).

