

# STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

## Project Number 2002/000.601.05.02

**1. Basic Information:** 2002/000.601.05.02

**1.1 CRIS-number:**

**1.2 Title** Development of the management plans in protected areas of Lithuania

**1.3 Sector** Environment

**1.4 Location** Ministry of Environment, Lithuania

**2. Objectives:**

**2.1 Overall Objective**

The overall objective of this **1.275 MEUR** Institution Building project, of which **0.094 MEUR** is national co-financing, is to strengthen the administrative capacity of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) of the Republic of Lithuania to implement the policies and procedures for the protection and management of rare and endangered species and their habitats in the proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCI) in Lithuania.

**2.2 Project purpose**

The purpose of this project is:

- To ensure full compliance with the EU nature protection requirements by revision and implementation of national policies and procedures with particular focus on implementation of the EEC Habitats Directive (92/43) and the EEC Birds Directive (79/409).
- To develop management and action plans for the administrations of the proposed pilot protected areas conforming to the environmental requirements of the EU Acquis.

**2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA Priorities**

The proposed scope of the project activities fits with the priorities of accession to the EU, which are addressed in the Accession Partnership (AP) and National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA).

Accession Partnership 2001 foresees the following measures for the environment sector:

- Complete transposition of the Acquis;
- Continue implementation of the acquis, in particular as regards (...) nature protection, including the preparation of a list of Sites of Community Importance and designating special protection areas;
- Continue strengthening the administrative and monitoring capacity, both at central and local level;
- Continue integration of environmental protection requirements into the definition and implementation of all other sectors' policies with a view to promoting sustainable development.

The relevant priorities set out in the EC Regular Report (2001) are:

- **Short-term priorities (2001).** The transposition of the framework legislation has to continue as regards to the environmental sector. To strengthen administrative capacity at central

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level and to start building institutional capacities at regional and local levels. These efforts need to be sustained and strengthened, notably at the regional and local levels.

- **Medium-term priorities (2001-2003).** Complete alignment and enforcement of legislation regarding the environment sector. To ensure implementing and enforcement structures; "further institutional building activities for the decentralised actors need to be sustained and strengthened". On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1999 the official document of the Council Decision of (1999/856/EC) "On the Principles, Priorities, Intermediate Objectives and conditions contained in the Accession Partnership with the Republic of Lithuania" was issued.

Among the medium-term priorities, the criteria stated for the environment sector are, inter alia:

- "Complete transposition and continue implementation of the environmental Acquis according to a directive-specific pre-defined timetable in nature protection";
- "Ensure institutional strengthening in the area of environmental protection both at central and local levels".

The above stated priorities are addressed in the revised version of the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA, 2001-2003).

### 3. Description:

#### 3.1 Background and justification

The proposed project activities are based on the implementation of the requirements of the European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) and the Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC).

According to the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) 2001-2003, there are a number of national obligations in the nature protection sector concerning the practical implementation of the EU requirements, among others:

- ⇒ to identify Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the Habitats Directive and Special Protected Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive, nominating them as the Sites of Community Importance (SCIs);
- ⇒ to establish data management system of the proposed Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) prior to the designation of them for the EU NATURA 2000 ecological network;
- ⇒ to manage and monitor those Sites of Community Importance (SCIs).

According to the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis, the obligations to draft basic legal documents for the nature protection sector are planned and being developed. Also there are several legal documents to be proposed for amending, namely:

- the Law on Environmental Protection;
- the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment;
- the Law on Monitoring;
- the Rules governing the Monitoring of Natural Habitats and Species, etc.

In order to comply with the legal EU requirements amendments have been initiated in the following national laws and several Executive Orders of the MoE drafted for the nature protection sector, inter alia:

- The Hunting Regulation,
- The Law on Wildlife,
- The Law on Protected Areas,
- The Law on Protected Animal, Plant, Fungi Species and their Communities,
- An Order of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) on Criteria for selection the territories of the Special Protected Areas,
- An Order of the MoE on Criteria for selection the territories of the Special Areas of Conservation of the Most Valuable European Importance Natural Habitats.

Therefore, the legal approximation framework is considered as a good basis for drafting national policies and procedures to strengthen and enforce regional and local authorities (national protected

areas administrations) responsible for the development and management of the action plans to maintain and restore certain rare and endangered species and their habitats in the proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCI) at a favourable conservation level.

Lithuania's efforts towards EU accession, stated in the recent Regular Reports (EC, 2000, 2001) evaluated a continuous progress in the field of environment as regards to the process of legal transposition. However, concrete measures to enforce and implement the new legal framework are needed, in particular for preparation, appraisal and administration of the management plans. Therefore the component for the strengthening of the enforcement structures (institutional regulations, personnel expertise, monitoring, information management) is justified and highlighted.

During the routine Progress Monitoring on the Approximation of the Associated Countries of CEECs implementation of the EU Habitats and Habitats Directives Lithuania made the commitment to fulfil certain requirements, inter alia to establish the competent authorities, designate the SACs and SPAs, including the establishment of priorities for the management and conservation of these sites.

A number of possible Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs) for wildlife at the European level are planned to be identified for the nomination in the Natura 2000 Network by the date of accession, i.e. 1 January 2004 (the hypothetical date of accession to the EU).

The Ministry of Environment will identify a number of areas to be nominated as Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive, the relevant national legislation will be drafted and approved before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004. Therefore, the management and action plans for the administration of these pilot areas will be prepared under the proposed project by the end of 2003.

The final approval of the list of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the Habitats Directive will take place after the accession date. Therefore, the development of the management plans for the SACs does not have to be completed by the targeted accession date.

The national list of proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs) will be negotiated with the European Commission and screened after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2004.

The requested assistance from the PHARE 2002 Program will contribute to the advancement of accession preparations and will contribute to the achievement of the objectives stated above.

Several environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been consulted in project identification and preparation phases. Lithuanian Fund for Nature and Soil Remediation Technologies made several key suggestions concerning the implementation of the management plans, especially proposing the relevant project machinery for field works.

### **3.2 Linked activities**

In recent years technical assistance has been provided to the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania (MoE) in approximation and development the national programme for the implementation of the EU requirements in the nature protection sector.

The DANCEE funded bi-lateral project "Approximation of Lithuanian capacity, policies and procedures on nature protection to EU requirements" (September 1, 1999-August 31, 2001), with particular focus on implementation of the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) and the Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) was implemented in Lithuania.

One of the main objectives - to outline and eliminate constraints in Lithuanian legal compliance with EU requirements. This has been achieved through a thorough analysis of gaps between

Lithuanian legal basis and the requirements set down in the EU directives. Based on this gap analysis, amendments to relevant laws have been developed providing the basis for drafting new legislation.

Another objective was to strengthen the capacity and capability of the MoE to ensure Lithuanian compliance with the EU directives.

The main outputs of the latter objective were:

- Reports on required strategies and guidelines, including recommendations, drafted legislation;
- Workshops, seminars, training, study tours;
- Awareness raising activities;
- Scientific research activities, data sets, preliminary list for candidate sites of Special Protected Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) composed.

Although having achieved the above-mentioned objectives, the project still left Lithuanian MoE with several shortfalls in fully complying with the EU directives.

The following activities of the project "Implementation of Natura 2000 Network on regional and Local Level in Lithuania" (DANCEE) concerning the practical implementation of the EU requirements in the nature protection sector are linked to the scope of the proposed project:

1. Final nomination of Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and simultaneously raising public awareness and public discussions;
2. Thorough description and delineation of selected and nominated SCIs;
3. Elaborated and implemented scheme of management ensuring the nominated SCIs are maintained at a favourable conservation level.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> element is considered as crucial for the enforcement and implementation of the EU directives. Therefore, the institutional strengthening of the MoE in the areas of administration, management of SCIs is considered as additional to the efforts of national government in the field of nature protection.

The beneficiary of the proposed project will be the Nature Protection Department (NPD, policy coordination) of the Ministry of Environment and State Protected Areas Service (SPAS, technical implementation) under the Ministry of Environment. However, the scope of this project application is limited to providing technical assistance for the final selection and delineation of SCIs, for public information and participation in this process. Activities to develop the management plans in protected areas of Lithuania are not foreseen. The representatives of both departments will be members of the Steering Committee of the DANCEE and will ensure that there will be no duplication between the two projects at activity level.

### 3.3 Results

The following results will be achieved by the end of the project:

- A set of recommendations defining the institutional structures and internal procedures needed to implement the requirements of the EU nature conservation directives.
- Guidelines and recommendations for the protection of rare and endangered species set out in management plans ready for implementation.
- The management plans for the proposed pilot nature protected areas.
- The proposed pilot nature protection areas are administered according to the management plans.
- The capacities of the administrations of protected areas strengthened in terms of information technology (IT) for monitoring, analysis and reporting.
- Staff at the central and regional levels (administrations of protected areas, local site managers responsible for monitoring, etc.) trained in implementing guidelines and procedures for preparation of management plans, use of management information system, monitoring, analysis and reporting.

### 3.4 Activities

The activities leading to specific outputs are:

- Development of internal procedures for information management;
- Preparation of management plans for the administration of the pilot protected areas (20 SPAs and 40 SACs), nominated by the Ministry of Environment as SPAs under the Birds directive or SACs under the Habitats directive. The management plans will be developed for the protection and management of rare and endangered species and their habitats in the proposed Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) in Lithuania;
- Purchase and installation of the equipment, related to environmental management information sub-system of nature conservation for monitoring, data analysis and subsequent reporting (Indicative list of equipment is included in Annex 4);

Carrying out training needs analysis and preparation of necessary training materials concerning implementation of guidelines and procedures, preparation and implementation of management plans, utilisation of the management information system, including data analysis and reporting.

The implementation of the project activities will consist of two parts:

- Technical assistance;
- Supplies, establishment and maintaining of the information (databases) management system for the required monitoring, data analysis, assessment and reporting.

It is not proposed to implement activities as a twinning project due to the predominantly technical content of the project. The implementation of project tasks requires specific professional expertise and a substantial number of local experts, which would be difficult to achieve through a twinning arrangement.

**Technical assistance** will provide a long-term EU expert (LTE) for 18 man months working within the SPAS and approximately 8-10 combined EU and local Short and Medium Term Experts (STE's) with the total input of 30 person months.

#### **Profile of LTE**

The LTE should provide general management and strategic institutional support across the whole sector of nature conservation, protection of rare and endangered species of flora and fauna and their communities. She/he will be requested to deliver a significant input of training and capacity building activities, particularly with regard to planning and implementing the guidelines and procedures for preparation of management plans, including use of management information system, monitoring, analysis and reporting. The LTE will work in close co-operation with the management and staff of the SPAS and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. The LTE should have appropriate experience in the field of nature protection and conservation.

#### **Profile of STEs**

The STEs should have appropriate experience in the areas relevant to the project. STEs will provide assistance to set up guidelines and recommendations defining the institutional structures and internal procedures on nature protection to EU requirements, including developing, reviewing and implementing training programmes, and provision of advice. Assistance should also be provided for definition of specific training needs and the overall co-ordination of the delivery of training. Assistance will also provide the inputs for the supply component.

The LTE and STEs will assist in analysing the needs of equipment (special software, databases, etc.) to be purchased, the preparation of the documents, specifications and tender documentation for procurement.

**Supplies** will be based upon the review and analysis of the present status and needs of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. An indicative list and price indication for software / hardware needs and equipment for monitoring and analysis is attached in *Annex 4*.

This preliminary list should be reviewed and updated taking into account the requirements for the management information system, analysis and reporting after start of implementation.

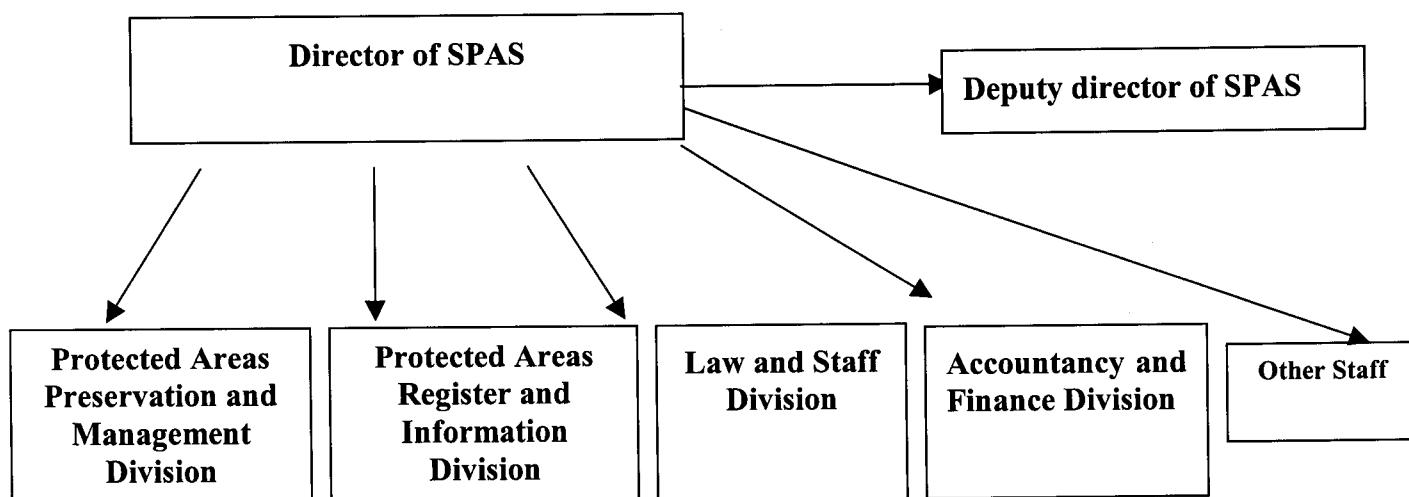
### 3.5 Lessons learned

The conclusions and recommendations from the previous (see 3.2 Linked Activities) projects Reports have been considered, indicating and defining responsibilities and division of competencies between Nature Protection Department and Forest and Protected Areas Department within the Ministry of Environment, as well as involving all relevant stakeholders in the project activities.

## 4. Institutional Framework

The beneficiaries of this project are the State Protected Areas Service under the Ministry of Environment and the Nature Protection Department within the Ministry of Environment.

The structure of the State Protected Areas Service consisting of 22 people is as follows:



State Protected Areas Service performs the following functions:

- establishes administrations of State strict nature reserves, State parks (national, regional), performs methodical supervision of their activities;
- organises and co-ordinates management of protected areas, territory planning, objective programs and their implementation;
- participates in preparation of different law acts concerning protected areas as well as takes responsibility for organisation, co-ordination and implementation of international conventions, agreements (including EU regulations and directives);
- participates in integration program of protected areas or their parts to the specially protected areas of the European Community importance;
- co-ordinates preparation and implementation of monitoring programs in the protected areas, administers accounting of the protected areas natural heritage objects, by administrating the State Protected Areas Cadastre registers the protected areas, accumulates and organises other information about the protected areas;
- provides information to land owners, managers and users about the protected areas under establishment and about heritage objects declared as being protected; informs relevant

institutions, agencies, the public on issues related to the status and management the protected areas;

- performs other functions indicated in its regulations or in other acts of law.

According to the division of responsibilities within the Ministry of Environment (MoE) of the Republic of Lithuania, the Nature Protection Department is responsible for:

- development and implementation a strategy for protection of biological diversity;
- protection of natural ecosystems;
- protection and restoration of wildlife and rational use of natural resources;
- organisation the implementation of international conventions, agreements (including EU regulations and directives);
- consultation of subordinated regional environmental protection institutions, such as Regional Environmental Protection Departments (REPDs), SPAS under the Ministry of Environment.

The 8 REPDs are envisaged to take part in the preparation, implementation and control of environmental protection programmes.

Summarising, political strategy is developed, assessed and decisions made in the Nature Protection Department of the Ministry of Environment, whereas the co-ordination of the measures planned (including protection, management activities in the protected areas) and their implementation is the responsibility of SPAS, subordinated department under the MoE. Thus, the beneficiaries of this project will be the two above - mentioned departments, with the major role in preparation and implementation of the guidelines and recommendations for the protection and management of the protected areas in the proposed Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) performed by the NPD.

The implementation of this project will be assured by a Steering Committee appointed by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and consisting of representatives of the stakeholder departments of the MoE, the LTE. A representative of the EC Delegation and National Aid Co-ordinator (NAC) will participate as observers. Steering Committee will meet every quarter in order to follow-up and monitor project implementation.

The contact persons in the beneficiary institutions are L. Budrys, Director of the Nature Protection Department, Ministry of Environment, Tel: +370 2 61 24 93, Fax: +370 2 61 20 23, e-mail: l.budrys@aplinkuma.lt and Ruta Baskyte, Director of State Protected Areas Service under the Ministry of Environment, Tel: (+370 2) 72 32 84, Fax: (+370 2) 72 25 72, e-mail: ruta@nt.gamta.lt

## 5. Detailed Budget (in MEUR)

Project Components	Investment Support	Institution Building	Total Phare (=I+IB)	National Co-financing	IFI	TOTAL
Technical assistance		0.90	0.90			0.90
Supply	0.281	-	0.281	0.094		0.375
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.281</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>1.181</b>	<b>0.094</b>		<b>1.275</b>

The PHARE amount is binding as a maximum amount available for the project. The ratio between the PHARE and national amount is also binding and has to be applied to the final contract price. The national co-financing commitment is a tax-excluded net amount.

## 6 Implementation Arrangements

### 6.1 Implementing Agency

**PAO:** Zilvinas Pajarskas, Director of the CFCU  
**Address:** J. Tumo Vaizganto 8a/2 Telephone: + 370 2 22 66 21  
2600 Vilnius Fax: + 370 2 22 53 35  
Lithuania E-mail: [Info@cfcu.lt](mailto:Info@cfcu.lt)

### 6.2 Twinning

There is no Twinning component in the project.

### 6.3 Non-standard aspects

There are no non-standard aspects to this project.

The Practical Guide for the Implementation of Phare, ISPA & SAPARD will strictly be followed.

### 6.4 Contracts

Two tenders will be launched:

1. Technical assistance: 0.9 MEUR.
2. Supply: 0.375 MEUR, including 0.094 MEUR of national co-financing

## 7. Implementation Schedule

Component	Start of Tendering	Start of Project Activity	Project Completion
Technical assistance	2Q/02	4Q/02	2Q/04
Supply	1Q/03	2Q/03	4Q/03

## 8. Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity principles and practices in ensuring equal gender participation in the project will be guaranteed.

The Constitution of Lithuania, the Law on Equal Opportunity between Men and Women, and other legal acts explicitly forbid the discrimination on the basis of sex, nationality, and religion. A Controller on equal opportunities between men and women is appointed by the Parliament. The institution involved in the project execution will observe equal opportunity of men and women in its recruitment and human resources development. Vacancies are equally open to both genders. The beneficiary will also ensure equal access of men and women to the project activities and results.

Women and men will have equal access to participate in the project activities (Steering Committee, training, information, etc.).

## 9. Environment

The investment component of this project is related to Institutional Building activities.



## **10. Rates of return**

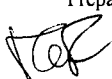
The investment component of this project is related to Institutional Building activities.

## **11. Investment criteria**

The investment component of this project is related to Institutional Building activities.

## **12. Conditionality and sequencing**

1. The project is conditional on co-financing being available for the procurement component of the project and the administrative structure is in place before the project is started.
2. Management and action plans for the areas to be nominated as SPAs should be developed by the end of 2003.



**ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE**

- 1. Logical framework matrix in standard format**
- 2. Detailed implementation chart**
- 3. Contracting and disbursement schedule**
- 4. Reference to feasibility / pre-feasibility studies**

**Phare log frame**

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR		Programme name and number	
Project		Contracting period expires	
Development and implementation of the management plans in protected areas of Lithuania		3Q/04	
		Disbursement period expires	
		3Q/05	
		Phare budget : 1.181 MEUR	
		Total budget : 1.275 MEUR	
<b>Overall objective</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
To strengthen the administrative capacity of the MoE in the area of implementing the policies and procedures for the protection and management of rare and endangered species and their habitats in the proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCI) in Lithuania	Inventory of rare and endangered species and their communities identified and protected by developing the management plans in protected areas of Lithuania	Statistics, database Ministry of Environment documentation	Resources are allocated from Lithuania budget Co-operation from other institutions concerned
<b>Project purpose</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
1. To ensure full compliance with EU nature protection requirements. 2. To develop management and action plans for the administrations of the protected areas.	The protected areas of Lithuania are managed according to the requirements of the Habitats directive (92/43/EEC), and the Birds directive (79/409/EEC) and EU requirements on Nature conservation	Commissions Regular Reports, Ministry of Environment documentation	Resources are allocated from Lithuania budget Co-operation from other institutions concerned
<b>Results</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A set of recommendations defining the institutional structures and internal procedures to implement the EU requirements.</li> <li>Guidelines and recommendations for the protection of rare and endangered species set out in management plans.</li> <li>The management plans for the proposed pilot nature protected areas.</li> <li>The proposed pilot nature protection areas are administered according to the management plans.</li> <li>The IT capacities of protected areas administrations are strengthened.</li> <li>Staff at the central and regional levels are trained in implementing guidelines and procedures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management plans for protected species. 150 people trained.</li> <li>Provisional administrative framework and procedures for development of management plans for 20 SPAs and 40 SACs prepared.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Environment, Regular Reports, Steering Committee of the project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Environment staff is co-operating on the implementation of the project</li> <li>Other institutions concerned are willing to co-operate</li> </ul>

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Activities	Means	Source of Verification	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of internal procedures for information management;</li> <li>Preparation of management plans for the administration of the pilot protected areas (20 SPAs and 40 SACs), nominated by the Ministry of Environment as SPAs under the Birds directive or SACs under the Habitats directive. The management plans will be developed for the protection and management of rare and endangered species and their habitats in the proposed Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) in Lithuania;</li> <li>Purchase and installation of the equipment, related to environmental management information sub-system of nature conservation for monitoring, data analysis and subsequent reporting (Indicative list of equipment is included in Annex 4);</li> <li>Carrying out training needs analysis and preparation of necessary training materials concerning implementation of guidelines and procedures, preparation of management plans, utilisation of the management information system, including data analysis and reporting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One 18 months LTE and 30 m/m STEs under Technical assistance</li> <li>Documentation, equipment and other resources, information management system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project implementation team</li> <li>Steering Committee</li> <li>Project reports</li> <li>Ministry of Environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualified and capable company and pool of EU and local experts is selected to implement the project</li> <li>The Ministry is providing necessary support, including office space (if indicated in ToR)</li> </ul>
<b>Preconditions</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-financing available</li> <li>Administrative structure is in place.</li> </ul>

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## Indicative list of procurement needs to be co-financed via PHARE 2002

Item (Title of Activity)	Amount	Indicative budget (Phare and National Cofinancing) (MEUR)
<b>1. Establishing and functioning of information system for development of management plans in the proposed pilot nature protected areas</b>		<b>0.3687</b>
- PC's with telecommunication tools for each of the proposed pilot Site of Community Interest	60	0.0684
- Data transferring facilities		0.08202
- GPS (Geo Explorer)	2	0.01258
- Digital camera; binocular; photo camera and lenses	10 each	0.0286
- Output devices (digitizers, printers)	25	0.150
- Copy machines, capable to produce relevant format schemes and maps (orto-photo pictures for scale 1:50 000 & 1:10 000 bases)	60	0.0135
- Electronic format storing software/hardware		0.0085
- Archive-filling software-hardware		0.0051
<b>2. Development of digital tools, relevant for training, public information, etc.</b>		<b>0.0043</b>
- software / hardware for development of database		0.0009
- software / hardware for development of information services		0.0036
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>0.375</b>

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