UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
Project Brief

Number:	**POL/03/G3X**
PIMS number:	1623
Title:	Biodiversity Conservation and Management in the Barycz Valley
Country:	Poland
Duration:	3 years
ACC/UNDP (Sub) Sector:	G3: Environment
GEF Focal Area:	Multiple Focal Area: BD/IW
GEF Operational Programme:	OP 12
Implementing Agency:	PTPP "Pro Natura"
Executing Agency:	PTPP "Pro Natura"
Estimated Starting Date:	April 2004
Operational Programme	OP 12
Strategic priority	EM1

UNDP and Cost Sharing (in US$)

UNDP Managed Funds	
UNDP/GEF	
Project:	**964,350**
PDF:	**23,968**
Sub-total GEF	**988,318**
Co financing:	**10,237,351**
Total Project Costs:	**11,225,669**

Summary

The objective of this project is to implement the Barycz Valley's "Regional Sustainable Development Strategy" (RSDS) on a pilot demonstration basis. With technical and financial support from the PDF-A, the municipalities of the Barycz Valley defined priorities and actions that integrate resource use and biodiversity protection into social and economic development of the Barycz Valley. These agreed priorities and actions constitute the "Regional Sustainable Development Strategy", a planning document that puts in place an integrated ecosystem management approach to the use of land, water and biodiversity resources in the Barycz Valley.

The MSP will co-finance the execution of priority activities of the RSDS in the areas of (i) nature tourism; (ii) decreasing pollution loads into international water systems; (iii) nature-friendly fish farming; (iv) conservation of globally significant meadows and (v) public support for biodiversity conservation. These activities show clear global benefits in the area of biodiversity and international waters.

Finally, best lessons learned will be transferred to other globally significant riverine valleys in Poland

Approved on behalf of the Government

_____ Date: _____

Approved on behalf of UNDP Poland

_____ Date: _____

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ACRONYMS

BRV:	Barycz River Valley
EU:	European Union
GoP:	Government of Poland
GPLPA:	Great Poland Landscape Park Administration
LSLPA:	Lower Silesian Landscape Park Administration
MDG:	Millennium Development Goals
MoA:	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE:	Ministry of Environment
IP:	Implementation Program
PA:	Protected Area
PIU:	Project Implementation Unit
PM:	Project Manager
PTPP:	Pro Natura (NGO)
RSDS:	Regional Sustainable Development Strategy for the Barycz Valley
RZMiUW:	Regional Melioration and Water Devices Board
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
WFOSiGW:	Voivodship Fund for Environment and Water Management

1. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

1.a. Country Eligibility

1. Poland ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in January 1996. The country is eligible to receive technical assistance from UNDP and World Bank.

1.b. Country Drivenness

2. The National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation defines the wetlands and riverine ecosystems as priority sites for conservation. In particular, the national strategy specifically mentions river valleys, such as the Barycz Valley, as among priority sites endowed with biodiversity of local and global importance. The project is also fully consistent with the National Environmental Policy of Poland, which calls for strengthening conservation and sustainable development in sites of national importance, the Barycz Valley among them.

1.c Endorsement

3. State: "The project has been endorsed by the GEF Operational Focal Point in a letter dated 2 February 2004 – see Annex B."

2. PROGRAM & POLICY CONFORMITY

2.a.i. Program Designation & Conformity

4. The choice of Operational Program 12 reflects the project's support to the implementation of an integrated approach to ecosystem management in the Barycz Valley. The PDF-A that led to this project document assisted the municipalities, regional authorities, and the administration of the landscape park to agree on a set of short and long-term objectives for the protection and sustainable use of land, water and biodiversity resources. These agreed objectives and actions have been put in a document entitled "Regional Sustainable Development Strategy" of the Barycz Valley (RSDS). The RSDS constitute an agreement among local and regional stakeholders to adopt an integrated ecosystem approach to the use of land, water and biodiversity resources in the Barycz Valley. The development of the RSDS involved all the municipalities in the catchment area and its activities take place in the core, buffer and non-protected areas. (see section 2.b.v Summary description of project strategy).

2.a.ii. Global Significance for biodiversity

5. The contribution of the project to the conservation of biodiversity is described in the Sub-section 2.b.i Description of the Target Area below.

2.a.iii. Global Significance for International Waters

6. The project contributes to the focal area of international waters. The project will significantly decrease pollution loads in the Barycz River, which flows into the Odra River and from there to the Baltic Sea at the city of Szczecin. Data gathered during PDF-A indicate that the Barycz River is one of the three Odra tributary rivers with the largest non-point pollution load. Pollution of aquatic ecosystems is one of the threats to biodiversity in the project site. The project will install water treatment facilities in the target area and this will result in multi-focal benefits: it will not only address threats to biodiversity in the project area but will also result in diminished pollution loads entering the Baltic system and an improved quality of water in the Baltic Sea, which is the object of another GEF International Waters intervention.

2.a.iv Conformity with GEF strategic priorities

7. The project meets the GEF strategic priority I. The project will result in the strengthening of the system of landscape conservation areas. The project will do that through strengthening institutional, managerial and financial sustainability and by improving institutional and stakeholder capacities for the management of the Barycz Valley Landscape Park. The project possesses mechanisms to ensure replication of best lessons learned to other riverine valley in Poland.

8. The project is also in line with the second Strategic Priority of the GEF "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Production Landscapes and Sectors" by integrating biodiversity concerns into the agriculture and tourism sectors in the Barycz Valley. The project will improve institutional capacities of government agencies, local communities and other stakeholders to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of resources in the agriculture and tourism sectors.

9. The project also meets the first Strategic Priority of the International Waters Focal Area by contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan of the Baltic Sea Regional Project, which calls for decreasing pollution loads entering the Baltic Sea.

2.b. Project Design

2.b.i Description of the Project Target Area

10. The Barycz Valley is located in the SW Poland, approximately 50 km north from Wroclaw (see map in Annex C). The project area covers the whole river basin with about 40 municipalities[1]. The Barycz River, with a total length of 133 Km, is one of the largest tributaries of the Odra River, which in turn is the second largest in Poland.

11. A flat lower valley and steep slopes in the surrounding hills result in diversified habitats with a mixture of forests, meadows and ponds that occur both in the form of large and small complexes. The Barycz Valley contains the Ramsar site "Stawy Milickie Nature Reserve" (Milicz fishponds). Extending for 5,325 ha, this nature reserve includes several fishpond complexes surrounded by forests, meadows, pastures, and fields. It functions as a core protection area for the whole river system.

12. The Barycz Valley is an integral part of the National as well as the Lower Silesian system of protected areas. The project site contains six "Important Bird Areas in Europe"[2], as designated by BirdLife International, and is also an important element of the ECONET system (international core area 18M and corridors of international importance) and CORINE biotopes. The Barycz Valley is part of the "Living Lakes" network, which comprises lakes and aquatic environments of global significance and includes water bodies such as Lake Baikal (RUS), the Dead Sea (Near East), the Pantanal (Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia), Mono Lake (CA, USA) and 8 others[3]. Finally, in addition to the Fish-Ponds Reserve of Milicz, the project site contains the Landscape Parks of the Barycz Valley and of the Jezierzyca Valley, and several "sites of ecological use" (local reserves).

13. Biodiversity in the Barycz Valley has co-evolved with human-induced changes in the landscape. The project site has been under the influence of man for centuries. The most influential modifications occurred in the Middle Ages with the creation of fishponds by Cistercian Monks. These fishponds have evolved into sites of globally significant biodiversity and are currently classified as a Ramsar site. In a similar

[1] The administrative system in Poland consists of four levels of spatial organisation: national (country level), Voivodship (provincial level), Powiat (county) and Gmina (referred to as municipality or community)
[2] Recently united into one large area (code in Poland 054).
[3] The Global Nature Fund selected the Barycz Valley for inclusion into the network.

venue, agriculture and the exploitation of (poor) iron ores, while adding to deforestation, have resulted in a biodiversity-rich mosaic of meadows (some of them among the largest in Europe), forest, and water bodies. The poor soil quality and the poor ore grade limited the extent of these activities and therefore the area covered by forest has remained relatively high.

2.b.ii Biodiversity significance of the site

14. The Barycz Valley is listed under the **RAMSAR convention**, the **ECONET** system and the **CORINE** biotopes because of an unusually large number of species for an inland lowland habitat. The Barycz Valley hosts more than **1/3 of all bird species** (68 out of 181) that have a special conservation status according to the **European Union's Bird Directive**. These 68 species include 34 breeding and 34 non-breeding (migrating or wintering) species.

15. The Barycz Valley is an important site according to the criteria set forth by the Bern Convention (Conservation of the European Wildlife and Natural Habitats). This convention calls for the protection of crucial habitats and lists a number of strictly protected species of plants and animals (App. I and II). The Barycz Valley is habitat for **13 mammals, 159 species of birds (101 breeding), 2 reptile species, and 6 amphibian species** listed in the **Appendix II of the Bern Convention**. Additionally, the Barycz Valley has become an important site for the **globally threatened Ferruginous duck** (*Aythya nyroca*). While Poland has been ranked as the sixth most important country for the preservation of *Aythya nyroca,* **it is the Barycz Valley where almost 100% of the Polish population breeds**. The project site also provides important habitat for the Bittern, a bird species very rare in most parts of Europe.

16. In total, as many as 276 bird species (166 breeding) have been recorded in the valley of the Barycz River. The project site hosts 20% of the Polish population of the Greylag goose *Anser anser*, 15% of the Gadwall *Anas strepera*, 10% of the Black-necked grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*, Red-necked grebe *Podiceps grisegena,* Marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus* and 5% of Bittern *Botaurus stellaris,* Little crake *Porzana parva, and* Common tern *Sterna hirundo*. Together with a few neighboring areas along the Odra River, the project area is the only breeding site of the Whooper swan in Poland.

17. See Annex D for a summary of the estimated numbers of rare species that breed or use the project area during migration.

2.b.iii Institutional characteristics of the project site

18. Poland is divided into regional administrations in which self-governing bodies, counties, municipalities and direct representatives of the office of the Prime Minister coexist in the definition and implementation of development and environmental policy. The self-governing administrations comprise a three-level division: the Voivodship Self-Government (consisting of counties), County (consisting of municipalities) and Municipality. The head of “Voivodship Self-Government” is the “Marshal” and the head of the County, the “Starosta”. The head of the municipality can be the “Village Mayor”, “Mayor”, or “President” depending on the status of the municipality.

19. The self-government structures coexist with a representative from the central authorities in Warsaw. The office of this representative is called the “Voivodship State Administration”. Its leading authority is the “Voivode” who is appointed directly by the office of the Prime Minister. The Voivode is responsible for the execution of central government programs and plans, ensures adherence to the law (providing opinion on province’s development plans and strategies, supervising local development plans for Communities), and issues administrative decisions (e.g. decrees establishing protection plans for Nature Reserves and Landscape Parks).

20. The Voivodship Self-government (through the Marshal Office and its departments) carries the Voivodship development policy, defines Voivodship development strategy and elaborates sectoral programs (e.g. rural areas development programs, environmental protection programs). The self-government structure is not hierarchical. Each of the levels has its own defined responsibilities and may not be directly subordinated to the higher level. Vertically defined responsibilities occur in specifically defined circumstances. Nevertheless, the units are connected by established procedural and functional relationships. For a full description of the functional and hierarchical relations between self-government and state administration units, see Annex E.

21. Within the self-governing and central government structures, there exist a number of institutions participating in this project. Below there is a list of them and their contribution to project objectives:

22. Ministry of Environment (MoE). It provides legal and organizational support for the elaboration of Landscape Park protection plan and of the Park's enlargement.

23. Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). It supervises and coordinates rural development activities, especially those related to the preparation and implementation of agro-environmental program for the Barycz River Valley within the framework of National Agro-environmental Programme.

24. Voivode. It assures compliance with law of the Landscape Park Protection Plan and decides on the Landscape Park enlargement in the Lower Barycz River area.

25. Voivodship Nature Conservation Administration. It supervises all activities in protected areas within the Barycz River Valley, elaborates Landscape Park Protection Plan in collaboration with Lower Silesian Landscape Parks Administration and issues entry permits to the "Stawy Milickie" Nature Reserve.

26. Lower Silesian Landscape Park Administration. It contributes to the development of detailed project plans, carries overall supervision of the project and in cooperation with the Voivodship Nature Conservation Administration it elaborates the protection plan for the Landscape Park.

27. State Enterprise "Stawy Milickie" (Milicz Ponds). It supervises all activities undertaken on the territory of "Milicz Ponds" including: localization, construction and utilization of tourist infrastructure; carrying of nature conservation works aiming at valuable habitats status improvement (e.g. reed cutting).

28. Voivodship Self-government. Within the scope of this project the role of the Voivodship Self-government is to consider strategies for sustainable development in the Barycz River Valley region. The Self-government also co-finances some of the project activities. The Department of Environmental Protection contributes to the elaboration of water protection program for the Barycz River Basin. The Department of Rural Areas Development contributes to the elaboration of agro-environmental program for the Barycz River Valley.

29. Regional Melioration and Water Devices Board. It contributes to the water protection program of Barycz River Basin, carries water management investments (moving the flood embankments away from the riverbed, construction of dams on Barycz River, construction of retention/ recreational reservoir etc).

30. County Self Government Administration. It will contribute to the definition and implementation of regional development strategies and the implementation programs (nature friendly tourism, water management etc.) as well as in the integration of the regional strategy into municipal plans.

31. Municipality Self Government Administration. The Municipalities are the key partners in the project development and implementation. They already have participated in the elaboration of regional

development strategy that is the basis of the project development. The components of the regional development strategy become obligatory local laws by the Municipal Council resolution. Municipalities also participate in the elaboration of Landscape Park protection plans.

32. See Annex E for a more detailed description of responsibilities and involvement in project activities of these institutions.

2.b.iv. Threats and root causes

33. The transformation of Poland from a centrally planned economy to a market based one was a radical change that affected all social and managerial structures in the country and set the stage for rapid economic development. The process of economic transition was difficult for the regions and momentarily relegated to a second place issues like integrated ecosystem management. With reforms successfully in place and with economic growth picking up in most of the country, the negative aspects of lacking an integrated approach to the use of land, water and biodiversity resources became more clearly noticed. For example, the transformation process opened up new development pressures on natural habitats, like meadows and wetlands, whose destruction results in diminished habitat for globally important biodiversity and a diminished capacity of the ecosystem to act as a natural water filter.

34. The inappropriate integration of land, water and biodiversity concerns into development planning has resulted in the emergence of three main immediate threats: (i) encroachment into critical habitats, particularly by tourism-related activities; (ii) water pollution from agricultural run-off and households; and, (iii) changes in farming practices that result in both the abandonment of meadows and a diminishing area of fishponds important for conservation of biodiversity. Stakeholders identified a poor integration of biodiversity concerns into development planning as the root cause of threats to biodiversity, particularly, the encroachment into critical habitats.

35. Stakeholders agreed on that failure to integrate biodiversity conservation into development of the Barycz Valley will affect a number of species that are highly responsive to habitat disturbance, among them the Greylag goose, Curlew, Crane, and all raptors, including the very rare White tailed eagle and Red kite. A description of threats follows immediately below:

36. Encroachment into critical habitats. The re-organization of the institutional fabric that took place in the last 10 years has been of a radical nature and took place in a short period of time. The political and economic transformation did succeed in promoting development. However, the integration of biodiversity conservation into economic development has not been successful. In the case of the Barycz Valley, this has been reflected in habitat degradation from development activities. One of them is tourism, an activity that is growing rapidly and becoming an attractive source of income for local inhabitants. The Barycz Valley has a great potential as a tourist destination. The local municipalities have already received several proposals for development of tourist attractions, which if carried out would have a detrimental effect on important sites. For example, there are proposals for tourist infrastructure in the polder near Zmigrod, a large meadow complex, which would be converted into a lake for swimming and recreational activities. A similar initiative has been put forward for the Gadzinowe Ponds near Milicz, an important waterbody that lacks protection status. Stakeholders agree that rather than halting the growth of the tourism sector, there is a great potential for *integrating* biodiversity concerns *into* the growth of the sector.

37. Stakeholders gathered during PDF-A agreed on that stopping and preventing the degradation of habitats from development in general requires a multisectoral, long-term, approach coupled with the investment of significant financial resources. The existing consensus among stakeholders is that the economic development of municipalities within the Barycz River Basin should be respectful of the environment and conservation of biodiversity.

38. Water pollution. The lack of integration of biodiversity concerns into development planning also translates into habitat degradation by water pollution. Excessive concentrations of nutrients in the water accelerates natural vegetative successions in ponds, which in turn undermines their capacity to serve as habitats for globally significant biodiversity. At the same time, the destruction of some habitats that act as natural bio-filters, like flooding areas, is further aggravating the water pollution problem.

39. The negative impacts of water pollution affect not only the project site, the Barycz Valley, but contribute to pollution in the Baltic System. The Barycz River flows into the Odra River and from there to the Baltic Sea at the city of Szczecin. Data gathered during PDF-A indicate that the Barycz River is one of the three Odra tributary rivers with the largest non-point pollution load. Pollution of aquatic ecosystems in the Barycz Valley thus exerts a negative impact both on the project area and on water quality in the Baltic Sea, which is the object of another GEF International Waters intervention.

40. The most serious pollution loads in the Barycz river originate from non-point sources. Data gathered during PDF-A indicate that the Barycz River is one of the three Odra tributary rivers with the largest non-point pollution load. To a great extent, pollution is the result of inappropriate farming practices that go beyond an excessive use of agrochemicals. Often, fields are ploughed to the very edge (bank) of the rivers leaving no buffer strip that could diminish the direct flow of substances (soil, nutrients, chemicals etc.) into the open water bodies. Pollution also originates in a degraded farming infrastructure like malfunctioning manure plates. There is also a lack of awareness about the correct application protocols of agrochemicals that could result in diminished pollution loads and diminished input costs. Public awareness about these issues is low and sometimes protection of water courses have come at the expense of conflict. The ban on most poisonous pesticides in the Barycz Valley Landscape Park elicited strong protests from some farmers.

41. In terms of point-source pollution, the data provided by the Institute of Environmental Protection in Wroclaw estimates that about 40% of industrial sewage water in the Barycz Valley is discharged without treatment and that only 4.4% of households are connected to the sewage network. During the PDF-A phase, and as part of a prioritization exercise carried out by municipalities, it was found out that the villages of Pepowo, Sulow and Winsko produce the highest amount of untreated sewage. In addition, Milicz, the central town of the region, discharges to the Barycz River only partially treated sewage. Comparing information on localization of sewage discharge sources and environmentally sensitive areas, the PDF-A team and municipalities found out that the priority actions should be focused in the areas of Sulow, Winsko and Milicz.

42. There are also problems with solid waste management as the majority of waste is disposed of in illegal waste dumps. Pilot research conducted during PDF-A in the municipality of Winsko showed that majority of illegal waste dumps has not been properly identified[4].

43. Stakeholders agreed on that solving the problem of point and non-point sources of water pollution requires a collaborative effort by the municipalities in the Barycz Basin. The same root causes identified in the case of encroachment of critical habitats (the lack of experience in coordinating municipal plans and insufficient mechanism for integrated approaches to development) apply for the problem of water pollution.

44. Abandonment of ponds and meadows. The changes in farming practices that took place since 1990 are having an impact on biodiversity in the Barycz Valley. A large number of bird species that breed in the area (e.g. storks, geese, and waders) requires open habitats with short vegetation. In addition, several

[4] During PDF-A, fifty sites were identified whereas the official data showed the existence of only three.

other animals and plant species depend for their survival on open, wet, and low-nutrient habitats. Such habitats have been created and maintained by agricultural use of land, particularly by animal grazing. When grazing is discontinued, meadows are overgrown by bushes and then by forests. Nowadays meadow areas are becoming scarce due to the changes in agricultural practices. Milk production, for example, has declined by 67% in the last 10 years. The result is declining grazing pressure. A reduced area covered by meadows has caused a corresponding decrease in the number of birds that use meadows for breeding, the decrease of feeding grounds for bird species such as Storks (White and Black), and pond breeders such as the Graylag goose and Crane. In general, the drainage of wetlands and wet meadows results in a lower quality of feeding and breeding grounds. Stakeholders agreed on that even though it may not be possible to go back to past grazing levels, it is feasible to ensure the long-term conservation of selected critical meadows.

45. The changes in farming practices are also affecting the sustainability of fishponds. Fishponds are an important component in the mosaic of habitats in the Barycz Valley and contribute much to maintain high levels of biodiversity. While in the recent past the major problems to biodiversity conservation in the Milicz Ponds Reserve was intensive fish farming, today fish production on the Milicz Ponds is declining. This result is an excessive water plant succession, mainly reed. This causes not only a reduction of ponds' productivity but also a drastic simplification of habitats structure. In turn, this results in a decrease of ponds' area suitable as habitats for endangered species [5]. Stakeholders agree on that even though it may not be feasible to conserve all existing fishponds in operation, it is feasible to ensure the long-term conservation of the most critical ones.

Root causes

46. Stakeholders consulted during PDF-A stage identified the following root-causes of biodiversity loss.

47. Weak integration of biodiversity concerns into development planning. Even though the reforms of the last decade have resulted in remarkable improvements in the institutional setting (e.g. more responsive to stakeholder interests; delegation of power to local authorities) the array of institutions with a mandate on habitat and biodiversity conservation still fall short of coordinating their efforts and of integrating global biodiversity concerns into their development plans.

48. While the principal stakeholders in the Barycz Valley have agreed on the need for an economic development model that is respectful of the region's natural heritage[6], they are still unfamiliar with the process and tools with which economic development can be integrated with biodiversity conservation and other environmental priorities. This originates in decades under a centrally planned approach in which the integration of environmental and biodiversity concerns into development was not prioritized. There is insufficient harmonization amongst stakeholders, and existing capacity is not used effectively. This lack of coordination and integration has been identified as the main root cause of biodiversity loss.

49. Changes in the socio-economic situation after 1990. Biodiversity conservation is being impacted by the resulting change in economic activities triggered by the last decade of political and economic reforms. For example, farmers have been affected by the last decade of reforms and many have abandoned their fields. The abandoning and overgrowing of meadows reflects the difficulties in the farming sector. The drastic reduction in pre-1989 state subsidies and the introduction of market-oriented incentives has exposed the many weaknesses of the Polish rural sector under communist rule. The decline in state subsidies has left farmers in a precarious situation to experiment and/or adopt alternative production techniques or alternative livelihoods. Decades under communist rule have significantly eroded knowledge

[5] It is possible to contain overgrowing of reed by floating mowing machines. However, mowing would overlap with the breeding season for birds and would thus require a strict supervision.
[6] This agreement was formalized in the development of the RSDS by the municipalities of the Barycz Valley.

on alternatives agro-ecosystem management. The combination of financial and technical constraints impedes the adoption of attractive alternative practices.

50. On the other hand, the last decade of socio-economic reforms have produce clear winners, the tourism industry among them. Pressure to open space for recreational facilities, even in globally significant habitats, is strong. There are proposals for tourist infrastructure in habitat that is important for globally significant biodiversity. There are plans to convert the polder near Zmigrod, a large meadow complex, into a lake for swimming and recreational activities. A similar initiative has been put forward for the Gadzinowe Ponds near Milicz, an important waterbody that lacks protection status.

2.b.v. Summary description of project strategy

51. Beginning in early 2002, and with PDF-A technical and financial support, the municipal authorities, NGOs, scientists and other local stakeholders defined a set of broad actions aimed at integrating long-term conservation of the environment and biodiversity into the development of the Barycz Valley integrates. These actions were put in a joint document entitled "Regional Sustainable Development Strategy" (RSDS).

52. The RSDS consists of 3 chapters addressing economic, social, and environmental problems of the Barycz Valley plus a fourth one outlining the main principles for its implementation. The RSDS is a comprehensive effort aimed at implementing an **integrated ecosystem management** to the use of land, water and biodiversity resources in the Barycz Valley.

53. The PDF-A technical and financial resources assisted in the development of the RSDS ensuring that global biodiversity concerns would be fully integrated into the strategy. This process involved all municipalities in the catchment area. The elaboration of the strategy was completed in September 2002. The time frame for the strategy is 15 years.

54. The project strategy comprises the following avenue of action:

55. First, the RSDS is a strategy document and as such requires greater definition of its actions. The project will provide technical support to complete the definition of these actions and ensure that they take fully into account global concerns in the area of biodiversity and international waters. Stakeholders will define 5 "Implementation Programs" (IPs) in the areas of (i) nature tourism; (ii) decreasing pollution loads into international water systems; (iii) nature-friendly fish farming; (iv) conservation of meadows and (v) public support for biodiversity conservation.

56. Second, the project will assist municipalities in making the RSDS a binding document. This will be done by incorporating the RSDS objectives and their implementation programs into (i) the municipalities' land use plans, and (ii) the management plan of the Barycz Valley Landscape Park. This action ensures the implementation of the RSDS after project termination date[7].

57. Fourth, upon definition of the IPs (see bullet point "1" in this section), the project will make use of the substantive co-financing available to facilitate their selected implementation for demonstration purposes. These will highlight the practical results and benefits from the application of the RSDS. Municipalities and other stakeholders have agreed to implement pilot activities in the areas of nature tourism, agricultural runoff and household water pollution, conservation of biodiversity in meadows and fish farms and public support for biodiversity conservation. These pilot activities reflect the principle of integrated ecosystem management and generate benefits on two GEF focal areas. They will result in the

[7] Land-use plans constitute legal documents that regulate the location, type and intensity of development activities in municipal land. They become local law after their endorsement by municipal councils. In addition, and by law, local management and land use plans of municipalities should comply with the Landscape Park Management Plan.

protection of biodiversity of global significance and diminishing pollution loads entering international water bodies, the Baltic system in this case.

58. Finally, the project will ensure that best lessons learned are transferred to other globally significant riverine valleys in Poland. Some of the most innovative and interesting aspects of this project are (i) the collaboration between municipalities, NGOs and the landscape park in the development of the RSDS, and (ii) the tools to make the RSDS operational and binding. The project will provide support for information and experience sharing with other municipalities and protected areas about best lessons learned from this process.

2.b.vi. Description of project objectives, outputs and activities

59. The project will ensure conservation of biodiversity within the process of regional socio-economic development in the Barycz Valley. Lessons learned would then be shared and replicated to other riverine valleys in Poland.

60. The project has two immediate objectives. The first one is to make the recently developed RSDS operational and binding. The second immediate objective is to transfer lessons and experiences to other globally significant riverine valleys in Poland.

61. The accomplishment of the immediate objective #1 requires that the contents of the RSDS be further elaborated, translated into detailed IPs and specified for every municipality in the Barycz Basin. This demands a tight coordination and close collaboration among municipal authorities and other stakeholders in order to ensure coherence and maximize synergies. It also requires that the coordinated agreed set of actions be binding for overall regional development. The agreed avenue to make the RSDS binding is (i) to incorporate its actions into the development and land use plans of the municipalities, and simultaneously (ii) to incorporate its actions into the management plan of the Barycz Valley Landscape Park.

62. The incorporation of the RSDS into the development and land use plans of municipalities and into the management plan of the Landscape Park has two direct impacts. The first is to ensure coherence of municipal land use and development plans at the basin level, thus directly addressing a root cause of biodiversity loss. The second is to ensure that future revisions to municipal land use and development plans maintain coherence with the goals of the RSDS. The Landscape Park Management Plan is a document that takes priority over local plans and therefore ensures that future changes to these plans do not contradict the long-term objective of ensuring development, protecting the environment and conserving biodiversity of local and global importance. The incorporation of the RSDS into municipal land use plans and the Landscape Park management plan constitutes the output #1.1 for immediate objective #1.

63. Municipalities have decided to work on three groups. Within each group there will be a municipality taking the lead and ensuring coordination and information exchange with the other two groups. Not all municipalities in the Barycz River Basin are scheduled to revise their land use and development plans within the time frame of the project. The revisions to the municipal plans happen about every 10 years but the change does not take place for all municipalities at the same time. The project will therefore concentrate on those municipalities that are expected to revise their plans during the project timeframe. Municipalities not initially included in this process will be kept fully informed and their inputs taken into account for actions that present transboundary effects. Stakeholders will be able to learn best practices, gain experience and become comfortable with the concept and tools for integrated management and planning. By the time the project ends, a second wave of municipalities will repeat the exercise.

64. The elaboration and specification of the RSDS for municipalities will take place through "Implementation Programs". The elaboration of these implementation programs constitute Output 1.2 towards immediate objective 1 and will encompass the following areas:

- Nature-friendly tourism,
- Decreasing pollution loads into international water systems
- Environmentally friendly fish farming,
- Multiple use of meadows, and
- Public awareness and support.

65. Within each of these implementation programs, the municipalities and other local stakeholders have agreed on a list of pilot actions (see Annex H). These pilot activities, which were defined during PDF-A stage, constitute:

- Priorities for the municipalities,
- Priorities for conservation of biodiversity,
- A Strategic Priority of the GEF International Waters Focal Area, which is the implementation of Strategic Action Plans, in this case, the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, which calls for decreasing pollution loads entering the Baltic Sea.
- Form an integral part of the RSDS.

66. These pilot actions will have a demonstration purpose, bring tangible and measurable results on two GEF focal areas (biodiversity and International Waters) and give a first sense of the importance of the RSDS for the overall development of the Barycz Valley. The completion of these pilot activities constitutes Output 1.3 and possesses significant co-financing (1:30).

67. Below there is list of selected activities. The complete list is available in Annex H:

Nature-friendly tourism

- Execution of pilot elements of the tourism educational trails infrastructure;
- Building of facilities for swimming and recreation in approved sectors;
- Promotion of nature-friendly tourism program and its implementation;
- Promotion and dissemination of the eco-labeling system;
- Training in nature-friendly tourism;
- Introduction of the Stork Label - The "Stork labeling" is a strategy to differentiate products and services based on their impact on the environment. The Stork label would vary from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Membership would be voluntary and inspections made by an independent body. The project will assist in the definition of requirements for each category (1-5), the establishment of the inspection body, the promotion of local products and services that show the Stork brand, and in organizing and expanding of the distribution network of local products. The project will also assist local producers in the establishment of producer groups, basic elements of marketing and promotion, best means of production of goods and services and use of distribution networks.

Decreasing pollution loads into international water systems

- Technical support: selection of the concept and technical project elaboration for water purification system in the Łacha model area;
- Household wastewater treatment facilities (construction of manure containers combined with conduction of series of workshops for farmers on construction of the containers); (free of charge) technical projects (of containers and plants) for the workshop participants.

- Executing of the pilot investments affecting environmentally sensitive areas: biological (root-based) wastewater treatment plant for the Łacha model area.
- Overall application of the "Agricultural Best Practices Guide" with a first emphasis on the establishment of manure containers (construction of manure containers combined with conduction of series of workshops for farmers on construction of the containers);
- Pilot /model implementation of waste management system in selected boroughs (Twardogora), including eradication of the illegal dumping sites.
- Replication/promotion of the pilot solutions in all local communities within the Barycz River Basin and other protected areas via workshops, study-visits, etc.

Environmentally-friendly fish farming

- Improving water management infrastructure necessary for the operation of ponds.
- Reed cutting (purchase of reed cutters, cutting, conservation supervision). Degradation of habitats occurred as a result of the economic crisis and transition to a market economy.
- Promotion of the fish produced with extensive methods;

Conservation and multiple use of meadows

- Model implementation of the agro-environmental scheme on meadows managed by the PTPP "pro Natura" in co-operation with local farmers
- On the 4th km of the Sąsiecznica River course, the flooding dams will be moved further away from the River, increasing flood retention capacity and water purification ability (during the overflows), thus, benefiting the nature.
- Restoration of meadows with degraded nature values;
- Establishment of producer group for the straw and hay suppliers;
- Management of restored meadows for nature (purchase of equipment, mowing, grazing);
- Purchase of meadows;

Public awareness and support

- Development of the co-workers network based on leaders/educators from local institutions cooperating in project implementation (the PDF-A showed that teachers, people working at tourist centers, etc constitute a group of professionals that would willingly help the project in public awareness activities at schools, cultural center, information centers, etc. In consultations with them, it was agreed that the project would undertake regular exercises on capacity building and training on environmental and biodiversity protection for dissemination at their places of work).
- Implementation of the "White Stork" project - involvement of teachers from at least 50 schools into project implementation. Teachers together with students will conduct monitoring/estimation of the state of the White Stork population in the BRV and in this way will monitor the state of threatened habitats (wetlands, open green spaces, etc.) and undertake concrete conservation actions with participation of local communities;
- Assistance to 14 institutions forming the network of local education centers;
- Yearly workshops for key target groups (public servants of boroughs and counties, owners of the fish farms, managers of sacral objects – church buildings, cemeteries, designers and planners, landowners, etc.);
- Creation of the media database system on BRV region (local, regional and specialized), maintenance of contacts on a regular basis;
- Regular service for the media (press releases on important events, justification (explanation) of problems and solutions);
- Co-operation with the tourist office / information stands / organizations;

68. The immediate objective #2 is to take stock of lessons learned for replication within the Barycz River and in other riverine valleys within the national system of protected areas. Replication of best lessons learned will emphasize the most innovative and interesting aspects of the project: the joint work of municipalities, NGOs, the Landscape Park management and regional and central authorities to agree and implement an overall development framework for the next 15 years. The Barycz Valley constitutes a complex mosaic of human activities and globally significant habitats under the jurisdiction of a rich matrix of institutions with a mandate on the environment. The project expects a wealth of lessons from the process of integrating biodiversity into development planning, particularly in the area of conflict resolution.

69. Within the administrative boundaries of the Barycz Valley, replication will take place through work with municipalities located within the Odra River Valley with the long-term objective of expanding the Barycz River Valley Landscape Park to form a "Barycz-Odra" system of protected areas (see map in Annex C)[8]. In addition, the project expects that at least 5 other riverine valleys will have been identified as candidates for transfer of lessons learned. Riverine valleys having the greatest impact on water quality on the Baltic Sea will take priority for replication. Municipalities, authorities from protected areas, and representatives of self-government and central institutions from other riverine valleys will be targeted for participation in selected project activities and information sharing and exchange. The project expects that at least 5 other riverine valleys will replicate best lessons learned from the process of elaboration and implementation of the RSDS in the Barycz Valley.

70. For the full list of activities and indicators see Annex A Logical Framework Matrix.

2.C. Sustainability (including financial sustainability)

71. The project strategy to ensure the sustainability of project objectives is the incorporation of the RSDS into the land use and development plans of the municipalities and into the management plan of the Barycz Valley Landscape Park. These actions make the elements of the RSDS binding for future development in the Barycz Valley.

72. The land use and development plans of the municipality define the type and intensity of development activities allowed within the municipal boundaries. These plans are usually revised every ten years thus providing a medium to long-term vision for development. In addition, the project will incorporate the RSDS into the management plan of the Barycz Valley Landscape Park. The management plan of the Landscape Park takes priority over local plans and therefore it avoids changes in municipal land use plans that conflict with the RDSD.

73. The financial sustainability of the project is ensured through the available co-financing sources. As its budget indicates, this project possesses substantive co-financing to execute the pilot demonstration projects. The experience gathered during the PDF-A process is that external sources of financing are available to execute the elements of the RSDS during and after project timeframe.

[8] To achieve this goal it is important to work in collaboration with municipalities located in the proposed enlargement area (in order to acquire their acceptance for the Landscape Park enlargement). Specifically, replication of best lessons and collaboration will take place with municipalities partially located within the Barycz River Valley and partially within Oder River Valley (Niechlow, Szlichtyngowa, Winsko). This collaboration and replication will result in the expansion of the national system of protected areas.

2.D. Replicability

74. The replication potential of the project is considerable given the existence of similar threats to biodiversity in other riverine valleys in Poland. The actions taken by this project, in particular the adoption of a participatory integrated approach to the management of the river basin, have a high replication potential in other protected areas in Poland (not only in other riverine valleys). The project works overwhelmingly with local research institutions and NGOs and expects this pool of expertise to remain in the country and be available for work beyond the boundaries of the Barycz Valley.

75. The project possesses a specific immediate objective aimed at replicating best lessons learned to other riverine valleys in Poland. As a first step, the project targets replication in at least additional 5 sites outside the Barycz Valley. Special attention will be given to the area of within the Odra River Valley, specifically the municipalities of Niechlow, Szlichtyngowa and Winsko, which are located at the junction of the Barycz and Odra rivers. These municipalities are best located to adopt best lessons learned from the Barycz Valley with the objective of establishing the Middle Oder River Landscape Park thus forming a Barycz-Odra system of protected areas (see Annex C).

76. The project will systematically undertake information dissemination and knowledge sharing activities. There will be regular meetings with experts, the public and authorities from other sites in Poland to share information on the status of project activities, successes and difficulties. These meetings will take the form of local and regional roundtables and will be led by municipalities and the authorities of the landscape park. At a later stage, once lessons from the implementation of the RSDS are understood and assimilated, stakeholders will proceed to define a formal mechanism for replication of best lessons learned to other riverine valleys. One involves the Ministry of Environment of Poland as the leading agency with the collaboration of the LSLPA and GPLPA. Other mechanisms for information dissemination, experience sharing and replication will be analyzed and discussed during project implementation phase. Finally, the project plans to make full use of the Sub-regional Resource Facilities and the Environment Network of UNDP to exchange information with other projects, experts and institutions.

2.E. Stakeholder Involvement

2.e.i. Describe briefly how stakeholders have been involved in project development

77. The definition of project's objectives and outputs was a result of the public consultations process implemented as part of the preparation of the Strategy for Sustainable Development of Barycz River Valley. The method applied was a series of workshops that counted with the participation of 30 boroughs and municipalities, the nature protection authorities and environmental, tourist, agrarian and other organizations. In total, over 100 persons participated in the workshops that led to the elaboration of the Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Barycz Valley and this project document.

2.e.ii. Roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders in project implementation

78. The project counts with stakeholders from (i) Self-Government level, (ii) State Administration, and (iii) NGOs and private individuals. Below there is a brief summary of their involvement in project activities.

79. The roles and responsibilities of stakeholders from the self-government level is the following:

80. Municipalities and Counties. Because of their mandate over resource use and landscape planning, municipalities are the main partners in the implementation of project activities. A crucial role of municipalities is the elaboration and approval of local regulations reflecting the contents of the agreed

Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Barycz Valley. That is, the municipalities through their council's resolutions implement the Strategy's principles.

81. In turn, counties coordinate the work of municipalities when project activities are at the county level. Municipalities and counties participate in the elaboration and implementation of the Strategy, its monitoring, and in the elaboration of the Landscape Park Protection Plan.

82. Association of Municipalities and Counties of Barycz River Valley. The municipalities of the Barycz Valley created this association during PDF-A in order to facilitate the implementation of this GEF project. The Association will facilitate coordination of activities of local self-governments at the regional level, ensure exchange of information among self-governments and provide organizational support to all project activities conducted by local self-governments. The Association will organize consultative workshops for the implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Barycz Valley and the Landscape Park Protection Plan. The Chairman of the Association, as a representative of local self-governments, will participate in the project development and monitoring as a member of the project Steering Committee.

83. Voivodship Self-government – (Marshal Office). This self-government body will provide political and financial support for project activities through (i) co-financing for the elaboration of the Landscape Park Protection Plan and investments in waste management, and (ii) promoting the incorporation of the Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Barycz River Valley into the Voivodship's development and plan. The Marshal Office also participates in the project development and monitoring via its representative in the project Steering Committee.

84. The Regional Melioration and Water Devices Board. It participates in the elaboration of the implementation program for the improvement of water quality in the River basin. The Board also implements and co-finances some investments related to the water management within the tourism sector (construction of retention/recreational reservoir) and improvement of ponds water supply (restoration of sluices within the Barycz River Valley). The Board will also participate in the project development and monitoring via its representative in the project Steering Committee.

85. Schools and education centers from the Barycz River Valley. Schools and education centers from the Barycz River Valley actively participate in the building of public support for the implementation of the RSDS. They take a leading role in the creation of the network of co-workers and provide support in reaching a wider society and gaining of confidence from the local communities.

86. The roles and responsibilities of stakeholders from the state administration is the following:

87. Ministry of Environment. It provides legal and organizational support for the elaboration of the Landscape Park Protection Plan and the enlargement of the Lower Barycz Valley Park.

88. Ministry of Agriculture. It provides legal and organizational support for the implementation of the agro-environmental program in the territory of the Barycz River Valley within the framework of National Agro-Environmental Program. The Ministry also participates in the project development and monitoring via its representative in the project Steering Committee.

89. Voivodship Nature Conservation Administration. It represents the Voivode in the implementation of the Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Barycz River Valley and participates in the development of Landscape Park Protection Plan, which must be approved by the Voivode. It also participates in the project development and monitoring via its representative in the project Steering Committee.

90. Lower Silesian Landscape Parks Administration (LSLPA) and Great Poland Landscape Parks Administration (GPLPA). Both entities participate in the implementation of the Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Barycz River Valley and are part of the Project Steering Committee. The LSLPA and GPLPA are legally responsible for the definition and implementation of the Landscape Parks Protection Plans and are key partners in the replication of best lessons learned to other riverine valleys in Poland.

91. State Enterprise "Stawy Milickie" (Milicz Ponds). It participates in planning and implementation of all project activities for nature-friendly fish farming implemented in the territory of the "Stawy Milickie" (Milicz Ponds) reserve.

92. The roles and responsibilities of NGOs and private individuals is the following:

93. Ecological, tourist and agrarian organizations. NGOs play an important role in the building of public support for the implementation of the RSDS. NGOs include (i) the Lower Silesian Foundation for Sustainable Development, which participates in the elaboration and implementation of nature-friendly tourism, sharing of best lessons in the field of environmentally friendly agricultural practices and utilization of biomass as a bio-fuel; (ii) Foundation "Zielona Akcja" (Foundation "Green Action"), which elaborates and implements a program on "water-friendly" solid waste management; (iii) Agro-tourism associations and the ecological farmers association "EKOLAND", which participates in the development of network of agro-tourism farms and co-operation in the creation and promotion of a "Barycz River Valley" brand name.

94. Individual farmers. They participate in the implementation of alternative management methods for meadows and pastures important for nature conservation and the application of the Agricultural Best Practices Guide (e.g. construction of manure-containers, household wastewater treatment facilities, etc). They also participate in the development and promotion of the Barycz Valley brand name.

2.F Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

95. This section provides a description of indicators, sources of data and implementation arrangements for monitoring during and after project termination date.

2.f.i. Indicators for long-term objective

96. Description of indicator. There are to indicators for long-term success and they measure impact on two GEF focal areas, biodiversity and international waters.

97. For the biodiversity focal area, the indicator of success is the change in the rate of habitat utilization by species of global and national significance. For the Barycz Valley, the definition of the percentage variation required to declare success will be define before the end of year 2 of the project at the time further inputs from local research institutions will be made available. The definition of this indicator will be formally incorporated into the project as part of the Project Annual Review at the end of year 2. The responsibilities for data collection and analysis during and after project timeframe will be also formalized at that time.

98. For the international waters focal area, the indicator of success is that the contribution of the Barycz Valley towards pollution in the Baltic Sea is reduced by at least half the current baseline 10 years after the start up of the project. The value of the current baseline for pollution discharge will be updated before the end of year 2 of the project. The project implementation unit will have primary responsibility in data collection and reporting and it will count with technical support from local research institutions. The

responsibilities for data collection and analysis after project timeframe will be formalized by year 3 of the project. However, and based on discussions during PDF-A, it is expected that the Association of Municipalities would take the leading role supported technically from local academic institutions.

2.f.ii. Indicators for immediate objectives

99. Description of indicators. Immediate Objective #1 possesses two indicators and compliance with both is needed to declare the objective achieved. Immediate Objective #1 is "To make the recently developed Regional Sustainable Development Strategy operational and binding by the end of project" and there are two indicators to measure success. The first indicator measures whether the elements of the RSDS have been incorporated into development and land use plans of at least 90% of municipalities located in the Barycz Valley as well as into the conservation plan of the Landscape Park.

100. By "incorporation" we refer to having the land use and development plans of the municipalities reflecting the different elements of the RSDS. For example, if an IP states that a given number of fish ponds and meadows will be placed under protection status, "incorporation" means that these ponds and meadows are identified in the land use and development plans of the municipalities and are shown as protected areas. In the case of the landscape park, incorporation of the elements of the RSDS means that the proposed zoning and priority conservation activities in the conservation plan of the Landscape Park reflect those agreed under the RSDS.

101. The second indicator of immediate objective #1 measures the degree of adoption of the RSDS by those municipalities whose land use plans will be updated after project termination date. Because the project concentrates efforts primarily on those municipalities that are scheduled to formulate or update their land use plans during project timeframe, the adoption of the RSDS for the whole basin is schedule to happen in two successive waves. Thus the indicator of success is that by project termination date at least 60% of municipalities from the whole river basin will begin to update their development and land use plans in line with the contents of the RSDS

102. Immediate Objective #2 possesses a single indicator and this is the replication of best lessons learned to at least additional 5 sites outside the Barycz Valley. These sites are expected to be riverine valleys within the national system of protected areas. Main lessons learned are likely to comprise those from the process of development of the RSDS, the process of making it binding and the conflict resolution strategies applied when integrating biodiversity concerns into production sectors.

103. Sources of data, responsibility for data collection and reporting, and budget. The sources of data will be the land use and development plans of the municipalities, the conservation plan of the Landscape Park, project's Steering Committee minutes, and the minutes of the Association of the Local Communes. The responsibility for data gathering and reporting will fall on the project implementation unit (PIU). Expenses on data collection and reporting will be covered by the regular budget of the PIU.

2.f.iii. Indicators for project outputs

104. Description of indicators. Output 1.1 is to have the RSDS integrated into local and regional planning documents. It possesses 4 indicators and compliance with the following three is required to declare the output achieved. These are (i) to complete the conservation plan of the Landscape Park by year 3 of the project in line with the contents of the RSDS; (ii) to have 17 municipalities having their land use and development plans in line with the RSDS and (iii) and to have 17 municipalities signing cooperation agreements for the implementation of the RSDS's implementation programs. Compliance with the remaining indicator, which is the incorporation of the RSDS into the Voivodship's program, will signal outperforming.

105. Output 1.2 is the RSDS reflected into implementation programs. There are five indicators for this output and compliance with all of them is needed to declare the output achieved. The indicators measure the existence of programs in the area of tourism, water quality, fish farming, multiuse and conservation on meadows and public awareness and support.

106. Output 1.3 is to have the IP under execution. It possesses 5 sub-outputs, each referring to an implementation program in particular. For the program on tourism, there are three indicators that measure achievement of the sub-output. The first is to have the pilot priority elements of the tourism infrastructure in place by year 3 of the project. The second indicator is to have a given percentage of providers of products and services adopting the stork labeling by year 3. The specific percentage will be defined after 12 months after project starting date when additional information on confirmed participants is available. The third indicator is to have at least 50 entities providing eco-tourism services by year 3.

107. For sub-output 1.3.2 (water program), the indicator is to have at least 3,000 families added to the water treatment system by year 3 of the project. For the long-term, the indicator is a reduction by half of main pollutants in the Barycz River. Sub-output 1.3.3 (nature-friendly fish farming), the indicator is to have 400 ha of ponds with improved water supply by year 3 of the project, whereas "improve" refers to water quality that avoids eutrophication and the overgrowing of water bodies with vegetation (this allows birds to nest in ponds).

108. For sub-output 1.3.4, the indicator is to achieve 2,000 ha of meadows under conservation status by year 3 of the project, which includes management to maintain their habitat quality. Finally, for sub-output 1.3.5, there are 2 indicators that measure achievement. The first is the existence by year 3 of 60 institutions participating in the development of the Barycz Valley co-worker network. The second indicator is to have by year 3 at least 100 public servants that have gone through the project's training and public support program.

109. Output 2.1 delivers a plan for replication of best lessons agreed and operational. The project expects the collaborative work between municipalities, NGOs and authorities of the Landscape Park to provide a rich set of lessons in conflict resolution and integration of biodiversity into planning and production sectors. The indicator of success is to have at least 5 additional sites identified and confirmed for replication of experiences and best lessons by year 3 of the project. The confirmation would take the form of a signed memorandum between municipalities, the project and authorities of the protected areas.

110. Sources of data, responsibility for data collection and reporting, and budget. The sources of data will be project documentation, minutes of the project's Steering Committee meetings, minutes of meetings of the Association of the Local Communes, and data gathered by research and management institutions. The responsibility for data gathering and reporting will fall on the project implementation unit (PIU). Expenses on data collection and reporting will be covered by the regular budget of the PIU.

2.f.iv Inception Report, Work Plans and Monitoring Plan

111. A Project Implementation Plan (PIP) will be prepared by the project team as part of the project inception workshop in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. It will include a general work plan for all project components. The project team will prepare annual work plans, comprising provision of inputs, activities and expected results as well as time schedules and persons/ institutions responsible for inputs and results.

112. Project objectives, outputs and emerging issues will be regularly reviewed and evaluated by the Project Steering Committee at annual or otherwise scheduled meetings. The project will be subject to the various evaluation and review mechanisms of UNDP, including the Annual Programme/Project Report

(APR/PIR), Tripartite Review meetings (TPR), external Mid-term and Final Evaluations, annual financial audits, budget revisions, and quarterly progress reports prior to termination of the project. The project will participate in the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) exercise of GEF through harmonized APR/PIR reports.

113. Indicators are well described in paragraphs 96-109 for long-term success by focal area, immediate objectives and project outputs. Progress toward meeting indicators/targets will be assessed annually and will be used as material to adapt project implementation and operations in order to meet long-term goals.

114. The mid-term review will focus on relevance, performance (effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness), issues requiring decisions and actions, and initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. The final evaluation will focus on similar issues as the mid-term evaluation but will also look at early signs of impact and sustainability of results, including contributions to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental goals. Recommendations on follow-up activities will also be provided.

115. Approximately 1% of project funds will be allocated for the M&E to be undertaken by independent experts and UNDP. The evaluation process will be carried out according to standard procedures and formats in line with GEF requirements. The process will include:

(i) collection and analysis of data on the project including an overall assessment, the achievement of clearly defined objectives and performance with verifiable indicators, annual reviews, and

(ii) description and analysis of stakeholder participation in project implementation. Explanations will be given on how the monitoring and evaluation results will be used to adjust the implementation of the project if required and to replicate the results throughout the region. As far as possible, the M&E process will measure project performance and progress against a detailed work-plan and the Logical Framework found in the project document.

116. The project design includes the communication of all project findings to concerned and interested parties. In this context, and to ensure maximum transparency, all results of M&E performance review, etc., will be communicated to all stakeholders and interested parties of the public.

Monitoring and Evaluation Scheme

Activity / Report	2004				2005				2006				2007			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Inception Report with Project Implementation Plan		X														
Annual Programme Report					X*				X*					X*		
Tripartite Review and Report					X				X					X		
Project Implementation Review					X*				X*					X*		
Mid-term								X								

Evaluation																
Final Evaluation														X		
Terminal Report														X		
Audit					X				X					X		

- the APR and the PIR have been combined into 1 report.

Please see* ANNEX I *for detailed Monitoring and Evaluation budget

2.g. Implementation Arrangements

117. The project will be implemented and executed by PTPP "pro Natura", a leading NGO in the Barycz Valley region, according by UNDP's NGO execution guidelines. During PDF-A, PTPP "pro Natura" had the leading and catalytic role in bringing together all municipalities in the catchment area to produce the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy. The NGO was funded in 1990 and is member of IUCN, Eurosite, CEEWBB and the Coalition for Wetland Conservation. It has a solid relationship with municipal authorities and the administration of the landscape park.

118. The project will count with a Steering Committee agreed by the Ministry of Environment and UNDP. The (tentative) composition of the Steering Committee is as follows:

- Lower Silesian Landscape Parks Administration
- The Ministry of Agriculture
- Voivodship Nature Conservation Administration
- Regional Administration of the State Forest
- Environmental Protection Department of the Marshall Office
- The Regional Melioration and Water Devices Board
- The Great Poland Landscape Parks Administration
- Association of Municipalities and Counties of Barycz River Valley
- The GEF National Committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- UNDP/GEF
- The Voivodship Fund for Environment and Water Management
- The EcoFund Foundation
- A representative from the local office of the World Bank
- The Polish Ecological Club (NGO)
- Ornithological Station of the University of Wroclaw

119. The Steering Committee will be responsible for monitoring, evaluation and supervision of project implementation. The Steering Committee will approve the first workplan for the project and will also approve subsequent annual workplans that will be attached to financial reports. The Committee will be formed of representatives of institutions financing the project, key stakeholders and representatives of governmental agencies, scientific institutions and environmental NGOs.

120. PTPP "pro Natura", in consultation with UNDP and with the approval of the Steering Committee, will appoint a project manager (PM). The selection process will assure competitiveness, transparency and will be done in accordance to the selection criteria defined in TOR. The PM will be responsible for implementing the workplan according to timetable and budget in coordination and collaboration with

UNDP, the administration of the Landscape Parks, municipalities represented by the Association of the Municipalities and Counties of the Barycz Valley, and the Lower Silesian Foundation for Sustainable Development.

FINANCING

3.a. Project Budget by outputs and main activities

Activities	GEF	Others	Total
IO#1: to make regional sustainable development strategy operational and binding	**849,042**	**10,237,351**	**11,110,393**
Output 1.1 The Regional Sustainable Development Strategy incorporated into regional and local planning documents	154,170	0	154,170
Output 1.2 RSDS translated into implementation programs	161,759	69,600	231,359
Output 1.3 Pilot/demonstration elements of implementation programs under execution	533,113	10,167,751	10,700,864
Sub-Output 1.3.1 Pilot implementation of the program for nature friendly tourism	*135,731*	*4,011,083*	*4,146,814*
Sub-Output 1.3.2 Pilot implementation of the program for improvement of water quality in the river basin	*158,558*	*4,685,000*	*4,843,558*
Sub-Output 1.3.3 Pilot implementation of the program of nature-friendly fish farming	*59,701*	*62,500*	*122,201*
Sub-Output 1.3.4 Pilot implementation of the program for conservation and multifunction use of meadows	*40,386*	*1,399,318*	*1,439,704*
Sub-Output 1.3.5 Pilot implementation of the program for the development of public support for the implementation of the IMP	*138,717*	*9,850*	*148,567*
IO #2. To develop and adopt a replication plan of best lessons learned to other riverine valleys in the national system of protected areas	**91,308**	**0**	**91,308**
Output 2.1. A plan for replication of best lessons learned in conservation of riverine valleys established and operational	91,308	0	91,308
Monitoring & Evaluation *	**24,000**	0	**24,000**
TOTAL	**964,350**	**10,237,351**	**11,201,701**

* For detailed M&E plan and budget see ANNEX I

121. Contribution by co-financier

Co-financing source	USD total	122. Description of activities
Borough of Milicz	4,125,000	a) Execution of pilot elements of the tourism educational trails infrastructure (parking lots); b) Preparation of rivers for nature friendly recreational activities, improvement of access to water near sluices and locks in Wróbliniec, Potasznia, Gądkowice, Nowy Zamek, Sławoszowice, Sułów, Niezgoda c) Execution of pilot investments to address problems in environmentally sensitive areas: canalization of the towns of Sławoszowice, Sułów and partial of Milicz.
Borough of Twardogóra	635,000	Pilot implementation of waste management system in selected Twardogora, including eradication of illegal dumping sites
Borough of Winsko	127,480	Pilot biomass installation for heating purposes of the school in Wińsko, which will in turn support demand for hay and straw from meadows of global significance
CICONIA Lichtenstein	3,000	Public awareness activities involving teachers from at least 50 schools. Teachers and students will assist in the monitoring/estimation of the state of the White Stork population in the BRV and monitor the state of threatened habitats (wetlands, open green spaces, etc.)
Deutche Bundesstiftung Umwelt/ WWF-Germany	10,000	Support to activities in the area of nature friendly tourism and production of local products with a BRV trademark
DOC (via Destination 21/Dolnośląska Fundacja Ekorozwoju (DFE))	38,350	Support to the program on nature friendly tourism, including the creation of a program of bicycle tourism (150 km long axe and supplementary infrastructure
Dolnośląska Fundacja Ekorozwoju (DFE)	12,850	a) Support to public awareness activities; b) Promotion and dissemination of the Stork labeling system

EkoFundusz	301,209	a) Restoration of meadows with degraded nature values; b) Co-financing to the pilot biomass installation for heating purposes of the school in Wińsko
Global Nature Fund (Living Lakes) - Germany	26,000	Support to improving water quality in ponds and information campaigns
Local Governments (boroughs)	26,625	Executing of the pilot bicycle trail infrastructure
Ministry of Agriculture	8,250	a) Development of agro-environmental program for environmentally sensitive meadows and pastures in the BRV (compensation program for farmers for applying conservation measures)
Narodowy Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska Gospodarki Wodnej (NFOSiGW)	356,496	a) Support to the program on nature friendly tourism; b) Support to the pilot biomass installation for heating purposes at Wińsko
Parish of Głębowice	78,000	Support to the program on nature friendly tourism, specifically building of accommodation facilities
Regionalny Zarząd Melioracji i Urządzeń Wodnych (RZMiUW)	4,345,141	a) Restoration of three sluices on the Barycz River in order to improve water supply system for nature and fish farming on the ponds; b) Relocation of flooding dams in the Sąsiecznica River course, which will increase flood retention capacity and water purification ability during overflows
Wojewódzki Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska i Gospodarki Wodnej (WFOŚiGW)	143,950	Support to pilot biomass installation for heating purposes at Wińsko
TOTAL	**10,237,351**	

3.b. Incremental Cost of the project (see Annex G for the full IC analysis)

123. Development objective. The development objective of the Government of Poland (GoP) is to increase living standards of the population while fully respecting the principles of sustainable development. The transition to a market-based economy and full integration with the EU are the GoP's main strategy towards that goal.

124. Baseline. In view of the development objectives of the country, the baseline allocation that is relevant to the project objectives and activities has been estimated at **US$ 3,767,230**. The baseline comprises allocations from the Voivodship Nature Conservation Administration, the Lower Silesian Landscape Park Administration, the Voivodship Fund for Environment and Water Management (WFOSiGW) and local municipalities.

125. Alternative. The GEF alternative involves the implementation of the RSDS, which ensures both the sustainable development of the basin and conservation of biodiversity of global importance. The project will deliver mechanisms for replication of best lessons learned. The GEF alternative is a strategic investment that will introduce integrated ecosystem management and guarantee coherence in the array of efforts from local, regional and central authorities (see section 2.b.vi). Taking into account all contributions, the GEF alternative amounts to **US$ 14,968,931**.

126. Incremental Cost of the GEF alternative. The difference between the GEF alternative and the baseline amounts to **US$ 11,201,701,** which represents the incremental cost of achieving sustainable global environmental benefits. Of this amount, the contribution from non-GEF sources amounts to **US$ 10,237,351**. The GEF will provide **US$ 964,350**.

127. See the full Incremental Cost Analysis and Incremental Cost Table in Annex G.

3.c. Cost-effectiveness

128. N/a

4. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION & SUPPORT

4.a. Core commitments & Linkages

4.a.i. Links with the IA's Country/regional/global/sector programs.

129. The project has been developed according to the directions of the UNDP Country Programme for Poland 2004-2007. The overall goal of the programme is to strengthen governance, environmental management and social inclusion, as contributions to the achievement of Poland's MDGs and to the completion of its full integration into the EU. The programme will strengthen underlying capacities necessary to take full advantage of EU assistance and, to avoid duplication, it will also address issues complementary to, but not the focus of, the process of EU integration. **Governance** and **environment** are the two main pillars of the country programme, with a third and supporting pillar covering the fields of **social inclusion** and **advocacy.**

130. The programme on **environment** will focus on protecting biodiversity and combating climate change. Local communities, NGOs, local administrations and the corporate sector will implement the programme. It will also spread local and national awareness of environmental issues and contribute to local and national policy development. The programme will contribute to implementation of the National Environment Policy, and to Poland's obligations under international conventions on climate change and biodiversity. It will have a special focus on NGOs and CSOs, contributing to the strengthening of civil society to influence national policy formulation. The country programme specifically mentions that the component on biodiversity will demonstrate the protection of **river valleys** through balanced socio-economic development and appropriate water management, and create a nationwide network of NGOs focusing on the protection of habitats of endangered species. The country programme specifically mentions the **Barycz Valley** as a priority site for intervention.

4.a.ii. GEF activities with potential influence on the proposed project

131. The project contributes towards the objectives of the Baltic Sea Regional Program by improving water quality in the Barycz River, which flows into the Odra and from there to the Baltic Sea. In Poland, the World Bank through the Baltic Program is implementing a set of pilot intervention in medium size farms intended to reduce water pollution by reducing the amount of animal waste entering waterbodies (Ekofund and the UNDP Small Grant Programme have contributed directly to the World Bank project by publishing and distributing printed material regarding best farm practices to reduce animal waste). The World Bank project will be looked to for information and experience sharing. It would be expected that during project implementation, the Barycz Valley project would take the primary responsibility for ensuring cross project information.

132. The project plans to use experiences from other GEF projects in Poland regarding the introduction of biomass technology and support to environmentally friendly tourism activities. The GEF activities in the introduction of boilers have concentrated on the use of straw as the primary burning material. The Barycz Valley project will add to this body of experiences by concentrating on barriers encountered in the up-scaling of the collection, storage and fuel distribution system. The project will apply experiences in the promotion of tourism coming from other GEF financed activities, specifically those from the GEF Small Grant Programme (SGP). The SGP has obtained promising results in promoting eco-tourism in areas of

similar characteristics to the Barycz Valley. This project will change the scale of intervention by attempting to obtain similar results in greater areas and by introducing the concept of Stork Labeling[9].

133. No other IAs have operations within or near the target area that can duplicate or affect the objectives of the project.

4.b Consultation, Coordination and Collaboration between IAs and EAs.

134. The project has been developed taken fully into account the activities of other GEF implementing agencies as well as other local and international donor agencies operating in Poland. Consultations and information sharing will continue throughout the project life. In addition, a representative of the local office of the WB is in the project steering committee.

RESPONSE TO REVIEWS

a) GEF Secretariat

b) Respond to upstream comments from GEFSEC, if applicable.

c) Convention Secretariat

d) Respond to upstream comments from Convention Secretariat, if applicable.

e) Other IAs and relevant EAs.

f) Respond to upstream comments by other IAs and relevant EAs, if applicable.

[9] The project aims to create a "Stork" label that would reflect the degree of environmental care put in the production of goods and services in the Barycz Valley. The Stork label would vary from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Membership would be voluntary and inspections made by an independent body. See Annex H.

Annexes

ANNEX A: LOGFRAME MATRIX

Project Strategy	Funding	Indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Development (Long-term) Objective Long-term conservation of globally significant riverine valleys of Poland.		• Change in rate of habitat utilization by species of global and national significance; • The contribution of the Barycz Valley towards pollution in the Baltic Sea is reduced by at least half the current baseline 10 years after the start up of the project	• Field work by an independent evaluation panel • Monitoring of pollutants in the Barycz River	
Immediate objective **1.** To make the recently developed "Regional Sustainable Development Strategy" for the Barycz Valley operational and binding;	Seed sources of funding for outputs	• By the end of the project, the operational elements of the RSDS are incorporated into the land use plans of 90% of municipalities in the Barycz Valley and the Conservation Plan of the Landscape Park; • By the end of the project, at least 60% of municipalities in the Barycz River Basin have begun to adapt their land use plans in line with the RSDS.	• Municipal land use and development plans; • Conservation Plan of the Landscape park; • Minutes of the Association of Local Communes;	The constituencies for biodiversity conservation in the Barycz Valley prove sustainable after project termination date;
2. To develop and adopt a replication plan of best lessons learned to other riverine valleys in the national system of protected areas;	Seed sources of funding for outputs	• By the end of the project, at least 5 other globally significant riverine valleys selected for replication of lessons learned;	• Project's Steering Committee minutes;	The project succeeds in establishing strong formal and informal mechanisms for knowledge transfer.
Outputs ***Outputs for Immediate Objective #1:*** **1.1.** The Regional Sustainable Development Strategy incorporated into regional and local planning documents;	GEF	• Conservation Plan for Landscape Park (including proposal for extending the protection area) developed - year 3 • Co-operation agreement for the implementation of regional SD strategy signed by at least 17 local communities - year 1; • 17 local communities adopted the SD strategy through council resolutions -	• Documents of the Landscape Park; • Municipal acts and minutes; • Voivodship documents; • Minutes of the Association of Local Communes;	The scaling up of the pilot actions in the Barycz Valley prove feasible in view of existing human and financial resources available; Constituencies for biodiversity conservation

[10] X number will be defined after 1 year of project implementation

		year 2; • Regional SD for Barycz Valley incorporated into regional (Voivodship) programs/plans (year 3)		in other Landscape parks of Poland are of a similar strength as in the Barycz Valley thus allowing replicating best lessons learned from the project;
1.2. The Regional Sustainable Development Strategy translated/reflected into 5 implementation programs (nature friendly tourism; decreasing pollution loads into international water systems; nature friendly fish farming; conservation of meadows; public support)	DOC/DBU GNF MoA GEF	• Program for nature-friendly tourism developed - year 1 • Program for improvement of water quality in the river basin developed - year 2 • Program for support of nature-friendly fish farming developed - year 3 • Program for conservation and multifunctional use of meadows developed - year 2 • Program for the development of public support for the implementation of the IMP – year1	• Minutes of the project Steering Committee Meeting; • Minutes of the Association of Local Communes;	
1.3. Pilot/demonstration elements of implementation programs under execution, specifically; 1.3.1. Pilot implementation of the program for nature-friendly tourism; 1.3.2. Pilot implementation of the program for decreasing pollution loads into international water systems; 1.3.3. Pilot implementation of the program of nature-friendly fish farming; 1.3.4. Pilot implementation of the program for conservation and multifunction use of meadows; 1.3.5. Pilot implementation of the program for the development of public support for the implementation of the IMP	Parish of Glebowice NFOSiGw DFE, GNF Borough of Milicz Borough of Twardogora RZMiUW - Wroclaw Ekofund, WFOSiGW, NFOSiGW, Borough of Winzko Ciconia Liechtenstein GEF GEF	• Elements of the tourist infrastructure put in place – year 3; See Annex H. • X number[10] of providers of products or services with local eco-labeling (“White stork labeling”) – year 3 • At least 50 entities (farms, producers, services) provide tourism services by year 3 • 3000 inhabitants added to the water treatment system - year 3 • Main water pollutants reduced by half 10 years after the start up of the project • 400 ha of ponds with improved water supply – year 3 • 2000 ha of meadows put under different forms of protection/ nature conservation activities – year 3 • 60 institutions participating in the development of the co-workers network –year 3 • 100 decision makers/public servants trained at the annual workshops – year 3	• Project documentation • Minutes of the Steering Committee Meetings • Minutes of the Association of Local Communes; • Research institutes; • Field visits • Local surveys/ • Records of the State Enterprise “Milicz Ponds” • Records of RZMiUW	

Outputs for Immediate Objective #2 2.1. A plan for replication of best lessons learned in conservation of riverine valleys established and operational.		• A plan for replication of best lessons developed and agreed with representatives from at least 5 other globally significant riverine valleys in Poland – year 3	• Project documentation • Minutes of the Steering Committee Meetings • Minutes of the Association of Local Communes;	
Activities **For Output 1.1** 1.1.1 To support municipalities to adopt the RD strategy through council resolutions; 1.1.2 To support to Voivodship for incorporation of RD into its development and spatial planning activities; 1.1.3 To support cooperative arrangement among municipalities for the implementation of the RD strategy. 1.1.4 To support local authorities for the development of the Landscape Park Management Plan within the framework of the RD strategy. **For Output 1.2** 1.2.1 Development of implementation program for nature-friendly tourism. 1.2.2 Development of implementation program for decreasing pollution loads into international water systems. 1.2.3 Development of implementation program for support of nature-friendly fish farming. 1.2.4 Development of implementation program for conservation and multifunctional use of meadows. 1.2.5 Development of implementation program for the development of public support for the implementation of RD strategy and biodiversity conservation. **For Output 1.3** For sub-output 1.3.1 1. Executing pilot elements of the nature-friendly tourism infrastructure. 2. Promotion and dissemination of the sustainable tourism activities. 3. Monitoring of the effects of the tourism activities implemented. 4. Fundraising for further development of nature-friendly tourism in the Barycz River Valley Region. For sub-output 1.3.2 1. Pilot implementation of the wastewater management program. 2. Pilot implementation of the program for water protection from agricultural pollution sources (implementation of Agricultural Best Practices Guide) with an emphasis on the establishment of manure container plates. 3. Pilot implementation of the program for "water-friendly" solid waste management in the Barycz River Valley. 4. Replication/promotion of the pilot solutions in all local communities within the Barycz River Basin and other protected areas via workshops, study-visits, etc. 5. Monitoring of the effects of the activities for improvement of water quality. 6. Fundraising.				

For sub-output 1.3.3 1. Ensuring functionality of the water control infrastructure on the ponds. 2. Improvement of the Milicz Ponds habitats to create better conditions for birds. 3. Technical support for nature-friendly fish farming. 4. Monitoring of the effects of the activities implemented on the Milicz Ponds. 5. Fundraising. For sub-output 1.3.4 1. Agro-environmental program for environmentally sensitive meadows and pastures in the Barycz River Valley (management of meadows on private lands). 2. Pilot restoration of floodplains meadows and replacement of the dams on the Sąsiecznica River (tributary of the Barycz River). 3. Multifunctional use of meadows - Łacha model project. 4. Conservation supervision of meadows management activities. 5. Monitoring of the effects of the meadows management activities. 6. Fundraising. For sub-output 1.3.5 1. Development of the co-workers network based on leaders/educators from local institutions cooperating in project implementation. 2. Development of the co-workers network through active implementation of nature conservation activities and educational programs. 3. Support for the development of educational centers network. 4. Raising awareness program for the public servants and decision-makers. 5. Vocational training. 6. Co-operation with media and promotion. 7. Activities of the educational centers' network. 8. Monitoring of the effects. 9. Fundraising. **For Output 2.1** 1. Codifying lessons, instruments and guidelines from experiences in the Barycz Valley; 2. Analyses of potential policy reforms in agriculture, tourism, nature conservation; produce draft legislation for submission to appropriate bodies/authorities 3. Identification of at least 5 riverine valleys in the System of Landscape Parks for transfer of lessons learned; 4. Design of multisectoral plan for replication of best lessons to selected sites outside Barycz Valley; 5. Production of demo and guides on best lessons to outsiders; 6. Seminars/workshops for policy makers, legislators		

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENT LETTER

EKOFUNDUSZ
KONWERSJA POLSKIEGO DŁUGU
NA OCHRONĘ ŚRODOWISKA

ECOFUND
POLISH DEBT FOR
ENVIRONMENT SWAP

tel. (+48 22) 628 5085; fax: (+48 22) 628 5081
ul. Bracka 4, 00-502 Warszawa;
www.ekofundusz.org.pl

February 2, 2004

EF/524/2004

WARSAW
DATE 2004 -02- 03

INFO	ACTION	SIGN

DLA PANI:
Ewelliny Piotr

Mr. Frank Pinto
Executive Coordinator GEF UNDP
Bureau for Development Policy
New York
fax (1-212) 906 66 90

Dear Sir,

Acting in our capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point in Poland we would like to extend our support to a project application for a GEF medium size grant entitled "Integrated Ecosystem Management of the Barycz Valley".

The aim of the project is to develop and implement structures and mechanisms that will ensure biodiversity conservation and management of the Barycz Valley ecosystem, which is characterized by a mosaic of fish-ponds, meadows, forests and cultivated land of great biodiversity value. Project activities will center on ensuring sustainable management of meadows, appropriate water quality and fishing practices compatible with biodiversity conservation, minimizing negative impacts from agriculture, increasing public awareness, and promoting appropriate planning of tourism activities. The Barycz Valley is known as an important nesting place for White Stork.

The project has been granted with PDF-A assistance which helped in developing a pre-feasibility study to identify high priority areas and actions. The assistance has been used in a fruitful and effective way, so the project is ready for implementation.

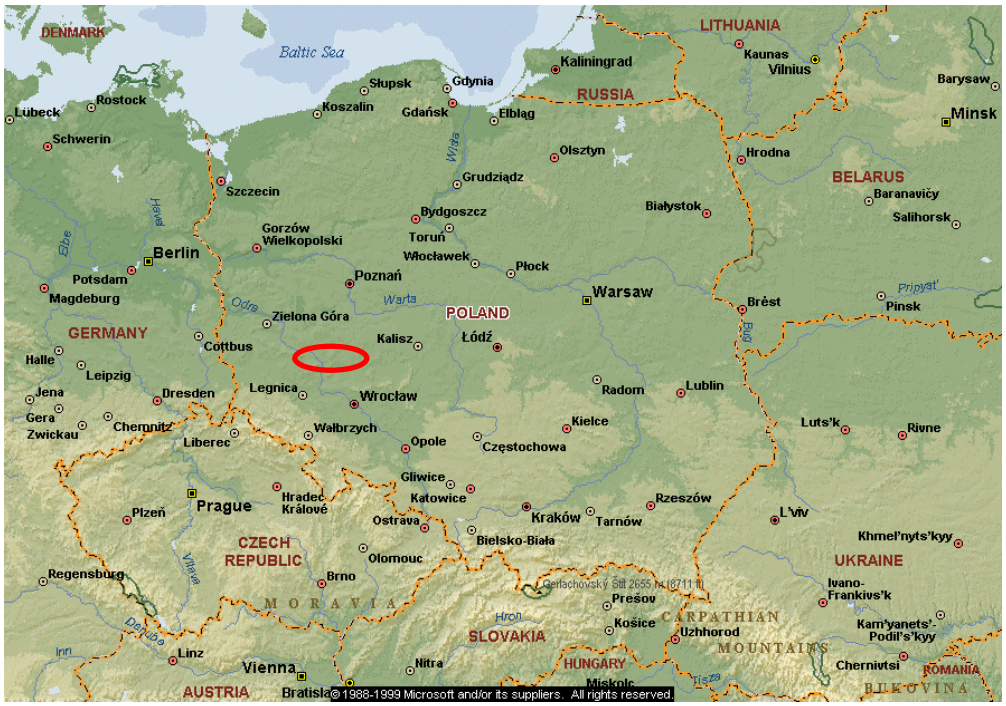
Based on our experience we believe that the proposed project is well prepared and may produce a very much useful results.

Your sincerely

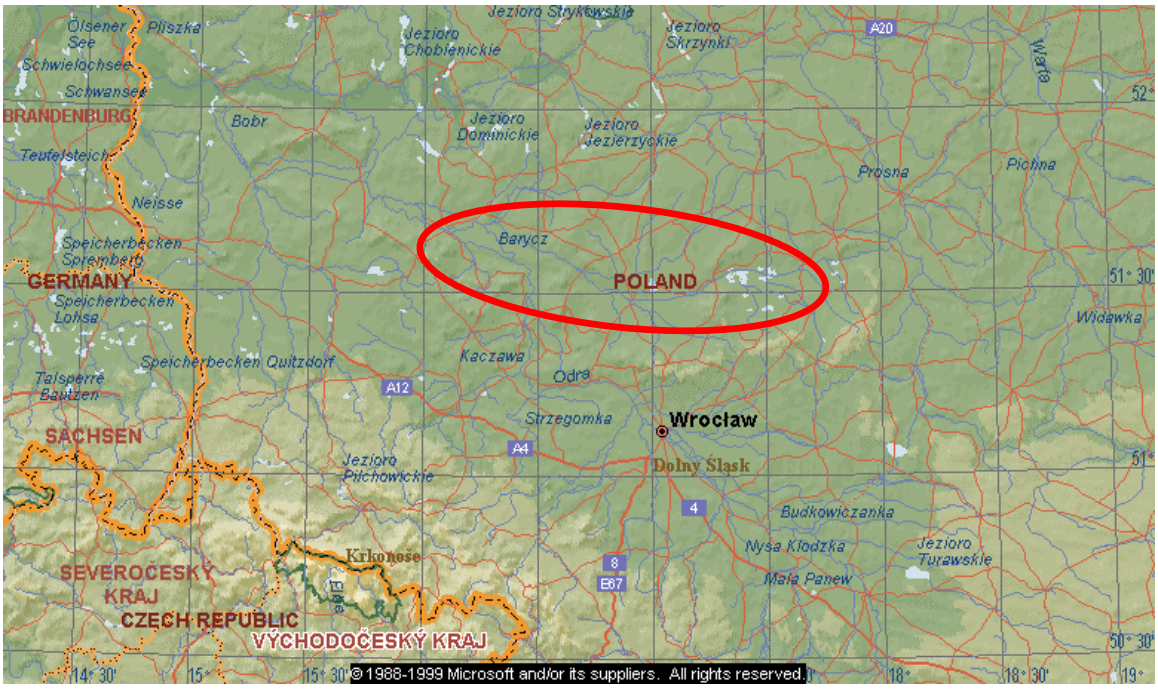
Prof. Maciej Nowicki
President

ANNEX C: MAPS OF THE PROJECT TARGET AREA

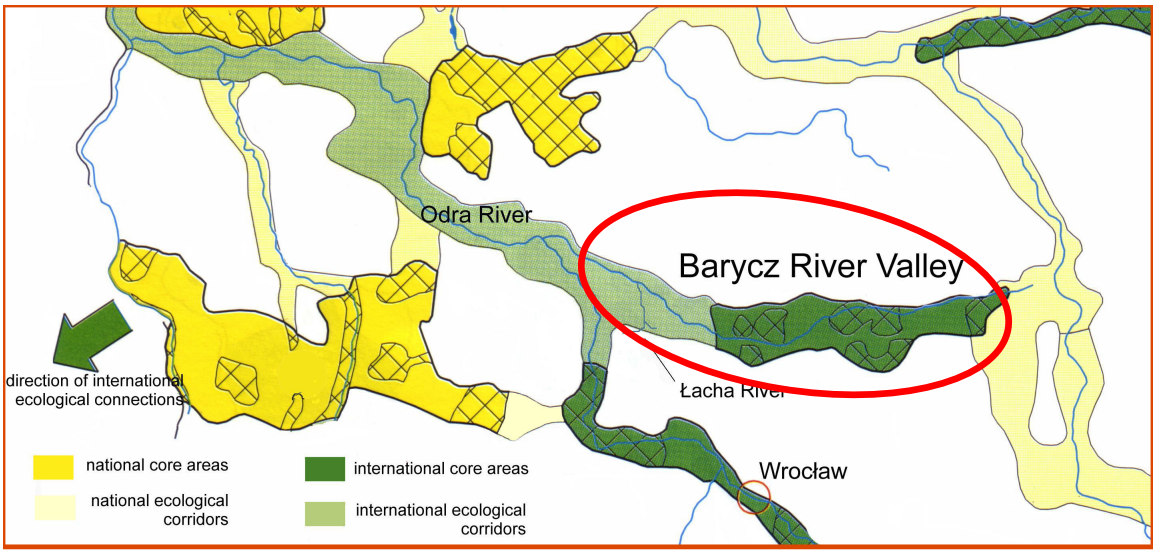
Map 1: Republic of Poland and location of Project Site (approx.)



Map 2: Project Target Site

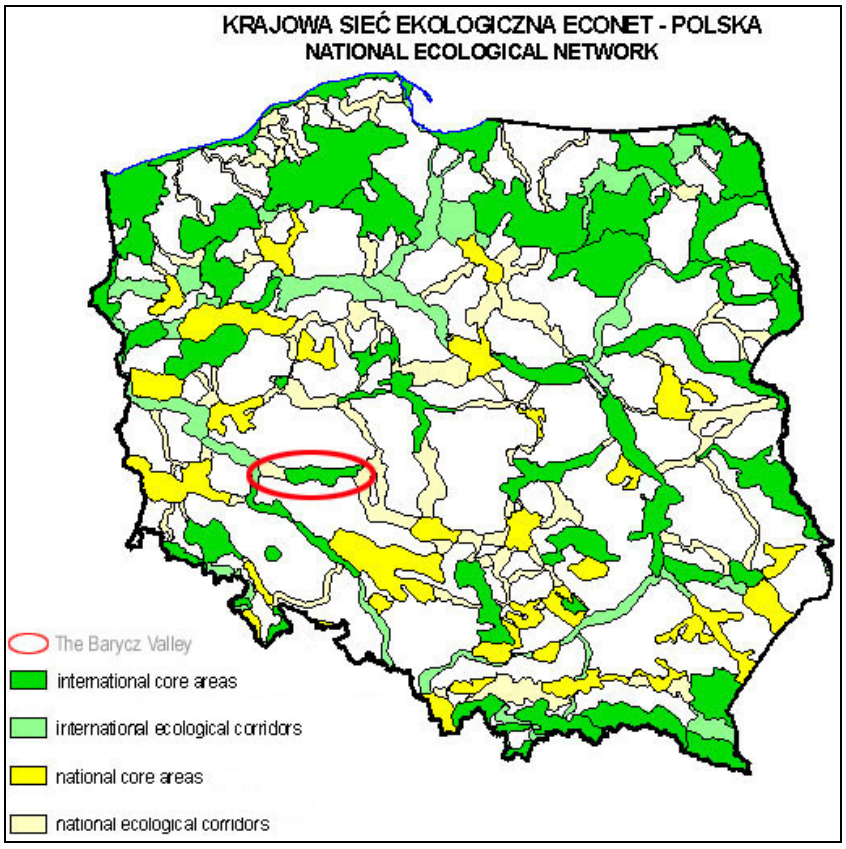


Map 3: The Barycz Valley and connection to European and national ecological corridors

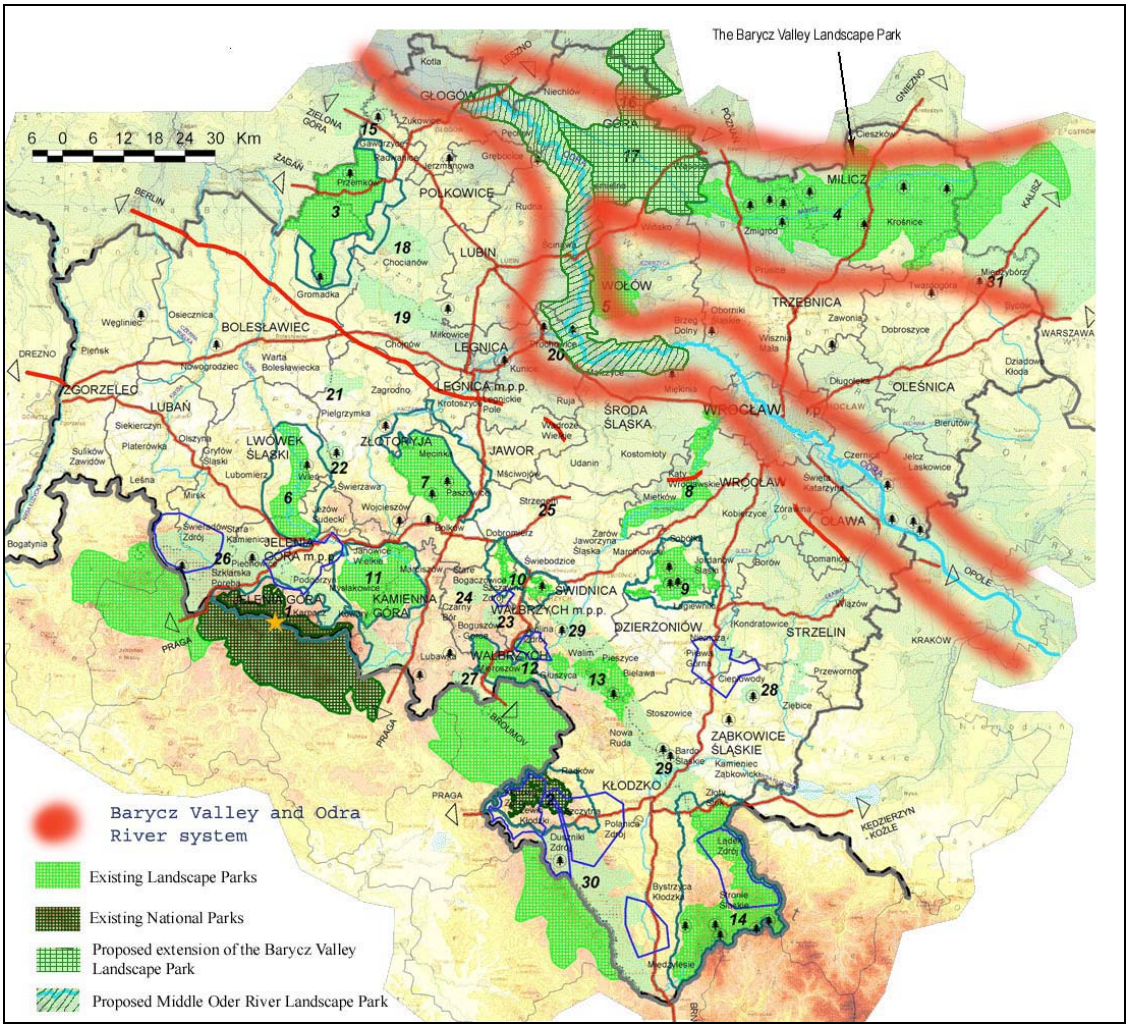


Map 1. Barycz Valley - connections to European and national ecological corridors and core areas.

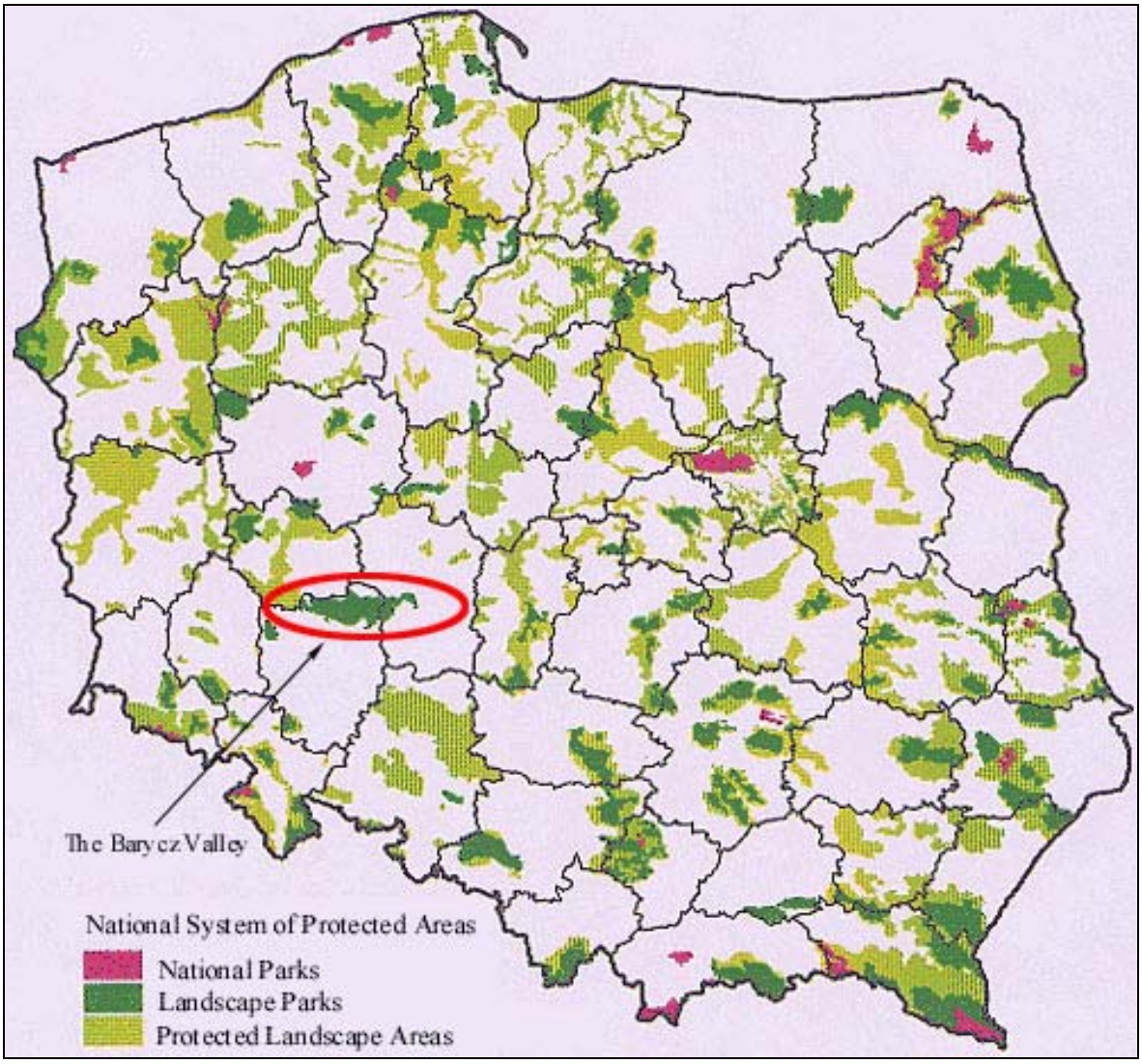
Map 4: National Ecological Network (proposed)



Map 5: The proposed Barycz–Odra system of PA



Map 6: National Protected Areas



Map 7: Living Lakes Network

ANNEX D: ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF RARE SPECIES THAT BREED OR USE THE PROJECT AREA DURING MIGRATION

Breeding birds	Number of pairs
Red-necked grebe	Up to 240
Black-necked grebe	300-570
Bittern*	82
Little Bittern*	12
Black stork*	More than 15
White stork* (data for the whole area)	340
Greylag goose	580
Ferruginous duck☆ (184 in the past)	40
Gadwall*	250
Whooper swan	1-3
White-tailed eagle*	6
Black kite*	15
Corncrake☆	(Not uncommon, numbers undetermined)
Waterrail	200
Little crake*	27
Crane*	At least 70
Common tern*	200
Black tern*	73
Sand Martin*	1345
Savi's Warbler*	120

Migrating and wintering birds	Max. number of individuals
Crane*	1460
Beangoose	16,000
Little gull	130
Bewick's swan*	17
Whooper swan*	152
White-tailed eagle*	60-70

Mammals (44 species) Beaver*, Otter*, Barbastelle bat* - biggest known winter quarter in S Poland

Amphibians (13 species) Green toad, Common toad, Natterjack, Fire-bellied toad*, Marsh frog, Common spadefoot, Common tree frog, Smooth newt, Warty newt*

Reptiles 5 species, + European pond tortoise* reintroduced in frames of the earlier PTPP "ProNatura" program

Notation:
☼ - Species recognized as endangered on global scale
* - Species of special European concern (whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation by EU legislation or recognized as threatened in Europe)

ANNEX E: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AT PROJECT SITE

135. The following is a description of the most important institutions for project implementation. Institutions have been divided into Central State Administration, Voivodship State Administration, Voivodship Self-Government, County Self Government, and Municipality Self Government.

1. Central State Administration

1.1 Ministry of Environment (MoE)

136. It most important competencies are:

137. Elaboration and implementation of National Environmental Policy (on the basis of sustainable development principles) and implementation of this policy within nature and landscape protection, national nature protection strategy and biodiversity protection programs.
138. Design of legal, economic and organizational instruments enabling the implementation of the nation's environmental policy and evaluation of its functional success.

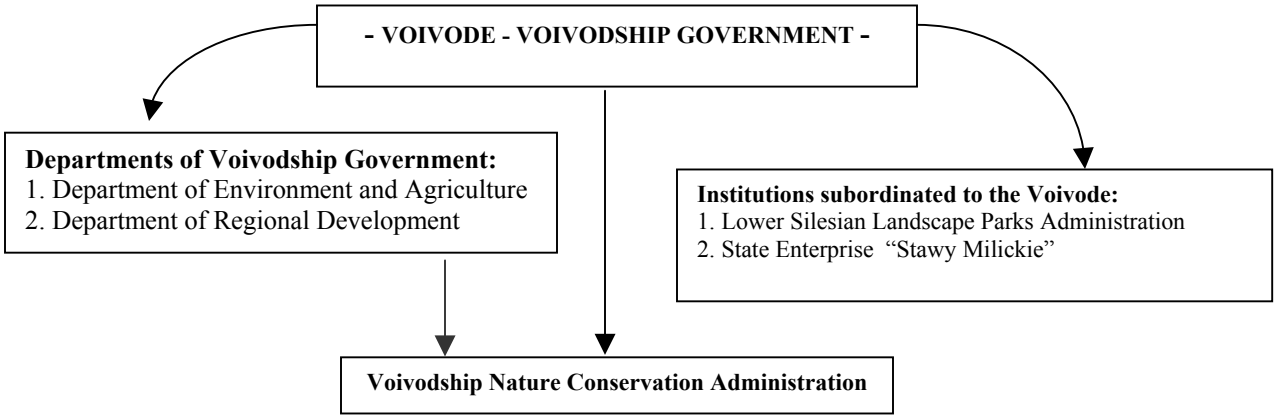
139. Within the Barycz River Valley, the MoE realizes its tasks mainly through activities of the Voivode, the Lower Silesian Landscape Park Administration and the Nature Conservation Administration. In regards to project activities, the MoE will provide legal and organizational support for the elaboration of Landscape Park protection plan and of the Park's enlargement.

1.2 Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

140. Formulates the agricultural policy and coordinates its implementation on the national scale,
141. Manages the implementation of the Government program in the area of agriculture and rural development. At the Voivodship level, MoA implements the state policy mainly through the relevant departments of the Marshal Office, the Voivodship Government and 3 Agricultural Advisory Centers (Ośrodki Doradztwa Rolniczego).

142. Within the scope of this project, the MoA supervises and coordinates rural development activities, especially those related to the preparation and implementation of agro-environmental program for the Barycz River Valley within the framework of the National Agro-environmental Programme.

2. Voivodship – State administration



143. The **Voivode** is responsible for the implementation of government programs and plans (above local and regional level tasks serving public purposes), supervises adherence to the law (providing opinion on province's development plans and strategies, supervising local development plans for Communities), issues administrative decisions (e.g. decrees establishing protection plans for Nature Reserves and Landscape Parks).

144. For the purposes of this project, the Voivode assures compliance with law of the Landscape Park Protection Plan and decides on the Landscape Park eventual enlargement in the Lower Barycz River area.

145. The **Voivodship Nature Conservation Administration** carries out the Voivode tasks within the framework of nature protection activities, executes observance of nature protection laws (e.g. supervising legally protected and other protected areas, elaborating of legal acts for the establishment of new protected areas and their management, managing of nature status documentation).

146. Within the scope of this project, the Voivodship Nature Conservation Administration supervises all activities in protected areas within the Barycz River Valley, elaborates the Landscape Park Protection Plan in collaboration with the authorities of the Lower Silesian Landscape Park Administration and issues entry permits to the "Stawy Milickie" Nature Reserve.

147. **Lower Silesian Landscape Park Administration**. Among the most important tasks of the Landscape Park there are: 1) nature protection according to the provisions of the decree establishing the Park, 2) coordination of scientific, didactical, tourist and recreational activities within the Park and its buffer zone, 3) under Voivode permission, it issues administrative decisions related to the nature protection on the territory of the Park and its buffer zone, 4) cooperation with other stakeholders within the nature protection framework.

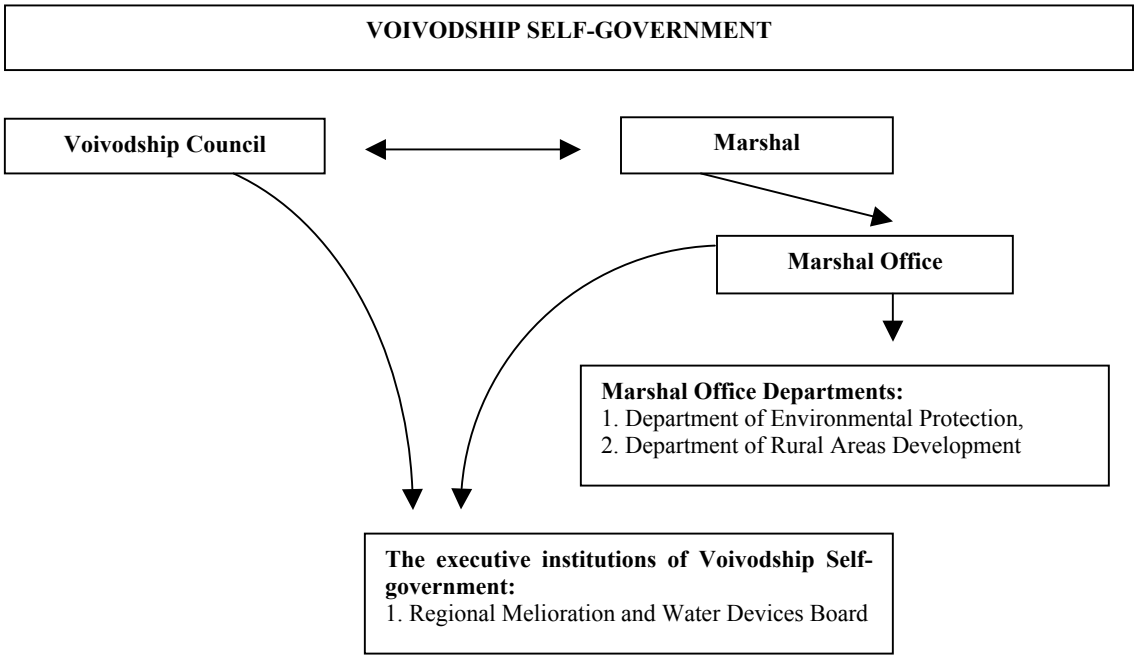
148. In the context of this project the Administration contributes to the development of detailed project plans, carries overall supervision of the project and it elaborates in cooperation with the Voivodship Nature Conservation Administration the protection plan for the Landscape Park.

149. **State Enterprise "Stawy Milickie" (Milicz Ponds).** The duties of this State Enterprise includes: (a) the management of the ponds according to the mandate given by the Ornithological Reserve "Stawy Milickie"; (b) fish breeding, sale and distribution; maintenance of water and melioration devices (system of water channels, sluice gates, monks), and (c) ensuring agreed quality levels in water released from ponds and into the Barycz River.

150. The role of the Administration within this project is to supervise all activities undertaken on the territory of "Milicz Ponds" including: localization, construction and utilization of tourist infrastructure; carrying of nature conservation works aiming at valuable habitats status improvement (e.g. reed cutting).

151. (continued on next page)

3. Voivodship – Self-government Administration



152. The **Voivodship Self-government** (Council and Marshal) trough its Marshal Office and its departments carries the Voivodship's development policy, defines **Voivodship's development strategy** and elaborates **sectoral programs** (rural areas development programs, nature protection programs).

153. Within the scope of this project the role of the Voivodship Self-government is to consider strategies for sustainable development in the Barycz River Valley region. The Self-government also co-finances some of the project activities. The Department of Nature Protection contributes to the elaboration of water protection program for the Barycz River Basin. The Department of Rural Areas Development contributes to the elaboration of agro-environmental program for the Barycz River Valley.

154. **Regional Melioration and Water Devices Board** is responsible for the following tasks:
155. Administration of melioration devices on water courses (rivers, canals, retention reservoirs, hydrotechnical structures, flood embankments);
156. Voivodship anti-flooding protection by management of water devices under its administration;
157. Overall Water management.

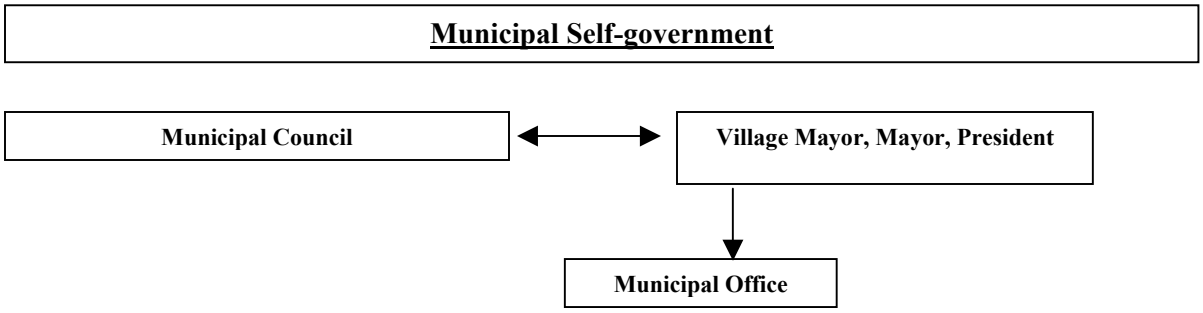
158. To support the project activities, the Board contributes to the water protection program of Barycz River Basin, carries water management investments (moving the flood embankments away from the riverbed, construction of dams on Barycz River, construction of retention / recreational reservoir etc).

4. County – Self-government administration

159. The **County** has no power to manage area (landless power) and it also has limited possibilities for directing spatial development. However, it participates in the elaboration of regional strategy development.

160. For the purposes of this project, these administrations will directly co-operate in the definition and implementation of regional development strategies and sectoral implementation programs (nature friendly tourism, water management etc.) as well as in the integration of the regional strategy into municipal plans.

5. Municipality – Self-government administration



161. **Municipality** (local self-government) decides on the direction of municipal development and it has significant powers over spatial development planning. It approves the **Municipal Spatial Development Plan** that constitutes local law and issues decisions on land use management. Its powers are constrained by the land use guidelines set by the Landscape Park or Nature Reserve protection plans. The Municipality, however, has the right to comment on the Landscape Park or Nature Reserve protection plans.

162. Within the project scope, the Municipalities are the key partners in the project development and implementation. They already have participated in the elaboration of regional development strategy that is the basis of the project strategy. The components of the regional development strategy become obligatory local laws by the Municipal Council resolution. Municipalities also participate in the elaboration of Landscape Park protection plans.

ANNEX F: THE BARYCZ RIVER VALLEY AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM

163. The Barycz River Valley constitutes an integral element of local, regional, national and international PA systems. Three main characteristics of the Barycz Valley account for that:

- Its geographical location
- Its location within the organizational (administrative) system
- Its location within an informal partnership and cooperative network

Geographical location

164. At the local level, the Barycz River Valley includes 12 national reserves with a total area of about 5,500 ha plus an additional 30h of strategically located protected land under the management of NGOs (total area 250 ha). The landscape park connects these areas and provides protection for corridors among them.

165. At the regional level, the Barycz Valley is an important part of the system of protected areas in the Lower Silesian region. It is expected that after project termination date, the Barycz Valley will connect with the proposed Odra Landscape Park thus establishing one of the corridors envisaged for Lower Silesia as part of the National Ecological Network system.

166. On a national level, the Barycz River Valley form part of the National System of Protected Areas. The Barycz Valley forms part of ECONET-Poland and EECONET-Europe. Within these systems, the Barycz Valley is an international core area and ecological corridor and as such, the area is part of the pan-European system of protection of European natural heritage sites. The core part of the Barycz River Valley, which covers the area of the Landscape Park, falls within the network of key areas of international importance (labeled as 18M). After 2004, the Barycz River Valley will be included into the European Network of Protected Areas NATURA 2000.

167. Finally, a number of protected sites within the Barycz Valley, including a RAMSAR site, constitute part of the international network of Important Bird Areas (IBA) (code in Poland 054) and Living Lakes partnership. As one of the most important bird areas in Europe the site has clear potential for trans-boundary transfer of know how and good practice.

Location within organizational (administrative) system

168. The management of protected areas in Barycz River Valley falls within the domain of two types of administration:

169. Nature Conservation Administration of the Lower Silesian Voivodship administers nature reserves in the Barycz River Valley (in fact, all nature reserves in the Lower Silesian Voivodship are under its administration).

170. The Barycz River Valley Landscape Park is administered by two distinct administrations because it fall within the boundaries of two different Voivodships (Dolnośląskie “Lower Silesian” and Wielkopolskie “Great Poland”). All landscape parks in each of these Voivodships are respectively under one administration (e.g. The Lower Silesian Landscape Parks Administration manages all 12 landscape parks in the Lower Silesian.

171. The Lower Silesian Nature Conservation Administration, the Lower Silesian Landscape Parks Administration and Great Poland Landscape Parks Administration actively participate in the development

and implementation of the project (e.g. through Steering Committee). Their participation in this project allows for direct transfer of lessons and best practices first to other protected areas and landscape parks within the Lower Silesian and Great Poland Voivodships, and to the whole country.

Location within an informal partnership and cooperative network

172. The Barycz River Valley is represented by the NGO PTPP "pro Natura" on several national and international partnerships and networks. These networks are based on NGO and local community actions and contribute to government goals and support grass-root activities. These are (i) the **"Living Lakes"** network (www.livinglakes.org), which comprise 23 lakes and aquatic environment of global significance and includes the Lake Baikal (Russia), the Dead Sea (Middle East), the Pantanal (Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia), and Mono Lake (CA, USA) among other; (ii) the **Coalition for Wetland Protection** (PROM), which is a coalition with the common goal of supporting and promoting wetland protection in Poland (http://www.wwf.pl/prom); (iii) the coalition "Time for Oder River" (http://www.odra.pl/) in which Polish NGOs together with WWF-Germany run a common project for the sustainable development of rural areas in the Oder River Basin (Barycz is a tributary to the Oder River). Transfer of know-how, experience and good practices among the NGOs in these networks strengthens the long-term capacity sustainability of protected area systems.

ANNEX G: INCREMENTAL COST ANALYSIS

173. Development Objective. Poland is in a transition process from a planned economy to a market-based one. In this process, the integration with the European Union (and its associate requirements) plays a fundamental role in the definition of public policy. The Government of Poland approaches the transition process to a fully market based economy and integration with EU as a means to increase living standards of the population while fully respecting the principles of sustainable development.

174. Baseline Scenario. The National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation considers the wetlands and riverine ecosystems as priority sites for conservation. In particular, the national strategy specifically mentions river valleys, such as the Barycz Valley, as among priority sites endowed with biodiversity of local and global importance. The Government of Poland has also developed a comprehensive document entitled the "National Environmental Policy", which calls for strengthening conservation and sustainable development in sites of national importance, the Barycz Valley among them.

175. The ongoing process of integration with the EU has required Poland to gradually adopt European standards for environmental quality. This has resulted in major increases in environmental investments, particularly in the area of water quality and farming practices. Some of these investments are being financed by EU accession and pre-accession funds (SAPARD; ISPA). However, a major part of these investments come from the government through a number of regional and Voivodship funds. Resources are also available from a debt-swap negotiated in the early 90s and managed by Ekofund[11].

176. Resources from the government and Ekofund are being directed mainly to physical investments such as water treatment plants. These funds rarely support the preparation of documentation or the broad consultation activities or the investment in local capacity for integrated ecosystem management financed by this GEF project. This is a characteristic of environmental funds in Poland that makes the GEF contribution highly strategic insofar it can influence the nature and location of a variety of environmental investments that both secure a sustainable baseline and maximize benefits for the global community[12].

177. There are a number of activities in the Barycz Valley financed by the local governments, the regional authorities and the central administration through the Landscape Park. The project has estimated the value of the most relevant ones in light of project objectives and outputs. The Voivodship Nature Conservation Administration and Lower Silesian Landscape Park Administration cover the cost of operating the Landscape Park. This is mostly the staff and equipment required to enforce existing regulations within the park boundaries. These expenses amount to US$ 70,200 for the duration of the project. The Voivodship Fund for Environment and Water Management (WFOSiGW) complements the park's efforts with investments like upgrading of water treatment plants, improvements in waste management and purchasing of biomass boilers for pilot demonstrations. The WFOSiGW disburses through individual projects selected through a competition process. The contribution of the WFOSiGW amounts to US$ 2,652,000 for the duration of the project. There also exists a substantial effort by local municipalities in upgrading environment and water management infrastructure. These efforts are highly local and can include the purchase of machinery for waste processing and the co-financing of physical infrastructure for water management. The contribution of local municipalities to the sustainable baseline amounts to US$

[11] Ekofund is the agency in charge of disbursing the resources made available by the debt swap.

[12] For example, this occurs when selecting farming units for adoption of environmentally friendly farming practices. Suppose there are two farms in which the adoption of alternative practices would result in an approximate similar volume reduction of a given pollutant running off to a watercourse. One farm is located at the edge of a valuable wetland site while another is not. In defining which farm is a priority, the ranking is inconclusive when the volume of pollutants reduced is the main criterion (both farms result in a similar reduction of pollutants). From the point of view of the global community, however, the farm located near the wetland is the priority.

1,045,030 for the duration of the project. Taking all contributions into account, the total baseline has been estimated at **US$ 3,767,230**.

178. GEF Alternative. The GEF alternative involves the completion of the RSDS for the Barycz Valley that ensures both the sustainable development of the basin and conservation of biodiversity of global importance. The GEF alternative is a strategic investment that will introduce integrated ecosystem management and guarantee coherence in the array of efforts from local, regional and central authorities.

179. The GEF alternative possesses 4 outputs. The first is to make the RSDS operational and binding for future development of the Barycz Valley. The project does that by integrating the RSDS into the land use plans of municipalities and the management plan of the Landscape Park. Because the RSDS is a strategic document, its content needs further specification in regards to specific activities, priority ranking and schedule. The GEF alternative will result in 5 Implementation Programs in the area of (i) tourism; (ii) water quality; (iii) nature friendly fish farming; (iv) conservation of meadows and (v) public support.

180. Upon definition of the OPs, the project will make use of the co-financing available to facilitate their selected implementation for demonstration purposes. Municipalities and other stakeholders have agreed on implementing pilot activities on the areas of tourism, agricultural runoff and household water pollution, conservation of biodiversity in meadows and fish farms and public support and awareness programs.

181. The GEF alternative will also deliver a mechanism to ensure that best lessons learned from the project are transferred to other globally significant riverine valleys in Poland. One of the most innovative and interesting aspects of this project are (i) the collaboration between municipalities and the landscape park in the development of an encompassing development strategy and (ii) the tools to make the development strategy binding. The project will provide support for information and experience sharing with other municipalities and protected areas about best lessons learned from this process.

182. Taking into account all contributions, the GEF alternative amounts to **US$ 14,968,931**.

183. Incremental Cost of the GEF alternative. The difference between the GEF alternative and the baseline amounts to **US$ 11,201,701,** which represents the incremental cost of achieving sustainable global environmental benefits. Of this amount, the contribution from non-GEF sources amounts to **US$ 10,237,351**. The GEF will provide **US$ 964,350**.

Incremental Cost Table

Output	Cost Category	US$	Domestic Benefit	Global Benefit
1.1 The RSDS incorporated into regional and local planning documents	Baseline	0.00	The baseline allocation for a coordinated effort towards integrated ecosystem management is low and thus does not provide local benefits.	
	Alternative	154,170	The alternative delivers a coordinated effort to adopt the principle of integrated ecosystem management in the Barycz Valley;	The future development of the Barycz Valley ensures protection of biodiversity of global significance
	Increment	154,170		
	GEF	154,170		

1.2. The Regional Sustainable Development Strategy translated/reflected into 5 implementation programs (tourism; water quality; nature friendly fish farming; conservation of meadows; public support)	Baseline	0.00	The baseline allocation for a coordinated effort towards defining priority actions for the integrated management of the Barycz Valley is negligible and thus does not provide local benefits.	
	Alternative	235,359	The alternative identifies a set of priority actions for the integrated management of the Barycz Valley.	The set of priority actions identified in the implementation programs integrate global biodiversity concerns into development planning.
	Increment *Of which*: DOC/DBU GNF MoA **GEF**	235,359 48,350 13,000 8,250 165,759		
1.3. Pilot/demonstration elements of implementation programs under execution	Baseline (WFOŒiGW; Voivodship Nature Conservation Administration, LSLPA; Municipalities)	3,767,230	The baseline provides financing for enforcement of park boundaries and its operational expenditures and uncoordinated investments in water treatment, waste management and support to farmers.	
	Alternative	14,488,095	The alternative delivers a coordinated investment effort in the areas of nature tourism, fish farming, water quality, conservation of meadows and public support for the integrated management of the Barycz Valley.	The set of investments comprises actions that are priorities for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity.

	Increment *Of which*: Parish of Glebowice Local Governments Borough of Milicz NFOSiGw, DFE, GNF Borough of Twardogora RZMiUW - Wroclaw Ekofund, WFOSiGW, NFOSiGW, Borough of Winzko Ciconia Liechtenstein **GEF**	10,720,865 78,000 26,625 4,125,000 356,496 12,850 13,000 635,000 4,345,141 301,209 143,950 356,496 127,480 3,000 553,114		
2.1. A plan for replication of best lessons learned in conservation of riverine valleys established and operational	Baseline	0.00	At present, there are no allocations for transfers of lessons and information sharing in the management of riverine valleys.	
	Alternative	91,308	The alternative ensures the transfers of lessons in integrated ecosystem management to at least 5 additional riverine valleys.	The alternative ensures the transfers of lessons in integrating biodiversity concern into overall development planning to other riverine valleys, which have been identified in the BSAP as sites of biodiversity importance.
	Increment *Of which*: **GEF**	91,308 91,308		
Total	Baseline	3,767,230		
	Alternative	14,968,931		
	Increment Of which: **Non-GEF** **GEF**	11,201,701 **10,237,351** **964,350**		

ANNEX H: PILOT ACTIONS IN THE 5 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS

1. Pilot implementation of the program for nature-friendly tourism

1.1. Pilot actions in nature-friendly tourism infrastructure

- Execution of the pilot bicycle trail infrastructure (information plates, resting stops), marking the main (axe) route of the bicycle trail net;
- Executing pilot elements of the tourism educational trails infrastructure (observation towers, purchase of electric boat, parking lots for buses near natural attractions);
- Preparation of rivers for kayaking, improvement of access to water near sluices and locks in Wróbliniec, Potasznia, Gądkowice, Nowy Zamek, Sławoszowice, Sułów, Niezgoda;
- Building of facilities for swimming and recreation;

1.2. Pilot actions in promotion and dissemination of the sustainable tourism activities

- Promotion system for nature-friendly tourism program and its implementation: elements of the interactive system (which also includes Internet) such as bird-TV and bird-radio, multimedia presentations, visual information in the field – standardized plates identifying the region, events, promotional publications (leaflets, postcards, guides), work with media. Preparation and implementation of the strategy;
- Promotion and dissemination of the eco-labeling system; demonstration and recommendation of region's attractions and available services and products based on the Internet page www.barycz.pl - providing possibility for their purchase or reservation; other information sources (information plates, promotional materials, publications);
- Training in nature-friendly tourism: preparation for guiding, increase of knowledge about environmental impact of nature activities, training sequels in counties followed by exams and licensing, preparation and publication of training materials;
- Barycz Eco-tour – a week-long trip and mini-conference for about 30 multipliers of tourism, from in- and out- of the country (tour operators, media, nature travel agencies, conservation organizations);
- Introduction of the Stork Label - The "Stork labelling" is a strategy to differentiate products and services based on their impact on the environment. The Stork label would vary from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Membership would be voluntary and inspections made by an independent body. The project will assist in the definition of requirements for each category (1-5), the establishment of the inspection body, the promotion of local products and services that show the Stork brand, and in organizing and expanding of the distribution network of local products. The project will also assist local producers in the establishment of producer groups, basic elements of marketing and promotion, best means of production of goods and services and use of distribution networks.

2. Pilot implementation of the program for decreasing pollution loads into international water systems

2.1. Pilot actions of the wastewater management program

- Technical support: selection of the concept and technical project elaboration for water purification system in the Łacha model area;
- Household wastewater treatment facilities (construction of manure containers combined with conduction of series of workshops for farmers on construction of the containers); (free of charge) technical projects (of containers and plants) for the workshop participants.
- Executing of the pilot investments affecting environmentally sensitive areas: biological (root-based) wastewater treatment plant for the Łacha model area; canalization of the towns of Sławoszowice, Sułów and partial of Wińsko and Milicz.

2.2. Pilot actions in the program for water protection from agricultural pollution sources (implementation of Agricultural Best Practices Guide)

- Overall application of the "Agricultural Best Practices Guide" with a first emphasis on the establishment of manure containers (construction of manure containers combined with conduction of series of workshops for farmers on construction of the containers);

2.3. Pilot implementation of the program for "water-friendly" solid waste management in the Barycz River Valley

- Pilot /model implementation of waste management system in selected boroughs (Twardogóra), including liquidation (eradication) of the illegal dumping sites.
- Replication/promotion of the pilot solutions in all local communities within the Barycz River Basin and other protected areas via workshops, study-visits, etc.

3. Pilot implementation of the program of nature-friendly fish farming

3.1. Pilot actions in ensuring functionality of the water control infrastructure on the ponds

- Sustaining proper function of the water management infrastructure necessary for the proper operation of ponds: mending of the (sluices/weirs), monks and channels providing water; restoration of three sluices on the Barycz River in order to improve water supply system for nature and fish farming on the ponds[13].

3.2. Improvement of the Milicz Ponds habitats to create better conditions for birds

- Reed cutting (purchase of reed cutters, cutting, conservation supervision). Degradation of habitats occurred as a result of the economic crisis and transition to a market economy.

3.3. Support for nature-friendly fish farming

- Promotion of the fish produced with extensive methods (presently the fish density maintained by the fish farms is typical for the extensive farming);
- Training for the fish farm workers in profession-conversion (into guidance of groups, tourist services, etc.).

4. Pilot implementation of the program for conservation and multifunction use of meadows

4.1. Pilot actions for the agro-environmental program for environmentally sensitive meadows and pastures in the Barycz River Valley (management of meadows on private lands)

- Model implementation of the agro-environmental scheme on meadows managed by the PTPP "pro Natura" in co-operation with local farmers
- Promotion of the agro-environmental schemes and of the development of the ecological farming in the BRV among local farmers (workshops, festivals, fairs, brochure, leaflet, local media coverage);
- Advising local farmers on the agro-environmental schemes implementation methods.

4.2. Pilot restoration of riverine meadows by moving further away form the riverbed the river banks on the Sąsiecznica River (tributary of the Barycz River).

- On the 4th km of the Sąsiecznica River course, the flooding dams will be moved further away from the River, increasing flood retention capacity and water purification ability (during the overflows), thus, benefiting the nature.

[13] Functioning of the fisheries is a necessary condition (pre-condition) for sustaining of the RAMSAR reserve's natural values. De-capitalization of the water infrastructure, thus, threatens both nature and economy.

4.3. Multifunctional use of meadows - Łacha model project

- Restoration of meadows with degraded nature values - in a sense this activity integrates the goals of nature conservation, water quality protection, flood controlling, use of biomass as a fuel, CO2 emission reduction and education;
- Establishment of producer group for the straw and hay suppliers;
- Management of restored meadows for nature (purchase of equipment, mowing, grazing);
- Further purchase of meadows;
- Promotion of multifunctional (alternative) use of meadows in the whole BRV and other areas (study visits, workshops, publications); capacity building/training on the development and management of producer groups, participation in public tenders.

5. Pilot implementation of the program for the development of public support for the implementation of the RSDS

5.1. Development of the co-workers network based on leaders/educators from local institutions cooperating in project implementation

- The PDF-A showed that teachers, people working at tourist centers, etc constitute a group of professionals that would willingly help the project in public awareness activities at schools, cultural center, information centers, etc. In consultations with them, it was agreed that the project would undertake regular exercises on capacity building and training on environmental and biodiversity protection for dissemination at their places of work.

5.2. Development of the co-workers network through active implementation of nature conservation activities and educational programs

- Implementation of the "White Stork" project - involvement of teachers from at least 50 schools into realization of this national project in the BRV; the teachers together with students will conduct monitoring/estimation of the state of the White Stork population in the BRV and in this way will monitor the state of threatened habitats (wetlands, open green spaces, etc.) and undertake concrete conservation actions with participation of local communities;
- Implementation of the community based educational program "Krąg" - creation of local groups and strengthening them by providing assistance in defining their own program of education for the sustainable development.

5.3. Support for the development of educational centers network.

- Assistance to 14 institutions forming the network of local education centers (small equipment, publications, restoration of the rooms etc.), designing and executing of the educational paths and other infrastructure for education of visitors;
- Creation of the program's educational center (creation of the center managed by the PTPP "pro Natura" as the focal point in the network of local centers, coordination role) – construction or adaptation of existing building, equipping with necessary educational aid facilities and environmental installations for demonstrative purposes;
- Providing the centers with publications, exhibitions, posters, creation of www pages etc.;
- Support in searching for funds by direct help in fundraising and promotion of centers' achievements.

5.4. Raising awareness program for the public servants and decision-makers

- Yearly workshop for key target groups (public servants of boroughs and counties, owners of the fish farms, managers of sacral objects – church buildings, cemeteries, designers and planners, landowners, etc.);
- Preparation of broad educational materials for the workshop participants adjusted to local conditions and needs, describing nature values, problems related to nature vs. specific field of activities (i.e. investments, land-use planning, zoning, management of land) and solutions;

- Publication of these materials in the local and regional press in order to reach broader audience.

5.5. Vocational training

- Co-organization of the training aiming at providing new or improve existing qualifications of local people (tour guides and pilots, teachers);
- Organization of the examinations to obtain / prolong license (where the licensing system will be introduced (implemented)).

5.6. Co-operation with media and promotion

- Creation of the media database system on BRV region (local, regional and specialized), maintenance of contacts on a regular basis;
- Regular service for the media (press releases on important events, justification (explanation) of problems and solutions);
- Promotion of tourist attractions and nature in regional, country-wide and international media;
- Co-operation with the tourist office / information stands / organizations;
- Organization of exhibitions and events concerning the BRV outside of the region (e.g. large cities).

5.7. Activities of the educational centers' network

- Supporting the networks of co-workers and local centers by the program's educational center (exchange of information; organization of periodical meetings for local educators etc.)
- Designed program for educators to increase their experience;
- Organization and support for the events organized in the region (e.g. Carp Festival or Milicz Days);
- Promotion of the educational network and its services (e.g. in leaflets for tourists, schools outside of the region, via Internet, Living Lakes network etc.);
- Creation of the common, coherent educational program for the local community and common offer for the people from outside of the BRV (visitors).

ANNEX I: MONITORING AND EVALUATION BUDGET

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US$ *Excluding project team Staff time*	Time frame
Inception Workshop	▪ Project Coordinator ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP GEF	$500	Within first two months of project start up
Inception Report	▪ Project Team ▪ UNDP CO	None	Immediately following IW
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Purpose Indicators	▪ Project Coordinator will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop. Indicative cost $ 1,750	Start, mid and end of project
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress and Performance (measured on an annual basis)	▪ Oversight by Project GEF Technical Advisor and Project Coordinator ▪ Measurements by regional field officers and local IAs	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation. Indicative cost $1,750	Annually prior to APR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
APR and PIR	▪ Project Team ▪ UNDP-CO ▪ UNDP-GEF	None	Annually
TPR and TPR report	▪ Government Counterparts ▪ UNDP CO ▪ Project team ▪ UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinating Unit	None	Every year, upon receipt of APR
Steering Committee Meetings	▪ Project Coordinator ▪ UNDP CO	None	Following Project IW and subsequently at least once a year
Periodic status reports	▪ Project team	$3,000	To be determined by Project team and UNDP CO
Technical reports	▪ Project team ▪ Hired consultants as needed	$2,000	To be determined by Project Team and UNDP-CO
Mid-term External Evaluation	▪ Project team ▪ UNDP- CO ▪ UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinating Unit ▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	$5,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Final External Evaluation	▪ Project team, ▪ UNDP-CO ▪ UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinating Unit ▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	$4,900	At the end of project implementation
Terminal Report	▪ Project team ▪ UNDP-CO ▪ External Consultant	None	At least one month before the end of the project
Lessons learned	▪ Project team ▪ UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinating Unit (suggested	Included under outcome 2 in the project budget	Yearly

	formats for documenting best practices, etc)		
Audit	▪ UNDP-CO ▪ Project team	$3,000 ($1000 per year)	Yearly
Visits to field sites (UNDP staff travel costs to be charged to IA fees)	▪ UNDP Country Office ▪ UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinating Unit (as appropriate) ▪ Government representatives	$2,100 ($700 per year)	Yearly
TOTAL INDICATIVE COST *Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses*		$24,000	