

Republic of Ukraine
Enabling Activity Proposal in Biodiversity

Country	Ukraine
Project Title	Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan and National Report
GEF Focal Area	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility	Ukraine ratified CBD in December 1994
GEF Financing	\$112,000
Government Contribution	In-kind
GEF Implementing Agency	World Bank
National Executing Agency	Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety
GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety
CBD Focal Point	Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety
Estimated Starting Date	June 1996
Project Duration	14 months

Background/Context

Ukraine is a country of 52 million people with a land mass of over 600,000 km². The country is divided into three physiogeographic zones: a forested zone in the north, a steppe zone in the south, and a mixed forest-steppe zone in the middle. The south-central region's rich black soils (chernozems) give it some of the best arable land in Europe. The regions of internationally significant biodiversity are the Carpathian Mountains, the Crimean Peninsula, and the wetlands and near-shore communities of the Black Sea. The root causes of biodiversity loss include previous and on-going conversion of native habitats for agricultural, industrial, and urban/suburban uses; land and sea-based pollution; forestry practices, and transboundary pollution. Given such problems, there is an urgent need to develop a strategy to address these issues.

The conservation and protection of natural ecosystems, genetic resources, and threatened and endangered plants and animals is a priority for Ukraine. Since the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Parliament and the President have implemented a broad range of laws, decrees, and regulations that are central to biodiversity conservation. In addition, the Central Board for Nature Conservation is implementing an ambitious program of adding reserves and national parks to the Protected Area Network, which currently covers 25,250 km² (approximately 4 percent of the country). These efforts are of special importance because of the existing opportunities and problems of the on-going land privatization program.

The opportunity to prepare the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan comes at an important time in the history of biodiversity protection and management in Ukraine. The Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety (MEPNS) and the Central Board for Nature Conservation are actively expanding their efforts and defining new priorities. Improvement in the GOU's capacity for these challenges is the result of numerous factors, one of which is the successful implementation of the Black Sea, Transcarpathian, and Danube Delta and River Basin GEF projects. These projects are having profoundly positive influences on the capacity for biodiversity conservation in Ukraine, and have helped prepare the foundation for undertaking the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP).

Project Objectives

The objective of undertaking these Enabling Activities is to formulate the strategies and actions necessary for the protection and sustainable use of Ukraine's biodiversity in accordance with Article 6 and 8 of the CBD, as well as prepare a plan for their implementation. The primary product will be the BSAP. In addition, Ukraine's first National Report to the Conference of the Parties will be prepared.

The BSAP will improve Ukraine's ability to put existing information on its biodiversity to conservation and economic uses, improve the allocation of domestic financial resources, unify the various conservation initiatives currently being pursued, and result in actions to improve biodiversity conservation within and outside protected areas. Associated objectives include definition and/or refinement of priorities for the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity; guidance of activities under the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to meet key GEF objectives, and promotion of institutional and public awareness regarding the conservation and sustainable use of the nation's biological diversity.

Coverage without duplication

The BSAP will be based on existing capacity and make use of existing information to the maximum extent possible, including preliminary draft materials on the biodiversity and biological resources of Ukraine. These draft chapters will be utilized during the workshops and will be finalized considering the results of the public awareness campaign. As indicated in the attached letter from Yaroslav Movchan, Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety to Mohammed T. El-Ashry, there are no duplicating efforts being pursued in Ukraine by other implementing agencies, bilateral agencies, nor non-governmental organizations.

Time Plan and Sequencing

The project follows the sequence recommended in "Guidelines for Biodiversity Planning" (WRI/IUCN/UNEP 1995). These activities, which will last 14 months, include a public awareness campaign through workshops to develop the strategies and action plan, synthesis of existing materials on Ukrainian biodiversity, a national workshop, and preparation of the BSAP and National Report. A preliminary timetable for completion of the various tasks is included below:

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Finalization of TORs for internal and external consultants	X													
Finalization of consultant selection, preparation of work plan, and assembly of materials		X												
Workshops (I) in Kiev, Odessa, and Simferapol on development of goals, objectives, and actions			X											
Preparation and editing of chapters on Ukrainian biodiversity, Protected Area Network, and other existing conditions material.		X	X	X	X									
Workshops (II) in Kiev, Odessa, and Simferapol on development of goals, objectives, and actions					X									
Finalization of existing conditions report						X								
National strategy and action plan workshop							X							
Preparation of draft BSAP								X	X	X				
Review of BSAP and revision based on comments											X	X		
Preparation of National Report to CoP, translation and dissemination													X	X

Best practice

The Ukrainian BSAP project is designed in accordance with the *Guidelines for Biodiversity Planning*. (WRI/IUCN/UNEP 1995) The project will comply with best practices outlined in the *Guidelines*, in the *Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities: Biodiversity* as well as on lessons learned from GEF projects in Ukraine (e.g., the Transcarpathian and Danube Delta projects).

The Ukraine BSAP, particularly its goals, objectives, and actions, will be developed by Ukrainians, represent national priorities, and be consistent with Ukraine's biological, geographic, and historical setting. Six regional consultations are planned during the process of identifying options, in addition to a national seminar. In order to incorporate biodiversity into mainstream development planning, the project will be led by a broad-based steering committee led by the MEPNS, and including relevant government ministries, key non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

Cost-effectiveness

The Ukraine BSAP will be prepared in an accelerated schedule made possible due to maximum reliance on existing stocktaking materials on Ukrainian laws, institutions, and biodiversity as well as on in-country expertise. National consultants will be used to run the public awareness campaign, to prepare the "stock-taking" chapters, and to assist the MEPNS in preparing the strategies and action plan.

Deviations from Criteria and Norms

The proposal does not deviate from the operational criteria for enabling activities in biodiversity.

Consistency of approach and procedures

Currently, there are three GEF-funded projects underway in Ukraine. The proposal builds on the existing information and professional capacity, much of which was developed under these projects. The focus of the Transcarpathian and Danube Delta biodiversity projects is on-the-ground ecosystem monitoring and management. The focus of the Black Sea Environmental Program and the Danube River Basin GEF projects is on international cooperation in monitoring and management of these aquatic ecosystems. The reports from each of these, and their procedures, will be used in the BSAP.

Institutional Framework And Project Implementation

Under the overall guidance of the World Bank, the project will be developed by the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety (MEPNS). The Ministry will manage a multi-disciplinary team under the supervision of an inter-institutional steering committee, including several government departments, as well as selected representatives from NGOs which are instrumental in developing and implementing policies related to biodiversity conservation.

MEPNS administers Ukrainian environmental law throughout the country, including the various laws and regulations that pertain to fisheries and wildlife, impacts to natural communities, and protection of threatened and endangered species (i.e., those listed in the Ukraine Red Book). The administration of protected areas is the responsibility of various groups, including the Central Board for Nature Conservation which oversees the nation's National Parks and Strict Nature Reserves (*zapovedniks*), MEPNS, the Ministry of Forestry, and the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

Local municipalities are responsible for the management of protected areas considered to be of lower importance, such as *zakasniks*. A new category of protected area in Ukraine, Regional Landscape Parks, is managed by local government, yet is expected to play an important role in the Ukrainian Protected Area Network in the future. The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, especially the Institutes of Botany and Zoology, plays an important role in biodiversity conservation, both as an institution and through the activities of its individual scientists.

Standard Activity Matrix: Ukraine

Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity Building		Public Part.	Comments
	Planning,	Institutional	Training		
<i>Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information</i>					
biodiversity and biological resources	X				1
cross-sectoral issues	X				1
policy and regulatory framework	X				1,2
institutional and human capacity	X				1,2
analysis of root causes of BD loss	X				1
technologies for conservation and	X				1
activities with adverse impacts	X				1
existing measures and programs	X				1
preliminary statement of objectives	X				1
identification of gaps	X				1
assessment of existing needs	X				1
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD</i>					
strategies for conservation	X	X	X	X	
strategies for sustainable use	X	X	X	X	
strategies for benefit sharing	X	X	X	X	
<i>Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</i>					
national strategy	X	X	X	X	
national action plan	X	X	X	X	
<i>Preparation of the first National Report</i>					
first national report	X				

- 1 The MEPNS and biologists from the Academy of Sciences have prepared preliminary draft sections on the biodiversity and biological resources of Ukraine, and on the institutions and legal framework. The draft chapters will be finalized considering the results of the public awareness campaign.
- 2 During the economic transition, the MEPNS has been building its capacity for biodiversity-related policies and regulatory issues. Identification of gaps and insufficiencies of the Ukrainian system will be made during the Enabling Activities while the correction of these problems is expected to occur in the long term as the BSAP is implemented.

Project Financing (in US\$)

	Product	Process	Total
<i>Stocktaking and Inventory / Identification of options</i>	17,000	43,000	60,000
national consultants	8,000	8,000	16,000
internat'l consultant (training, supervision)	5,000	5,000	10,000
workshops		30,000	30,000
travel, misc.	4,000		4,000
<i>Preparation of a Strategy and Action Plan</i>	15,000	27,000	42,000
national consultants	8,000	8,000	16,000
internat'l consultants	5,000	5,000	10,000
national workshop		14,000	14,000
misc.	2,000		2,000
<i>First National Report</i>	10,000		10,000
publication and translation	9,000		9,000
promotion, misc.	1,000		1,000
Total	42,000	70,000	112,000

МІНІСТЕРСТВО
ОХОРОНИ НАВКОЛИЩНЬОГО
ПРИРОДНОГО СЕРЕДОВИЩА ТА
ЯДЕРНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ УКРАЇНИ
Хрещатик 6, 252001, Київ-1
phone: 044-228-06-44; fax: 044-229-83-83



MINISTRY
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND NUCLEAR SAFETY OF UKRAINE

6 Khreshchatyk str., 252001, Kyiv-1
E-mail Internet: mep@ucp.FreeNet.Kiev.UA

TO: Mr. Mohammed T. El-Ashry
Chief Executive Officer
and Chairman
GEF Protection
Tel: (202) 473 3202
Fax: (202) 522 3240/3245

FROM: Dr. Yaroslav Movchan
Deputy Minister
Ministry for Environmental
Protection and Nuclear Safety
Tel/Fax: (38 044) 228 29 22

Date: 8 May, 1996

Re: Biodiversity Strategy
and Action Plan

Dear Mr. El-Ashry,

Thank you very much for your fax message of 7 May, 1996.
Hereby I would like to confirm our willingness to collaborate
exactly with the GEF in the field of Biodiversity Strategy and
Action Plan. Let me inform you that all possible duplications have
been removed. US AID has agreed with our offer to co-operate in
developing sectoral and pilot regional projects which are expected
to be definitated more precisely in the nearest future.

So, please consider this letter as official claim for our
intention to implement the above GEF project.

Hoping for fruitful co-operation,

Sincerely,

Ya. Movchan
Deputy Minister

as for!

DATE	5/13/96
LOCATION	Ukraine
SUBJECT	GEF Prod.
INITIALS	KS, PB, GCP, Soly, G
APPROV	
INDEX	

Cc: Mrs. K. Stephenson
The World Bank
Mr. C. Kulyk
The World Bank
Mrs. L. Swanson
US AID

FROM : DEPT. OF INTERNATIONAL REL.

PHONE NO. : 02000000000000000000

P01

МІНІСТЕРСТВО
ОХОРОНИ НАВКОЛИЩНЬОГО
ПРИРОДНОГО СЕРЕДОВИЩА ТА
ЯДЕРНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ УКРАЇНИ
Хрещатик 5, 252001, Київ-1
phone: 044-228-06-44; fax: 044-229-88-83



MINISTRY
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND NUCLEAR SAFETY OF UKRAINE

5 Khreshchatyk str., 252001, Kyiv-1
E-mail Internet: map@map.FranNet.Kiev.UA

TO: Mr. Mohammed T. El-Ashry
Chief Executive Officer
and Chairman
GEF

Tel: (202) 478 3202
Fax: (202) 522 8240/8245

FROM: Dr. Yaroslav Movchan
Deputy Minister
Ministry for Environmental
Protection and Nuclear
Safety
Tel/Fax: 880 44 228 2922

Date: 29 March, 1996

Re: Biodiversity and Strategy
Action Plan

Dear Mr. El-Ashry,

Ukraine approaches the World Bank with a request to develop the strategy for protection, sustainable use, improving the management and conservation of biodiversity within and outside protected areas (letter of 10 March, 1996).

This problem continues to be of a great importance and one of the national priorities in our country, so the delay in its solving results in undesirable negative consequences for conservation of natural ecosystems and genetic resources in general, in retardment of the carrying out of international obligations on the Convention of Biodiversity.

Ukraine is satisfied with the WB cooperation and operative respond to our request. We have not received or send the other proposals and enquires which regard the financing of the analogous work.

Being deeply concerned with the information about the possible delays in implementing the Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan which has been preliminary agreed with the WB and GEF we kindly ask you not to postpone the decision on its financing.

Sincerely,

Ya. Movchan
Deputy Minister

Cc. A. Steer
Director ENV. WB:

r. w. l. w.