Project Update: November 2008

Last week I visited Ukraine and had a starting meeting with the project team in Kyev. We paid a visit to Mr. I. Ivanenko, the deputy head of the State Agency for Protected Areas from the Ministry of Environmental Protection in Ukraine. He expressed his great interest in the project as data are urgently required in the process of the proper establishment of the National Park in the Dniepr Delta. There will be three zones established in the delta: a wildlife protected zone, an economic zone and a recreational zone. We hope to include the sites of bird colonies within the boundaries of the protected zone. But so far, only botanical information is used to define the protected zones. So Mr Ivanenko welcomed the input of but bird data.

Because we are somewhat later in the time schedule and because we noticed activities in the framework of the World Wetlands day (**http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/wwd_index.htmb** will be organised in Ukraine, we propose to reschedule some activities as foreseen in the project proposal:

1. November 2008 to June 2009
   - A baseline report with available data on bird colonies to be used at an early stage of the National Park designation
   - A visit at the world Wetlands Day at the 2nd of February for schoolchildren inhabiting the Dnepr Delta area with awareness programmes
   - Preparation of a small booklet and flyer or poster about water birds in the Delta (also for this festival)
   - An additional visit to the delta to collect some extra bird data and to get an impression of recreation use/pressure of the area (interviews with stakeholders)

2. July -October 2009
   - Preparation of the final report with propositions for the management of the Natural Park
   - Presentation of the results and discussions with local and national authorities.

The difference with the original Project Proposal is minor. Instead of organising a separate school children festival, we prefer to use the setting of the World Wetlands day to implement our activities in the Dniepr Delta. The rest of the project aims will be identical to the proposal.