

GEFSEC Project Tracking System

Response Due Date: 04/25/98

Correspondence Description

Addressed to: <u>Mr. Kenneth King</u>	Correspondence Date: 04/16/98
Date Received: 04/16/98	Organization: UNDP
From: Rafael Asenjo	

Assigned To: K. Kumari

Status: Open

Type: Fax **PNESIA**
Topic: PDF A: Integrated Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Lower Volga

Action Instructions

- For Bilateral meeting
- For information only. No action needed.
- Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Kenneth King and provide a copy.
- Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry and provide a copy.
- Please prepare a draft response and return to Program Coordinator
- Please reply **directly** and provide a copy.
- Please review and/or technical comments

Special Instructions

Response is requested before April 22.

Information Copies Sent To:

M. Ramos

Projects File Room Location:

Note: A copy/original of the document is being sent directly to your attention.

Please return this page with a copy of the incoming correspondence and the reply/action taken to Program File Manager (GEFSEC Project File Room) before or by due date with the original copy of the correspondence and the reply/action.

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION



United Nations Development Programme GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

To: Mr. Kenneth King
Assistant Chief Executive Officer
GEF Secretariat

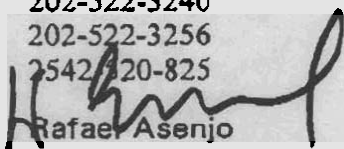
Date: 15 April 1998

Mr. Lars Vidaeus, Chief
Global Environment Div.
World Bank

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif
GEF Executive Coordinator
UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya

Fax: 202-522-3240
202-522-3256
2542 20-825

Pages: (32 including this sheet)

From: 
Rafael Asenjo
Executive Coordinator

Subject: PDF Block A Funding - *Guatemala: Renewable Energies Promoting Small Enterprise Development in Former Areas of Conflict; Russia: Integrated Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in Lower Volga; Philippines: Conservation of the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park*

Please find attached for your review three PDF Block "A" requests for funding entitled:

- *Guatemala: Renewable Energies Promoting Small Enterprise Development in Former Areas of Conflict;*
- *Russia: Integrated Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in Lower Volga;*
- *Philippines: Conservation of the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park;*
- *Kazakhstan: Removing Barriers to Increased Energy Efficiency of Hot Water and Heat Supply and Use in Kazakhstan*

We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than c.o.b. on Wednesday 22 April 1998.

Thank you.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY PDF BLOCK A GRANT PROPOSAL

Part I: Eligibility

1. **Project Title:** Integrated Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Lower Volga
2. **GEF Implementing Agency:** UNDP
3. **Country in which project is being implemented:** Russia
4. **Country Eligibility:** Russia ratified the CBD in May of 1995
5. **GEF Focal Areas and Cross Cutting Issues:** Biodiversity and International Waters
6. **Operational Programme:** Coastal, Marine & Freshwater Ecosystems

7. Project linkage to national priorities, action plan, and programmes:

The importance of the Lower Volga and especially the Volga Delta is widely recognised. The wetland habitat is thought to be the finest remaining in Europe. A part of the Delta is a Man and Biosphere Reserve and half of the Delta is an official Ramsar site (800.000 ha). It would be important to attempt to link any management plans developed under these initiatives to a GEF project management strategy and to any overall, long-term protected areas management approach. Many globally threatened (migratory) species occur in the region, for instance the Dalmatian Pelican and the few remaining Siberian Cranes of the western population (10 - 15 individuals), which use the Delta as a stop over site during migration. Furthermore many species of the Russian Red Data Book occur in the project area, for instance Lotus Lilly (*Neleumbo nucifera*), Calltrop (*Trapa natans*), Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, White Pelican, White-tailed Eagle, Pygmy Cormorant, Great Black Headed Gull and different species of sturgeon.

This project will complement a Dutch-funded national wetlands strategic planning programme carried out by the State Committee of Environment Protection for the Russian Federation and Wetlands International (an international NGO). This programme has as one of its principal objectives the development of a National Wetlands Strategy and Action Plan (NWSAP) to be completed in 1999. The existing draft form of the NWSAP has already designated the Lower Volga as one of the top priority wetland areas in Russia. In addition, the NWSAP complements Russia's developing National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

The proposed project is also complementary to a recently developed Strategy and Action Plan to conserve the wetlands of the Lower Volga (IWRB 1992). The project will implement priority actions identified under the Ramsar Convention, the Bonn Convention, and the Africa-Eurasia Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). This project will be developed in such a way as to be complementary to the GEF's Caspian Regional Sea Programme as well as that of TACIS.

The project will be specifically looking for opportunities to conserve and manage wetlands under situations where up-stream pollution is not a threat or has little importance or significance to their management. The global benefits and best opportunities for GEF assistance will be identified and assess so as to produce a cost-effective intervention by GEF.

8. GEF Operational Focal Point (in Russia) and date of endorsement:

On 26 January the official letter of endorsement from Russia's GEF focal point was signed by Mr. Amirkhanov. It is attached as Annex 1 of this proposal.

9. Project Rationale and Objectives:

The Volga delta is one of the Europe's most significant delta-wetland areas. The objective of the project to be developed under this PDF is to conserve the internationally and nationally important biodiversity of the Lower Volga wetlands through an integrated conservation and sustainable-use approach. The current system of protected (wetland) areas has nearly ceased to exist on-the-ground. With the political changes that have occurred within the Russian Federation in the last 10 years, new policies on ownership and transfer of property have come into effect which threaten existing protected areas. As a further result of these political developments there have been changes in the roles and leadership of government agencies along with academic and research institutions. This is coupled with an overall lack of funding for all sectors, including those of protected areas conservation and management. These factors have contributed to the reduced effectiveness of the existing system of protected areas.

To ensure the protection of the wetland biodiversity, it is imperative to develop an integrated conservation plan for the Volga Delta. The protected areas of the Lower Volga require a thorough reorganisation and strengthening programme based upon the new realities of the day (including the sea level rise of the Caspian Sea) and the latest thinking in integrated conservation and management approaches.

10. Expected outcomes:

- the establishment of a reorganised, sustainable network of protected areas,
- demonstration and proliferation of methods for sustainable resource use,
- the establishment of an overall integrated land use plan,
- the reversal of negative environmental impacts by appropriate modifications of the present artificial hydrological regime of the river,
- enhanced involvement of local communities and other stakeholders,
- sustainable financial mechanisms for conservation activities.

Some of the above outcomes would need to be addressed by investment-driven activities. This would need to be reflected within the GEF project as co-funding or parallel funding by investment agencies. Identification of such agencies and the need to address the development of an Urgent Investment Portfolio would be a function of the Project Development Facility.

11. Planned activities to achieve outcomes:

- Capacity enhancement of the local government and non-governmental agencies active in the fields of biodiversity conservation and wetland management.
- Demonstration projects for the community participatory and integrated management of key wetlands and their biodiversity resources in the Lower Volga (including the possibility of wetland restoration).
- Local workshops and a regional conference to prepare and adopt an integrated land-use plan for the Lower Volga.
- Development of water quality monitoring programmes to monitor the reduction in industrial pollution.
- Promotion and assistance in development of ecologically sound water management of water reservoirs in the upper regions of the Volga.
- Training courses, education and awareness activities.
- Targeted research to ensure the establishment of a sound information baseline for monitoring, evaluation and planning.
- Identification of pollution threats and assessment of feasibility for effective intervention to manage wetlands in light of such threats.

Some of these activities would be closely related to potential investment priorities (e.g. Water quality programmes to monitor the reduction of industrial pollution) which would need to be identified as part of the Project Development Facility.

12. Stakeholders involved in project:

- State Committee for Environmental Protection based in Astrakhan (Dr. Y. Chuikov)
- the federal State Committee for Environmental Protection in Moscow (Dr. Amirkhanov)
- the Administration of the Astrakhan Region (First Deputy Mr. Volodin)
- the Astrakhan Man and Biosphere Reserve (Dir. Krivonosov)
- Water Problem Institute Astrakhan
- KaspNIRKh Astrakhan (Caspian Fisheries Research Institute)
- the State Committee of Agriculture Astrakhan (also Fisheries Inspection and Hunting)
- Technical University Astrakhan
- State Committee for Water and Geology Astrakhan
- State Committee of Forestry Astrakhan
- Centre of Ecological Education Astrakhan
- Geographical Society (NGO) Astrakhan
- Moscow State University, Faculty of Geography
- WWF Russia, Moscow
- Wetland International, Moscow
- Research Institute for Nature Conservation in Moscow
- State Committee for Environmental Protection in Volgograd
- Ministry for Environmental Protection in Kalmuk Region

International stakeholders are:

Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Directorate General for Public Works and Water Management, Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (hereafter referred to as RIZA), the Netherlands; Euronatur, Germany; Naturschutz Bund Deutschland, UNESCO, WWF International; Wetlands International.

Part II: Information on Block A PDF Activities

- 13. Activities to be funded by GEF:** See budget for itemised activities requesting GEF support.
- 14. Expected Outputs and Completion Dates:** A completed Block B proposal, developed with full participation of all major stakeholders, finalised three months after the receipt of the Block A grant.
- 15. Other possible contributors, donors, and amounts:** The Dutch Government (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries) will contribute a total of NLG 50,000 (approximately US\$ 25,000). The letter of intent is attached as Annex 2. The Dutch RIZA will contribute US\$ 13,500 and the State Committee for Environmental Protection (SCEP) in Astrakhan will contribute US\$ 1,700 to the Identification Mission and the workshop. Wetlands International - AEME and the State Committee in Astrakhan will be providing as in-kind contributions the necessary office and workshop facilities, as well as e-mail communication and necessary meetings in Moscow with the GEF Focal Point.

16. Total budget and information on how costs will be met:

	SCEP	RIZA	Dutch Min.	GEF
Desk work (1.5 personnel months):				
Stocktaking/Assessment/Synthesis of existing information on the importance of Lower Volga for biodiversity conservation. Identification of hotspots/opportunities/needs.	--	--	--	5,000
Review of national and local policies and plans for the development/management/monitoring of the area. Identification of opportunities and needs	--	--	5,000	--
Preliminary analysis of incremental cost issues (including wetland restoration)	--	--	--	4,500
Consultations:				
Identification mission (international and local travel, 2 weeks, 2 persons)	1,200	500	7,500	--
Local Workshop (3 days)	500	3,000	--	10,000
Consultancy and Interpretation (2 weeks, 4 persons)	--	--	6,000	--
Preparation of Block B (2 weeks, 2 persons; \$10,000 for purchasing satellite images)	--	10,000	--	4,000
<u>Education, Public Awareness and Capacity building:</u>	--	--	6,500	--
Sub-Total	1,700	13,500	25,000	23,500
Total			\$ 63,700	

17. Project Identification Number:

18. IA Focal Point: David Vousden, Regional Co-ordinator GEF for Europe and the CIS.

19. Linkage of Expected Project to IA Program:

The Russia UNDP programme is in the process of developing priority areas within its overall country co-operation framework. Certainly sustainable development is a key part of that framework for co-operation between Russia and UNDP. UNDP has been asked by the Government of the Russian Federation to organize the "Great Rivers of the World" Conference in Nizhny Novgorod to be held next year. This project complements that initiative. Additionally, UNDP's regional environment programme for Eastern Europe and Russia will be building capacity of national pollution control enforcement agencies as part of an overall effort to link good governance and development with a clean environment.



**ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ КОМИТЕТ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПО ОХРАНЕ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ**

123812, Москва, ГСП
ул. Б.Грузинская, 4/6
Телекс 411692 БОРЕЙ
Факс (095) 254 8283

**STATE COMMITTEE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

123812, Moscow, GSP,
B. Gruzinskaya str. 4/6
Telex 411692 BOREI
Fax (095) 254 8283

AS 20/03/98

To: Mr. Rafael Asenjo
Executive Coordinator
UNDP/GEF

20.03.98

Endorsment letter

Dear Mr. Asenjo,

We have received from UNDP office next project documents:

- Integrating land-use and Conservation Planning in the Wetlands of the Lower Volga;
- Integrated Conservation of the Kamchatka Peninsula's Biological Diversity.

The State Committee considers the implementation of these projects in Russia as actual and expedient and asks UNDP/GEF secretariat to start their realization.

Sincerely yours,

A.A. Solovjanov

Deputy Chairman



В ГЕФ проект
Volga proposal

ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ КОМИТЕТ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПО ОХРАНЕ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ

STATE COMMITTEE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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123812, Moscow, GSP.
B.Gruzinskaya str., 4/6
Telex 411692 BOREI
FAX (095) 254 8283

To: Mr. Mike Moser
Executive Director
Wetlands International
Netherlands

Fax: (31 317) 474712

Оун. ref. 17-03-48/119

Moscow, 26 January, 1998

Dear Mr. Moser,

As a result of an International Workshop in Astrakhan during October, 1991 an Action Plan has been published by IWRB and WWF ("A Strategy and Action Plan to conserve the wetlands of the Lower Volga").

Dr. Y. Chuikov of the State Committee for Environmental Protection in Astrakhan asked Wetlands International (former IWRB) to develop a follow up proposal on this Action Plan. This proposal is completed now and is called: "Integrating Land-use and Conservation Planning in the Wetlands of the Lower Volga". The proposal has already received some funds (Dfl 50,000) from the Dutch Government, but addition funds are requested.

The project proposal will officially be send to the UNDP (Mr. D. Voudsen) as one of the implementing agencies of the Global Environmental Facility.

Therefore I am pleased to approve this project proposal, as the representation of the operations of the Focal Point for GEF projects in Russia.

I hope the project will be a success and can function as a step forward for wetland protection in the Lower Volga region.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. A. Amirkhanov
Focal point for GEF
projects in Russia

Mini
Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en

Volga proposal

Wetlands International
att. Director Dr. M. Moser
Postbus 7002
6700 CA Wageningenlandbouw, natuurbeheer
en visserijuw brief van
18 August and 9
September 1997
onderwerp

uw kenmerk

ans kenmerk
N97-4233datum
20 November 1997doorziesnummer
(+31 70 379 3591bijlagen
1Various wetland projects in Russia, Ukraina and Baltic
RepublicsRelation number: 124 167
Obligation number: 3009431
MATRA project number: 97-B-2.15

Dear Mr. Moser,

With your fax and letter of 18 August and 9 September 1997 you requested my support for a number of wetlands projects in Central and Eastern Europe. Following consultations between you and our Ministry as well as with MATRA I am pleased to inform you as follows:

In your preliminary proposals of 18 August 1997 you requested support for investments to a total amount of Dfl 254.550.- In close consultation with the Division of International Affairs the proposals were revised and I received on 9 September the revised draft with projects for a total amount of Dfl 207.500.-

Ministerie van Landbouw,
Natuurbeheer en Visserij
Directie Natuurbeheer
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
Postadres:
Postbus 20401
2500 EK 's-Gravenhage
Telefoon: 070 - 379 39 11
Fax: 070 - 3478228
Telegramadres: Landvis
Telex: 32040 Lavini

By letter of 12 September 1997, N97-3651, the latter proposals, with a total value of Dfl 207.500.- have been sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/MATRA for their comments and approval. Comments by MATRA were received on 4 and 6 November; they focussed in particular on the project proposal to fund the printing of the wetlands report of which the field work and data collecting were supported by a TACIS grant. It is a rather strict policy of MATRA not to fund the deficit of projects originally funded by other donors. After further discussions between the Division of International Affairs and MATRA, both MATRA (their fax of 18 November 1997) and I agreed to support the following elements of your letter of 9 September 1997 (the name and budgets refer to the tabel as attached to your letter of 9 September 1997:

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• Library/office etc. in Moscow :	Dfl 9.500.-
• Sivash Remote Sensing material	Dfl 8.000.-
• Wetlands International Office Car/Kiev	Dfl 20.000.-
• Developm. GEF B.Block Lower Volga	Dfl 50.000.-
• Desktop Calendar/wetlands/Russian	Dfl 30.000.-
• Publication Baltic Wetlands Inventory	Dfl 10.000.-
Total support to be provided:	Dfl 127.500.-

I consider these projects as priorities within the PIN Wetlands Programme and the priorities with the Central and East European countries as outlined in the PIN/Action Programme for Central and East Europe.

The project contribution will be paid according to the following scheme of cash-flow:

1997: Dfl 92.000.- (which is 80% of the total costs of Dfl 127.500.-)
1998: remaining costs to be paid before 1 March 1998).

Soon the first instalment of Dfl 92.000.- will be forwarded to your account no: ABN-AMRA AC # 41.98.09.384 t.n.v. Stichting Wetlands International Africa, Europe, Middle East.

The second and final instalment will be paid after the receipt of a full report on the implementation of the project with a statement and the finances of the project, including a report from your auditor. With respect to the contribution the following conditions also apply:

1. My contribution applies to the project "Various wetlands projects in Central and Eastern European Countries" as described in your above mentioned fax and letter. Changes in the project is only allowed after permission by our the Minister of Agriculture Nature Management and Fisheries, in agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/MATRA.
2. A report on the implementation of the project have to be submitted by 31 January 1998. This report should include a preliminary overview of expenditures and a detailed description of activities undertaken. It shall also include an invoice in order to pay the final instalment.
3. For consultation with the Ministry in the Hague concerning this project you can contact Dr. Gerard C.Boere of the Division of International Nature Management.
4. Where appropriate the support by the Netherlands Government should be mentioned as follows: This project is(has been) carried out with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Directorate for Nature Management (with logo) and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MATRA Fund/Programme International Nature Management). This condition applies also to any publicity about the project in daily newspapers, journals, radio, TV etc.

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5. I reserve the right to reduce my contribution, stop transfers prematurely or claim repayment of all or parts of the funds transferred, among others, if contractual obligations inclusive reporting and accounting obligations are not met or if it merges from the requested reports or from other sources that the funds are not being used for the purposes for which I have made them available or if alternative funding proves to have been acquired for the same activities which was not known to me. I will initiate such reduction or termination only after consultation with you, after which accounts will be settled on the basis of costs made and taking into account, within reasonable limits, financial obligations entered by you for the future.

6. Any income earned from interests on my contribution will be used for the project only and will be accounted for in the financial reports. Goods and equipment procured from my contribution will be allocated at the end of the project period to development cooperation purposes. You will account thereof in your financial report.

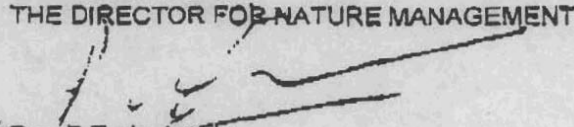
7. I reserve the right to conduct an investigation on the activities carried out by your organisation in the framework of this activity, including reporting and financial administration. As such you are responsible for keeping an adequate administration on the project. You and your counterpart organisation (s) will cooperate fully with officials appointed by me to conduct such an investigation on the project's implementation. If such an investigation is initiated, you will be consulted in advance.

You are entitled to make a motivated appeal against this decision within six weeks. The appeal has to be addressed as follows:

Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij
Afdeling Rechtsbescherming en andere Juridische Zaken
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK The Hague,
The Netherlands.

You are requested to mention the relation-, obligation- and MATRA/project number (97-B-2.15) in all your correspondence regarding this project.

FOR THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, NATURE MANAGEMENT
AND FISHERIES,
THE DIRECTOR FOR NATURE MANAGEMENT,


Drs. P.E. de Jongh.