



**Government of Bulgaria**

**United Nations Development Programme**

**Global Environment Facility**

**Medium Size project document**

## **Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Process**

**PROJECT DOCUMENT**

### Brief Description

The project strategy is to promote a proactive integration of global environmental issues into the very process of regional and local development, as well as spatial planning, both of which are managed by Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works. This would be achieved by developing the capacity of MRDPW and MOEW to integrate global environmental objectives into the regional and local development policies and practices, as well as into spatial planning documents.



**SIGNATURE PAGE**

**Country:** Bulgaria

**Country Programme Outcome:** Enhanced sustainable management of natural resources  
**Project Implementing Partner:** Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

<b>Project Title:</b> Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Process	<b>Total Budget:</b> \$ 1,528,000
<b>GEF PIMS #:</b> 3333	<b>Allocated Resources:</b>
<b>Atlas Award ID:</b> Proposal: 00044167	Government in-kind: \$1,029,000
<b>Proposal Project ID:</b> 00051783	GEF USD 499,000
<b>Project Duration:</b> June 2006 – June 2010	
<b>Management Arrangement:</b> National Execution	

Name Title Signature Date

Agreed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

\_\_\_\_\_

Agreed by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

\_\_\_\_\_

Agreed by the Ministry of Environment and Waters

\_\_\_\_\_

Agreed by the United Nations Development Programme:

\_\_\_\_\_



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ACRONYMS</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>SECTION I: BRIEF NARRATIVE</b> .....	<b>9</b>
PART I SITUATION ANALYSIS.....	9
PART II PROJECT STRATEGY .....	9
PART III. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS .....	9
PART IV MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	10
<i>IV.1 Monitoring and Reporting</i> .....	11
<i>IV.2 Evaluation</i> .....	14
<i>IV.3 Audit Clause</i> .....	14
<i>IV.4 Learning and Knowledge Sharing</i> .....	14
PART V LEGAL CONTEXT.....	15
<b>SECTION II. TOTAL BUDGET AND WORKPLAN (THE GEF COMPONENT ONLY)</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>PROJECT TIME-TABLE</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>SECTION III. ENDORSEMENT AND CO-FINANCING LETTERS</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>SECTION IV. UNDP CORPORATE ANNUAL WORK PLAN</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>APPENDIX A PROJECT PROPOSAL APPROVED BY THE GEF</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>PART I - PROJECT CONCEPT</b> .....	<b>30</b>
A - SUMMARY.....	30
B - COUNTRY OWNERSHIP .....	30
<i>Country Eligibility</i> .....	30
<i>Country Driven-ness</i> .....	31
C – PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY.....	32
<i>Program Designation and Conformity</i> .....	32
<i>Project Design</i> .....	32
<i>Background and context</i> .....	32
<i>Project Strategy</i> .....	41
<i>Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes, Outputs and Activities</i> .....	42
<i>Sustainability</i> .....	47
<i>Replicability</i> .....	47
<i>Stakeholder Involvement</i> .....	48
<i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i> .....	48
<b>D - FINANCING</b> .....	<b>48</b>
FINANCING PLAN (US DOLLARS).....	48
INCREMENTAL REASONING AND COST EFFECTIVENESS .....	48
CO-FINANCING.....	49
<b>E - INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT</b> .....	<b>49</b>
CORE COMMITMENTS AND LINKAGES .....	49

CONSULTATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN AND AMONG IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES, EXECUTING AGENCIES, AND THE GEF SECRETARIAT, IF APPROPRIATE. ....	50
<b>PART II – SUPPLEMENTAL ANNEXES (FOR TARGETED RESEARCH PROPOSALS ONLY) .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>PART III – RESPONSE TO REVIEWS .....</b>	<b>51</b>
A - CONVENTION SECRETARIAT .....	51
B - OTHER IAS AND RELEVANT EXAS .....	51
<b>ANNEX 1: LIST OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION, PROGRAMMING DOCUMENTS, STRATEGIES.....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>ANNEX 2: LIST OF INDICATORS USED FOR MONITORING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>ANNEX 3: SUMMARY OF RELEVANT BASELINE INITIATIVES.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>ANNEX 4: MAJOR OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND THE SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE PERIOD UNTIL 2013.....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>ANNEX 5: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>ANNEX 6: DRAFT CURRICULUM FOR THE TRAINING PROGRAMME TO BE DEVELOPED UNDER THE PROJECT .....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>ANNEX 7: CONCEPTUAL APPROACH TO INTEGRATION OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS (GEC) INTO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN BULGARIA .....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>ANNEX 8: BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE <i>GREENING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES</i> PROJECT (GRDP) OF THE EU, AND DRAFT MOU BETWEEN UNDP AND GRDP .....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>ANNEX 9: STAKEHOLDERS DATABASE DEVELOPED DURING PDF-A.....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>ANNEX 10: LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT AND COFINANCING COMMITMENT</b>	<b>120</b>
1. LETTER FROM GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (MOEW).....	120
2. LETTERS FROM MRDPW.....	122
<b>APPENDIX B KEY TERMS OF REFERENCE.....</b>	<b>125</b>
PROJECT MANAGER (PM).....	126
PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR (PA).....	129

## **ACRONYMS**

APR / PIR	Annual Project Review / Project Implementation Review
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CO	Country Office
CPD	Country Programme Document
DDS	District Development Strategies
EU	European Union
ExAs	Executing Agencies
GE	Global Environment
GRDP	Greening Regional Development Programmes
HQ	Head Quarters
IAs	Implementing Agencies
ISPA	Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDPs	Municipal Development Plans
MEER	Ministry of Energy and Energy Resources
MOEW	Ministry of Environment and Water
MOF	Ministry of Forestry
MRDPW	Ministry for Regional Development and Public Works
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NPD	National Project Director
NOPRD	National Operational Program for Regional Development
NSFRD	National Strategy for Regional Development
OPs	Operational Programs
PA	Project Administrative Assistant
PAB	Project Advisory Board
PDF-B	Project Development Facility Block B
PM	Project Manager
PMU	Project Management Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PTA	Principal Technical Advisor of UNDP/GEF
RCU	Regional Coordination Unit
RDA	Regional Development Act
RDPs	Regional Development Plans
SBAA	Standard Basic Assistance Agreement
SEAs	Strategic Environmental Assessments
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TDA	Territorial Development Act
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change





## **SECTION I: BRIEF NARRATIVE**

### **PART I SITUATION ANALYSIS**

Please, see PART I, Chapter C, Section ii Project Design, for *Background and Context*, and description of the baseline situation of the project proposal, [APPENDIX A](#)

### **PART II PROJECT STRATEGY**

Reference is made to the project proposal, [APPENDIX A](#)

Please, see PART I, Chapter C, Section ii Project Design subsections on *Project Strategy, Project Goal, Objectives, Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities*, and *Project Sustainability and Replicability* of the Medium-Size project.

### **PART III. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Project will be nationally executed. The Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW) will act as Project Implementing Partner. The Implementing Partner will receive managerial and technical support from UNDP.

The project will be managed and implemented according to the UNDP rules and procedures for national execution. The MRDPW will oversee the implementation of the project and will be responsible for the attainment of the planned project OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES<sup>1</sup> as per the Project Logical Framework, depicted in the Project Proposal [APPENDIX A](#).

The MRDPW will appoint one of its officials to act as a **National Project Director** (NPD). The NPD will oversee the project on behalf of the Project Implementation Partner, and will represent it for daily decision-making related to project implementation. The NPD may be a Deputy Minister or an official directly reporting to the Minister/Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works.

A **Project Management Unit** (PMU) preferably at the MRDPW or premises affiliated with the MRDPW, headed by a **Project Manager** (PM), will be responsible for project operations. Apart from the PM, the PMU will comprise a **Project Administrator** (PA). The PA will dedicate 50% of his/her time to all project financial and reporting matters. The PMU will have the responsibility of overall day-to-day implementation plus primary responsibility for coordinating and delivering of project outputs. The PM will ensure that project activities are in accordance with the agreed Project Document and project work plans. The PM will act in consultation and agreement with the NPD and will report to UNDP.

Under the guidance of the PM and in coordination and agreement with the NPD, the PMU will carry out all project activities:

- preparation/updates of project overall and annual work plans (AWP);
- project record-keeping;
- reporting;
- monitoring of projects funds and expenditures according to the approved AWP;
- drafting of terms of reference, technical specifications and other documents as necessary; identification, pre-screening of consultants/sub-contractors; coordination and supervision of consultants/sub-contractors/suppliers;
- procurement of goods and services up to USD 15,000;

---

<sup>1</sup> In Corporate UNDP ATLAS terminology.

- organization of duty travel, seminars, public outreach activities and other project events;
- working contacts with project partners at the central and local levels;

The PMU will be situated preferably at the MRDPW or premises affiliated with the MRDPW as commonly agreed between MRDPW and UNDP. The expenses for utilities, telephones, Internet and e-mails will be provided to the project by MRDPW as part of its in-kind contribution.

A Steering Committee (SC) will be the project's decision-making body. It will include representatives from the MRDPW, Ministry of Environment and Water, and UNDP. The SC will meet once every 6 months to assess project's progress towards achievement of the planned project outputs and to review and provide guidance for further implementation. The Steering Committee will be chaired by the NPD. The PM will act as a Secretary to the SC. The *Monitoring and Evaluation section* below provides more detail on the functioning of the Steering Committee.

An Advisory Board will meet once every year, serving a platform for wide-spread information outreach to other ministries, relevant research institutions, NGOs, municipalities, private sector.

The UNDP Resident Representative is authorized to enter into contractual arrangements with physical and legal entities throughout the project life, against all relevant accounts of the project budget, acting in prior consultation with the NPD. The UNDP standard contract forms for procurement of goods and services will be used.

The management of the project's funds, including budget revisions, disbursements, record keeping, accounting, reporting, auditing, will observe the UNDP rules and procedures in force. Disbursements will be effected at the request of the PMU signed by the NPD through UNDP as direct payments.

The UNDP Country Office will provide to the Implementing Partner the following types of support services for the execution and implementation of the project, whenever necessary:

- approves terms of reference and specifications for equipment and goods as necessary, in agreement with UNDP rules and procedures;
- procurement of goods and services above USD 15,000 including identification, selection, contracting of and liaison with consultants and sub-contractors;
- financial management and accountability;
- assistance in liaising with national partners;
- assistance for public advocacy purposes;
- project supervision for accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency;
- project monitoring and evaluation.

In order to accord proper acknowledgement to GEF for providing funding, all project's documents should include a paragraph to explicitly require that a GEF logo appear on all relevant GEF project publications, including among others, project hardware and vehicles purchased with GEF funds. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by GEF should also accord proper acknowledgment to GEF. The [UNDP logo](#) should be more prominent -- and separated a bit from the [GEF logo](#).

## **PART IV MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the established UNDP and GEF procedures and will be provided by the project team, MRDPW and the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) with support from UNDP/GEF. The Logical Framework Matrix in of the GEF project proposal, Annex A, provides *performance* and *impact* indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding *means of verification*. These will form the basis on which the project's Monitoring and Evaluation system will be built.

The following sections outline the principle components of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The project's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will be presented and finalized at the Project's Inception Report, in parallel to collective (by implementing partner, project management team and UNDP) fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

## **IV.1 Monitoring and Reporting**

### IV.1.1 Project Inception Phase

Once the Project Management Unit is fully operational, a Project Inception Workshop will be conducted with the full project team, relevant government counterparts, co-financing partners, the UNDP-CO and representation from the UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinating Unit, as well as UNDP-GEF (HQs) where necessary.

A fundamental objective of the Inception Workshop will be to assist the project team to understand and take ownership of the project's goals and objectives, as well as finalize preparation of the project's first annual work plan on the basis of the project's logframe matrix. This will include reviewing the logframe (indicators, means of verification, assumptions), imparting additional detail as needed, and on the basis of this exercise finalizing the Annual Work Plan (AWP), including its measurable indicators and means of verification.

Additionally, the purpose and objective of the Inception Workshop (IW) will be to: (i) introduce project staff and MRDPW with the UNDP-GEF *expanded team* which will support the project during its implementation, namely the CO and responsible Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) staff; (ii) detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP-CO and RCU staff vis à vis the project team; (iii) provide a detailed overview of UNDP-GEF reporting and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements, with particular emphasis on the harmonized UNDP/GEF Annual Project Report / Annual Project Implementation Reviews (APRs) and related documentation, steering committee meetings, as well as mid-term and final evaluations.

The IW will also provide an opportunity for all parties to understand their roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. Potential implementing partners will also take part in the Inception Workshop in which a common vision of overall project goals will be established.

### IV.1.2 Monitoring responsibilities and events

A detailed schedule of project review meetings of various kinds will be developed by the project management, in consultation with project implementation partners and stakeholder representatives and incorporated in the Project Inception Report. Such a schedule will include: (i) tentative time frames for Steering Committee and Advisory Board Meetings, (ii) project related Monitoring and Evaluation activities.

*Day to day monitoring of implementation progress* will be the responsibility of the Project Manager based on the project's Annual Work Plan and its indicators. The Project Manager will inform the NPD and UNDP-CO of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and remedial fashion.

The Project Manager will finalize fine-tuning of the performance/impact indicators of the project as agreed by the Inception Workshop participants. Targets and indicators for subsequent years would be fine-tuned annually or quarterly if justified, as part of the internal evaluation and planning processes undertaken by the project team, in close consultations and guidance from NPD and UNDP Country Office.

Periodic monitoring of implementation progress will be undertaken by the UNDP-CO through quarterly or ad-hoc meetings with Project Manager and NPD. This will allow parties to take stock and to troubleshoot any problems pertaining to the project in a timely fashion to ensure smooth implementation of project activities. UNDP Country Offices and UNDP-GEF RCUs as appropriate, will conduct regular field visits to project sites to assess first hand project progress.

Bi-annual and annual monitoring will occur through the **Steering Committee** meetings. As mentioned in the *Management Arrangements section* above, this is the highest policy-level meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of a project. The project will be subject to Steering Committee reviews every 6 months. For annual meetings, the Project Management Unit will prepare an Annual Project Report (APR) and submit it to UNDP-CO, MoEW, MRDPW, and the UNDP-GEF regional office at least two weeks prior to the meeting for review and comments.

The APR will be used as one of the basic documents for discussions in the steering committee annual meetings. The Project Manager will present the APR to the meeting participants, highlighting policy issues and recommendations for the decision of the participants. Separate reviews of each project component may also be conducted if necessary.

#### Terminal Steering Committee Review

The terminal steering committee review is held in the last month of project operations. The Project Manager is responsible for preparing the Terminal Report and submitting it to NPD, UNDP-CO and GEF's Regional Coordinating Unit. It shall be prepared in draft at least two months in advance of the said meeting in order to allow for review, and will serve as the basis for discussions in the meeting. The terminal review considers the implementation of the project as a whole, paying particular attention to whether the project has achieved its stated objectives and contributed to the broader environmental objective. It decides whether any actions are still necessary, particularly in relation to sustainability of project results, and acts as a vehicle through which lessons learnt can be captured to feed into other projects under implementation of formulation.

#### IV.1.3 Project Monitoring Reporting

The Project Manager in consultations with the NPD and UNDP-GEF team will be responsible for the preparation and submission of the following reports that form part of the monitoring process.

##### **(a) Inception Report (IR)**

A Project Inception Report will be prepared immediately following the Inception Workshop. It will include a detailed First Year Annual Work Plan divided in quarterly time-frames detailing the activities and progress indicators that will guide implementation during the first year of the project. This Work Plan would include the dates of support missions from the UNDP/GEF or relevant international consultants, as well as time-frames for meetings of the project's decision making structures. The Report will also include the detailed project budget for the first full year of implementation, prepared on the basis of the Annual Work Plan, including any monitoring and evaluation requirements to effectively measure project performance during the targeted 12 months time-frame.

The Inception Report will include a more detailed narrative on the institutional roles, responsibilities, coordinating actions and feedback mechanisms of project related partners. In addition, a section will be included on progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may effect project implementation.

When finalized the report will be circulated to project counterparts who will be given a period of 0.5 calendar month in which to respond with comments or queries. Prior to this circulation of the Inception Report, the UNDP Country Office and the NDP will review the document.

**(b) *Harmonized UNDP Annual Project Report (APR) and GEF Project Implementation Report (IPR)***

The harmonized APR/IPR (hereinafter APR) is a common UNDP/GEF tool for annual project monitoring. It is an essential management and monitoring tool for project managers and offers the main vehicle for extracting lessons from ongoing projects. Once the project has been under implementation for a year, an APR must be completed by the PMU. The APR should be prepared prior to the annual Steering Committee meetings. The APR should then be discussed at the Steering Committee, so that the result would be an APR that has been agreed upon by the PMU, MRDPW, MoEW, and UNDP CO.

The individual APRs are collected, reviewed and analyzed by UNDP/GEF Regional Coordinator prior to sending them to the focal area clusters at the UNDP/GEF headquarters. The focal area clusters supported by the UNDP/GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Unit analyze the APRs by focal area, theme and region for common issues/results and lessons.

The GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Unit provides the scope and content of the harmonized APR/PIR.

**(c) *Quarterly Progress Reports***

Short reports outlining main updates in project progress will be provided quarterly to the local UNDP Country Office and the UNDP-GEF regional office by the project team. Format is provided by UNDP/GEF Regional Coordinator.

**(d) *Periodic Thematic Reports***

As and when called for by UNDP, UNDP-GEF or the Implementing Partner, the project team will prepare Specific Thematic Reports, focusing on specific issues or areas of activity. The request for a Thematic Report will be provided to the project team in written form by UNDP and will clearly state the issue or activities that need to be reported on. These reports can be used as a form of lessons learnt exercise, specific oversight in key areas, or as troubleshooting exercises to evaluate and overcome obstacles and difficulties encountered. UNDP is requested to minimize its requests for Thematic Reports, and when such are necessary will allow reasonable timeframes for their preparation by the project team.

**(e) *Project Terminal Report***

During the last three months of the project the Project Management Unit will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize all activities, achievements and outputs of the Project, lessons learnt, objectives met, or not achieved, structures and systems implemented, etc. and will be the definitive statement of the Project's activities during its lifetime. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the Project's activities.

**(f) *Project Publications***

Project publications will form a key method of crystallizing and disseminating the results and achievements of the Project. These publications may be scientific or informational texts on the activities and achievements of the Project, in the form of journal articles, multimedia publications, etc. The Project Management Unit will (in consultation with UNDP, UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinator, the NPD and other relevant stakeholder groups) plan and produce these Publications in a consistent and recognizable format. Project resources are allocated for this in the budget.

## **IV.2 Evaluation**

The project will be subjected to at least two evaluations as follows:

### IV.2.1 Mid-term Internal Evaluation

An internal Mid-Term Evaluation will be undertaken at the mid-point of project implementation. The Mid-Term Evaluation will determine progress being made towards the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term evaluation will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The Terms of Reference for this Mid-term evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO in consultation with the NPD, and based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The MRDPW will participate in the selection process of the evaluation team, will be consulted during evaluation process and will receive the evaluation report.

### IV.2.2 Independent Final Evaluations

An independent Final Evaluation will take place at the end of project implementation, focusing on the same issues as the mid-term evaluation, but with special emphasis on identification of the degree of strengthened capacities of MRDPW to integrate global environmental concerns into development. The final evaluation will also look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the potential for achievement of global environmental goals. The Final Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO in consultation with the NPD, and based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The MRDPW will participate in the selection process of the evaluation team, will be consulted during evaluation process and will receive the evaluation report.

## **IV.3 Audit Clause**

The Government agencies to which funds had been advanced for project implementation, shall provide the Resident Representative with certified periodic financial statements. Annual Audit will be conducted by the legally recognized auditor subcontracted by UNDP Country Office.

## **IV.4 Learning and Knowledge Sharing**

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through a number of existing information sharing networks and forums. In addition:

- ◆ The project will participate, as relevant and appropriate, in UNDP/GEF sponsored networks that share common characteristics.
- ◆ The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation through lessons learned.

The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. Identify and analyzing lessons learned is an on-going process, and the need to communicate such lessons as one of the project's central contributions is a requirement to be delivered not less frequently than once every 12 months. UNDP/GEF shall provide a format and assist

the project team in categorizing, documenting and reporting on lessons learned. To this end, a percentage of project resources has been allocated in the project budget for these activities.

## **PART V LEGAL CONTEXT**

The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, which is a pre-requisite for UNDP programme support, was signed between the Bulgarian Government and UNDP on 20 August 1992. This project shall be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement and its Additional Protocol as ratified by the Bulgarian National Assembly. This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Agreement. The host country executing agency shall, for the purpose of the Agreement, refer to the government co-operating agency described in it.

The following types of revisions of this Project Document may be effected with the signature of the UNDP Resident Representative only, provided that he/she has been assured that the other signatories of the Project Document have no objections to the proposed changes:

- revisions in, or additions to, any of the annexes of the Project Document;
- revisions which do not involve significant changes in the goals, outputs or activities of the project, but are caused by the re-arrangement of inputs already agreed to, or by cost increases due to inflation;
- mandatory annual revisions which rephrase the delivery of agreed upon project inputs into subsequent years, or reflect increased expert or other costs due to inflation, or take into account agency expenditure flexibility.

**SECTION II. TOTAL BUDGET AND WORKPLAN (THE GEF COMPONENT ONLY)**

Award ID: 00044167									
Award Title: 3333 Bulgaria MSP CC Capacity Building									
Project ID: ATLAS Project 00051783									
Project Title: : Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Process									
Executing Agency: BUL – Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (Government)									
GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity	Responsible Party (Implementing Agent)	Source of Funds	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ERP/ATLAS Budget Description/Input	Amount (USD) Year 1	Amount (USD) Year 2	Amount (USD) Year 3	Amount (USD) Year 4	Total (USD)
OUTCOME 1: The methodologies, skills, knowledge, and information management system for mainstreaming global environmental considerations into the formulation, implementation and evaluation of regional development and spatial planning policies are in place	MRDPW	62000 GEF Trust Fund	71400	Contractual Services-Individuals	7 125	7 125	7 125	0	21 375
		62000 GEF Trust Fund	71300	Local Consultants	7 345	30 075	11 975	8 500	57 895
		62000 GEF Trust Fund	72100	Contractual Services - Companies	0	21 156	12 246	2 790	36 192
		62000 GEF Trust Fund	72200	Equipment and Furniture	0	20 000	0	0	20 000
		62000 GEF Trust Fund	71200	International Consultants	32 500	0	0	0	32 500
		62000 GEF Trust Fund	71600	Travel	36 300	0	0	0	36 300
		62000 GEF Trust Fund	74500	Miscellaneous expenses	11 140	32 200	8 398	0	51 738
				<b>sub-total</b>		94 410	110 556	39 744	11 290
OUTCOME 2: Institutional changes that support mainstreaming of global environment into regional development and spatial planning are in place	MRDPW	62000 GEF Trust Fund	71400	Contractual Services-Individuals	22 625	22 625	22 625	22 625	90 500
		62000 GEF Trust Fund	71300	Local Consultants	2 500	2 500	0	400	5 400
		62000 GEF Trust Fund	72100	Contractual Services - Companies	0	0	0	25 000	25 000
		62000 GEF Trust Fund	72200	Equipment and Furniture	6 000	0	0	0	6 000
		62000 GEF Trust Fund	71600	Travel	27 595	1 150	1 150	1 150	31 045
		62000 GEF Trust Fund	74500	Miscellaneous expenses	1 800	1 800	1 800	16 655	22 055
				<b>sub-total</b>		60 520	28 075	25 575	65 830
OUTCOME 3:	MRDPW	62000 GEF	71300	Local Consultants	0	0	2 000	0	2 000



Regional development plan and one municipal-level spatial development plan are revised to integrate global environmental objectives in a pilot region or group of municipalities.	Trust Fund							
	62000 GEF Trust Fund	72100	Contractual Services - Companies	0	0	0	61 000	61 000
			<b>sub-total</b>	0	0	2 000	61 000	63 000
			<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>	154 930	138 631	67 319	138 120	499 000

**PROJECT TIME-TABLE**

	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3				YEAR 4			
	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D
<b>OUTCOME 1</b>																
<b>Output 1.1. Training Programme</b>																
Act. 1 Identifying IAI (Trainers)	XX															
Act. 2 Identifying BG AI (Trainers)	XX															
Act. 3 Design a ToT program		XXX														
Act. 4 Select 6BG trainers – indicators		XXX														
Act. 5 ToT (MRDPW) (MOEW)			X													
Act. 6 Design of Staff Training program			XX	XXX	XXX	XXX					X				X	
<b>Output 1.2 Staff trained</b>																
Act. 1 Pilot delivery of TP – MRDPW & SEA							X									
Act. 2 TP modifications based on the feedback							X									
Act. 3 Accreditation of the Training Program							X									
Act. 4 Train remaining staff of MRDPW & SEA								X	X	X						
Act. 5 Promotion of the TP to stakeholders																
<b>Output 1.3 Indicators and GIS</b>																
Act. 1 Identification of set of indicators			X	XXX	XXX	XXX										
Act. 2 Survey of data sources					XXX											
Act. 3 Negotiations on						XXX										

	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3				YEAR 4			
	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D
data delivery																
<b>Act. 4</b> Indicators integration with GIS							XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX						
<b>Act. 5</b> Guidelines on indicators use					XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX								XX
<b>Act. 3</b> Testing of indicators via pilot Regional Plan																
<b>Output 1.5 Website</b>																
<b>Act. 1</b> Website structure and design agreement				X	X											
<b>Act. 2</b> Protocol development on indicator system access via Internet					XX											
<b>Act. 3</b> Website production						XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX							
<b>Act. 4</b> Promotion, management and update, including encouraging municipalities to submit good practices.																
<b>Output 1.6 Knowledge materials</b>																
<b>Act. 1</b> Good practices materials								XXX	XXX							
<b>Act. 1</b> Adapting GRDP materials																
<b>Act. 2</b> Set of legislative requirements		XXX														
<b>Act. 3</b> Good Financial Management Practices Compendium				XXX												
<b>OUTCOME 2</b>																
<b>Output 2.1 Improvements at</b>																

	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3				YEAR 4			
	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D
<b>MRDPW and MOEW</b>																
<b>Act. 1</b> Key decision makers from MRDPW will be introduced to the “ESTM Office”		XX	XXX													
<b>Act. 2</b> MRDPW will make adjustments to the staff hiring procedure, job descriptions, and staff evaluation				XXX	XXX											
<b>Act. 3</b> Methodologies will be adopted by MOEW				X	XXX	XXX	XX									
<b>Output 2.2. Stakeholder capacity - materials</b>																
<b>Act. 1</b> Monitoring, management, evaluation																
<b>Act. 2</b> Lessons learnt publications																XXX
<b>Act. 3</b> Round tables with donors to share lessons																XX
<b>Act. 4</b> Institutional changes in the MA of the other OPs															XXX	XX
<b>Act. 5</b> Final conference and media publications																X
<b>Output 2.2. Stakeholder capacity - PMU</b>																
<b>Act. 1</b> Hiring Project manager and assistant	X															
<b>Act. 2</b> Equipping the office in MRDPW or affiliated premises	XX															
<b>Act. 3</b> PMU functioning																
<b>OUTCOME 3</b>																

	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3				YEAR 4			
	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D
<b>Output 3.1 RDP Update</b>																
<b>Act. 1</b> (ToR) for pilot testing the project										XXX						
<b>Act. 2</b> Selecting the sub-contractor for up-dating the R D Plan										XX						
<b>Act. 3</b> Review of RDP											XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	
<b>Output 3.2. Master plan</b>																
<b>Act. 1</b> (ToR) for pilot testing the project										XXX						
<b>Act. 2</b> Selecting the sub-contractor for the MP										XX						
<b>Act. 3</b> Review of the MP											XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	

### **SECTION III. ENDORSEMENT AND CO-FINANCING LETTERS**

Please find endorsement and support letters in attachment to project proposal, [APPENDIX A](#)

## SECTION IV. UNDP CORPORATE ANNUAL WORK PLAN



### Annual Work Plan

Bulgaria - Sofia

Award Id: 00044167

Award Title: 3333 Bulgaria MSP Cross Cutting - Integrating Global Env

Report Date: 25/5/2006

Year: 2006

Project ID	Expected Outputs	Key Activities	Timeframe		Responsible Party	Planned Budget				
			Start	End		Fund	Donor	Budget Descr	Amount US\$	
00051783	3333 Bulgaria MSP Cross Cuttin	Institutional Changes	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71300	Local Consultants	2,500.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	11,000.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71600	Travel	26,596.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	72200	Equipment and Furniture	3,000.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	1,800.00
		Methodologies, skills, knowle	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71200	International Consultants	20,000.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71300	Local Consultants	3,345.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	3,126.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71600	Travel	20,000.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	7,140.00
<b>TOTAL</b>									<b>97,505.00</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>									<b>97,505.00</b>	



## Annual Work Plan

Bulgaria - Sofia

Award Id: 00044167

Report Date: 25/5/2006

Award Title: 3333 Bulgaria MSP Cross Cutting - Integrating Global Env

Year: 2007

Project ID	Expected Outputs	Key Activities	Timeframe		Responsible Party	Planned Budget				
			Start	End		Fund	Donor	Budget Descr	Amount US\$	
00051783	3333 Bulgaria MSP Cross Cuttin	Institutional Changes	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71300	Local Consultants	2,500.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	22,625.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71600	Travel	1,150.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	72200	Equipment and Furniture	3,000.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	1,800.00
		Methodologies, skills, knowl	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71200	International Consultants	12,500.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71300	Local Consultants	30,075.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	7,125.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71600	Travel	16,300.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	72100	Contractual Services-Companie	21,156.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	72200	Equipment and Furniture	20,000.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	32,200.00
					<b>TOTAL</b>					
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>									<b>170,431.00</b>	





## Annual Work Plan

Bulgaria - Sofia

Award Id: 00044167

Award Title: 3333 Bulgaria MSP Cross Cutting - Integrating Global Env

Report Date: 25/5/2006

Year: 2008

Project ID	Expected Outputs	Key Activities	Timeframe		Responsible Party	Planned Budget				
			Start	End		Fund	Donor	Budget Descr	Amount US\$	
00051783	3333 Bulgaria MSP Cross Cuttin	Demonstration	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71300	Local Consultants	2,000.00
		Institutional Changes	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	22,626.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71600	Travel	1,150.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	1,900.00
		Methodologies, skills, knowle	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71300	Local Consultants	11,975.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	7,126.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	72100	Contractual Services-Companie	12,246.00
BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	8,398.00					
<b>TOTAL</b>									<b>67,319.00</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>									<b>67,319.00</b>	



## Annual Work Plan

Bulgaria - Sofia

Award Id: 00044167

Report Date: 25/5/2006

Award Title: 3333 Bulgaria MSP Cross Cutting - Integrating Global Env

Year: 2009

Project ID	Expected Outputs	Key Activities	Timeframe		Responsible Party	Planned Budget				
			Start	End		Fund	Donor	Budget Descr	Amount US\$	
00051783	3333 Bulgaria MSP Cross Cuttin	Demonstration	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	72100	Contractual Services-Companie	40,000.00
		Institutional Changes	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71300	Local Consultants	400.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	22,626.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71600	Travel	1,150.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	72100	Contractual Services-Companie	25,000.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	10,000.00
		Methodologies, skills, knowl	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71300	Local Consultants	8,500.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	72100	Contractual Services-Companie	2,790.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	4,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>										<b>114,465.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>										<b>114,465.00</b>



## Annual Work Plan

Bulgaria - Sofia

Award Id: 00044167

Award Title: 3333 Bulgaria MSP Cross Cutting - Integrating Global Env

Year: 2010

Report Date: 25/5/2006

Project ID	Expected Outputs	Key Activities	Timeframe		Responsible Party	Planned Budget				
			Start	End		Fund	Donor	Budget Descr	Amount US\$	
00051793	3333 Bulgaria MSP Cross Cuttin	Demonstration	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	72100	Contractual Services-Companie	21,000.00
		Institutional Changes	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	11,825.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71600	Travel	2,000.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	6,655.00
		Methodologies, skills, knowle	25/5/06		BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71300	Local Consultants	4,000.00
					BUL Min of Regional Dev and PW	62000	GEFTrustee	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	4,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>									<b>49,280.00</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>									<b>49,280.00</b>	

## APPENDIX A PROJECT PROPOSAL APPROVED BY THE GEF



### **MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUEST FOR GEF FUNDING**

**AGENCY'S PROJECT ID:**  
**GEFSEC PROJECT ID:**  
**COUNTRY:** Bulgaria  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Process  
**GEF AGENCY:** UNDP  
**OTHER EXECUTING AGENCY (IES):**  
**DURATION:** 4 years  
**GEF FOCAL AREA:** Multi focal  
**GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM:** Capacity building  
**GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITY:** CB-2 (Crosscutting Capacity Building)  
**ESTIMATED STARTING DATE:** January 2006  
**IMPLEMENTING AGENCY FEE:**

<b>FINANCING PLAN (US\$)</b>	
<b>GEF PROJECT/COMPONENT</b>	
Project	499,000
PDF A*	43,800
SUB-TOTAL GEF	542,800
<b>COFINANCING**</b>	
GEF Agency	
Government	1,019,000
Bilateral	
NGOs	
Others	10,000
SUB-TOTAL CO-FINANCING:	1,029,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT FINANCING:</b>	<b>1,571,800</b>
<b>FINANCING FOR ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY IF ANY: NA</b>	

\* Approval date of PDF A: 11 February 2005

\*\* Details provided in the Financing Section

**CONTRIBUTION TO KEY INDICATORS OF THE BUSINESS PLAN:** The project contributes to the GEF's strategic priority to enhance capacity for global environmental management by leveraging financial and technical resources to address country needs for capacity to better manage global environmental issues.

**RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

Emiliya Kraeva  
GEF Operational Focal Point  
Head of International Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Environment and Water

Date: August 4, 2005  
(Letter provided in Annex 10)

This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for a Medium-sized Project.

Yannick Glemarec  
IA/ExA Coordinator  
Date: (Month, Day, Year)

Keti Chachibaia  
Project Contact Person  
Tel. and email: +421 2 59 337 422  
keti.chachibaia@undp.org

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CPD	Country Programme Document
DDS	District Development Strategies
EU	European Union
ExAs	Executing Agencies
GE	Global Environment
GRDP	Greening Regional Development Programmes
IAs	Implementing Agencies
ISPA	Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession
MDPs	Municipal Development Plans
MEER	Ministry of Energy and Energy Resources
MOEW	Ministry of Environment and Water
MOF	Ministry of Forestry
MRDPW	Ministry for Regional Development and Public Works
NOPRD	National Operational Program for Regional Development
NSFRD	National Strategy for Regional Development
OPs	Operational Programs
PDF-B	Project Development Facility Block B
PMU	Project Management Unit
RDA	Regional Development Act
RDPs	Regional Development Plans
SEAs	Strategic Environmental Assessments
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TDA	Territorial Development Act
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

## **PART I - PROJECT CONCEPT**

### **A - SUMMARY**

1. Bulgaria is on the threshold of EU accession and is aligning its sustainable development policies with EU requirements. The goal of EU accession by 2007 offers some important opportunities for explicitly incorporating the mandates of the UNCBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD into the regional development and spatial planning processes, which are typically focused on socio-economic issues. Bulgaria is embarking on a different, systematic regional development planning approach. The responsibility for determining the regional development path lies with the Ministry for Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW), and this development path will be articulated through a series of documents - National Regional Development Strategy, the National Operational Programme for Regional Development (NOPRD), six Regional Development Plans (RDPs), 28 District Development Strategies (DDSs) and 264 Municipal Development Plans (MDPs). It is this evolving regional development planning process that the proposed GEF project is seeking to link in to at an early, upstream stage, so as to ensure that global environmental concerns can be mainstreamed.

2. Based on the findings of the National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) and subsequent discussions with key stakeholders during the PDF-A, the project strategy is to promote a proactive integration of global environmental issues into the very process of regional and local development, as well as spatial planning, both of which are managed by MRDPW. This would be achieved by developing the capacity of MRDPW to integrate global environmental objectives into the regional and local development policies and practices, as well as into spatial planning documents.

3. To implement the project strategy, it will be essential to involve and build ownership of the project among the following key stakeholder groups – MRDPW at all levels, MOEW, Municipal Mayors, local NGOs and private enterprises. All of these groups are essential to influencing and changing the current practice in terms of how regional and local development and spatial planning documents are formulated and implemented. A particularly important opportunity that this project is capitalizing on is the interest expressed by MRDPW to pursue such an approach during their involvement in the NCSA process. The project strategy will be realized through the following 3 outcomes:

OUTCOME 1: The methodologies, skills, knowledge, and information management system for mainstreaming global environmental considerations into the formulation, implementation and evaluation of regional development and spatial planning policies are in place

OUTCOME 2: Institutional changes that support mainstreaming of global environmental into regional development and spatial planning are in place.

OUTCOME 3: Regional development plans and municipal-level spatial development plans are revised to integrate global environmental objectives in a pilot region or group of municipalities through application of capacities developed in Outcomes 1 and 2.

### **B - COUNTRY OWNERSHIP**

#### **Country Eligibility**

4. Bulgaria has ratified the UNCBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD as follows, and is eligible for receiving assistance from the GEF and UNDP.

UNFCCC – March 1995  
UNCBD – February 1996  
UNCCD – January 2001

## Country Driven-ness

5. The project has been identified as a priority for Bulgaria by the NCSA for furthering its commitments under the UNCBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD (henceforth referred to as “the Rio Conventions”). The NCSA has specifically identified the need to develop national capacity for mainstreaming global environmental objectives into the regional development process, through the integration of these objectives in the formulation and implementation of regional development policies and plans at the national, regional, district and municipal levels.

6. In addition, a need for better coordination among the key ministries at the national/ central and local/ regional levels has been stated as a key to due implementation of the conventions. As stated in the NCSA report, “stakeholder coordination is insufficient to mainstream the obligations under the Conventions and to achieve effectiveness and efficiency in implementation”. Two main interconnected areas of support have been identified in this regard: i) support to institutions in the area of cross-sectoral planning, decision-making and information systems; and ii) support for decentralized integrated environmental planning and action-oriented approaches.

7. The main challenge has been to identify the exact linkages between the Conventions in each of the sectors and match those with the desired economic priorities identified by the Government. National and regional development policies should accommodate such principles in order to reverse the current practice of treating global environmental issues as a stand-alone agenda of limited concern to national or local development priorities. The Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) in Bulgaria is assigned the prime responsibility for implementing the Conventions. However, thus far, it has not been able to develop effective cross-sectoral dialogue at a government-wide level to mainstream global environmental issues into sectoral policies.

8. The NCSA process also assigned importance to strengthening the capacity of state institutions responsible for the management of financial resources. The objective is to improve the efficiency of their disbursement for the purpose of meeting the objectives of national development and those of the Rio Conventions. The final NCSA document of Bulgaria states: “...the strategy aims at a more efficient use of Bulgaria’s limited institutional, human and financial resources based on the following principles: ... the objectives and measures for implementation of the Conventions are mainstreamed into Bulgaria’s regulatory and economic framework in the context of its EU accession priorities”.

9. More specifically this includes: i) improvement of decision-making within the financial system to honor the country’s obligations under the conventions by revisiting rules and criteria for resource allocation and disbursement; ii) improvement of the workflow and capacity of the existing institutions in order to make funds of international and pre-accession mechanisms available for implementation of the Conventions, especially those that closely match with national development targets; iii) improvement of inter-agency cooperation by introducing appropriate practices into inter-governmental working groups (for example, participation of Convention expert groups and Focal Points in meetings within and among the key economic sectors); iv) building the capacity of the institution/s responsible for regional development, which should play the key role in meaningful coordination of the sectoral policies and their translation into the regional development agenda; v) development of a meaningful indicator system for monitoring and analyzing the progress towards achievement of Conventions’ objectives.

10. One of the four objectives of the Government Program *People are the Wealth of Bulgaria*, alongside with economic growth and raising the living standards, is the integration of

environment into the sectoral policies. The National Economic Development Plan 2000 – 2006 identifies the five priorities of the country's development as follows:

- Raising the competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy
- Human resources development
- Improvement of the basic infrastructure and environmental protection
- Development of the agriculture and rural areas
- Balanced and sustainable regional development

11. According to the Regional Development Act, adopted in 2004 “Regional development is a process of formation and implementation of a policy aimed at achieving balanced and sustainable development of administrative and territorial units, grouped into planning regions in the Republic of Bulgaria”. The need to create conditions for balanced and sustainable development in the regions of Bulgaria has been put forth as the top priority among the strategic objectives of the country.

## **C – PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY**

### **Program Designation and Conformity**

12. The proposed project addresses the objectives of the 3 GEF focal areas (biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable land management) and specifically fits under the strategic priority related to crosscutting capacity building (CB-2).

### **Project Design**

#### **Background and context**

13. Located in Southeastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea, between Romania and Turkey, Bulgaria is characterized by a mostly hilly topography interspersed with plateaus, with major flatlands in the north (Danubian Plateau, extending across entire country) and center (Thracian Plain). The main mountain ranges are the Balkan (extending across center of country from west to east, forming central watershed of country) and Rhodope (west to east across southern section of country).

14. The country is divided into 6 regions in accordance with EUROSTAT requirements: north-west, north-central, north-east, south-west, south-central, south-east. These regions have been recently created in response to EU requirements. The north-east and south-east regions border the Black Sea, and the north-west, north-central, and north-east regions border the Danube River. The country is subdivided into 28 districts and 264 municipalities. At the moment, administrative units are present at the district and municipality levels. Regional Development Councils and Directorates for Technical Assistance, Coordination and Management of Regional Programmes and Projects, which are envisaged to act as Secretariats to the Regional Development Councils, are in their final stage of establishment.

#### *The context of EU accession*

15. After the ever-biggest enlargement of the EU on 1 May 2004, Bulgaria, together with Romania, is hoping to join the Union in 2007. The status of a EU candidate country poses several challenges and opportunities for integrated policies that are in line with EU requirements. One of the biggest challenges currently posed is the need to develop sound and effective coordination between line Ministries (that represent the vertical axis of decision-making), and regional entities (the horizontal level of decision-making). This is an important objective of the current EU assistance to the country and is motivated by the need to achieve coherent policy formulation and efficient absorption of future funding under the EU Structural Funds.



16. EU Regional Policy aims to support regions whose development is lagging behind, or that are experiencing serious problems in terms of infrastructure, creation of economic activity and training. If Bulgaria would like to prepare its economy and people for accession in 2007, significant efforts need to be made for improving the transport system and environmental protection. Thus, the social and economic policy of the Republic of Bulgaria until 2006 aims at reaching the economic, social, environmental, and administrative standards of the EU to such an extent so membership into the EU is realized.

17. One of the special areas of emphasis that has emerged as part of the EU accession process is the sustainable regional development of Bulgaria's 6 planning regions. Within Bulgaria, which is a country in transition, there exists critical regional differentiation. As a result of the inherited social and economic structures and the dynamics of the country's development, the existing differences in the economy, infrastructure, employment, income and quality of life in the different parts of the country have intensified. This fact has been taken into account in the preparation and implementation of the national policy of regional development, which is aimed at overcoming the differences in the standard of living in the different regions of the country by assisting them in their structural adjustment, development of parts of their territory that are in decline, and general economic and social recovery.

*Opportunities for mainstreaming global environmental objectives in regional development*

18. The goal of EU accession by 2007 and the associated emphasis on sustainable regional development offer some important opportunities for explicitly incorporating the mandates of the UNCBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD into the regional development and spatial planning processes, which are typically focused on socio-economic issues. On the threshold of EU accession, Bulgaria is embarking on a different, systematic regional development planning approach. The responsibility for determining the regional development path lies with the Ministry for Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW), and this development path will be articulated through a series of documents (listed in the following section that describes the process of regional development planning in Bulgaria).

19. Of particular note is the NOPRD, which will provide the framework for programming and managing EU Structural Funds for sustainable regional development. EU Structural Funds – European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and European Cohesion Fund (ECF) – are the EU's main instruments for supporting social and economic restructuring across the EU. They account for over one third of the European Union budget and are used to tackle regional disparities and support regional development. In 2001 a new emphasis on protecting the environment and achieving a more sustainable pattern of development was added. Programming and management of these funds will be done via operational programmes<sup>2</sup>. MRDPW is the Managing Authority responsible for determining the allocation of resources from NOPRD (OP5). Therefore, by developing MRDPW's capacity to mainstream global environmental considerations, this project could not only ensure that planning documents take into account UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD commitments, but also future programming of resources can be garnered to this end.

---

<sup>2</sup> Bulgaria has 6 National Operational Programmes for the implementation of the National Development Plan – OP1: Development of the Competitiveness of Bulgarian Economy, OP2: Human Resources Development, OP3: Environment, OP4: Transport, OP5: Regional Development, OP6: Administrative Capacity.

20. It is this evolving regional development planning process that the proposed GEF project is seeking to link in to at an early, upstream stage, so as to ensure that global environmental concerns can be mainstreamed.

*The process of regional development planning in Bulgaria*

21. Regional development, in the broadest sense, can be defined as the application of specific measures to reduce the developmental gap between regions that are lagging behind vis-à-vis other regions, as well as the coordination of different sectoral policies across the entire territory. This dual nature of regional development is a complex one, covering socio-economic, physical, environmental and institutional aspects.

22. The main Act stipulating planning and implementation of regional development is the Regional Development Act (RDA), which was drafted by MRDPW, enforced in February 2004, and amended in April 2005. (A full list of relevant national legislation, programming documents, planning documents and strategies are provided in Annex 1.)

23. The RDA was drafted and implemented with the purpose of complying with the EU Regional Development Regulations and especially with EC Regulation 1260/99. Its main principles are integrated approach to planning and programming, interdepartmental coordination, partnership, and coordination of resources. It introduced 6 planning regions at NUTS 2 level in full compliance with EUROSTAT requirements. It also introduced regions for targeted impact, where the national regional development finances would be concentrated.

24. The Act envisages a hierarchical system of strategic, planning and programming documents to take into consideration the specific features of all levels (national, regional, district and local). These are the National Regional Development Strategy, the National Operational Programme for Regional Development (NOPRD), six Regional Development Plans (RDPs), 28 District Development Strategies (DDSs) and 264 Municipal Development Plans (MDPs). The institution responsible for implementing the RDA is MRDPW, which organizes the development and implementation of the National Regional Development Strategy and the NOPRD, as well as renders methodological guidance for the development and implementation of the six Regional Development Plans, District Development Strategies and Municipal Development Plans. MRDPW will work with multi-stakeholder Regional Development Councils<sup>3</sup>.

25. The National Regional Development Strategy shall be adopted by the Council of Ministers. The NOPRD is to be adopted by the Council of Ministers after consultations with the European Union. The Regional Development Plans are to be adopted by the Council of Ministers. The District Development Strategies are to be adopted by the District Development Councils. The Municipal Development Plans are being adopted by the respective Municipal Councils. Rules of procedure for the Regional Development Councils and District Development Councils have been prepared and adopted to facilitate the implementation of the RDA.

26. The application of both top-down and bottom-up approaches is envisaged in the articulation of strategic, planning and programming documents. Obligations for the use of appropriate means for monitoring and assessment / indicators are set out. Pursuant to the RDA, the structure of the planning and programming documents for the 2007-2013 period shall be as follows:

Socio-economic analysis

---

<sup>3</sup> This is a consultative body to MRDPW on regional development planning, consisting of representatives from 6 national-level ministries, district governors, 1 representative from municipalities (latter 2 from relevant planning region).

SWOT analysis  
Vision, objectives and priorities  
Indicators for monitoring and evaluation  
Indicative financial table  
Means of information gathering and publicity

27. The NOPRD, RDPs, and MDPs are subject to ex-ante evaluation, which is carried out by external experts, in parallel with the drafting of the respective planning or programming document and consists of:

Assessment of the potential impacts of the objectives and priorities on the socio-economic situation  
Strategic environmental assessment, pursuant to the Ordinance on the conditions, procedure and methods for environmental assessment of plans and programs

28. In addition, the NOPRD, RDPs, and MDPs are subject to mid-term evaluations, which shall be carried out by outside experts, and shall consist of:

Assessment of the results of the implementation of the plan/program over the first 3 and a half years  
Assessment of the extent to which the respective objectives have been met so far  
Assessment of the use of financial resources and management and monitoring procedures  
Defining corrective measures, if required

29. The documents in question shall be further subjected to ex-post evaluation, which shall be made after the expiry of the plan's span, and shall be focused on:

Effectiveness and efficiency  
Impact assessment  
Extent of achievement of objectives and sustainability of results  
Lessons learnt and conclusions for regional policy application

30. Methodological Guidelines for the preparation of the RDPs, MDPs, and DDSs have been drawn up and implemented. Special attention is paid to respecting the existence of protected areas or national preserves in a given territory in the respective document. It is noteworthy that the need of monitoring indicators has been stressed upon in all Guidelines.

#### *The process of spatial planning in Bulgaria*

31. Spatial planning and territorial development goes hand in hand with regional planning and development, since land area must be prepared to accommodate regional development vision and absorb the allocated funds<sup>4</sup>. The 2002 Territorial Development Act (TDA) regulates spatial planning in Bulgaria. Spatial planning is carried out in compliance with the actual and intended socio-economic development, the actual and intended land use, and attempts at guaranteeing environmental protection. The Minister for Regional Development and Public Works manages the State policy for territorial development and spatial planning. District Governors carry out the State policy in their respective districts.

32. In accordance with their main designation, the TDA categorizes land and estates as follows: urban, agricultural, forest, protected, and for reinstatement. The Act envisages the following set of spatial planning documents:

National Comprehensive Spatial Planning Scheme

---

<sup>4</sup> Land use, estate acquisition, auxiliary infrastructure, environmental impact assessment of spatial planning schemes must be in place prior to the actual implementation of regional plans and programs.

District Spatial Planning Schemes  
Specialist Spatial Planning Schemes (dealing with sector specific spatial planning at different territorial levels)  
General Spatial Plans  
Detailed Spatial Plans (at Municipal / Settlement levels)

33. Within their respective territorial and thematic remits, spatial planning schemes focus on:

Location and future development of projects and networks  
Human settlement networks' development  
Measures for environmental protection and mitigation of harmful impacts on the environment and population's health

34. Each of the above spatial planning schemes and plans comply with the respective higher-instance schemes and plans and renders concrete their provisions at its specific level. Draft spatial planning schemes are subject to public hearing prior to their submission for approval and adoption. The National Comprehensive Spatial Planning Scheme shall be adopted by the Council of Ministers, at the proposal of the Minister for Regional Development and Public Works. The latter also adopts district and specialist spatial planning schemes.

35. The TDA stipulates different parameters for construction of different buildings, according to their location in different areas. It also provides for specific requirements for the components of technical infrastructure projects, such as the design of motorways and roads, water supply and sewers' networks, energy and gas supply networks, waste management facilities – in line with other specialist Laws such as the Energy Efficiency Act, Energy Act, Restriction of the Harmful Impacts of Waste on the Environment Act, and the like. The Act also envisages other environmental protection-related measures, such as the development and maintenance of a landslide register, afforestation alongside roads, and environmental impact assessments for spatial planning schemes.

#### Environmental assessment of regional development and spatial planning

36. MOEW implements the legislation related to EIA and SEA<sup>5</sup>. It registers the EIA/ SEA experts and issues decisions on the EIA/ SEA reports. An Ordinance on the conditions, procedure and methods for environmental assessment of plans and programs<sup>6</sup> was prepared by MOEW and adopted by the Council of Ministers. It stipulates that the NOPRD and the RDPs are bound to obligatory SEA, while MDPs are subjected to discretionary SEA. The National Comprehensive Spatial Planning Scheme, District Spatial Planning Schemes and General Spatial Plans are subjected to obligatory SEA, while Detailed Spatial Plans and Specialist Detailed Spatial Plans are subject to discretionary SEA.

37. SEAs are carried out in parallel with the preparation of the respective plan / program and a formal opinion on it should be issued prior to the adoption of the plan / program. Competent authorities with respect to the SEA are the Minister for Environment and Waters (for documents which are to be adopted by central ministries or Parliament) and the Director of the respective Regional Inspectorate for Environment & Waters or the Minister for Environment & Waters (for plans and programs which are to be adopted by decentralized bodies of central Government or Municipal Councils). When an environmental component is required for a plan/program, a SEA shall not be assigned as a separate report.

---

<sup>5</sup> It is also responsible for the implementation of the Rio Conventions and all Convention focal points are staff members of the Ministry.

<sup>6</sup> Environmental Assessment is the Bulgarian term for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

38. The SEA is assigned to experts, registered by the MOEW. The SEA content is determined in accordance with Article 86 of the Environmental Protection Act. The competent authority gives requirements for the contents of SEA in line with the specifics of the plan/program in question, as well as for the assessment methods. No specific indicators are prescribed in the Ordinance on the conditions, procedure and methods for environmental assessment of plans and programs, and they must be determined individually for each case.

*Baseline situation in terms of regional development, spatial planning, and environmental assessment*

*Institutional baseline*

39. There is one Ministry – MRDPW – responsible for formulating and implementing the policies of regional development and spatial planning under the two Acts. The Ministry is also charged with ensuring sustainable development policies in the 6 regions of Bulgaria. MOEW, on the other hand, implements the legislation related to EIA and SEA. MRDPW is thus in the best position to integrate and coordinate all sector-specific policies and their implementation in the regional development documents at all territorial levels. It is also in charge of:

- Local self-government
- Spatial planning
- Harmonization of the existing normative acts on design, execution and operation of construction works with the EU legislation
- Construction, repair and maintenance of technical infrastructure networks
- Integrated water management

40. Regional Development Councils have been recently set up in all 6 planning regions. They are organs for carrying out the State policy for regional development and are composed of representatives of MRDPW, MOEW and 5 other ministries, District Governors and representatives of the constituent municipalities. Regional Development Councils are responsible, among other things, for the:

- Discussion and coordination of District Development Strategies
- Discussion and agreement on draft Regional Development Plans
- Discussion and coordination of measures to be included in the NOPRD

41. Directorates for Technical Assistance, Coordination and Management of Regional Programs and Projects, which are envisaged to act as Secretariats to the Regional Development Councils, are in their final stage of staff recruitment. District Development Councils have also been established in all 28 Districts (at NUTS 3 level). Municipal Councils are in existence in all 264 Municipalities (LAU 1 level). The Managing Authority and Monitoring Committee for the NOPRD have been designated in line with the commitments under Chapter 21 (Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments), while the Intermediate Bodies required are still to be decided upon. The Directorate General "Programming of Regional Development" at the MRDPW is going to implement NOPRD as a Managing Authority. Some of responsibilities will be delegated to its 6 intermediate bodies in each of the 6 planning regions.

*Current status of regional development planning documents*

42. A National Regional Development Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for the 2005-2015 period has been drawn up, coordinated among all line ministries and District Governors and adopted by the Council of Ministers on 14 April 2005. Prior to its coordination and adoption, it was subjected to ex-ante evaluation. A set of indicators for monitoring implementation has been included in the National Regional Development Strategy (see Annex 2 for more information on

the indicator system). District Development Strategies are at their final stage of preparation. Municipal and Regional Development Plans are also to be finished soon.

43. There is no comprehensive national spatial planning scheme at the moment (neither in the making nor under implementation), and only a few district-level spatial planning schemes, due to the limited allocations from the state and municipal budgets to this end. Even though the legislation (RDA and TDA) does link with each other, there is a weak practical link between regional development planning and spatial planning. The key bottleneck is the lack of practical experience that can demonstrate how this can work in practice and how the “Regional planning–spatial planning” loop can be closed. The lack of understanding of the importance of linking regional development planning (which provides the sustainable development vision) and spatial land-use planning (on-the-ground implementation of that vision) is inhibiting allocation of adequate government resources to linking spatial and regional planning.

44. The NOPRD is in the stage of finalizing its socio-economic and SWOT analyses. The National Operational Program “Environment” is at the stage of finalizing its SWOT analysis. No indicators are available at the moment because the NOPRD is not developed yet and thus it does not have indicators as of today. In principle, it will have indicators but it is doubtful that those would consider global environment.

45. The Ordinance on the conditions, procedure and methods for environmental assessment of plans and programs was enforced in July 2004, and hence practical implementation of the procedures for environmental assessment of plans and programs has commenced. By the end of 2004, MOEW had issued 9 opinions on the necessity for environmental assessments, of which, 4 required preparations of such assessments. The Regional Inspectorates had issued 23 opinions, 6 of which required the preparation of environmental assessments.

46. With regards to the implementation of the environmental impact assessment legislation (EIA on specific investment project proposals), the MOEW has issued 24 decisions for assessing the necessity of EIA for investment proposals. In the 1 April 2004 – 1 April 2005 period, 18 EIA decisions have been made for approval of proposals.

#### *Programmatic baseline*

47. Under the baseline, there are several EU funded projects aimed at assisting Bulgaria’s administrative and governance system to create adequate capacity and integrated service and response systems to foster sustainable development priorities. Significant part of the support has been tailored for building the capacity of the relevant institutions, sectoral ministries, and in particular MRDPW, to absorb and manage EU Structural Funds for developing, implementing and monitoring regional development programmes in a transparent and participatory manner.

48. A review of relevant baseline initiatives (summary provided in Annex 3) indicates that while there are activities aimed at strengthening of the regional governance system for EU accession and other environmental management measures, there are none specifically aimed at enhancing regional development planning and implementation capacities for better and more explicit integration of global environmental issues.

49. For instance, the baseline project related to *Preparing Central and Regional Structures of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works for Managing Future ERDF-Type of Projects and Programmes*, aims at strengthening institutional structures at central and regional levels in order to achieve, upon accession, sound and efficient management of EU Structural Funds. More specifically, the following objectives are pursued:

- Preparing the Bulgarian regional authorities for effective implementation of regional development programmes, thus ensuring more transparent involvement of the regions in programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EC assistance in line with the partnership principle;
- Development of sound and effective co-ordination between the central and regional institutions in order to facilitate the absorption of the future funding under EU Structural Funds;
- Reinforcement of the administrative capacity of the ministry at central and regional levels for programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of economic and social cohesion strategies and projects.

50. This project will strengthen the sustainable development foundation in terms of regional development planning on which incremental activities related to the integration of the Conventions can be built. The project will result in the following:

- Operational procedures both at central and regional levels are in place, practical coordination and well-defined roles established;
- National Operational Programme “Regional Development” finalized;
- Effective project pipeline is in place;
- Set up and functioning of appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, including the system of monitoring and evaluation;

#### Weaknesses in baseline

51. The evolving framework for regional development and spatial planning in Bulgaria is unlikely to result in explicit mainstreaming of biodiversity, land degradation and climate change considerations in development planning. In principle, the legal and normative framework for regional development and spatial planning, as well as for environmental assessment, requires the integration of environmental issues into the formulation and implementation of documents that will have an impact on the type of development taking place in the 6 regions. The implementation of this legislative and policy framework in practice, however, is likely to be constrained by capacity bottlenecks in MRDPW, which is the institution with primary responsibility for its implementation.

52. In the baseline scenario development and spatial planning objectives will not necessarily and fully coincide with global environmental objectives. As Bulgaria is heavily dependent on EU funds, it is bound to comply with the objectives established in the EU Cohesion Policy for regional development (namely, convergence, regional competitiveness and job creation) to meet effectiveness and efficiency requirements in its planning and programming documents for regional development. (Annex 4 shows the objectives and priorities of the National Development Plan, other relevant Bulgarian documents, and the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy and the 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy.)

53. The fact that regional development objectives do not directly coincide with global environmental objectives is not unexpected. These objectives are and always will be determined on the basis of EU requirements, which are about competitiveness, jobs, economic development, and the like. The issue of importance from the point of view of the global Conventions is **how** a particular region, district or municipality chooses to achieve those development objectives. In the baseline situation, it is unlikely that objectives of the biodiversity, climate change and land degradation conventions will be appropriately factored into regional development planning.

54. Since relevant region-specific global environmental objectives are rarely identified in regional development documents, the related indicator system that is used to monitor and report on implementation of regional development policies does not explicitly address the achievement of Bulgaria’s commitments under the global environmental conventions. Thus, Convention

objectives again get marginalized relative to development objectives. For instance, urban development indicators for eco-transport, street lighting, energy efficiency and the like (associated with climate change) are rarely used; costs for biological losses (related to biodiversity) are not used in cost-benefit analyses; formal links between biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and sustainable land management, and the planning processes in economic sectors directly involved in using and/or managing natural resources, such as mining, construction, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, and control of invasive species are missing. These sectors are subject to sector-specific strategies and operational programs and, therefore, indicators for their activities, outputs and impacts could well be missed in regional development and spatial planning documents. Similarly, the selection criteria for regional development projects programmed under the NOPRD do not explicitly include specific global environmental objectives-related indicators.

55. The underlying cause of this is not weaknesses in the regulatory framework. In the case of Bulgaria, the legislation already states that environment should be taken into consideration in regional development planning so as to achieve sustainable development. It is in putting the laws into practice where the challenges lie. The critical barriers are the lack of methodologies, knowledge, skills and practical experience on how the laws can be put into practice and how Convention mandates can practically be mainstreamed. Those who are responsible for preparing the planning documents in MRDPW do not have the level of familiarization with biodiversity, land degradation, and climate change issues that is needed to ensure that regional development strategies, programs and plans explicitly further national-level commitments made under the UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD where appropriate. This is especially true of staff at levels below the central one, namely NUTS 2, NUTS 3 and LAU 1 levels. In addition, at the institutional level, the incentives for taking into account global environmental issues are lacking. There are no functions and adequately tasked posts to ensure global environmental mainstreaming into the regional development planning process.

56. As described in the preceding sections of this project brief, the regional development strategies, plans and programs, as well as the spatial planning schemes and plans have environmental components in their structure, and are subject to different environmental assessments and ex-ante and mid-term evaluations. Ex-ante evaluation is deemed to be a reliable tool for considering a wide scope of environmental issues, including global environmental requirements. (Understandably, mid-term evaluations are not used yet.) SEAs are supposed to deal with global environmental issues with respect to specific plans, schemes and programs. However, less than one year has elapsed since the introduction of SEA legislation and this is the first time that SEAs are being used (for the 2007-2013 programming period). Therefore, Bulgaria does not have much experience with applying this instrument.

57. Environmental impact assessments of individual projects provide the possibility to consider environmental issues related to the global environmental agenda, but the overall picture (of the adjacent territory/region) could well be neglected, or not further summarized. Furthermore, needed methodologies for carrying out the assessment of a project's impact on the global environment are currently missing in Bulgaria.

58. One could argue that full implementation of the country's SEA policy, which falls within the remit of the MOEW, should to a large extent address the integration of local and global environmental objectives with regional development planning. However, such an approach would still be seen as a parallel exercise led by MOEW, and the consideration of global environmental issues would not be effectively internalized into the operations of the principle Ministry in charge of sustainable development planning (i.e., MRDPW). The ability of those who manage the development process to integrate global environmental issues would still be lacking.



## **Project Strategy**

59. Based on comprehensive discussions undertaken through PDF-A resources, the chosen project strategy is, therefore, to promote a proactive integration of global environmental issues into the very process of regional and local development, as well as spatial planning, both of which are managed by MRDPW. This would be achieved by developing the capacity of MRDPW and MOEW to integrate global environmental objectives into the regional and local development policies and practices, as well as into spatial planning documents, by addressing capacity weaknesses that have been identified primarily at the individual and institutional levels.

60. Such a strategy would reinforce Bulgaria's existing system of SEAs, inasmuch as it would enhance the ability of MRDPW staff to relate to the SEAs and to strengthen the relationships between competent planning and environmental authorities when SEAs are envisaged. More importantly, based on the participation of staff from MOEW's SEA department, especially in the entire process of developing a methodology for mainstreaming global environmental issues, the project will aim to ensure that MOEW views the results as meeting the legislative requirements for incorporating environmental considerations into regional development planning documents

61. MOEW will also be actively engaged in implementation of project activities to ensure that existing data, information, knowledge and experience in terms of mainstreaming environment are transferred to the extent possible into the upstream development planning work of MRDPW.

62. This proactive strategy is seen as being more sustainable, and with greater replication potential due to the following reasons:

**Sustainability:** Integration of global environment issues into MRDPW mandate is seen as more sustainable, because it internalizes global environment commitments into the very process of planning at all levels, as opposed to SEA which is still perceived as an external parallel process, an add-on exercise to plan development led by the Ministry of Environment and Water.

**Outreach and replication potential:** By establishing integration of global convention priorities as a declared policy by MRDPW to be applied to all regional and local development processes, including at the municipal level, the project strategy of internalizing global environmental issues can be gradually replicated in all 264 municipalities.

63. Another fundamental element of the project strategy is to apply and test the capacities developed through the project in a pilot planning region or group of municipalities in the country, and to propose institutional changes that will create incentives for continuous enhancement and application of the capacities developed by the project. Selection of the pilot region or group of municipalities will be done on a competitive basis, by advertising this demonstration opportunities to municipalities and governors and selecting made based on the criteria of (1) ecological uniqueness, diversity, (2) scale of influence of economic and social issues on environment in the context of the expected rapid economic development, and (3) interest, capacity, and past experience of applying regions or municipalities. When making the final decision for selection of the demonstration region or group of municipalities, the Project Steering Committee will consider presence of protected areas and important non-protected habitats and natural corridors, existing or potential conflicts between entrepreneurs and developers and environmentalists, transboundary problems and opportunities for cross-border coordination, plans for large infrastructural investments under EU structural funds (such as pipelines, ports, airports, roads, etc.).

64. To implement this project strategy it will be essential to involve and build ownership of the project among the following key stakeholder groups – MRDPW at all levels, MOEW, Municipal Mayors, local NGOs and private enterprises. All of these groups are essential to influencing and changing the current practice in terms of how regional and local development and spatial planning documents are formulated and implemented. A particularly important opportunity that this project is capitalizing on is the interest expressed by MRDPW to pursue such an approach during their involvement in the NCSA process.

### **Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes, Outputs and Activities**

65. The long-term goal of the project is to embed global environmental concerns into the processes of regional and local development, as well as spatial planning in Bulgaria.

66. The project objective is to build capacities for mainstreaming global environment into the formulation and implementation of regional and local development, as well as spatial planning policies. This objective will be realized through the following 3 outcomes. (The full logframe is in Annex 5.)

#### **OUTCOME 1: The methodologies, skills, knowledge, and information management system for mainstreaming global environmental considerations into the formulation, implementation and evaluation of regional development and spatial planning policies are in place**

67. Through this outcome, the project will address capacity barriers at the individual level that inhibit global environmental mainstreaming. As identified in the baseline analysis, critical capacity weaknesses relate to the lack of skills, methodologies, knowledge and information on how mainstreaming can be achieved. This applies to those individuals who manage regional development and spatial planning processes, as well as to the broader group of stakeholders in regional development. Also, there are deficiencies in the indicator system that is used to monitor and report on implementation of regional development and spatial planning inasmuch as when regions report on regional development this does not include specifically progress in terms of achieving global environmental objectives. This outcome will therefore develop appropriate capacities and put in place a knowledge management system for mainstreaming of global environmental commitments.

**Output 1.1** Accredited training programme on the integration of UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD objectives into regional development and spatial planning processes is established

68. The project will identify an international academic institution and a Bulgarian partner academic institution that would be willing and able to develop and accredit a training-of-trainers (ToT) programme on integrating Convention objectives into regional development policy and spatial planning in Bulgaria. The training program will cover mainstreaming of global environment into urban and rural development planning and will provide the trainees with the methodology on how to adequately assess and report on achievement of obligations of UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD in regional development or spatial planning, as well as how to practically utilize that analysis in respect to planning documents. The training will also include development of skills on using GIS system. It will take into consideration European trends and policies in the fields of infrastructure development, environment, competitiveness and cohesive communities. An initial draft curriculum for the training programme is in Annex 6. The annex is indicative, and by no means final. It serves as a general framework for further elaboration and clarification through more comprehensive efforts aimed at developing a training programme under this output of the MSP.

69. A team of 6 Bulgarian trainers will be selected to undergo the ToT programme at the designated academic institution. An internationally recognized certificate will be issued to the trainers. Key people from MRDPW (e.g. Directors of the 4 directorates) and SEA Department at MOEW will also be trained, as they will be expected to form part of the team in charge of adapting the ToT programme for broader delivery.

70. Once trained, this team (trainers, key MRDPW and SEA staff, partnering academic institution) will be responsible for designing a training programme to be delivered to MRDPW and SEA staff at central, regional and district levels. The participation of experts from the SEA department in the design of the training program is essential in order to ensure that SEA procedures are adequately integrated. This will, in turn, ensure that MRDPW staff is trained in all requirements of the SEA so that incorporation of SEA into regional development documents would be seen as an integral rather than separate process.

**Output 1.2** Key staff from MRDPW and MOEW is trained to integrate biodiversity, climate change and land degradation objectives into their regular work activities related to regional development planning, implementation and evaluation.

71. Staff from MRDPW's 5 Directorates and 3 Executing Agencies<sup>7</sup>, and from MOEW's SEA Department will be trained through the training programme developed under Output 1.1. An internationally recognized certificate will be issued to the trainees. Modifications to the programme will be introduced based on feedback. The training programme will be incorporated into the National System of Vocational Training so that it can continue to be offered to a broad set of interested individuals even after project completion. It is expected that once the pilot demonstration of a regional development and spatial plan that mainstreams global environmental issues in the pilot region and group of municipalities is successful, MRDPW will require replication of this in other planning regions. Together with institutional changes proposed under Outcome 2 of the project this will create a demand for acquiring a certificate from this training programme, and, as with other courses offered under the national system of vocational training, trainees will be expected to pay a fee for taking the course, thus ensuring financial sustainability of the training programme.

72. The estimated total staff to be trained is 130 (included in these 130 trainees are staff at NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 levels). This includes staff from MRDPW's Strategic Planning of Regional Policy Directorate (22), National Operational Programme Regional Development Directorate including its future 6 intermediate bodies (40); staff from MRDPW's Spatial Planning Directorate (10), staff from European Integration and Coordination of International Programmes Directorate (10); staff from the Directorates for Technical Assistance, Coordination and Management of Regional Programs and Projects (12); staff from MRDPW's 3 Executing Agencies (30); and staff from MOEW/ SEA department (6).

73. The training programme is expected to become of interest to a large group of stakeholders once the MRDPW would require adequate integration of global environment objectives into the regional development and spatial planning documents (such as municipalities and registered EIA/ SEA experts). The programme's market would grow significantly if recognized as an important criterion for registering with the MOEW as an EIA/ SEA expert and as an asset in hiring and evaluating staff performance at the targeted 5 Directorates of the MRDPW. It is also likely to be of interest to future Structural Funds potential beneficiaries.

---

<sup>7</sup> The 3 Executing Agencies of MRDPW – EA/PHARE, EA/ISPA, and EA/ROADS – are responsible for implementing projects.

Institutional changes required to ensure relevance and sustainability of the training programme will be addressed under Outcome 2.

**Output 1.3** Set of uniform indicators and guidance for application are established for measuring the contribution of regional development policy and spatial planning to meeting global environmental objectives

74. The team of 6 trainers will identify a set of indicators that would be able to demonstrate the contribution of regional development and spatial planning to meeting the objectives of global environmental conventions at the national, regional, district and municipal levels. This will be created on the basis of the nascent indicator systems for the national regional development strategy and the indicators from the regional development plans and other documents, and will draw on relevant EU Regulations<sup>8</sup>, guidance and experience of the GRDP project (e.g. experience of Puglia Region in Italy). Sustainability indicator systems of UN, EU countries, OECD and others will be taken into consideration. A new layer of selected indicators related to the global environmental conventions will be suggested and incorporated into the official methodology used by MRDPW. An indicative conceptual approach to integration of global environmental conventions into regional development planning through the introduction of appropriate assessment indicators is provided in Annex 7. The annex is indicative, and by no means final. It serves as a general framework for further elaboration and clarification through more comprehensive efforts aimed at developing an indicator set related to the global environment under this output of the MSP.

75. Data sources for indicators will be surveyed and negotiations with the most appropriate data delivery institutions will be undertaken (primarily the National Statistical Institute). Protocols for data delivery will also be developed.

76. In addition, the global environmental indicators and data set will be integrated into the existing GIS on regional development. The necessary software will be purchased and developed for ensuring that the GIS system is managed via Internet, which is the optimal solution for making it effectively available to all regional development bodies and stakeholders. MRDPW has already purchased GIS software and intends to develop the system.

77. Guidelines on the use of the indicator system will be developed. This would not only cover technical issues, but also recommendations on how districts and municipalities can deploy their resources most efficiently to monitor indicators. The guidelines will be issued as a separate document and provided to all municipalities, district administrations, MRDPW relevant staff and other key stakeholders in order to assist them in using the indicator system. The indicator system and guidelines will be tested through the pilot Regional Development Plan under Outcome 3, and modified if needed.

**Output 1.5** A portal website dedicated to integration of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation issues into development planning is operational for all stakeholders (government, NGOs, CBOs, businesses, academic and research institutions, public)

78. A portal website will be developed (designing, collection of information, loading) as part of the MRDPW website, focusing on practical integration of global environmental issues into regional development. The website will be aimed at different audiences – government, NGOs,

---

<sup>8</sup> E.g. European Council Regulation # 1260/99 on use of monitoring indicators in the programming and evaluation processes for Structural Funds.

CBOs, businesses, academic and research institutions, public – and at different levels – national, regional, district, municipal.

79. The website will be regularly updated. The structure and software design of the contents management system will be agreed so that MRDPW staff can easily manage content. A protocol for determining what information from the global environmental indicator system can go on the Internet and for loading the GIS access to the portal website will be developed.

80. Information about the website and the procedures for its update will be incorporated into the training programme (Output 1.1 and 1.2) and will also be disseminated under the pilot project (Outcome 3) to encourage municipalities to submit good practices information for uploading.

**Output 1.6** Develop knowledge materials from extensive information on good practices from Bulgaria, neighboring countries, EU and other regions for dissemination through the portal website.

81. In addition to the information prepared as part of the training programme (Output 1.1 and 1.2), specific knowledge materials will be prepared for dissemination through the website aimed for use by MRDPW structures, district administrations, municipalities and other key stakeholders. The key component of the knowledge materials will be good practices from Bulgaria. MRDPW will contribute to the generation of such practices via resources from its EU-financed programs (e.g., energy efficiency, renewable energy, combating erosion, etc.).

82. Other guidance materials will also be adapted for Bulgaria (for example materials available through the Greening Regional Development Project<sup>9</sup>) with special emphasis on global environmental concerns. A comprehensive set of legislative requirements for integrating global environmental objectives into regional development policy and spatial planning will be compiled and published. Finally, a compendium on “Good Financial Management Practices” on integration of global environmental concerns into various types of businesses will be developed.

**OUTCOME 2: Institutional changes that support mainstreaming of global environment into regional development and spatial planning are in place.**

83. Through this outcome the project will address institutional-level capacity bottlenecks to mainstreaming global environmental issues into regional development and spatial planning. These primarily relate to the lack of institutional incentives that promote such integration and the capacity within MRDPW to monitor, evaluate, adapt, replicate and learn from the project’s strategy of mainstreaming global environmental considerations. It will also address the need to establish the relevant functions/ tasks within the relevant organizations that will ensure systematic mainstreaming.

**Output 2.1** Institutional improvements introduced at MRDPW and MOEW (SEA) to sustain the capacities developed through the training programme for the integration of global environmental objectives into regional development and spatial planning

84. The need for introducing specific functions for certain posts for systematic integration of global environment into the planning process will be explored. Key decision makers from MRDPW will be introduced to the “Environment Sustainability Theme Manager Office” system that is successfully operating in the UK for integration of environmental objectives into development policies, as an option for consideration by Bulgaria. This will be achieved through

---

<sup>9</sup> Such as *The Handbook on Environmental Assessment of Regional Development Plans and Structural Funds Programs*, DG Environment, September 1999

twinning with the Greening Regional Development Programmes (GRDP) project, which is a network of partners and associated organizations from nine EU Member States. A brief description of GRDP and a proposed letter of cooperation are provided in Annex 8.

85. In addition, MRDPW will make adjustments to the staff hiring procedure, staff job descriptions, and staff evaluation procedures to ensure that there are incentives for developing and applying capacities related to integration of global environmental objectives into regional development and spatial planning processes at all levels. Existing methodological guidelines on implementation of RDA and TDA and criteria for resource allocation from NOPRD will be revised to explicitly refer to integration of global environmental issues. This work will be based on skills acquired through the training programme.

86. Finally, the capacity of the MOEW (SEA Department) for the development of methodologies for assessing the environmental impact of projects on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation will be enhanced. These methodologies that are currently lacking under the EIA practice in Bulgaria will be adopted by MOEW.

**Output 2.2** Stakeholders have the capacity to monitor, evaluate, adapt, replicate and learn from project strategy

87. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established within MRDPW and will be responsible for leading monitoring, adaptive management and evaluation of the project in close coordination with MRDPW staff.

88. A dialogue will also be initiated with the Managing Authorities of the 4 other Operational Programmes to share the experience of MRDPW in making institutional adjustments that better enable integration of global environmental concerns in their work (Output 1.3). Based on these discussions, a proposal will be developed for consideration by the Council of Ministers to introduce similar institutional changes in the Managing Authorities of the other 4 OPs (OP1: Competitiveness and Employment, OP2: Human Resources, OP3: Environment, OP5: Transport).

89. A Lessons Learned publication will be produced for wider dissemination in the region and the GEF. Round tables will be held with donors to share lessons and identify interest in replication of the pilot region to other regions within Bulgaria. Presentation and discussion of the project's results and impacts will be undertaken through a final conference and media publications.

**OUTCOME 3: Regional development plans and municipal-level spatial development plans are revised to integrate global environmental objectives in a pilot region or group of municipalities through application of capacities developed in Outcomes 1 and 2.**

90. Through this outcome the project will be able to provide a hands-on demonstration of how global environmental objectives can be integrated into regional development and spatial planning. It will be able to test and apply the methodologies, skills, knowledge, and information management system developed under Outcome 1. The participation and technical inputs of the project teams of UNDP/GEF projects (under development or under implementation) that are active in pilot region will be sought, particularly their technical inputs on how mainstreaming of biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management can be achieved in the regional development and spatial plans of this particular region of Bulgaria.

**Output 3.1** The Regional Development Plan for the pilot planning region adequately integrates biodiversity, climate change and land degradation issues

91. Terms of Reference (ToR) for pilot testing the project strategy for the Regional Development Plan for the pilot region or municipalities will be prepared<sup>10</sup>. The ToR will stipulate that the regional team should be trained under the training programme developed under Outcome 1 and that the team should have at least one EIA expert. The focus will be on assessing the existing Regional Development Plan for the pilot region and development plans for municipalities included in it from the perspective of integration of global environmental objectives and suggesting its update. The ToR will require testing of the set of indicators and use of knowledge materials developed under Outcome 1. The ToR will also require application of extensive stakeholder consultation process, especially with the 3 district administrations and 22 local authorities (municipalities). ToRs will also give special emphasis on assessing how the regional development plan could encourage the use of market-based instruments in furthering the objectives of the global environmental conventions. Once the pilot is successfully implemented, these ToRs will be adopted by the MRDPW as the standard ToR for updating of all regional development plans. Specific good practice examples of mainstreaming global environment in regional development for the pilot region will be developed by leveraging MRDPW resources under the EU cross-border cooperation projects. Based on these ToRs and good practice examples, the Regional Development Plan will be updated.

**Output 3.2** The master plan of 1 pilot municipality adequately integrates biodiversity, climate change and land degradation issues

92. The project will consider better integration of global environmental objectives into the spatial development plan of one pilot municipality. One municipality will be selected for testing the project strategy on the basis of willingness to undertake the process, ability to contribute financially, and importance of integrating global environmental concerns in the spatial plans of the municipality. Once the pilot is successfully implemented, the ToR used under the project will be adopted by the MRDPW as the standard ToR for updating of all spatial plans. Based on the ToR, the spatial plan for the selected municipality will be updated through an extensive stakeholder consultation process.

### **Sustainability**

93. The project's fundamental approach to sustainability is to create incentives for continued development and application of the capacities developed by the project, through changes in the terms of reference, job descriptions, and criteria for resource allocation from NOPRD. These measures are expected to create a "demand" for the ability to integrate the objectives of the Conventions in regional development and spatial planning and implementation. Through the training of trainers programme and the knowledge management system, the project will be able to create a "supply" of individuals capable of integrating global environmental issues into regional development and spatial planning.

### **Replicability**

94. The project will develop capacities for integrating the Conventions in the regional development process and will test and apply these capacities in the pilot planning region. The project will develop the tools, methodologies and guidance needed by MRDPW to replicate the pilot region in other planning regions. It will also build a dialogue with the Managing Authorities for the other Operational Programmes on their lessons from institutional and individual level capacity building for mainstreaming global environmental issues as a model for the other Managing Authorities.

---

<sup>10</sup> Selection process and criteria of the pilot region and municipalities for demonstration was described in para 63, Project Strategy.

95. MRDPW staff who we will be closely involved in the project and who will be trained in integrating global environmental considerations in regional development are also members of the working groups of all other National Operational Programmes. Therefore, their participation in these working groups will be an effective mechanism for promoting mainstreaming of the global environment into the functioning of the other national operational programs.

### **Stakeholder Involvement**

96. During the PDF-A a comprehensive review of stakeholders was undertaken. See Annex 9 for a description of stakeholders. Key stakeholder representatives also participated in a project development workshop in May 2005. Many of these stakeholders have been involved in the NCSA, and the proposed project will continue to employ the same stakeholder involvement processes.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

97. Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established UNDP and GEF procedures by the project team and the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) with support from UNDP/GEF. Output 2.2 of the project relates specifically to monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management capacities. The Logical Framework Matrix provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification. These will form the basis on which the project's Monitoring and Evaluation system will be built.

## **D - FINANCING**

### **FINANCING PLAN (US DOLLARS)**

<b>Budget item</b>	<b>GEF</b>	<b>Cofinancing</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Outcome 1: Methodologies, skills, knowledge, and information management system for mainstreaming	256,000	772,000	1,028,000
Outcome 2: Institutional changes that support mainstreaming	180,000	7,000	187,000
Outcome 3: Demonstration in a planning region or group of municipalities	63,000	250,000	313,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>499,000</b>	<b>1,029,000</b>	<b>1,528,000</b>
Percentage share	33%	67%	

### **INCREMENTAL REASONING AND COST EFFECTIVENESS**

98. The project seeks to ensure that the sustainable development baseline -- which consists of efforts being made by Bulgaria to align its institutions and policy framework related to regional development with EU requirements in anticipation of EU joining the Union in 2007 -- is extended to include explicit attention to mainstreaming Bulgaria's commitments under the UNCBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD in the formulation and implementation of regional development planning documents. See Annex 3 for a summary of relevant baseline initiatives. As a result of the NCSA and PDF-A discussions, specific measures have been identified that would ensure that the legislative and policy framework, which in principle is highly supportive of mainstreaming local and global environmental issues in development planning, can be applied in practice.

99. The project seeks to realize cost efficiencies through its approach of simultaneously addressing the integration of all 3 conventions into Bulgaria's regional development process. This was identified by the NCSA as one of the primary capacity building needs that are common to realizing the objective of all 3 conventions.



## CO-FINANCING

100. The cofinancing from MRDPW will mostly be obtained by leveraging resources from the EU co-financed development and cooperation programs, as well as by ensuring in-kind resources for office premises and website creation and maintenance. Some cofinancing is also expected from the municipality that is selected for the pilot development of a spatial planning scheme that integrates global environmental objectives. At this stage, however, the municipality has not yet been identified. Based on initial discussions there is sufficient ground to consider that municipalities will provide cofinancing as they are clearly interested in participating in the project. Furthermore, this has been included as one of the criteria for selecting participating municipalities. The table below provides a breakdown of cofinancing by source and type.

Name of co-financier	Type	Amount (US\$)	Status
MRDPW	Cash	990,000	Letters attached in Annex 10
MRDPW	In kind	29,000	Letters attached in Annex 10
Municipalities		10,000	To be determined
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,029,000</b>	

## **E - INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT**

### **CORE COMMITMENTS AND LINKAGES**

101. One of the three pillars of the recently approved UNDP Bulgaria Country Program Document (CPD 2006-2009) is ensuring energy and environment conservation for sustainable development. The CPD refers to a successful NCSA exercise, and emphasizes UNDP assistance in further capacity building for meeting global environmental obligations of Bulgaria. The CPD specifically commits to promoting “policy shifts for better compliance with EU environmental standards and strengthen national institutional capacity to integrate the objectives of the three Rio conventions into the development planning process at all levels”<sup>11</sup>.

#### *UNDP/GEF portfolio under implementation*

102. Better integration of biodiversity into municipal development and spatial plans in the Rhodope landscape, integration of biodiversity conservation into farming and forestry practices, as well as awareness raising on biodiversity values, are key objectives of the currently running full size UNDP/GEF Rhodope Project. The recently approved Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Medium-Size project aims to strengthen capacity of Bulgaria to implement the UNCCD, demonstrate options for working with farmers to adopt application of innovative soil conservation and integrated ecosystem management techniques into their practices. The Rhodope and SLM projects are linked well with core UNDP projects, which blend sustainable resource management with agriculture, such as Sustainable Rural Development and Teams on Wheels. Small-scale practical conservation projects on the ground will now be a valuable complement to larger UNDP and UNDP/GEF projects. This window is now available through the recently launched UNDP/GEF Small Grants Program.

103. The Rhodope project team participated in stakeholder consultations on the proposed crosscutting capacity building project, providing valuable contribution to it, and building up links between the projects that are expected to bring synergies especially through collaboration in piloting ecological mainstreaming in one of the Planning Regions or a group of municipalities.

---

<sup>11</sup> *Country Program Document for Bulgaria (2006-2009)*, Item 6 Provisional Agenda of Annual Session 2005 of Executive Board of the United Nations Development Program and of the United Nations Population Fund

The active participation of the project managers of ongoing GEF projects will be ensured, especially in the region pilot (Outcome 3), so that the project can benefit from their technical inputs on how the global environmental dimension of regional development and spatial planning can be improved.

#### UNDP/GEF portfolio under development

104. The proposed project complements a number of UNDP/GEF initiatives at various stages of preparation. The *Ponor Grasslands Medium-Size* project proposal seeks to mainstream conservation of high nature value grasslands into Bulgarian agriculture, demonstrating impacts in the field, and contributing to formulation of the National Agri-Environmental Plan. The *Black Sea Biodiversity* project proposal focuses on integration of concerns about globally threatened migratory birds into wind farm development and tourism infrastructure along the Black Sea Coast. MRDPW is considered to be one of the key stakeholders for the *Black Sea* project. Therefore, synergies between the Black Sea PDF B and the proposed project will be developed by establishing and maintaining regular dialog between project teams and implementing partners.

105. Bulgaria is the only European representative in the team of 6 countries participating in the Global UNDP/GEF Project on *Increasing Sustainability for Protected Areas Financing* (currently PDF B stage), which is looking into ways to improve the current system of allocating and managing Protected Area financing. Strengthening capacity to promote *Energy Efficiency in Buildings* is the objective of the coming Medium Size Project, which has direct relevance for proper implementation of the UNFCCC in Bulgaria.

106. The proposed project goes beyond the scope of one convention, and is an overarching element for the above-described UNDP and GEF initiatives currently on-going and planned. It is targeting multi-convention capacity building, training and indicator systems, thus not fitting into any of the focal area operational programs and strategic priorities, while still proposing a most relevant program of action for ensuring long-term environmental sustainability in Bulgaria. Through the UNDP Country Office, all GEF and UNDP projects listed above are going to be closely coordinated to avoid overlap and achieve maximum synergies. The UNDP office will ensure that the project teams of UNDP/GEF initiatives that are under development or implementation are kept informed of this cross-cutting capacity building project, specifically the potential it offers to mainstream global environmental issues into regional development and spatial planning and how this can reduce threats and barriers to biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and sustainable land management.

#### **CONSULTATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN AND AMONG IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES, EXECUTING AGENCIES, AND THE GEF SECRETARIAT, IF APPROPRIATE.**

107. The World Bank, by using GEF co-financing, has recently launched a multi-million Bulgarian Energy Efficiency Fund (BEEF) to promote investment in energy efficient projects, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It has also been working on development of a *Green Investment Scheme* for Bulgaria that would channel funds collected by Bulgaria through emissions trading to environmental projects. UNEP has been active in contributing to capacity building on removal of *Persistent Organic Pollutants*, as well as in practical activities for removal of ozone-depleting substances (methyl bromide). A dialog will be established with these activities through the UNDP office to ensure complementarity and secure inputs as appropriate.

**PART II – SUPPLEMENTAL ANNEXES (FOR TARGETED RESEARCH PROPOSALS ONLY)**

Not applicable.

**PART III – RESPONSE TO REVIEWS**

**A - CONVENTION SECRETARIAT**

**B - OTHER IAS AND RELEVANT EXAS**

## **ANNEX 1: LIST OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION, PROGRAMMING DOCUMENTS, STRATEGIES**

### National legislation:

Regional Development Act;  
Natural Resources Act;  
Territorial Arrangement Act;  
Waste Management Act;  
Environment Protection Act;  
Agricultural Land Conservation Act;  
Protected Territories Act;  
Small and Medium Enterprises Act;  
Public Procurement Law;  
Economic and Social Council Act  
Law on International Agreements of Republic of Bulgaria;  
Economic and Social Council Act  
Forest Restitution Act  
Farmer Support Act  
Forests Act  
New Plant Varieties & Animal Breeds Protection Act  
Hunting Economy and Game Animal Protection Act  
Clean Air Act  
Water Act  
Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act  
Limitation of the Harmful Impact of Waste on the Environment Act  
Underground Natural Riches Act  
Medicinal Plants Act  
Civil Aviation Act  
Law on the Maritime Spaces, Inland Waterways and Ports of the Republic of Bulgaria  
Railway Transport Act  
Automobile Transport Act  
Law of Amendments to the Road Laws  
Law on the Protection of Competition  
Law on State Aid  
Law on Statistics  
Law on Concessions  
Energy Law  
Energy Efficiency Act  
ORDINANCE No. 2 of 10 January 2003 Regarding Measurement of Vessels, Navigating Inland Waterways  
ORDINANCE about Green Certificates Scheme (pending)

### Programming documents:

National operational programme for regional development  
National operation programme "Environment"  
National operation programme "Competitiveness of Bulgarian economy"  
National operation programme "Transport"  
National operation programme "Agriculture and rural areas"

### Planning documents:

National development Plan (under development)  
Regional development plans (6 planning regions) (under development)  
Municipal development plans - 264

### Other policy instruments, strategies, regulations, directions and instructions:

Strategy for Administrative Capacity Development – from Accession to Membership;  
Strategy for the Participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the European Union's Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund  
National Strategy for Regional Development  
District development strategies  
Regulations for the organization and the activity of the Regional Councils for Development;  
Regulations for the organization and the activity of the District Councils for Development;  
Regulations for the organization and the activity of the Directorates for Technical Assistance, Coordination and Regional Programmes and Plans Management;  
Instructions for working out regional plans for development;  
Methodological directions for working out district strategies for development;  
Methodological directions for working out municipal plans for development;  
Methodologies on elaboration of planning and strategic documents  
National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan  
National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)  
National Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria  
National Program on utilization of Renewable Energy Sources  
National Program on Energy Efficiency and Action Plan

### International laws:

United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)  
Kyoto Protocol to the Convention (KP)

### Other international documents:

Additional Info- Ch 21 "Regional policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments"  
Lisbon Strategy  
Gothenburg Strategy  
Accession Treaty  
Strategy for Accession of the Rep. of Bulgaria to EU  
EU policy for sustainable development

## **ANNEX 2: LIST OF INDICATORS USED FOR MONITORING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **1. National Regional Development Operational Program (2000(4)-2006)**

<b>Priority 1. Fostering of regional and local economic activity</b>				
<b>Type</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline value</b>	<b>Source/ Availability</b>	<b>Target value</b>
<i>Resources</i>	Financing (EUR)	-	FM / Budget/ Annually	100%
<i>Output</i>	Number of projects financed	-	Reports/ annually	120
	Number of new tourist products	-	Reports/ annually	180
<i>Result</i>	Number of business organizations aided	-	Reports/ mid-term	80
	Increase of the number of companies included, %	Number of companies included in business organizations, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ mid-term	10%
	Increase of the number of tourists per regions, %	Number of tourists per regions, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ annually	10%
<i>Impact</i>	Increase of the number of contracts entered by companies, %	Average number of contracts entered in 1999-2001	Statistics/ Reports/ mid-term	25%
	Employment rate, %	Average value, 1999-2001	Statistics/ Reports/ mid-term	5%
<b>Priority 2. Improvement of business development related infrastructure</b>				
<b>Type</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline value</b>	<b>Source/ availability</b>	<b>Target value</b>
<i>Resources</i>	Financing (EUR)	-	FM/ Budget / annually	100%
<i>Output</i>	Regional and local roads built/rehabilitated (km)	-	Reports/ annually	400
	Electric and gas distribution systems built/rehabilitated (km)	-	Reports/ annually	150
	Water&Sewerage systems built/rehabilitated (km)	-	Reports/ annually	1 000
	Digital telephone lines, %	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ annually	35%
	Increase of Internet users, number of	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ annually	6 000
	Capacity of built/rehabilitated water discharge& treatment facilities	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ annually	1 000 000 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Result</i>	Accessibility of business locations	-	ESS	60

	Number of tourist locations with improved accessibility	-	Reports/ Annually	220
	Increase of business users of electricity/gas, %	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ annually	15%
	Number of companies with improved water&sewerage services	-	Reports/ annually	1 200
	Number of companies with improved water&sewerage services in the tourist sector	-	Reports/ annually	50
	Effluent waters treated, %	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ annually	80%
	Reduction of water supply outage time, %	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ annually	30%
	Number of companies using ICT	-	Reports/ annually	700
<i>Impact</i>	Traffic increase one year after completion, %	Average value, 1999-2001	Statistics/ Reports/ mid-term	30%
	Improvement of energy consumption efficiency, %	Average value, 1999-2001	Statistics/ Reports/ mid-term	20%
	Water volume sold/consumed after one year	Average value, 1999-2001	Statistics/ Reports/ mid-term	1 500 000
	New jobs using ICT	-	Reports/ mid-term	2 000
	New jobs in the tourist sector	-	Reports/ mid-term	1 800
	Reduction of surface water contamination, %	Average value 1999-2001	Statistics, Reg. Env. Depts./ Reports/ mid-term	10%
<b>Priority 3. Development of professional skills in support of the economic activity at regional and local level and the transition to information society</b>				
<b>Type</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline value</b>	<b>Source/ availability</b>	<b>Target value</b>
<i>Resources</i>	Financing (EUR)	-	Fin. memorandum/ Budget/ annually	100%
<i>Output</i>	Number of beneficiaries	-	Reports/ annually	3 000
	Number of joint business/training R&D/ projects	-	Reports/ Annually	60
	Increase of Internet users, number of	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ Annually	1 000
<i>Result</i>	Increase of spending on training, %	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ annually	15%

	Increase of corporate investments in R&D and ICT, %	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ annually	25%
	Number of companies/centres using ICT	-	Reports/ annually	70
<i>Impact</i>	Net increase of the no. of jobs, or preserved jobs, %	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ mid-term	5%/ 2 500
	Number of new products/ innovations	-	Reports/ mid-term	30
	Number of new jobs using ICT	-	Reports/ mid-term	1 000
<b>Priority 4. Development of cross-border cooperation</b>				
<b>Type</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline value</b>	<b>Source/ availability</b>	<b>Target value</b>
<i>Resources</i>	Financing (EUR)	-	Fin. memorandum/ Budget/ annually	100%
<i>Output</i>	Number of infrastructural projects	-	Reports/ annually	10
	Number of joint business projects	-	Reports/ annually	50
	Number of cultural exchange projects	-	Reports/ annually	30
<i>Result</i>	Number of locations with improved technical or env. infrastructure	-	Reports/ annually	20
	Increase of contracts signed, %	-	Reports/ annually	20%
	Number of built or upgraded cultural sites/cultural events	-	Reports/ annually	40
<i>Impact</i>	Increased traffic of people/goods/ services, %	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ mid-term	20%
	Number of new jobs created	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ mid-term	1 000
	Increase of the number of tourists, %	Reported data, 2001	Statistics/ Reports/ mid-term	15%
<b>Priority 5. Increasing the role of regions in regional development policy formulation and implementation</b>				
<b>Type</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline value</b>	<b>Source/ availability</b>	<b>Target value</b>
<i>Resources</i>	Financing (EUR)	-	Fin. memorandum/ Budget/ annually	100%
<i>Output</i>	Number of training sessions	-	Reports/ annually	80
	Number of working meetings of the partners	-	Reports/ annually	240
	Number of days for tech. consultations in project management	-	Reports/ annually	360
	Number of regional statisticians trained	-	Reports/ annually	80

<i>Result</i>	Completion of planning and programming documents, %	-	Reports/ annually	100%
	Reduction of projects rejected at primary evaluation phase, %	-	Reports/ annually	50%
	Number of statistical surveys/ evaluations of programme documents	-	Reports/ annually	60
<i>Impact</i>	Partners' awareness/ participation in regional programmes, %	-	Reports/ mid-term	75%
	Absorption of the funds available, %	-	Reports/ mid-term	70%
	Achievement of required staffing levels (in terms of count and qualification)	-	Reports/ mid-term	80%
	Sufficiency of regional databases used for monitoring and evaluation, %	-	Reports, estimates made by experts/ mid-term	85%

## 2. National Regional Development Strategy (2005-2015)

Overall goal: Achieving sustainable and balanced development of the Bulgaria's regions

Objective No. 1: Achievement of a turning point in the regional development through investments in physical and human capital and approximation to the average development levels of the European Union

- Per capita GDP
- Growth rate of GDP and per capita GDP
- Employment level: total, men/women
- Unemployment level: total, men/women, young people
- Income levels

Objective No. 2: Reduction of the interregional and intra-regional disparities through building upon the indigenous potential at regional and local level

- Intra-regional disparities in the per capita GDP level (as compared to the average for the planning region and the national average in %);
- Intra-regional disparities in the employment level (as compared to the average for the planning region and the national average in %);
- Intra-regional disparities in the unemployment level (as compared to the average for the planning region and the national average in %);
- Intra-regional disparities in the income level (as compared to the average for the planning region and the national average in %);
- Coverage of the population in the 45-minutes isochrone around the major transport centers in the planning regions in %;
- Access to broadband communications in %;
- Access of the population to permanent water supply and drinking water of the appropriate quality in %;

Objective No. 3: Development of territorial cooperation for achieving territorial cohesion with the EU and good neighborhood and partnership



- Number of projects for cross-border co-operation
- Relative share of municipalities per different frontiers involved in projects for cross-border co-operation
- Number of projects for transnational co-operation in which Bulgaria is a party
- Number of municipalities and districts involved in projects for transnational co-operation
- Number of projects for work in network and exchange of experience between regional and local authorities

### **3. Major indicators for monitoring of the National Regional Development Strategy**

#### **PRIORITY NO. 1: RAISING REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS ON THE BASIS OF A KNOWLEDGE- BASED ECONOMY**

##### **Specific objective 1: Development of research, technological development and innovations in the regions**

- Number of newly established centers for research, technology and innovations
- Number of established technology parks and technology incubators, which have obtained support
- Amount of investments for development of technology parks and technology incubators and regional R&D centers (percentage of the total amount of investments)
- Number of companies located in technology parks and technology incubators
- Total amount of investments attracted in the technology parks
- Number of market-oriented research projects, which have obtained support
- Percentage of successfully completed market-oriented research projects
- Number of Letters of Patent from developed innovations
- Availability and development of a network for transfer of knowledge and technologies from the R&D sector to the industrial sector
- Availability of structures/programs for training in entrepreneur skills
- Developed regional innovation strategies and programs for their implementation – number, territorial scope.
- Increase of the number of employed R&D personnel (number and percentage of the total number of employees in that sphere, men/women)

##### **Specific objective 2: Building of business networks and regional clusters**

- Number of created regional clusters and networks
- Number of companies participating in regional clusters

##### **Specific objective 3: Improvement of the access to and development of information and communications technologies in the field of public services and the services for SMEs**

- Number of digital telephone lines and increase in percentage
- Length of the installed broadband network (km)
- Number of Internet subscribers per 1000 inhabitants
- Number of newly created companies, which offer services related to information technologies (online, eTrade) at the regional and local level
- Number of training courses on ICT
- Number of training sessions (sessions x number of trainees) on ICT
- Number of trainees (men/women) in ICT
- Number of created interactive services with the use of ICT
- Number of Internet access centers for local level calls
- Number of the created online services and opportunities designated for the benefit of schools, public institutions and citizens
- Number of the created online services and opportunities designated for the benefit of SMEs (eTrade and transactions, education and training, creation of different types of networks)

#### **PRIORITY NO. 2: DEVELOPMENT AND UPGRADING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE CREATING CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT**

Specific objective 1: Development and upgrading of the elements of the regional and local transport infrastructure

- Length (in km) of constructed or rehabilitated roads Class B and Class C and municipal roads (percentage of the finished network)
- Degree of completion of the network (percentage)
- Length of the improved railway infrastructure, including on the area of industrial zones of important industrial centers
- Percentage of the population which has benefited from improved transport accessibility
- Number of jobs created or preserved as a result of projects in the transport sector

Specific objective 2: Construction and improvement of the environmental protection infrastructure

- Number of constructed drinking water treatment plants
- Number of constructed urban wastewater treatment plants
- Percentage of wastewater subjected to primary treatment
- Percentage of wastewater subject to secondary treatment
- Number of days with distorted water supply (per 1000 households)
- Percentage of households / manufacturing enterprises affected by the abolishment of water rationing
- Percentage of treated solid urban waste and building waste as compared to the norm requirements
- Percentage of the population served by the commercial systems for waste disposal
- Areas (percentage of the total) threatened by erosion (washing away, weathering or the result of human activity)
- Reinforced slides – number and area
- Number of constructed new facilities for use of alternative energy sources and capacity in kW.

Specific objective 3: Improvement of the access to and building of regional and local business infrastructure

- Number of constructed sites of the local and regional business infrastructure, which have received support
- Number of SMEs which receive business services
- Availability of a network for exchange of information among the individual units of the local infrastructure, providing services to businesses
- Area of the newly constructed infrastructure sites in support of business (m<sup>2</sup>)
- Percentage of satisfied beneficiaries (men/women)

PRIORITY NO.3: RAISING OF THE ATTRACTIVENESS AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE REGIONS

Specific objective 1: Raising the attractiveness of the regions through investments in education

- Number of employees participating in training programmes (type of programmes, duration)
- Number of SMEs receiving financial support for training (scale, type of training, duration)
- Number of joint projects between employers and students
- Number of new curricula oriented towards regional and local labour markets
- Number of regional information systems and networks for professional orientation and information
- Number of PCs per 100 pupils in schools
- Number of Internet places per 100 pupils in schools
- Number of PCs per 100 students in higher educational establishments
- Number of Internet places per 100 students in higher educational establishments
- Number of classes devoted to ICT (session x number of trainees) in schools

Specific objective 2: Integration of the entire territorial community in the labour market

- Number, relative share and indicators for change in the number of persons, who have undergone training in entrepreneurship, skills upgrading, training in key knowledge and skills
- Conducted active measures at the regional and local labour markets, including for underprivileged groups
- Number of ensured seats for skills upgrading at the regional and local level, including for underprivileged groups

- Undertaken and organized skills upgrading courses at the regional and local level, including for underprivileged groups
- Extended consultations and advice at the regional and local level, including for underprivileged groups
- Number of new jobs created at the regional and local level

Specific objective 3: Improvement of health care services

- Amount of new investments related to the health care system
- Number of new health care services at regional and local level
- Number of people, who have obtained new access to health care services

Specific objective 4: Preservation and valorization of nature and the cultural heritage

- Number of natural and cultural sites, which have received support for preservation and exhibition
- Area of conserved and exhibited natural and cultural sites
- Renewed local cultural institutes
- Created new sustainable local tourism products
- Allocated for tourism facilities (m<sup>2</sup>)
- Number of new marketing initiatives / schemes for promotion of tourism as business
- Length of new / upgraded technical infrastructure in support of local tourism products
- Average number of visitors per day

PRIORITY NO. 4: INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND UPGRADING OF URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Specific objective 1: Application of strategies for integer urban development and improvement of the competitiveness of cities

- Number of elaborated strategies for integrated urban development of large urban agglomerations

Specific objective 2: Rehabilitation and renewal of urban areas

- Number of supported projects for urban renewal
- Infrastructure constructed in cities
- Business activities / commercial sites accommodated in the renewed quarter / zone

Specific objective 3: Strengthening of the “urban-rural” relationships and improvement of the socio-economic integration

- Number of projects for strengthening of the relationship between the city and its hinterland
- Number of inhabitants affected positively by projects for strengthening of the socio-economic integration of the city and its hinterland B

Specific objective 4: Promotion of environmentally clean public transport in cities

- Number of projects for optimization of public transport in cities
- Number of projects for promotion of the use of public transport in cities
- Percentage of transported passenger on the public transport (trolley bus, tramway, underground)

PRIORITY NO. 5: DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATION WITH THE EU REGIONS

Specific objective 1: Development of cross-border co-operation

- Number of projects for cross-border co-operation, including by major priorities
- Relative share of municipalities involved in projects for cross-border co-operation per frontiers
- Number of beneficiaries
- Relative share of target population affected by projects for cross-border co-operation

Specific objective 2: Development of transnational co-operation

- Number of projects for transnational co-operation to which Bulgaria is a party
- Structure and scope of the projects for transnational co-operation

- Number of municipalities and districts involved in projects for transnational co-operation
- Total number of Bulgarian partners
- Number of beneficiaries

Specific objective 3: Networking and exchange of experience with the European regions

- Number of projects for networking and exchange of experience among regional and local authorities
- Number of beneficiaries
- Number of built networks
- Relative share of local and regional authorities participating in the built networks and exchange of experience.

PRIORITY NO. 6: STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL POTENTIAL AT THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Specific objective 1: Capacity building and improvement of coordination at the regional and local level for management of funding allocated under the EU Structure Funds

- Number of projects, which have obtained technical assistance for their preparation
- Number of people, who have undergone training for capacity building on project management and financial control
- Number of developed regional information systems for support of the management process
- Number of developed systems for monitoring of the implementation of the regional and local planning and programming documents

Specific objective 2: Support for building regional and local partnerships for development

Number of projects developed jointly by the regional administration, municipal administration, the private sector and the non-profit sector (NGOs)

Number of projects financed jointly by the regional administration, municipal administration, the private sector and the non-profit sector (NGOs)

Number of employees who have undergone training on design, financing and management of joint projects and on application of integrated development programmes

Specific objective 3: Upgrading of the services delivered by the regional and local administrations

- Number of employees of regional and local administrations who have undergone management training
- Number of key services delivered at the regional and local level, which have received specific support
- Percentage of district and municipal administrations delivering “one counter” administrative services

Specific objective 4: Development of new approaches for promotion and direction of regional and local development

- Number of persons, who have undergone training for support of new management approaches at the regional and local level, including in innovations, regional clusters, cross-border and transnational co-operation
- Number of introduced good practices of management approaches at the regional and local level

#### **4. Instructions for defining a system of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the National Regional Development Operational Program, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 2003**

Resource indicators for the Environment:

1. Amount of money, spent on infrastructure upgrading and environmental protection; *Source – National Regional Development Operational Program, Administrative sources*
2. Amount of money, spent on conversion to non-traditional energy sources; *Source – National Regional Development Operational Program, Administrative sources, Ad hoc*
3. Amount of money, spent on the development of environmentally-friendly modes of transport; *Source – National Regional Development Operational Program, Administrative sources, Ad hoc*
4. Expenditure for innovations, environmentally-friendly waste water treatment technologies from small human settlements and places with high concentration of SMEs; *Source – National Regional Development Operational Program*

Impact indicators for the Environment:

1. Impact on the Environment – reduction of the pollution and harmful emissions; *Source – National Statistical System*
2. Share of energy, produced with the usage of gas, water energy, wind, solar, geo-thermal energy, and energy generated by bio-mass, out of the total volume of energy, used in the region
3. Environmental effect of the companies' activities (reduced pollution); *Source – National Statistical System*
4. Improvement of the energy and water balance in the region, *Source – National Statistical System*

Result indicators for the Environment:

1. Number of customers to the new eco- and agro- schemes; *Source: Ad hoc, National Regional Development Operational Program*
2. Amount of treated waste waters;

Output indicators for the Environment:

1. Number and installed capacity of projects, using non-traditional (/) energy sources; *Source – National Statistical System, Administrative sources, Ad hoc*
2. Number and size of the implemented projects, aimed at monitoring and improving of the environmental situation in the region; *Source: National Regional Development Operational Program*
5. Number of small treatment plants and local purification facilities built; *Source - National Regional Development Operational Program*
6. Number of SMEs, consulted by experts in the sphere of ecology; *Source - National Regional Development Operational Program*
7. Number of companies, receiving financial support for the implementation environmental technologies or development of eco-products; *Source - National Regional Development Operational Program*
8. Number of implemented eco- and agro- tourist schemes; *Source - Ad hoc, National Regional Development Operational Program*
9. Capacity of the newly-built small treatment plants and facilities; *Source – National Statistical System, Administrative sources*
10. Newly- built sewers systems in human settlements with less than 10, 000 inhabitants – number, length, capacity, funds spent; *Source – National Statistical System, Administrative sources*
11. Number of certified under EMAS/ISO 14001; *Source – Administrative sources*

### **ANNEX 3: SUMMARY OF RELEVANT BASELINE INITIATIVES**

In the baseline scenario, without a GEF-supported intervention, the following are activities that will be underway aimed at strengthening the governance system for regional development planning.

<b>TABLE 1</b>	
INITIATIVES RELATED TO STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING	
Name	<b>Preparing Central and Regional Structures of the Ministry of Regional Development for Managing future ERDF-type of projects and programs.</b>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening institutional structures at central level in order to achieve, upon accession, sound and efficient management of EU Structural and Cohesion Funds;</li> <li>• Preparing the Bulgarian regional authorities for effective implementation of regional development programs, thus ensuring more transparent involvement of the regions in programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EC assistance in line with the partnership principle;</li> <li>• Development of sound and effective co-ordination between the central and regional institutions in order facilitate the absorption of the future funding under EU Structural and Cohesion Funds.</li> </ul>
Beneficiary	MRDPW
Duration	2004-2007
Budget	1,9 MLN EUR
Source of funds	EU PHARE 2003
Name	<b>Pilot Integrated Investment Scheme for Regional Development Actions.</b>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating the conditions for balanced endogenous development in the Bulgarian regions;</li> <li>• Reducing intra-regional disparities in employment, income and development opportunities;</li> <li>• Strengthening the administrative capacity for effective implementation of regional programs, thus ensuring strong input of the regions in the program management cycle taking place at national level.</li> </ul>
Beneficiaries	MRDPW
Duration	2005-2007
Budget	4,8 million EUR PHARE 1,42 million EUR is national co-financing
Source of funds	EU PHARE 2003 State Budget
Name	<b>Support to Mobilizing the Bottom-up Development and Project Capacity as part of Structural Funds Preparation in Bulgaria</b>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support the institutional building of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy and to ensure a “quick understanding” by the stakeholders in order the Bulgarian obligations to be fulfilled as a member-country of the EU in respect of the regional policy and coordination of the structural instruments.</li> <li>• Technical Assistance is envisaged at stage I for analysis and initiating of changes in the existing strategic documents – district strategies for development, regional and municipal development plans.</li> <li>• In stage II the projects for the different activities, included in the National Operational Programme for Regional Development, will be estimated for the purpose of future financing.</li> </ul>
Beneficiaries	MRDPW, Min of Labour and Social Policy, Min of Finance, Min of Economy
Duration	End 2005 - mid 2008
Budget	Stage I: 2.55 ME; Stage II: 6.72 ME
Source of funds	EU PHARE – Economic and Social Cohesion

**TABLE 1**

## INITIATIVES RELATED TO STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Name	<b>Implementation of the environmental acquis at regional and local level</b>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The project proposed will contribute to the development and strengthening of the administrative capacity at local level for effective implementation of national and EU legislative requirements in the field of environment. The stress is put on the planning and programming process in the field of environment, which will contribute to the improvement of overall planning process at local level and will facilitate the implementation process. A key sub-objective is “strengthening administrative capacity of the local Bulgarian authorities in development and implementation of municipal environmental programs in accordance with the national and EU environmental requirements and improvement of the information systems and data exchange at local level”.</li></ul>
Beneficiaries	MOEW
Duration	2006-2008
Budget	2 million euro
Source of funds	

**ANNEX 4: MAJOR OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND THE SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE PERIOD UNTIL 2013**

Strategic and planning documents	Objectives	Priorities
<p><b>National Development Plan 2007-2013</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attainment and sustaining of high economic growth through dynamic knowledge-based economy in conformity with the principles of sustainable development.</li> <li>• Improvement of the potential of the human capital and attainment of levels of employment, income and social integration guaranteeing high quality of life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement and development of the basic infrastructure.</li> <li>• Development of human resources and improvement of the social infrastructure.</li> <li>• Improvement of the competitive capacity of Bulgarian economy.</li> <li>• Sustainable and balanced regional development.</li> <li>• Development of rural areas and agriculture.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Employment Strategy 2004-2010</b></p>	<p><i>Medium-term objective (2004-2007):</i> Increase of employment and curtailing of unemployment</p> <p><i>Long-term objective (by 2010):</i> Increase of the active economic participation and the labour potential of the population</p> <p><i>Strategic sub-objectives:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase of employment and curtailing of unemployment</li> <li>• Improvement of the quality characteristics of the workforce and increase of labor productivity</li> <li>• Attainment of social cohesion and re-integration of vulnerable social groups, who have the least chances for participation in the labor market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income policy promoting employment.</li> <li>• Promotion of entrepreneurship and the small and medium-sized business for creation of more and better jobs.</li> <li>• Promotion of extension of working life and conducting a policy of ageing at work</li> <li>• Improved workforce adaptability to the changing conditions in the economy.</li> <li>• Increase of the human capital and activation of the policy of life-long education.</li> <li>• Development of a policy of equal opportunities and a free, equally accessible for all social groups labor market.</li> <li>• Development of the active policy on the labor market, oriented towards integer socio-economic integration of the underprivileged groups in the labor market.</li> <li>• Limitation and overcoming of the regional disparities on the labor market.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategy for Promotion of the Development of SMEs 2002-2006</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of favorable environment and conditions for development of a competitive SME sector, expected to accelerate the economic growth of the country at sustained macro-economic stability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simplification of the administrative and regulatory environment for operation of SMEs.</li> <li>• Improvement of the financial environment.</li> <li>• Support for innovations and technological development.</li> <li>• Provision of conditions for development of SMEs in a regional aspect.</li> <li>• Integration of SMEs in the European context.</li> </ul>



Strategic and planning documents	Objectives	Priorities
<b>Strategy on Innovations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing of the competitiveness of Bulgarian industry. This means building a knowledge-based industry, i.e. introduction of new products, materials and technologies in manufacturing, management and services, developed on the basis of modern science and research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foreign investments</li> <li>Technology parks</li> <li>Incentives for entrepreneurship</li> <li>State priorities in the field of science</li> <li>Formulation of a steady national policy concerning science</li> <li>Promotion of domestic and external integration of research institutions</li> <li>Development of new mechanisms for efficient financing of science and scientific research</li> </ul>
<b>Strategy on Promotion of Investments 2004-2010</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> To raise the competitiveness of Bulgarian economy and achievement of a stable and sustainable economic growth through promotion of investments.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decentralization and improvement of the opportunities for attraction of investments at the regional and local level</li> <li>Improvement of the quality and efficiency of services provided by the transport infrastructure at the national, as well as at the regional and local level</li> <li>Creation of conditions for economic growth and increased employment on the basis of the development potential of the regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrading of the administrative and regulatory environment for promotion of investments</li> <li>Improvement of the financial environment for investors</li> <li>Development of the technical infrastructure</li> <li>Regional policy aimed at promotion of investments</li> <li>Support for investments in innovations and high-tech activities</li> <li>Improved quality of the workforce</li> <li>Investment marketing</li> </ul>
<b>National strategy for environmental protection 2005-2014</b>	<p><b>Long-term strategic goal:</b> To improve the quality of life for the population through provision of a healthy and favorable environment and preservation of the rich nature heritage on the basis of sustainable management of the environment.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Provision of water of good quality and in adequate quantity for all applications</i></li> <li><i>Approximation of the norms for quality of the air in the "hot" human settlements</i></li> <li><i>Preservation and extension of the areas of good quality of the environment</i></li> <li>Closer integration of the environmental policy with the policies for development of the economic sectors</li> <li>Protection of the nature heritage and sustaining of the rich biodiversity</li> <li>Ensuring conditions for the implementation of the EU environmental legislation and international conventions</li> <li><i>Improvement of the waste management</i></li> <li><i>Reducing noise</i></li> <li><i>Broader participation of the general public in the environmental problems'</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure good state of the surface, ground and coastal waters;</li> <li>To improve as a matter of priority water supply and the quality of drinking water for the population;</li> <li>Rational use of water resources by the economic sectors and society at large;</li> <li>To reach the standards in the areas with deteriorated quality of atmospheric air;</li> <li>To improve waste management;</li> <li>To reduce noise pollution in human settlements;</li> <li>To develop sustainable environmentally-friendly urban transport systems;</li> <li>To protect biodiversity;</li> <li>To ensure sustainable use of bio-resources;</li> <li>To reduce pollution and prevent future harmful impacts on the environment by industry and the energy sector;</li> <li>To apply environmentally-friendly practices in agriculture and the environmentally clean land areas;</li> </ul>

Strategic and planning documents	Objectives	Priorities
	<i>solving</i>	

### OBJECTIVES OF THE EU STRUCTURE FUNDS

Objectives of the Structure Funds 2000-2006	Objectives of the Structure Funds 2007-2013
<p><b>Objective 1 (territorial): Promoting the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind.</b> These are regions, whose GDP does not exceed 75% of the EU average. The objective is directed towards investments in production, infrastructure and activities related to protection of the environment, tourism, SMEs ...</p> <p><b>Objective 2 (territorial): Contributing to the economic and social conversion of regions in structural difficulties:</b> Economic restructuring in the event of loss of traditional activities in industrial, urban, rural and fishery-dependent regions, mainly in the following fields: trade, tourism, services, etc.</p> <p><b>Objective 3 (thematic): Supporting the adaptation and upgrading of the policies and systems for education, training and employment.</b> Adaptation and upgrading of the systems for education, training and employment: life-long education and training; active policy on the labour market for combating long-term unemployment; promotion of social integration and equal opportunities for men and women, ethnic groups, the handicapped, etc.</p>	<p><b>Objective “Convergence and competitiveness”:</b> This objective will be addressed to acceleration of convergence in the least developed Member States and regions through improvement of the conditions for growth and employment; increase and improvement of the quality of investments in physical and human capital; development of innovations and of “knowledge economy”; adaptability to economic and social change; protection and improvement of the environment, as well as improvement of administrative efficiency.</p> <p>This objective shall be priority for the Community.</p> <p><b>Objective “Regional competitiveness and employment”:</b> This objective will exclude the least developed regions and will be oriented to strengthening the regions, their competitiveness and attractiveness, as well as employment through innovations and promotion of the “knowledge society”, entrepreneurship, protection of the environment, improvement of accessibility to transport and communication services, adaptability of the workforce and businesses.</p> <p><b>Objective “European territorial co-operation”:</b> It will provide support for harmonious and balanced development of the EU territory, cross-border activities, trans-national co-operation, networking and exchange of experience among regional and local authorities.</p>

Major objectives of the Lisbon Strategy – 2010	Major directions of the Lisbon Strategy	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To create a dynamic and knowledge-based economy</li> <li>To ensure accelerated and sustainable economic growth</li> <li>To restore full employment, to reduce unemployment to the levels achieved by the most advanced countries</li> <li>To upgrade the systems for social protection</li> </ol>	<p><b>First direction:</b> <b>Implementation of economic reform and preparation of the transition to a knowledge-based society</b> <b>6 priorities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Europe – information society for all</li> <li>Domestic market – improvement of the economic environment, competitiveness and innovations, minimization of transaction costs of business, intellectual property, dismantling of cross-border barriers, further construction of the energy market and the air transport</li> </ol>	<p><b>Second direction: Strengthening of the European social model through investment in the human capital</b> <b>5 priorities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European social model – new knowledge and skills; flexibility of the workforce; more sustainable and “active” social protection</li> <li>Employment – Restoration of full employment</li> <li>Education and professional</li> </ol>
<b>Major indicators for achievement of the Lisbon objectives</b>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average annual economic growth rate – 3%</li> <li>• R&amp;D expenditure – 3% of the GDP</li> <li>• Total employment rate 70%; female employment rate 60%</li> <li>• At least 85% of the population aged 20-24 to have graduated secondary school</li> </ul>	<p>market</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Financial services – integration of the financial markets; reduction of administrative barriers; integration of the market for financial services and capital</li> <li>4. Entrepreneurship and innovation – support for SMEs and procurement of risk financing for them</li> <li>5. European research space – development of R&amp;D activities and technology developments; establishment of centers for top achievements; high-tech communications networks; incentives in the field of taxation; patent legislation and risk financing; promotion of the mobility of research fellows</li> <li>6. Review of the Community financial instruments with a view to their re-location</li> </ol>	<p>training – adaptation of elementary, primary and secondary education, life-long education; investment in human capital; access to Internet; new generation of teachers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Social cohesion – overcoming of isolation; sustainable income for the retired; stable environment for the elderly</li> <li>5. New dynamics of the social dialogue – on all aspects of the knowledge-based economy and the social policy</li> </ol>
--	--	--

**ANNEX 5: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX**

<b>Project Goal</b>					
<b>To embed global environmental concerns into the processes of regional and local development, and spatial planning in Bulgaria.</b>					
<b>Objective/ Outcomes</b>	<b>Indicator/ Scorecard</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and Risks</b>
<p><b>Project Objective:</b> To build capacities for mainstreaming global environment into the formulation and implementation of regional and local development, as well as spatial planning policies.</p>	<p>The agenda for mainstreaming GE into RD is being effectively championed Scorecard: 0 -- There is essentially no mainstreaming agenda; 1 -- There are some persons or institutions actively pursuing a mainstreaming agenda but they have little effect or influence; 2 -- There are a number of champions that drive the mainstreaming agenda, but more is needed; 3 -- There are an adequate number of able "champions" and "leaders" effectively driving forward a mainstreaming agenda</p>	1	3	Independent evaluation	<p>GOB remains committed to integrating global environmental considerations into regional development and spatial planning processes. MRDPW remains the key responsible Ministry for implementing the RDA and TDA MRDPW and MOEW continue to cooperate closely to ensure appropriate integration of environmental issues in regional development planning</p>

Objective/ Outcomes	Indicator/ Scorecard	Baseline	Target	Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
<p><b>OUTCOME 1:</b> The methodologies, skills, knowledge, and information management system for mainstreaming global environmental considerations into the formulation, implementation and evaluation of regional development and spatial planning policies are in place</p>	<p>Overall there are adequate skills for mainstreaming GE into RD at all levels in the MRDPW and MOEW Scorecard: 0 -- There is a general lack of skills for mainstreaming GE into RD; 1-- Some skills exist but in largely insufficient quantities to guarantee effective planning and implementation; 2 -- Necessary skills exist but are stretched and not easily available; 3 -- Adequate quantities of the full range of skills necessary for effective mainstreaming of GE into RD are easily available</p>	0	3	Independent mid-term and final evaluation	MRDPW and MOEW are willing to put in place institutional incentives to encourage staff to acquire and apply skills related to mainstreaming of GE in regional development planning
	<p>There are appropriate systems of training, mentoring, and learning in place to maintain a continuous flow of new staff Scorecard: 0 -- No mechanisms exist; 1 -- Some mechanisms exist but unable to develop enough and unable to provide the full range of skills needed; 2 -- Mechanisms generally exist to develop skilled professionals, but either not enough of them or unable to cover the full range of skills required; 3 -- There are mechanisms for developing adequate numbers of the full range of highly skilled regional development planners capable of integrating GE issues.</p>	0	3	Independent mid-term and final evaluation	Adequate access to necessary data can be effectively facilitated Cooperation and links can be established with other countries in the region and beyond to tap

Objective/ Outcomes	Indicator/ Scorecard	Baseline	Target	Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
	Set of indicators that assesses impact of Regional Development and spatial planning documents on achievement of global environmental convention objectives	Current indicator set does not include global environmental performance indicators	By project end, there is a comprehensive set of indicators that can be used to assess impact of development and spatial planning at regional, district and municipal levels on the achievement of BD, CC, LD Convention objectives	Annual progress report of PMU	into existing experience and knowledge.
	Access to data for reporting on the global environmental performance indicators	MRDPW staff have limited access to data	MRDPW staff have full access to data needed for reporting on progress in terms of impact on global environment convention commitments	Annual progress report of PMU	
	Institutions have the information they need to develop, implement and monitor regional development strategies/ plans that integrate GE issues. Scorecard: 0 -- Information is virtually lacking; 1 -- Some information exists, but is of poor quality and of limited usefulness and difficult to access; 2 -- Much information is readily available, mostly of good quality, but there remain some gaps both in quality and quantity; 3 -- Adequate quantities of high quality up to date information for mainstreaming GE into RD is widely and easily available	1	3	Independent final evaluation	

Objective/ Outcomes	Indicator/ Scorecard	Baseline	Target	Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
	Civil Society monitors the effect of regional development planning on BD, CC and LD concerns in the pilot region or group of municipalities Scorecard: 0 -- There is no dialogue at all; 1 -- There is some dialogue going on, but not in the wider public and restricted to specialized circles; 2 -- There is a reasonably open public dialogue going on but certain issues tend not to be discussed; 3 -- There is an open and transparent public dialogue about the effect of RD planning on achievement of GE objectives	1	3	Independent final evaluation	
<b>OUTCOME 2:</b> Institutional changes that support mainstreaming of global environmental into regional development and spatial planning are in place.	Human resource performance management systems are geared to encouraging development and application of acquired mainstreaming skills Scorecard: 0 -- Job requirements and performance management systems do not explicitly mention mainstreaming skills; 1 -- There is indirect reference to importance of mainstreaming environmental and GE considerations in RD planning; 2 -- Few job descriptions and performance assessments directly emphasize mainstreaming skills with their being scope for extension; 3 -- Explicit emphasis on mainstreaming skills in all relevant job descriptions and performance assessments	0	3	Independent final evaluation	MRDPW views PMU and its functioning as an integral part of its operations. MRDPW staff can be vocal proponents of mainstreaming GE in their interaction with other Managing Authorities (through participation in Working Groups).
	Individuals are highly motivated for mainstreaming GE considerations Scorecard: 0 -- No motivation at all; 1 -- Motivation uneven, some are but most are not; 2 -- Many individuals are motivated but not all; 3 -- Individuals are highly motivated	1	3	Independent mid-term and final evaluation	
<b>OUTCOME 3:</b> Regional development plans and municipal-level spatial development plans are revised to integrate global environmental objectives in a pilot region through application of capacities developed in Outcomes 1 and 2.	Model regional development and spatial development documents are submitted for approval by the respective bodies in charge of approving them.	pilot region's RDP or municipalities development and spatial plans do not explicitly take account of GE issues	By project end, revised planning documents are submitted for approval	Independent final evaluation	Capacity development measures for mainstreaming GE include appropriate staff from the SE region.

## **ANNEX 6: DRAFT CURRICULUM FOR THE TRAINING PROGRAMME TO BE DEVELOPED UNDER THE PROJECT<sup>12</sup>**

### **TRAINING PROGRAMME**

#### **INTEGRATION OF RIO OBJECTIVES INTO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND SPATIAL PLANNING IN BULGARIA**

*Since 1997, the principles of sustainable development have occupied a central position in the EU Treaty. In its aspiration for EU accession, Bulgaria has undertaken to apply these principles in its overall policy and body of law.*

#### **STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF MRDPW TO INTEGRATE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES INTO THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES, AS WELL AS INTO SPATIAL PLANNING DOCUMENTS.**

##### **FIRST MODULE – Basic knowledge**

##### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND SPATIAL PLANNING.**

##### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – HISTORY, DEFINITIONS, PRINCIPLES, MILESTONES**

###### **1. The road to Rio**

- First World Conference on Environment – 1972, Stockholm
- Commission Bruntland – 1983
- Report “Our common future” – 1987
- Preparation for Rio – 1989

###### **2. World summit on environment – Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 3 – 14 June 1992**

- The Rio Declaration on environment and Development
- “Agenda 21”
- Statement of Principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests
- Commission on Sustainable Development

###### **3. “Agenda 21”**

Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the United Nations, Governments, and Major Groups in every area in which human impacts on the environment.

###### **3.1. Social and economic dimensions:**

- Demographic dynamics and sustainability
- Protecting and promoting human health conditions
- Promoting sustainable human settlement development
- Integrating environment and development in decision-making

###### **3.2. Conservation and management of resources for development**

- Protection of the atmosphere
- Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources
- Combating deforestation
- Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Conservation of biological diversity
- Protection of coastal areas and rational use and development of their living resources
- Application of integrated approaches to management and use of water resources
- Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues

---

<sup>12</sup> The annex is indicative, and by no means final. It serves as a general framework for further elaboration and clarification through more comprehensive efforts aimed at developing a training programme, which is one of the main line of activities under the MSP.



### **3.3. Strengthening the role of major groups**

- Recognizing and strengthening the role of indigenous people and their communities
- Strengthening the role of NGOs as partners for sustainable development
- Local authorities' initiatives in support of Agenda 21
- Strengthening the role of business and industry
- Scientific and technological community
- Strengthening the role of farmers

### **3.4. Means of implementation**

- Financial resources and mechanisms
- Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building
- Science for sustainable development
- Promoting education, public awareness and training
- Institutional arrangements
- Legal instruments and mechanisms
- Information for decision-making

## **4. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002.**

Johannesburg Summit 2002 – the World Summit on Sustainable Development – brought together tens of thousands of participants, including heads of State and Government, national delegates and leaders from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses and other major groups to focus the world's attention and direct action toward meeting difficult challenges, including improving people's lives and conserving our natural resources in a world that is growing in population, with ever-increasing demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic security.

## **5. UN-HABITAT – United Nations Human Settlements Program**

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

The main documents outlining the mandate of the organization are:

- Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements
- Habitat Agenda
- Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements
- Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium

## **6. "Capacity 21" Program – Bulgarian case**

- Strengthening the capacity of local authorities and different community groups to participate in the development of their municipalities
- Elaboration of local strategies for sustainable development (Local Agenda 21), including analysis of present situation, vision, strategy for development and action plan
- Demonstration projects as initial steps of the implementation of the strategy for sustainable development
- Sustainable Development Educational Strategy
- Popularization of SD principals and ideas by Bulgarian Central and Local Mass Media
- Motivate the public for participation in the SD process

## **7. Millennium Development Goals – Bulgarian case**

EC priorities and action on the way toward 2015 – goal 7: sustainable development

- Integrate environmental issues in the political dialogue
- Incorporate sustainable management of natural resources, including biodiversity, in development cooperation programs
- Strengthen mutually reinforcing economic, employment, social and environmental policies
- Carry out Sustainable Impact Assessment for each major negotiation and propose flanking measures to enhance positive impacts and mitigate negative impacts.
- Enhance corporate social and environmental responsibility both at EU level and internationally.
- Pursue efforts to meet the 2010 EU and WSSD targets to stop / reduce the decline in biodiversity
- Pursue efforts to ensure the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle in the EU and at global level.

Questions, discussion

## THE RIO CONVENTIONS: COMMITTING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Key outcome of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio were three international environmental agreements which define specific government commitments towards the following issues: biodiversity; climate change; desertification.

### 1. The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)

*Date of adoption – 1992, Entry into force - 1993*

*Aims; Obligations; Procedures; Challenges & Follow-up*

UNCBD makes commitments to integrate the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity into national, regional and local decision-making, including:

- Scientific and technical cooperation: including access to and transfer of biotechnology.
- Regulatory measures on access to genetic resources and control of risks derived from organisms modified through biotechnology.
- Natural resource management – establishment of protected areas and rehabilitation, restoration of degraded ecosystems and threatened species.
- Shared benefits from genetic resources: recognizing national sovereignty and ensuring access to biological resources is based on “mutually agreed terms” subject to “prior informed consent”.
- Traditional knowledge: recognition of the role of indigenous and local communities, ensuring that such groups receive a share in the benefits obtained from their use and conservation, further to “respect, preserve and maintain” their knowledge and practices.
- Provision of financial resources: targeted to CBD related activities.

### 2. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

*Date of adoption – 2000, Not yet in force*

The Protocol establishes a regulatory framework to control the harm arising from Genetically Modified Organism (GMOs) on biodiversity and human health.

Questions, discussion

**Links:** [www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org)

### 3. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

*Date of adoption – 1993, Entry into force - 1994*

*Aims; Obligations; Procedures; Challenges & Follow-up*

The overarching aim of the Framework Convention on Climate Change is to stabilise the concentrations of Green House Gases in the atmosphere that are related to human induced interference with the climate system. UNFCCC party commitments include:

- National inventory: presentation of a national inventory of emissions
- Implementation programmes: formulate national and regional programmes with measures to mitigate climate change, incorporating principles of “common but differentiated responsibilities” according to economic and political situations.
- Cooperation: a joined-up approach is vital to reduce GHG emissions, including action relating to transport, energy, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management
- Industrial responsibility: industrial countries bear greatest responsibility to carry out the agreement as the principal GHG emitters, including technology transfer and financial commitment

### 4. Kyoto Protocol

*Date of adoption – 1999, Not yet in force*

The Protocol commitments include:

- Targets: a 5% reduction on 1990 levels by 2008 -2012
- Establish new financial mechanisms: an Emissions Trading System, a Joint Implementation mechanism between countries in the OECD and economies in transition countries (so called “Annex I countries”) and Clean Development Mechanism for projects between Annex I countries and developing countries (“non Annex I parties”).

- The Kyoto Protocol shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date when not less than 55 Parties to the Convention, incorporating Annex I Parties which accounted in total for at least 55 % of the total carbon dioxide emissions for 1990 from that group, have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. Annex 1 countries include developed countries and countries with economies in transition who are typically the largest contributors to CO2 emissions.

*Questions, discussion*

**Links:** [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)

## **5. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**

*Date of adoption – 1994, Entry into force - 1996*

*Aims; Obligations; Procedures; Challenges & Follow-up*

The Convention seeks to not only tackle the impacts of desertification but also to mitigate the effects of droughts. Under the convention desertification refers to dryland areas vulnerable to over-exploitation and inappropriate land-use as a result of poverty, political instability, deforestation, overgrazing and bad irrigation.

Affected countries are to address the causes and establish strategies to tackle desertification:

- Facilitate awareness and participation in local communities
- Enhance legislation
- Provision of substantial resources and promoting access to technology
- Introducing their own strategies in combating the effects of desertification, including enhanced hydrological capabilities, policy frameworks, participation and regular review processes

*Questions, discussion*

**Links :** [www.unccd.int](http://www.unccd.int)

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENTS – THEORY + PRACTICAL EXAMPLES (EU)**

Principles for Sustainable Development should be integrated in the legislative framework, institutional building and development, strategic planning and co-ordination, co-operation, partnership between State and Local authorities, civil society representatives and business. Crucial instrument for planning, monitoring and implementation are indicators for SD. All instruments will be analyzed and presented in the light of SD.

### **1. Legislative framework – harmonization with EU legislation**

- Regional Development
- Spatial planning
- Cadastre and property register
- Housing
- Technical infrastructure – road and water sector
- Land use
- Environment
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Biodiversity

*All will be presented in the light of its contribution to the implementation of Sustainable Development and Rio conventions. The follow up discussions may focus on considering the strengths and if any weaknesses.*

### **2. Institutions – national, regional, local**

*Presenting them only in terms of how they contribute or not to SD and Rio conventions.*

- Administrative capacity building
- Integration between the different levels of administration
- Co-ordination

### **3. Sustainable development strategies:**

*The idea is to present examples of strategic planning documents in EU countries and Bulgaria aiming incorporation of regional development and spatial planning management the spirit of SD and Rio conventions. Some of those strategies are in the agenda of the Government.*

- National Sustainable Development Strategy

- Local Sustainable Development Strategy (Local Agenda 21)
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy
- Mountain Areas Management Strategy
- Strategy on the sustainable use of natural resources
- Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste
- Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides
- Sustainable water management and river basin management

#### **4. Co-ordination, co-operation, partnership – state and local authorities & civil society representatives + business**

#### **5. Indicators for SD (Monitoring and evaluation)**

Overall outlook into the indicator systems available world wide (e.g. UN, UK, etc.). The role of the indicators systems. Focus on indicators related to the three Conventions.

### **EUROPEAN UNION TRENDS AND POLICIES IN THE FIELDS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING – INTEGRATING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT**

The need to integrate sustainable development concerns into other EU policies has been acknowledged since the Single European Act. In addition, the fifth environmental action program has established this objective as a priority.

In this document the Commission has set out guidelines which will enable the environmental dimension to be properly integrated into other policies:

- integrating the environment into all activities by Community institutions;
- a review of existing policies;
- introduction of strategies for action in key areas;
- drafting of a Council report for the Vienna European Council on how the environmental dimension has been successfully integrated into other policies of the Member States;
- definition of priority actions and mechanisms for monitoring implementation;
- review by the European Council of environmental integration into sectoral policies;
- a joint study by the Council, Parliament and the Commission on the development of mechanisms for implementing these guidelines and for monitoring their implementation.

#### **1. Lisbon strategy, Gothenburg strategy**

##### **1.1. Lisbon Strategy:**

In March 2000, EU heads of state and government agreed on an ambitious goal: making the EU "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion".

In particular, it was agreed that to achieve this goal, an overall strategy should be applied, aimed at:

- preparing the transition to a knowledge-based economy and society by better policies for the information society and R&D, as well as by stepping up the process of structural reform for competitiveness and innovation and by completing the internal market;
- modernising the European social model, investing in people and combating social exclusion;
- sustaining the healthy economic outlook and favorable growth prospects by applying an appropriate macro-economic policy mix.

The European Council of March 2005 called upon the Commission, the Council and the Member States to relaunch the Lisbon strategy by refocusing on growth and employment in Europe, in accordance with the Commission's proposals<sup>1</sup>. As a follow-up, the Commission recently adopted a proposal for the first integrated guidelines for growth and jobs for the period 2005-2008. These guidelines will serve as the basis for Member States to draw up their first National Reform Programmes by this autumn. This Staff Working Paper follows the announcement made in the integrated guidelines adopted by the Commission last 12 of April and serves the main purpose of providing guidance to Member States in drawing up their respective national reform programmes in particular in terms of structure and content.

[http://europa.eu.int/growthandjobs/key/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/growthandjobs/key/index_en.htm)

##### **1.2. Gothenburg strategy**

The transition towards more Sustainable Development is a strategic goal for the European Union. This is a long-term process requiring structural changes in our economy and society, but also in the way we develop and implement policies. In order to

succeed, this will require the active participation of all sectors and groups (Community institutions, the Member States, the private and the non-governmental sectors and local authorities).

In June 2001, the European Council at Göteborg discussed a strategy for Sustainable Development proposed by the European Commission ("A sustainable Europe for a better world: A European strategy for Sustainable Development") This strategy proposed measures to deal with important threats to our well being, such as climate change, poverty, and emerging health risks, which had been identified in a consultation paper in March 2001. The EU is also committed to promoting Sustainable Development at the global level. A second paper covering our external policies was adopted by the Commission in February 2002, adding a global dimension to the EU strategy ("Towards a global partnership for Sustainable Development"). This was an important Community input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/sustainable/pages/document\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/sustainable/pages/document_en.htm)

## **2. Agenda 2000:**

On 26 March 1999, at the Berlin European Council, the Heads of Government or States concluded a political agreement on Agenda 2000. Agenda 2000 is an action programme whose main objectives are to strengthen Community policies and to give the European Union a new financial framework for the period 2000-06 with a view to enlargement. It was launched in 1999 in the form of twenty legislative texts relating to the following priority areas:

- continuation of the agricultural reform along the lines of the changes made in 1988 and 1992, with a view to stimulating European competitiveness, taking great account of environmental considerations, ensuring fair income for farmers, simplifying legislation and decentralising the application of legislation (Agenda 2000 – A CAP for the future)
- increasing the effectiveness of the Structural Funds (including the European Social Fund) and the Cohesion Fund by greater thematic and geographic concentration of projects on specific objectives and geographical areas and thus improving management
- strengthening the pre-accession strategy for applicant countries by setting up two financial mechanisms: a pre-accession structural instrument (ISPA) to support improved transport and environmental protection infrastructures and a pre-accession agricultural instrument (SAPARD) to facilitate the long-term adjustment of agriculture and the rural areas of the applicant countries. ISPA and SAPARD complement the actions of the PHARE programme;
- adopting a financial framework for the period 2000-06 in order to enable the Union to meet the main challenges of the beginning of the 21st century, in particular enlargement, while ensuring budgetary discipline.

## **3. New Cohesion Policy 2007 – 2013 (Third Cohesion Report)**

The Commission adopted a proposal on 10 February 2004 for the budget of the enlarged European Union of 27 Member States for the period 2007–2013. This is an important decision, the Commission taking the view that Union's intervention in a number of key policy fields required strengthening. In particular, the Commission decided that an ambitious cohesion policy should be an essential element of the total package. Importantly, in the new budgetary structure, the Commission maintains the view that cohesion policy should be allocated a single, and transparent, budgetary heading which is essential in order to provide the certainty and the stability necessary for the planning of the next generation of national and regional multiannual programmes of the European Union that explicitly addresses economic and social inequalities. It is thus a very specific policy involving a transfer of resources between Member States via the budget of the European Union for the purpose of supporting economic growth and sustainable development through investment in people and in physical capital.

## **4. 5<sup>th</sup> European Environmental Action Programme**

The general approach and strategy of the [Fifth Environmental Action Programme](#), which was approved by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on February 1 1993, differed from [previous programmes](#). As its title 'Towards Sustainability' implies, the programme set longer term objectives and focused on a more global approach. In the light of the Fifth Environmental Action Programme the features of sustainability are:

- to maintain the overall quality of life;
- to maintain continuing access to natural resources;
- to avoid lasting environmental damage;
- to consider as sustainable a development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

## **5. 6<sup>th</sup> European Environmental Action Program**

Decision No 1600/2002/EC /OJ L 242 of 10/9/2002/. The new programme identifies four environmental areas to be tackled for improvements:

- Climate Change
- Nature and Biodiversity
- Environment and Health and quality of life
- Natural Resources and Waste

## 6. NATURA 2000

Natura 2000 is a European network of protected sites which represent areas of the highest value for natural habitats and species of plants and animals which are rare, endangered or vulnerable in the European Community. The term Natura 2000 comes from the 1992 EC Habitats Directive; it symbolizes the conservation of precious natural resources for the year 2000 and beyond into the 21st century. Scotland's Natura 2000 sites will help to protect these important areas now and for generations to come. The Natura 2000 network will include two types of area. Areas may be designated as [Special Areas of Conservation \(SAC\)](#) where they support rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species of plants or animals (other than birds). Where areas support significant numbers of wild birds and their habitats, they may become [Special Protection Areas \(SPA\)](#). SACs are designated under the Habitats Directive and SPAs are classified under the Birds Directive. Some very important areas may become both SAC and SPA. Establishing the Natura 2000 network is the primary purpose of the Directives, but they also make other provisions, including measures for the protection of habitats and species outwith the site network.

## 7. Thematic Strategy on the Urban environment

On 11 January 2004, the Commission adopted Communication COM(2004)60 "[Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment](#)" which sets out the Commission's ideas for the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment due in summer 2005.

The Communication sets out the problems and challenges facing Europe's urban areas, focusing on 4 priority themes. These themes, selected in conjunction with stakeholders, are:

- urban environmental management,
- urban transport,
- sustainable construction and
- urban design.

The themes are cross-cutting in nature and have strong links with many environmental issues. They offer the greatest scope to make progress in improving the quality of the urban environment and have a strong influence on existing environmental obligations such as on air quality.

The Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment is one of the key actions outlined in the [Sixth Community Environment Action Programme](#).

## IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS MADE IN THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS BY BULGARIA IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

All positions and engagements of the negotiation chapters below are somehow linked to SD. Knowledge in this sphere is important for practical implementation of the requirements for SD in regional and spatial planning.

### Chapter 9: Transport policy

Particular attention needs to be paid to completing the legislative alignment, in particular in aviation, as well as to strengthening the maritime safety authorities and their independence. Attention needs to be paid to strengthen administrative capacities so as to ensure full enforcement of legislation, to implement investment plans, in particular as regards road infrastructure, and to improving the airport security situation and the maritime safety record.

### Chapter 13: Social policy and employment

Attention needs to be paid to ensuring full transposition and implementation of the acquis in the areas of labour law, health and safety at work, public health and anti-discrimination and to strengthening the administrative capacity of relevant bodies, including the General Labour Inspectorate.

### Chapter 14: Energy

Attention needs to be paid to the progressive building up of oil stocks, the preparation for the internal energy market and the implementation of a policy on energy efficiency/renewable energy. The active promotion of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources need to be continued through appropriate measures.

Bulgaria has accepted and addressed all the recommendations contained in the 2001 Council Report on Nuclear Safety in the Context of Enlargement and its subsequent 2002 Peer Review Status Report. Bulgaria has respected early closure commitments for Kozloduy NPP units 1 and 2. Bulgaria continues to provide relevant information through formal and informal contacts and in the framework of PHARE-funded nuclear safety project activities.

### **Chapter 16: Small and medium-sized enterprises**

Attention needs to be paid to improve the business environment including the simplification of regulatory procedures, in strengthening administrative structures and in improving the coordination of SME Policy implementation.

### **Chapter 21: Regional policy and co-ordination of structural instruments**

Particular attention needs to be paid to strengthening the administrative capacity at central, regional and local level and to completing the delegation of tasks to intermediate bodies, which are areas given rise to concern. Particular attention needs to also be paid to financial management and control as well as public procurement. Particular efforts are needed to meet the very tight timetable as regards the programming process and to building up of an efficient project pipeline in all sectors.

### **Chapter 22: Environment**

Bulgaria is meeting the majority of the commitments and requirements arising from accession negotiations in the area of environment. However, delays have occurred in the transposition of the horizontal acquis (EIA), air quality, waste management, GMOs, noise and radiation protection.

Urgent attention needs to be paid to the completion of the transposition process and to the implementation of the transposed legislation. Establishment of the necessary implementation & enforcement structures needs to be completed, including further strengthening of their administrative capacities. Standards – ISO 14000, ISO 9000 (environment quality, quality of products, recycling of wastes, etc.) Lisbon strategy – Bulgarian case.

### **Chapter 23: Consumers and health protection**

Bulgaria is meeting the majority of the commitments and requirements arising from the accession negotiations in the area of consumers and health protection. However, delays have occurred in the area of non-safety related measures in terms of transposition.

Attention needs to be paid to the completion of the legislative alignment and to enhancing administrative capacity to ensure a functioning market surveillance mechanism. Attention needs to also be paid to the promotion of independent, representative and effective consumer organisations.

### **Chapter 28: Financial control**

Attention needs to be paid to ensuring the protection of the EC financial interests as well as to further legislative adjustments in the area of internal financial control. Relevant institutions need to be strengthened.

### **Chapter 29: Financial and budgetary provisions**

Bulgaria is generally meeting the commitments and requirements arising from the accession negotiations in the field of financial and budgetary provisions.

Continued attention needs to be paid to develop an adequate level of administrative capacity and on properly calculating the own resources to be contributed to the EU budget.

## **ASSESSMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN BULGARIA - ANALYSIS OF THE COUNTRY'S PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRESS**

### **1. Laws, policies, strategies, programs, and plans in the context of the sustainable development concept and the international commitments of the country**

- Law on Access to Public Information
- Law on Territorial Planning
- Law on Regional Development
- Law on Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Law on Water Resources
- Law on Protection from the Harmful Impact of Chemical Substances and Products
- Law on Protected Territories
- Law on biodiversity – Action plan on biodiversity protection; Natura 2000- Steps for the establishment of Natura 2000 in Bulgaria
- Law on Energy efficiency
- Law on Limiting the Harmful Impact of Waste on the Environment
- Law on Forestry
- The Law on Farmland Conservation

- Law on Air Quality
- Law on Medicinal Plants
- Ordinance N 4 on Environmental Impact Assessment

*Regulations:*

- on the rules and procedures for issuing integrated permits for construction, operation of new and for the operation of existing industrial installations and facilities (Dir96/61/EC, Decree of the COM No 62, 12.03.2003);
- on the Organization of the National Scheme for environmental management and audit (EC Reg/761/2001, Decree of COM No 61, 12.03.2001)
- Regulation No 3, 15.05.2003 on the Organization of the national eco-labeling scheme (Regulation EC//1980/2000)
- Strategies, developed under the responsibility of the MRDPWq treating the "sustainable development" issue (National Regional Development Strategy, Strategy on Development of the Water Supply and Sewage System in the R of Bulgaria, National Housing Policy Strategy of the R of Bulgaria, National Programme for Housing Refurbishment/Renovation in the R of Bulgaria,

*Each legislative act will be presented in the light of its contribution to the implementation of Sustainable Development and Rio conventions.*

*International conventions and treaties Bulgaria is a party to*

- Aarhus Convention
- Basel Convention on Controlling Transboundary Relocation and Safe Disposal of Hazardous Waste
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Wild Species
- Convention on Combating Desertification
- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
- Convention on Protection of the Black Sea from Pollution
- Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer
- Wetlands protection

**2. To what extent the legislative or regulatory framework, as well as institutional capacity, enable or hinder the effective implementation of SD initiatives**

**3. Impact of sustainable development initiatives on different stakeholders**

- Public administration
- State and local authorities
- NGOs
- Business
- Media

**4. Mechanisms for coordinating the participation of different stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the initiatives for sustainable development**

**5. Recommendations on how to improve the process of planning and setting the specific objectives of the country in terms of protecting the environment and addressing problems in the economic and social spheres**

**PLANNING PROCESS IN BULGARIA – LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK, INSTITUTIONS, MECHANISMS FOR CO-ORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

1. Chapter 21: Regional policy and co-ordination of structural instruments – requirements
2. Regional Development Act
3. Spatial Planning Act
4. National Strategy for Regional Development
5. National Development Plan
6. National Regional Development Operational Program
7. Regional Development Plans
8. District Development Strategy
9. Municipal Development Plan



## 10. Ex-ante evaluation

### SECOND MODULE – practical skills

#### INTEGRATING GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT INTO BULGARIAN REGIONAL POLICY, SPATIAL AND URBAN PLANNING.

##### MRDPW

##### 1. MRDPW – structure, polities, priorities, partners

- Regional policy
- Physical (spatial) planning policy
- Cadastre
- Housing policy
- Water sector (infrastructure)
- State property development
- Concessions
- Roads (hay motor ways)
- Coastal zone management – Beaches
- Mountain areas development
- Decentralization and cooperation on regional and local level
- Effective use of pre-accession instruments

To what extent the global sustainable development concept is integrated (or should be integrated) in the structure, policies and priorities of the Ministry.

##### 2. Integrating global sustainable development concept into the legislation work and documents issued by the Ministry, concerning urban environment and regional development

- Legislative Framework – integrated approach regional policy and spatial planning
- Fulfilling the requirements under Chapter 21 “Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments”
- Improvement of the mechanisms for more effective implementation of the pre-accession instruments.
- Adoption of a new structure, in compliance with the EC requirements, for the successful implementation of all project management cycle components: programming, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Capacity Building at central, regional and grassroots level

##### 3. Incorporating the mandates of the UNCBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD into the regional development and spatial planning processes. Methodology on utilizing the designed under the project indicator system for the planning purposes.

###### *Strategic planning*

- National Strategy for regional development
- District Development Strategies and spatial planning schemes (NUTS 3)

###### *Planning and programming*

- National Operational Programme for Regional Development
- Regional development plans
- Municipal development plans

###### *Spatial planning*

- National Spatial Strategy
- Sectoral Spatial Strategies
- Municipal Spatial Scheme
- Urban planning documents

###### *Priorities actions considering:*

- water supplying and sewerage in inhabited areas
- decreasing of urban pollution
- improving of the urban structure area and the physical urban environment
- economic development area
- social development field
- management of the settlements and municipalities
- capacity and institutional development establishing

This is the core section of this module. It will be designed as to include examples for practice and tasks for group work (either based on hypothetical case studies or practical examples brought in by participants). The section will be based on the Methodological Guide produced under the project core of which is the indicator system for measuring the contribution of regional development and spatial planning towards the achievement of global environmental objectives. It will be organized in the following sub-sections:

- a) Proposed steps for the integration of Global Environment Conventions (GEC) into regional development and spatial planning
  - Determining key env/SD issues, objectives and indicators for the relevant document
  - Assessment of current situation
  - Integrating GEC into development objectives and priorities
  - Integrating GEC into proposed measures
  - Assessment of cumulative impacts of the entire plan on specific issues arising from GEC
  - Integration of GEC into monitoring system
  - Recording the process
- b) Relationship of the proposed integration steps to regional development planning and formal SEA processes
  - Linkages between programming, proposed integration mechanism and formal SEA processes
  - Optimal management of the process
- c) Case examples
  - Relevant examples from Bulgaria (pilot test in the selected planning region or group of municipalities under the project)
  - Relevant examples from other countries

#### **4. Integrating global sustainable development concept into the regular work activities**

- legislation, regulations
- orders, rules, guidelines, instructions, methodologies
- correspondence
- distribution of information
- co-ordination
- decision making

#### **5. Skills development on using GIS system**

Linkages between the indicator system and GIS. GIS pros and cons. Practical skills on using GIS.

## **ANNEX 7: CONCEPTUAL APPROACH TO INTEGRATION OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS (GEC) INTO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN BULGARIA<sup>13</sup>**

### Introduction

The proposed framework and tools is derived from the forthcoming handbook on for integration of environmental issues into regional development programs through SEA of programming documents for EU Structural Funds in 2007-2013. This handbook is currently being prepared within the GRDP project and is likely to be officially endorsed by the European Commission (DG Environment and DG Regional Policy) by the end of 2005.

The proposed tools presented in this material derive from this forthcoming framework. They are however adapted for the specific implementation needs of the global environmental conventions (GEC) in Bulgaria addressed within the proposed GEF project “Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria’s Regional Development Process”.

The following set of tasks and tools is suggested:

1. Determining key issues, objectives and indicators for consideration of GEC in the planning process
2. Evaluation of past trends and their future development without the programming document
3. Integration of GEC into development objectives and priorities
4. Integration of GEC into proposed measures
5. Assessment of cumulative impacts of the entire plan on specific issues arising from GEC
6. Integration of GEC into monitoring system

It should be noted that the proposed tools are designed as internal tools to facilitate integration of GEC issues within the actual elaboration of regional development plans and spatial plans. However, internal use of these tools is not their only application. Information generated and analyses performed can be provided to related evaluations of regional development plans (e.g. SEA and ex-ante evaluations) and strengthen their application.

This proposed framework and detailed tools will be finalised and detailed during the implementation of the GEF project. At this point, their specific linkages to relevant evaluations in the planning (e.g. SEA and ex-ante evaluations) will be specified further.

### Acronyms

GEC – commitments under global environmental conventions

---

<sup>13</sup> The annex is indicative, and by no means final. It serves as a general framework for further elaboration and clarification through more comprehensive efforts aimed at developing a set of indicators for the global environment, which is one of the main line of activities under the MSP.

**Overall approach to the integration of commitments under global environmental conventions (GEC) into planning process**

Usual steps in the planning process (detailed steps to be specified for regional development plans and spatial plans separately)	Recommended corresponding tasks to integrate commitments under global environmental conventions		Possible links to other evaluations (SEA or ex-ante evaluations)
	Analytical tasks	Consultations with environmental authorities and the public	
Determination of the specific focus of the planning process	Determining key issues, objectives and indicators for consideration of GEC in the planning process	Consultations with environmental authorities Recommended consultations with public concerned	<i>To be elaborated during the project</i>
Analysis of current situation	Evaluation of past trends and their future development without the plan	<i>To be elaborated during the project</i>	<i>To be elaborated during the project</i>
Proposed development detailed development objectives and priorities	Integration of GEC into development objectives and priorities	<i>To be elaborated during the project</i>	<i>To be elaborated during the project</i>
Proposed measures	Integration of GEC into proposed measures Assessment of cumulative impacts of the entire plan on specific issues and indicators	<i>To be elaborated during the project</i>	<i>To be elaborated during the project</i>
Proposed management system	Integration of GEC into review and selection criteria for specific implementing projects	<i>To be elaborated during the project</i>	<i>To be elaborated during the project</i>
Proposed monitoring system	Integration of relevant GEC indicators into monitoring system	<i>To be elaborated during the project</i>	<i>To be elaborated during the project</i>

## **1. Determining key issues, objectives and indicators for consideration of GEC in the planning process**

### Aim:

- To identify key relevant objectives and indicators
- To identify data availability (temporary dimension, spatial dimension)

### Commentary:

Proper establishment of key issues, objectives and indicators for consideration of GEC in the regional planning is one of the most important tasks within need to involve through review of the following documents:

- the text of relevant conventions and any international action plans that have been prepared/adopted for their implementation
- national transposition of these conventions and any national action plans for their implementation and reporting mechanisms for the conventions - NBSAP (BD), National Report to UNCCD (LD), National Communication to UNFCCC (CC)
- national/sub-national policy and planning documents that address issues related to conventions but are not necessarily conceived as their implementing plans (e.g. State Environmental Policy, National Sustainable Development Strategy, Energy Policy, Transport Policy, etc.)

This process should involve thorough consultations with key authorities, academic institutes and other stakeholders concerned with the practical implementation of GECs. The following steps are envisaged:

- listing all possible issues, objectives and indicators (making a long list)
- selecting key issues, objectives and indicators for regional development (making a short list)
- determining procedure for their further adaptation and use in the specific planning processes (ensuring that selected issues, objectives and indicators are relevant for the nature of the specific planning process and key development issues affecting the concerned territory or development sector)

The remaining tasks (tasks 2,3, etc.) outline possible approaches to practical use of these issues, objectives and indicators in the planning processes for regional development.

Table outlining this task on the hypothetical (illustrative) example

Issues arising from GEC	Corresponding objectives established by the GEC, their national transposition or relevant planning documents	Reference point	Indicators (or at least well formulated specific questions) to analyze likely impacts of the planning document on the objectives	Data sources on past trends and their likely future evolution	Are data spatially located (for possible use in the GIS)
<b>Examples of possible convention-specific issues, objectives and indicators</b>					
<i>Biodiversity</i>	<i>Increase the total protected area by 1,5 fold, especially coastal and wetland protected areas by 2010</i>	<i>National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy</i>	<i>- Decrease/increase of protected areas and their buffer zone (ha and degree of protection) - Rehabilitation/ loss of bio-corridors (km and regional importance of bio-corridors)</i>	<i>State of Environment Report</i>	<i>Data available in proper format</i>
<i>Climate change</i>	<i>Decrease the total aggregated emissions CO2 by 25 % by year 2020 in comparison with year 2000</i>	<i>National action plan for Kyoto Protocol</i>	<i>- Likely changes in total aggregated emissions of CO2 till 2020</i>	<i>State of Environment Report</i>	<i>Not relevant</i>
<i>Desertification</i>	<i>Decrease total area of polluted and degraded land to 10% by 2015</i>	<i>National Sust. Dev. Strategy</i>	<i>- Total area of polluted and degraded land</i>	<i>Research project XXX</i>	<i>Data available in proper format</i>
....	....	....	....	...	....
<b>Examples of possible cross-cutting issues, objectives and indicators that relate to implementation of conventions</b>					
<i>Env. management</i>	<i>Triple number of environmentally certified businesses by 2012</i>	<i>Industrial policy</i>	<i>- No of employees in enterprises with certified EMS system or other acknowledged certificate (eco- tourism, organic agriculture, etc.)</i>	<i>No central registry – data available through registers for certification schemes</i>	<i>Not relevant</i>
<i>Energy</i>	<i>Double renewable sources of energy by 2015</i>	<i>National Sust. Dev. Strategy</i>	<i>- energy generated through solar, wind, biomass energy sources (MW)</i>	<i>Energy Yearbook</i>	<i>Data available – may be transformed into GIS</i>
....	....	....	....	...	....

## 2. Evaluation of past trends and their future development without the programming document

### Aim:

- To identify and present information on the state of the environment and natural resources of a region
- To identify the positive and negative interactions between these trends and the main development sectors in the programming document.

*Table outlining this task on the hypothetical (illustrative) example*

<b>Relevant objectives</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Summary of current trends and their likely evolution if the plan was not implemented</b>	<b>Comparison with other countries (if relevant)</b>
<i>Increase the total protected area by 1,5 fold, especially coastal and wetland protected areas as compared with 2005</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Decrease/increase of protected areas and their buffer zones</i></li> <li>- <i>Rehabilitation/ loss of bio-corridors</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Natural ecosystems that may be declared as coastal and wetland protected areas have decreased by 30% over the past 10 years. Also the most important bio-corridors that connect them have been damaged.</i></p> <p><i>This trend may at best be stabilized in the next 5 years but the targeted increase of protected areas is not likely be achieved mainly because of already approved aquaculture and port developments.</i></p>	<i>Not relevant</i>
<i>Decrease the total aggregated emissions CO2 by 25 % by year 2020 in comparison with year 2000</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Total aggregated emissions of CO2</i></li> </ul>	....	<i>Yes, EU average</i>
<i>Decrease total area of polluted and degraded land to 10% by 2015</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Total area of polluted and degraded land</i></li> </ul>	.....	<i>Not relevant</i>
<i>Double renewable sources of energy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>energy generated through solar, wind, biomass energy sources (MW)</i></li> </ul>	....	<i>Yes, OECD average</i>

### 3. Assessment of development objectives/priorities

Aim:

- To ensure that environmental objectives are fully integrated in the proposed development objectives and priorities for assisted regions

Table outlining this task on the hypothetical (illustrative) example

Relevant GEC objectives	Indicators	Proposed development objective # 1 (e.g. Improve transport infrastructure)	Proposed development objective 2	Proposed development objective 3
<i>Increase the total protected area by 1,5 fold, especially coastal and wetland protected areas as compared with 2005</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decrease/increase of protected areas and their buffer zones</li> <li>- Rehabilitation/ loss of bio-corridors</li> </ul>	<p><i>Locate all new transport infrastructure outside natural or semi-natural marine and wetland ecosystems and their buffer zones</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that new infrastructure does not damage existing bio-corridors.</i></p>	.....	.....
<i>Decrease the total aggregated emissions CO2 by 25 % by year 2020 in comparison with year 2000</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total aggregated emissions of CO2</li> </ul>	<i>Adopt measures to regulate road freight and individual car use. Ensure that infrastructure always supports public transport and rail freight transport.</i>	.....	.....
<i>Double renewable sources of energy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- energy generated through solar, wind, biomass energy sources (MW)</li> </ul>	<i>Consider impact of proposed transport infrastructure on development of alternative energy sources</i>	.....	.....
....	....	.....	.....	.....
....	....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Proposed reformulations of development objectives</b>		<b>Develop energy-efficient transport system that improves mobility and decreases environmental pressures from transport</b>	.....	.....



#### 4. Assessment of proposed measures

Aim:

- To assess the environmental implications of proposed measures on relevant GEC objectives and indicators.

Legend:

Impact character	Symbols	Explanation
<b>Probability</b>	!!	Almost certain
	!	Probable
<b>Scale</b>	--	Large scale positive
	-	Positive
	++	Large scale negative
	+	Negative
<b>Frequency/duration</b>	>>	Frequent to Constant / Long-term to Permanent
	>	Occasional / Short-term
<b>Reversibility</b>	IR	Irreversible
	R	Reversible
<b>Transboundary dimension</b>	TR	Possible transboundary impact
<b>Uncertainty</b>	?	Possible impact totally depends on the implementation arrangements described in our accompanying comments.

Table outlining this task on the hypothetical (illustrative) example

<b>Development objective # 1:</b>		<b>Improve transport infrastructure</b>				
<b>Measure # 1.1:</b>		<b>Develop new port facilities in XYZ</b>				
<b>Relevant objectives and indicators</b>	<b>GEC and</b>	<b>Negative impacts</b>		<b>Positive impacts</b>		<b>Comments</b>
		<i>Sym-bols</i>	<i>Summary description:</i>	<i>Sym-bols</i>	<i>Summary description:</i>	
- <i>Decrease/increase of protected areas and their buffer zones</i>	!! -- >> IR	<i>Almost certain large scale negative permanent impact on 15 ha of wetland in AAA. Irreversible.</i>	-	-	<i>If port moves to XYZ_A, only 6 ha of wetland would be lost. Consider compensating this loss through a man-made wetland along river XXX.</i>	
- <i>Rehabilitation/ loss of bio-corridors</i>	! -- > R	<i>Probable large scale negative impact on river XXX that serves as a regional bio-corridor. It may be a short-term and reversible impact when accompanied with proper mitigation and compensation.</i>	-	-	<i>Investigate the possibility of expanding river-banks to allow for development of wetlands and mangroves.</i>	
- <i>No of employees in enterprises with certified EMS system or other acknowledged certificate</i>	-	-	! + >	<i>It is promised that port operator will have certified EMS and will provide facilities for emergency treatment of oil-spills</i>	<i>Make sure this happens</i>	
- <i>energy generated through solar, wind, biomass energy sources (MW)</i>	?	<i>This proposal may limit future development of off-shore wind farms if no consideration is given to this issue.</i>	?	<i>This proposal may – if properly designed – support future development of off-shore wind farms.</i>	<i>Ensure that port developments will not prevent future off-shore wind-farms. Consider possible combined development of off-shore wind-farms together with port facilities.</i>	
....	....	....	....	....	....	
<b>Recommended changes to the measure</b>						
(Alternative locations, alternative technologies or alternative sequencing/timing)						
<b>The action should be reformulated to “Develop new port facilities in XYZ_A and compensate for the loss of natural habitat”.</b>						
<b>Due to likely significant environment impacts, this measure should not be included among priority projects.</b>						
<b>Conditions for implementation</b>						
(specific conditions for implementation, preliminary advice on the scope of any environmental assessment of detailed project proposals)						
<b>The project must have EIA which should investigate the following issues ....</b> (this can summarize key concerns and proposals).						

## 5. Assessment of cumulative impacts of proposed measures

Aim:

- To assess the likely cumulative implications of proposed measures on relevant GEC objectives and indicators.
- To analyse individual assessment in one context and adjust them as necessary

*Table outlining this task on the hypothetical (illustrative) example*

<b>Relevant GEC objective and indicator:</b>					
Objective: Increase the total protected area by 1,5 fold, especially marine and wetland protected areas as compared with 2005					
Indicator: Decrease/increase of protected areas and their buffer zones					
<b>Summary of current trend and its likely evolution if the plan is not implemented</b>					
Natural ecosystems that may be declared as marine and wetland protected areas have decreased by 30% over the past 10 years. This trend may be gradually reverted in the next 5 years but the targeted increase of protected areas is not likely to be achieved mainly because of already approved aquaculture developments, industrial zones, hydro-power-plants and transport infrastructure.					
<b>Expected impacts of relevant measures included in the plan</b>					
Measures	Negative impacts		Positive impacts		Comments
	Symbols	Summary description:	Symbols	Summary description:	
<i>Develop new port facilities in XYZ</i>	!! -- >> IR	<i>Very probable large scale negative permanent impact on 15 ha of wetland in AAA. Irreversible.</i>			<i>If this facility moves to XYZ_A, only 6 ha of wetland would be impacted. This loss can be compensated through a man-made wetland along river XXX.</i>
<i>Develop industrial zone in AAA.</i>	....	....	....	....	....
<i>Develop tourist complex in FFF</i>	....	....	....	....	....
<b>Cumulative impacts of all proposed measures</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>If all proposed measures in the plan will be implemented, another 15% of natural ecosystems marine and wetland ecosystems and their buffer zones will be lost. In addition, three important bio-corridors will be irreversibly damaged. This sharply contradicts with the relevant GEC objective.</i></li> <li>• <i>If recommended changes to measures are adopted, only additional 4% of natural ecosystems marine and wetland ecosystems will be lost and three important bio-corridors will be temporarily damaged.</i></li> </ul>					
<b>Recommendation</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To compensate for this damage (which will occur in either case), the plan must strengthen its nature protection component by also declaring CCC, KKK nature protected marine and wetland ecosystems.</i></li> </ul>					

## 6. Integration of GEC into monitoring system

Aim:

- To ensure that monitoring system enables recording information on the actual effects of implemented project resulting from the plan on the specific GEC objectives and indicators,
- To ensure that the total effects of implemented plan on the specific GEC objectives and indicators are recorded, analysed so that they can influence the next cycle of the planning process.

*Table outlining this task on the hypothetical (illustrative) example*

Indicators (or at least well formulated specific questions) to analyze integration the given issue/objective in the planning document	Specific projects that were implemented as result of the planning document					Total effects of implemented plan
	Project 001	Project 002	Project 003	Project 004	Project ....	
- Decrease/increase of protected areas and their buffer zones	- 12 ha of nature protected areas	0	+ 6 ha of strict reserve	0	....	....
- Rehabilitation/ loss of bio-corridors	- 3 km of regional bio-corridors damaged	0	+ 4 km of local bio-corridors created	0	....	...
- Total aggregated emissions of CO2 till 2020 resulting from the plan	+ 200 tons of CO2	+ 1000 tons of CO2	- 50 tons of CO2	0	....	...
- Total area of polluted and degraded land	- 5 ha	-3 ha	-1 ha	0	....	...
- No of employees in enterprises with certified EMS system or other certificate	0	0	0	50 employees	....	...
- Energy generated through solar, wind, biomass energy sources (MW)	0	0	0	30 MW	....	
.....	...	...	...	...	...	...

## **ANNEX 8: BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE *GREENING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES* PROJECT (GRDP) OF THE EU, AND DRAFT MOU BETWEEN UNDP AND GRDP**

### **Background<sup>14</sup>**

The Structural Funds Regulations 2000-06 made environment and sustainable development one of two horizontal themes (with equal opportunities) that should be integrated or mainstreamed across all priorities, measures and projects in Structural Funds programmes.

Historically, this integration has been approached in various ways in different Member States, reflecting differences in structures, priorities and capacities. While the European Commission has produced guidance on how to integrate environmental protection into Structural Fund instruments, research shows that Regions struggle to translate this guidance into practical reality for beneficiaries.

### **Goals**

The Greening Regional Development Programmes project aims at gaining experience from Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund programmes, as well as other regional economic development activities. This will help us develop a common European methodology for the effective integration of environmental aspects into current and future regional development programmes.

By sharing best practice and experience, we hope to improve knowledge among GRDP partners on environmental integration in the context of Cohesion and Structural Funds and other economic development programmes – both current and post-2006 – and to disseminate best practices in partner regions and beyond.

The project will be concluded with a GRDP Charter to be signed by the partnership's members and other interested organisations. The charter will suggest a set of principles on how to integrate environmental sustainability in regional development programmes.

### **Project activities**

There are several components of the project that are complimentary in contributing towards the overall aim.

### **The audit**

An in-depth audit has been carried out in the partner regions to identify good practices and practical solutions for integrating the environment into regional development programmes. The aim is to then share this information with the regional development community across Europe.

Partners answered the following questions:

- Who is doing what in mainstreaming environmental sustainability?
- What is the regional understanding of a 'horizontal theme'?
- How has EU policy been interpreted and applied on the ground?

The audit also identified case studies that describe how the environment was integrated into the Structural Fund and other development programmes.

### **Working themes**

---

<sup>14</sup> More information about the project is at [www.grdp.org](http://www.grdp.org)

Four working themes were defined to achieve the project's objectives. The GRDP partners will work on these themes during the three years of the project.

The themes are:

1. Identifying good practices where the environment has been integrated into regional development programmes.
2. Influencing the implementation of Structural Funds.
3. Making an economic case for environmental integration.
4. Integrating the environment into all future regional economic development programmes.

One technical seminar per theme will be organised to set a stage for sharing the project's findings.

### **Good Practice Guidelines and GRDP Charter**

The GRDP Good Practice Guidelines will include the common European methodology and a set of principles for integrating the environment into regional economic development programmes. The main GRDP principles will be set out in the GRDP Charter. It will be submitted to the partners and other interested organisations for signature at the final conference. By signing the Charter, the partners commit themselves to its implementation and dissemination.

### **Expected results**

- Improved understanding among partner regions on environmental integration and sustainable development in the context of Structural Fund programmes.
- Influencing the implementation of the environmental horizontal theme in Structural Funds post-2006.
- Presentation of economic cases for environmental integration.
- Dissemination of good practice, guidance and principles for environmental integration in regional development programmes across EU countries.
- Partners sign up to a GRDP Charter on completion of the project.
- Transfer and exchange of ideas and experience.
- Development of better co-operation among environmental authorities and other organisations at national, regional and European level beyond the project.

**Cooperation between UNDP Bulgaria and *Greening Regional Development Project*<sup>15</sup>**  
**LETTER OF INTENT**

WHEREAS Bulgaria is a party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Biodiversity Convention and UN Desertification Convention;

WHEREAS Bulgaria is in the process of EU accession;

WHEREAS the Government of Bulgaria expressed strong interest in pursuing integration of its commitments arising from aforementioned conventions in its regional development plans and programmes;

WHEREAS UNDP Bulgaria is developing a project proposal to GEF “Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria’s Regional Development Process” that aims to:

- (a) provide methodologies, skills, knowledge, and information management system for mainstreaming global environmental considerations into the formulation, implementation and evaluation of regional development and spatial planning policies,
- (b) facilitate institutional changes that support mainstreaming of global environmental into regional development and spatial planning,
- (c) support revising of regional development plans and municipal-level spatial development in a pilot region to better integrate global environmental objectives;

WHEREAS the Greening Regional Development Programmes (GRDP) project is a network of partners and associated organisations from nine EU Member States that with support from EU INTERREG program aims to:

- (a) share best practice and experience, and improve our knowledge of environmental integration within regional development programmes, such as the Structural and Cohesion Funds programmes,
- (b) spread best practices in partner regions and beyond;

WHEREAS the GRDP project presents an excellent opportunity for Bulgaria to ensure long-term mainstreaming of its environmental issues, including internationally important concerns, into the regional development process,

NOW THEREFORE, the UNDP Bulgaria and the GRDP project secretariat have agreed to cooperate on the following terms:

1. The GRDP project will invite relevant Government stakeholders of the UNDP/GEF project “Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria’s Regional Development Process” to participate in activities of the GRDP at no additional cost to GRDP.
2. The UNDP/GEF project “Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria’s Regional Development Process” will – once awarded – support relevant project stakeholders of the Republic of Bulgarian in their participation in relevant GRDP activities, as identified by UNDP with the objective of maximizing opportunities for long-term mainstreaming of internationally important environmental issues into the regional development process in Bulgaria.
3. Information will be shared freely between the two projects to enable wider replication and dissemination of lessons learnt.

Signed

[UNDP Bulgaria, signature date]

[GRDP project, signature, date]

---

<sup>15</sup> The Letter of Intent is under discussion. The draft presented here will be replaced with original once endorsed by both parties.

**ANNEX 9: STAKEHOLDERS DATABASE DEVELOPED DURING PDF-A**

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works	Strategic Planning of Regional Policy Directorate;	<p><b>Department Strategic planning of regional development</b></p> <p><b>Department Regional policy and harmonization of legislation</b></p>	<p>Elaborates the National Strategy for Regional Development (NSfRD), provides methodological guidance and assistance to the planning regions' structures and municipalities in the preparation of development policies and plans at regional/local level, effects coordination between the national, district and local authorities, social –economic partners, public sector and the EC in the strategic planning of the regional development process; secures co-ordination between regional development and spatial planning at all territorial levels in order to facilitate the absorption of EU funds; maintains and further develops a Regional Planning Information data-base; ensures implementation of the acquis in the field of regional policy and co-ordination of the structural instruments; secures publicity in the process of strategic planning.</p> <p>Responsible for development and implementation of Additional Info- Ch 21"Regional policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments", Strategy for Accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to EU, Strategy for Participation of the Republic of Bulgaria into the SF and CF of the EU, Strategy for Administrative Capacity Development – from Accession to Membership;</p>	<p>Sustainable development requirements related with Lisbon Strategy, Gothenburg Strategy as well EU policy for sustainable development; should be taking into account developing follow documents:</p> <p>Regional Development Act: Methodologies on elaboration of panning and strategic documents; Regional development plans (planning regions), Municipal development plans; Strategic documents: NSRR, District development strategies; organises the ex-ante evaluation of the NSfRD including the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);improves the national regional development legislation incl. environmental issues;,</p>
	Programming of Regional Development Directorate/ Managing Authority of NOPRD after 2007	Economic and Social cohesion department	<p>Responsible for the strategic framework of the ROP; Prepare the NOPRD in co-ordination with National development Plan.</p> <p>Ensuring compliance of EU policies in respect with the measures and organization of activities;</p>	Programming documents: National operational programme "Regional development"
			<p>-Implement the NOPRD;</p> <p>--Preparation and co-ordination with the CSF MA the terms and procedures for selection of projects in the framework of the respective OP</p> <p>Implementation of the approved terms and procedures for project selection subject to CR1260/99, art. 35.3b;</p> <p>Organise in coordination with the CSF MA the evaluation of projects through which the respective OP is implemented (CR1260/99, art. 34.1.d);</p> <p>--Prepare the Annual Report on the implementation of the ROP, subject to the approval of the Monitoring Committee (CR1260/99, art. 35.3e);</p> <p>-Organise, with the participation of the CSF MA and EC, the mid-term evaluation of the NOPRD.</p>	
		Monitoring and co-ordination department	<p>-Set up a system for gathering reliable financial and statistical information on implementation of the NOPRD and shall ensure the transfer of that information to the CSF Managing Authority;</p> <p>Secretariat of RD Monitoring Committee;</p>	Monitoring of National operational programme for Regional development; Co-ordination of related activities;



Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
	Intermediate Body for NOPRD  MRDPW - PHARE Programme Implementing Agency. / 6 Regional Supporting Units located in the 6 planning regions. /		Establish the system and mechanisms to carry out a relevant control of final beneficiaries, which are responsible for tendering, contracting and payments; Consolidate the monitoring data entered into the monitoring system by the final beneficiaries and channel it to the OP Managing Authorities; Conform the requirements of CR438/01, art. 3; Develop the relevant procedures under CR438/01, art. 5.2c; Following the requirements of CR438/01, art. 9, 2a fulfill the requirements of CR1260/99, art. 38.1c,e & 32.3,4.	Will be established in 2006
	6 “Technical Support, Coordination and Management of Regional plans and Programmes” Directorates within the structure of the district administrations in the centers of the planning regions.		Authority responsible for Technical Support, Coordination and Management of Regional plans and Programmes in the planning regions. Coordination of integrated regional development projects and schemes among the sectors. Will act as Secretariat for the respective Regional Development Council and will play a role in identifying and selecting projects, data collecting, monitoring and evaluation of project results under the NOPRD for the corresponding region.	Rules of procedure and structure of the directorates “Technical Support, Coordination and Management of Regional plans and Programmes”
	MRDPW - Road Executive Agency		Implementation of Cohesion Fund operations in transport sector; effectiveness and legitimacy of the management and implementation of the measures under the Cohesion Fund. For the execution of that task, it is responsible for the preparation of the implementation reports, including the Final Report, the preparation of requests for payment, and for submitting the information necessary for the monitoring and evaluation.	Authority responsible for the implementation of Cohesion Fund operations in transport sector
	MRDPW - Directorate ISPA Programme -		Implementation of Cohesion Fund operations in environment sector; effectiveness and legitimacy of the management and implementation of the measures under the Cohesion Fund. For the execution of that task, it is responsible for the preparation of the implementation reports, including the Final Report, the preparation of requests for payment, and for submitting the information necessary for the monitoring and evaluation.	Public Works, Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Authority responsible for the implementation of Cohesion Fund operations in environment sector.
	State Property	Sector Housing	National strategy on housing in the Republic of Bulgaria; National	

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
	<b>and Housing Policy Directorate</b>	policy	programme for housing buildings refurbishment and modernization Energy Efficiency Strategy	
	<b>Concessions Directorate</b>		Responsible for the concede policy of the Ministry on sea shore areas, beaches, raw materials in construction industry, exploitation of ores and mineral resources; issues permissions for ores and minerals survey;	Law on Concessions
	<b>Spatial Planning Directorate</b>		Spatial/urban planning, elaboration/amendment of respective legislation; coordinates opinions for changing the agricultural land use; represents the Ministry in CEMAT meetings under the Council of Europe, others.	Spatial Planning Act
	<b>Technical Regulations and Codes Directorate</b>		Represents the Ministry at the National Standardization Council in the field of building/construction materials/goods industry; approximation of the national legislation with the EU and international in the field concerned; issues licenses for construction goods etc.	Strategy for Energy Efficiency
	<b>Public Works, Engineering Infrastructure and landscape Directorate</b>	Department Road infrastructure and social facilities	Elaborates and coordinates the national policy regarding public works in urban areas – heating, energy efficiency, gas supply, electricity supply, landscape, geo - protection, solid waste; International road (EU Transport corridors)/national road network; national policy on geo protection and landscape protection; harmonization of the national legislation with the EU in concern with public works.	
	<b>Water Supply and Sewage Directorate</b>		State policy concerning exploitation, construction, reconstruction, modernization of water/sewage facilities in urban areas; rational and effective drinking water resources use	Strategy on management and development of water supply and sewage in the Republic of Bulgaria
	<b>European Integration and Coordination of International Projects Directorate</b>	Department International programmes  Sector European integration	General coordination of Accession to EU process; Harmonization of legislation in the fields of competences of MRDPW; Administrative capacity up grading, training of regional and local stakeholders in regional development issues in cooperation of all above listed directorates.	Additional Info on Chapter 21 Coordination of activities in the context of the national policies and EU regional development and sustainable development policies;

It should be noted that the exact scope of the MA-tasks delegated to the Intermediate body will be defined later according to the IB capacity and the MA is and will always be responsible for proper implementation of the OP. Establish the system and mechanisms to carry out a relevant control of final beneficiaries which are responsible for tendering, contracting and payments; consolidate the monitoring data entered into the monitoring system by the final beneficiaries and channel it to the OP MAs; conform the requirements of CR438/01, art. 3; Develop the relevant procedures under CR438/01, art. 5.2c; Following the requirements of CR438/01, art. 9, 2a fulfill the requirements of CR1260/99, art. 38.1c, e & 32.3,4.

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
<b>Regional Development Councils</b> 6	No directorates	No departments	The Regional Development Council is a consultative body to the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works for the conduction of the governmental policy for regional development. The main office of the Council is in the central town of the planning region. All District Governors that belong to the related planning region become Chairman of the Council on a rotary principle. Members of the Council with voting rights are a Deputy-Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, appointed representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment and Waters, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, ministry of Economy, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Transport and Communications, District Governors of districts belonging to the related planning region, as well as one representative from municipalities within a given planning region. The Chairman of the Council can invite to the meetings some representatives of citizens associations, non-governmental organizations, and other physical and legal entities, which deal with the issues of regional development. The Regional Development Councils discuss and agree the district development strategies and the Regional development plan of the related planning region discuss and agree the measures, which shall be included in the National Operational Program for Regional Development, establish cooperation with the District Development Councils and with the central bodies of the executive power.	Regional development policy
NE Planning Region - Varna				
SC Planning Region - Plovdiv				
<b>Municipal Councils</b> 264	No directorates	No departments	The municipal council competences are developed in the Law on Self-government and Local Administration. The municipal council defines the policies concerning the structuring and the development of the municipality; it is the empowered institution defining the policies included in the range of local self-government competencies. This presupposes the format of the acts - strategies, programmes, plans, decisions on priority issues concerning the development of the municipality and the work of the municipal administration.	Municipal development policy
Mezdra				
Shabla				
<b>District Governors</b> 28			<b>Responsibilities, according to the RULES AND REGULATIONS of the district administrations:</b>  Art. 3. The district governor is a sole executive authority in the district and shall ensure implementation of the state's policy and correspondence between national and local interests in regional policy. Art. 4. (1) The district administration is led and represented by the district	District development policy

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
			<p>governor</p> <p>(2) In his activity the district governor shall be assisted by deputy district governors and district administration.</p> <p>(3) The district governor shall be appointed by the Ministerial council</p> <p>(4) The deputy district governors shall be appointed by the Prime Minister</p> <p>(5) The district governor shall determine by order the rights and the fields of activity of the deputy governors.</p> <p>(6) In case of absence of the district governor, he shall be represented by a deputy district governor, appointed by a written order of the governor.</p> <p>Art.5. (1) The district governor shall collaborate with the bodies of the local self-government on the territory of the district, with the executive authorities and with other institutions outside the system of the executive authority.</p> <p>(2) The district governor shall collaborate with the managements of the local structures of the trade unions, the organizations of the employers, the organizations for social support and with non-governmental organizations.</p> <p>Art. 6. (1) The district governor shall present to the Council of Ministers annual report for the activity of the district administration.</p> <p>(2) The district governor shall present to the Minister of State Administration annual report on the condition of the local administration, which includes information on the condition of the municipal administration in the municipalities on the territory of the district.</p> <p>Art. 7. (1) The district governor shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensure implementation of the state’s policy in the district,</li> <li>coordinate the actions of the executive authority and their administrations on the territory of the district and their collaboration with the local authority;</li> <li>ensure correspondence between national and local interests,</li> <li>organize the working out and the execution of district plans, strategies and programs for local development, interact with the bodies of local self-government and local administration;</li> <li>be responsible for the preservation and protection of state property on the territory of the district;</li> <li>control the lawfulness of the deeds and actions of the bodies of local self-government and local administration;</li> <li>ensure the observance of the Law on the territory of the district and administratively control the execution of administrative deeds;</li> <li>coordinate and control the performance of the deeds and the actions of the heads of the territorial departments of the central administration of the executive authority in the district;</li> <li>cease the execution of illegitimate acts of the municipal councils and take them to the respective regional court within one month from their</li> </ul>	

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
			<p>obtaining; he has the authority to rescind illegitimate acts of the mayors of the municipalities within one month after getting knowledge of them or his approaching on them if there is no other order provided;</p> <p>lead information policy and strategy, which guarantee clarity and accessibility of the activity of the administration he heads observing the provisions of the Constitution and the laws ;</p> <p>organize the working out, the public dispute and shall participate in the execution of the district development plan;</p> <p>present the district development plan and the annual report for its realization to the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works;</p> <p>organize mobilization and defense training of the population, shall be in charge of the protection of the population in cases of natural disasters and accidents and be responsible for the observance of the public order;</p> <p>be responsible for the planning and preparation of the administratively territorial unit for defense;</p> <p>confirm the transport schemes of the district;</p> <p>be responsible for the international contacts of the District on regional level;</p> <p>present motions for including in the working agenda of the Council of Ministers through a deputy prime minister or a minister;</p> <p>confirm the job descriptions and responsibilities of the district officials;</p> <p>Have the authority to appoint the state officials in accordance with the Law for state officials and act as employer under labor contract by the Labor Code.</p> <p>send with an official order district officials on business trips in the country and abroad;</p> <p>confirm the official seal of the district governor, which is round in shape, as well as other seals for office needs;</p> <p>have other legal authorities, assigned to him with a law or an act of the Council of Ministers</p>	
Varna District		Project management	Field of activities: information service and communications, international collaboration, eurointegration, ethnical issues, culture	

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
		and eurointegration		
Plovdiv District			Field of activities: eurointegration, regional development, administrative control	

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
<b>Ministry of Environment and Water</b>	National Nature Protection Service Directorate	1. "Protected areas" Department;	Management and control of protected areas; setting, affirmation and control on the implementation of management plans and projects; development of ecotourism;	setting, affirmation and control on the implementation of management plans and projects;
		2. "Biodiversity" Department	Biodiversity protection through elaboration and coordination of the implementation of plans and programs for protection of biological resources; control on biodiversity protection;	
	Preventative Activities Directorate	1. "Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Assessment" Department;	Elaboration of projects and normative acts at the area of prevention activity; procedures of EIA; control on the given decisions; coordination of the procedures related with ecological assessment of plans and programs; methodical support for EEA and RIEW on the procedures for issue of complex licenses; public register of experts for EIA and EA; coordination and control on the implementation of programs in eliminating damages on the environment after past activities or inactivity till the moment of privatization;	procedures of EIA; coordination of the procedures related with ecological assessment of plans and programs;
	Water Directorate	1. "Water use" Department	Operative management of waters at national level; determination of the conditions in licenses for water use; national policy and programs for protection of surface and underground waters, control and coordination; control on the contacts for concessions; water and water –economical balances in the country; national water – economical plan; management plans for river basins; supervision of the national system for waters monitoring;	national policy and programs for protection of surface and underground waters, control and coordination; control on the contacts for concessions; management plans for river basins;
		2. Protection of water bodies" Department	Establishment and outlining the limits of water bodies; licenses for water use in water bodies; control on the condition and correct use of the installations for waste waters purification; elaboration and coordination of management plans for different basins; specialized water-economical maps;	establishment and outlining the limits of water bodies; elaboration and coordination of management plans for different basins; specialized water-economical maps;
	Directorate Coordination of the regional inspectorates	1. "Control and management of hazardous chemical substances" Department	Coordination and operative control over the activities in RIEW; national systems for ecological monitoring; control and management of hazardous chemical substances and materials; risk assessment of hazardous chemical substances, maintenance of registers and data base related with the procedures in the field of dangerous chemical substances; coordination of activities for	coordination and operative control over the activities in RIEW; coordination of activities for prevention of big accidents with hazardous chemical substances or limitation the

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
			prevention of big accidents with hazardous chemical substances or limitation the consequences with other departments; elaboration of normative acts related with the accidents;	consequences with other departments;
	EU environmental funds Directorate	1. EU environmental funds" Department	Elaboration of programs documentation with aim to adopt financial recourses from pre-accession funds; project submission in order application for financing before the pre-accession funds and cohesion fund; coordination and direction of the project implementation; reporting about the projects; coordination of the activities related with financial resources assimilation from the EU funds – sector “environment” with all interested institution and organizations;	coordination of the activities related with financial resources assimilation from the EU funds – sector “environment” with all interested institution and organizations;
	Waste management Directorate	1.” Management of household and construction waste" Department	Preparation and realization of programs and projects at the area of waste deposits management; annual reports for the management of activities; issue of permissions about these activities; coordination and control on projects, elaboration and exploitation of the equipment and installations for sterilization of household wastes and observation of the requirements in choice of plots for disposal of equipments of waste treatment; coordination and control on implementation the requirements for soil protection during utilization of sediments obtained after purification of waste water in agricultural lands;	coordination and control on projects, elaboration and exploitation of the equipment and installations for sterilization of wastes and observation of the requirements in choice of plots for disposal of equipments of waste treatment; functioning of registers about issued licenses for treatment of waste materials;
		2. Management of industrial and hazardous waste	Coordination and control on the implementation the requirements for treatment and transportation of industrial and hazardous waste; functioning of registers about issued licenses for treatment of waste materials;	
	Air protection Directorate	1. "Air quality" Department	Elaboration of norms for air quality and alarm thresholds for public information, for noxious substances content in the fuel, for admissible emissions of damaging substances emitted in the atmosphere from fixed sources; coordination of the activities, related with realization of the control over following the regulations in this issue;	mutual coordination with the interested Ministries and Departments in limitation and termination the use of substances and materials destroying the ozone layer, reduction of greenhouse gases emissions, increase in energetic efficiency;
		2. “Global atmosphere processes" Department	Mutual coordination with the interested Ministries and Departments in limitation and termination the use of substances and materials destroying the ozone layer, reduction of greenhouse gases emissions, increase in energetic efficiency and in part of renewable energy sources; annual inventory reports for substances destroying the ozone layer and greenhouse gases; project assessment related with these problems in dependence with ecological benefits;	elaboration of norms for air quality;

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
	Subsurface and Underground Resources Directorate	1. "Subsurface and reserves balance" Department	Protection of the earth's womb, ores and minerals; creation and register of national recourses balance, register of new discoveries; specialized map of ores and minerals deposits; coordination and control on working projects; normative acts for land and soil protection, coordination and control on working projects for recultivation of polluted and disturbed terrains;	normative acts for land and soil protection, coordination and control on working projects for recultivation of polluted and disturbed terrains; creation and register of national recourses balance;
		2. "Geology and research authorization" Department	Organization of the licenses preparation for prospecting and studies of ores and minerals; formation of the United Register and Cadastre of Licenses for prospecting and studies of ores and minerals; maintenance of National Geofund; National Rock Fund Depot and Specialized information system of data about geological studies and activities;	formation of the United Register and Cadastre of Licenses for prospecting and studies of ores and minerals;
	Cohesion Policy for Environment Directorate	1."Cohesion Policy for Environment" Department	Governmental Body of the Operating Programme "Environment"; secretariat of the Committee for observation of this programme; organization, elaboration and coordination in time for preparation and implementation of the programme and other programme documents for the objectives of structural funds and cohesion fund with respect of partner principles; monitoring of the programme; organisation and coordination of the activities, related with access of information and publicity regarding the obtained financial aid from the EU, the opportunities and the results;	organization, elaboration and coordination in time for preparation and implementation of the Operating Programme and other programme documents for the objectives and structural funds and cohesion fund with respect of partner principles;
	Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Waters	Sofia	Air, water and soil protection against pollution and destruction; protection and ecological use of earth's worm, ores and minerals; ecological urban environment; biological diversity protection and forest ecosystems; waste management; utilization of National System for Ecological Monitoring (NSEM); data base and information about environmental status;	realize functions for regulation, control and information in relation to environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources;
	National park directorates	Central Balkan, Gabrovo	Security vs. from forest fires, control and maintenance of mountain ecosystems, monitoring and resources protection; education programs; interpretation and tourism; management and control; licenses for specific activities in Park territory; organization and data base; information about the park; sanctions;	participate in the process of elaboration of management and structural plans vs. technical plans and projects; preparation of statements for EIA;
	Basin directorates	Eastbelomorian , Plovdiv	Planning and management; monitoring; prognoses and information supply; permissions and registers; water and water-economical cadastre; control; relations with other institutions and publicity;	determinate the boards of water objects with cooperation of the Cadastre Services; organize plans elaboration for management of water basins;
	Executive Environment Agency	1.Environmental Monitoring Directorate;	Is responsible for observation and control network on environmental components; Takes part in the development of the Environment cadastre; Carries out the Information exchange between the Ministry of Environment and Water,	Carries out the Information exchange between the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Regional Inspectorates and



Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
			the Regional Inspectorates and other institutions; Is responsible for the development of the NASEM subsystems; Creates and maintains Ecological map data bank; Co-ordinates the international relations of the Agency, including the organization of international activities;	other institutions;
		2. Analytical Laboratories Directorate	Analytical laboratories for air quality, water quality, soils and waste, accredited according to ISO 45001, has appropriate equipment, provides environmental data to the National Monitoring System and carries out environmental control within the MOEW; Organizes the operation of stationary automatic stations for air control and supports the technical systems; Harmonizes the Bulgarian Standards in the field of control of the pollutants with European and International Standards; Provides management to the Regional Inspectorates and the laboratories; Takes part in international programs;	Harmonizes the Bulgarian Standards in the field of control of the pollutants with European and International Standards; Provides management to the Regional Inspectorates and the laboratories;
MOEW	Strategies, European integration and international cooperation	Environmental strategy and programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordination and participation in the development of national and sectoral environmental strategies and programs.</li> <li>- Coordination of the implementation of international conventions in Bulgaria.</li> </ul>	The National Climate Change Focal Point is a part of this department. This Focal Point is entitled to coordinate and cooperate with other persons/organizations in regard to all aspects of the implementation of the Climate Convention and the Kyoto Protocol in the country. Furthermore, the Joint Implementation Unit is also within this department. This unit has main responsibilities toward the facilitation of JI projects in Bulgaria, and these types of projects (being aimed at reduction of GHG emissions) have very much to do with sustainable development and fulfillment of the obligation the country has as a party to UNFCCC and the Kyoto

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
Inter-ministerial Committee on Climate Change	N/A	N/A	This body is intended to facilitate the communications among institutions and to ensure the control and coordination of their activities in relation to the climate change process in the country. This process is mostly driven by the postulates set out in the UNFCCC, Kyoto protocol and the European Climate Change Program.	Protocol. The Committee consists of representatives from a majority of their ministries (including MRDPW), the Energy Efficiency Agency and an observer from Sofia Municipality. Its main order of business is to supervise and control the implementation of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (which is the only legal document to guide and streamline the national climate change policy). The updated Plan (2004) contains numerous policies and measures that strictly affect certain economic sectors and their development (e.g. energy sector, infrastructure).
Executive Environmental Agency (EEA)	Environmental monitoring	Inventories of emissions (Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions inventories)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supervision of the preparation of the National GHG inventories (under the Climate convention);</li> <li>- Possible administration of the National GHG emissions registry.</li> </ul>	GHG emissions have direct dependency on the development of the economy both on regional and national level. No national or regional development policies and measures should be formulated or implemented without strong consideration of the GHG emissions tendency. For such consideration though, the only source of viable information and data could be the Executive Environmental Agency.
		Environmental permits	Issuing permits for activities affecting the environment, and conducting control of those activities (under the IPPC Directive guidelines)	The environmental permits issued by the Agency can and must be a tool to foster the sustainable development. These permits basically determine the scope of certain industrial or other economic activities which affect the environment or certain components (like air quality). It is expected that within a couple of

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
				years the quantity of GHG emissions that an industrial entity is allowed to emit will also be defined in the permit (hence the definition “complex permit” which is usually being used for these permits).

Cross-sectoral mainstreaming into local, national or regional policies and plans is a critical challenge. The potential of regional co-operation to address environmental issues should be pursued, e.g. on the management of regional and transboundary natural resources such as the atmosphere, river basins, the marine environment and biodiversity. Sectors where the linkages between local development and environmental issues and global environmental threats are as follows:

- For issues related to **Desertification**: linkages with agriculture/livestock, energy, forest management, and water sectors.
- For issues related to **Climate Change**: linkages with energy production, industry, transport, forest management, agriculture/livestock, waste management, water, land and coastal zone management.
- For issues related to **Biodiversity**: agriculture/livestock, forest management, fisheries, tourism, energy, coastal zone management and water.

The management, conservation and sustainable use of the agro systems, together with some ecosystem types from the rest ecosystem groups, is implemented in the Agriculture branch in the system of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest. The activities are coordinated and controlled at the national level.

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
<b>Ministry of agriculture and forestry</b>	Directorate “Rural development and investment”		-The directorate organizes and coordinates the process of preparation of the National Plan for Rural Development. The Directorate develops and manages programs for development of rural areas. - creates a system for entire organization for monitoring, control, evaluation and reports the results of the implementation of the Special Accession Program for Agriculture and Rural Development according to the requirements of the European Union. The Directorate in common with State Fund Agriculture organizes and conducts a campaign to give publicity to SAPARD. - develops and coordinates national and regional ecological programs in the field of agriculture. The Directorate develops methods of evaluation of the financial support of the projects.	Promotion the mainstreaming of environment into sectoral programmes on integrated rural development provides important opportunities to reverse the loss of the productive base for rural and urban livelihoods caused by inter alia deforestation, unsustainable water use, desertification and soil fertility loss.
		SAPARD	The Department is responsible for the preparation, update and coordination of the Bulgarian National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan (2000 – 2006). After the preparation and the approval by EC of the NARDP acts as Secretariat of the SAPARD Monitoring Committee.	There is a linkage between priorities and measures of Bulgarian National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan and biodiversity, climate change and land degradation prevention.
		Investment in Rural Areas	Tendering under certain SAPARD measures (i.e. Vocational training) preparation for the implementation of Rural development measures not	Fulfillment of the requirements of three Rio conventions can be a

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
			covered by SAPARD (Less favored areas, Leader type measures, etc.); coordination of the activities of NGOs working in the area of rural development (following the partnership principle), support of the local rural administrations and preparation of integrated rural development plans.	criterion for selection of the projects. Rio conventions can also be taken into account in elaboration of integrated rural development plans.
		Agri-environment	Development of agri-environment programmes and related legislation; compatibility of NARDP with the Acquis on agri-environmental protection and improvement; liaison with European commission and other international organizations in the framework of agri-environmental policy; development of administrative matrix for agri-environmental programme implementation; training and information; monitoring and control; management of the technical support for implementation of agri-environmental programme.	Development of Bulgarian agri-environment programmes and related legislation may be or not in accordance with Rio conventions.
	Directorate general “Structural policy”	<u>Regional policy</u> <u>Secondary budget users coordination and correlation</u> <u>Change of the Land use type and improvement of the productivity quality</u> 28 regional directorates “Agriculture and forestry”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supports the Minister in applying State Policy in the areas of Agriculture and Forestry, hydro meliorations and deals with problems related to erosion on the territories of regional administrations by Regional Directorates.</li> <li>- Coordinates activities of the Secondary Budget Users governed by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and assures performance of the State Policy in their direct activities.</li> <li>- Coordinates and controls activities of the Municipal Services of Agriculture and Forestry via Regional Directorates “Agriculture and Forestry”.</li> <li>- Considers proposals for changes of the Agricultural Land Use Type and prepare projects for decisions for them.</li> <li>- Considers demands for financing of projects and applying of projects and technologies for recreation and improvement of the productivity qualities of Agricultural lands.</li> <li>- Each year elaborates report for the condition of the Agriculture and Forestry and proposals for the basic directions of the State agrarian policy during the next economic year by regions.</li> <li>- Coordinates activities of execution of the Law for guarding of the agricultural property.</li> </ul>	The directorate is dealing with the problems of erosion. Some of its activities are related to recreation and improvement of the productivity qualities of lands and it is connected also with biodiversity.
	Management of state land fund		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organizes and controls the use of the state - owned land.</li> <li>- gives methodical instructions, regulates and controls the process of compensating the former landowners and the issue of personal compensatory notes.</li> <li>- collects and verifies claims for compensation and for land settlement from the Land State Fund.</li> <li>- examines proposals for change of the use of agricultural lands and elaborates projects in compliance with these proposals.</li> <li>- considers the crediting with financial resources of the research in the field of agriculture and the implementation of projects and technologies for land qualities regeneration and improvement.</li> <li>- drafts a set of instructions in regard to the implementation of the Land Act</li> </ul>	Some land use systems can actually enhance biodiversity. Technologies for land qualities regeneration are related to prevention from land degradation.

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
			and the Forest Restitution Act and elaborates regulations for the implementation of the Acts. - summarizes monthly reports about the restituted agricultural land on the basis of statistic data and land devison plans.	
National Services	Executive Agency Fisheries and Aquacultures		The agency is responsible for national and operational management of the sub-sector “Fisheries and aquaculture”, supervision and control of fishing activities in the country. Bulgaria implements a unified national strategy for sustainable development of the agrarian sector, in conformity with the specific and unique reality of Bulgaria and the EU Common Agricultural Policy / CAP/.	Takes part in organising of activities connected with sustainable development, use, security, control and reproduction of fish, other water animals and fishery resources and activities for conservation of water fauna.
	Agency for soil resources		Implements specialized activities on quality, protection, recovery and improvement of fertility of soil resources and ecological functions of the soil	Some of the activities of the agency are connected with Rio convention for prevention of land degradation.
	Executive agency for hydro melioration		The agency regulates activities for irrigation, draining, prevention form overflowing, protection of the soil from weathering and supports the minister of agriculture and forestry in investment policy in the field of hydro meliorations.	Some of the activities of the agency are connected with Rio convention for prevention of land degradation.
	National Center for Agrarian Science		Research, applied and subsidiary activities in the field of agriculture and food industries.	Fundamental investigation in ecology and environment protection.
	National Agricultural Advisory Service		NAAS is responsible for national policy in the field of agriculture, offers to the growers regular and updated information, advises and consultations.	Activities of NAAS are connected with Rio Convention because there is a linkage between agriculture and desertification, climate change and biodiversity. Some land use systems and agricultural practices can actually enhance biodiversity.

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
	National Forestry Directorate		The directorate acts in the field of forestry activities, hunting and in some cases in fish industry.	Protecting the environmental integrity of the forest systems preserves biodiversity because natural forests are host to a wide number of animal and plant species. Protecting forests will also help to ensure the long-term storage of carbon in the soil, as well as to minimise additional deforestation without regeneration. So forests are closely connected with land degradation and climate change.
SAPARD agency within the State fund agriculture			The SAPARD Agency is responsible for project selection, tendering and contracting, execution of on-site inspections both prior to and after project approval, monitoring of progress of measures against indicators, reporting on progress against indicators, authorization of payment, execution of payment, setting up a reliable programme implementation database, etc.	Implementation of some of the NARDP measures e. g. forestry and a forestation of agricultural areas, investment in forestry holdings, processing and marketing of forestry products, Management of water resources, Development and improvement of rural infrastructure is closely connected with sustainable development and Rio convention.
		Internal Audit European Schemes Department		
		European Schemes Department		
		European Funding Department 28 Regional offices		

- The Ministry of Economy is one of the important players in the process of creation and implementation of the national policy as such. It develops the objectives and the priorities of the national strategy and implements the state policy in the field of industry, trade, privatization and, till pretty soon the tourism. Due to a Council of Ministry Decision the sub-sector “Tourism” became a part of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The ministry participates also in the implementation of the integration policy and the foreign economic cooperation
- Government priorities in the scope of the activities of the Ministry of Economy are to encourage the innovations and high technologies, to reposition the investments in sectors with high added value, encourage SMEs, change the business environment, and increase the competitiveness of the industry and the economy in the aspect of a sustainable development including the environmental issues. The ministry is responsible for decision-making and programming in the areas covered by its activities and addressed by all three Rio Conventions and the following Agenda 21.
- Achieving the criteria and the Community standards in the process of the successful accession in 2007 are priorities for Bulgaria, an integral part of which is the sustainable development.
- Basic principles and priorities in the work of the Ministry of Economy in respect of the sustainable development and actions corresponding to the objectives of Rio could be identified as follows:
  - o Accelerating the environment-protecting sustainable economic development;
  - o Environment-based risk-preventing management;
  - o Subsidiarity;
  - o “Pollution – sanction” principle;
  - o Prevention and restraint of environmental damages;

- o Integration of the eco standards in the other sectors including legislation acts dealing with the economic and social activities.

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
Ministry of Economy	Directorate “General Economic Policy”	1.“Economic Policy” Department 2. “Collecting and Analysis of the Economic Information” Department	Takes part in the elaboration and the monitoring of the NDP. Prepares OP “Competitiveness”. Prepares drafts and comments legislation acts connected with its obligations. During the implementation of the OP takes into consideration the Lisbon objectives.	Being of the most important documents the NDP and the OPs, elaborated with the active assistance of the Directorate it is assumed their essential role in the integration of environmental issues in it and the close link between the economic development and the sustainable development.
	Directorate “Enterprise Policy”	1.“Relations with the Business Associations” Department 2.“Promotion of SMEs and Entrepreneurship” Department	Elaborates policies for building the integrational infrastructure of the Bulgarian economy. Together with the “EU Integration” Department works for the fulfillment of the EU accession obligations in respect of the industrial policy. Prepares drafts and comments legislation acts connected with its obligations including international contracts that bring responsibilities to be obliged. Elaborates programmes and measures in respect of the competitiveness, high technologies, energy saving and environmental issues of the products.	The EU accession obligations are closely connected with the other international acts Bulgaria has to have in mind in the process of the elaboration of its economic policy. The issues on the sustainable development and the obligations our country has under the Rio conventions have to be reflected in the draft legislation acts the responsible directorates prepare.
	Directorate “Natural Resources and Concessions”	“Concessions” Department	Organizes the coordination of the complex plans and projects with engineer, recultivating, investment, ecological and other issues. Organizes and executes control over the implementation of contracts for exploring for or extraction of natural resources.	Most of the activities of the Directorate are very close to the environmental problems and thus it is closely linked with the topics of the Rio conventions.
	Directorate “EU Integration”	1. “Coordination of the Preparation for EU Membership” Department 2.“Harmonization of the Legislation” Department 3.“Economic Aspects of the Accession” Department	Organizes, coordinate and controls the implementation activities of the ministry in regards of fulfillment of the obligations in the process of the EU integration. Takes part in the elaboration of legislation acts in the course of harmonizing the Bulgarian legislation with the EU one.	The Directorate works closely with the other directorates elaborating economic policy related with the sustainable development and the respected issues from international acts we have to oblige and the obligation Bulgaria has in the accession process and international relations we have with EU member-countries and UN common policy.
	Directorate “Pre-accession Programmes and Projects”	1.“Planning, Programming and Coordination” Department 2.“Programmes’ and	Organizes, coordinates and manages the implementation of EU financed programmes and projects in respect of the functions of the ministry according the programming document or agreement. Takes part in the preparation and the coordination of FM drafts and other agreements for financial support from the EC and other donors	A lot of the EU funded programmes and projects and such, financed by other international organizations are in connection with the environment protection and the sustainable

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
		Projects' Management' Department 3. "Financial Control and Payments" Department	for pre-accession programmes and projects. Creates and maintains a system for preparation of the administrative capacity needed to manage the EU funded programmes and projects together with SF ones.	development, thus closely related with the obligations of Bulgaria under the three Rio conventions.
	Directorate "Legal Directorate"	1. "Legislation Acts" Department 2. "Legal Problems of the Companies" Department 3. "Legal Assistance of the Administration" Department	Gives comments on legislation drafts concerning the economics directly and such where ministry is a concerned party.	Harmonizing the legislation with the EU one is a main priority. Besides the fact that international acts and regulations have to become an integral part from the Bulgarian legislation shows the important part of the Directorate in respect of the topics concerned.

The Agency for Economic Analysis and Forecasts (AEAF) is an Executive Agency in the structure of the Ministry of Finance according the State Administration Act.  
The main principal functions and tasks of the Agency are as follows:

- to analyze the current business environment and the economic situation and to elaborate assessments on the country's economic development prospects;
- to prepare short, medium and long-term forecasts for Bulgaria's economic development trends under different economic policy scenarios;
- to examine on a comparative basis economic transition in Bulgaria and the other Central and Eastern European countries.

The Agency together with other ministries and institutions elaborates and suggests specific economic programmes and observes and assesses their implementation. The AEAF participates in the pre-accession negotiations and the preparation of Bulgaria for a full-fledged membership in the EU. The Agency is responsible for the elaboration and annual updating of the Pre-accession Economic Programme. The Agency is in charge of the preparation of the National Development Plan and of the updating and improvement of the National Economic Development Plan (2000-2006).

The AEAF works on a number of international projects financed by the US Agency for International Development, the World Bank, PHARE and other donors. Some of the major recent projects include: (i) the preparation by the World Bank of the Country Economic Memorandum of Bulgaria *The Dual Challenges and Transition and Accession* in 2000-2001; (ii) improving the quality of National Accounts in collaboration with the National Statistical Institute and the Harvard Institute for International Development in 2001; (iii) building up an open-economy model with the Netherlands Economic Institute.

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
Agency for Economic Analysis and Forecasts	"Macro Economic Analysis" Directorate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyzes the status of the Bulgarian economy and its perspectives;</li> <li>• Prepares the analysis about the balance of the economic system, the level of its stability and the coordination of the instruments of the economic policy for publishing.</li> </ul>	The balanced and sustainable economy has to include the sustainable development, environmental issues, i.e. has to deal also with the Rio objectives.
	"Economic Forecasts and Policy" Directorate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaborates models for a macroeconomic analysis and forecasts;</li> <li>• Analyzes the different possibilities of the macroeconomic policy for achieving a long term balanced economic growth;</li> </ul>	The development of the six planning regions is also connected with the basic requirements of the sustainable development.



Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works out midterm and long term forecasts for the development of key macroeconomic parameters;</li> <li>• Systemizes the data available and elaborates the analysis and forecasts for the development of the six planning regions.</li> </ul>	
	“EU Integration and International Programmes” Directorate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systemizes the information about the EC enlargement as a base for elaboration of economic analysis, evaluations and forecasts;</li> <li>• Maintains operational contacts with EU institutions, ECD and other institutions of the member countries;</li> <li>• Takes active part in “Working group 11” and prepares an updated version of the Preaccession Economic Programme;</li> <li>• Organizes the cooperation with international institutions and coordinates the participation of the Agency in national and international projects, conferences and seminars;</li> <li>• Plans and coordinates the work of the Agency in the elaboration of other documents in the EU accession process.</li> </ul>	The Rio objectives are a part of the internationally agreed issues and correspond with the UN member countries obligations.
	“National Development Plan” Directorate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepares the NDP in respect of EC Regulation 1260/1999;</li> <li>• Coordinates the work of the branch ministries in the process of elaboration, analysis and updating the NDP;</li> <li>• Takes part in the elaboration of a system of indicators for analysis and evaluation of the Operational Programmes;</li> <li>• Takes part in the preparation of a system of selection criteria for projects in the scope of the Operational Programmes.</li> </ul>	Promotion the mainstreaming of environment into sectoral programmes provides important opportunities. The elaboration of the system of indicators is of a great importance to evaluate the sustainable development in the scope of the operational programmes.

Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC) notes the negative impact of the transport on environment and implements policies in accordance with EU requirements. MTC supports the goals, objectives, tasks and activities included into the National Transport Strategy and related Plan and will undertake actions for the implementation of those that fall under the Ministry’s mandate.

The enforcement of EU legislation is an obligatory condition for the Bulgaria accession to the European Union. In this sense the harmonization of the national legislation with that of the European Union and its practical implementation are urgent tasks of strategic importance for Transport sector. There is a direct relation between the implementation of EU requirements and those of the three Rio Conventions. As the analysis of the synergies among the Conventions will show, some EU legislation requirements are common to the three conventions. Therefore, such actions should be identified that will have the most efficient contribution to the implementation of both the EU legislation and of the Conventions. This approach is the basis of the Strategy and Plan to provide the capacity required for implementation of the sustainable development of road and other types of transport.

Sustainable development policy, and the growing importance attached to the need for integrated transport policy development, where policy ideas are examined from all perspectives, raises new challenges for environmental friendly transport service system. These challenges include the practical concern not to introduce a paralysis in policy making by waiting to understand all possible direct and indirect effects, and the principal methodological challenge of comparing and weighing disparate effects expressed in different modes of transportations.

Main objective causal connections from transport sector are:

- Improvement in characterize on transport infrastructure projects attitude EIA;
- Enlargement to use eco fuel oil
- Limited use a transit urban automobile traffic;

- Stimulation to use railway transport;
- Stimulation to use commbaine transport;
- Stimulation to use inland waterway and maritime transport;
- Sustainable development on air transport.

	<b>Name of the directorate</b>	<b>Name of the department</b>	<b>Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person</b>	<b>Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives</b>
Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC)	Directorate National Transport policy	"National Transport Policy" Directorate, "Strategic development of rail and road transport" Department "Statistic and analyze" Department	The directorate organizes and coordinates the process of preparation the common environmental policy in the transport sector. The Directorate organizes and coordinates the general environmental policy in the field of transport. . The Directorate participates in the preparation of strategies, programmes and plans at the earliest stage of the Transport Infrastructure Development Programme and National Transport Strategy.	In the process of its activities the Directorate, forming a significant part of the National transport policy and having in mind the biodiversity protection and sustainable development relies on the bilateral agreements; Memoranda of understanding; international projects. Project costs are usually undertaken by the foreign participants; Bulgaria takes part in large number of programmes, related to protection of different components of the environment. The relative share of the funds for biodiversity protection in these programmes is not big.
MTC	Executive Agency Automobile Administration	"Road Transport" Directorate "International Carriages and EU integrations" Department	The Department is responsible for the preparation, update and coordination of the Bulgarian Automobile Agency in particular aligning it with the development of sustainable transport and dangerous goods.	Build capacities for more efficient utilization of funds provided from national and foreign sources for implementation of projects supporting the implementation of the Conventions The important role of the Directorate in respect of the activities is due to the fact that the transport branch and mostly, the road branch, affects negatively the environment in several major aspects – by affecting the quality of atmospheric air (QAA) in populated sites, the global climatic changes, the landscape and agricultural land, by accomplishment of biggest transport infrastructural projects, and by creating noise and waste.
MTC	General Directorate Civil Aviation Administration	Director Airports, Air Navigation Services, International and Economic Regulations Directorate	The Department is responsible for the preparation, update and coordination of the environmental protection area during the activity of the airport operator, including the organization of the activity and the admission regime.	Air transport is the major source of accumulator and tire waste. Technical infrastructure has been established in the airport for processing of accumulator waste, and with respect to tire waste, in 2004, installations for processing and

	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
				burning of old tires were introduced, which resolve partially the available problems with this type of waste. Still more activities in respect of the Rio conventions has to be taken to respect the obligations.
MTC	Executive Agency Maritime Administration	Operational and monitoring Directorate	Development of maritime safety environment strategy and programmes and related Bulgarian legislation acts.	Pollution of the marine or river environment shall mean direct or indirect introduction by man of substances or power into the marine environment, including the river mouths, which causes or might cause harm to the living marine or river resources, risk to the human health, impede lawful exploitation of the sea by also deteriorating the quality of the sea water and the conditions for tourism and recreation, in accordance with the norms and standards of admissible pollution in force.
MTC	Executive Agency Maintenance and Study of the Danube River	Hydrology and Hydrometeorology Directorate	The Agency is the only specialized organization in Bulgaria which carries out the entire range of supporting activities for the maintenance of the waterway, aquatory of the ports and the winter camps for providing a secure ship sailing in the Bulgarian section of the Danube river. The Directorate participates in the activity of numerous other international organizations, related to the infrastructure, environment and other problems of the Danube river and on the internal European waterways.	All programmes identify in some extend the actions that Parties need to carry out to halt the trend of biodiversity loss including monitoring, assessment and evaluation of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. Agency works on development of pollution prevention strategies choosing and using appropriate technology, and promoting transboundary cooperation, ecosystem based management and the involvement of local and indigenous community's at all appropriate levels.
MTC	Executive Agency Railway Administration	Railway transport directorate Control and safety Department	Department supports the coordination activities of the integration of environmental safety principles, approaches and recommendations into railway sector.	Railway Transport expresses a particular attention to measures designed to reduce the dependence of economic growth on increases in transport activity and any such increases on energy consumption, as well as the development of less environmentally damaging energy alternatives for combined transport.

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
MEER	Energy strategy, economic analysis and forecasts	Strategic analysis and forecasts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organizes, coordinates and participates in the preparation and update of the National energy for development of the energy sector.</li> <li>- Coordinates the development of short-, medium- and long-term programs and plans related to the national energy balance.</li> </ul>	For the past several years, this Directorate has been mostly involved in representing the MEER in all of the processes that involved implementation of CC-related policies and measures in Bulgaria, in particular to the energy sector. The Directorate has established certain capacity in this field, which can be very useful for the proposed project of the MRDPW. Clearly the Directorate's activities (especially those related to formulation and implementation of energy programs and plans) affect the way this sector is being developed and also its influence on national, regional and local level.
	Structural reform and state participation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assesses and appraises the economic and financial side of the energy investment projects.</li> <li>- Supports investment projects in the energy sector.</li> </ul>	The activity of this directorate determines to a great extent what kind of energy-generating capacities will be built or deployed nationwide. Such capacities affect not only the economic development on local and regional level, but also the local, regional and in some cases – the national environment. Furthermore, as those capacities cannot exist by themselves alone, the related infrastructure (roads, pipelines, electric lines) also needs to be reckoned with when formulating and implementing local and regional development policies.
AEE	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organizes the implementation of projects and measures in accordance with the national long- and short-term energy efficiency programs;</li> <li>- Approves projects for energy efficiency and controls their implementation;</li> <li>- Participates in the preparation of legal regulations in the field of energy efficiency: proposes development and improvement of energy efficiency standards in order to achieve approximation to the EU norms and to encourage energy efficiency at the consumption end.</li> </ul>	This agency has a big impact (although not always direct) on the present and future development of certain sectors such as commercial, industrial and residential building stock. Through fostering energy efficiency, the work of the Agency can without any doubt be related to the sustainable development. Furthermore, the Agency is responsible for the functioning of the Regional Energy Efficiency Centers, the main goal of which is to carry out EE policies and measures on regional and local level.

The National Statistical Institute

The Law on Statistics governs the public relations related to the realization of statistical activity by the Bodies of Statistics as well as data exchange between them. Institutions, responsible for implementation of the European legislation in the field of statistics and carrying out statistical activity in Bulgaria according to the Law on Statistics are the National Statistical Institute and other Bodies of Statistics, i.e. structural units in the ministries, institutions and the public administration.

**MISSION:**

**MISSION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM IS EFFECTIVE PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF HIGH QUALITY STATISTICAL INFORMATION, SATISFYING USERS’ NEEDS OF DATA ON THE STATE AND CHANGES OF ECONOMY, DEMOGRAPHY, SOCIAL SPHERE AND ECOLOGY.**

**VALUES:**

- Implement the Official Statistics principles and maintain statistical ethics;
- Co-operation and interrelations between users, Bodies of Statistics and respondents;
- Provide users – orientated statistical products and services;
- Develop, improve and increase the effectiveness of the statistical activity.

**VISION:**

- Compliance with the European Statistical System /ESS/;
- Users orientated;
- Better Quality;
- Implement new information and communication technologies and innovations.

**FUNDAMENTAL TASKS:**

- Co-ordinate statistical activity;
- Collect, process and store statistical data and statistical information;
- Build-up and maintain statistical infrastructure;
- Carry-out European integration and international co-operation;
- Submit and disseminate statistical information.

**Relation NSI, Regional development and Rio Conventions**

The information on the accomplishment of the activities regarding the biodiversity conservation and air quality is at disposal at the **National Statistics Institute**; Spatial attention focused to the annual reports for the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan; in the chapters for nature and biodiversity conservation of the reports of the different Ministries on their overall work; in the reports for biodiversity conservation related tasks, for the accomplishment of which the Ministries contract other institutions, etc

NSI is directly involved into the preparation of the National Development Plan and its Operational Programmes. In particular it advises on the creation of system of indicators and provides data for the monitoring and evaluation of the Plan and Programmes. Special attention is paid to the regional dimension with the establishment of an Information system for regional statistics (ISRS). The Regional Statistical Offices, which are situated in the district centres, are in charge of the accumulation and reporting of statistical data.

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
National Statistics Institute	European Integration & Coordination directorate	Planning and co-ordination department	Preparation of the National program for Statistical Surveys , Annual Activity Report  Head of department	Participant of the BNSI Working group of SDI Participant in the Committee for NDP preparation

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
		Regional Statistics	Provision of statistical data to EUROSTAT and State Administration at various administrative and territorial levels;  Head of division Responsible for the improvement of regional statistics data dissemination and analysis; Provision of expertise for preparation and implementation of the legislation related to the regional development	Participation in the working groups for 2 operational programmes – “Development of rural regions” and “Regional Development Monitoring and evaluation of the Human Development and MDGs at regional level (UNDP)
		Environment statistics	Head of division; Responsibilities related with CORINAIR environmental monitoring data and statistics. Wastes, incl. domestic, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes; emissions - SO <sub>2</sub> , particulates, ozone, CO and Pb; Water consumption, air quality; Consumption and production patterns; Environment investments statistics Working in relation with regional structures	All activities are in accordance with Agenda 21, related Methodologies and International Standards; National Programme for statistics research

The UN conference in Rio de Janeiro (1992) supported a new integrated approach to the environmental management, stimulating activities in direction of sustainable development on global, national and regional level. The main conclusion from these processes is that the traditional approaches in science, practice and policy, connected with the counteraction of the negative tendencies in the sphere of the three conventions from Rio, are insufficient and ineffective. These new understandings require new, different from the recent, role and position of science in the global environmental management. Science has different and extremely important mission. It must study, predict and inform about the possible processes of changes, possible conditions of the ecological-social systems. It must be underlined that the communication with science, the stimulating of the scientific research activities and the application of the scientific data are particularly important for the sustainable development of the society.

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
<b>Institute of Sociology, Bulgarian Academy of Science (IS-BAS)</b>		<b>Global and Regional Development</b>	Est. 1990 from Prof. Nikolai Genov.  <b>Projects:</b> Bulgaria Human Development Report (UNDP) 1995,1996,1997; Thematic Network: Strategies for Regional Sustainable Development REGIONET – (European Commission -5 FP); Shaping the European Research area; Science policies for an Enlarged Europe SEMMERING (European Commission -5 FP); The Social Integration of the Gypsy Minority (World Bank).  <b>Vyara Gancheva</b> , Ph.D., Research Associate PhD Sofia, 1990 Assistant Prof., 1994  Functions: Preparation, conduction and analysis. Focus groups: Moderation. Reporting. Member of the team. Author, Researcher,	Sustainable Development and Environmental Risk; System of Indicators for Monitoring Social Tensions Caused by Environmental Risks; Global, Regional Sustainable Development; Regional and National Conditions of Unemployment in Bulgaria; Urban development; Ethnic relations; National and Regional Processes in Education and Science; Measures to reduce Poverty; Media and Civil society; Gender Issues; Public participation.

Name of the institution	Name of the directorate	Name of the department	Brief descriptions of the mandate of the department and the function of the contact person	Relations to the MSP subject – regional development processes and Rio objectives
			PR Consultant, Coordinator, Mediator.	
Forest Research Institute, BAS, Sofia		Forest ecology and forest resources	The Forest Research Institute deals with scientific and applied investigations and modeling in the fields of ecology and conservation of biological diversity, structure and functioning of forest ecosystems, sustainable development of biological diversity under the conditions of changing environment, national forest policy, conservation of forest flora and fauna;	Sustainable Development under the conditions of changing environment; System of Indicators for Monitoring of Forests; National and Regional Processes in Education and Science; Functioning and dynamics of forest ecosystems of the national and regional level;
Institute of Botany		Flora and florogenesis	<p>Investigation and protection of Bulgarian Flora</p> <p>European Network European Platform for Biodiversity (European Commission - FP 5)</p> <p>The Bulgarian partner is from the department “Flora and Florogenesis”</p> <p>Dr. Dessislava Dimitrova Research Associate Contact person: participation in the international meetings in the Project</p> <p>At national level: Building the Bulgarian Biodiversity Platform Participation in building trustful communication among stakeholders in the field of biodiversity Organization of national thematic meetings in the field of biodiversity Participation in the elaboration of the National Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation Coordination of the process of elaboration of the National Biodiversity Monitoring System.</p>	<p>Investigation, protection and sustainable use of plant biological resources</p> <p>Links to identification of the impact of climate change and desertification and soil degradation on biodiversity</p> <p>Links to conservation of biodiversity in landscapes</p> <p>Links to monitoring of biodiversity at genetic, specific, ecosystem and landscape levels</p> <p>Links to identification of threats to biodiversity and their mitigation.</p>

## ANNEX 10: LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT AND COFINANCING COMMITMENT

### 1. LETTER FROM GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (MOEW)

## **REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**



## **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER**

---

**4 August 2005**

**Re: Project proposal to the Global Environment Facility *Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Processes***

**Dear Mr. Buhne,**

Ministry of Environment and Water took part in the formulation of the project proposal on *Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Processes* and supports its submission to GEF for consideration for financial support.

Integration of environmental considerations into the development and sectoral policies is a priority for the Ministry of Environment and Water, documented into its new strategy and action plan, currently adopted by the Council of Ministers and awaiting ratification by the Bulgarian Parliament. The regional development policy is among the most important and strongest instruments for achieving effective environmental protection and sustainable development of the country. The Ministry of Environment and Water continuously undertakes relevant actions mainly via Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment procedures.

The above mentioned project suggests approach to achieving practical mainstreaming of environmental objectives into regional and spatial development policies – namely by embedding the environmental considerations into the very planning, implementation and evaluation processes in those areas. This is in line with the provisions of the Bulgarian EIA/SEA legislation, which clearly favors this path. In this light the above-mentioned project, in case of financial support from GEF, would make a strategic intervention into speeding up those mainstreaming processes. Most importantly this project would build capacity in the country to integrate the issues pertinent to climate change, biodiversity and land degradation, which at the moment are less considered as compared to the other environmental areas.

**Mr. Neil Buhne**

**UNDP Resident Representative**

---

1000 Sofia, 22 Maria Luisa Blvd.

tel.: +359 2 940 6132; fax: +359 2 980 8406



Ministry of Environment and Water is very much interested that the above mentioned project starts its implementation and achieves the best possible results.

I hope GEF would consider favorably its financial support for the project proposal *Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Processes* and look forward to its implementation in Bulgaria. I also believe it would generate important lessons for the international community on achieving practical results in mainstreaming global environment into regional development policies.

*Sincerely yours,*



**Emiliya Kraeva**  
**GEF Operational Focal Point**  
**Head of International Cooperation**  
**Department**

## 2. LETTERS FROM MRDPW



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

17-19, SLSL Cyril and Methodius Str., Sofia-1202 Tel.: (+359 2) 94-6159, Fax: (+359 2) 987-2517

22-00-686/11.07.2005.

To:

Mr. Neil Buhne

UNDP Resident Representative

Re: Project proposal to the Global Environment Facility *Integrating Global Environmental Issues Into Bulgaria's Regional Development Processes*

### LETTER OF SUPPORT

The Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works in its capacity as the responsible institution for the implementation of the regional development policy in Bulgaria actively participated in the development of the proposed project proposal to the GEF and considers it of utmost importance for meeting Ministry's obligations towards the requirements of the international environmental agreements, as well as EU and national legislation.

The merge between regional development policy and environment towards sustainability is a fact recognized at a high political level in Bulgaria. The project document outlines the baseline activities taking place in the country regarding integration of environmental into regional development processes. The transformation of political agenda into practice, however, requires capacities that Bulgaria still lacks, especially in the field of integrating global environment objectives into development processes. The MRDPW is intending to undertake actions in that regard and therefore is planning in its multiannual indicative budget funds at the level of USD2,1 mln for application of sustainable development principles via the implementation of the regional development policy. In this context the GEF support for the above mentioned proposal would come into a very appropriate moment and would complement the Ministry's efforts most importantly towards better organization of the work and additional financial assistance.

Bulgaria is in a very favorable position in terms of hosting both processes (spatial planning and developmental planning) under the umbrella of one institution – Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works. The challenge of successfully coordinating these processes and integrating them with global environmental concerns is remaining, and the Ministry is undertaking actions in that direction. The GEF project would be able to make a very important intervention in such a situation by building the capacity of the Ministry to adequately reflect the global environment objectives into spatial schemes and plans, as well as regional developmental instruments.

Overall the proposed project would stimulate better coordination among four key Directorates of the MRDPW and their respective regional bodies responsible for regional and spatial development: Strategic Planning of Regional Policy; Programming of Regional Development; Spatial Planning; European Integration and Coordination of

International Projects. This is an important pre-requisite for successful implementation of the regional development policy and utilization of the EU Structural Funds. Therefore the Ministry is highly supportive of the approach to involve most of the staff of those directorates into the practical implementation of the projects activities.

Below is presented a more detailed information on the contribution that would be provided by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works to the GEF project.

1. Provision of office space with all respective utilities (heating, electricity, water) and access to 2 direct telephone lines, Internet and e-mails for the Project Management Unit in the building of the Ministry estimated at the equivalence of USD24000 in contribution.
2. Covering participation expenses (halls, travel, accommodation, food) of the MRDPW staff undergoing the training programme on integrating global environment objectives into regional development policy to be established by the project estimated at the equivalence of USD10000.
3. Financing development projects contributing to meeting the objectives of the three Rio Conventions within the framework of the Cross Border Cooperation Programme in the amount of USD2000000. In case the GEF support is obtained for the implementation of the above mentioned project the tender documents for those funds would be developed in coordination with the GEF project implementation team. The results of the implemented projects would be submitted for incorporation into the "sustainability knowledge management system" to be established under the project.
4. MRDPW is currently developing its website for a better distribution of information on its work towards fulfilling the EU obligations to the wide public. In case the above mentioned projects receives the GEF financial support the website of the European Integration and Coordination of International Projects Directorate would host the sustainability knowledge management system, for which development and maintenance the MRDPW's contribution is estimated at the equivalence of USD36000.
5. MRDPW is developing a regional development GIS system at the Strategic Planning of Regional Policy Directorate, which would be up-graded with the GEF support towards incorporation of global environmental layer. The contribution of the MRDPW for its development and maintenance is estimated at the level of USD37500.

I hope that the outlined commitments of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works demonstrate our understanding of the importance to adequately mainstream global environment into regional development policy. I trust Bulgaria's capacity in this area would be substantially improved through the implementation of the proposed project to the GEF and hope for a positive decision.

July 07, 2005

Sofia

**BELIN MOLLOV**

Deputy Minister





**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**  
**MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND**  
**PUBLIC WORKS**

17-19, Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii Str., 1202 Sofia

99-00-1-94/26.04.06

**Mr. Neil Buhne**  
**UNDP**  
**Resident Representative**  
**Sofia**

22 March, 2006

Dear Mr. Buhne,

Subject: Project proposal to the GEF - "Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Processes"

**Clarification and Confirmation Statement**

As regards the final stage of preparation of the above mentioned Project document, and prior to endorsement by the parties thereof, the MRDPW would like to clarify and confirm its commitment to project objectives and outputs.

In view of the forthcoming membership of Bulgaria in the European Union and the obligations taken, or to be taken, in this relation, the MRDPW draws the attention of all parties involved in project implementation, financing, monitoring and evaluation to the fact that it will act as Project Implementing Partner specifically for this project in full compliance with UNDP and GEF rules for national project implementation, as well as with the national and EU policies, and according to the rules and procedures applicable within the EU and in Bulgaria as a Member-State. Any commitment and contribution to the project, made by the Ministry, having possible implications on EU co-funded development programmes will be subject to consultation and confirmation by the relevant authorities.

Therefore, the co-financing commitments taken by the MRDPW in its Letter of Support, dated July 07, 2005, should be amended in an appropriate way. The MRDPW will provide the necessary co-financing to the amount of USD 1,019,000, as indicated in the Project document, by mobilizing resources under relevant programmes or projects under its responsibility seeking to achieve a leverage effect of the project activities. The in-kind contribution – office premises and website related expenditures only, will be subject to budgetary arrangements within the MRDPW, and will be provided in a way to ensure the effective and efficient management and implementation of the project.

The MRDPW would like, as well, to acknowledge the UNDP/ GEF advice and support to the project and confirm its commitment to achieving project objectives and results expected to be highly beneficial to the policy for sustainable integrated regional and local development in Bulgaria.

kindest regards,

Iskra Mihaylova

Deputy Minister  
of Regional Development and Public Works

**APPENDIX B KEY TERMS OF REFERENCE**

PROJECT TITLE: Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Process

**TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)  
PROJECT MANAGER (PM)**

**Start date of the assignment:** 1 February 2006  
**Duration of the assignment:** 12 months, extension possible up to the whole project duration

**I. Background Information**

The project strategy is to promote a proactive integration of global environmental issues into the very process of regional and local development, as well as spatial planning, both of which are managed by MRDPW. This would be achieved by developing the capacity of MRDPW to integrate global environmental objectives into the regional and local development policies and practices, as well as into spatial planning documents.

The project strategy will be realized through the following 3 outcomes:

OUTCOME 1: The methodologies, skills, knowledge, and information management system for mainstreaming global environmental considerations into the formulation, implementation and evaluation of regional development and spatial planning policies are in place

OUTCOME 2: Institutional changes that support mainstreaming of global environmental into regional development and spatial planning are in place.

OUTCOME 3: Regional development plans and municipal-level spatial development plans are revised to integrate global environmental objectives in a pilot planning region or group of municipalities through application of capacities developed in Outcomes 1 and 2.

**II. Objective**

Under the overall guidance of the UNDP Program Analyst on Energy and Environment, the Project Manager is expected to work closely with Project Implementing Partner (the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works), and key project partners (especially the Ministry of Environment and Water) in achieving in full and on time the objectives of the project. The Project Manager is responsible for the overall quality of project operations, in line with UNDP and GEF requirements, with special focus on attaining the outcomes and outputs of as depicted in the project logical framework.

**III. Scope of work of the Project Manager**

1. Overall co-ordination, management and supervision of project implementation.
2. Preparation of detailed work plans for the project.
3. Organize and supervise workshops, study tours, field visits, international missions, and training needed during the project.
4. Identify national experts and institutions to work for the project if subcontracting services are required, and draft terms of reference for the experts and subcontracts.

5. Supervise Project Administrator and other project staff.
6. Liaise with relevant ministries, national institutes and other relevant institutions in order to involve their staff in project activities, and to gather and disseminate information relevant to the project.
7. Prepare periodic progress reports (including quarterly report, APR) of the project as per UNDP and GEF requirements, as described in the Monitoring and Evaluation section of the document.
8. Control expenditures and ensure an adequate management of the resources provided for the project.
9. Request UNDP to provide advances of funds as well as provide financial reports on the use of funds according to UNDP rules and procedures;
10. Request UNDP to provide support services if deemed necessary as agreed between the parties, including processing necessary requests for direct payments, recruitment and procurement;
11. Facilitate and support participation of various stakeholders in all stages of the project and promote the creation of informal networks in order to identify and mobilize resources for the post-project implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan, capacity building activities.
12. Ensure generation and dissemination of information about the project activities among national and international stakeholders, including providing information for UN periodicals, in close cooperation with the Communications Unit of UNDP Bulgaria,
13. Coordinate project activities with other relevant technical assistance program in Bulgaria;
14. Undertake any other duties in connection with project activities to ensure its effective implementation which are within his/her competence as the Project Manager.

#### **IV. Terms and conditions for provision of services by the project manager**

UNDP Bulgaria may contact the Project Manager at any time during working hours and request the its expert support, inputs or participation in meetings in relation to any activity or elaboration of a legal or working document pertaining to the development of the project in question.

#### **V. Tentative schedule for delivery of outputs**

The project manager is expected to adhere to the time-table of the project, as described in Project Proposal, delivering the expected outputs.

#### **VI. Reporting by the contractor**

The Project Manager is reporting to UNDP Resident Representative and National Project Director, as stipulated in the Management Arrangement section of the project document.

#### **VII. Recruitment process and requirements**

The PM should be/have:

- At least Masters Degree in developmental subjects and or environmental management
- Extensive experience of project management, preferably for UNDP and/or GEF,
- Over 10 years of cooperation with Government, non-government, and research institutions in the area directly relevant to sustainable environmental management and developmental projects
- Ability to deliver objective in full and on-time,
- Ability to act flexibly and independently, within the framework of the UNDP project implementation field, to achieve project results.

- Ability to present project progress and results to target audiences in an effective manner, including excellent skills for working with Microsoft PowerPoint software,
- Excellent drafting and reporting skills (supported by perfect command of Microsoft Word and Excel),
- Perfect English
- Excellent negotiations skills

Recruitment of the Project Manager will be carried out by open competition, in line with UNDP principles. Representative of the MRDPW will participate in the evaluation and selection procedure.



## **TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR (PA)**

**Start date of the assignment:** 1 February 2006  
**Duration of the assignment:** 12 months, extension possible up to the whole project duration

### **I. Background Information**

The project strategy is to promote a proactive integration of global environmental issues into the very process of regional and local development, as well as spatial planning, both of which are managed by MRDPW. This would be achieved by developing the capacity of MRDPW to integrate global environmental objectives into the regional and local development policies and practices, as well as into spatial planning documents.

The project strategy will be realized through the following 3 outcomes:

**OUTCOME 1:** The methodologies, skills, knowledge, and information management system for mainstreaming global environmental considerations into the formulation, implementation and evaluation of regional development and spatial planning policies are in place

**OUTCOME 2:** Institutional changes that support mainstreaming of global environmental into regional development and spatial planning are in place.

**OUTCOME 3:** Regional development plans and municipal-level spatial development plans are revised to integrate global environmental objectives in a pilot region or group of municipalities through application of capacities developed in Outcomes 1 and 2.

### **II. Objective**

The PA assists the Project Manager in the overall administration and financial management of the project, the delivery of project inputs and the project's daily operations.

### **III. Scope of work of the PA**

#### ***General Project Management:***

- Maintain the project documentation up-to-date and in perfect order;
- Keep attendance records in an impeccable way;
- Draft minutes of meetings;
- Elaborate rosters of potential consultants and sub-contractors;
- Assist the Project Manager in elaborating the project work plans;
- Assist the Project Manager in elaborating the project reports as per the applicable UNDP Bulgaria procedures;
- Maintain project equipment ledgers and contract logs;
- Assist in the organization of project events (workshops, working group meetings, local stakeholder consultations, management/steering committee meetings, etc.);
- Provide support to project audits;

- Draft correspondence and documents; finalize correspondence of administrative nature; edit reports and other documents for correctness of form and content;
- Facilitate project communications (telephone, fax, e-mail, post, etc.);

***Procurement:***

- Ensure that UNDP's procurement procedures are adhered to;
- Carry out the process of procurement of goods and services under the project, in coordination with UNDP POG;
- Issue competitive bidding packages up to 15,000 USD and draft bid evaluation reports;
- Issue contracts for companies and individuals hired under the project;
- Liaise with individual and corporate project sub-contractors;

***Financial Management:***

- Assist the Project Manager and the UNDP Programme Operations Group in all financial matters related to the project, observing the set deadlines;
- Draft project budget revisions and prepare project expenditure plans/cash flow projections in coordination with the PM and UNDP POG;
- Maintain the project financial records in an impeccable way;
- Ensure strict observation of UNDP financial planning and reporting requirements;
- Prepare requests for direct payments from UNDP against the required supporting documentation;
- Ensure conformity of project disbursements and commitments with the UNDP contractual policy and allocation of funds;
- Ensure that all costs incurred by the Project are duly authorized, invoices received are accurate, and payments are made as per agreed payment schedules;
- Prepare project financial reports, as requested;
- Custody of the project's petty-cash;

**IV. Terms and conditions for provision of services by the project manager**

All the activities of the Administrator will be performed in coordination and under the guidance of the PM and the supervision of the UNDP Programme Operations Group and in adherence to UNDP's programme operations procedures as reflected in UNDP BUL manual.

The Administrator has a full-time assignment. He/she shall not enter into any other employment or business activities, paid or unpaid, while working for the project without the express consent of UNDP.

The Administrator shall conduct him/herself in a professional and ethical manner at all times and will not enter into any activities, which may adversely affect the image of the project.

**V. Reporting by the PA**

The PA is reporting to Project Manager, as stipulated in the Management Arrangement section of the project document.

**VII. Recruitment process and requirements**

The PA should be/have

- a University degree,
- fluency in English and in Bulgarian,
- detail-oriented, highly numerical,
- computer literate (word processing, Internet, spreadsheets, power point),
- able to work under stress and handle multiple tasks simultaneously,
- experience in procurement under donor-funded projects highly desirable.

Recruitment of the PA will be carried out by open competition, in line with UNDP principles. Representative of the MRDPW will participate in the evaluation and selection procedure.