

Standard Project Fiche

1. Basic Information

| | | |
|------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.1 | CRIS Number | BG 2005/017-353.06.01 |
| 1.2 | Title | Preparation of a Bulgarian Natura 2000 Network |
| 1.3 | Sector | Environment |
| 1.4 | Location | Bulgaria |
| 1.5 | Duration | 31 months |

Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective

Contribution to the nature protection in Bulgaria through the enforcement of Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats) and Directive 79/409/EEC (Birds).

2.2 Project Purpose

1.) A list of proposed sites to constitute the Bulgarian Natura 2000 network legally approved by the Bulgarian Government and submitted to European Commission in accordance with the requirements of EU Directive 92/43 (Habitats) and the EU Directive 79/409 (Birds).

2.) Designation and management of special protected areas (SPAs – Birds) developed in line with the provisions of the Directives.

2.3 Accession Partnership (AP) and NPAA priority

The Accession Partnership 2003 identifies the following priorities for environment:

- Continue transposition of the acquis, including secondary legislation, with particular on environmental impact assessment, access to information, waste management, industrial pollution and risk management, nature protection, chemicals and genetically modified organisms, and nuclear safety and radiation protection. Ensure consultation with all relevant stakeholders (other ministries, economic operators, NGOs);
- Continue implementation of the acquis with particular emphasis on access to information, air quality, waste management, water quality, nature protection, industrial pollution and risk management as well as nuclear safety and radiation protection;
- Reinforce staffing of the Ministry and other public bodies. Ensure adequate training and staff development plans.

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan

Not applicable.

2.5 Cross Border Impact

Not applicable.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

Directive 92/43/EEC aims to promote the maintenance of biodiversity in the Member States by defining a common framework for the conservation of wild flora and fauna and habitats of Community interest.

The Directive establishes a European ecological network known as "Natura 2000". The network comprises of "special areas of conservation" designated by Member States in accordance with the provisions of the Directive 92/43/EEC, and special protection areas classified pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC (conservation of wild birds).

To fulfil the requirements of the two directives, Bulgaria must on accession submit a list of Bulgarian sites to be part of the European Natura 2000 Network, each site described in the Standard Natura 2000 Data Form and with associated maps, pictures and other supporting information.

Furthermore, the proposed Special Protection Areas (SPAs) must be designated by accession *at the latest*, which includes giving all SPAs an appropriate legal protection status.

SPAs management in line with the provisions of the Birds Directive and Art.6 of the Habitats Directive as transposed by the Bulgarian Biodiversity Act require that a management plan preparation process start once they have been designated i.e. from accession onwards.

According to the Bulgarian Biodiversity act, the first steps of the designation process of both types of sites (SPA and PSCI) follow the same procedure (Articles 8, 9 and 10). Thus, in order to be ready for submission of the Natura 2000 list of sites a big amount of technical work is required, so that administrative acceptance of the network is reached.

The schedule for implementation of above-mentioned activities and their relevance to the different types of sites are presented on separate Figure in item 3.4 below.

Major steps in preparing Bulgaria for Natura 2000 have been taken under the DANCEE supported Project "*Conservation of Species and Habitats in Bulgaria: EU-Approximation*" initiated on the 1st of October 2002. Meanwhile, the average coverage of national Natura 2000 Networks in Member States now cover 18 % of national territories and in states with particularly rich biodiversity the figure is much higher. The DANCEE funded project estimates that the Bulgarian Natura 2000 Network should cover approximately 34 % of Bulgaria's territory.

So far around 500 potential Natura 2000 sites were identified till December 2004. For 129 of them ecological information required for Natura 2000 Standard Data Form is fully or partly collected.

The distribution of the different types of sites is:

- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in accordance with the Birds Directive, covering around 23% of the Bulgarian territory;
- proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCI) in accordance with the Habitats Directive, covering around 29% of the Bulgarian territory.

SPAs and pSCIs overlap on around 19% of Bulgaria's territory.

There is need of significant amount of fieldwork to be accomplished in terms of describing and presenting to EC information in the required format. There are several projects with different scope and duration starting at the beginning of 2005 in order to cover this need. They are presented and summarized in item 3.5 *Linked Activities* of the present fiche. So far MoEW is ready to perform its duty until accession date (January 2007).

The National Nature Protection Service (NNPS) of Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) is the Bulgarian governmental body charged with the responsibility of preparing Bulgaria for compliance with the requirements of EU Habitats and Birds Directives. However, as far back as in 2000 the NNPS acknowledged that it does not have the capacity to manage the Natura 2000 preparation process. Most notably, the NNPS lacks the human and financial resources to staff and finance a Natura 2000 Secretariat to manage and co-ordinate field inventory work and to compile and analyse biodiversity and spatial data in the National Natura 2000 GIS / Database. At the present moment these activities are more or less undertaken by the above-mentioned projects and mainly by the two major projects financed by the Enterprise for Management of Environmental Protection Activities (EMEPA), MoEW and implemented by Green Balkans - Federation of Nature Conservation NGOs and Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, respectively.

Still there are a lot more essential for the establishment of Natura 2000 network in Bulgaria activities remaining uncovered by the ongoing projects. They are mainly in the field of information dissemination (considered to be quite insufficient and even neglected till the present moment) and implementation of the national legislation (considering mainly the Bulgarian Biodiversity Act) in its turn transposing the requirements of the two EU Directives, particularly the preparation of the needed documentation; organising public hearings; accomplishment of the relevant designation procedures and the subsequent management of designated sites. Further external support is therefore required and the NNPS developed the idea of a PHARE funded project to assist it with preparation for Natura 2000.

The form of the Natura 2000 information submitted to the European Commission (maps in scale 1: 100 000) is not enough detailed for clarifying the exact boundaries and the "affected" stakeholders. The base map (Ownership and Land use map) that has been administratively accepted in Bulgaria is in scale 1: 5 000. All of the administrations (state, regional, municipal, forest) work with this map. The presenting of the boundaries of the potential Natura 2000 sites in a different than the accepted format would be apprehended as not a serious attitude on the behalf of MoEW and it could have negative effect on the public hearings as well as on the whole process.

This is why a large amount of technical work needs to be completed in which almost all 263 Municipal offices "Agriculture and Forestry" will be involved.

Lack of general dissemination of information to all stakeholders, as well as establishment of a negotiation methodology with the landowners and possessors, also was identified as a weak point of

the current developments in the nature protection sector, which need to be resolved as soon as possible.

In accordance with the recommendations within Peer Review report (23 -25 June 2004) the PHARE project will focus on the strengthening of the administrative capacity on central, regional and local level on the enforcement and implementation of the Directives requirements, as well as on designation and management of the proposed Natura 2000 sites.

In order to meet Bulgaria's obligations under the Birds Directive and Article 6 of the Habitat Directive as transposed in the Bulgarian Biodiversity Act, preparation of management plans for all designated sites is required. However, in view of the accession process time-scale and the envisaged duration of this project it will focus primarily on the preparation of management plans for the SPAs.

3.2 Sectoral rationale

Not applicable.

3.3 Results

3.3.1. Purpose

The Project Purpose can be summarized as follows:

- A list of proposed sites to constitute the Bulgarian Natura 2000 network legally approved by the Bulgarian Government and submitted to European Commission in accordance with the requirements of EU Directive 92/43 (Habitats) and the EU Directive 79/409 (Birds).
- Designation and management of special protected areas (SPAs – Birds) developed in line with the provisions of the Directives.

3.3.2. Results

The Project Purpose will be pursued by delivering the following Project Results:

1. Documentation required under national legislation for all of the proposed Natura 2000 sites prior to their submission to European Commission in line with Art. 4 of EU Directive 92/43 (Habitats) prepared.
2. Methodology for negotiation with landowners and possessors of the land – developed.
3. Public hearings with the participation of representatives of the ministries and central government departments concerned, of the competent administrative regional administrations and municipalities, research and academic institutes, ecologist and public organizations carried out.
4. Accomplished site designation procedure in line with Art.12 of the Biodiversity Act for all SPAs (sites under the Birds Directive only).
5. Management plans for priority SPAs endorsed.

6. Administrative capacity on central, regional, and local level – trained on the enforcement and implementation of the Directives requirements, as well as on the management of the proposed Natura 2000 sites and identification of the new ones.
7. Information on NATURA 2000 network- disseminated to all the stakeholders.

3.4 Activities

The sections below describe the key activities required to deliver each of the project Results:

1. Preparation of the documentation required under Art.8 of the Biodiversity Act for all of the proposed Natura 2000 sites (both SPAs and pSCIs).

During ecological investigations, large amount of information required by this paragraph was already collected such as purpose, SDF, and maps. Now the aim is to collect missing “technical” information:

- Work on administrative appliance of Natura 2000 in Bulgaria - activities to “translate” and “visualise” EU requirements to the day-to-day administrative level of Municipalities, Forestry Units etc. Verification and adjustment of the boundaries of potential Natura 2000 sites (in scale 1:100 000) and national cadastre (in scale 1: 5 000).
 - Assistance in the Assignment of land use and area distribution of forests, land tracts and aquatic areas for each proposed site.
2. Implementing the legal procedures for both SPAs and pSCIs stated with Art.9 and 10 of the Biodiversity Act.
 - Development of methodology for negotiation with landowners and possessors of the land – on the basis of the Member States best practises - issuance of guidelines, workshops for the state officials and stakeholders involved, etc. Prepare answers to frequently asked question in relation with restrictions, compensations etc.
 - Preparation of materials to be discussed during the public hearings and distributed among the participants.
 - Assistance in the Conducting of public hearings with the participation of representatives of the ministries and central-government departments concerned, of the competent administrative regional administrations and municipalities, research and academic institutes, ecologist and public organizations in accordance with Art. 9 of the Biodiversity Act.
 - Assistance in the Preparation for submission of collected documentation for Natura 2000 list of sites (including the Minutes from the public hearings) to the National Biodiversity Council for discussions in accordance with Art. 10 of the Biodiversity Act.
 3. Designation of SPAs (sites under the Birds Directive only) in line with Art.12 of the Biodiversity Act.

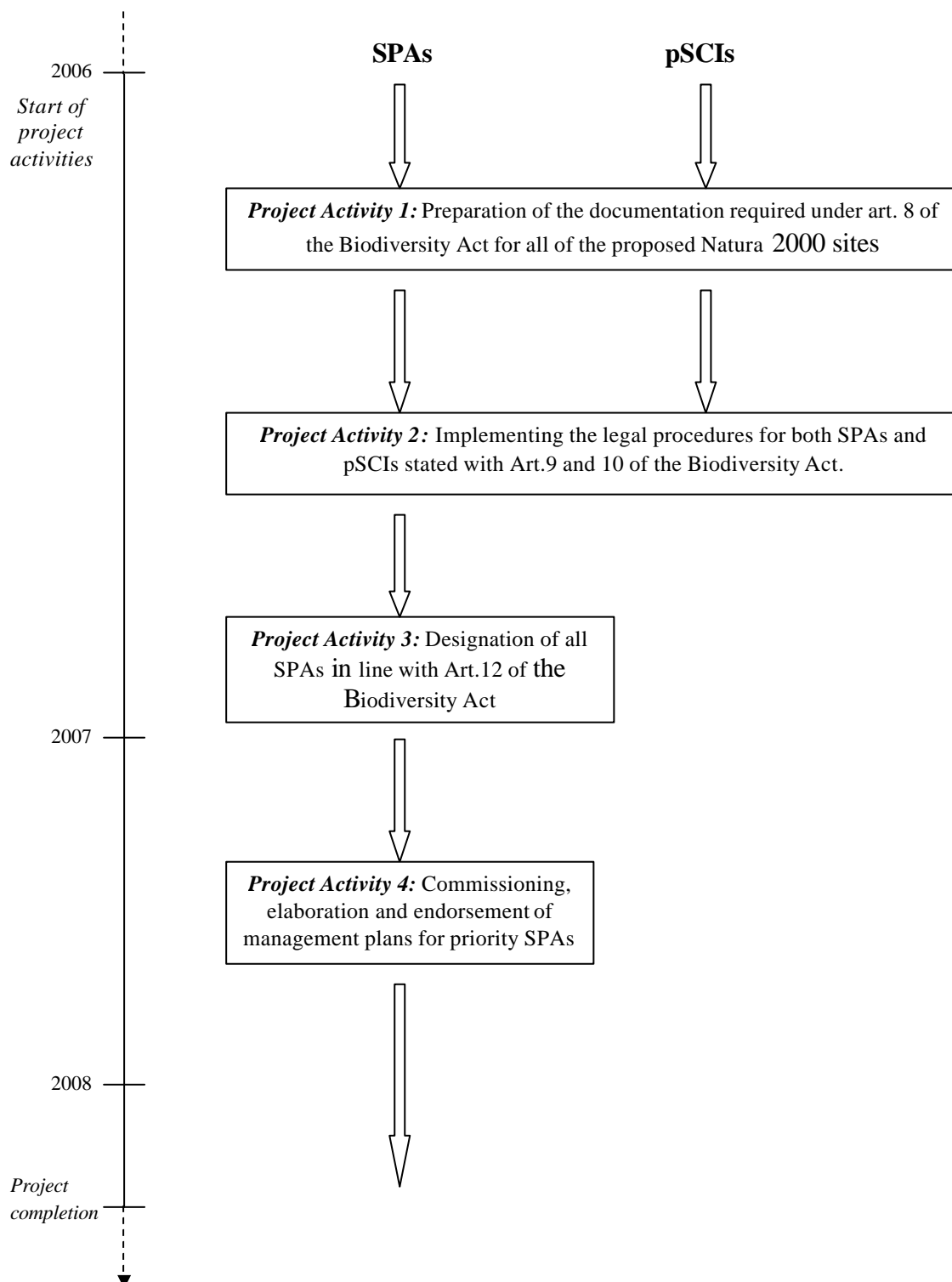
Preparation of draft text for the Official Designation Orders – arguments for designation, purpose, total area and distribution of land use, geographical coordinates of the site boundaries, description of all plot's numbers included within the site boundary, restrictions on certain activities.

4. elaboration of management plans for priority SPAs

Ramsar sites and Important Bird Areas are to be considered as priority SPAs.

- Preparation of draft management plans containing a general description of the protected zone and of the components thereof; the management objectives in the protected zone; the standards, regimes, conditions or recommendations for the performance of: activities in the forests, land tracts and aquatic areas; development of infrastructure and construction; organization of management and other activities ensuring attainment of the objectives as set; short-term and long-term action programmes associated with scientific research and monitoring of the environmental media, maintenance of endangered species, communities and habitats, environmental awareness and education, etc.
 - Assistance in the Conducting of public discussions of the draft management plans where required by the national legislation.
 - Assistance in the Submission for adoption of draft management plans to the Ministry of Environment and Water with the terms of reference, minutes of proceedings at the public discussions; summaries of any unincorporated remarks set forth at the public discussions, and any objections and observations of the MoEW on any such remarks, reports on scientific researches and studies conducted in the process of elaboration of the drafts and consolidated results of seminars, informal working meetings and other forms of participation of the public and state bodies concerned in the process of elaboration of management plans, attached.
5. Training of relevant state regional and local officials on the enforcement and implementation of the EU Directives requirements, as well as of management of the proposed Natura 2000 sites and identification of the new ones – workshops, seminars, issuance of manuals/guidelines;
6. Dissemination of information through media, short films, lectures, printed materials on Natura 2000 network;

Figure1: Schedule of SPA and pSCI project activities in compliance with EU requirements



3.5 Linked activities:

Name of the project: Preparation of the Bulgarian Natura 2000 network of protected zones

Donor: Enterprise for Management of Environmental Protection Activities (EMEPA), MoEW

Implementing organization: “Green Balkans – Stara Zagora”, Nature Conservation NGO

Project duration: 01.02.2005 – 31.12.2005

Budget: 619 000 BGL /= 309 500 Euro/

Project Aims:

- 1) Implementation of engagements of Bulgaria in the process of EU accession on designation of NATURA 2000 network;
- 2) Preparation of required by EC documentation on potential NATURA 2000 sites – Standard Data Forms and maps based on field inventories of EU significant habitats and species;
- 3) Keeping momentum of DANCEE project as a guarantee of quality and in time fulfilment of engagements.

Project activities:

1. Coordination of Natura 2000 network establishment at national level.
Coordination and QA of field inventories.
Maintenance and update of National Natura 2000 GIS and Database.
2. Field inventories:
 - Select sites to be investigated;
 - Carry out field inventories in sites where there is no or insufficient biodiversity data available;
 - Compile and analyze existing biodiversity data from protected areas network in Bulgaria;
 - Prepare Standard NATURA 2000 data forms for sites investigated;
 - Compile inventory results in MoEW NATURA 2000 Data base and analyze data.
3. Establish national figures for habitat coverage and population sizes to assess level of compliance with EU requirements and gaps.
4. Clarification of NATURA 2000 site boundaries and adjustments of 1:100,000 maps to National cadastre in scale 1: 5 000. Estimation of land use and land purpose within proposed NATURA 2000 sites.

Name of the project: Preparation of representative and functionally integrated national ecological network in its part concerning the protected zones for birds as part of the European ecological network Natura 2000

Donor: EMEPA, MoEW with the additional financial support of BirdLife International, RSPB, DEFRA, PIN Matra KNIP, MATRA, EU and Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation (BEPF)

Implementing organization: Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB)

Project duration: 01.02.2005 – 31.12.2005

Budget: 127 6400 BGL /= 63 820 Euro

Main project aims are: Completion, processing and analyzing of the information needed for the establishment of the network of protected zones for birds in accordance with art. 6 (1), items 3 and 4 of the Biodiversity Act in line with the provisions of the Birds Directive and the best European practices and institutional and public support for the establishment of the network of protected zones for birds to be provided for.

Name of the project: NATURA 2000 IN BULGARIA - PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION

Donor: Support Scheme for Nature Projects in Central and Eastern Europe (PIN- MATRA)

Implementing organization: Centre for Environmental Information and Education

Duration: 01 October 2004 - 31 March 2006

Budget: 99,494 Euro

The objectives of the project are: To develop the NATURA 2000 network by developing around 10 % of the possible NATURA 2000 sites on Bulgarian territory; to raise NGOs' and Scientific Institutions' knowledge on specific issues focused on the management of the NATURA 2000 sites; to create a NGO platform on NATURA 2000.

Title: Developing a National Biodiversity Monitoring System for Bulgaria.

Donor: Dutch Senter

Implementing Partner: MoEW, Executive Environment Agency

Duration: January 2004 - June 2005

Budget: Euro 0.36 million

The project purposes are:

- 1) Development of a national programme for biodiversity monitoring;
- 2) Capacity Strengthening of the Executive Environment Agency; and
- 3) Capacity building of Regional Inspectorate Staff in the field of biodiversity monitoring. A key activity is to establish a database at the Environmental Executive Agency for biodiversity monitoring. This database should be compatible with the MoEW Natura 2000 GIS / Database and so some future co-ordination is foreseen.

3.6 Lessons learned

The lessons listed below are those learned during the development and implementation of the DANCEE supported project:

MoEW/NNPS:

The DANCEE Supported Project was implemented in collaboration with the NNPS under MoEW. The interaction and collaboration between the counterparts is crucial to the development of the planned activities.

Involvement of NGOs and Scientists:

Bulgarian NGOs and Scientists have been deeply involved in the DANCEE Supported Natura 2000 Project, right from the start of developing the Project to the time of implementation. Although it has often been difficult to reach consensus, the high interest in Natura 2000 and in the Project is viewed as positive, as the NGO and scientist participation insures that findings are subject to a wide public discussion and scrutiny.

Information Sharing and Co-ordination:

It is observed that projects, NGOs, scientist and other parties in Bulgaria tend to see data and information as something to hold onto rather than sharing with others. Collection of data therefore becomes cumbersome and occasionally different projects carry out overlapping activities and surveys because of lack of co-ordination and sharing of information.

4. Institutional Framework

The Ministry of the Environment and Waters (MoEW) is the responsible authority for the enforcement of the legislation.

The National Nature Protection Service within the Ministry for Environment and Water will be in charge with the co-ordination, the leading and monitoring of the implementation process on nature protection legislation.

A Project Steering Committee will be established to:

- Monitor project implementation by *reading and discussing* Project Inception Reports, Progress Reports and Completion Report;
- *Provide recommendations* to the Ministry of Environment and Water on project progress, approval of Project Reports, and any other matter of relevance to the project;
- *Provide guidance* to the Management Team of the MoEW Natura 2000 secretariat as required.

Representatives from the following groups should be members of the PSC:

- Ministry of Environment and Water (Chair);
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forests;
- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works;
- Bulgarian Academy of Science;
- NGOs representatives;

A Management Team of the MoEW Natura 2000 Secretariat, *responsible for project implementation*, will be established. A Technical Advisory Network will advise the MoEW Natura 2000 Secretariat on technical and scientific issues related to Natura 2000 preparations, most notably related to results of field inventories and selection of sites to be included in the Bulgarian Natura 2000 network.

5. Detailed Budget

| | Phare/Pre - Accession Instrument support | Co-financing | | | Total Cost |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
| €M | | National Public Funds (*) | Other Sources (**) | Total Co- financing of Project | |
| Year 2005 Institution Building support | | | | | |
| Contract 1 TA | 1.800 | -- | -- | -- | 1.800 |
| IB support | 1.800 | -- | -- | -- | 1.800 |
| Total project 2005 | 1.800 | -- | -- | -- | 1.800 |

(*) The national co-financing of 25% for the investment component will be covered from the national budget, through the National Fund Directorate at the Ministry of Finance.

(**) Private funds, FIs loans to private entities.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Implementing Agency

The CFCU will be the Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting with assisting in good project design and implementation and PHARE procurement and payment rules. The CFCU (Ministry of Finance) is in charge of the contracting and financial management. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance will act as PAO of the project. His contact details are:

Mr Tencho Popov
Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance and PAO
102 Rakovski Str.
1040 Sofia
Tel: 359 2 9859 2772
Fax: 359 2 9859 2873

6.2 Twinning

Not applicable.

6.3 Non-standard aspects

The PRAG Procedure will strictly be followed.

6.4 Contracts

1. One contract for service – 1,8 M Euro

7. Implementation Schedule

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|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 7.1. Start of tendering | September 2005 |
| 7.2. Start of project activity | February 2006 |
| 7.3. Completion | September 2008 |

8. Equal Opportunity

The institutions involved in the project execution will observe and ensure equal opportunity of men and women to access to the project activities and results. Qualifications, specialization and previous work achievements will be the only criteria for selecting the executors.

9. Environment

Not Applicable

10. Rates of return

Not Applicable

11. Investment criteria

Not Applicable

12. Conditionality and sequencing

MoEW/NNPS will assign staff from the regional inspectorates to participate in project activities.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Logframe
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule, by quarter, for full duration of project (including disbursement period)
4. Reference list of feasibility/pre-feasibility studies
5. Reference list of relevant laws and regulations
6. Reference list of relevant strategic plans and studies

ANNEX 1
LOGFRAME

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Project Logframe | Project name and number | Preparation of a Bulgarian Natura 2000 Network | |
| | Contracting period expires: November 2007 | Disbursement period expires: November 2008 | |
| | | Total Budget: 1,800,000 | PHARE budget: 1,800,000 |

| <i>Overall objective</i> | <i>Objectively verifiable indicators</i> | <i>Sources of Verification</i> | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Contribution to nature protection in Bulgaria through enforcement of Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats) and Directive 79/409/EEC (Birds) | Natura 2000 sites designated in Bulgaria by accession Bulgarian Natura 2000 sites submitted and approved from the European Commission after the accession Management plans endorsed for priority SPAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National biodiversity monitoring reports covering surveys and population estimates Findings from EU-biogeographical seminars (if the information is provided by the EC) State Gazette | |
| <i>Project purpose</i> | <i>Objectively verifiable indicators</i> | <i>Sources of Verification</i> | <i>Assumptions</i> |
| <p>A list of proposed sites to constitute the Bulgarian Natura 2000 network legally approved by the Bulgarian Government and submitted to European Commission in accordance with the requirements of EU Directive 92/43 (Habitats) and the EU Directive 79/409 (Birds)</p> <p>Designation and management of special protected areas (SPAs – Birds) developed in line with the provisions of the Directives.</p> | <p>List of Bulgarian Natura 2000 sites with the required documentation fully applied submitted to the European Union by accession (31 December 2006)</p> <p>Designation orders issued by the Minister of Environment and Water for all SPAs, by the end of 2006.</p> <p>Management plans endorsed for priority SPAs after accession.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoEW Natura 2000 database (on potential Natura 2000 sites) MoEW Natura 2000 GIS of potential Natura 2000 sites Compiled documents for submission to the European Union State Gazette Endorsed management plans | The MoEW, MAF, MRDPW and other government institutions will actively contribute for EU membership preparation. |

| Results | Objectively verifiable indicators | Sources of Verification | Assumptions |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Documentation required under national legislation for all of the proposed Natura 2000 sites prior to their submission to European Commission in line with Art. 4 of EU Directive 92/43 (Habitats) prepared. | <p>Borders of sites laid on maps in scale 1 : 5 000 till mid-2006 at the latest</p> <p>Prepared site dossiers according to Art.8 of the Biodiversity Act till mid-2006 at the latest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assigned site use - Area distribution of forests, land tracts and aquatic areas - Standard forms completed with data and evaluations; - maps | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoEW Natura 2000 GIS and database • Site dossiers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data of sufficient quality and quantity included in Natura 2000 standard data forms can be obtained from the relevant ongoing projects and other sources within the time available. • Access to Bulgarian Base Map, Bulgarian Ownership and Land use map and other Bulgarian sources of spatial information is provided by relevant partner ministries and other parties |
| Methodology for negotiation of landowners and possessors of the land – developed | Methodology guidelines issued by mid 2006. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued methodology guidelines • Project Progress reports | |
| Public hearings with the participation of representatives of the ministries and central-government departments concerned, of the competent administrative regional administrations and municipalities, research and academic institutes, ecologist and public organizations carried out. | <p>General level of acceptance of Natura 2000 network by authorities and stakeholders reached</p> <p>Minutes taken of the observations and proposals at the public hearings attached to the site dossiers</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site dossiers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong involvement of the 15 Regional Environmental Inspectorates on local level |

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| Accomplished site designation procedure in line with Art.12 of the Biodiversity Act for all SPAs (sites under the Birds Directive only) | SPAs designated as protected zones under the Bulgarian Biodiversity Act by accession (31 December 2006) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designation orders issued in State Gazette | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft list of protected zones approved by the National Council on Biological Diversity and subsequently by the Council of Ministers. |
| Management plans for priority SPAs endorsed. | elaboration of management plans for priority SPAs. from accession onwards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed management plans • State Gazette | |
| Administrative capacity on central, regional and local level – trained on the enforcement and implementation of the Directives requirements, as well as on the management of the proposed Natura 2000 sites. | Staff - 200 officials and specialists trained | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes and pictures resulted from all the trainings and meetings held, supporting the project documents • Project Progress reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As much as possible representatives of all state and regional authorities on local level to be permanent participants in the training activities • As much as possible (more than 1) regional authorities included |
| Information on NATURA 2000 network- disseminated to all the stakeholders; | Issued brochures, leaflets, posters, stickers, publication materials, Home page etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of the materials issued, web-page established • Project Progress reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stakeholders, beneficiaries and participants in trainings disseminate information learnt among the wide public |

| <i>Activities</i> | <i>Means</i> | | <i>Assumptions</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. Preparation of the documentation required under Art.8 of the Biodiversity Act for all of the proposed Natura 2000 sites (both SPAs and pSCIs)</p> <p>a) Work on administrative appliance of Natura 2000 in Bulgaria - activities to “translate” and “visualise” EU requirements to the day-to-day administrative level of Municipalities, Forestry Units etc. Verification and adjustment of the boundaries of potential Natura 2000 sites (in scale 1:100 000) and national cadastre (in scale 1: 5 000).</p> <p>b) Assignment of land use and area distribution of forests, land tracts and aquatic areas for each proposed site</p> <p>2. Implementing the legal procedures for both SPAs and pSCIs stated with Art.9 and 10 of the Biodiversity Act.</p> <p>a. Development of methodology for negotiation with landowners and possessors of the land – on the basis of the Member States best practises - issuance of guidelines, workshops for the state officials and stakeholders involved, etc. Prepare answers to frequently asked question in relation with restrictions, compensations etc.</p> <p>b. Preparation of materials to be discussed during the public hearings and distributed among the participants.</p> <p>c. Conducting of public hearings with the participation of representatives of the ministries and central-government departments concerned, of the competent administrative regional administrations and municipalities, research and academic institutes, ecologist and public organizations in accordance with Art. 9 of the</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One contract for TA | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of local/international experts for Natura 2000 Secretariat • MoEW ensures counterpart staff available to work with Project Team • Suitable office space for the Project provided by MoEW. • Base maps and spatial information of target sites obtained, either by procurement from private owners, or as in-kind contribution from government agencies • Digital forest database and Ownership and land use maps obtained • 100 % of working time involvement of the appointed Natura 2000 officers of the Regional Environmental Inspectorates, MoEW |

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| <p>Biodiversity Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Preparation for submission of collected documentation for Natura 2000 list of sites (including the Minutes from the public hearings) to the National Biodiversity Council for discussions in accordance with Art. 10 of the Biodiversity Act. <p>3. Designation of all SPAs (sites under the Birds Directive only) in line with Art.12 of the Biodiversity Act</p> <p>4. Commissioning, elaboration and endorsement of management plans for priority SPAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Commissioning of management plans – terms of reference for management plans preparation and submission to MoEW for endorsement. b. Preparation of draft management plans containing a general description of the protected zone and of the components thereof; the management objectives in the protected zone; the standards, regimes, conditions or recommendations for the performance of: activities in the forests, land tracts and aquatic areas; development of infrastructure and construction; organization of management and other activities ensuring attainment of the objectives as set; short-term and long-term action programmes associated with scientific research and monitoring of the environmental media, maintenance of endangered species, communities and habitats, environmental awareness and education, etc. c. Conducting of public discussions of the draft management plans where required by the national legislation. d. Submission for adoption of draft management | | | |
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| <p>plans to the Ministry of Environment and Water with the terms of reference, minutes of proceedings at the public discussions; summaries of any unincorporated remarks set forth at the public discussions, and any objections and observations of the MoEW on any such remarks, reports on scientific researches and studies conducted in the process of elaboration of the drafts and consolidated results of seminars, informal working meetings and other forms of participation of the public and state bodies concerned in the process of elaboration of management plans, attached.</p> <p>5. Training of the state officials from the regional inspectorates on the enforcement and implementation of the EU Directives requirements, as well as of management of the proposed Natura 2000 sites and identification of the new ones – workshops, seminars, issuance of manuals/guidelines;</p> <p>6. Dissemination of information through media, short films, lectures, printed materials on Natura 2000 network;</p> | | | |
| <p>Preconditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of Nature protection legislation • Availability of completed standard data forms for the sites to be proposed and national Natura 2000 database • Availability of base maps and spatial information of proposed sites | | | |

ANNEX 2
DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION CHART

| Components | 2005 | | | | 2006 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | S | C | N | D | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | | | |
| Contract 1 (TA) | D | D | D | C | C | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | R | | | |

D = Design/Tender Preparation C= Contracting I=Implementation/Works R=Review/Evaluation

ANNEX 3
CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

| <i>Date</i> | 30/09/05 | 31/12/05 | 31/03/06 | 31/06/06 | 30/09/06 | 31/12/06 | 31/03/07 | 31/06/07 | 31/09/07 | 31/12/07 | 31/03/08 | 31/06/08 | 30/09/08 |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Contract 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Contracted | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| Disbursed | 0.45 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.85 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 |

ANNEX 4

REFERENCE LIST OF FEASIBILITY/PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Project Completion Report November 2004, Project “Conservation of species and habitats in Bulgaria: EU approximation”, DEPA

ANNEX 5

REFERENCE LIST OF RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- Biodiversity Act (SG 77/2002);
- Law on protected areas (SG 133/1998);

ANNEX 6

REFERENCE LIST OF RELEVANT STRATEGIC PLANS AND STUDIES

- The National Biodiversity Conservation Plan