



**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**  
**PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT**  
**TELEFAX TRANSMISSION FROM**  
**GEF COORDINATION OFFICE**



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<b>To:</b>	Avani Vaish GEF Secretariat	<b>Date:</b> 09 January 1998
<b>Fax No:</b>	1 202 522 3240, Washington D.C.	<b>Drafter:</b> CS
<b>From:</b>	<i>Sendashonga</i> Cyril Sendashonga SPO/Biodiversity UNEP/GEF Coordination Office	<b>Room:</b> Q-213
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Biodiversity Enabling Activity- Belarus</b>	<b>Ext:</b> 3257
<b>Prefix No:</b> CS/sm/98		<b>T.O.S.</b>

Dear Avani,

Please find attached hereto the above mentioned Enabling Activity which has been revised after discussing the comments conveyed in your faxed message dated 15 December 1997 with the national implementing agency, i.e. the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. A self-explanatory feedback from the focal person in the Ministry is also attached for your information.

We trust that on the basis of the adjustment made to the budget and the explanation provided by the Government of Belarus, the proposal is now ready for approval by the CEO.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Best regards.

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL**

**Country:** Belarus

**Project Title:** Dissemination of the National Biodiversity Strategy/ Action Plan, Preparation of the First National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity and Establishment of the Clearing House Mechanism

**GEF Focal Area:** Biodiversity

**Country Eligibility:** Ratified CBD on 8 September, 1993

**GEF Financing:** US\$ 81,300

**Government Contribution:** Cash contribution of 360,000BRB (approximately US\$ 10,000) plus in-kind contribution and personnel

**GEF Implementing Agency:** UNEP

**National Executing Agency:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, with the support of the National Academy of Sciences

**GEF Operational Focal Point:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

**CBD Focal Point:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

**Estimated Starting Date:** February 1998

**Project Duration:** 6 months

**Background/Context:**

Belarus, a country of 207,600 sq.km and 10 million people , is situated at the meeting point of two geobotanical zones: European coniferous (taiga) and European deciduous. The Belarusian relief is mainly plain. Its highest point , Mount Dzerzhinskaya, is 346 m a.s.l. The huge swampy Poleskaya Lowland lies in the south of the country. More than

one third of the territory is covered with forests consisting mainly of pine, spruce, oak, warty and fluffy birch, asp, black and grey alder tree species.

The Belarus climate is moderate continental due to the influence of Atlantic marine air. The geographical location and climatic conditions make possible the predominance of forests and periwater ecosystems. By the middle of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century, forests had covered more than 74% of the country. This influenced the land fauna encountered in the territory which until now is represented mainly by forest species and species preferring humid habitats. The diversity of habitats found in Belarus include: deciduous, mixed and coniferous forests; swamps; dry and wet meadows; bush brakes; lakes and rivers. The country is reputed as a highly irrigated territory with a large diversity of water and periwater ecosystems. There are 20,800 rivers and streams with a total length of more than 90,000 km. They belong to the basins of the Black and Baltic Seas. Within Belarus, there are more than 10,000 lakes.

The fauna recorded in Belarus is represented by 457 species of vertebrates and more than 20,000 species of invertebrates. Mammals are represented by 73 species among which some threatened species (e.g. bison- whose total reaches 300 specimens; bear- around 100 specimens live in the northern part of the country). Several species of birds are found in the country and the Belarusian territory is of great importance for 17 species currently listed as endangered in Europe, since a significant percentage of their populations nest within Belarus.

The network of protected areas include 3 national parks ( Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Braslavskie Ozera- Braslav Lakes- and Pripyatski), one biosphere reserve (Berezinski reserve) and 83 nature reserves of national importance which play a crucial role in the conservation of animal and plant diversity and their natural habitats. As a whole, the protected area system cover more than 1.1 million ha.

At the national level, there are 97 species of vertebrates, 85 species of invertebrates and 214 species of plants listed as protected in the Belarusian Red Lists.

#### **Project Objectives and Short Description:**

The Belarusian biodiversity is being strongly impacted by factors such as extensive agriculture (with high inputs of pesticides and fertilizers which breach the recommended use), including the transformation of swampy lands which lead to the destruction of critical habitats; pollution; poaching; infrastructure development and lack of effective economic policies which take into account the protection of the environment.

The basic goal of the project is to assist the Government of Belarus formulate a framework for the implementation of the commitments resulting from the ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the preparation of a national biodiversity strategy and action plan to guide the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources of the country. During 1995-1996, Belarusian scientists in collaboration with government ministries officials and other authorities whose activities are directly

connected with natural resources use and management analysed the state of the biological resources of the country and developed the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Republic of Belarus.

The above documents were approved by Resolution No.789 of the Cabinet of Ministers on 26 June 1997. These documents need to be translated in English so that the Republic of Belarus can exchange her experiences with other countries in implementing the Convention and discuss funding possibilities with donor governments and institutions. The Government has also expressed the wish to receive assistance to convene a national workshop to publicize the principles and objectives of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to representatives of a broad range of stakeholders in order to determine priority measures, including integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use concerns into sectoral plans for major sectors such as agriculture, forestry and wetlands management, for which adequate funding should be sought for implementation.

The Government of Belarus is also seeking assistance for the preparation of the first national report to the Convention based on the information contained in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan. The above mentioned workshop planned for representatives of ministries, local authorities, scientific and research institutions and non-governmental environmental organizations (NGOs) to publicize the NBSAP will also provide a forum to agree on the contents of the first national report to the Convention.

Finally, under this project, a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) will be established through appropriate hardware, software, technical support and training to the national focal point for the CHM in order to accelerate the implementation of the Convention through exchange of information and experiences with other countries. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection has been designated as the focal point for the CHM.

Coverage without duplication:

The first national report will be based on existing information contained in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Time Plan and Sequencing of Activities

The project will be conducted over a period of 6 months as reflected in the schedule shown in the following table:

	Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Formation of Task Force; Selection of National and International Consultants; Preparation of Workplan	x	x				
2	Translation of NBSAP in English		x	x			
3	Preparation of draft First National Report		x	x			
4	National Workshop on NBSAP and draft First National Report				x		
5	Finalization of First National Report				x		
6	Translation of First National Report					x	
7	Submission of First National Report to COP, publication and dissemination		x (Interim)			x (Final)	
8	Establishment of Clearing House Mechanism		x	x	x	x	x

**Best Practice:**

The project will draw upon in-country expertise to prepare the first national report based on the existing information contained in the NBSAP. A national workshop will be convened to familiarize representatives of a broad range of stakeholders to the findings of the principles and objectives of the NBSAP and to have a consensus on the contents of the first national report. An international consultant will be called upon to facilitate this workshop and assist in the final editing of the english version of both the NBSAP and the first national report. Technical support and training for the CHM establishment will be carried out through arrangement with regional organizations competent in the handling of electronic information systems such as the UNEP GRID centers in Europe.

### **Institutional Framework and Project Implementation**

The project will be coordinated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection with the support of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. A small multidisciplinary Task Force will be established within the ministry itself to guide national consultants in compiling information for the first national report. This Task Force will review and approve the first national report ensuring that the views that will be expressed at the national workshop are fully taken into account. Because of the late starting date for the project, only an interim report will be submitted to the Secretariat of the CBD as early as possible in March 1998 while a final report will be ready at the fourth meeting of the COP in May 1998.

**Project Financing****Project Budget (US\$) Belarus Enabling Activity**

Activity	Product	Process	Total
<b>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>39,000</b>
- Translation into English	15,000		
- National Workshop		10,000	
- Dissemination, Public awareness		2,000	
- Printing & Publication	10,000		
- Miscellaneous	2,000		
<b>First National Report</b>	<b>24,000</b>		<b>24,000</b>
- National Consultants	10,000		
- International Consultant	5,000		
- Translation in English	5,000		
- Printing & Publication	3,000		
- Miscellaneous	1,000		
<b>Establishment of Clearing House Mechanism *</b>	<b>12,300</b>		<b>12,300</b>
- Hardware (PC of appropriate configuration)	4,000		
- Software (Internet browsers and required software)	800		
- Modem	500		
- Recurrent Access Costs to Internet Service Provider (up to end of CHM Pilot Phase 1998)	3,500		
- Technician Set-Up Fees	500		
- Internet and E-mail Training for CHM Focal Point	3,000		
<b>Co-ordination &amp; Management Costs (8%)</b>		<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,300</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>81,300</b>

\* Group I country, Option A:

Belarus has the required telecommunications infrastructure and Internet connectivity potential connectivity. It has designated a Focal Point for the CHM, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.

Technical assistance and training will be provided by GRID, as they have a long experience in this matter.

**TABLE A: Dimensions of Enabling Activities (Standard Activity Matrix), Belarus**  
**Enabling Activity**

Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity Building		Public Participation	Comments (To see footnotes)
		Institutional Strengthening	Training		
Stocktaking of existing information					
<b>Identification and Analysis of Options to meet the objectives of the CBD</b> - strategies for conservation - strategies for sustainable use - strategies for benefit sharing					
<b>Planning and Preparation of NBSAP</b> - national strategy - national action plan					*
<b>Preparation of the First National Report</b> - First National Report	x	x	x	x	
<b>Establishment of Clearing House Mechanism</b> - Strengthening of National Focal Point	x	x	x		

x: Activity to be undertaken under this project

**Footnotes:**

Belarus has already prepared a national biodiversity action plan. Under this project, the NBSAP will be translated into english and a national workshop will be organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection for representatives of a broad range of stakeholders to publicize the principles and objectives of the BSAP and reach consensus on the contents of the first national report to the CBD.

Date sent: Thu, 08 Jan 1998 15:53:41 +0100  
To: cyriaque.sendashonga@unep.no  
From: Sipi Jaakkola <jaakkols@unep.ch>  
Subject: belarus

Dear Cyrie,

Below, as agreed today, pls find the Belarus response. Hope it will suffice.

Warm regards,

Sipi

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>To: jaakkols@unep.ch

>Organization: belpak

>Date: Thu, 8 Jan 1998 15:06:16 +0300 (MSK)

>From: "Nina M. Petrova" <minproos@minproos.belpak.minsk.by>

>Lines: 20

>

>Dear Mr. Jaakkola,

>

>With reference to your fax of 17.12.1997, I would like to present you our comments to a fax from Mr. A.Vaish, GEF, to Mr. A.Djoghlaf, UNEP/GEF, concerning draft project on BNSAP .

>

>1. The National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity have been developed and adopted by the Government of the Republic of Belarus (Resolution #789, 26.06.1997). Hence, these documents were published in Russian only and for this reason sphere of their dissemination was limited. At the same time the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity requests us to send all documents in English.

>

>We are always interested in wide dissemination of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity among international organisations and our colleagues from Central and Western Europe with aim at chairing experience and attracting financial assistance for its implementation. So, fast translation of the above documents into English is highly desirable.

>

>Recently we have begun preparation of a draft national report to the COP. Participation of an international expert will contribute to finalising the report with account of international experience and requirements of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity.

>

>2. We expect that the national workshop will be attended by representatives of ministries and governmental bodies concerned, enterprises having influence to biodiversity conservation, scientific, project, educational

institutions, local authorities, non-governmental organisations,  
international environmental organisations.

>

>Participation of the NGOs representatives is necessary at all stages of  
preparation and implementation of the above documents.

>

>3. Mr. Zdzislav Muraviev, Specialist of the Inspectorate of Wildlife,  
Ministry of Natural resorces and Environmental Protection, was nominated a  
CHM focal point by the Minister.

>

>

>I wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

>

>Alla Metelitsa

**МІНІСТЭРСТВА  
ПРЫРОДНЫХ РЭСУРСАУ  
І АХОВЫ ПАВАКОЛЫНАГА  
АСЯРОДДЭЯ  
РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ**



**МИНИСТЕРСТВО  
ПРИРОДНЫХ РЕСУРСОВ  
И ОХРАНЫ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ  
СРЕДЫ  
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10.11.97 № 07-19/361

На № \_\_\_\_\_

от \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Sir,

Re: Endorsement Letter

This is to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Belarus fully endorses the project proposal «Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and First National Report to the COP».

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection has full confidence that this project will create sufficient capacity within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and other relevant ministries to initiate a process of biodiversity planning and to fulfil the reporting requirements under the CBD with respect to the first national report.

Yours sincerely,

Igor Voitov  
First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources  
and Environmental Protection

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlat  
Executive Coordinator  
UNEP/GEF Coordination Office

fax: 254 2 624 045/520825