

## Standard Summary Project Fiche for the Transition Facility

### 1. Basic Information

- 1.1 CRIS Number: 2007/019-303.04.06
- 1.2 Twinning contract BG/07/IB/EN /06
- 1.3 Title: **Strengthening Institutional Capacity for the Implementation of the Nature Protection *Acquis*.**
- 1.4 Sector: Environment
- 1.5 Location: Ministry of Environment and Water

### 2. Objectives

#### 2.1 Overall Objective(s):

To achieve an improved conservation status of the natural environment in Bulgaria, in particular Natura 2000 sites, which include Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas designated under the Wild Birds Directive.

#### 2.2 Project purpose:

To contribute towards the implementation of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and more specifically to enhance the management of the Natura 2000 sites and to increase the national capacity of the responsible authorities.

#### 2.3 Justification

The process of identification of potential Natura 2000 sites has been completed. Designation and management of Natura 2000 sites are the main focus in order to comply with and implement the Habitats and Birds Directives.

A sector-wide training and capacity building is required for Bulgaria to fully comply with the obligations arising from the Nature Protection *Acquis* in relation to Natura 2000 network.

### 3. Description

#### 3.1 Background and justification:

##### ***Present situation***

Bulgaria is one of the richest in biodiversity countries in Europe and has a number of sites that are protected for their ecological, scientific, and landscape value. These include the areas that are protected in six categories under the Protected Areas Act (1998) and the sites which will be included in the Natura 2000 network designated under the Biodiversity Act (2002). The identification process which completed in 2006 shows that Bulgaria will have one of the highest designation of Natura 2000 sites and respectively highest percentage of national coverage.

Ministry of Environment and Water has already enhanced capacity building with respect to nature protection in view of future work in conjunction with the EU *Acquis*. Nevertheless, the capacity building for management of Natura 2000 sites and implementation of the two Directives would have to continue and adequate training and experience sharing is required.

Also, the management and monitoring of Natura 2000 sites requires a network of skilled professionally trained people capable of undertaking all necessary measures to meet the objectives of Natura 2000, particularly in the:

**FINAL**



- preparation and implementation of management plans;
- maintenance and/or restoration to a favourable conservation status of relevant habitats and species;
- monitoring;
- assessment of the impacts of projects and activities on Natura 2000 sites;
- integration of plans with the objectives of Natura 2000 sites;
- involving of the public and stakeholders in the management of Natura 2000 sites.

### 3.2 Linked activities:

This project will build upon the results of the pre-accession Projects: "Conservation of Species and Habitats in Bulgaria: EU-Approximation" - /DANCEE Ref.№ 129 — 0261 financed by Danish Cooperation for Environment in Eastern Europe (DANCEE), Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA) and Ministry of Environment of Copenhagen, Denmark; "Preparation of the Bulgarian NATURA 2000 network of protected zones" – financed by **Enterprise for Management of Environmental Protection Activities which is MoEW`s funding, № 4672/01.02.2005.**; "Establishment of coherent National Ecological Network of Special Protection Areas as part of the European Ecological Network NATURA" – financed by **Enterprise for Management of Environmental Protection Activities which is MoEW`s funding №4693/16.02.2005,** which aimed at the identification of the potential Natura 2000 sites and preparation of the standard documentation. There is a direct link between the project and the pre-accession projects. The project will focus on the management training and capacity building for the management of the Natura 2000 network developed by the pre-accession projects.

There is a need to address the obligations under the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives holistically and to include measures that tackle the assessment of development plans and projects and the management of landscape features that are important for wild fauna and flora. It is envisaged that this project will assist Ministry of Environment and Water in meeting the objectives of these Directives with respect to the management of Natura 2000 sites. This project will build on the results of the pre-accession projects.

### 3.3 Results:

- Increased capacity on national level and trained staff for management of Natura 2000 sites and implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives.
- Trained staff of the Ministry of Environment and Water and its regional structures through implemented seminars.
- Informed and trained stakeholders through implemented seminars.
- Implemented traineeships for local administrations.

### 3.4 Activities:

**Activity 1** – Capacity Building within the Ministry of Environment of Water and its regional structures

This activity will consist of a series of **five training seminars** (three days each) covering the following topics:

- preparation and implementation of management plans;
- monitoring of the activities identified by management plans;
- assessment of the impacts of development projects and activities on Natura 2000 sites;
- integration of development plans with the management objectives of Natura 2000 sites;
- involvement of the public and stakeholders in the management of Natura 2000 sites;

**FINAL**

- enforcement of legislation addressing nature protection;
- reporting obligations under the Habitats Directive and the Wild Birds Directive.

These seminars will be supplemented by a series of **practical training sessions** that will take place on site within selected protected areas. In addition to the above, consultancy and expert advice shall be provided to assist with the actual **development of management plans** for sites selected by the project expert based on specific criteria and sites' local conditions, use and different interests.

#### **Activity 2 – Training for Stakeholders**

This activity will consist of a national two-days **information seminar** involving all stakeholders. In addition, a series of four (4) one-day **workshops**, addressing different audiences, will be held:

- to increase awareness of the obligations under Articles 6 and 10 of the Habitats Directive;
- to identify and discuss possible conflicting interests;
- to identify ways of participation in the management of Natura 2000 sites.

The workshop target audiences will be as follows:

Workshop 1 – addressing Environmental NGOs, Environmental Consultants, other Environmental organizations.

Workshop 2 – addressing Regulatory/ Implementing bodies, namely Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works and their regional structures.

Workshop 3 – addressing financial institutions and business associations.

Workshop 4 – addressing special interest groups, including farmers' & fishermen associations, hunters' associations, outdoor sports and leisure clubs.

For this purpose, the services of the same three experts will be required who shall be spending in Bulgaria a total of 14 additional working days each, divided between 5 visits.

#### **Activity 3 - Traineeships**

Fifteen **traineeships** of one-week duration each shall be provided by the Twinning partner. These should preferably take place with institutions that are involved in the practical and successful management of Natura 2000 sites. The traineeships will provide direct practical experience and knowledge to local administrations, which are involved in the management of Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria of the best EU practices in the field.

The traineeships shall be provided for 15 experts from the beneficiary institutions listed in point 4 of the project. The exact studies, number of visits and number of experts per visit shall be defined by the expert in accordance with the specific training needs and project objectives. The expert shall also identify the administrative bodies and expert positions for which the traineeships will be provided in accordance with the precise training needs rising from their duties. This selection shall be based on prioritisation of the administrative necessity.

The whole project will be implemented through a Twinning agreement with another Member State and will take place over an 18-month period.

#### **3.5 Lessons learned:**

The main lesson learned from the pre-accession projects related to Natura 2000 was that Bulgaria will have one of the largest coverage of the network on national level which will require a lot of efforts to manage. The pre-accession projects revealed that further capacity building on national level is needed for the proper management of Natura 2000 and achieving the goals of the network. The administration responsible for the management will need further capacity building in order to fulfil the obligations under the Habitats and Birds Directives.

**FINAL**



This proposed project would address the entire sector, targeting all nature protection stakeholders.

#### 4. Institutional Framework

Ministry of Environment and Water is the institution responsible for the protection, management and regulation of the environment. Furthermore, it is the institution responsible for the implementation of the Habitats and Bird Directives, designation and management of Natura 2000 sites. Concurrently the Authority has to ensure that land use plans and policies are compatible with the conservation objectives of each Natura 2000 site and that any project or activity that may affect these sites is adequately assessed. Biodiversity and nature protection are the remit of the National Nature Protection Service Directorate (NNPS) within Ministry of Environment and Water. NNPS is responsible for the establishment of Natura 2000 sites and for the coordination of their management and monitoring. However, the implementation of these obligations depends on policy coordination with other regulatory and implementing bodies, namely:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry;
- National Forestry Board;
- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works;
- Ministry of Economy and Energy;
- District administrations;
- Municipalities.

In addition to these, the private sector and NGOs play a prominent role in providing support to the government entities in the formulation of policy, as well as in the practical management of protected areas. All these stakeholders need to be aware of the Directives' obligations, as they will have a role to undertake the respective management tasks on board and they may also propose or develop plans, projects and activities that may affect the Natura 2000 sites. The provision of training to these stakeholders will help for future work in this field.

Therefore, NNPS has an additional role of a co-ordinator and catalyst in establishing the framework within which the Natura 2000 sites are to be managed. It is expected that in the first half of 2007 a Natura 2000 department will be established within NNPS. Presently, at NNPS there are some 26 personnel dealing with biodiversity and protected areas.

#### 5. Detailed Budget

€M	Transition Facility support			Co-financing			Total cost
	Investment	Institution Building	Total Transition Facility (=I+IB)	National Public Funds (*)	Other Sources (**)	Total co-financing of the project	TF plus cofinancing
Twinning contract		0,400	0,400	*			0,400
<b>Total</b>		0,400	0,400	*			0,400

(\*) up to 10 % national co-financing for the twinning project will be provided from the State budget through the National Fund Directorate

Contributions from the Bulgarian administration for effective implementation of the twinning/twinning light/TA may be further detailed in the twinning contract/terms of references.

To ensure smooth implementation of the project, the beneficiary will provide adequately equipped office space with telephone, PC (Internet) and fax. Photocopier and access to the necessary information as well as secretarial

**FINAL**

support will be ensured during the project life-time. In addition the beneficiary will provide space and facilities for workshops (training), consultations and seminars. The national co-financing will be specified in the twinning contract.

Contributions from National, Regional, Local, Municipal authorities, FIs loans to public entities, funds from public enterprises. All the co-financing is joint co-financing and will be provided from the state budget. In the case where the final overall cost is lower than foreseen in the project fiche, the national public and Transition Facility co-financing shall be reduced proportionally so as to maintain the agreed rate of co-financing.

(\*\*) private funds, FIs loans to private entities

## **6. Implementation Arrangements**

### **6.1 Implementing Agency**

The CFCU - Ministry of Finance of Republic of Bulgaria is the Implementing Agency (IA) for this project. The financial management of the twinning arrangements will be the responsibility of CFCU.

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.

Her contact details are:

Mrs Gergana Beremska  
Secretary General – PAO  
Ministry of Finance  
102, Rakovski Str. 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria  
Tel. + 359 2 9859 2772; Fax + 359 2 9859 2773

### **6.2 Twinning**

The Twinning Manual will apply to this project.

This project will be implemented through a Twinning contract with other Member State. A Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) will work closely with and advise the Ministry of Environment and Water throughout the project duration.

He/she shall have at least 8 years working experience in the area of nature protection in a Member State administration and will have a sound knowledge of the EU Nature protection *Acquis* and its requirements. The RTA shall also have extensive experience in management and coordination and should have good interpersonal and communication skills.

### **SPO**

#### **Contact details:**

Name: Mr. Atanas Kostadinov - SPO  
Position: Deputy Minister  
Address: 1000 Sofia, 67 W. Gladstone Str.  
Telephone: +359 2 940 62 57  
Fax: +359 2 981 66 10  
E-mail: AKostadinov@moew.government.bg

The responsible persons for twinning arrangement at the MOEW are:

**FINAL**



**BC Project Leader**

The Bulgarian Project Leader shall direct the implementation of the project and shall be responsible for the substance and the progress of the project.

Nikolay Nedialkov

Natura 2000 Department

Ministry of Environment and Water

67, William Gladstone Str. 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Tel.: + 359 2 940 6107 Fax: + 359 2 940 6127

**BC Project implementation manager and RTA counterpart**

RTA counterpart will work on a day-to day basis with the RTA.

Mrs Asya Doneva

Expert in the Nature Protection Directorate

Ministry of Environment and Water

67, Maria Louisa Blvd., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Tel.: + 359 2 940 66 48 Fax: + 359 2 980 33 17

e-mail: [adoneva@moew.government.bg](mailto:adoneva@moew.government.bg)

**Steering committee:**

**Chairman of the Steering committee:**

**Ministry of environment and water (MoEW)**

**Members:**

**Ministry of Finance**

**Directorate for Management of European Funds**

**Ministry of environment and water (MoEW)**

**Regional Inspectorates**

**Short Term Experts' Profiles**

**Public Sector Expert 1**, having a minimum of 15 years of experience in the development of management plans for terrestrial sites that are eligible for Natura 2000 and competence in the areas described above. The expert shall be required to spend a total of 40 working days (between five visits) in Bulgaria, during which he/she will organise and hold seminars, workshops, practical visits on-site and provide the required input in the development of management plans;

**Public Sector Expert 2**, having a minimum of 15 years of experience in the development of management plans for marine sites that are eligible for Natura 2000 and competence in the areas described above. The expert shall be required to spend a total of 20 working days in Bulgaria (between two visits), during which he/she will organise and hold seminars, workshops, practical visits on-site and provide the required input in the development of management plans;

**Public Sector Expert 3**, having a minimum of 8 years of experience in the implementation of management plans. The expert shall be required to spend a total of 10 working days in Bulgaria (between two visits), during which he/she will assist Expert 1 and Expert 2, particularly with the practical sessions on the implementation of management plans.

6.3 Non-standard aspects  
N/A

6.4 Contracts

**FINAL**

This project will be implemented through one Twinning Contract for the value of 400,000 euros and up to 10 % national co-financing between the counterpart Member State and Ministry of Environment and Water.

### **Implementation Schedule**

- 6.5 Start of tendering/call for proposals – November 2007,
- 6.6 Start of project activity – May 2008
- 7.3 Project Completion – December 2009

### **7. Sustainability**

The required human resources already form part of the recruited staff within the Implementing Agency. This project will be incorporated within MOEW Business Plan for 2008 & 2009. The institutional capacity established as a result of this project shall have a long-term positive impact on compliance with the EU Nature protection *Acquis*.

### **8. Conditionality and sequencing**

N/A

### **ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE**

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format (compulsory)
2. Detailed implementation chart (compulsory)
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of programme (including disbursement period) (compulsory)
4. List of relevant Laws and Regulations (optional)

**FINAL** ✓

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project		Programme name and number	
<b>Strengthening Institutional Capacity for the Implementation of the Nature Protection <i>Acquis</i></b>			
<b>Overall Objective</b>		<b>Transition Fac. Budget 0,4 meuro</b>	
		<b>Objectively verifiable Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>
To achieve an improved conservation status of the natural environment in Bulgaria, in particular Natura 2000 sites, which include Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas designated under the Wild Birds Directive.		Enhanced management of the Natura 2000 sites and strengthened administrative capacity of the responsible authorities.	EEA monitoring reports MS report under article 16 of the Habitats directive.
<b>Project Purpose</b>		<b>Objectively verifiable Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>
To contribute towards the implementation of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and more specifically to enhance the management of the Natura 2000 sites and to increase the national capacity of the responsible authorities.		Trained and skilled administration and stakeholders for implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives.	Elaborated management plans. Project progress reports. Documentation sent to the EC.
		Applied management of Natura 2000 sites and undertaken conservation measures for habitats and species in these sites.	Regional and local institutions interested and effectively involved in the project activities.
<b>Results</b>		<b>Objectively verifiable Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>
			<b>Assumptions</b>

# FINAL



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased capacity on national level and trained staff for management of Natura 2000 sites and implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives.</li> <li>Trained staff of the Ministry of Environment and Water and its regional structures through implemented seminars.</li> <li>Informed and trained stakeholders through implemented seminars.</li> <li>Implemented traineeships for local administrations.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall participants' satisfaction and gained knowledge</p> <p>Number of trained officials and specialists;</p> <p>Number of participants in the information seminar;</p> <p>Number of participants in each of the workshops under activity 2;</p> <p>Number of participants as a percent of invited persons/experts for each of the planned activities;</p>	<p>Reports of relevant central, regional and local institutions</p> <p>Project / training level monitoring data and information - surveys carried out at the beginning and at the end of each event among the participants;</p> <p>Lists of participants</p> <p>List of all invited persons/experts</p>	<p>Trainees able to utilize their knowledge gained from training and TA in practical actions.</p>
Activities	Means		Assumptions
<p>1. Capacity building within Ministry of Environment and its regional structures.</p> <p>This activity will consist of a series of <b>five training seminars</b> (three days each) covering the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>preparation and implementation of management plans;</li> <li>monitoring of the activities identified by management plans;</li> <li>assessment of the impacts of development projects and</li> </ul>	<p>One twinning covenant: RTA Short Term Experts</p>		<p>Effective preparation of training schemes. Bulgarian and Member State necessary staff available. Effective co-operation with other institution involved in proposed project Sources of financing</p>


**FINAL**

<p>activities on Natura 2000 sites;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• integration of development plans with the management objectives of Natura 2000 sites;</li> <li>• involvement of the public and stakeholders in the management of Natura 2000 sites;</li> <li>• enforcement of legislation addressing nature protection;</li> <li>• reporting obligations under the Habitats Directive and the Wild Birds Directive.</li> </ul> <p>These seminars will be supplemented by a series of <b>practical training sessions</b> that will take place on site within selected protected areas. In addition to the above, consultancy and expert advice shall be provided to assist with the actual <b>development of management plans</b>.</p> <p>2. Training for Stakeholders</p> <p>This activity will consist of a national two-days <b>information seminar</b> involving all stakeholders. In addition, a series of four (4) one-day <b>workshops</b>, addressing different audiences, will be held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to increase awareness of the obligations under Articles 6 and 10 of the Habitats Directive;</li> <li>- to identify and discuss possible conflicting interests;</li> <li>- to identify ways of participation in the management of Natura 2000 sites.</li> </ul> <p>The workshop target audiences will be as follows:</p> <p>Workshop 1 – addressing Environmental NGOs, Environmental Consultants, other Environmental organizations.</p> <p>Workshop 2 – addressing Regulatory/ Implementing bodies, namely Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works and their regional structures.</p> <p>Workshop 3 – addressing financial institutions and business associations.</p> <p>Workshop 4 – addressing special interest groups, including farmers' &amp; fishermen associations, hunters' associations, outdoor</p>		available
--	--	-----------

FINAL

<p>sports and leisure clubs. For this purpose, the services of the same three experts will be required who shall be spending in Bulgaria a total of 14 additional working days each, divided between 5 visits.</p> <p>3. Traineeships Fifteen <b>traineeships</b> of one-week duration each shall be provided by the Twinning partner. These should preferably take place with institutions that are involved in the practical and successful management of Natura 2000 sites. The traineeships will provide direct practical experience and knowledge to local administrations, which are involved in the management of Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria of the best EU practices in the field.</p>			
			<p><b>Preconditions</b></p>

**FINAL**



**ANNEX 2**

**Detailed Implementation Chart**

Task	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Preparation and carrying out of five (five days each) training seminars for MOEW, RIEW and EEA.																		
Preparation and carrying out of two-day national seminar and four one-day workshops addressing different audience.																		
Preparation and carrying out of fifteen one-week duration traineeships.																		

**ANNEX 3: CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE**

Cumulative Contracting and Disbursement Schedule (0,400million euro)									
Date	01/05/08	31/07/08	31/10/08	31/01/09	30/04/09	31/07/09	31/10/2009		
Contract Tw	0,400								
Contracted	0,400								
Disbursed	0,320	0,336	0,352	0,368	0,384	0,400	0,400		

**FINAL**

1000

**FINAL**

*R*

**FINAL**