



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Monique Barbut
Chief Executive Officer
and Chairperson

1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433 USA
Tel: 202.473.3202
Fax: 202.522.3240/3245
E-mail: mbarbut@TheGEF.org

October 30, 2009

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to notify you that we have today posted on the GEF's website at www.TheGEF.org, a medium-sized project proposal from UNDP entitled ***Belarus: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Practices***, to be funded under the GEF Trust Fund.

This project aims to mainstream biodiversity conservation priorities into territorial planning policies and practices. The project proposal is being posted for your review. We would welcome any comments you may wish to provide by November 13, 2009, in accordance with the new procedures approved by the Council. You may send your comments to gcoordination@TheGEF.org.

If you do not have access to the Web, you may request the local field office of the World Bank or UNDP to download the document for you. Alternatively, you may request a copy of the document from the Secretariat. If you make such a request, please confirm for us your current mailing address.

Sincerely,

Copy: Country Operational Focal Point, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee



REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM SIZED PROJECT

THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: September 2009

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 3914

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: 3985

COUNTRY: Belarus

PROJECT TITLE: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Practices

GEF AGENCY: UNDP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP)

GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM: BD-SP-4

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT: Not Applicable

Expected Calendar	
Milestones	Dates
Work Program (for FSP)	NA
GEF Agency Approval	Oct 2009
Implementation Start	Jan 2010
Mid-term Review (if planned)	Jan 2012
Implementation Completion	Jan 2014

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To mainstream biodiversity conservation priorities into Belarus' territorial planning policies and practices

Project Components	Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Financing		Co-Financing		Total (\$) c=a+ b
				(\$ a)	%	(\$ b)	%	
1. Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional framework for land-use planning that reflects biodiversity considerations outside protected areas	TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2013, Belarus' sectoral regulations and methodological guidelines (natural resource protection and territorial planning sectors) facilitate the incorporation of biodiversity conservation requirements into planning and management of land use outside protected areas thus enhancing the long-term integrity of fragile ecosystems in 36% of the country (tracked in more detail using the SO-2 Tracking Tool). By 2013, increased knowledge and skills among government staff to accommodate biodiversity concerns in land-use planning and decision-making (tracked in more detail using the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard). 	1.1 Modifications to regulatory framework related to environment and natural resource management to support biodiversity mainstreaming outside PAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments to legislation on species maintenance standards to enhance its effectiveness Development of new National Action Plans for Threatened Species Recommendations on minimal standards for pasture and hay-field management, arable farming, logging, fishing, hunting, and recreation to ensure integrity of key biotopes/ habitats New Act on biotopes conservation 1.2 Amendments to Land Use Planning and Management Manuals and Guidelines that will make it obligatory to include biodiversity information (all new directives from Output 1.1) into the development and implementation of land use plans 1.3 System for effective monitoring and enforcement of the improved land use plans, including clear delineation of roles and responsibilities among key actors (State Committee on Property, MNREP, Academy of Sciences, National Institutes for Land Use Management) 1.4 Staff of the State Committee on Property and MNREP (national and district levels) have the capacity to enforce the new regulations, and manage the participatory process of biodiversity-compatible territorial planning	131,000	48	140,000	52	271,000

Project Components	Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Financing		Co-Financing		Total (\$) c=a+ b
				(\$) a	%	(\$) b	%	
2. Tested models for development and enforcement of biodiversity-compatible land-use plans at the district levels	TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2013, biodiversity threats outside PAs are reduced in 10 districts (1.9 million ha) by promoting sustainable land uses (logging, hay-making, pasture management, fishing, hunting, recreation) demonstrated in following key biotopes : Mires: 12,000 ha; Floodplain meadows: 8,000 ha; Lakes: 5,000 ha; and forests of high natural value such as floodplain wet deciduous forests: 20,000 ha By 2013, population of indicator species outside protected areas remain stable: Aquatic warbler for fen mires; Greater spotted eagle for floodplain wet deciduous forests; Bittern for lake, reed-bed and oxbow ecosystems; Great snipe and Black-tailed godwit for meadows; European otter for small river ecosystems; overall fish population dynamics for glacial lakes 	<p>2.1 Integrated territorial plans accommodating biodiversity concerns developed for 10 districts with following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-sectoral expert groups fully capacitated to develop plans GIS data-base and mapping library with data and GIS layers produced on socio-economic activities Full biodiversity and landscape diversity inventories with GIS biodiversity database and map layers to be overlaid on socioeconomic maps for identification of areas of potential conflict between biodiversity and economic activities Biodiversity-optimal scenario with maximum economic returns selected Species and habitat maintenance standards developed based on the identified scenario; these are discussed with each land-user at each site-of-conflict. Recommendations for adapting economic activities to the biodiversity standards developed jointly with the land-users District land-use plans finalized following discussions with land-users; enforcement and monitoring instructions in place for sites with potential conflict where biodiversity standards have to be observed <p>2.2 Training and in-field demonstration activities for land users, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> building the capacity of affected land-users to implement modified land use practices capacities of government staff increased on biodiversity standards, and approaches to managing biodiversity in each of the sectors (pastureland management, hay-cutting, fish-pond, logging), demonstration of practical ways to integrate biodiversity benefits into activities of different land users 	743,000	11	6,236,300	89	6,979,300
Project management				97,000	12	708,000	88	805,000
Total project costs				971,000	12	7,084,300	88	8,055,300

B. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT

Name of Cofinancier (Source)	Classification	Type	Amount (\$)	%
State Committee on Property	Government	Cash	2,200,000	31%
MNREP	Government	Cash	100,000	1.4%
Ministry of Forestry	Government	Cash	4,784,300	67.6%
Total Cofinancing			7,084,300	100%

C. FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

	Project Preparation	Project	Total	Agency Fee	GEF and Co-financing at PIF
GEF financing	29,000	971,000	1,000,000	100,000	971,000
Co-financing	30,000	7,084,300	7,114,300		2,860,000
Total	59,000	8,055,300	8,114,300	100,000	3,831,000

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA (S) AND COUNTRY (IES): Not applicable

E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Estimated person weeks	GEF (\$)	Other sources (\$)	Project total (\$)
Local consultants	318	98,280		
International consultants	10	27,500		
Total		125,780	0	125,780

Detailed information regarding the consultants is in [Annex C: Consultants to be hired for the project using GEF resources](#).

F. PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUDGET/COST

Cost Items	Total Estimated person weeks	GEF (\$)	Other sources (\$)	Total (\$)
Project Manager	114	36,480		36,480
Project Assistant	192	48,000		48,000
Local consultants	126		35,400	35,400
Equipment, Vehicles			247,800	247,800
Office facilities, communications, rent			141,600	141,600
Travel		12,520	283,200	295,720
Total		97,000	708,000	805,000

Detailed information regarding the consultants is in [Annex C: Consultants to be hired for the project using GEF resources](#).

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? No.

H. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

1. The project team and the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) supported by the UNDP/GEF Regional Coordination Unit in Bratislava will be responsible for project monitoring and evaluation conducted in accordance with established UNDP and GEF procedures. The [Project Results Framework in Annex A](#) provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation, along with their corresponding means of verification. The GEF SO-2 Tracking Tool will also be used to monitor progress on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in production landscapes. The following sections outline the principle components of the M&E plan and indicative cost estimates related to M&E activities. The project’s M&E plan will be presented to all stakeholders at the Project’s Inception Workshop and finalized following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

Project start:

2. A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 2 months of project start with those with assigned roles in the project organization structure, UNDP country office and where appropriate/ feasible regional technical policy and programme advisors as well as other stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first year annual work plan. The Inception Workshop will address a number of key issues including:

- Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project. Detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP CO and RCU staff vis-à-vis the project team. Discuss the roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project’s decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for project staff will be discussed again as needed.
- Based on the project results framework and the GEF SO-2 Tracking Tool, finalize the first annual work plan. Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and recheck assumptions and risks.
- Provide a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The Monitoring and Evaluation work plan and budget should be agreed and scheduled.
- Discuss financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit.
- Plan and schedule Project Board meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organization structures should be clarified and meetings planned. The first Project Board meeting should be held within the first 12 months following the inception workshop.

3. The Inception Workshop report will be a key reference document and will be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

Quarterly:

- Progress made shall be monitored in the UNDP Enhanced Results Based Management Platform.
- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in ATLAS.
- Based on the information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) can be generated in the Executive Snapshot.
- Other ATLAS logs can be used to monitor issues, lessons learned etc. The use of these functions will be a key indicator in the UNDP Executive Balanced Scorecard.

Annually:

4. Annual Project Review/ Project Implementation Reports (APR/PIR): This key report will be prepared to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the previous reporting period (30 June to 1 July). The APR/PIR combines both UNDP and GEF reporting requirements. The APR/PIR includes, but is not limited to, reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes - each with indicators, baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative)
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual)
- Lesson learned/good practice.
- AWP and other expenditure reports
- Risk and adaptive management
- ATLAS QPR
- Portfolio level indicators (i.e. GEF Biodiversity SO-2 tracking tool)

Periodic Monitoring through site visits:

5. UNDP CO and the UNDP RCU will conduct visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Other members of the Project Board may also join these visits. A Field Visit Report/BTOR will be prepared by the CO and UNDP RCU and will be circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team and Project Board members.

Mid-term of project cycle:

6. The project will undergo an independent Mid-Term Evaluation at the mid-point of project implementation (January 2012). The Mid-Term Evaluation will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term evaluation will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The Terms of Reference for this Mid-term evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The management response and the evaluation will be uploaded to UNDP corporate systems, in particular the [UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center \(ERC\)](#). The GEF SO-2 Tracking Tool will also be completed during the mid-term evaluation cycle.

End of Project:

7. An independent Final Evaluation will take place three months prior to the final Project Board meeting and will be undertaken in accordance with UNDP and GEF guidance. The final evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term evaluation, if any such correction took place). The final evaluation will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental benefits/goals. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The Terminal

Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response which should be uploaded to PIMS and to the [UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center \(ERC\)](#). The GEF SO-2 Tracking Tool will also be completed during the final evaluation.

8. During the last three months, the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems met and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's results.

Learning and knowledge sharing:

9. Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. Finally, there will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus.

Table 1. Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget (US\$)	Time frame
Inception Workshop (IW)	Project Manager Ministry of Environment, UNDP, UNDP-GEF	5,000	Within first two months of project start up
Inception Report	Project Team PSC, UNDP CO	None	Immediately following IW
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Purpose Indicators	Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop. Cost to be covered by targeted survey funds.	Start, mid and end of project
Annual Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress and Performance	Oversight by Project GEF Technical Advisor and Project Manager Measurements by regional field officers and local IAs	TBD as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation. Cost to be covered by field survey budget.	Annually prior to APR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
PIR	Project Team PSC UNDP-GEF	None	Annually
Steering Committee meetings	Project Manager	None	Following IW and annually thereafter.
Technical and periodic status reports	Project team Hired consultants as needed	6,000	TBD by Project team and UNDP-CO
Mid-term External Evaluation	Project team PSC UNDP-GEF RCU External Consultants (evaluation team)	25,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Final External Evaluation	Project team, PSC, UNDP-GEF RCU External Consultants (evaluation team)	32,000	At the end of project implementation
Terminal Report	Project team PSC External Consultant	None	At least one month before the end of the project
Audit	UNDP-CO Project team	5,000	Yearly
Visits to field sites (UNDP staff travel costs to be charged to IA fees)	UNDP-CO, UNDP-GEF RCU Government representatives	None	Yearly average one visit per year
TOTAL (indicative) COST (Excluding project and UNDP staff time costs)		73,000	

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

A. STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED:

Geographic and biodiversity context

10. Belarus is a land-locked country situated along the Western Dvina and Dnieper Rivers. It is bordered to the west by Poland, north by Latvia and Lithuania, east by Russia, and south by Ukraine. The total land area of 207,598 square kilometers is divided into 6 regions (oblasts) – Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Mogilev, and Minsk. These are further subdivided into 118 districts (rayons). The length from north to south is 560 kilometers, and from west to east is 650 kilometers. The relief of the country is mainly flat with the highest point being only 346 meters above sea level.

11. The country lies at the border of two geobotanic regions: the Eurasian coniferous (taiga) and the European broad-leaved regions. The physiographic and climatic conditions of Belarus favor forest and water-marsh ecosystems. The north (Poozer'e) is characterized by large woodland coniferous forests and a large number of lakes, bogs and rivers. The center is marked by mainly open, strongly developed landscapes. Fens and transitional mires, and deciduous forests crossed by flat rivers with highly irrigated floodplains have a wide distribution in the south (Poles'e). Compared to its neighbors, the country boasts a relatively high rate of intactness of natural landscapes. Natural complexes and ecosystems occupy 11,913 thousand hectares or 56.7% of the territory (see table for composition).

Table 2. Natural complexes and ecosystems of Belarus

Natural ecosystems	Thousand hectares	% of territory of country
Forest and shrubs	8,677.8	41.8
Natural meadows	1,035.7	4.9
Floodplain meadows	80	0.3
Natural mire	1,434	6.9
Lakes	133.9	0.6
Lands unused in economic purposes	451.6	2.2
Total	11,813	56.7

12. Among the natural landscapes, deciduous fir forests, black alder and deciduous forests, humidified or seasonally flooded meadows, fen mires, bogs, lakes and river bed ecosystems play a particularly important role in the conservation of regionally and globally significant biodiversity. The rich mosaic of ecosystems provide habitat for several IUCN Red List species. Notable among these are 17 European endangered bird species, 5 species of mammals, 6 invertebrate species and 6 plant species. For a small country, the global or European share of a number of IUCN Red List species is sizeable: Aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola* 50% of European population), Black stork (*Ciconia nigra* 14.6%), Greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga* 18%), Corncrake (*Crex crex* 10%), Great snipe (*Gallinago media* 7%), Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus* 5%), Redshank (*Tringa totanus* 6%), Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa* 3%), substantial populations of European Bison (*Bison bonasus*), Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*), as well as various orchid species and other plants with international protection status. The international importance of the country's biodiversity is underscored by the presence of 47 Important Bird Areas, eight Ramsar sites, and three Biosphere Reserves.

Status of biodiversity outside protected areas

13. The globally significant biodiversity of the country is to some extent secured by the national protected area system, which covers 7.9% of national territory. But the conservation of biodiversity also depends on fragmented habitats outside protected areas (PAs). In fact, the largest part of the country's natural ecosystems is located outside PAs. These modified landscapes are characterized by rich floral and faunal diversity. Today, about 30% of species included in the National Red Data Book is present in man-modified landscapes. More than half of them in fact prefer such habitats or can be found only in these territories. Amongst the most important types of man-transformed territories which play a significant role for the conservation of the diversity of fauna species are various man-made fish ponds and water reservoirs that are analogous to natural water reservoirs in the most productive eutrophic stage; open drained areas of wetlands, earlier drained shrub-covered plains and floodplains; unique mature artificial forest stands, old landscape parks analogous to natural forests but frequently more diverse in the composition and structure of the vegetation cover and other ecological characteristics used as habitats for original and rich faunal complexes; agro-ecological zones of

peculiar vast territories with traditional land cultivation technologies and other economic activities. These are usually rich biotic complexes and very often without prototypes in the natural environments.¹

14. The government is not planning to expand its PA system. The country's priorities for biodiversity conservation, as set out in its National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, are to consolidate and improve the management effectiveness of the current PA system on the one hand and on the other, to support ecological improvements and optimum use of natural resources in various social and economic sectors (territory and urban planning, transport and road construction, agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing, water management and land development, timber and mineral extraction industries, defence, and tourism and recreation).

Socio-economic context

15. Belarus' population stood at 9.7 million at the end of 2008, making it the 14th most populous country in Europe. Population density is 46 persons per square kilometer. The country is experiencing a decline in population numbers, though the rate of decline has reduced in the last few years. The country's GDP per capita was estimated at USD 6,000 in 2008 and, until 2009, was showing a tendency for constant and steady growth. The rate of improvement of the quality of life of the population, however, lags behind the rate of economic growth.

16. Land ownership. Almost all land in Belarus is under State ownership. At the beginning of 2009, only 75.3 thousand hectares or 0.36 % of land area was in private property. The country's legislation on land resources establishes very limited cases for private property. According to current legislation, private property can constitute no more than 5-6% of all land. Therefore, the overwhelming prevalence of State property will remain in the foreseeable future.

17. Agriculture. The rural landscape outside PAs is mainly characterized by economic activities such as agriculture (arable farming, livestock rearing, hay-making, and fisheries), forestry and hunting, and other forms of recreation. Agriculture has traditionally played a significant role in the economy of Belarus. Its share of GDP is about 20%². Per capita farmland is 0.92 hectares (including 0.57 hectares of arable lands per capita), which is more than twice the figure for a majority of European countries. Arable farming is carried out by more than 2,500 large agricultural enterprises and almost 2,000 private farmers. About 30-40% of all agricultural production is produced through private farming (depending on conditions in the year), reflecting the increase in the number of private farms. Agriculture is traditional and extensive in character, and associated with low fertility and economically unprofitable land areas. In spite of this, farmlands are used intensively. The stability of total agricultural production is supported by vast areas of cultivated lands and a large number of low productivity cattle. Meadows and grass marshes are widely used for haymaking and grazing livestock.

18. Fisheries. In spite of the fact that Belarus has a large quantity of natural lakes, rivers and reservoirs, the fisheries sector is relatively poorly developed. Freshwater fish account for only 10% of the total annual consumption of fish in Belarus. Fish ponds are the other major fishing resource. Under the leasing system of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 19 large fisheries are engaged in commercial fish production, which includes such fish as: carp, silver carp, white cupid, bream, pikes, crucian carp, perch, roach, and also valuable species of fish (sheatfish, pikeperch, sturgeon, sterlet, and trout) and *Astacus leptodactylus*. Carp accounts for about 87% of all fish production. Fishing is mostly conducted using drag nets or seines (up to 80% of all catches); the rest is taken in fixed nets, drift nets and traps. There is a gradual development of amateur fishery and accompanying services, as interest in recreational activities is growing. Fish culture activities are managed by the National Fish Culture Development Programme (2006-2010) under which several fish nurseries have been restructured for the production of fish-planting material of precious fish species, including the sturgeon, the sheatfish and phytivorous fish species. Activities are also being undertaken to grow fish fry of native and cultivated fish species and their incorporation into fisheries to help restore commercial fish reserves.

19. Forestry and hunting. Forestry activity in the country is carried out exclusively by large state organizations called "forestries". At the beginning of 2009, there were 121 such organizations. The forestry organizations are the largest land users in the country (9.2 million hectares of land are occupied by forestries). In the 10 pilot districts of the project, there are 10 forestries that are actively engaged in forestry. Hunting takes place under the country's Hunting Regulations. Licenses need to be obtained and hunting must be carried out exclusively by methods specified in the hunting authorization. Infringers of hunting rules and regulations are liable, in conformity with administrative, civil and penal legislation.

¹ National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Republic of Belarus (1998), henceforth referred to as "the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy" in this document.

² Data are from the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

Key drivers of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services outside protected areas

20. These different forms of land use outside protected areas are increasingly leading to habitat destruction and conversion that pose a growing threat to the long-term conservation of biodiversity. Changes in local land use patterns for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and hunting are the principal direct drivers of biodiversity loss outside PAs.

21. Unsustainable agriculture. Inappropriate allocation of parcels of land for arable farming is destroying grassland and wetland habitats. The transformation of the agricultural landscape into large territories of open farmlands with monocultures is having an impact on the population numbers of large predators, notably the Lesser spotted eagle and Greater spotted eagle. These species require a mosaic combination of agricultural lands interspersed with natural sites of fen mires, meadows and wooded islands. The population numbers of other species of animals and plants are also decreasing because of inappropriate land-use planning (e.g., Heath cock, Common partridge, Pewit, Corncrake; the relic populations of a Common hamster and Spotted souslik are critically endangered).

22. Unsustainable hay-mowing. Mechanized hay-mowing on meadows is conducted without observance of wildlife conservation rules, such as the use of special devices to frighten off animals, and carrying out mowing from the centre to the periphery. The non-observance of these rules is leading to decreasing numbers of meadow species (Corncrake, Snipe, Great snipe, Pewit). Further, these hay mowing rules are not being observed in the habitats of rare species. As a result, early hay-mowing in the beginning of June leads to nest-deaths of rare species of birds (Aquatic warbler, Corncrake, Great snipe) and plants.

23. Cessation of hay-mowing in some areas. Before the process of land reclamation, natural areas (fen mires and wet floodplain meadow) were annually mowed by the rural population, which prevented these areas from getting overgrown by shrubs. However, after land reclamation, mowing could be performed on reclaimed lands with mechanical equipment. As a result, manual mowing on wet floodplain meadows was considerably reduced and on fen mires was practically stopped, leading to the lands being rapidly overgrown by shrubs and reeds. Some rare species of flora and fauna that only inhabit open sites (Aquatic warbler, Stone plover, and Great snipe) began disappearing.

24. Cessation of cattle grazing in some wet floodplain meadow, and over-grazing in others. Current patterns of cattle movements for grazing threaten populations of globally important grassland species such as Great Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit and Lapwing. Due to the cessation of grazing regimes, a number of wet floodplain meadows that are especially important for nesting of rare bird species are intensively overgrown with shrubs that lead to a total disappearance of Sand piper colonies. On the other hand, early grazing in certain restricted territories is leading to the increased destruction of birds' nests and changes in vegetation structure.

25. Industrial and amateur stocking of wild-growing berries, especially cranberries. Due to insufficient planning and control, this is leading to overstocking of berry resources in some areas, which, in turn, reduces food supply for various species of animals and adversely affects surface cover due to trampling. Some rare plants are being over-stocked by the population for medicinal, decorative and food purposes (*Melittis sarmatica*, Ramson, Yellow lady's slipper etc.), in violation of the current law, and this leads to degradation of plant populations.

26. Unsustainable forestry. At present, forest vegetation, flora and fauna are undergoing considerable changes in conjunction with intensification of forestry. Over 21% of forested area is characterized by forest cultures that are phytocenosis with simplified structure and depressed stability to unfavorable environmental factors. The share of plantation forests in the territory of Belarus is constantly increasing. In mono-dominant tree plantings, the gene pool of forest forming breeds is depleted, the species structure of plants and animals is simplified, and tolerance to diseases and pests is lowered. Logging, in combination with infringement of natural conditions of afforestation, lead to the reduction of communities with domination of native deciduous breeds (Oak, Ash-tree, etc) and also of aged aspen forests that are extremely valuable from the biodiversity conservation point of view. As a result of irrational forest management over the last few years and unsatisfactory forest management in the former collective-farm forests and state-farm forests, the age structure of forests consists largely of middle age forest (45.4% of forested areas) and new growth (27.5%); old forests have remained approximately at 5% of forested area.

27. Logging of forests that are of high nature protection importance and/ or habitats of rare species. The principal negative impact of forest management on fauna and flora stems from the prevalence of unsustainable logging practices (effectively 86.9% of areas where logging is taking place). Unsustainable logging practices, such as the use of fire for forest clearing and cutting down of old hollow trees during sanitary felling, are affecting nesting areas of some rare bird species (Greater spotted eagle, Lesser spotted eagle, Black stork, Great gray owl), leek of Capercille, as well as areas where rare species of plants occur. Sanitary felling in habitats of rare species during the nesting period or in areas of

occurrence of rare vegetation leads to their disappearance. The main reason for persistence of unsustainable logging methods is the lack of information on habitats of rare species and forests with high nature conservation value. There are also deficiencies in the norms of forest legislation that are meant to require mandatory compliance of biodiversity conservation principles in forest management. At the same time, principles of sustainable forest management are being more widely introduced and further dissemination of these are anticipated to reduce the negative impact of forest management on fauna and flora.

28. Changes to the hydrological regime of wetlands. This is occurring mainly due to river floodplain embankments, straightening of rivers, impact of surrounding drainage systems, peat extraction on adjoining wetlands, and unsustainable use of water resources. Changes in the hydrological regime, in turn, lead to peat fires, shrinkage and mineralization of peat that decreases their ability to fix carbon dioxide, and overgrowth of open bogs and wet floodplain meadows by shrubs and reeds. Based on results of the most recent inventory, about 25,000 hectares of bogs drained for forest reclamation are recognized as inefficiently drained. Such territories are subject to peat fires and, according to the trade program of Forestry Ministry, are subjected to iterative water logging.

29. Fish-pond management practices. Many current fish pond management practices (such as clear-cutting of surface vegetation of ponds and late filling of ponds) are destructive to the habitat of water bird species that nest and feed on fish ponds during spring and autumn migration³.

30. Colonization of lakes by non-native species. The greatest negative influence on lake ecosystems is the colonization by carp and other species not characteristic for lakes. As a result of carp colonization, water quality is changing, rapid eutrophication is being observed, and the species structure of fishes and plants is changing. The principal underlying reason for this is the absence of normative documents that prohibit colonization of natural reservoirs by non-native species

31. Degradation of spawning areas. A major problem for the ecosystems of lakes and floodplain reservoirs is the degradation of spawning areas of the majority of fish species. Degradation is caused by the overgrowing of shallow areas by quagmires and shrubs, a disruption of links between oxbow lakes and river beds as a result of the deepening of river beds, and overgrowth of river outlets where they flow into lakes.

32. Unsustainable amateur fishery and unsustainable hunting. The excessive withdrawal of fish by amateur fishers (total landings are 1.5 times greater than the limits), and the lack of compliance with science-based norms of fish withdrawal leads not only to reduction of fish resources, but also to changes in species structure and ichthyofauna structure (age, length-weight), and considerable reduction and even disappearance (probably from individual ichthyocenoses) of some fish species. Damage to rare species of fishes and a number of water plants is also occurring from the use of seines. Unsustainable management of gaming activities (in particular, spring bird hunting) can lead to a decline in the number of some valuable gaming species.

33. Mining. To complete the picture of threats emanating from land-use in Belarus, mining (primarily peat extraction) is also a threat to biodiversity outside PAs⁴. The cumulative effect of all inappropriate land-uses on habitats is substantial, especially in areas where such practices combine with each other.

Legal and institutional framework for the conservation of rare species and ecosystems

34. The National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy notes that "...measures need to be identified to reduce negative consequences of different forms of economic activities on biological diversity". Indeed, there are a number of laws in place to support the conservation of species and habitats, as well as to regulate the activities of production sectors that impact biodiversity in the wider landscape.

35. Under the aegis of the Environment Protection Law (26 November 1992), Belarus has prepared a National Red Data Book listing rare and threatened species that are classified into different categories of perceived risk. The Red Data Book of Belarus⁵ has constitutive power, giving special protection to the groups of plants and animals threatened with extinction. Under the environmental law, all red-listed species should be protected. The Law on Wildlife (10 July 2007)

³ Approximately 79 water bird species have been recorded as nesting and feeding on fish ponds in Belarus during spring and autumn migration, including Black Stork, grebes, diving ducks, White-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*).

⁴ This issue is receiving a lot of attention and support through the ongoing UNDP/GEF Peatland project, and investments of the German Government. This threat, therefore, is not directly dealt with in this project.

⁵ The third edition of the National Red Data Book was published in two volumes in 2004-05, using the new categories of IUCN to compile species lists and status. The National Red Book is managed by MNREP.

and the Law on Plant World (14 June 2003) place obligations on economic entities for conservation of international and national red-listed species. These laws define the rules and regulations concerning species management as well as inventories for plant and animal species that are rare and threatened with extinction. A new regulation of the Council of Ministers has been adopted (30 January 2008; № 126), which imposes the Conditions of Protecting the Habitats of Red-listed Plant and Animal Species.

36. The key mechanism for implementing the Red Book is the so-called “species passport”. These are documented surveys of Red Book species with minimal standards prescribed for the conservation of these species⁶. Every year, species maintenance standards are developed by means of compiling inventories, and detecting rare plant and animal species. Species maintenance standards are developed by experts or organizations, and verified by the National Academy of Sciences. They are then passed on to the local land users and administration so that they can provide for the protection and sustainable management of these species. At present, there are 2,260 habitats of rare animal (1,490) and plant (770) species that are threatened with extinction in Belarus. The responsibility for protecting these has been transferred to land users, with protection obligations controlled by the MNREP. The process of developing species maintenance standards and delegating conservation to land users has only just started, and already the scope for improvement is evident. This is especially true for species/ habitats that do not fall within Specially Protected Natural Areas.

37. In terms of protection of species threatened with global extinction, Belarus has achieved some success in protecting such species. Since 2000, Belarus has been developing National Action Plans for internationally important species, which stipulate in detail habitat requirements and conservation measures to be undertaken by land-users. However, these are currently not legally binding documents. Within the framework of internationally-funded projects, management plans have been devised concerning some of the most important habitats of the Aquatic Warbler, as a result of which the species numbers have become stable. National projects concerning the protection of the Great Spotted Eagle and the Great Snipe and other threatened species have been developed and started to be implemented. In 2008, management plans were developed for the regional populations of the wolf as well as the lynx (*Lynx lynx*). By the end of 2008, recommendations will be developed regarding the development of typical action plans concerning rare species and species threatened with global extinction. In addition, an annotated list has been devised of priority species for which National Action Plans need to be developed.

38. The normative basis for elimination of invasive species is also generally well-developed in Belarus⁷. A Centre for Invasive Animal and Plant Species has been created at the National Academy of Sciences, whose tasks are to register, inventory, compile a data bank of invasive species, and evaluate the consequences of invasion for the state of biodiversity and organize cooperation with similar organizations in other countries and global structures. However, practical methods for elimination of invasive species have not yet been sufficiently developed.

39. Further, Belarus has legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which stipulates mandatory EIA for certain types of land-use projects, including clauses on public participation in line with the Orhus Convention. While preparing the EIA, it is necessary to take into consideration information on the occurrence of protected species and prevention or minimization of threats to them. In accordance with Articles 58, 59, 60 and 61 of the Law of Belarus on Environmental Protection (July 17, 2002; No. 126-3) environmental impact assessment (EIA) must be conducted on all planned economic projects and other activities which can have a harmful influence on the environment. The types of activities for which EIAs are mandatory have been approved by the MNREP⁸.

40. Even within the sectors, there are efforts to mitigate impacts on protected species. In the **Forestry Sector**, important strides have been made in providing for sustainable forest management. A system of national forest certification has been established, which is highly acclaimed in Europe. Limitations and bans (full and partial) have been imposed on forest use in over 27% of forested territory. The goal of biodiversity conservation is reflected in the Strategy of Sustainable Forest Management of Belarus⁹, which runs through 2015. A system of certification is being implemented, both national and international (FSC and PEFC). So far, more than 28% of forestries have been FSC certified, and 75% forestries have received national certification. However, evaluations by independent experts have

⁶ In the Belarusian legal context, minimal standards to ensure integrity of a biotope/habitat are not yet in place.

⁷ Regulation № 126 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus (30 January 2008,) has led to the compilation of a list of 12 invasive species. Regulations № 2 and № 106 have approved a list of invasive plant species.

⁸ Information on the types of projects subject to EIAs can be found at http://www.dnipro-gef.net/first_stage/project-reports/other-reports/review-of-environmental-impact-assessment-process-belarus

⁹ The Strategy was established under Regulation № 1760 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus (29 December 2006).

revealed that in developing and implementing forest management plans, not enough attention is being paid to the conservation of biodiversity, mainly due to a lack of information on the distribution of protected species and biotopes. Clear-cutting is applied, with the remaining wood being subsequently burnt. There is a lack of knowledge on occurrence of rare species among biologists and ecologists, and limited understanding of the harm caused by alien trees species in forest plantations.

41. In the **Fisheries Sector**, the use of fishing tools and methods that damage biodiversity and other activities that disturb fish resources, their breeding conditions, migration ways and habitats are forbidden. Regulation № 168 of the Council of Ministers (7 February 2008) defines the size of and process for collecting compensation payments for building, dredging and explosion activities, mineral resources excavation, water plants production, cabling, pipeline and other activities carried out at water bodies. Regulation № 72 of the MNREP (18 August 2008) specifies methods for evaluating the damage caused to fish resources as a result of their illegal extraction and destruction. An absolute ban on fishing during the breeding period is being implemented. A scheme of designated fishing areas has been established, according to which local authorities lease fisheries. Leasing and exploitation of fisheries is conducted according to biological and economic criteria developed by scientific organizations. Leasers of fisheries have the responsibility to protect the fishery and also natural spawning areas. Limits are set on the catch of fish. There is a minimum size of fish allowed to be caught by anyone. Recreational fishing activity, too, is governed by certain norms. Control over the observation of fishing rules is exercised by the State Inspection Service under the President of Belarus and other bodies of state fish control. However, as described above (see [Drivers of Biodiversity Loss](#)), in spite of the strong legislative basis, fishing practices continue to harm vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species. The governance of land use at the local level is not effectively regulating different land users to ensure that their land-use practices are not harming ecologically sensitive areas.

42. In the area of **Water Management**, along the banks of rivers and other water bodies, water protection zones and near-bank areas are specially designated (within 100 meters of the water body) where there is a strict regime of protection and use of natural resources. A state water inventory is being compiled. In terms of **Land Reclamation and Melioration**, meliorated areas are being monitored. The state programme “Conservation and Management of Meliorated Areas for 2005-2010” addresses disaggregating of polder systems, planting forest belts, creating ecological niches and migration corridors. A Law on Land Melioration has been adopted which bans melioration on the territory of reservations and national parks, wild animals’ migration ways, habitats of protected animal and plant species, and also on other areas which are important for the conservation of biodiversity. In spite of these regulations, the hydrological regime of most wetlands in Belarus continues to be disturbed mainly due to the influence of surrounding melioration systems (see [Drivers of Biodiversity Loss](#)), and efforts to restore hydrological regimes are mainly being undertaken through internationally-funded projects¹⁰. The governance of land use at the local level is not effectively regulating different land users to ensure that their land-use practices are not harming ecologically sensitive areas.

43. Clearly, the legal foundation for protecting vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species outside protected areas exists. There are also State institutions with the mandate to implement this legal framework (see table below). These institutions are responsible for implementing a range of state programs related to planning and management of economic activities in the wider landscape outside protected areas (for details see [Section F on incremental reasoning of the project](#)). Most of these programs mention the need to integrate ecological considerations in the conduct of economic activities. However, while the principles are present, there still remains a gap in implementing these. This is evident from the fact that biodiversity outside protected areas is still threatened by habitat destruction and conversion, driven by economic activities in the agricultural landscape.

Table 3. Institutional framework

Key institutions	Mandate
The State Committee on Property of the Republic of Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for implementing State policy in the spheres of land management, the State Land Cadastre, the State Register of Real Estate, Related Rights and Transactions, and valuation. Exercises State control over the use and protection of lands Develops and implements State programs/ projects on rational use and protection of land resources, land management, land cadastre, geodesy and cartography
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus (MNREP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for implementing State Policy in the area of environmental conservation and rational use of natural resources, including both economic and scientific-technical aspects. Study, protection, reproduction and rational use of natural resources, including subsoil

¹⁰ Notable among these is the UNDP-GEF project “Renaturalization and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus”, which is re-wetting 17 pilot territories. This project has received much international attention and has scored well on independent external evaluations.

Key institutions	Mandate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assets, water, fauna and flora, conservation of the environment • Development and implementation of government programs/ projects, action plans and other documents in the field of environmental conservation and rational use of natural resources • Regulation and coordination of activity of other republican state bodies, local executive and administrative organs, and other organizations in maintaining ecological security, conservation of the environment and rational use of natural resources • Exercises State control in the area of the environmental conservation • Provision of ecological information for republican state bodies, local executive and administrative organs, and citizens • Organization of ecological knowledge and its dissemination, participation in the creation of education system in the area of environment conservation
The local executive organs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for implementing, within their jurisdictional territory, State control over protection of fauna and flora • Address land management and land use questions, in accordance with the legislation
Ministry of Agriculture and Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for implementing State policy in the area of agricultural production and land reclamation (design, building and exploitation of reclamation and water systems) • Management of water resource with an agricultural purpose • Managing productive fisheries (fish and water invertebrates), including conservation and recovery of their dwelling environment
Ministry of Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for implementing State scientific and technical policy in the field of forestry and hunting • Exercises State control over forestry and hunting activity • Organizes the complex administration of forestry and hunting activities • Provides for the rational use and protection of State forest lands by: managing forest reproduction and afforestation, managing forest seeds business and forest farms on a genetic selection basis, and providing the conservation of a gene pool of forest vegetation • Organizes work on reproduction, protection and rational use of wild animals, as well as the conservation and reclamation of their dwelling environment under hunting laws
The State Inspectorate for Fauna and Flora Protection of the President of the Republic of Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for implementing State control over the protection and management of wild animals for hunting and fishing, as well as tree, shrub species and other harvested wild plants • Responsible for detection and suppression of violations in the area of protection and management of wild animals, belonging to wild game and fishery reserves, other wild animals if their removal from natural habitats is done in violation of wild game hunting and fishery rules, as well as of tree, shrub species and other harvested wild plants
National Academy of Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific research to inform decisions in all spheres including sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation • Scientific research on red-listed animal and plant species and development of activities aimed at their protection and sustainable management • Scientific research to guide the development of normative documents in the sphere of sustainable management of natural resources • Monitoring of the state of biodiversity • Scientific research in support of nature protection conventions • Development of national strategies and action plans aimed at the conservation of biodiversity, wetlands, and such
Belarusian Research Institute for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out scientific research and experimental work in the field of land management, geodesy, cartography and assessment of lands • Methodical maintenance of works on land management and the estimation of the lands • Developing land management projects • Creation of geographical information systems and cadastres for special purposes • Carrying out geodesic and cartographical works • Realization of publishing activities including the distribution of legal information
Republican unitary enterprise “Project Institute Belgiprozem” and district level representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out of investigations on forest resources of the country • Preparation of data for conducting the state land cadastre • Realization of cadastral estimation of the lands • Working out schemes and land management projects • Carrying out geodesic works on establishment of the land areas borders • Creation of digital models of territories, plans and maps

Territorial planning as an entry point for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation

44. The National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy notes that “effective conservation of biological diversity is impossible without ecologically sound territorial organization and planning in the region”. To this end, Belarus’ national system for land use planning offers an important entry point for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation concerns into production sectors. The principal types of **territorial planning** are: town-planning applied mainly for built up areas; land use planning for agricultural territories; and nature protection planning for regions with a special ecological situation. The main document for territorial planning for agricultural territories is the Territorial Land Management Plan of each administrative district. However, the tendency of existing territorial planning documents is to consider nature protection post-facto i.e., they are directed mainly at overcoming negative anthropogenic consequences, instead of a more pro-active approach to conservation of natural ecosystems. Further, the documents are not comprehensive and only consider limited sectors, territories, and land functions. The territorial plans, nevertheless, present an important opportunity for integrating the ecosystem approach and giving special attention to threatened/ vulnerable biotopes and species, by, for instance: (i) amending existing restrictions on land use, (ii) improving land-use methods, and (iii) creating national ecological networks.

45. Further, the political environment for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation concerns into land use activities by means of the territorial plans is also ripe. A number of important steps have recently been taken by the Government of Belarus (GOB), and these provide a strong foundation on which the GEF project can build. The Government adopted in 2008 a Framework Regulation on Territorial Planning, which is a legal annex to the Land Code. This regulation prescribes the “general approach to incorporating environmental sustainability into territorial plans at the time of their design” and has an overarching influence on all land-based economic sectors. According to this regulation, all 118 districts (rayons) must develop and adopt such plans as the primary guiding framework for agriculture, forestry, and other economic activities. Thus, the Land Code in combination with the 2008 Framework Regulation has become the main entry point for any kind of environmental mainstreaming. Any further amendments to the Land Code, as well as to the 2008 Regulation, will be relevant for all economic sectors that use land. Later in that same year, GOB allocated resources for development of integrated territorial plans for 40 districts (or 36% of the country) that are to be completed by 2012. However, so far no clear connection has been made between the land management legislation and nature protection. Further, there are neither mechanisms for nor experience with mainstreaming biodiversity conservation concerns into the preparation of land management plans in Belarus. For instance, there are no guidelines for placing limits on or modifying hay-making methods, cattle grazing, landscape planning, and other types of economic activities, in cases where such activities are having an adverse impact on the conservation of vulnerable species and ecosystems.

Desired long-term solution

46. The long-term vision of the project mirrors that articulated in the NBSAP, whereby land-use policies and management practices in the country would fully take into account important biodiversity. The NBSAP strives for such “ecologically-balanced planning of a territorial unit which means that selection of the location and the area of urbanized development, agriculture, forestry, guarantee a normal functioning of ecosystems and their components and the conservation of historically established conditions of evolution of genetic resources. Such a sustainable planning structure should be based on a highly dispersed distribution of territories where natural ecosystems, united into an integrated regional system through natural migration tracks, would prevail.” The main barriers to realizing this vision can be clustered as follows: (a) systemic regulatory barrier; and (b) knowledge barrier.

Barriers to achieving the desired long-term solution

47. Systemic regulatory barriers: Firstly, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are mandatory for newly designed, relatively large-scale, mostly production-type projects. EIAs are not mandatory for land-based activities already underway, for non-production programs and plans (such as territorial plans), nor for projects below a certain size. For these reasons, economic activities such as arable farming, pasture management, hay-making, forestry, fisheries and hunting are not subject to EIAs. This is a “classic” problem for most countries with EIA legislation, wherein projects that do not require an EIA lack an alternative mechanism to ensure biodiversity compliance.

48. Secondly, the Framework Territorial Regulation adopted in 2008 deals with “environmental sustainability” in general without stipulating regulatory mechanisms and standards for biodiversity mainstreaming in particular. It does not define which habitats, species, and ecosystem goods and services need to be accounted for in territorial planning. It lacks methodologies and protocols (sequences-of-action with defined roles of various organizations) for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation concerns into territorial planning and, in turn, into economic activities whose location and methods are governed by territorial plans (e.g., techniques for fish pond management, selection of logging sites in forestry, pasture management in agriculture).

49. Thirdly, while the species maintenance standards are a significant step forward, their current content is focused primarily on “single-species-ecology”, rather than on the ecosystem approach. For example, the species maintenance standards do not overlay multiple species habitats, do not address their interaction with human-made and natural ecotones, and do not account for ecosystem buffering functions. This type of information is in fact more important for land-users than species ecology. As a result, the effectiveness of the current species maintenance standards has proven to be low.

50. Fourthly, the prescribed timing and “action-sequence” of preparing a territorial plan is divergent from the timing and approach of preparing the species maintenance standards. Similarly, the procedure needed to prepare territorial plans is decoupled from the preparation of National Action Plans on threatened species. The biodiversity impact of these systemic legal and procedural inconsistencies is that very often land is irreversibly developed (i.e. logged or ploughed) before a district government receives data from a species passport or a National Action Plan, according to which a particular plot of land should have been developed in a different way, or should have been excluded from exploitation altogether.

51. Finally, at the time when a territorial plan is being prepared, assessment of economic profitability and social acceptance of a certain land-development scenario is conducted without taking into account monetary and non-monetary values of ecosystem goods and services. Thus, the local governments are unaware of the full range of ecosystem values and of ways to profit from conserving ecosystems or exploiting them in a less “extensive” manner. Weak compliance enforcement and low capacities of district environmental inspections and district land-use officers aggravate this type of behavior among local land-users.

52. Knowledge barrier: Although “environmental mainstreaming” is now required by the 2008 Framework Regulation on Territorial Planning, capacities and knowledge for mainstreaming of biodiversity specifically are extremely low. District Land Use Committees do not possess a sufficient level of biodiversity distribution data outside protected areas, do not have experience in using GIS technologies, commissioning biodiversity studies, and are unable to integrate biodiversity information in the territorial plans using a participatory approach. The State Committee on Property of Belarus, which is the primary institution in charge of territorial planning, does not have experience with assessing the full range of ecosystem goods and services, engaging cross-sectoral expert groups (economists, biologists, hydrologists, geologists, and others as appropriate), and linking the timing and procedure of territorial planning to the timing and procedure for developing standards for species and habitat maintenance. The benefits of biodiversity mainstreaming for long-term profitability of specific land-based activities have not been demonstrated. Further, although Belarus is a small country, a one-size-fit-all model for developing a biodiversity-friendly territorial plan would not be acceptable, as there are bio-geographic differences that need to be taken into account, overlaid by differences in economic specialization of districts. At the individual level, capacities of land-use specialists at the central, and particularly at the local (district) level, are inadequate to understand the full range of ecosystem goods and services of natural areas in their districts, to ensure that the territorial planning process is organized on the basis of cross-sectoral working groups, and to make sure that particular land users are engaged in consultations. The current enforcement mechanism does not feature biodiversity concerns. As a result of the above gaps, apart from the peat-mining sector, there is a widely held perception among land-users that “whatever is prescribed for biodiversity outside protected areas will not work, and is just a hindrance to profit-making”.

53. These two barriers reinforce each other: without regulations there is no stimulus to change the practice, but on the other hand, unless there is an example of how a practice can be modified in an environment of a concrete land-user in a concrete administrative district, there is no material to base a policy on, if a policy is to be enforceable.

Project Strategy

54. Based on an analysis of the baseline situation and consultations with project stakeholders, the project objective is to mainstream biodiversity conservation priorities into Belarus’ territorial planning policies and practices. Given that territorial planning legislation has a superior and more over-arching value than sector-specific legislation in Belarus, mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into territorial planning is considered an effective way of favorably modifying sector practices. Further, the limited GEF resources available to Belarus would not be sufficient to cover land-use regulations, together with a comprehensive coverage of such large-scale sectors as agriculture, forestry, and water management. The project will therefore focus on removing the systemic regulatory and knowledge barriers identified above to mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into territorial planning. Demonstration of the effective integration of information on vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species into territorial plans will be undertaken in 10

pilot districts where sector practices will be modified in line with minimal standards and requirements established under the territorial plan. The project objective will be achieved through the following two outcomes.

Outcome 1: Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional framework for land-use planning that reflects biodiversity considerations outside protected areas

55. This outcome will be national in scope and will address the systemic regulatory barriers identified above.

Output 1.1 Modifications to legislative/ regulatory framework related to environment and natural resource management to support biodiversity mainstreaming outside PAs

56. Amendments to legislation on species maintenance standards (“species passports”). The process of developing and implementing species maintenance standards for species listed in Belarus’ Red Book has only just started, and already the need for improving this normative document is becoming clear. As highlighted in the barriers section above, the content of the passports is primarily focused on “single-species-ecology”, and, further, this process is not well integrated into the preparation of territorial plans. As a result, information from the former is not feeding into and influencing the shape of the territorial plans. Therefore, the project will propose amendments to Regulation № 126 of the Council of Ministers (adopted on 30 January 2008) such that (i) the species maintenance standards are required to take an ecosystem approach, (ii) the documents on species maintenance standards are combined with the manuals for land-use plan development to achieve better integration of the two processes, and (iii) mechanisms for monitoring the state of species and the related implementation of measures that are mentioned in the species maintenance standards are made clearer. The need for other amendments will be determined after gaining some experience with the practical application of the document.

57. Development of new National Action Plans (NAPs) for Threatened Species. The Law on Wildlife requires the development of National Action Plans for the conservation of the rarest species (i.e., those that are red-listed in Belarus and are globally threatened). In 2008, the MNREP approved a manual for developing the NAPs. The NAPs include the biological descriptions of the species, spread, area requirements, threats, protection and management methods, as well as a detailed action plan and specific activities aimed at the conservation of specific habitats within the country. MNREP has also prepared an annotated list of species which are to be given priority in developing the NAPs. As with the species maintenance standards, the NAPs need to be better integrated with the process of developing territorial plans. Therefore, this output will (i) make changes to the NAP manual to make explicit the need to harmonize the development of NAPs with that of territorial plans, (ii) update the 3 existing NAPs¹¹, and (iii) develop 5 additional NAPs for bird species whose range lies outside PAs and are under threat from unsustainable land-use (e.g., the Black-tailed Godwit, the Lapwing, the Bittern and Lesser Spotted Eagle), two plant species (*Botrichium matricariifolium* Matricary grapefern, *Liparis loeselii* Fen Orchid).

58. Methodological recommendations on minimal standards to be observed by different economic activities to maintain the integrity of key biotopes/ habitats outside PAs. The project will develop methodological recommendations for sustainable economic activities (e.g., pasture and hay-field management, arable farming, logging, fishing in natural lakes and streams, hunting, recreation) outside protected areas. So far, Belarus only has a list of protected species (i.e., red-listed species), but there are no clear methodological recommendations on how habitat management and economic activities should be conducted to minimize adverse impacts on these species and biotopes to provide them with improved protection. The project will develop these recommendations, by building on initial work carried out in the country in this area, and drawing on the experience of other countries as well as the experience generated through the project’s pilot activities in the 10 pilot districts (Outcome 2). It is expected that these recommendations will be widely used in the development of species maintenance standards, NAPs, and territorial plans.

59. Act on biotopes conservation. Effective biodiversity conservation requires protective measures to be introduced not just at the level of species, but also at the level of globally endangered landscapes, habitats and communities. Belarus, therefore, needs to develop a system for identification, protection and management of nationally and internationally important habitats, modeled on the EC Habitats Directive. This output will (i) support scientific research aimed at compiling a list of the most important/ threatened biotopes from a biodiversity conservation perspective and develop methodological recommendations for their protection and sustainable use, and (ii) develop a new normative act – Regulation for Organizing Protection of the Most Important/ Threatened Biotopes – under the charge of the MNREP.

¹¹ Prior to the issuing of the 2008 manual, NAPs had been prepared (in early 2000) for the conservation of the Aquatic Warbler, the Greater Spotted Eagle and the Great Snipe. As these were prepared prior to the 2008 manual, they already need updating in line with the new guidelines.

Output 1.2 Amendments to Territorial Planning and Management Manuals and Guidelines

60. This output will make amendments to current territorial planning and management manuals and guidelines that will make it obligatory to include biodiversity information (i.e., all the new directives from Output 1.1) into the development and implementation of land use plans. The output will ensure harmonization between the existing normative documents for territorial planning (Manual for Land-use Plan Development) and the normative acts related to nature protection. The following improvements to normative documents will be undertaken.

61. Amendments to the Framework Regulation on Territorial Planning: Changes and amendments will be made to the current instructions so that the following requirements are included: (i) inclusion of a specialist who will coordinate and confirm that the land management scheme takes into account information on biodiversity in the documents on territorial planning for agricultural territories; (ii) biodiversity information is displayed in the textual part of the land management scheme and on the maps; and (iii) the sources of biodiversity information and persons who will be responsible for gathering, preparing and providing the information are clearly mentioned.

62. Methodological recommendations on use and display of biodiversity information in territorial planning process and documents: The recommendations will define in detail the methods for gathering, processing, analyzing and interpreting the information on biodiversity in the process of territorial planning, the detailed structure and requirements (e.g., accuracy, completeness, degree of detail), as well as methods and technology for registration and display of this information at various stages of the land use management design process. At present, such recommendations are lacking.

63. Methodological recommendations on assessment of the efficiency of land management schemes: Methodological recommendations on assessment of economic efficiency of land management schemes are under development. The emphasis is on defining the direct economic consequences of different proposals for land management. However, indirect effects are neither estimated nor included. State-of-the-art techniques for estimation of ecological and social effects of different proposals for land management (comparable with the assessment of economic effects) are not being used. As a result, the full effect (economic, social, and ecological) of different land management proposals is not being considered. By introducing these new methodological recommendations, administrative decisions on land use allocation will be better informed.

64. Amendments to the “Act on the Order of the Classifying Forests according to Protection Groups and Categories, Transferring Forests from one Protection Category or Group into another as well as Locating Specially Protected Forest Areas”: In the aforementioned Act, specially protected forest areas (based on biological criteria) can only be demarcated on condition that red-listed animal and plant species have been recorded on their territory. This normative document will be amended so that forest areas with a high level of biodiversity can also be protected (in accordance with the Act on Biotopes Conservation mentioned in Output 1.1). In order to conserve biodiversity in specially protected forest areas during forest management activities, the normative document titled “Logging Rules in the Forests of Belarus” will also be amended. This will help to adjust the national normative base in accordance with the requirements of the international systems of forest certification.

Output 1.3 System for effective monitoring and enforcement of the improved territorial plans

65. This output will establish a monitoring and enforcement system for the improved territorial plans. At present, MNREP is responsible for managing biodiversity information and the State Committee on Property for territorial plans. Monitoring and enforcement of the improved territorial plans will require a closer dialogue between staff from MNREP and the State Committee on Property. In addition, there are other actors that can play an important role in monitoring and enforcement, such as the Academy of Sciences, the Belarusian Research Institute for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography, the Republican unitary enterprise “Project Institute Belgiprozem” and its district level representatives, and the State Inspectorate for Fauna and Flora Protection of the President of Belarus.

66. Methodological recommendations will be developed on the monitoring and supervision of the district-level land management schemes, especially taking into account the conservation of biological and landscape diversity¹². The new recommendations will define the requirements for monitoring and supervision of the implementation of territorial plans, sequential steps for their implementation, required modifications to the documentation, and also, where necessary, the definition of “compulsory” actions that need to be implemented by land users.

¹² The system for supervision of the old land management/ use schemes and projects, which date back to 30 or 40 years ago, is obsolete and non-operational.

67. The roles and responsibilities of the involved organizations will be clearly defined. It is anticipated that the district level representatives of MNREP will, at regular intervals, monitor the condition of rare species' habitats and biotopes that are to be protected by land users, as well as the effectiveness of the protective obligations placed on the land users by the species maintenance standards. Monitoring results will be provided to the district executive committees, MNREP and the State Committee on Property. In case of controversy, experts from the National Academy of Sciences and other appropriate organizations will be invited. The Belarusian Research Institute for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography will also participate in inspecting the implementation of territorial plans at defined, regular intervals. The output will ensure that the monitoring and enforcement system draws on the expertise of all these actors and clearly allocates roles and responsibilities based on comparative advantage.

68. Sanctions will be imposed in accordance with the national legislation, in cases where land use plans are not being complied with. Enforcement will be based on the existing administrative sanctions for environmental non-compliance, to ensure delivery of biodiversity benefits through biodiversity-compatible land use plans. Various instruments will be considered depending on the degree of non-compliance, from simple fines through ban on operations. This enforcement system will be integrated within the overall administrative compliance mechanisms in Belarus, which is characterized (at the national level) by relatively high reliability. To minimize non-compliance on the side of the land-users, the project's Output 2.2 will be dedicated to training and testing of particular biodiversity management measures in the field. This is expected to mitigate potential opposition from land-users towards mainstreaming biodiversity.

Output 1.4 Government officers of the State Committee on Property and MNREP have the capacity to enforce the new regulations, and manage the participatory process of biodiversity-compatible territorial planning

69. This output will develop the capacity of government staff at both State and District levels from nature protection and land use planning sectors to effectively coordinate with the relevant stakeholders and integrate biodiversity and sustainable land use in subsequent territorial planning efforts across Belarus. Several capacity building workshops will be organized under this output. The following table summarizes the substantive focus of the proposed capacity building workshops, the main target group and the experts that will conduct the training. Efforts will also be made to systematize the training modules and assign institutional responsibility for continuing the training effort beyond the project's lifetime. For instance, the modules can be included in existing training programmes geared to advanced education of national specialists.

Table 4. Summary of Capacity Building Workshops

Thematic Focus	Target Group	Experts
Methods for compiling inventories of protected species and ecosystems at the local/ district levels	Regional Inspection Services of MNREP Faculties of Biology at Universities Other organizations capable of making an inventory of biodiversity NGOs Forestries	Experts from the National Academy of Sciences and/or other appropriate organizations
Sustainable methods for conducting economic activities (e.g., pasture and hay-field management, arable farming, logging, fishing in natural lakes and streams, hunting, recreation) that reduce adverse impacts on protected species, habitats and biotopes	Developers of Land-use and Forest Management plans (i.e., Republican unitary enterprise "Project Institute Belgiprozem" and local branches of the State Committee on Property "Belgosles") Farmers from collective farms Forestries Regional Inspection Services of MNREP State Inspection Services for Animal and Plant World Protection Leasers of fisheries and hunting rights	Experts from the National Academy of Sciences and/or other appropriate organizations
Methods for assessing and including the interests of biological and landscape diversity conservation in the plans of land management, forestry, hunting and fishery	Republican unitary enterprise "Project Institute Belgiprozem" Local branches of State Committee on Property Forestries	Experts from the Belarusian Research Institute for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography, Belgosles
Monitoring the implementation of land use and forest management plans and monitoring the implementation of protective obligations prescribed for conservation of rare species and biotopes	Regional Inspection Services of MNREP Regional branches of State Inspection Services for Animal and Plant World Protection Land-users and leasers of fishery and hunting rights Local branches of State Committee on Property Forestries	Experts from the Belarusian Research Institute for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography, Belgosles, and National Academy of Sciences

Outcome 2: Tested models for development and enforcement of biodiversity-compatible territorial plans outside PAs

70. This outcome will focus on district-level actions designed to address knowledge and experiential barriers to adoption of sustainable land use practices outside protected areas.

Output 2.1 Integrated territorial plans that accommodate biodiversity concerns are developed for 10 districts

71. Under this output, biodiversity-compatible territorial plans will be prepared in the following 10 pilot districts: Rechica (Gomel Region), Rogachev (Gomel Region), Ivacevichy (Brest Region), Volozhin (Minsk Region), Korelichi (Grodno Region), Slonim (Grodno Region), Klichev (Mogilev Region), Bobruysk (Mogilev Region), Rosson (Vitebsk Region), Glubokoe (Vitebsk Region). These districts have been selected as they vary in biogeographic conditions on the one hand, and socio-economic context on the other, enabling the project to compile a diverse set of experiences that will facilitate replication to other districts in Belarus.

72. As a first step, a full biodiversity and landscape diversity inventory will be carried out in the 10 districts to identify vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species, develop species maintenance standards and define concrete methodological recommendations for sustainable management of each rare species and biotope identified by the inventory. At present, in the target project districts, only 20 species maintenance standards for rare species habitats have been prepared. During the implementation of the project, approximately 1,000 species maintenance standards for rare species habitats and biotopes will be prepared in order to provide them with better protection. (During the PPG, initial information has been collected for the 10 districts and this is provided in [Annex F.](#))

73. The Belarusian National Institute for Land Use and its regional branch will take the lead on preparing territorial plans using the background information on biodiversity. Cross-sectoral expert groups will be engaged in developing the territorial plans. A GIS mapping module and database will be created for producing economic, social and biodiversity layers, and identify “mainstreaming hot-spots” i.e., sites with existing or potential conflict between biodiversity and the current/ planned economic activity (e.g. pastureland management, hay-making, arable farming, logging, fish-pond management). At these sites, the output will propose biodiversity-optimal scenarios with maximum possible economic profitability. Species and habitat maintenance standards will be developed based on the identified scenario. These standards will be discussed with each land-user at each site of conflict. Recommendations for adapting economic activities to the biodiversity standards will be developed jointly with the land-users. After discussion with all land-users, District territorial plans will be finalized and necessary administrative approvals will be obtained. Finally, enforcement and monitoring instructions will be put in place for sites with potential conflict where biodiversity standards have to be observed.

74. Important forest habitats will be identified based on the biodiversity inventories. In accordance with the amendments to the “Act on the Order of the Classifying Forests according to Protection Groups and Categories, Transferring Forests from one Protection Category or Group into another as well as Locating Specially Protected Forest Areas” (see Output 1.2), the designation of these areas as areas requiring special protection will be coordinated with the forestries and district executive committees. Following this designation, changes will be made to the existing forestry plans of the 10 forestries situated in the 10 target project districts. This will make it possible to give the habitats and important forest ecosystems official protection status and ensure their protection and sustainable management.

Output 2.2 Training and in-field demonstration activities for land users

75. To ensure that land users can effectively implement the territorial plans and observe land use restrictions in ecologically sensitive areas, this output will provide support for in-field training and demonstration activities. Pilot activities will be implemented in different regions to demonstrate sustainable land use management practices of the following kinds:

- Sustainable cattle grazing (duration, load) to minimize impact on Sandpiper colonies and support the right vegetation
- Sustainable hay-making (timing, methods) on floodplain meadows and fen mires in order to keep them in their open state (without bushes)
- Sustainable forest management in forests that are of special biodiversity importance and/ or are habitats for protected species. This could include measures for conservation of under-growth and forest floor; low-impact/selective logging in biotopes of forest bird species such as the Greater Spotted Eagle, increasing the proportion of natural forest regeneration as opposed to afforestation

- Restoration of the hydrological regime on disturbed mires
- Development and implementation of fishing activities on two lakes taking into consideration the interests of biodiversity such as modifications to management of pond bottoms
- Development and implementation of sustainable hunting practices
- 2-3 pilot projects will be directed at agricultural organizations operating in areas of high biodiversity to identify practical land use options such as adjustments to the annual and perennial crop rotation in areas important for certain species. This will be a logical continuation of agricultural land management schemes that regulate agrarian land use (structure and placing of agricultural crops, loading of pastures, etc.) on the lands of large agricultural organizations.

76. Impacts of project actions will be monitored using the indicators specified in the project's logical framework, the GEF SO-2 Tracking Tool, as well as the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard. This will be further supported through independent mid-term and final evaluations. To facilitate the dissemination and replication of best practices, lessons from in-field training and demonstration activities will be collated and disseminated through a dedicated knowledge management system. In addition, a series of country-wide workshops will be held as part of the project to trigger replication in the additional 40 districts that will be developing integrated territorial plans by 2012 (7.4 million hectares or 36% of the entire Belarusian territory). The center-piece of these workshops will be the field-level experiences generated by the project.

Global benefits

77. The immediate global biodiversity benefits include enhanced ecosystem integrity outside PAs in 10 administrative districts (approximately 2 million hectares). This will be measured by the stabilization of a number of globally important indicator species: Aquatic warbler for fen mires; Greater Spotted Eagle for floodplain wet deciduous forests; Bittern for lake, reed-bed and oxbow ecosystems; Great Snipe and Black-tailed Godwit for meadows; European Otter for small river ecosystems; and overall fish population dynamics for glacial lakes. By project end, sustainable land uses outside PAs (logging, hay-making, pasture management, fishing, hunting, recreation) will be demonstrated in the following key biotopes¹³: Mires: 12,000 ha; Floodplain meadows: 8,000 ha; Lakes: 5,000 ha; and forests of high natural value such as floodplain wet deciduous forests: 20,000 ha). In the long-term, taking into account the sought replication effect, the project will ensure the long-term integrity of fragile ecosystems over 36% of the country, including 120,000 ha of unique broad-leaf, 80,000 ha of fen and bog mire, 50,000 floodplain meadows and 5,000 ha of glacial lake ecosystems.

Sustainability

78. Ecological sustainability. The project's main goal is to enhance ecological sustainability by improving the protection afforded to vulnerable and threatened biotopes and species outside the PA network. It will do so by ensuring that even outside PAs, economic activities are guided by territorial plans in ways that minimize their adverse impact on ecologically sensitive areas. By effectively mainstreaming information on biodiversity in the territorial planning process, the project will directly contribute to improving ecosystem integrity in 10 target districts that span approximately 1.9 million hectares. The replication of the project strategy in an additional 40 districts will improve ecological sustainability over approximately 7.4 million hectares.

79. Financial sustainability. The benefits of biodiversity mainstreaming for long-term profitability of specific land-based activities have not been demonstrated in Belarus. Apart from the peat-mining sector¹⁴, there is a widely held perception among land-users that "whatever is prescribed for biodiversity outside protected areas will not work, and is just a hindrance to profit-making". Outcome 2 of the project will specifically focus on working with land users to demonstrate how current land use practices can be modified to both improve biodiversity outcomes and maintain economic viability. The project's in-field training and demonstration activities, directly engaging land-users, will be designed to overcome the existing barriers to adopting improved practices. Workshops and dissemination activities will include relevant stakeholders from the other 40 districts where the project strategy is to be replicated to demonstrate the financial sustainability of the improved methods. Finally, by better harmonizing the processes of territorial planning with the collection of information on threatened/ vulnerable biotopes and species, the project will realize some cost-

¹³ The above targets for the land area where sustainable management practices are to be demonstrated are only indicative at this stage. By end of Y1, once detailed biodiversity inventories are collected and biotope information is mapped against socio-economic information, a clearer picture will emerge of the areas in the 10 districts where conflicts are present and practices need to be modified. These targets will therefore be adjusted once this information is available.

¹⁴ Barriers to shifting to sustainable practices in the peat-mining sector have been addressed through successful demonstrations undertaken by the UNDP-GEF Peatlands project.

efficiencies. An inter-sectoral approach, where different agencies collaborate based on their comparative advantage will facilitate more reasonable choices on land use, as well as the pooling of available resources to achieve common objectives.

80. Institutional sustainability. The project's efforts to harmonize and eliminate inconsistencies between various branches of the law (land-use, environment, forest, water resources) by defining practical mechanisms for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into territorial planning will improve the effectiveness of existing administrative structures and decisions. To ensure that project activities are continued and benefits sustained beyond the time frame of this GEF funded project, it will be important that the project strategy be internalized by regional (oblast) and district (rayon) level institutions. Therefore, the project will rely on the existing institutional structure for implementing project activities and delivering outputs, and will make strategic enhancements to improve the ability of existing institutions to mainstream biodiversity conservation into land use planning. Further, staff from the relevant government agencies will be key partners in implementing the project strategy and will be fully engaged in capacity building activities. An equally important element for institutional sustainability are scientific institutions such as the National Academy of Sciences and the Institutes for Land Use Management, which will also be tapped for organizing, promoting, monitoring and assessing implementation.

Replicability

81. Replication will be achieved through the direct replication and scaling up of sustainable practices and methods demonstrated by the project. Although a small country, Belarus' 118 districts exhibit variation in biogeographical and socio-economic terms. Therefore, the selection of the 10 project districts has been made so as to cover as much of this diversity as possible, and generate a diverse set of practical experiences on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into economic activities outside protected areas. The project will develop and use a knowledge management system to ensure the effective collation and dissemination of experiences and information gained in the course of the project's implementation. A series of country-wide workshops will be held as part of the project to trigger replication in the additional 40 districts that will be developing integrated territorial plans by 2012 (7.4 million hectares or 36% of the entire Belarusian territory).

B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL AND/OR REGIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS:

82. The need for biodiversity mainstreaming in territorial planning is recognized by the NBSAP, as 95% of the Belarusian territory is subject to productive activities. The NBSAP further states that "at the initial stages of land reform in Belarus there are frequent cases of territorial and planning decisions on shaping new forms of land ownership taken without solid ecological and economical grounds. As a result, the special land resources for individual farmers are often allotted in areas that play an important role in environmental protection and conservation of biological diversity. Therefore, measures need to be identified to reduce the negative consequences of different forms of economic activities on the biological diversity. Effective conservation of biodiversity is impossible without ecologically sound territorial organization and planning in the region. This means that improvement of land use and town planning is of primary importance. This implies a critical analysis and a review of the current practices of distribution of regional planning zones that differ in their functions". The country is just starting the process of developing district territorial plans, which should be "integrating environmental sustainability". Since the baseline activities do not deal with biodiversity mainstreaming solutions, this project is extremely important. The timing of the project is right, as it will ensure implementation of mainstreaming solutions at the stage when the territorial planning by law is required to become more "environmentally friendly".

C. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH GEF STRATEGIES AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS:

83. The proposed project is consistent with GEF SO-2 SP-4 "Strengthening the policy and regulatory frameworks for mainstreaming biodiversity". It will assist Belarus to develop policies for mainstreaming biodiversity into territorial planning. Specifically, Component I amends the national legislation and introduces the policy on identification of species and habitats that need to be accounted for in territorial planning, as well as methodologies for adapting land-user practices to ensure habitat integrity. Component II tests in-the-field technologies and incentives that help maintain the integrity of species and their habitats, promoting inclusion of sound scientific approach to drafting land-use principles and practices.

D. JUSTIFY THE TYPE OF FINANCING SUPPORT PROVIDED WITH GEF RESOURCES:

84. The nature of the project is policy development, capacity building and technology testing. The project objective will be attained through the provision of technical assistance. No loan or revolving fund mechanisms are considered appropriate, and therefore grant-type funding is considered most adequate to enable successful delivery of the project outcomes.

E. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

85. Belarus has benefited from two UNDP/GEF funded projects: (i) “Catalyzing Sustainability of the Protected Area System in Polesie region” and “Renaturalization of Peatlands in Belarus to Combat Land Degradation, Conserve Biodiversity and Mitigate Climate” (OP 12). The present mainstreaming proposal is focusing on biodiversity outside protected areas and together with the Polesie protected area project will ensure conservation of internationally important biodiversity covering the whole territory of the country. Both projects are under the management of the MNREP and it is envisaged that the Project Manager of each project shall sit on the Project Board. The UNDP/GEF project on peatlands is a multi-focal project supporting conservation and wise use of peatlands in the country, including recommendations for integration of biodiversity in the peat mining industry. Thus, it indeed addresses one of the key threats to biodiversity outside protected areas. This project has generated massive know-how and produced a profound demonstration effect not only in the country, but wider in Europe. Taking into account the activities of the peatlands project, the present proposal does not directly include peat-mining activities. But it has been agreed that regular communication links will be established between the expert groups of the two projects to ensure that the peatlands project know-how is transferred to other land-uses by means of the present project.

86. Further, the project will coordinate with other related projects in the target project districts to garner their financial and technical support towards pilot projects recommended by the improved territorial plans (see table below).

Table 5. Linkages with other projects in the target districts

Project title	Executors	Aims and objectives	Linkages with the UNDP-GEF MSP	Project budget
“Restoring Peatlands and Applying Concepts for Sustainable Management in Belarus – Climate Change Mitigation with Economic and Biodiversity Benefits” (Belarus-2)	Managed by RSPB and financed by KfW	Building on the success of the UNDP-GEF project (Belarus-1), it is expected that within “Belarus-2” large areas of degraded peatlands will be renaturalized. An inventory of natural peatlands will be prepared.	Some projects on restoration of depleted peatlands will be implemented in the territory of the 10 target project districts. The inventory of natural peatlands will include the territory of all 10 target project districts and the inventory results will be used during the preparation of land management plans.	2.3 million dollars
GEF Small Grants Programme	Various NGOs, communities	To support community-led actions on preserving the global environment	Mobilize their resources in support of pilot projects for biodiversity conservation and control of land degradation that are recommended by the land use plans in the 10 target project districts, in order to magnify on-the-ground impacts	700,000 \$ annually
Providing conservation and sustainable management of biologically important forests with a view to supporting the process of forest certification	BirdLife Belarus, The consulting company “Амеко” (Ameco), Netherlands Bureau Waardenburg, Netherlands	The project aim is to support the process of forest certification by strengthening preservation and sustainable management of biologically important forests through implementation of pilot projects in territories of Pruzhansky, Gluboksky and Disnensky forestry.	Mobilize their resources in support of the inventory of biodiversity and forests of high biological importance in Gluboksky district (which is one of the target project districts) and maintenance of their sustainable use.	80,000 Euro

F. DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING:

Business-as-usual scenario

87. The following table presents the ongoing baseline activities relevant to the scope of the project.

Table 6. Baseline sectoral programs of the government

Program	Year	Main objectives
State Scheme on the Complex Territorial Organization of	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the underlying principles of this scheme is to improve protection

Program	Year	Main objectives
Belarus (the Statement of the President of the Republic of Belarus 12.01.2007 № 19)		and rational use of biodiversity and natural resources outside specially protected natural areas. However, practical experiences of introducing ecological regulations that can mitigate the adverse impact of economic activities in the rural landscape on threatened and vulnerable biotopes and species are lacking, thus curtailing the effectiveness of this scheme.
Program of Activity of the Government of Republic of Belarus for 2006-2010 (the Statement of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 26.05.2006 № 664)	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures for increasing the efficiency of use and the protection of Belarus' land resources through a long-term programme for protection and use of land resources in the country. Minimizing the negative influence of economic activities on the environment and optimizing the structure of land resources by modifying the use of ecologically unstable lands. Development of land use planning. However, the program only declares these objectives without any specific mechanisms for their realization.
Program of Forestry Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2007–2011 (the Statement of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 29.12.2006 №1760)	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program is directed at rational and non-exhaustive use of forests and their reproduction and protection through sustainable forest management, conservation of forest ecosystems, and increasing the ecological and resource potential of forests. However, the full potential of this program to preserve biodiversity in the wider landscapes outside specially protected nature areas is not being realized, mainly due to a lack of information on the distribution of protected species and biotopes. There is a lack of knowledge on occurrence of rare species among biologists and ecologists, and limited understanding of the harm caused by alien trees species in forest plantations
Fish Industry Development Program for 2006-2010 (the Statement of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 19.04.2006 № 535)	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rational use of natural reservoirs of fish resources Creation of a rational fishing system However, as described above (see Drivers of Biodiversity Loss), in spite of the strong legislative basis, fishing practices continue to harm vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species. The governance of land use at the local level is not effectively regulating different land users to ensure that their land-use practices are not harming ecologically sensitive areas.
State Program for Hunting Activities for 2006-2015 (the Statement of the President of the Republic of Belarus 8.12.2005 № 580)	2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main focus of this program is the maintenance of reproduction, dispersion, introduction and acclimatization of wild animals. Development of management plans for species included in the Red book of Belarus (bear, lynx, badger) However the program is mainly oriented to managing hunting as an economic activity and does not take into account the interests of biodiversity conservation.
State Programme on Conservation and Management of Meliorated Areas for 2005-2010	2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program addresses disaggregating of polder systems, planting forest belts, creating ecological niches and migration corridors. The program, however, only states the necessity for observing principles of natural landscapes conservation at meliorative works, without any concrete recommendations on how these principles can be realized in practice. The majority of active meliorated territories are leading to disruptions in the hydrological regime in adjoining territories.

88. Compared to its neighbors, Belarus has a relatively high rate of intactness of natural landscapes, with floodplains and peatlands playing a particularly important role in conservation of regionally and globally significant biodiversity. In the without-project scenario, GOB will continue its biodiversity conservation efforts through its protected area system. However, the largest part of the natural and most valuable ecosystems in Belarus is located outside protected areas. Only 13.7% of forested lands in Belarus are part of protected areas (1,085 thousand hectares). Key biotopes and species that reside outside protected areas are threatened by habitat destruction and conversion brought about by unsustainable economic activities such as arable farming, fishing, hay-making, livestock, forestry, and hunting. The government has several sector-based programs, but these do not effectively take into account impacts on important biotopes and species (the table below lists the key Sectoral programs). The location and methods employed by economic activities in the rural landscape are governed by the district territorial plans, which, under the 2008 Framework Regulation, are supposed to take into account environmental sustainability. Territorial plans are about to start being designed, with GOB committing resources to develop these plans in 40 districts by 2012. Without the project, the baseline course of action will see the country in 2012 with 45 district territorial plans, only few of which (if any) will truly mainstream biodiversity, while the majority is most likely to be biased to quicker profit making in agriculture, forestry, and other economic activities (for the reasons described in the [barriers analysis](#) above). Territorial plans will be adopted without

account of species and habitat requirements; there will be no obligation for land-use developers to account for biodiversity. There will be no minimal biodiversity conservation standards set, and the use of the so-called “species passports” will not result in actual improvement of the species status on the ground. The process of elaboration of national action plans for threatened species will be sluggish. Monitoring of the condition of threatened species outside protected areas will remain very basic. Capacities of government authorities to understand the biodiversity values and integrate them into territorial planning will remain nascent. The baseline scenario, therefore, will see the continuation of habitat degradation outside protected areas, manifested by progressing degradation of wetlands, fires, negative vegetation successions, and such.

The GEF Alternative and Incremental Value

89. The fact that Belarus is commencing the process of developing new territorial plans in 40 districts, coupled with the existence of legislative backing for more effective mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation goals into economic activities outside protected areas, makes the timing of the GEF project opportune. The difference between the baseline and the project scenarios lies in the quality and speed of proliferation of advanced biodiversity-mainstreaming solutions into territorial and sectoral planning in Belarus. With a US\$ 1 million investment, the GEF will bring the state-of-the art biodiversity mainstreaming solutions, tailor them to the country specifics, test them in 10 districts, and anchor them in policies, thus providing assurance that the majority of the 118 plans going into the future will truly integrate biodiversity concerns. Ultimately, the two scenarios vary in the state of biodiversity outside PAs: in the business-as-usual scenario, only about half of the internationally important species and habitats will be assured some protection, yet some of the important habitats (e.g. wetland habitats) will be irreversibly lost; the project scenario strives for their 100% coverage by 2020. The project’s ecological incremental value lies with enhanced ecosystem integrity outside PAs at almost 2 million hectares of productive landscapes. On this territory the project will achieve stabilization of a number of globally important species such as Aquatic warbler; Greater Spotted Eagle; Bittern; Great Snipe and Black-tailed Godwit; European Otter. The project introduces biodiversity-friendly sustainable land uses outside PAs (positively impacting such economic practices as logging, hay-making, pasture management, fishing, hunting, recreation). By the end of the project these will be show-cased in the following key biotopes: wetlands 12,000 ha; floodplain meadows 8,000 ha; lakes 5,000 ha; and forests of high natural value such as floodplain wet deciduous forests 20,000 ha. The long-term effect of the project will be long-term integrity of fragile ecosystems achieved at over 36% of the country, including 120,000 ha of unique broad-leaf, 80,000 ha of fen and bog mire, 50,000 floodplain meadows and 5,000 ha of glacial lake ecosystems.

Summary of costs

90. The total cost of implementing the GEF Alternative Strategy amounts to US\$ 8,055,300. Of this total, co-funding constitutes 88% or US\$ 7,084,300. GEF financing comprises the remaining 12% of the total, or US\$ 971,000.

G. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED AND OUTLINE RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

Risk	Level	Mitigation
State Committee on Property and MNREP are not interested in transferring lessons to additional districts	L	This threat is considered low. The GOB has recently taken a number of recent legislative steps to mitigate adverse impacts on biodiversity outside PAs. Notable among these is the 2008 Framework Regulation on Territorial Planning (under the purview of the State Committee on Property). This is a legal annex to the Land Code and explicitly requires territorial plans to reflect environmental sustainability. In addition, there are a raft of legislations/ regulations under the purview of the MNREP, notable among which are the two new legal acts adopted in 2004 and 2007 (Law on Wildlife and Law on Plant World) that place obligations on economic entities for conservation of international and national red-listed species. What is lacking is practical demonstrations of the feasibility of achieving biodiversity mainstreaming outside PAs. GOB has is requesting support from GEF through UNDP to develop these practical demonstrations as well as put in place a sound enabling environment, so that MNREP and the State Committee on Property can effectively implement the 2008 Framework Regulation.
Rayon and Oblast Executive Councils (local authorities) from other Rayons and Oblasts are not receptive to applying the project approach in their districts	L to M	The project will mitigate this threat by involving relevant stakeholders from the 45 additional districts in the project’s capacity-building workshops and in-field demonstration.
Amendments and methodological recommendations for economic land use activities do not receive political support	L	This threat is considered low given the strong political support and close alignment of the project with national priorities in terms of implementing the 2008 Framework Regulation. The project will mitigate this risk by ensuring that a wide consultative process is followed in the development of the amendments and the methodological recommendations to ensure that any concerns can be

Risk	Level	Mitigation
		addressed early on in the process.
Key government actors/ institutions are not fully engaged and committed to the project strategy	L	This threat is considered low. Active participation will be ensured through the project's capacity building activities, as well as involvement in field-level demonstrations.
Oblast-level approval process of Land Use Plans does not proceed smoothly	L to M	The project will mitigate this risk by ensuring that key representatives from the Oblast level are involved in early stages of the development of the biodiversity-enhanced Territorial Plans.
Increase in threats to biodiversity beyond the background rates over the past decade	L	The territorial plans will be subject to rigorous monitoring and update. Although this risk has low probability, the project's enforcement and monitoring mechanisms (Outcome 1) to make sure any changes over background rates are tracked. Biodiversity standards and measures recommended at the level of land-user will then be adjusted to account for a higher biodiversity risk level.
Climate change does not lead to catastrophic impacts	L	More frequent drought, warmer summers and changed winters are some of the climate change symptoms in Belarus. During the preparation of its National Communication to UNFCCC and implementation of the peatland project, Belarus developed good knowledge on climate change impacts on the vegetation and fauna structure of the country. The expert teams working on territorial plans and sectoral mainstreaming will use that material to make sure that proposed solutions do incorporate the climate change risks.

L = Low threat; M = Medium threat; H= High threat

H. EXPLAIN HOW COST-EFFECTIVENESS IS REFLECTED IN THE PROJECT DESIGN:

91. Three scenarios can be analyzed from the perspective of cost-effectiveness of maximizing biodiversity security. The first is the business-as-usual scenario in which minimal biodiversity security is achieved. Ecosystem degradation outside protected areas will continue and the approach will be to focus on the elimination of consequences after a threat materializes. The cost-effectiveness of this approach is extremely low. For example, rehabilitation of a forest or wetland tract after a fire costs approximately US\$ 40,000/1,000 ha, while installing an optimal hydrological regime to prevent a fire costs US\$ 15,000/ 1,000 ha. Another example is the removal of shrub and floating vegetation islands from a river channel to restore floodplain wetland or grassland biodiversity that takes longer and costs twice as much as regular hay-making and other land-use techniques. By 2012, the amount needed to be invested in severely degraded ecosystems will substantially outweigh the proposed investment now, when changes to territorial policy making can minimize the need for remedial actions¹⁵. The second scenario is that proposed under the project that is based on policy-making and real-life promotion of best mainstreaming practices in key sectors. The third possible scenario is the expansion of the protected area network to cover all the globally significant populations and habitats that are currently unprotected. Calculations indicate that the most cost-effective intervention is the project approach for it is too expensive to establish protected areas in the landscapes targeted for intervention. The income foregone by economic users is insurmountable for the local and national economy. The financial and social value these lands generate is too high for them to be withdrawn from the economic cycle and put under protection (even if it is IUCN management category IV, V or VI).

92. The cost effectiveness of this project will be further ensured by the following elements that have been included in project design.

- *Combination of systemic and site specific actions*: The project design includes site-specific activities, on-the-ground activities (Outcome 2) that will help test and develop management approaches in areas of potential conflict between biodiversity conservation and economic activities in the rural landscape outside protected areas. These experiences will inform the changes at the systemic level in terms of improved policies, manuals and guidelines, in turn facilitating the replication of site-level experiences.
- *Selection of pilot districts that exhibit a range of biogeographical and socio-economic characteristics*: This will make the site-level experiences relevant to a greater number of districts for further replication.
- *Close coordination with project teams of the Polesie and Peatlands projects*: These UNDP-GEF funded projects are already under implementation and are accumulating practical experiences with mainstreaming biodiversity. The former project is looking at mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into economic activities that are permitted to take place within certain types of protected areas (zakazniks). The latter looks at mainstreaming biodiversity into activities of the peat mining sector. While the target of mainstreaming in these projects is slightly different from that of the current project (i.e., territorial plans in the wider landscape outside protected areas), some of the experiences and models for sustainable use may still be relevant.

¹⁵ Not to mention that some ecosystems will simply not respond to restoration.

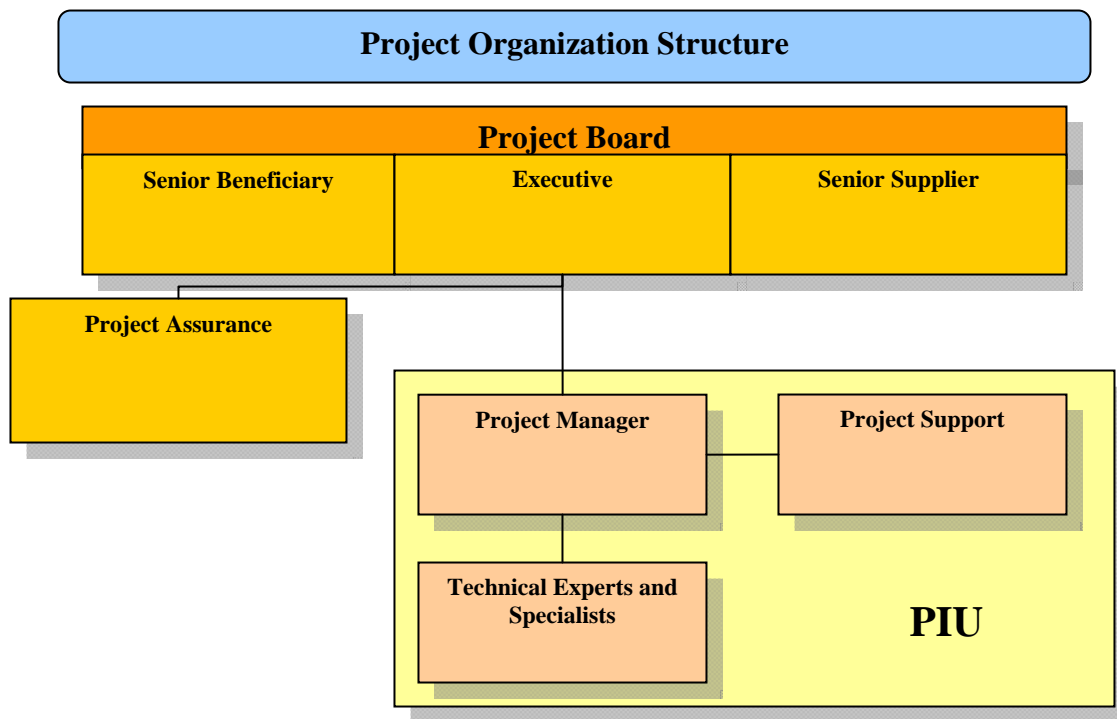
PART III: INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

A. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

93. UNDP is the Implementing Agency for this project. The project fully complies with the comparative advantages matrix approved by the GEF Council. UNDP Belarus has been successfully managing a portfolio of technical assistance and capacity building initiatives in the areas of biodiversity conservation, prevention of land degradation and climate change mitigation. UNDP Belarus has extensive experience and expertise in policy advice, project management in a highly challenging technical assistance environment in the country, as well as an extensive network of national partners. UNDP is implementing 32 GEF-funded projects in biodiversity conservation in the region through its network of 26 Country Offices. Under the biodiversity mainstreaming theme, UNDP-GEF activities aim to modify production methods by piloting and adapting production measures that satisfy both development and conservation fundamentals and that do so at acceptable levels of tradeoff. UNDP-GEF is supporting efforts to mainstream biodiversity in production systems through biodiversity projects in 6 countries covering an area of 54,952,198 hectares in terms of demonstration activities, and indirectly, through reform of policies, strategies and institutional structures, an area of 115,309,990 hectares. The portfolio covers a number of sectors, notably tourism, agri-business (agricultural biodiversity and agri-environmental schemes), fisheries and forestry.

B. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

94. The project will be executed by the MNREP. The project organization structure (summarized in the figure below) will consist of a Project Board, Project Assurance and a Project Implementation Unit (PIU). Roles and responsibilities are described below.



95. **Project Board:** The Project Board will be responsible for making management decisions for the project, in particular when guidance is required by the Project Manager. It will play a critical role in project monitoring and evaluations by assuring the quality of these processes and associated products, and by using evaluations for improving performance, accountability and learning. The Project Board will ensure that required resources are committed. It will also arbitrate on any conflicts within the project and negotiate solutions to any problems with external bodies. In addition, it will approve the appointment and responsibilities of the Project Manager and any delegation of its Project Assurance responsibilities. Based on the approved Annual Work Plan, the Project Board can also consider and approve the quarterly plans and also approve any essential deviations from the original plans.

96. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability for project results, Project Board decisions will be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity,

transparency and effective international competition. In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the final decision shall rest with the UNDP Project Manager.

97. Members of the Project Board will consist of key national governmental and non-governmental agencies, and appropriate local level representatives. UNDP will also be represented on the Project Board, which will be balanced in terms of gender. Potential members of the Project Board will be reviewed and recommended for approval during the PAC meeting. The Project Board will contain three distinct roles:

- *Executive Role:* This individual will represent the project “owners” and will chair the group. It is expected that MNREP (in consultation with the State Committee on Property) will appoint a senior official to this role who will ensure full government support of the project.
- *Senior Supplier Role:* This role requires the representation of the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding for specific cost sharing projects and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier’s primary function within the Board will be to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project. This role will rest with UNDP-Belarus represented by the Resident Representative.
- *Senior Beneficiary Role:* This role requires representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary’s primary function within the Board will be to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. This role will rest with the other institutions (key national governmental and non-governmental agencies, and appropriate local level representatives) represented on the Project Board, who are stakeholders in the project.

98. Project Assurance: The Project Assurance role supports the Project Board Executive by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. The Project Assurance role will rest with the UNDP Belarus Environment Focal Point.

99. A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be established comprising permanent staff including: a National Project Manager (NPM) and Project Assistant. The PIU will assist MNREP in performing its role as implementing partner. The Project Manager has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Implementing Partner within the constraints laid down by the Board. The Project Manager’s prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost. The NPM will be recruited in accordance with UNDP regulations and will be based in Minsk. S/he will report to the UNDP Focal Point on Energy and Environment. The NPM will be responsible for overall project coordination and implementation, consolidation of work plans and project papers, preparation of quarterly progress reports, reporting to the project supervisory bodies, and supervising the work of the project experts and other project staff. The NPM will also closely coordinate project activities with relevant Government institutions and hold regular consultations with other project stakeholders and partners, including UNDP’s Polesie and Peatlands projects, and the GEF Small Grants Programme. Under the direct supervision of the NPM, the Project Assistant will be responsible for administrative and financial issues, and will get support from UNDP-CO administration.

100. The permanent core technical staff of the project will be a Chief Expert on Biodiversity and a Chief Expert on Land-Use Planning. They will supervise a team of national specialists who will implement specific activities of the project at the local level. The NPM, Chief Experts and national specialists will spend a large portion of their time in the field, and the NPM will be ultimately responsible for liaison with communities engaged in the project.

101. The PIU, following UNDP procedures on implementation of NEX projects, will identify national experts and consultants, and international experts as appropriate to undertake technical work. The national and international companies may also be involved in project implementation. These consultants and companies will be hired under standard prevailing UNDP procedures on implementation of NEX projects. The UNDP Country Office will provide specific support services for project realization through the Administrative and Finance Units as required.

102. Audit Arrangements: The Audit will be conducted in accordance with the established UNDP procedures set out in the Programming and Finance manuals by the legally recognized auditor.


PART IV: EXPLAIN THE ALIGNMENT OF PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF:

103. The project design is aligned with the approved PIF. The project document expands the project rationale, proposed project strategy, stakeholder roles, and the expected global environmental benefits. There is no change in the GEF financing requested compared to the approved PIF. There is an increase in the total co-financing compared to the

approved PIF from USD 2,910,000 to USD 7,084,300, with additional cofinancing being garnered from the Ministry of Forestry during project preparation.

PART V: AGENCY CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO Endorsement.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (mm/dd/yy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
John Hough UNDP/GEF Deputy Executive Coordinator		October 7, 2009	Maxim Vergeichik	+421 905 428 152	Maxim.vergeichik@undp.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Outcome as defined in the CPD for Belarus (2006-2010): 11. Biodiversity, ecosystem services, protected areas and other commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements integrated into national governance and production systems (including social, economic and policy frameworks such as MDGs, NSSEDS and key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, and flood control)
Country Programme Outcome Indicators: Area, hectares
Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area: 1. Mainstreaming environment and energy
Applicable GEF Strategic Objective and Program: Strategic Objective 2 – To mainstream biodiversity in production landscapes/ seascapes and sectors; Strategic Priority 4 – Strengthening the policy and regulatory frameworks for mainstreaming biodiversity
Applicable GEF Expected Outcomes: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity incorporated in the productive landscape and seascape
Applicable GEF Outcome Indicators: By project end (2013), 10 districts (approx. 2 million ha) have biodiversity-enhanced land use plans in place, and an additional 40 districts (approx. 7.4 million hectares; 36% of national territory) have commenced replication of the project approach

Project Strategy	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Baseline	Target ¹⁶	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
Objective: To mainstream biodiversity conservation priorities into Belarus' territorial planning policies and practices	Land area for which integrated land-use plans that deliver biodiversity benefits outside PAs are developed and under implementation	0 ha	Approximately 2 million ha (10 districts) Additional 7.4 million hectares have commenced replication	Approved Land Use Plans for 10 Districts; Project reports, Final external evaluation	State Committee on Property and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP) remain interested in transferring lessons to additional districts Rayon and Oblast Executive Councils (local authorities) from other Rayons and Oblasts are receptive to applying the project approach in their districts
Component 1. Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional framework for land-use planning that reflects biodiversity considerations outside protected areas	Number of sectoral regulations and methodological guidelines that facilitate the incorporation of biodiversity conservation requirements into planning and management of land use outside protected areas (to be tracked in more detail through the SO 2 Tracking Tool)	0	8 ¹⁷	Approved documents printed for circulation to relevant departments	Amendments and methodological recommendation for economic land use activities receive political support Key government actors/ institutions are fully engaged and committed to the project strategy
	Changes in procedures for monitoring land use plans	Old monitoring system is obsolete and non-operational	New monitoring system involving key actors (with roles and responsibilities shared among State Committee on Property, MNREP, Academy of Sciences, Belarusian National Institute for Land Use based on comparative advantage) is approved and under implementation	Internal documents of the State Committee on Property, and MNREP	
	Number of government staff trained in collection of biodiversity information and integration of this into the	0	At least 30 officers	Trainer reports; analysis of training evaluation forms	

¹⁶ The target timeframe for all indicators is by project end i.e., 2013, unless otherwise stated.

¹⁷ 1. Species maintenance standards; 2. Standards for developing NAPs for rarest species; 3. Minimal standards for different economic activities to aid habitat management; 4. Act on biotopes preservation; 5. Framework Regulation on Territorial Planning; 6. Use and display of biodiversity information in territorial planning process; 7. Assessment of efficiency of land management schemes; 8. Act on specially protected forest areas.

Project Strategy	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Baseline	Target ¹⁶	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	development and implementation of land use plans (Note: A more detailed tracking of capacity development impacts at the systemic, institutional and individual levels will be based on the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard)				
Component 2. Tested models for development and enforcement of biodiversity-compatible land-use plans at the district levels	Species maintenance standards covering vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species	Approximately 10-20 species maintenance standards	1,000 species maintenance standards	Printed species maintenance standards on record with Rayon Inspectorate of the MNREP	Oblast-level approval process of Land Use Plans proceeds smoothly Threats to biodiversity do not increase beyond the background rates over the past decade Climate change does not lead to catastrophic impacts
	Increase in land area outside protected areas where threats to vulnerable/ threatened biotopes from economic activities are controlled	0 ha	Sustainable land uses (logging, hay-making, pasture management, fishing, hunting, recreation) demonstrated in following key biotopes ¹⁸ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mires: 12,000 ha; • Floodplain meadows: 8,000 ha; • Lakes: 5,000 ha; • Forests of high natural value such as floodplain wet deciduous forests: 20,000 ha 	Field Survey, photo documentation, Final External Evaluation	
	Population of following indicator species outside protected areas remains stable: Aquatic warbler (vulnerable – global threat status) for fen mires; Greater spotted eagle (vulnerable) for floodplain wet deciduous forests; Bittern (depleted) for lake, reed-bed and oxbow ecosystems; Great snipe (near-threatened) and Black-tailed godwit (near threatened) for meadows; European otter (near threatened) for small river ecosystems; overall fish population dynamics for glacial lakes.	Baseline populations ¹⁹	No decrease over baseline values	Field Survey, Survey information collected by the National Biodiversity Monitoring Center	
	% of local land-users in 10 districts who are conducting economic activities in ecologically sensitive areas and receive in-field training and technical assistance with implementing modified practices	0	100%	Report from Project Implementation Unit based on feedback from land users; Final External Evaluation	

¹⁸ The above targets for the land area where sustainable management practices are to be demonstrated are only indicative at this stage. By end of Y1, once detailed biodiversity inventories are collected and biotope information is mapped against socio-economic information, a clearer picture will emerge of the areas in the 10 districts where conflicts are present and practices need to be modified. These targets will therefore be adjusted once this information is available.

¹⁹ Baseline population figures will be provided once the biodiversity inventories are completed in the 10 districts by year 2 of the project.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

None at this stage

ANNEX C: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE PROJECT USING GEF RESOURCES

Position Titles	\$/ person week	Estimated person weeks	Tasks to be performed
For Project Management (only local/no international consultants)			
National Project Manager (PM)	320	114	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervise and coordinate the project to ensure its results are in accordance with the Project Document and the rules and procedures established in the UNDP Programming Manual • Assume primary responsibility for daily project management - both organizational and substantive matters – budgeting, planning and general monitoring of the project • Ensure adequate information flow, discussions and feedback among the various stakeholders of the project • Ensure adherence to the project’s work plan, prepare revisions of the work plan, if required • Assume overall responsibility for the proper handling of logistics related to project workshops and events • Prepare, and agree with UNDP on, terms of reference for national and international consultants and subcontractors • Guide the work of consultants and subcontractors and oversee compliance with the agreed work plan • Maintain regular contact with UNDP Country Office and the National Project Director on project implementation issues of their respective competence • Monitor the expenditures, commitments and balance of funds under the project budget lines, and draft project budget revisions • Assume overall responsibility for meeting financial delivery targets set out in the agreed annual work plans, reporting on project funds and related record keeping • Liaise with project partners to ensure their co-financing contributions are provided within the agreed terms • Assume overall responsibility for reporting on project progress vis-à-vis indicators in the logframe • Undertake any other actions related to the project as requested by UNDP or the National Project Director
Administrative assistant	250	192	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the PM in managing the project staff • Coordinate the project experts and ensure that their results are delivered on time • Prepare GEF quarterly project progress reports, as well as any other reports requested by the Executing Agency and UNDP • Ensure collection of relevant data necessary to use in the SO-2 Tracking Tool • Assist the PM in managing the administrative and finance staff and ensure that all information is accurate • Act as PM in case of his/her absence • Overall, provide all necessary support to the PM in implementation of the project • Provide general administrative support to ensure the smooth running of the PMU • Provide logistical support to the PM and project consultants in conducting different project activities (training workshops, stakeholder consultations, arrangements of field visits, etc.) • During the visits of foreign experts, manage their visa support, transportation, hotel accommodation etc • Organize control of budget expenditures by preparing payment documents, and compiling financial reports • Maintain the project’s disbursement ledger and journal • Monitor the use of non expendable equipment (record keeping, drawing up regular inventories) • Arrange duty travel • Perform any other administrative/financial duties as requested by the PM • Organize and coordinate the procurement of services and goods under the project • Under supervision of the PM, be responsible for all aspects of project financial management

Position Titles	\$/ person week	Estimated person weeks	Tasks to be performed
For Technical Assistance			
Local			
Chief Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Expert	320	85	<p><u>Output 1.1</u> In consultation with all stakeholders, identify the modifications needed to the legislative/ regulatory framework for environment and natural resource management. Take the lead on providing technical justification/ explanation for proposed amendments during discussions/ consultations with key government staff. Develop terms of reference for preparing changes in the normative documents.</p> <p><u>Output 1.2</u> Work closely with the Chief Land Use Planning Expert to identify amendments to Land Use Planning and Management Manuals and Guidelines that will make it obligatory to include biodiversity information (all new directives from Output 1.1) into the development and implementation of land use plans.</p> <p><u>Output 1.3</u> Ensure that the responsibility for monitoring impacts on biodiversity will be effectively allocated within the new monitoring and enforcement system that is to be developed for the territorial plans.</p> <p><u>Output 1.4</u> Together with the Land-Use Planning Expert, take the lead on developing the different training modules within the training program. Oversee aspects such as: content development, selection of trainees, selection of trainers.</p> <p><u>Output 2.1</u> Lead the work on collecting biodiversity information that is to be fed-in to the territorial plans; develop the terms of reference for organizations that will carry out the biodiversity inventory and develop protective obligations; supervise the work on implementation of biodiversity inventory.</p> <p><u>Output 2.2</u> Together with the other experts select pilot projects. Provide technical advice on monitoring of project impacts.</p>
Chief Land-Use Planning Expert	320	68	<p><u>Output 1.1</u> Review suggested changes to normative documents in the environment and natural resource sector and ensure that the changes do not conflict with normative documents on territorial planning.</p> <p><u>Output 1.2</u> In consultation with all stakeholders, identify the amendments needed to Land Use Planning and Management Manuals and Guidelines that will make it obligatory to include biodiversity information (all new directives from Output 1.1) into the development and implementation of land use plans. Take the lead on providing technical justification/ explanation for proposed amendments during discussions/ consultations with key government staff. Develop terms of reference for organizations that will undertake the development of normative documents.</p> <p><u>Output 1.3</u> Define an effective monitoring and enforcement system for the improved territorial plans, based on consultations with the key agencies that need to be involved.</p> <p><u>Output 1.4</u> Together with the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Expert, take the lead on developing the different training modules within the training program. Oversee aspects such as: content development, selection of trainees, selection of trainers.</p> <p><u>Output 2.1</u> Lead the work of the District Land Use agencies on developing biodiversity-compatible territorial plans; lead consultations among experts from different organisations that are developing the land management plans on requirements placed by the new normative acts; supervise the process of land use plans development.</p> <p><u>Output 2.2</u> Jointly with other experts, implement the selection of the pilot demonstration projects. Provide technical advice on monitoring of project impacts.</p>
Forestry Expert	280	52	<p><u>Output 1.1</u> Provide advice on developing minimal standards for forestry activities taking place near vulnerable/ threatened biotopes.</p> <p><u>Output 1.2</u> Identify and develop necessary improvements to new normative acts in the area of forest management; development of draft proposals on preparation of normative documents.</p> <p><u>Output 1.3</u> Define an effective monitoring and enforcement system for the improved forest management plans, based on consultations with the key agencies that need to be involved.</p> <p><u>Output 1.4</u> Provide inputs to the development and implementation of the training modules, specifically looking at the forestry sector.</p> <p><u>Output 2.1</u> Participate in cross-sectoral groups to be established by the project for developing the enhanced territorial plans.</p> <p><u>Output 2.2</u> Provide technical assistance to land users on sustainable land use methods at pilot sites.</p>
Specialist on Agricultural Economics	280	21	<p><u>Output 1.1</u> Provide advice on developing minimal standards for agricultural activities (arable farming, hay-making, livestock grazing) taking place near vulnerable/ threatened biotopes.</p> <p><u>Output 1.2</u> Coordinate work on preparation of methodological recommendations on</p>

Position Titles	\$/ person week	Estimated person weeks	Tasks to be performed
			assessment of general efficiency of the land management schemes. <u>Output 1.4</u> Provide inputs to the development and implementation of the training modules, specifically looking at the agricultural sector. <u>Output 2.1</u> Participate in cross-sectoral groups to be established by the project for developing the enhanced territorial plans. <u>Output 2.2</u> Provide technical assistance to land users on sustainable land use methods at pilot sites.
Evaluation Specialist	280	14	<u>Output 2.2</u> Work closely with the international evaluation expert to provide a comprehensive assessment of project progress and impacts at mid-term and project end, in line with UNDP's standard Terms of Reference for such evaluations.
Consultation Facilitator, Rapporteur, and Networking expert	320	78	The Project Manager will be expected to provide technical services in terms of facilitating coordination between national, oblast and rayon level representatives of government departments, land users, NGOs and other stakeholders to ensure that all necessary consultations for realizing project outcomes are efficiently and effectively concluded. This can take the form of facilitation of formal meetings and workshops, as well as informal, bilateral discussions. This will also require drafting of reports as background for consultations, ensuring that inputs from different technical experts build towards the common goal of mainstreaming biodiversity into land use planning, and undertaking appropriate follow-up.
International			
Evaluation Expert	2,750	10	The international evaluation expert will lead the mid-term and the final evaluations. He/she will work with the local evaluation consultant in order to assess the project progress, achievement of results and impacts. The expert will develop a draft evaluation report, discuss it with the project team, government and UNDP, and as necessary participate in discussions to extract lessons for UNDP and GEF. The standard UNDP/GEF project evaluation TOR will be used.
Justification for GEF resources allocated to travel costs: An allocation of USD 12,520 in GEF resources has been made to support travel to the 10 pilot districts over the four-year time frame of the project.			

ANNEX D: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS

A. Explain if the PPG objective has been achieved through the PPG activities undertaken

104. The objectives of the PPG have been fully realized. An international, and counterpart national, consultants were recruited in May 2009 to implement the PPG. A work plan was collaboratively developed by the UNDP, the consultants and a focal team from the Ministry of Environment to guide and direct the work to be undertaken during the preparatory phase. A national working group, representing the different stakeholder institutions and organizations, was constituted by the national focal point to oversee and approve the preparatory studies and draft project documents. The PPG delivered all studies which made it possible to finalize the MSP request.

B. Describe findings that might affect the project design or any concerns on project implementation, if any:

105. No concerns arose during the PPG on project implementation, other than potential [risks](#) that have been identified in section G above. Risk mitigation measures have been included in project design.

C. Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities and their implementation status in the table below:

PPG	Implementation Status	GEF Amount (\$)				Co-financing (\$)
		Amount Approved	Amount Spent To-date	Amount Committed	Uncommitted Amount*	
Component 1. Detailed assessment of the policy, legal and institutional environment in the area of land-use planning and sectoral practices immediately dependent on land use (pasture-land management and grazing, hay-cutting, logging, fish-pond management, road and building infrastructure)	Completed	5,000	0	5,000	0	13,000
Component 2. Baseline biodiversity and economic assessments and development of detailed work-plans for the project's testing activities at 10 districts	Completed	7,000	2,000	5,000	0	15,000
Component 3. Feasibility study and budget	Completed	17,000	6,368	10,632	0	2,000
Total		29,000	8,368	20,632	0	30,000

* Uncommitted amount should be returned to the GEF Trust Fund. Please indicate expected date of refund transaction to Trustee

ANNEX E: TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN (UNDP ATLAS FORMAT)

Award ID:	00058307
Award Title:	PIMS 3985 BD MSP: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Practices
Business Unit:	BLR10
Project Title:	PIMS 3985 BD MSP: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Practices
Atlas Project ID	00072384
PIMS number:	3985
Implementing Partner (Executing Agency)	MNREP (NEX/NIM)

GEF Outcome/ Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/ Implementing Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Total (USD)	Budget Note
Outcome 1. Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional framework for land-use planning that reflects biodiversity considerations outside protected areas	MNREP	62000	GEF	71300	Local Consultants	10,500	19,200	4,500	4,760	38,960	1
				71600	Travel	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000	2
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies (Training)	0	5,000	5,000	10,000	20,000	3
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies	30,000	30,000	0	0	60,000	4
				72300	Materials & Goods	0	500	500	1,000	2,000	5
				72400	Communic. & Audio Visual Equip.	0	1,000	580	460	2,040	6
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	0	2,000	0	0	2,000	7
	Subtotal Outcome 1 (GEF)	40,500	59,700	12,580	18,220	131,000					
Outcome 2. Tested models for development and enforcement of biodiversity- compatible land-use plans at the district levels	MNREP	62000	GEF	71200	International Consultants	0	13,750	0	13,750	27,500	8
				71300	Local Consultants	9,912	14,904	19,602	14,902	59,320	9
				71600	Travel	2,500	5,000	7,500	5,000	20,000	10
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies	100,600	199,300	240,000	86,280	626,180	11
				72200	Equipment and Furniture	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	12
	Subtotal Outcome 2 (GEF)	123,012	232,954	267,102	119,932	743,000					
Project Management				71300	Local Consultants	21,120	21,120	21,120	21,120	84,480	13
				71600	Travel	0	4,520	4,000	4,000	12,520	14
					Subtotal Proj. Mgmt. (GEF)	21,120	25,640	25,120	25,120	97,000	
PROJECT TOTAL						178,620	325,140	311,620	155,620	971,000	

Budget Notes:

1	Chief Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Expert - 320 *28 weeks=8,960; Land-Use Planning Expert - 320*25 weeks=8,000; Forestry Expert - 280*24weeks=6,720; Specialist on Agricultural Economics - 280*10weeks=2,800; PM technical input to Outcome 1 (320*39weeks=12,480).
2	Travel of local consultants for 4 Capacity Building Workshops (Output 1.4)
3	Cost of organization of 4 Capacity Building Workshops (Output 1.4). Cost of each seminar is 5,000.
4	Subcontractors for (i) Amendments to legislation on species maintenance standards, (ii) Development of new National Action Plans (NAPs) for Threatened Species, and (iii) Development of Act on biotopes conservation under Output 1.1 (60,000)
5	Expendables, accessories
6	Expenses related to communication for Outcome 1 implementation.
7	Insurance, bank charges, other miscellaneous expenses.
8	International evaluation expert for mid-term and the final evaluations 2,750 * 10 weeks=27,500
9	Chief Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Expert - 320*57weeks=18,240; Land-Use Planning Expert - 320*43=13,760; Forestry Expert - 280*28=7,840; Economist/ Agric expert - 280*11=3,080; Evaluation Specialist 280*14=3,920; PM technical input to Outcome 2 (320*39= 12,480).
10	Cost of travel of local consultants for coordination of the following activities: Inventory of biodiversity, development passport and recommendation for conservation in 10 district organizations, Development of land use and forestry use plans for 10 districts.
11	This budget line covers subcontractors for (i) Inventory of biodiversity, development passport and recommendation for conservation in 10 district (190,000); (ii) Development of land use plans for 10 districts (240,000); (iii) Development and changes of the existing forestry plans of the 10 forest enterprises situated in the 10 target project districts (100,000) under Output 2.1; and (iv) Organization of in-field training and demonstration activities under Output 2.1 (96,180).
12	Equipment for biodiversity and land-use inventory works - computers, a notebook, printer, GPS device - 10,000.
13	The salary of Project Manager (320 per week * 114weeks=36,480) and Administrative Assistant (250 per week * 192 weeks=48,000)
14	Management-related travel to/from project sites for the project management team to enable hands-on management.

Summary of Funds: ²⁰

	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Total (USD)
GEF	178,620	325,140	311,620	155,620	971,000
State Committee on Property	550,000	550,000	550,000	550,000	2,200,000
MNREP	50,000	50,000	0	0	100,000
Ministry of Forestry	1,483,800	789,600	1,766,400	744,500	4,784,300
TOTAL FINANCING (Excluding PPG)	2,262,420	1,714,740	2,628,020	1,450,120	8,055,300

²⁰ Summary table includes all financing of all kinds: GEF financing, cofinancing, cash, in-kind, etc.

ANNEX F: DATA SHEETS FOR 10 PILOT DISTRICTS

District 1:	Rechica (Gomel Region).....	37
District 2:	Rogachev (Gomel Region)	40
District 3:	Ivacevichy (Brest Region)	43
District 4:	Volozhin (Minsk Region)	45
District 5:	Korelichi (Grodno Region).....	48
District 6:	Slonim (Grodno Region)	50
District 7:	Klichev (Mogilev Region).....	52
District 8:	Bobruysk (Mogilev Region).....	54
District 9:	Rossony (Vitebsk Region).....	57
District 10:	Glubokoe (Vitebsk Region).....	59

DISTRICT 1: RECHICA (GOMEL REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Broadleaved forest	11.0	Ladybells <i>Adenophora lilifolia</i> ** Lady's Slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus*</i> , ** Leathery grapefern <i>Botrichium multifidum</i> ** Dicranum moss <i>icranum viride</i> ** Dragonhead <i>Dracocephalum ruyschiana*</i> Bluntleaf sandwort <i>Moehringia lateriflora**</i>	Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Greater spotted eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i> Green woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i> Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Change in hydrological regime due to forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories 3. Increased incidence of pests and diseases 4. Forest drying 5. Unsustainable management of game resources 6. Spring hunting
Small density oak floodplain forests	0.4	Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus*</i> , ** Bluntleaf sandwort <i>Moehringia lateriflora**</i>	Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Gray-headed woodpecker <i>Picus canus</i> Dusky large blue <i>Maculinea nausithous</i>	1. Change in hydrological regime 2. Changes in traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 3. Drying of forest 4. Increased incidence of pests and diseases
Extra humidified softleaved forests	8.2		Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i> Eurasian eagle-owl <i>Bubo bubo</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Common Tree Frog <i>Hyla arborea</i> Fen Raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	1. Change in hydrological regime due to forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories 2. Logging 3. Unsustainable management of game resources
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Floodplain meadows and fen mires	13.7		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	1. Changes in traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water

			Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Pewit <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i> Shoveler <i>Anas clipeata</i> Fire-bellied Toads <i>Bombina bombina</i> Dusky large blue <i>Maculinea nausithous</i> Scarce Fritillary <i>Euphydryas maturna</i>	reclamation 4. Spring hunting 5. Uncontrolled grassland fires
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
Large and medium rivers (Dnepr, Berezina)	2.0	Floating watermoss <i>Salvinia natans</i> ** Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i> *	European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i> Sterlet <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> Common barbel <i>Barbus barbus</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i> European ruffes <i>Gymnocephalus acerinus</i> Sabrefish <i>Pelecus cultratus</i>	1. Changing hydrological regime due to construction of water reclamation system in the catchment area and straightening of tributaries 2. Chemical pollution due to untreated domestic and industrial effluents; and discharge from agricultural lands 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas 7. Spring hunting
Oxbow lakes	0.6	Floating watermoss <i>Salvinia natans</i> ** Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i> *	European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> European pond turtle <i>Emys orbicularis</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	1. Shallowing of lakes due to changing hydrological regime 2. Washing away of channels and passages, and reduction of flow 3. Dystrophication 4. Overgrowth by littoral vegetation 5. Unsustainable fish pond management 6. Unsustainable hunting management 7. Degradation of spawning areas 8. Spring hunting
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)		Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project)
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>		1-2 pairs	1-2 pairs
Great snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		5-10 displaying males	20-30 displaying males
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		35-50 displaying males	50-70 displaying males
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 economic threats on the territory of the region (outside protected areas)				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/ or pilot (demonstration) projects.			Logging and sanitary felling The forest cover in the district is about 44.2%, which is a little above average for the country. The threat of logging (mature and over-mature stands) affects an area of 8,000 hectares (7% of forest land). Forests are concentrated mainly in the Northern part of the district as a single forest array, among which meadows and plowing lands are situated. Old deciduous and mixed coniferous–broad leaved forests, which are the most important from the economic and nature conservation points of view, are part of the forest structure. Aged hollow and shrinking trees that are the habitat of numerous birds and xylophage insects	

	<p>are eliminated during logging. Soil cover is being disturbed. Disturbance associated with forest management has a negative influence on the state of fauna. Logging and sanitary cutting result in decreases of protected bird species such as Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i>, Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, Green woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i> etc. As a result of logging, a decrease in abundance (and in some places complete disappearance) of protected plant species such as Ladybells <i>Adenophora lilifolia</i>, Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>, Leathery grapefern <i>Botrichium multifidum</i>, Dicranum moss <i>Dicranum viride</i>, Dragon head <i>Dracocephalum ruyschiana</i>, Bluntleaf sandwort <i>Moehringia lateriflora</i> are possible.</p> <p>This problem could be alleviated by certifying forestry organizations, mapping protected species habitats, and, on this basis, amending the forest management plans of the Rechica forestry organization.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities</p>	<p>In the territory where forestries are operating, forest areas with especially great ecological value will be identified, and limitations will be placed on logging activities in these areas. An inventory of protected species of plants and animals will be undertaken. Habitats of plants and animals included in Belarus' Red Book, as well as those protected in compliance with international agreements, will be maintained by preparing rules for their protection. Restrictions on forestry activities will be introduced, in compliance with the ecological requirements of these species.</p> <p>The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rechica Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Use, Geodesy and Cartography, and the Rechica Forestry will be involved in implementing the pilot measures.</p>
<p>Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).</p>	<p>The adverse impacts of logging and sanitary felling on areas that are important for biodiversity conservation are typically experienced in all forests of the country. This is for areas important for biodiversity conservation outside PAs, because within PAs there is a different regime of protection.</p>
<p>Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.</p>	<p>Reduction of natural areas of wet floodplain meadow and fen mires in the valley of Dnepr and Berezina rivers</p> <p>This is occurring due to changes in traditional farming methods, principally, a reduction in hay-mowing areas and pastures. The construction of polder systems in the floodplain, plowing, and drainage of adjoining territories are detrimental for natural floodplain meadow and bogs community. As a result, open areas are being overgrown by shrubs and reeds, in turn resulting in a reduction of fauna and flora diversity, and disappearance of some rare and protected species. Species such as: Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>, Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>, Great Snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>, Short eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>, Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>, Pewit <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>, Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i> are at risk of disappearance. The threat is permanent and has a trend to accelerate. Annually, from 3% to 5% of open floodplain communities are being degraded.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.</p>	<p>This problem can be alleviated by organizing hay-mowing and pasturing on these areas, restriction of areas where plowing takes place, and by prohibition of water reclamation activities by amending the territorial management plan of Rechica district.</p> <p>The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rechica Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of the State Committee on Property, farming industry, landowners and land users, and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing the</p>

	pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	This threat affects all wide floodplain rivers of Belarus, notably the floodplains of Pripyat, Dnepr, Sozh, Berezina and Neman. The experience with sustainable land use of open floodplain communities in the Rechica district will be applicable to the areas of rivers mentioned above.

DISTRICT 2: ROGACHEV (GOMEL REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Mixed coniferous-broad leaved forest of Poles'e type	8.8	Leathery grapefern <i>Botrichium multifidum</i> **	Common dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing hydrological regime due to forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories 3. Increased incidence of pests and diseases 4. Forest drying 5. Unsustainable management of game resources
Small density oak floodplain forests	0.02		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>	1. Forest drying 2. Infringement of hydrological regime 3. Increased incidence of pests and diseases. 4. Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures)
Extra humidified softleaved forests	6.1		Common Tree Frog <i>Hyla arborea</i> Fen Raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	1. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 2. Logging 3. Unsustainable management of game resources
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Floodplain meadows	8.4		Lesser noctule <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Black tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Fire-bellied Toads <i>Bombina bombina</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation
Fen mires	2.1		Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Common Tree Frog <i>Hyla arborea</i> Fen Raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Water reclamation and construction of polder system 4. Peat extraction 5. Uncontrolled grassland fire

Bogs and transitional mires	1.1	Yellow Marsh Saxifrage <i>Saxifraga hirculus*</i> , **		1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 3. Peat extraction
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
Medium and large rivers (Dnepr, Drut')	2.5	Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans*</i>	European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Sterlet <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> Common barbel <i>Barbus barbus</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i> Sabrefish <i>Pelecus cultratus</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchment area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas
Oxbow lakes	0,5	Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans*</i>	European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> European pond turtle <i>Emys orbicularis</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	1 Shallowing due to changing of hydrological regime 2. Washing away of channels and passages, reduction of flow 3. Dystrophication 4. Overgrowth by littoral vegetation
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	1-2 pairs	2-3 pairs	
Great snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	10-15 displaying males	20-40 displaying males	
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	30-40 displaying males	40-60 displaying males	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Logging and sanitary felling Logging and sanitary felling are being carried out in forests without attention to biodiversity conservation. Forest coverage in the district is 34%, which is below the national average. The threat of logging of mature and overmature stands affects an area of 5 thousand hectares (7% of forest land). This threat is permanent and appears when forests reach the age of logging. As a result of deforestation, native deciduous forest, mixed coniferous broad leaved forest and extra humidified small-leaved forests, which are the richest from the biodiversity conservation point of view, are disappeared. Aged hollow and shrinking trees that are the habitat of numerous birds, xylophage insects and bats are eliminated during logging. The soil cover is being disturbed. As a result of deforestation the reduction of population and in some cases the disappearance of protected plants and animals are possible: Leathery grapefern <i>Botrichium multifidum</i> , Common dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> , Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> , Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> , Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> , Lesser noctule <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> . This problem can be addressed by certifying forestry organizations, mapping protected species habitats, and on this basis, amending the plans of Rogachev forestry management.		

<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities</p>	<p>In the territory where forestries are operating, forest areas with especially great ecological value will be identified, and limitations will be placed on logging activities in these areas. An inventory of protected species of plants and animals will be done. Habitats of plants and animals included in Belarus' Red Book, as well as those protected in compliance with international agreements, will be maintained by preparing rules for their protection. Restrictions on forestry activities will be introduced, in compliance with the ecological requirements of these species.</p>
<p>Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).</p>	<p>Deforestation risk on areas that are important for biodiversity conservation are typical for all forests of the country, outside of PA's (within PAs there is a differentiated regime of protection). The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rogachev Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography and Rogachev forestry will be involved in implementing pilot measures.</p>
<p>Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.</p>	<p><i>Reduction of natural areas of wet floodplain meadow and fen mires in Pripjat valley</i> is connected with changing of traditional farming practices, notably a reduction of hay-mowing areas and pastures. Construction of polder system in floodplain, plowing, diking, drainage of adjoining territories are detrimental to natural floodplain meadow – bogs community. As a result, overgrowth of open areas by shrubs and reeds, reduction of fauna and flora diversity, disappearance of some rare and protected species. As a result of degradation of natural open floodplain communities such species as: Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>, Black-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa limosa</i>, Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>, Fen Raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i> are under the risk of disappearance. The threat is permanent and shows an accelerating trend. Annually from 3% to 5% of open floodplain communities are being degraded.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.</p>	<p>The elimination of this problem is possible by arrangement on these areas of hay-mowing, pasturing, restriction of ploughing areas, prohibition of water reclamation by amending the plan of Rogachev district territorial management. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial departments of the Ministry of Natural resources, Rogachev Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, farming industry, landowners and land users, local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.</p>
<p>Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).</p>	<p>This threat concerns all wide floodplain rivers of Belarus, most notably the floodplains of Pripjat, Dnepr, Sozh, Berezina and Neman. The experience of sustainable use of open floodplain communities can be applied in the floodplains of rivers mentioned above.</p>

DISTRICT 3: IVACEVICHY (BREST REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Mixed coniferous – broadleaved forest of Polesye type	3.4	Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus*</i> ,**	Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Mouse-eared bats <i>Myotis dasicineme</i> Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Common tree Frog <i>Hyla arborea</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Increased incidence of pests and diseases. 4. Forest drying. 5. Unsustainable management of game resources. 6. Spring hunting
Extra humidified softleaved forests	19.5		Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Common Tree Frog <i>Hyla arborea</i> Fen Raft spider Dolomedes plantarius	1. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 2. Logging of mature and overmature stands 3. Unsustainable management of game resources.
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Floodplain meadows and fen mires	25.0		Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Aquatic Warbler Acrocephalus paludicola Fire bellied toads <i>Bombina bombina</i>	1. Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Spring hunting 5. Peat extraction 6. Uncontrolled grassland fire
Bogs and transitional mires	0.1		Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i> Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> Common Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 3. Peat extraction 4. Spring hunting
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
Medium rivers (Schara)	0.3		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> European pond turtle <i>Emys orbicularis</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands. 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking. 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas
Lakes of different origin	3.8		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	1 Shallowing due to changing of hydrological

			Mouse eared bats <i>Myotis dasicineme</i> White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> European pond turtle <i>Emys orbicularis</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	regime 2. Washing away of channels and passages, reduction of flow 3. Dystrophication 4. Overgrowing by littoral vegetation. 5. Unsustainable fish pond management 6. Unsustainable hunting management
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	1 pair	2-3 pairs	
Great snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	10-20 displaying males	20-30 displaying males	
Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	10-15 males	20-30 males	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside protected areas):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Logging and sanitary felling Logging and sanitary felling are conducted without attention to biodiversity conservation. This threat is permanent and appears when forests reach the age of logging. The forest coverage is more than 49%. The threat of logging of mature and overmature stands affects an area of 14 thousand hectares (10 % of forest land). As a result of deforestation, native deciduous forest, mixed coniferous broad leaved forest and extra humidified small-leaved forests, which are the richest from the biodiversity conservation point of view, are disappearing. It should be mentioned that the main part of forests in Ivicevichy district are growing on extra humidified areas and islands among the wetlands. Aged hollow and shrinking trees that are the habitat of numerous birds, xylophage insects and the bats are eliminated as a result of logging. The soil cover is being disturbed. The factor of disturbance and elimination of nests are the reason for reduction of population number of Greater spotted eagle (<i>Aquila clanga</i>), White-tailed (sea) eagle (<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>). It is also possible to see a reduction of population of the following protected plants and animals: Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i> , Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> , Mouse eared bats <i>Myotis dasicineme</i> , Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> . The elimination of this problem is possible by certifying forestry organizations, mapping protected species habitats, and on this basis, amending the plans of Ivicevichy forestry management, Ivicevichy military forestry management and Telehany forestry management.		
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities		In the territory where forestries are operating, forest areas with especially great ecological value will be identified, and limitations will be placed on logging activities in these areas. An inventory of protected species of plants and animals will be done. Habitats of plants and animals included in Belarus' Red Book, as well as those protected in compliance with international agreements, will be maintained by preparing rules for their protection. Restrictions on forestry activities will be introduced in compliance with the ecological requirements of species in these areas. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial departments of the Ministry of Natural resources, Ivacevichy Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, district level representatives of State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, forestry		

	organizations will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	Deforestation risk on areas that are important for biodiversity conservation are typical for all forests of the country, outside of PA's (within PAs there is a differentiated regime of protection).
Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.	Changing of economic management of meadow and meadow-wetland areas In Ivacevichy district, agricultural management is conducted on polder system on peat bogs areas. The farming of arable crops on peat bogs results in degradation of soil. Such lands are being removed from agricultural use. As a consequence, they, as a rule, are overgrown with shrubs, not valuable for maintenance of native biodiversity. Unsustainable use of polder systems results in reduction of populations of species such as: Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> , Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> , Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> , Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> , Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> . The threat is permanent and shows an accelerating trend. Annually from 3% to 5% of open floodplain communities are being degraded. The threat can be solved by changing of polder system management.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	The elimination of this threat is possible by replacing polder use from cultivated lands to hayfield and pasture. It is feasible to conduct iterative waterlogging and restoration of fen mires on the degraded peat bogs. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ivacevichy Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, farming industry, landowners and land users, and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	The threat mainly affects the parts of Pripyat Poles'e that were drained in the process of large-scale melioration over 60-80 years of the last century. The experience of polder system sustainable use can be widely applied in Brest, Gomel and partly in Minsk regions.

DISTRICT 4: VOLOZHIN (MINSK REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Boreal and nemoral mixed coniferous – broad leaved forests	10.8	Leathery grapefern Botrichium multifidum** Matricary grapefern Botrychium matricariifolium**	European Bison <i>Bison bonasus</i> Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Fat Dormouse <i>Myoxus glis</i> Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Forest drying 4. Unsustainable management of game resources 5. Spring hunting
Extra humidified softleaved forests	8.4		Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	1. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 2. Logging of mature and overmature stands 3. Unsustainable management of game resources
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Floodplain meadows and	3.4		Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion

fen mires			Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Fire bellied toads <i>Bombina bombina</i> Scarce fritillary <i>Euphydryas maturna</i>	of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Unsustainable management of game resources
Bogs and transitional mires	3.4	Fen Orchid <i>Liparis loeselii</i> *		1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 3. Peat extraction 4. Unsustainable management of game resources
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
Medium rivers (West Berezina)	0.2		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Common barbel <i>Barbus barbus</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas
Small rivers	0.4		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Common sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i> European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i>	1. Straightening and diking of river beds 2. Shallowing due to changing of hydrological regime 3. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands.
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project)	
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	1 pair	1-2 pairs	
European Bison	<i>Bison bonasus</i>	67 animals	70-75 animals	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside protected areas):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Logging and sanitary felling Logging and sanitary felling are conducted without attention to biodiversity conservation. This threat is permanent and appears when forests reach the age of logging. Forest cover is about 38%. The threat of logging of mature and overmature stands affects an area of 3.4 thousand hectares (5% of forest land). As a result of deforestation, the richest from the biodiversity conservation point of view native deciduous forest, mixed coniferous broad leaved forest and extra humidified small-leaved forests are disappearing, especially in the valley of river West Berezina (this river doesn't enter the reserve "Nalibokskaya puscha"). In the area of native forests, forests that are considered poor from the biodiversity point of view are emerging. Aged hollow and shrinking trees that are the habitat of numerous birds, xylophage insects and bats are		

	<p>eliminated as a result of logging. The soil cover is being disturbed. The factor of disturbance and elimination of nests are the reason for reduction of population numbers of Greater spotted eagle (<i>Aquila clanga</i>). Populations of the following protected plants and animals could also be reduced: Leathery grapefern <i>Botrichium multifidum</i>, Matricary grapefern <i>Botrychium matricariifolium</i>, Lynx <i>Felis linx</i>, Fat dormouse <i>Myoxus glis</i>, Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>. The elimination of this problem is possible by certifying forestry organizations, mapping protected species habitats, and on this basis, amending the plans of Volozhin forestry management.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities</p>	<p>In the territory where forestries are operating, forest areas with especially great ecological value will be identified, and limitations will be placed on logging activities in these areas. An inventory of protected species of plants and animals will be done. Habitats of plants and animals included in Belarus' Red Book, as well as those protected in compliance with international agreements, will be maintained by preparing rules for their protection. Restrictions on forestry activities will be introduced in compliance with the ecological requirements of species in these areas.</p> <p>The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Volozhin Regional Executive Committee, district level representatives of State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Volozhin forestry and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.</p>
<p>Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).</p>	<p>Deforestation risk on areas that are important for biodiversity conservation are typical for all forests of the country, outside of PA's (within PAs there is a differentiated regime of protection).</p>
<p>Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.</p>	<p>Unsustainable hunting management especially related to protection and sustainable use of European bison population (<i>Bison bonasus</i>).</p> <p>The local population of <i>Bison bonasus</i> inhabits the territory of Volozhin district from the mid-1990s. However, hunting, forest and agriculture management conflict with the protection and rational use of this species. Logging is conducted without taking into account seasonal, migration and feeding aspects of the species. This has a negative impact on European bison during the period of rut and calving when these animals are most vulnerable. Cultivation of some agricultural crops, especially grains on the lands adjoining areas of constant European bison dwelling, leads to poisoning of animals that has adverse social resonance and leads to considerable economic losses. The intensive extra feeding during the winter is the reason of large herd formation that negatively affects on population structure and promotes the transfer of some serious diseases. There are large populations of ungulate animals (notably, European red deer) that feed concurrently with European bison in this territory.</p> <p>The threat has existed since the free herd formation of European bison in Volozhin district and shows an increasing tendency. To address this issue, it is necessary to conduct the optimization of forest, hunting and agriculture management in Volozhin district.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.</p>	<p>It is necessary to conduct an analysis of migrations, food reserves and spatial structure of this species population. On the basis of obtained data, forest management (logging, afforestation) will need to be amended, quiet areas will need to be created, number of feeding competitors will have to be optimized, cultivation of agricultural crops will need to be modified so that they take into account the spatial features and migrations of European bison.</p> <p>The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Volozhin Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography ,</p>

	Volozhin forestry, landowners and land users, and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	The same problems exist for other European bison local populations created in the National park "Pripjatsky", Berezinsky biosphere reserve, Osipovichy and Grodno districts where the experience of sustainable management of Bison population in Volozhin can be applied. The total area of the land (including the area of migration), on which European bison exist is about 1,200 hectares.

DISTRICT 5: KORELICHI (GRODNO REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Boreal and nemoral mixed coniferous – broad leaved forests	4.7		Lynx Felis linx Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Forest drying 4. Unsustainable management of game resources 5. Spring hunting
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Out floodplain meadows	4.3		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Spotted souslik <i>Spermophilus suslicus</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Unsustainable management of game resources
Fen mires	2.1		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Spring hunting
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
River Neman	0.2		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas
Small rivers	0.3		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i>	1. Straightening and diking of river beds 2. Shallowing due to changing of hydrological regime

			European Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>	
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Corncrake	Crex crex	20-25 displaying males	30-40 displaying males	
Great snipe	Gallinago media	5-10 displaying males	10-15 displaying males	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Logging and sanitary felling Logging and sanitary felling are conducted without attention to biodiversity conservation. This threat is permanent and appears when forests reach the age of logging. The forest coverage is about 21%, which is two times lower than the national average. The threat of logging of mature and overmature stands affects an area of 1 thousand hectares (4.5 % of forest land). The forests of Korelichy district are concentrated mainly on the right-bank of the river Neman. In other parts of the district, forests are situated as small island areas among agricultural lands. These small forest island areas are places of rich biodiversity concentration. They function as environmental corridors and are places of "survival" for the large mammals. Such areas also play an important role for nesting of large birds of prey and dendrophil birds. Logging in these small island areas and disturbance to animals results in reduction in abundance of forest animals, in changing of formed migration tracks of hoofed animals, in replacement of native forests by forests that are considered poor from the biodiversity point of view. The cutting of native small-leaved forests in the floodplain has a negative influence on the status of animals and plants. Forest disturbance is the reason for a reduction in abundance of such protected species as Lynx (<i>Felis linx</i>) and Squirrel (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>). The elimination of this problem is possible by certifying forestry organizations, mapping protected species habitats, and on this basis, amending the plans of Novogrudok forestry management (this forestry is managing the forest lands in the Korelichy district).		
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities		In the territory where forestries are operating, forest areas with especially great ecological value will be identified, and limitations will be placed on logging activities in these areas. An inventory of protected species of plants and animals will be done. Habitats of plants and animals included in Belarus' Red Book, as well as those protected in compliance with international agreements, will be maintained by preparing rules for their protection. Restrictions on forestry activities will be introduced, in compliance with the ecological requirements of these species. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Korelichy Regional Executive Committee and Novogrudok forestry will be involved in the procedures.		
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).		Deforestation risk on areas that are important for biodiversity conservation are typical for all forests of the country, outside of PA's (within PAs there is a differentiated regime of protection).		
Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Infringement of natural structure of landscapes as a result of unsustainable land use and incorrect planning Korelichsky district is one of the most cultivated areas in the country. Agricultural lands in the district comprise about 66.6%. Important biodiversity is concentrated in small areas situated in		

	the river floodplains, on steep areas not conducive to plowing, in swamped hollows, as well as in small rivers and stream heads. As a result of prevalence of open farmlands with monocultures the number of large predators is reduced, notably Lesser spotted eagle and Greater spotted eagle, for which a mosaic combination of agricultural lands and natural areas of fen mires, meadows and forest islands is necessary. The abundance of other animal and plant species (health cock, common partridge, pewit and corncrake) is also reducing because of unsustainable planning. The relic population of Spotted souslik is critically endangered.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	An inventory of habitats that are of critical importance for the conservation of valuable biodiversity is required. On the basis of the inventory, the Korelichy territorial plan needs to be amended. Protection rules and species maintenance standards will be created for habitats of rare species of plants and animals included in the Belarus Red Book. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Korelichy Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, Novogrudok forestry, landowners and land users, and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	This threat is characteristic for a considerable part of the Minsk, Mogilyov and Grodno areas and has historical roots. Infringement of natural structure of landscapes as a result of unsustainable land use and incorrect planning has a centuries-old history and is observed on the area of 4.2 million hectares in the Republic.

DISTRICT 6: SLONIM (GRODNO REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Nemoral mixed coniferous – broad leaved forests	8,2	Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus*</i> , **	Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i> Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Forest drying (fir, ash) 4. Unsustainable management of game resources. 5. Spring hunting
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Floodplain meadow and fen mires	4,1		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i> Fire-bellied toads <i>Bombina bombina</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Spring hunting
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				

Medium (river Schara) and Small rivers.	0,3		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Common sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> Common Barbel <i>Barbus barbus</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i> European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i> European Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Lady's slipper	Cyripidium calceolus	3 populations	5 populations	
Corncrake	Crex crex	10-25 displaying males	10-25 displaying males	
Great snipe	Gallinago media	5-10 displaying males	5-10 displaying males	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Infringement of natural structure of landscapes as a result of unsustainable land use and incorrect planning. Slonim district area has historically been developed by man. Agricultural lands in the district comprise about 51.2%. Large forests in the West form part of the Republic of Belarus' system of reserves. Important biodiversity is concentrated in small areas situated in the river floodplains, on steep areas not conducive to plowing, in swamped hollows, and in small rivers and stream heads that are numerous in the district. As a result of prevalence of open farmlands with monocultures the number of large predators has reduced, notably the number of Lesser spotted eagle and Greater spotted eagle. These species need a mosaic combination of agricultural lands with natural areas of fen mires, meadows and forest islands. The abundance of other animal and plant species (Health cock, Common partridge, Pewit and Corncrake) is also reducing because of unsustainable planning. The straightening of small rivers results in disappearance of typical species - European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i> and European Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> .		
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities		An inventory of habitats that are of critical importance for the conservation of valuable biodiversity is required. On the basis of the inventory, the territorial plan of Slonim territory management will be amended. Protection rules and species maintenance standards will be created for habitats of rare species of plants and animals included in the Belarus Red Book. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Slonim Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Slonim forestry, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, landowners and land users, local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.		
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).		This threat is characteristic for a considerable part of the Minsk, Mogilyov and Grodno areas and has historical roots. Infringement of natural structure of landscapes as a result of unsustainable land use and incorrect planning has centuries-old history and is observed over 4.2		

Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.	million hectares in the Republic. Reduction of areas of natural wet floodplain meadow and fen mires situated in the valley of Schara river and floodplains of small rivers This is due to changing of traditional farming practices, notably a reduction of hay-mowing areas and pastures. The plowing, diking, and drainage of adjoining territories are detrimental to natural floodplain meadow – bogs community. The result is overgrowth of open areas by shrubs and reeds, reduction of fauna and flora diversity, and disappearance of some rare and protected species. The degradation of natural open floodplain communities leads to a risk of disappearance of such species as: Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> , Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> . The threat is permanent and shows an accelerating trend. Annually from 3% to 5% of open floodplain communities are being degraded.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	The elimination of this problem is possible by organizing hay-mowing, pasturing, restricting plowing areas, and prohibiting water reclamation by amending the territorial plan of Slonim district. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Slonim Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, farming industry, landowners and land users, and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	This threat concerns the all meadow and floodplain communities of small, medium and large rivers of Belarus. The experience of sustainable use of open floodplain communities realized in Slonim district can be applied in the areas of rivers mentioned above.

DISTRICT 7: KLICHEV (MOGILEV REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Boreal and nemoral mixed coniferous – broad leaved forests	13.7		Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Common dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i> Black stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i> Short-toed Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Forest drying. 4. Unsustainable management of game resources. 5. Spring hunting
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Bogs and transitional mires	2.3		Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i>	1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 3. Peat extraction 4. Spring hunting
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
Large (Berezina),	0.5		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	1. Straightening and diking of small river beds

medium (Drut') and small rivers			Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	2. Shallowing due to changing of hydrological regime 3. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands. 4. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking 5. Unsustainable fish pond management 6. Unsustainable hunting management 7. Degradation of spawning areas
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Black tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	10-15 pairs	20-30 pairs	
Lesser spotted eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	3-5 pairs	5-7 pairs	
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1-2 pairs	2-3 pairs	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Logging and sanitary felling Klichev district is one of the woodiest in the East of Belarus. Forests occupy about 57% of district territory. The main part of forests is swamped and not easily accessible. But, in the last few years, due to the high price of wood from broad-leaved forests, logging of mature and overmature stands is conducted here with minimal attention paid to biodiversity protection. This threat is permanent and appears when forests reach the age of logging. The threat of logging of matures and overmature stands affects an area of 14 thousand hectares (14 % of forest land). As a result of deforestation, native deciduous forest, mixed coniferous broad leaved forest and extra humidified small-leaved forests, which are the richest from the biodiversity conservation point of view, are disappearing. Monoculture forests, not valuable from maintenance of biodiversity point of view, are replacing native forests. Aged hollow and shrinking trees that are the habitat of numerous birds and xylophage insects are eliminated during the logging. The soil is being disturbed, the abundance of such species as Common dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> , Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> is being decreased. The elimination of this problem is possible by certifying forestry organizations, mapping protected species habitats, and on this basis, amending the plans of Klichev forestry management.		
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities		In the territory where forestries are operating, areas with especially great biodiversity value will be identified and limitations will be placed on forest management in these areas. An inventory of protected species of plants and animals will be done. Habitats of plants and animals included in Belarus' Red Book, as well as those protected in compliance with international agreements, will be maintained by preparing rules for their protection. Restrictions on forestry activities will be introduced, in compliance with the ecological requirements of these species. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Klichev Regional Executive Committee District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography and Klichev forestry will be involved in implementing pilot measures.		

Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	Deforestation risk on areas that are important for biodiversity conservation are typical for all forests of the country, outside of PA's (within PAs there is a differentiated regime of protection).
Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.	Forest reclamation The majority of forests in the Klichev district are swamped. To improve the quality and availability of wood, forest drainage is carried out. Small rivers are straightened, channelized and diked. However, forest drainage in many sites has proved to be inefficient. As result of drainage, humid forests are degraded, fir forests and mixed coniferous-broad-leaved forests are drying, the wetland biodiversity of flora and fauna are reducing in these areas, and the area and frequency of forest fire is increasing. The channels increase the access of beavers to forests and this results in waterlogging and degradation of woodlands. Bogs and transitional mires that are the heads of many small rivers in Klichev district are degrading. The result of drainage and straightening of rivers is a reduction of species abundance (European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> , Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i> .) The elimination of this problem is possible by conducting an assessment of forest drainage efficiency from the natural and economic point of view, identifying inefficient ones, and decommissioning them. On the basis of these actions, forest-use plans of Klichev forestry need to be amended.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	An inventory of forest drainage systems on the territory of Klichev district will be done. Inefficient forest reclamation systems will be determined for forest and wetland ecosystem. On the basis of investigations, the Klichev forest-use plans will be amended. The National Academy of Sciences, The design and survey republican unitary enterprise "Belgiproles", Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Klichev Regional Executive Committee, Klichev forestry and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	Forest reclamation in Belarus is carried out over 510 thousand hectares, of which 24 thousand hectares are recognized as inefficient. The experience gained in Klichev district can be applied on this area.

DISTRICT 8: BOBRUYSK (MOGILEV REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Boreal and nemoral mixed coniferous – broad leaved forests	17,1	Leathery grapefern Botrichium multifidum**	Lynx Felis linx Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Garden dormouse <i>Eliomys quercinus</i> Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i> Black Stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Forest drying (fir, ash, oak). 4. Unsustainable management of game resources. 5. Spring hunting
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Floodplain meadow and Berezina river	1,1		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds

				3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Spring hunting
Fen mires	2,8		Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Spring hunting
Bogs and transitional mires	1,5		Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Short-toed Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 3. Peat extraction 4. Spring hunting
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
Medium and small rivers (Berezina river with tributaries)	0,8	Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i> *	European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Common barbell <i>Barbus barbus</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Common sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands. 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking. 3. Channeling and straightening of small rivers. 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas 7. Spring hunting
Oxbow lakes			European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	1. Shallowing due to changing of hydrological regime 2. Washing away of channels and passages, reduction of flow 3. Dystrophication 4. Overgrowing by littoral vegetation.
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	20-30 displaying males	40-50 displaying males	
Great snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	10-15 displaying males	20-30 displaying males	
Lesser spotted eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	2-3 pairs	3-5 pairs	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of		Forest reclamation and unsustainable use of swamped forests Extra humidified forests cover 30% of the territory of Bobruysk district. To improve wood quality and availability, open forest drainage is conducted here over 300 hectares of forests. The		

<p>sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.</p>	<p>result of drainage is an increase in forest fires and peat mineralization, and a decrease in biodiversity of wetlands and extra humidified forests including the threatened species such as Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, Black stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>, Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> etc.. However forest drainage on many sites has appeared inefficient. As result of drainage, humid forests are degrading, fir forests and mixed coniferous-broad-leaved forests are drying out, wetland flora and fauna biodiversity are reducing in these territories, area and frequency of forest fires are increasing. The channels increase the access of beavers to forests and this results in waterlogging and degradation of woodlands. Bogs and transitional mires that are the heads of many small rivers in Bobruysk district are degrading. The elimination of this problem is possible by conducting of assessment of forest drainage efficiency from the natural and economic point of view, identifying inefficient ones, and decommissioning them. On the basis of these actions the forest-use plans of Bobruysk forestry will be amended.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities</p>	<p>An inventory of forest drainage systems on the territory of Bobruysk district will be done. For forest and wetland ecosystem, the inefficient forest reclamation systems will be determined. On the basis of investigations the Bobruysk forest-use plans will be amended. The National Academy of Sciences, The design and survey republican unitary enterprise “Belgiproles”, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Bobruysk Regional Executive Committee, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Bobruysk forestry and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.</p>
<p>Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).</p>	<p>Forest reclamation in Belarus occurs on an area of 510 thousand hectares. 24 thousand hectares of this is recognized as inefficiently drained. The experience gained in Bobruysk district can be applied on this territory.</p>
<p>Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.</p>	<p>Unsustainable use (ecologically not oriented) of floodplain lands One of the biggest rivers in Europe – Berezina – runs through the district. The floodplain width reaches 3-5 kilometers at some points. The Berezina floodplain is the main migration track of marsh birds. But the use of the floodplain is conducted ineffectively from the point of view of sustainable use of biodiversity. Polder systems are created, arable crops are grown, and intensive cattle grazing are taking place. As a result of changes to the hydrological regime of the floodplain, there is a shallowing of oxbow lakes and degradation of spawning areas in the district. Cattle farms are situated in the water protection zone (i.e., within 100 meters of water bodies). The overgrowing of floodplain by shrubs has intensified in the last few years. Uncontrolled recreation in the district is leading to wildlife disturbance, especially during the nesting period. As a result of these processes, the environmental conditions for birds of passage are becoming worse during spring and autumn migrations. The population abundance of European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>, Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>, Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>, Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>, Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i> is decreasing. The elimination of this problem is possible by undertaking Berezina floodplain nature conservation assessment, development of sustainable use system and in the future amending the territorial plans of Bobruysk district.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.</p>	<p>The elimination of the threat is possible by using floodplains as hayfields and pastures. Optimum loading (stress) for hayfields and optimum haymaking time for pastures will be defined. A sustainable recreation management plan will be put in place whereby location of recreation/ vacation activities is organized so as to decrease recreation pressures and disturbance to wildlife. On the basis of an inventory of habitats of animals and plants, species that are</p>

	included in Belarus Red Book and protected in compliance with national legislation will be identified and placed under protection. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Bobruysk Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, farming industry, landowners and land users, local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	This threat concerns all wide floodplain rivers of Belarus (Pripyat, Dnepr, Sozh and Neman). The experience of sustainable use of open floodplain communities gained in Bobruysk district can be applied in all regions of Belarus. The area of floodplain lands is about 80 thousand hectares.

DISTRICT 9: ROSSONY (VITEBSK REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
Forest ecosystems				
Boreal forests	24.5	Dragonhead Dracocephalum ruyschiana* Bluntleaf sandwort Moechringia lateriflora** Drooping woodreed Cinna latifolia** Yellow coralroot Corallorhiza trifida	Lynx Felis linx Siberian Flying Squirrel Pteromys volans Southern wood ant Formica rufa	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Unsustainable management of game resources. 4. Spring hunting
Meadow and wetland ecosystem				
Fens, Transitional mires and bogs.	8.6	Marsh Angelica Angelica palustris*, ** Yellow coralroot Corallorhiza trifida Yellow Marsh Saxifrage Saxifraga hirculus*, **	Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa Fen Raft spider Dolomedes plantarius	1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 3. Spring hunting
Freshwater ecosystem				
Medium and small rivers.	0.8		European river otter Lutra lutra Asp Aspius aspius European Fresh Water Crayfish Astacus astacus	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands. 2. Channeling and straightening of small rivers. 2. Changing of hydro regime due to construction of water reclamation system in catchment area, tributary rectification and floodplain diking. 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism. 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Irrational hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas
Lakes and lake complexes of different	8.0	Nodding water nymph Caulinia flexilis*, ** Water Chestnut Trapa natans*	European river otter Lutra lutra Green-Throated Black-Billed Loon Gavia	1. Degradation of water quality 2. Overgrowing by coastal vegetation.

origin			<i>arctica</i> White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Vendace <i>Coregonus albula</i>	3. Irrational fish pond management 4. Recreation pressures leading to wildlife disturbance. 5. Illegal fishery 6. Spring hunting 7. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands. 8. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism.
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Nodding waterynymph	<i>Caulinia flexilis</i>	1 populations	2-3 populations	
European Fresh Water Crayfish	<i>Astacus astacus</i>	7-12 populations (lakes)	15-20 populations (lakes)	
Marsh Angelica	<i>Angelica palustris</i>	1 populations	2-3 populations	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Unsustainable use of lakes There are 192 lakes with a total area of 8012 hectares in the territory of Rosson district. Most of them are leased for amateur and commercial fishery and exploited for recreation and tourism development. But these activities do not take into account biodiversity. Lakes are being stocked with alien (not native) fish – Carp and Silver porgy. Extra nutrition is being supplied through artificial food, and fishing is conducted with fixed nets and seine. Fishery with fixed nets is resulting in elimination of rare water plant populations - Nodding waterynymph <i>Caulinia flexilis</i> and Water chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i> . Swimming birds and globally threatened White-tailed eagle (<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>) and Black-throated diver are caught and killed in fixed nets. Contamination of water is resulting in degradation of European Cisco population (<i>Coregonus albula</i>) and <i>Astacus astacus</i> . Illegal fishing has a negative influence on ichthyofauna. The absence of arranged camping areas is leading to degradation of vegetation and soil cover in riverside areas. Disturbance of habitats and spring hunting have negative impacts on swimming birds and birds nesting near water. Water contamination is occurring due to sewage, domestic water, plowing of land area in/ near coastal and water protected zones. Elimination of this problem is possible on the basis of environmental assessment of lakes, developing a rational system for their use and integrating these rules in the territorial plan of the Rosson district.		
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.		Elimination of this problem is possible through assessment of the lake ecosystem and adjacent territories. Amendments to fisheries rules will be needed, such as excluding lake stocking by non-native species and providing extra nutrition through artificial food, cattle farms and their treatment facilities need to be moved out of the water protected zones (within 100 meters of water bodies), arable areas need to be replaced by hayfields, recreation activities need to be better managed, and camping areas need to be improved. An inventory of the habitats of rare and vanishing species of animals and plants will be undertaken. The National Academy of Sciences, Belarusian State University and Vitebsk State University, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rosson Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, agricultural enterprises, landowners and land users, local hunting communities will be involved in		

	implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	This threat concerns the entire Vitebsk Poozer'e region. Experience gained in this district can be applied here. Lakes cover 114 thousand hectares in the region.
Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.	Forest reclamation The district area is 1.9 thousand hectares, 70.6% of which is forests. 49% of forests are swamped. There are huge wetlands situated in this area (Zaborsky Moh, Uhovichski Moh, Rosson Moh, Mezjno). To improve wood quality and availability, forest drainage is carried out over an area of 3.8 thousand hectares. Small rivers are straightened, canalized and diked. However, forest drainage on many sites has appeared inefficient (over almost 800 hectares). As a result of drainage, humid forests are degrading, fir forests and mixed coniferous-broad-leaved forests are drying out, wetland flora and fauna numbers are reducing in these areas, area and frequency of forest fire is increasing. The canals increased the access of beavers to forests and this results in waterlogging and degradation of woodlands. Bogs and transitional mires that are the heads of many small rivers in Rosson district are degrading. The result of drainage is degradation of growing conditions of such protected species as <i>Angelica palustris</i> , <i>Corallorhiza trifida</i> , Yellow marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) and also the reduction of animal population of Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) and Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>). The elimination of this problem is possible by conducting an assessment of forest drainage efficiency from the natural and economic point of view, identifying inefficient ones, and decommissioning them. On the basis of these actions, Forest-use plans of Rosson forestry need to be amended.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	An inventory of forest drainage systems on the territory of Rosson district will be done. For forest and wetland ecosystems, the inefficient forest reclamation systems will be determined. On the basis of investigations the Rosson forest-use plans will be amended. The National Academy of Sciences, The design and survey republican unitary enterprise "Belgiproles", Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rosson Regional Executive Committee, district level representatives of State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Rosson forestry and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	Forest reclamation in Belarus is done over an area of 510 thousand hectares, of which 24 thousand hectares them are recognized as inefficient. The experience gained in Rosson district can be applied on this territory.

DISTRICT 10: GLUBOKOE (VITEBSK REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
Forest ecosystems				
Boreal forests	10.2	Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus*</i> , **	Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Unsustainable management of game resources. 4. Spring hunting
Meadow and wetland ecosystems				

Meadows	13,8		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Fire-bellied Toads <i>Bombina bombina</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Plowing in agricultural purposes
Fen mires	8,2		Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Fen Raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Water reclamation 4. Peat extraction
Bogs and transitional mires	3,3	Yellow widelip orchid <i>Liparis loeselii</i> *, **		1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 4. Spring hunting
Freshwater ecosystem				
Small rivers	0,4		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands. 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking. 3. Channeling and straightening of small rivers. 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas
Lakes and lakes systems of different origin	3,0		Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Smelt <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i> European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i>	1. Degradation of water quality 2. Overgrowing by coastal vegetation. 3. Irrational fish pond management 4. Recreation pressure leading to wildlife disturbance. 5. Illegal fishery 6. Spring hunting
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	20-25 males	20-25 males	
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	10-20 displaying males	10-20 displaying males	
Lady's slipper	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	2 populations	3-5 populations	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Unsustainable use of recreation potential There are more than 110 lakes in the territory of Gluboksky district. However, their use is conducted without attention to biodiversity conservation. Recreation pressures on a considerable number of lakes leads to vegetation degradation in the coastal zone, and to wildlife disturbance especially of birds during the nesting period. The creation of recreation areas in the coastal zone		

	<p>without consideration of biodiversity conservation is leading to water quality degradation of the lakes (this is a limiting factor for animals such as Smelt <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i> and European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i>.)</p> <p>The elimination of this problem is possible on the basis of a nature conservation assessment of the lakes in the district, assessment of recreation carrying capacity, and development of recommendations on sustainable recreation activity in the Glubokoe district.</p>
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities	<p>The elimination of this problem is possible by assessing the recreation capacity of the lake ecosystem and adjoining territories. Based on the recommendations that are developed, the Gluboksky territorial management plan will be amended. An inventory of animal habitats and areas of occurrence of plants (rare and vanishing species) will be undertaken.</p> <p>The National Academy of Sciences, the Belarusian State University, Vitebsk University, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Glubokoe Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, farming industry, landowners and land users, local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.</p>
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	The threat concerns the entire region of Vitebsk Poozer'e, where the experience gained in the pilot district can be applied (the area of lakes in the district is 114 thousand hectares)
<p>Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.</p>	<p>Decreasing of globally significant biodiversity as a result of unsustainable land use and incorrect planning.</p> <p>Glubokoe district is one of the most cultivated in Vitebsk region. Forests occupy 30.3% of territory, wetlands occupy 6.4% and are mainly situated in the Eastern part of the district. Residential areas with urban landscapes are about 58%. Important biodiversity is concentrated in small areas, situated in river floodplains, lake hollows, swamped hollows, river heads and streams. Planning and implementation of economic activity in the district is still conducted without attention to biodiversity conservation. The cessation of haymowing on wetlands is the reason for the overgrowing of areas by shrubs that result in decreases in populations of of Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>. The use of meadows for growing of arable crops and afforestation are reducing the abundance of Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>. Straightening of small rivers, chemical pollution by untreated effluents result in degradation of habitats of local populations of European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>, Smelt <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>, European crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i>. The logging of island deciduous forests can be a factor responsible for disappearance of Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>. The elimination of this threat is possible on the basis of inventory of rare species habitats and amending the territorial plan of Glubokoe district.</p>
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	<p>An inventory of habitats that are of critical importance for the conservation of valuable biodiversity is required. On the basis of inventory, the territorial plan of Glubokoe will be amended. Protection rules and species maintenance standards will be created for habitats of rare species of plants and animals included in the Belarus Red Book.</p> <p>The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Glubokoe Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, Glubokoe forestry, landowners and land users, local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.</p>
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	The threat concerns the entire region of Vitebsk Poozer'e, where the experience gained in the pilot district can be applied (the area in district is 4.4 million hectares)

ANNEX G: GEF-4 TRACKING TOOL FOR GEF BIODIVERSITY FOCAL AREA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO: MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN PRODUCTION LANDSCAPES /SEASCAPES AND SECTORS

I. PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Practices
2. Project Type (MSP or FSP): MSP
3. Project ID (GEF): 3914
4. Project ID (IA): 3985
5. Implementing Agency: UNDP
6. Country: Belarus
7. Name of reviewers completing tracking tool and completion dates:

	Name	Title	Agency
Work Program Inclusion	A. Kozulin	Dr. Senior researcher	National Academy of Science
	G. Dudko	Director	Institutes for Land Use Management
	M. Maksimenkov	Senior researcher	National Academy of Science
Project Mid-term			
Final Evaluation/ project completion			

8. Project duration: Planned 4 years Actual _____ years
9. Lead Project Executing Agency: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP)
10. GEF Strategic Program:
 - Strengthening the policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity (SP 4)
 - Fostering markets for biodiversity goods and services (SP 5)

11. Production sectors and/or ecosystem services directly targeted by project:

Please identify the main production sectors involved in the project. Please put “P” for sectors that are primarily and directly targeted by the project and “S” for those that are secondary or incidentally affected by the project.

- Agriculture P
- Fisheries P
- Forestry P
- Tourism S
- Mining
- Oil
- Transportation
- Other (please specify): Territorial Planning P
Hunting S

II. PROJECT LANDSCAPE COVERAGE

12. What is the extent (in hectares) of the landscape or seascape where the project will directly or indirectly contribute to biodiversity conservation or sustainable use of its components?

Area Coverage	Total hectares		
	Targeted at project start	Achieved by mid-term Evaluation	Achieved by Final Evaluation
Landscape area directly covered by the project (ha)	1.9 million hectares (10 districts)	[to be filled-in at mid term evaluation]	[to be filled-in at final evaluation]
Landscape area indirectly covered by the project (ha)	7.4 million hectares (in 40 districts)	[to be filled-in at mid term evaluation]	[to be filled-in at final evaluation]

Explanation for indirect coverage numbers:

The project will be directly carried out in the territory of 10 districts with a total area of 1.9 million hectares: Ivacevichy (Brest Region), Rechitsa (Gomel Region), Rogachev (Gomel Region), Volozhin (Minsk Region), Korelichy (Grodno Region), Slonim (Grodno Region), Klichev (Mogilev Region), Bobruysk (Mogilev Region), Rossony (Vitebsk Region), Glubokoe (Vitebsk Region).

The project will “indirectly” influence another 40 districts. A series of country-wide workshops will be held as part of the project to trigger replication throughout the 40 districts that will be developing integrated territorial plans by 2012 (7.4 million hectares or 36% of the entire Belarussian territory. These districts are:

Brest region: Baranovichsky, Berezovsky, Brestsky, Gancevichsky, Kamenecky, Lyahovichesky, Pruzhansky, Stolinsky;

Vitebsk region: Vitebsky, Gorodoksky, Dokshicky, Orshansky, Postavsky, Sennensky, Chashnicky;

Gomel region: Gomelsky, Dobrushsky, Zhitkovichesky, Zhlobinsky, Kormyansky, Chechersky;

Grodno region: Berestovicky, Grodnensky, Lidsky, Svislochsky;

Minsk region: Borisovsky, Vileysky, Klecky, Kopilsky, Logoysky, Molodechensky, Nesvizhsky, Slucky, Starodorozhsky;

Mogilev region: Glusky, Gorecky, Kruglyansky, Mogilevsky, Osipovichsky, Shklovsky.

13. (b) Are there Protected Areas within the landscape covered by the project? If so, name these PAs, their IUCN or national PA category, and their extent in hectares.

Name of Protected Areas	District	Extent in hectares	IUCN and/or national category of PA
Republic landscape reserve «Smichok»	Rechica	575	Landscape Reserve
Republic landscape reserve Vigonoschansky	Ivacevichy	45,587	Landscape Reserve
Republic landscape reserve «Naliboksky»	Volozhin	28,302	Landscape Reserve
Republic biological reserve «Slonimsky»	Slonim	4,813	Biological Reserve
Republic hydrological reserve «Miranka»	Korelichy	3,107	Hydrological Reserve
Republic hydrological reserve «Ostrova Dulebi»	Klichev	21,636	Hydrological Reserve
Republic landscape reserve «Krasny bor»	Rossony	34,062	Landscape Reserve
Republic landscape reserve «Sinscha»	Rossony	13,398	Landscape Reserve
Republic hydrological reserve «Beloe»	Glubokoe	483	Hydrological Reserve
Republic hydrological reserve «Dolgoe»	Glubokoe	644	Hydrological Reserve
Republic hydrological reserve «Servech»	Glubokoe	1,188	Hydrological Reserve

14. (c) Within the landscape covered by the project, is the project implementing payment for environmental service schemes?

No, the project will not be implementing such a scheme.

III. MANAGEMENT PRACTICES APPLIED

15. Within the scope and objectives of the project, please identify in the table below the management practices employed by project beneficiaries that integrate biodiversity considerations and the area of coverage of these management practices. Please also note if a certification system is being applied and identify the certification system being used. Note: this could range from farmers applying organic agricultural practices, forest management agencies managing forests per Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) guidelines or other forest certification schemes, artisanal fisherfolk practicing sustainable fisheries management, or industries satisfying other similar agreed international standards, etc.

Specific management practices that integrate BD	Name of certification system being used	Area of coverage foreseen at start of project	Achievement at Mid-term Evaluation of Project	Achievement at Final Evaluation of Project
1. <u>Crop cultivation</u> : 2-3 pilot projects will be directed at agricultural organizations operating in areas of high biodiversity to identify practical land use options such as adjustments to the annual and perennial crop rotation in areas important for certain species.	NA	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
2. <u>Hay-making</u> : Sustainable hay-making (timing, methods) on floodplain meadows and fen mires in order to keep them in their open state (without bushes)	NA	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
3. <u>Livestock grazing regime</u> : Sustainable cattle grazing (duration, load) to minimize impact on Sandpiper colonies and support the right vegetation	NA	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
4. <u>Forestry</u> : Sustainable forest management in forests that are of special biodiversity importance and/ or are habitats for protected species. This could include measures for conservation of undergrowth and forest floor; low-impact/selective logging in biotopes of forest bird species such as the Greater Spotted Eagle, increasing the proportion of natural forest regeneration as opposed to afforestation.	FSC	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
5. <u>Hunting</u> : Development and implementation of sustainable hunting practices	NA	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
6. <u>Fishing</u> : Development and implementation of fishing activities on two lakes taking into consideration the interests of biodiversity such as modifications to management of pond bottoms	NA	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
7. <u>Land reclamation and melioration</u> : Restoration of the hydrological regime on disturbed mires	NA	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
8. <u>Water resource management</u> : Cessation of certain types of economic activities within 100 meters of water bodies		To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		

Explanatory note for land area where sustainable land use practices are expected to be implemented:

By project end, the above listed sustainable land uses will be demonstrated in the following key biotopes:

Mires: 12,000 ha

Floodplain meadows: 8,000 ha

Lakes: 5,000 ha

Forests of high natural value such as floodplain wet deciduous forests: 20,000 ha

These land area targets (listed by biotopes) where sustainable management practices are to be demonstrated are only indicative at this stage. By end of Y1, once detailed biodiversity inventories are collected and information on vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species in the 10 districts is mapped against socio-economic information, a clearer picture will emerge of the areas where conflicts are present and practices need to be modified. These targets will therefore be adjusted once this information is available. At that stage, the project team will also have better information to provide targets for the extent of land area on which each improved practice is to be applied. Therefore, by end of Year 1 of the project, it will be possible to complete column 3 of the above table.

IV. MARKET TRANSFORMATION

16. For those projects that have identified market transformation as a project objective, please describe the project's ability to integrate biodiversity considerations into the mainstream economy by measuring the market changes to which the project contributed.

Not applicable.

V. POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

For those projects that have identified addressing policy, legislation, regulations, and their implementation as project objectives, please complete the following series of questions: 17a, 17b, and 17c.

17. (a) Please complete this table at CEO endorsement for each sector that is a primary or a secondary focus of the project. Please answer YES or NO to each statement under the sectors that are a focus of the project.

Since territorial planning legislation has a superior and more over-arching value than sector-specific legislation in Belarus, mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into territorial planning is considered an effective way of favorably modifying sector practices. Further, the limited GEF resources available to Belarus would not be sufficient to cover land-use regulations, together with a comprehensive coverage of policy/ regulatory frameworks of such large-scale sectors as agriculture, forestry, and water management. The project will therefore focus on modifying the policy and regulatory frameworks of the Territorial Planning Sector and Environment and Natural Resource Management Sector to mainstreaming biodiversity conservation.

Changes to normative documents in the Territorial Planning Sector will ensure that manuals and guidelines of this sector make it obligatory to include biodiversity information (i.e., all the new directives from Output 1.1) into the development and implementation of land use plans. Changes to normative documents in the Environment and Natural Resource Sector will ensure that existing processes for collecting information on vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species are made more comprehensive (moving away from single-species-ecology to an ecosystem approach), that they are better integrated with the process of developing territorial plans and can feed-in biodiversity information at the correct time, and that they provide clear methodological recommendations on how habitat management and economic

GEF-4 Tracking Tool for GEF Biodiversity Focal Area Strategic Objective Two:
Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors

activities should be conducted to minimize adverse impacts on these species and biotopes to provide them with improved protection.

Direct modifications to these sectors, in turn, will drive changes in location and methods employed by the agriculture (includes arable farming, livestock grazing, hay-field management), fisheries, forestry, hunting and tourism sectors in the 10 pilot districts. Sector practices will be modified in line with minimal standards and requirements established under the territorial plan.

Statement: Please answer YES or NO for each sector that is a focus of the project.	Sectors targeted by the project					
	Territorial Planning	Agriculture ²¹	Fisheries	Forestry	Hunting	Tourism
Biodiversity considerations are mentioned in sector policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partial	Yes
BD considerations are mentioned in sector policy through specific legislation	Partial	Partial	Partial	Yes	No	Partial
Regulations are in place to implement the legislation	Partial	No	No	Partial	No	No
The regulations are under implementation	No	No	No	Partial	No	No
The implementation of regulations is enforced	No	No	No	No	No	No
Enforcement of regulations is monitored	No	No	No	No	No	No

17. (b) Please complete this table at the project mid-term for each sector that is a primary or a secondary focus of the project.

Statement: Please answer YES or NO for each sector that is a focus of the project.	Sectors targeted by the project					
	Territorial Planning	Agriculture	Fisheries	Forestry	Hunting	Tourism
Biodiversity considerations are mentioned in sector policy						
BD considerations are mentioned in sector policy through specific legislation						
Regulations are in place to implement the legislation						
The regulations are under implementation						
The implementation of regulations is enforced						
Enforcement of regulations is monitored						

17. (c) Please complete this table at project closure for each sector that is a primary or a secondary focus of the project.

Statement: Please answer YES or NO for each sector that is a focus of the project.	Sectors targeted by the project					
	Territorial Planning	Agriculture	Fisheries	Forestry	Hunting	Tourism
Biodiversity considerations are mentioned in sector policy						
BD considerations are mentioned in sector policy through specific legislation						
Regulations are in place to implement the legislation						
The regulations are under implementation						
The implementation of regulations is enforced						
Enforcement of regulations is monitored						

²¹ This covers activities such as pasture management, hay-field management, arable farming.

All projects please complete question 17(d) at the project mid-term evaluation and at the final evaluation, if relevant:

17. (d) Within the scope and objectives of the project, has the private sector undertaken voluntary measures to incorporate biodiversity considerations in production? If yes, please provide brief explanation and specifically mention the sectors involved. An example of this could be a mining company minimizing the impacts on biodiversity by using low-impact exploration techniques and by developing plans for restoration of biodiversity after exploration as part of the site management plan.

VI. OTHER IMPACTS

18. Please briefly summarize other impacts that the project has had on mainstreaming biodiversity that have not been recorded above.

ANNEX H: SCORECARD FOR ASSESSING PROGRESS ON DEVELOPING CAPACITIES FOR MAINSTREAMING

106. This scorecard has been designed specifically for this project, as a tool to measure success in terms of developing national capacity to mainstream biodiversity conservation considerations into territorial planning. While, the tool is conceptually based on the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard, it is different in its substantive focus and the indicators. This is because the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard is meant to assess the development of capacities vis-à-vis the management of protected areas, whereas this project is about biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans and does not deal with protected areas.

107. Table 1 tries to be as objective as possible in its selection of indicators. Each indicator is scored from 0 (worst) to 3 (best), with an explanation of what each score represents for the particular indicator. The tool then estimates the baseline situation/ score for each indicator (cell marked in red), and then identifies the target situation/ score (marked in green). Tables 2 through 6 provide a quantitative summary of the total possible scores, baseline scores, target scores, baseline score as a percentage of the total possible score, and the target score as a percentage of the total possible score.

Table 1: Scorecard

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programmes	Systemic	There is a strong and clear legal mandate for mainstreaming biodiversity into territorial planning	There is no legal framework for biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans		There is a partial legal framework for biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans, but it has many inadequacies		There is a reasonable legal framework for biodiversity mainstreaming but it has a few weaknesses and gaps	2	There is a strong and clear legal mandate for biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	3
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programmes	Institutional	There is an institution responsible for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into territorial planning that is able to prepare effective strategies and plans to this end	Territorial planning institutions do not have clear plans or strategies for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into territorial planning	0	Territorial planning institutions do have strategies and plans for biodiversity mainstreaming, but these are old and no longer up to date or were prepared in a top-down fashion		Territorial planning institutions have some sort of mechanism to update their strategies and plans, but this is irregular or is done in a largely top-down fashion without proper consultation		Territorial planning institutions have a clear strategy and plan for biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans that have been developed with adequate participation and are regularly updated	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Systemic	There are adequate skills for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into territorial planning	There is a general lack of planning and management skills		Some skills exist but in largely insufficient quantities to guarantee effective planning and management	1	Necessary skills for effective biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans do exist but are stretched and not easily available		Adequate quantities of the full range of skills necessary for effective biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans are easily available	3

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Systemic	There is a fully transparent oversight authority for the Territorial Planning institutions that has the capacity to monitor and enforce biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	There is no oversight at all of Territorial Planning institutions		There is some general oversight, but it lacks capacity to specifically monitor and enforce compliance with biodiversity considerations	1	There is a reasonable oversight mechanism in place providing for regular review of biodiversity considerations but it lacks transparency (e.g. is not independent, or is internalized)		There is a fully transparent oversight mechanism in place providing for regular review of biodiversity considerations	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	Territorial planning institutions have regularly updated, biodiversity-compatible territorial plans that have been prepared with effective participation of land users	Territorial planning institutions do not have biodiversity-compatible territorial plans	0	Territorial planning institutions have biodiversity-compatible territorial plans, but these are not developed through consultations with land users		Territorial planning institutions have biodiversity-compatible territorial plans, developed through consultations with land users, but there is no process for regular review and updating of the plans		Territorial planning institutions have biodiversity-compatible territorial plans, developed through consultations with land users, and there is a process for regular review and updating of the plans	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	Human resources are well qualified and motivated to mainstream biodiversity concerns into territorial plans	Human resources (HR) are poorly qualified and unmotivated		Human resources qualification is spotty, with some well qualified, but many only poorly and in general unmotivated	1	HR in general reasonably qualified, but many lack in motivation, or those that are motivated are not sufficiently qualified.		Human resources are well qualified and motivated	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	Biodiversity-compatible territorial plans are implemented in a timely manner effectively achieving their objectives	There is very little implementation of biodiversity-compatible territorial plans	0	Biodiversity-compatible territorial plans are poorly implemented and their objectives are rarely met		Biodiversity-compatible territorial plans are usually implemented in a timely manner, though delays typically occur and some objectives are not met		Biodiversity-compatible territorial plans are implemented in a timely manner effectively achieving their objectives	3

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	Territorial Planning institutions are able to adequately mobilize sufficient funding, and human and material resources to effectively implement the biodiversity mainstreaming mandate	Territorial Planning institutions typically are severely under funded and have no capacity to mobilize sufficient resources		Territorial Planning institutions have some funding and are able to mobilize some human and material resources but not enough to effectively implement their biodiversity mainstreaming mandate	1	Territorial Planning institutions have reasonable capacity to mobilize funding or other resources but not always in sufficient quantities for fully effective implementation of their biodiversity mainstreaming mandate		Territorial Planning institutions are able to adequately mobilize sufficient quantity of funding, human and material resources to effectively implement their biodiversity mainstreaming mandate	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	The process of collecting biodiversity information (led by MNREP) and the process of developing territorial plans (led by the State Committee on Property) are well integrated so the former can feed in the right information at the right time into the latter	Only the standard land use planning process is occurring in the district, with no biodiversity information being collected		Both processes are occurring but are taking place independent of the other and are not coordinated	1	There is agreement in principle on coordinating the 2 processes, but there is a lack of clarity in the normative documents guiding the 2 processes and no practical guidelines/ protocols on how to coordinate		The two processes are well coordinated	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Individual	Individuals in Territorial Planning institutions are appropriately skilled for biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	Individuals have no skills for biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	0	Individuals have some or poor skills for biodiversity mainstreaming		Individuals are reasonably skilled but could further improve for optimum match with job requirement		Individuals are appropriately skilled for biodiversity mainstreaming	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Individual	Individuals in Territorial Planning institutions are highly motivated for biodiversity mainstreaming	No motivation at all	0	Motivation uneven, some are but most are not		Many individuals are motivated but not all	2	Individuals are highly motivated	

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Individual	There are appropriate systems of training, mentoring, and learning in place to maintain a continuous flow of new staff with the capacity to mainstream biodiversity in territorial plans	No mechanisms exist	0	Some mechanisms exist but unable to develop enough and unable to provide the full range of skills needed		Mechanisms generally exist to develop skilled professionals, but either not enough of them or unable to cover the full range of skills required		There are mechanisms for developing adequate numbers of the full range of highly skilled professionals able to mainstream biodiversity in territorial plans	3
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	Systemic	Biodiversity-compatible Territorial Plans have the political commitment they require	There is no political will at all, or worse, the prevailing political will runs counter to the interests of biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans		Some political will exists, but is not strong enough to make a difference		Reasonable political will exists, but is not always strong enough to fully support biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	2	There are very high levels of political will to support biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	3
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	Systemic	Biodiversity-compatible Territorial Plans have the public support they require	The public has little interest in Biodiversity-compatible Territorial Plans and there is no significant lobby for it	0	There is limited support for Biodiversity-compatible Territorial Plans		There is general public support for Biodiversity-compatible Territorial Plans and there are various lobby groups such as environmental NGO's strongly pushing for them	2	There is tremendous public support in the country for Biodiversity-compatible Territorial Plans	

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores					
			Worst (Score 0)	Marginal (Score 1)	Satisfactory (Score 2)	Best (Score 3)		
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	Institutional	Territorial Planning institutions can establish the partnerships needed to achieve biodiversity mainstreaming objectives	Territorial Planning institutions operate in isolation	Some partnerships are in place but there are significant gaps, and existing partnerships achieve little	1	Many partnerships in place with a wide range of agencies, NGOs etc, but there are some gaps, partnerships are not always effective and do not always enable efficient achievement of biodiversity mainstreaming objectives	Territorial Planning institutions establish effective partnerships with other agencies and institutions, including provincial and local governments, NGO's and the private sector to enable achievement of biodiversity mainstreaming objectives in an efficient and effective manner	3
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge	Systemic	Territorial Planning institutions have the biodiversity information they need to develop and monitor biodiversity-compatible territorial plans	Information is virtually lacking	Some information exists, but is of poor quality, is of limited usefulness, and is not always available at the right time	1	Much information is easily available and mostly of good quality, but there remain some gaps in quality, coverage and availability	Territorial Planning institutions have the biodiversity information they need to develop and monitor territorial plans	3
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge	Individual	Individuals working on territorial planning work effectively together as a team	Individuals work in isolation and don't interact	Individuals interact in limited way and sometimes in teams but this is rarely effective and functional	1	Individuals interact regularly and form teams, but this is not always fully effective or functional	Individuals interact effectively and form cross-disciplinary functional teams	3
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn	Systemic	Society monitors the state of biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	There is no dialogue at all	There is some dialogue going on, but not in the wider public and restricted to specialized circles	1	There is a reasonably open public dialogue going on but issues that particularly magnify the conflict between economic activities and biodiversity considerations are not discussed.	There is an open and transparent public dialogue about the state of biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	3

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores			
			Worst (Score 0)	Marginal (Score 1)	Satisfactory (Score 2)	Best (Score 3)
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn	Institutional	Territorial Planning institutions have effective internal mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning	There are no mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting or learning	1 There are some mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning but they are limited and weak	Reasonable mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning are in place but are not as strong or comprehensive as they could be	3 Institutions have effective internal mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning

Table 2: Quantitative summary of Total Possible Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Total Possible Scores		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	3	3	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	6	15	9
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	6	3	-
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	3	-	3
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	3	3	-
Total	21	24	12

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Table 3: Quantitative summary of Baseline Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Baseline Scores		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	2	0	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	2	3	0
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	2	1	-
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	1	-	1
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	1	1	-
Total	8	5	1

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Table 4: Quantitative summary of Target Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Target Scores		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	3	3	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	6	15	8
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	5	3	-
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	3	-	3
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	3	3	-
Total	20	24	11

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Table 5: Quantitative summary of Baseline Scores as a % of Total Possible Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Baseline Scores as % of TPS		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	67%	0%	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	33%	20%	0%
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	33%	33%	-
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	33%	-	33%
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	33%	33%	-
Total	38%	21%	8%

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Table 6: Quantitative summary of Target Scores as a % of Total Possible Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Target Scores as % of TPS		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	100%	100%	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	100%	100%	89%
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	83%	100%	-
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	100%	-	100%
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	100%	100%	-
Total	95%	100%	92%

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

United Nations Development Programme



Country: Belarus

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Project Title: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Practices

UNDAF Outcome(s)/Indicator(s):
UNDP Strategic Plan Environment and Sustainable Development Primary Outcome: Mainstreaming environment and energy
Expected CP Outcome(s)/Indicator(s): Programme Component 3: Environmental Sustainability; Outcome 11: Biodiversity, ecosystem services, protected areas and other commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements integrated into national governance and production systems (including social, economic and policy frameworks such as MDGs, NSSEDS and key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, and flood control)

Expected CPAP Output(s)/Indicator(s): Protected areas, hectares

Implementing partner: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP)

Brief Description

The project objective is to mainstream biodiversity conservation priorities into Belarus' territorial planning policies and practices. The project will remove systemic, regulatory and knowledge barriers to mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into territorial planning. The objective will be achieved through two outcomes: i) Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional framework for land-use planning that reflects biodiversity considerations outside protected areas, and ii) Tested models for development and enforcement of biodiversity-compatible land-use plans at the district levels. The immediate global biodiversity benefits include enhanced ecosystem integrity outside PAs in 10 administrative districts (approximately 2 million hectares). In the long-term, taking into account the sought replication effect, the project will ensure the long-term integrity of fragile ecosystems over 36% of the country.

Programme Period: 2006-2010
Atlas Award ID: 00058307
Atlas Project ID: 00072384
PIMS: 3985
Start date: January 2010
End Date: January 2014
LPAC Meeting Date: t.b.d
Management Arrangements: NEX

Total budget	<u>8,055,300</u>
Total allocated resources:	<u>8,055,300</u>
o GEF	<u>971,000</u>
o MNREP	<u>100,000</u>
o State Committee on Property	<u>2,200,000</u>
o Ministry of Forestry	<u>4,784,300</u>

Agreed by (Government):

NAME SIGNATURE Date/Month/Year

Agreed by (Executing Entity/Implementing Partner):

NAME SIGNATURE Date/Month/Year

Agreed by (UNDP):

NAME SIGNATURE Date/Month/Year

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APR	Annual Project Review
ATLAS	UNDP's Enterprise Resources Platform
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CO	Country Office
CP	(UNDP) Country Programme
CPAP	(UNDP) Country Programme Action Plan
Dept.	Department
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GOB	Government of Belarus
Ha	Hectares
IC	Incremental cost
IR	Inception Report
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IW	Inception Workshop
LPAC	Local Project Appraisal Committee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MNREP	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
MSP	Medium Size Project
NAP	National Action Plan
NEX	National Execution
NGO	Non-government Organization
NPM	National Project Manager
PAs	Protected Areas
PB	Project Board
PBM	Project Board Meeting
PIMS	Project Information Management System
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RCU	Regional Coordination Unit
SBAA	Standard Basic Assistance Agreement
SO	Strategic Objective
SP	Strategic Priority
SRF	Strategic Results Framework
TORs	Terms of Reference
TPR	Tri-partite Review
TTR	Terminal Tri-partite Review
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP-CO	United Nations Development Programme – Country Office
UNDP-GEF	United Nations Development Programme – Global Environment Facility Unit
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States Dollar

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

1.1 Geographic and biodiversity context

1. Belarus is a land-locked country situated along the Western Dvina and Dnieper Rivers. It is bordered to the west by Poland, north by Latvia and Lithuania, east by Russia, and south by Ukraine. The total land area of 207,598 square kilometers is divided into 6 regions (oblasts) – Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Mogilev, and Minsk. These are further subdivided into 118 districts (rayons). The length from north to south is 560 kilometers, and from west to east is 650 kilometers. The relief of the country is mainly flat with the highest point being only 346 meters above sea level.

2. The country lies at the border of two geobotanic regions: the Eurasian coniferous (taiga) and the European broad-leaved regions. The physiographic and climatic conditions of Belarus favor forest and water-marsh ecosystems. The north (Poozer'e) is characterized by large woodland coniferous forests and a large number of lakes, bogs and rivers. The center is marked by mainly open, strongly developed landscapes. Fens and transitional mires, and deciduous forests crossed by flat rivers with highly irrigated floodplains have a wide distribution in the south (Poles'e). Compared to its neighbors, the country boasts a relatively high rate of intactness of natural landscapes. Natural complexes and ecosystems occupy 11,913 thousand hectares or 56.7% of the territory (see table for composition).

Table 1. Natural complexes and ecosystems of Belarus

Natural ecosystems	Thousand hectares	% of territory of country
Forest and shrubs	8,677.8	41.8
Natural meadows	1,035.7	4.9
Floodplain meadows	80	0.3
Natural mire	1,434	6.9
Lakes	133.9	0.6
Lands unused in economic purposes	451.6	2.2
Total	11,813	56.7

3. Among the natural landscapes, deciduous fir forests, black alder and deciduous forests, humidified or seasonally flooded meadows, fen mires, bogs, lakes and river bed ecosystems play a particularly important role in the conservation of regionally and globally significant biodiversity. The rich mosaic of ecosystems provide habitat for several IUCN Red List species. Notable among these are 17 European endangered bird species, 5 species of mammals, 6 invertebrate species and 6 plant species. For a small country, the global or European share of a number of IUCN Red List species is sizeable: Aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola* 50% of European population), Black stork (*Ciconia nigra* 14.6%), Greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga* 18%), Corncrake (*Crex crex* 10%), Great snipe (*Gallinago media* 7%), Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus* 5%), Redshank (*Tringa totanus* 6%), Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa* 3%), substantial populations of European Bison (*Bison bonasus*), Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*), as well as various orchid species and other plants with international protection status. The international importance of the country's biodiversity is underscored by the presence of 47 Important Bird Areas, eight Ramsar sites, and three Biosphere Reserves.

1.2 Status of biodiversity outside protected areas

4. The globally significant biodiversity of the country is to some extent secured by the national protected area system, which covers 7.9% of national territory. But the conservation of biodiversity also depends on fragmented habitats outside protected areas (PAs). In fact, the largest part of the country's natural ecosystems is located outside PAs. These modified landscapes are characterized by rich floral and faunal diversity. Today, about 30% of species included in the National Red Data Book is present in man-

modified landscapes. More than half of them in fact prefer such habitats or can be found only in these territories. Amongst the most important types of man-transformed territories which play a significant role for the conservation of the diversity of fauna species are various man-made fish ponds and water reservoirs that are analogous to natural water reservoirs in the most productive eutrophic stage; open drained areas of wetlands, earlier drained shrub-covered plains and floodplains; unique mature artificial forest stands, old landscape parks analogous to natural forests but frequently more diverse in the composition and structure of the vegetation cover and other ecological characteristics used as habitats for original and rich faunal complexes; agro-ecological zones of peculiar vast territories with traditional land cultivation technologies and other economic activities. These are usually rich biotic complexes and very often without prototypes in the natural environments.¹

5. The government is not planning to expand its PA system. The country's priorities for biodiversity conservation, as set out in its National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, are to consolidate and improve the management effectiveness of the current PA system on the one hand and on the other, to support ecological improvements and optimum use of natural resources in various social and economic sectors (territory and urban planning, transport and road construction, agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing, water management and land development, timber and mineral extraction industries, defence, and tourism and recreation).

1.3 Socio-economic context

6. Belarus' population stood at 9.7 million at the end of 2008, making it the 14th most populous country in Europe. Population density is 46 persons per square kilometer. The country is experiencing a decline in population numbers, though the rate of decline has reduced in the last few years. The country's GDP per capita was estimated at USD 6,000 in 2008 and, until 2009, was showing a tendency for constant and steady growth. The rate of improvement of the quality of life of the population, however, lags behind the rate of economic growth.

7. Land ownership. Almost all land in Belarus is under State ownership. At the beginning of 2009, only 75.3 thousand hectares or 0.36 % of land area was in private property. The country's legislation on land resources establishes very limited cases for private property. According to current legislation, private property can constitute no more than 5-6% of all land. Therefore, the overwhelming prevalence of State property will remain in the foreseeable future.

8. Agriculture. The rural landscape outside PAs is mainly characterized by economic activities such as agriculture (arable farming, livestock rearing, hay-making, and fisheries), forestry and hunting, and other forms of recreation. Agriculture has traditionally played a significant role in the economy of Belarus. Its share of GDP is about 20%². Per capita farmland is 0.92 hectares (including 0.57 hectares of arable lands per capita), which is more than twice the figure for a majority of European countries. Arable farming is carried out by more than 2,500 large agricultural enterprises and almost 2,000 private farmers. About 30-40% of all agricultural production is produced through private farming (depending on conditions in the year), reflecting the increase in the number of private farms. Agriculture is traditional and extensive in character, and associated with low fertility and economically unprofitable land areas. In spite of this, farmlands are used intensively. The stability of total agricultural production is supported by vast areas of cultivated lands and a large number of low productivity cattle. Meadows and grass marshes are widely used for haymaking and grazing livestock.

9. Fisheries. In spite of the fact that Belarus has a large quantity of natural lakes, rivers and reservoirs, the fisheries sector is relatively poorly developed. Freshwater fish account for only 10% of the total

¹ National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Republic of Belarus (1998), henceforth referred to as "the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy" in this document.

² Data are from the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

annual consumption of fish in Belarus. Fish ponds are the other major fishing resource. Under the leasing system of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 19 large fisheries are engaged in commercial fish production, which includes such fish as: carp, silver carp, white cupped, bream, pikes, crucian carp, perch, roach, and also valuable species of fish (sheatfish, pikeperch, sturgeon, sterlet, and trout) and *Astacus leptodactylus*. Carp accounts for about 87% of all fish production. Fishing is mostly conducted using drag nets or seines (up to 80% of all catches); the rest is taken in fixed nets, drift nets and traps. There is a gradual development of amateur fishery and accompanying services, as interest in recreational activities is growing. Fish culture activities are managed by the National Fish Culture Development Programme (2006-2010) under which several fish nurseries have been restructured for the production of fish-planting material of precious fish species, including the sturgeon, the sheatfish and phytivorous fish species. Activities are also being undertaken to grow fish fry of native and cultivated fish species and their incorporation into fisheries to help restore commercial fish reserves.

10. Forestry and hunting. Forestry activity in the country is carried out exclusively by large state organizations called “forestries”. At the beginning of 2009, there were 121 such organizations. The forestry organizations are the largest land users in the country (9.2 million hectares of land are occupied by forestries). In the 10 pilot districts of the project, there are 10 forestries that are actively engaged in forestry. Hunting takes place under the country’s Hunting Regulations. Licenses need to be obtained and hunting must be carried out exclusively by methods specified in the hunting authorization. Infringers of hunting rules and regulations are liable, in conformity with administrative, civil and penal legislation.

1.4 Key drivers of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services outside protected areas

11. These different forms of land use outside protected areas are increasingly leading to habitat destruction and conversion that pose a growing threat to the long-term conservation of biodiversity. Changes in local land use patterns for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and hunting are the principal direct drivers of biodiversity loss outside PAs.

12. Unsustainable agriculture. Inappropriate allocation of parcels of land for arable farming is destroying grassland and wetland habitats. The transformation of the agricultural landscape into large territories of open farmlands with monocultures is having an impact on the population numbers of large predators, notably the Lesser spotted eagle and Greater spotted eagle. These species require a mosaic combination of agricultural lands interspersed with natural sites of fen mires, meadows and wooded islands. The population numbers of other species of animals and plants are also decreasing because of inappropriate land-use planning (e.g., Heath cock, Common partridge, Pevit, Corncrake; the relic populations of a Common hamster and Spotted souslik are critically endangered).

13. Unsustainable hay-mowing. Mechanized hay-mowing on meadows is conducted without observance of wildlife conservation rules, such as the use of special devices to frighten off animals, and carrying out mowing from the centre to the periphery. The non-observance of these rules is leading to decreasing numbers of meadow species (Corncrake, Snipe, Great snipe, Pevit). Further, these hay mowing rules are not being observed in the habitats of rare species. As a result, early hay-mowing in the beginning of June leads to nest-deaths of rare species of birds (Aquatic warbler, Corncrake, Great snipe) and plants.

14. Cessation of hay-mowing in some areas. Before the process of land reclamation, natural areas (fen mires and wet floodplain meadow) were annually mowed by the rural population, which prevented these areas from getting overgrown by shrubs. However, after land reclamation, mowing could be performed on reclaimed lands with mechanical equipment. As a result, manual mowing on wet floodplain meadows was considerably reduced and on fen mires was practically stopped, leading to the lands being rapidly overgrown by shrubs and reeds. Some rare species of flora and fauna that only inhabit open sites (Aquatic warbler, Stone plover, and Great snipe) began disappearing.

15. Cessation of cattle grazing in some wet floodplain meadow, and over-grazing in others. Current patterns of cattle movements for grazing threaten populations of globally important grassland species such as Great Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit and Lapwing. Due to the cessation of grazing regimes, a number of wet floodplain meadows that are especially important for nesting of rare bird species are intensively overgrown with shrubs that lead to a total disappearance of Sand piper colonies. On the other hand, early grazing in certain restricted territories is leading to the increased destruction of birds' nests and changes in vegetation structure.

16. Industrial and amateur stocking of wild-growing berries, especially cranberries. Due to insufficient planning and control, this is leading to overstocking of berry resources in some areas, which, in turn, reduces food supply for various species of animals and adversely affects surface cover due to trampling. Some rare plants are being over-stocked by the population for medicinal, decorative and food purposes (*Melittis sarmatica*, Ramson, Yellow lady's slipper etc.), in violation of the current law, and this leads to degradation of plant populations.

17. Unsustainable forestry. At present, forest vegetation, flora and fauna are undergoing considerable changes in conjunction with intensification of forestry. Over 21% of forested area is characterized by forest cultures that are phytocenosis with simplified structure and depressed stability to unfavorable environmental factors. The share of plantation forests in the territory of Belarus is constantly increasing. In mono-dominant tree plantings, the gene pool of forest forming breeds is depleted, the species structure of plants and animals is simplified, and tolerance to diseases and pests is lowered. Logging, in combination with infringement of natural conditions of afforestation, lead to the reduction of communities with domination of native deciduous breeds (Oak, Ash-tree, etc) and also of aged aspen forests that are extremely valuable from the biodiversity conservation point of view. As a result of irrational forest management over the last few years and unsatisfactory forest management in the former collective-farm forests and state-farm forests, the age structure of forests consists largely of middle age forest (45.4% of forested areas) and new growth (27.5%); old forests have remained approximately at 5% of forested area.

18. Logging of forests that are of high nature protection importance and/ or habitats of rare species. The principal negative impact of forest management on fauna and flora stems from the prevalence of unsustainable logging practices (effectively 86.9% of areas where logging is taking place). Unsustainable logging practices, such as the use of fire for forest clearing and cutting down of old hollow trees during sanitary felling, are affecting nesting areas of some rare bird species (Greater spotted eagle, Lesser spotted eagle, Black stork, Great gray owl), leek of Capercille, as well as areas where rare species of plants occur. Sanitary felling in habitats of rare species during the nesting period or in areas of occurrence of rare vegetation leads to their disappearance. The main reason for persistence of unsustainable logging methods is the lack of information on habitats of rare species and forests with high nature conservation value. There are also deficiencies in the norms of forest legislation that are meant to require mandatory compliance of biodiversity conservation principles in forest management. At the same time, principles of sustainable forest management are being more widely introduced and further dissemination of these are anticipated to reduce the negative impact of forest management on fauna and flora.

19. Changes to the hydrological regime of wetlands. This is occurring mainly due to river floodplain embankments, straightening of rivers, impact of surrounding drainage systems, peat extraction on adjoining wetlands, and unsustainable use of water resources. Changes in the hydrological regime, in turn, lead to peat fires, shrinkage and mineralization of peat that decreases their ability to fix carbon dioxide, and overgrowth of open bogs and wet floodplain meadows by shrubs and reeds. Based on results of the most recent inventory, about 25,000 hectares of bogs drained for forest reclamation are recognized as inefficiently drained. Such territories are subject to peat fires and, according to the trade program of Forestry Ministry, are subjected to iterative water logging.

20. Fish-pond management practices. Many current fish pond management practices (such as clear-cutting of surface vegetation of ponds and late filling of ponds) are destructive to the habitat of water bird species that nest and feed on fish ponds during spring and autumn migration³.

21. Colonization of lakes by non-native species. The greatest negative influence on lake ecosystems is the colonization by carp and other species not characteristic for lakes. As a result of carp colonization, water quality is changing, rapid eutrophication is being observed, and the species structure of fishes and plants is changing. The principal underlying reason for this is the absence of normative documents that prohibit colonization of natural reservoirs by non-native species

22. Degradation of spawning areas. A major problem for the ecosystems of lakes and floodplain reservoirs is the degradation of spawning areas of the majority of fish species. Degradation is caused by the overgrowing of shallow areas by quagmires and shrubs, a disruption of links between oxbow lakes and river beds as a result of the deepening of river beds, and overgrowth of river outlets where they flow into lakes.

23. Unsustainable amateur fishery and unsustainable hunting. The excessive withdrawal of fish by amateur fishers (total landings are 1.5 times greater than the limits), and the lack of compliance with science-based norms of fish withdrawal leads not only to reduction of fish resources, but also to changes in species structure and ichthyofauna structure (age, length-weight), and considerable reduction and even disappearance (probably from individual ichthyocenoses) of some fish species. Damage to rare species of fishes and a number of water plants is also occurring from the use of seines. Unsustainable management of gaming activities (in particular, spring bird hunting) can lead to a decline in the number of some valuable gaming species.

24. Mining. To complete the picture of threats emanating from land-use in Belarus, mining (primarily peat extraction) is also a threat to biodiversity outside PAs⁴. The cumulative effect of all inappropriate land-uses on habitats is substantial, especially in areas where such practices combine with each other.

1.5 Legal and institutional framework for the preservation of rare species and ecosystems

25. The National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy notes that "...measures need to be identified to reduce negative consequences of different forms of economic activities on biological diversity". Indeed, there are a number of laws in place to support the conservation of species and habitats, as well as to regulate the activities of production sectors that impact biodiversity in the wider landscape.

26. Under the aegis of the Environment Protection Law (26 November 1992), Belarus has prepared a National Red Data Book listing rare and threatened species that are classified into different categories of perceived risk. The Red Data Book of Belarus⁵ has constitutive power, giving special protection to the groups of plants and animals threatened with extinction. Under the environmental law, all red-listed species should be protected. The Law on Wildlife (10 July 2007) and the Law on Plant World (14 June 2003) place obligations on economic entities for conservation of international and national red-listed species. These laws define the rules and regulations concerning species management as well as inventories for plant and animal species that are rare and threatened with extinction. A new regulation of the Council of Ministers has been adopted (30 January 2008; № 126), which imposes the Conditions of Protecting the Habitats of Red-listed Plant and Animal Species.

³ Approximately 79 water bird species have been recorded as nesting and feeding on fish ponds in Belarus during spring and autumn migration, including Black Stork, grebes, diving ducks, White-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*).

⁴ This issue is receiving a lot of attention and support through the ongoing UNDP/GEF Peatland project, and investments of the German Government. This threat, therefore, is not directly dealt with in this project.

⁵ The third edition of the National Red Data Book was published in two volumes in 2004-05, using the new categories of IUCN to compile species lists and status. The National Red Book is managed by MNREP.

27. The key mechanism for implementing the Red Book is the so-called “species passport”. These are documented surveys of Red Book species with minimal standards prescribed for the conservation of these species⁶. Every year, species maintenance standards are developed by means of compiling inventories, and detecting rare plant and animal species. Species maintenance standards are developed by experts or organizations, and verified by the National Academy of Sciences. They are then passed on to the local land users and administration so that they can provide for the protection and sustainable management of these species. At present, there are 2,260 habitats of rare animal (1,490) and plant (770) species that are threatened with extinction in Belarus. The responsibility for protecting these has been transferred to land users, with protection obligations controlled by the MNREP. The process of developing species maintenance standards and delegating conservation to land users has only just started, and already the scope for improvement is evident. This is especially true for species/ habitats that do not fall within Specially Protected Natural Areas.

28. In terms of protection of species threatened with global extinction, Belarus has achieved some success in protecting such species. Since 2000, Belarus has been developing National Action Plans for internationally important species, which stipulate in detail habitat requirements and conservation measures to be undertaken by land-users. However, these are currently not legally binding documents. Within the framework of internationally-funded projects, management plans have been devised concerning some of the most important habitats of the Aquatic Warbler, as a result of which the species numbers have become stable. National projects concerning the protection of the Great Spotted Eagle and the Great Snipe and other threatened species have been developed and started to be implemented. In 2008, management plans were developed for the regional populations of the wolf as well as the lynx (*Lynx lynx*). By the end of 2008, recommendations will be developed regarding the development of typical action plans concerning rare species and species threatened with global extinction. In addition, an annotated list has been devised of priority species for which National Action Plans need to be developed.

29. The normative basis for elimination of invasive species is also generally well-developed in Belarus⁷. A Centre for Invasive Animal and Plant Species has been created at the National Academy of Sciences, whose tasks are to register, inventory, compile a data bank of invasive species, and evaluate the consequences of invasion for the state of biodiversity and organize cooperation with similar organizations in other countries and global structures. However, practical methods for elimination of invasive species have not yet been sufficiently developed.

30. Further, Belarus has legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which stipulates mandatory EIA for certain types of land-use projects, including clauses on public participation in line with the Orhus Convention. While preparing the EIA, it is necessary to take into consideration information on the occurrence of protected species and prevention or minimization of threats to them. In accordance with Articles 58, 59, 60 and 61 of the Law of Belarus on Environmental Protection (July 17, 2002; No. 126-3) environmental impact assessment (EIA) must be conducted on all planned economic projects and other activities which can have a harmful influence on the environment. The types of activities for which EIAs are mandatory have been approved by the MNREP⁸.

31. Even within the sectors, there are efforts to mitigate impacts on protected species. In the **Forestry Sector**, important strides have been made in providing for sustainable forest management. A system of national forest certification has been established, which is highly acclaimed in Europe. Limitations and bans (full and partial) have been imposed on forest use in over 27% of forested territory. The goal of biodiversity conservation is reflected in the Strategy of Sustainable Forest Management of Belarus⁹,

⁶ In the Belarusian legal context, minimal standards to ensure integrity of a biotope/habitat are not yet in place.

⁷ Regulation № 126 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus (30 January 2008,) has led to the compilation of a list of 12 invasive species. Regulations № 2 and № 106 have approved a list of invasive plant species.

⁸ Information on the types of projects subject to EIAs can be found at http://www.dnipro-gef.net/first_stage/project-reports/other-reports/review-of-environmental-impact-assessment-process-belarus

⁹ The Strategy was established under Regulation № 1760 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus (29 December 2006).

which runs through 2015. A system of certification is being implemented, both national and international (FSC and PEFC). So far, more than 28% of forestries have been FSC certified, and 75% forestries have received national certification. However, evaluations by independent experts have revealed that in developing and implementing forest management plans, not enough attention is being paid to the conservation of biodiversity, mainly due to a lack of information on the distribution of protected species and biotopes. Clear-cutting is applied, with the remaining wood being subsequently burnt. There is a lack of knowledge on occurrence of rare species among biologists and ecologists, and limited understanding of the harm caused by alien trees species in forest plantations.

32. In the **Fisheries Sector**, the use of fishing tools and methods that damage biodiversity and other activities that disturb fish resources, their breeding conditions, migration ways and habitats are forbidden. Regulation № 168 of the Council of Ministers (7 February 2008) defines the size of and process for collecting compensation payments for building, dredging and explosion activities, mineral resources excavation, water plants production, cabling, pipeline and other activities carried out at water bodies. Regulation № 72 of the MNREP (18 August 2008) specifies methods for evaluating the damage caused to fish resources as a result of their illegal extraction and destruction. An absolute ban on fishing during the breeding period is being implemented. A scheme of designated fishing areas has been established, according to which local authorities lease fisheries. Leasing and exploitation of fisheries is conducted according to biological and economic criteria developed by scientific organizations. Leasers of fisheries have the responsibility to protect the fishery and also natural spawning areas. Limits are set on the catch of fish. There is a minimum size of fish allowed to be caught by anyone. Recreational fishing activity, too, is governed by certain norms. Control over the observation of fishing rules is exercised by the State Inspection Service under the President of Belarus and other bodies of state fish control. However, as described above (see [Drivers of Biodiversity Loss](#)), in spite of the strong legislative basis, fishing practices continue to harm vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species. The governance of land use at the local level is not effectively regulating different land users to ensure that their land-use practices are not harming ecologically sensitive areas.

33. In the area of **Water Management**, along the banks of rivers and other water bodies, water protection zones and near-bank areas are specially designated (within 100 meters of the water body) where there is a strict regime of protection and use of natural resources. A state water inventory is being compiled. In terms of **Land Reclamation and Melioration**, meliorated areas are being monitored. The state programme “Conservation and Management of Meliorated Areas for 2005-2010” addresses disaggregating of polder systems, planting forest belts, creating ecological niches and migration corridors. A Law on Land Melioration has been adopted which bans melioration on the territory of reservations and national parks, wild animals’ migration ways, habitats of protected animal and plant species, and also on other areas which are important for the conservation of biodiversity. In spite of these regulations, the hydrological regime of most wetlands in Belarus continues to be disturbed mainly due to the influence of surrounding melioration systems (see [Drivers of Biodiversity Loss](#)), and efforts to restore hydrological regimes are mainly being undertaken through internationally-funded projects¹⁰. The governance of land use at the local level is not effectively regulating different land users to ensure that their land-use practices are not harming ecologically sensitive areas.

34. Clearly, the legal foundation for protecting vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species outside protected areas exists. There are also State institutions with the mandate to implement this legal framework (see table below). These institutions are responsible for implementing a range of state programs related to planning and management of economic activities in the wider landscape outside protected areas (for details see [section on incremental reasoning of the project](#)). Most of these programs mention the need to integrate ecological considerations in the conduct of economic activities. However,

¹⁰ Notable among these is the UNDP-GEF project “Renaturalization and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus”, which is re-wetting 17 pilot territories. This project has received much international attention and has scored well on independent external evaluations.

while the principles are present, there still remains a gap in implementing these. This is evident from the fact that biodiversity outside protected areas is still threatened by habitat destruction and conversion, driven by economic activities in the agricultural landscape.

Table 2. Institutional framework

Key institutions	Mandate
The State Committee on Property of the Republic of Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for implementing State policy in the spheres of land management, the State Land Cadastre, the State Register of Real Estate, Related Rights and Transactions, and valuation. • Exercises State control over the use and protection of lands • Develops and implements State programs/ projects on rational use and protection of land resources, land management, land cadastre, geodesy and cartography
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus (MNREP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for implementing State Policy in the area of environmental conservation and rational use of natural resources, including both economic and scientific-technical aspects. • Study, protection, reproduction and rational use of natural resources, including subsoil assets, water, fauna and flora, conservation of the environment • Development and implementation of government programs/ projects, action plans and other documents in the field of environmental conservation and rational use of natural resources • Regulation and coordination of activity of other republican state bodies, local executive and administrative organs, and other organizations in maintaining ecological security, conservation of the environment and rational use of natural resources • Exercises State control in the area of the environmental conservation • Provision of ecological information for republican state bodies, local executive and administrative organs, and citizens • Organization of ecological knowledge and its dissemination, participation in the creation of education system in the area of environment conservation
The local executive organs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for implementing, within their jurisdictional territory, State control over protection of fauna and flora • Address land management and land use questions, in accordance with the legislation
Ministry of Agriculture and Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for implementing State policy in the area of agricultural production and land reclamation (design, building and exploitation of reclamation and water systems) • Management of water resource with an agricultural purpose • Managing productive fisheries (fish and water invertebrates), including conservation and recovery of their dwelling environment
Ministry of Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for implementing State scientific and technical policy in the field of forestry and hunting • Exercises State control over forestry and hunting activity • Organizes the complex administration of forestry and hunting activities • Provides for the rational use and protection of State forest lands by: managing forest reproduction and afforestation, managing forest seeds business and forest farms on a genetic selection basis, and providing the conservation of a gene pool of forest vegetation • Organizes work on reproduction, protection and rational use of wild animals, as well as the conservation and reclamation of their dwelling environment under hunting laws
The State Inspectorate for Fauna and Flora Protection of the President of the Republic of Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for implementing State control over the protection and management of wild animals for hunting and fishing, as well as tree, shrub species and other harvested wild plants • Responsible for detection and suppression of violations in the area of protection and management of wild animals, belonging to wild game and fishery reserves, other wild animals if their removal from natural habitats is done in violation of wild game hunting and fishery rules, as well as of tree, shrub species and other harvested wild plants
National Academy of Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific research to inform decisions in all spheres including sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation • Scientific research on red-listed animal and plant species and development of activities aimed at their protection and sustainable management • Scientific research to guide the development of normative documents in the sphere of sustainable management of natural resources • Monitoring of the state of biodiversity • Scientific research in support of nature protection conventions • Development of national strategies and action plans aimed at the conservation of biodiversity, wetlands, and such

Key institutions	Mandate
Belarusian Research Institute for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out scientific research and experimental work in the field of land management, geodesy, cartography and assessment of lands • Methodical maintenance of works on land management and the estimation of the lands • Developing land management projects • Creation of geographical information systems and cadastres for special purposes • Carrying out geodesic and cartographical works • Realization of publishing activities including the distribution of legal information
Republican unitary enterprise “Project Institute Belgiprozem” and district level representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out of investigations on forest resources of the country • Preparation of data for conducting the state land cadastre • Realization of cadastral estimation of the lands • Working out schemes and land management projects • Carrying out geodesic works on establishment of the land areas borders • Creation of digital models of territories, plans and maps

1.6 Territorial planning as an entry point for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation

35. The National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy notes that “effective conservation of biological diversity is impossible without ecologically sound territorial organization and planning in the region”. To this end, Belarus’ national system for land use planning offers an important entry point for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation concerns into production sectors. The principal types of **territorial planning** are: town-planning applied mainly for built up areas; land use planning for agricultural territories; and nature protection planning for regions with a special ecological situation. The main document for territorial planning for agricultural territories is the Territorial Land Management Plan of each administrative district. However, the tendency of existing territorial planning documents is to consider nature protection post-facto i.e., they are directed mainly at overcoming negative anthropogenic consequences, instead of a more pro-active approach to conservation of natural ecosystems. Further, the documents are not comprehensive and only consider limited sectors, territories, and land functions. The territorial plans, nevertheless, present an important opportunity for integrating the ecosystem approach and giving special attention to threatened/ vulnerable biotopes and species, by, for instance: (i) amending existing restrictions on land use, (ii) improving land-use methods, and (iii) creating national ecological networks.

36. Further, the political environment for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation concerns into land use activities by means of the territorial plans is also ripe. A number of important steps have recently been taken by the Government of Belarus (GOB), and these provide a strong foundation on which the GEF project can build. The Government adopted in 2008 a Framework Regulation on Territorial Planning, which is a legal annex to the Land Code. This regulation prescribes the “general approach to incorporating environmental sustainability into territorial plans at the time of their design” and has an overarching influence on all land-based economic sectors. According to this regulation, all 118 districts (rayons) must develop and adopt such plans as the primary guiding framework for agriculture, forestry, and other economic activities. Thus, the Land Code in combination with the 2008 Framework Regulation has become the main entry point for any kind of environmental mainstreaming. Any further amendments to the Land Code, as well as to the 2008 Regulation, will be relevant for all economic sectors that use land. Later in that same year, GOB allocated resources for development of integrated territorial plans for 40 districts (or 36% of the country) that are to be completed by 2012. However, so far no clear connection has been made between the land management legislation and nature protection. Further, there are neither mechanisms for nor experience with mainstreaming biodiversity conservation concerns into the preparation of land management plans in Belarus. For instance, there are no guidelines for placing limits on or modifying hay-making methods, cattle grazing, landscape planning, and other types of economic activities, in cases where such activities are having an adverse impact on the conservation of vulnerable species and ecosystems.

1.7 Desired long-term solution

37. The long-term vision of the project mirrors that articulated in the NBSAP, whereby land-use policies and management practices in the country would fully take into account important biodiversity. The NBSAP strives for such “ecologically-balanced planning of a territorial unit which means that selection of the location and the area of urbanized development, agriculture, forestry, guarantee a normal functioning of ecosystems and their components and the conservation of historically established conditions of evolution of genetic resources. Such a sustainable planning structure should be based on a highly dispersed distribution of territories where natural ecosystems, united into an integrated regional system through natural migration tracks, would prevail.” The main barriers to realizing this vision can be clustered as follows: (a) systemic regulatory barrier; and (b) knowledge barrier.

1.8 Barriers to achieving the desired long-term solution

38. Systemic regulatory barriers: Firstly, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are mandatory for newly designed, relatively large-scale, mostly production-type projects. EIAs are not mandatory for land-based activities already underway, for non-production programs and plans (such as territorial plans), nor for projects below a certain size. For these reasons, economic activities such as arable farming, pasture management, hay-making, forestry, fisheries and hunting are not subject to EIAs. This is a “classic” problem for most countries with EIA legislation, wherein projects that do not require an EIA lack an alternative mechanism to ensure biodiversity compliance.

39. Secondly, the Framework Territorial Regulation adopted in 2008 deals with “environmental sustainability” in general without stipulating regulatory mechanisms and standards for biodiversity mainstreaming in particular. It does not define which habitats, species, and ecosystem goods and services need to be accounted for in territorial planning. It lacks methodologies and protocols (sequences-of-action with defined roles of various organizations) for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation concerns into territorial planning and, in turn, into economic activities whose location and methods are governed by territorial plans (e.g., techniques for fish pond management, selection of logging sites in forestry, pasture management in agriculture).

40. Thirdly, while the species maintenance standards are a significant step forward, their current content is focused primarily on “single-species-ecology”, rather than on the ecosystem approach. For example, the species maintenance standards do not overlay multiple species habitats, do not address their interaction with human-made and natural ecotones, and do not account for ecosystem buffering functions. This type of information is in fact more important for land-users than species ecology. As a result, the effectiveness of the current species maintenance standards has proven to be low.

41. Fourthly, the prescribed timing and “action-sequence” of preparing a territorial plan is divergent from the timing and approach of preparing the species maintenance standards. Similarly, the procedure needed to prepare territorial plans is decoupled from the preparation of National Action Plans on threatened species. The biodiversity impact of these systemic legal and procedural inconsistencies is that very often land is irreversibly developed (i.e. logged or ploughed) before a district government receives data from a species passport or a National Action Plan, according to which a particular plot of land should have been developed in a different way, or should have been excluded from exploitation altogether.

42. Finally, at the time when a territorial plan is being prepared, assessment of economic profitability and social acceptance of a certain land-development scenario is conducted without taking into account monetary and non-monetary values of ecosystem goods and services. Thus, the local governments are unaware of the full range of ecosystem values and of ways to profit from conserving ecosystems or exploiting them in a less “extensive” manner. Weak compliance enforcement and low capacities of district environmental inspections and district land-use officers aggravate this type of behavior among local land-users.

43. Knowledge barrier: Although “environmental mainstreaming” is now required by the 2008 Framework Regulation on Territorial Planning, capacities and knowledge for mainstreaming of biodiversity specifically are extremely low. District Land Use Committees do not possess a sufficient level of biodiversity distribution data outside protected areas, do not have experience in using GIS technologies, commissioning biodiversity studies, and are unable to integrate biodiversity information in the territorial plans using a participatory approach. The State Committee on Property of Belarus, which is the primary institution in charge of territorial planning, does not have experience with assessing the full range of ecosystem goods and services, engaging cross-sectoral expert groups (economists, biologists, hydrologists, geologists, and others as appropriate), and linking the timing and procedure of territorial planning to the timing and procedure for developing standards for species and habitat maintenance. The benefits of biodiversity mainstreaming for long-term profitability of specific land-based activities have not been demonstrated. Further, although Belarus is a small country, a one-size-fit-all model for developing a biodiversity-friendly territorial plan would not be acceptable, as there are bio-geographic differences that need to be taken into account, overlaid by differences in economic specialization of districts. At the individual level, capacities of land-use specialists at the central, and particularly at the local (district) level, are inadequate to understand the full range of ecosystem goods and services of natural areas in their districts, to ensure that the territorial planning process is organized on the basis of cross-sectoral working groups, and to make sure that particular land users are engaged in consultations. The current enforcement mechanism does not feature biodiversity concerns. As a result of the above gaps, apart from the peat-mining sector, there is a widely held perception among land-users that “whatever is prescribed for biodiversity outside protected areas will not work, and is just a hindrance to profit-making”.

44. These two barriers reinforce each other: without regulations there is no stimulus to change the practice, but on the other hand, unless there is an example of how a practice can be modified in an environment of a concrete land-user in a concrete administrative district, there is no material to base a policy on, if a policy is to be enforceable.

2. PROJECT STRATEGY

45. Based on an analysis of the baseline situation and consultations with project stakeholders, the project objective is to mainstream biodiversity conservation priorities into Belarus’ territorial planning policies and practices. Given that territorial planning legislation has a superior and more over-arching value than sector-specific legislation in Belarus, mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into territorial planning is considered an effective way of favorably modifying sector practices. Further, the limited GEF resources available to Belarus would not be sufficient to cover land-use regulations, together with a comprehensive coverage of such large-scale sectors as agriculture, forestry, and water management. The project will therefore focus on removing the systemic regulatory and knowledge barriers identified above to mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into territorial planning. Demonstration of the effective integration of information on vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species into territorial plans will be undertaken in 10 pilot districts where sector practices will be modified in line with minimal standards and requirements established under the territorial plan.

2.1 Conformity with GEF Policy

46. The proposed project is consistent with GEF SO-2 SP-4 “Strengthening the policy and regulatory frameworks for mainstreaming biodiversity”. It will assist Belarus to develop policies for mainstreaming biodiversity into territorial planning. Specifically, Component I amends the national legislation and introduces the policy on identification of species and habitats that need to be accounted for in territorial planning, as well as methodologies for adapting land-user practices to ensure habitat integrity. Component II tests in-the-field technologies and incentives that help maintain the integrity of species and

their habitats, promoting inclusion of sound scientific approach to drafting land-use principles and practices.

2.2 Country Ownership: Country Eligibility and Country Driven-ness

2.2.1 Country Eligibility

47. Belarus signed the UNCBD on 1992-06-11 and became a Party to the Convention on 1993-09-08. Belarus has also effectively fulfilled various assessment and reporting requirements under the Convention. It is, therefore, eligible to receive funding from the GEF. It is eligible to receive development assistance from the World Bank and UNDP.

2.2.2 Country Driven-ness

48. The need for biodiversity mainstreaming in territorial planning is recognized by the NBSAP, as 95% of the Belarusian territory is subject to productive activities. The NBSAP further states that “at the initial stages of land reform in Belarus there are frequent cases of territorial and planning decisions on shaping new forms of land ownership taken without solid ecological and economical grounds. As a result, the special land resources for individual farmers are often allotted in areas that play an important role in environmental protection and conservation of biological diversity. Therefore, measures need to be identified to reduce the negative consequences of different forms of economic activities on the biological diversity. Effective conservation of biodiversity is impossible without ecologically sound territorial organization and planning in the region. This means that improvement of land use and town planning is of primary importance. This implies a critical analysis and a review of the current practices of distribution of regional planning zones that differ in their functions”. The country is just starting the process of developing district territorial plans, which should be “integrating environmental sustainability”. Since the baseline activities do not deal with biodiversity mainstreaming solutions, this project is extremely important. The timing of the project is right, as it will ensure implementation of mainstreaming solutions at the stage when the territorial planning by law is required to become more “environmentally friendly”.

2.3 Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes and Outputs

49. The long-term goal to which the project will contribute is to ensure ecologically-balanced land use planning at the district level, wherein productive activities outside protected areas are managed in ways that guarantee a normal functioning of ecosystems and their components and the preservation of historically established conditions of evolution of genetic resources. The immediate objective of the project is to mainstream biodiversity conservation priorities into Belarusian territorial planning policies and practices. This objective will be realized through the following outcomes, outputs and activities.

Outcome 1: Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional framework for land-use planning that reflects biodiversity considerations outside protected areas

50. This outcome will be national in scope and will address the systemic regulatory barriers identified above.

Output 1.1 Modifications to legislative/ regulatory framework related to environment and natural resource management to support biodiversity mainstreaming outside PAs

51. Amendments to legislation on species maintenance standards (“species passports”). The process of developing and implementing species maintenance standards for species listed in Belarus’ Red Book has only just started, and already the need for improving this normative document is becoming clear. As highlighted in the barriers section above, the content of the passports is primarily focused on “single-species-ecology”, and, further, this process is not well integrated into the preparation of territorial plans.

As a result, information from the former is not feeding into and influencing the shape of the territorial plans. Therefore, the project will propose amendments to Regulation № 126 of the Council of Ministers (adopted on 30 January 2008) such that (i) the species maintenance standards are required to take an ecosystem approach, (ii) the documents on species maintenance standards are combined with the manuals for land-use plan development to achieve better integration of the two processes, and (iii) mechanisms for monitoring the state of species and the related implementation of measures that are mentioned in the species maintenance standards are made clearer. The need for other amendments will be determined after gaining some experience with the practical application of the document.

52. Development of new National Action Plans (NAPs) for Threatened Species. The Law on Wildlife requires the development of National Action Plans for the conservation of the rarest species (i.e., those that are red-listed in Belarus and are globally threatened). In 2008, the MNREP approved a manual for developing the NAPs. The NAPs include the biological descriptions of the species, spread, area requirements, threats, protection and management methods, as well as a detailed action plan and specific activities aimed at the conservation of specific habitats within the country. MNREP has also prepared an annotated list of species which are to be given priority in developing the NAPs. As with the species maintenance standards, the NAPs need to be better integrated with the process of developing territorial plans. Therefore, this output will (i) make changes to the NAP manual to make explicit the need to harmonize the development of NAPs with that of territorial plans, (ii) update the 3 existing NAPs¹¹, and (iii) develop 5 additional NAPs for bird species whose range lies outside PAs and are under threat from unsustainable land-use (e.g., the Black-tailed Godwit, the Lapwing, the Bittern and Lesser Spotted Eagle), two plant species (*Botrichium matricariifolium* Matricary grapefern, *Liparis loeselii* Fen Orchid).

53. Methodological recommendations on minimal standards to be observed by different economic activities to maintain the integrity of key biotopes/ habitats outside PAs. The project will develop methodological recommendations for sustainable economic activities (e.g., pasture and hay-field management, arable farming, logging, fishing in natural lakes and streams, hunting, recreation) outside protected areas. So far, Belarus only has a list of protected species (i.e., red-listed species), but there are no clear methodological recommendations on how habitat management and economic activities should be conducted to minimize adverse impacts on these species and biotopes to provide them with improved protection. The project will develop these recommendations, by building on initial work carried out in the country in this area, and drawing on the experience of other countries as well as the experience generated through the project's pilot activities in the 10 pilot districts (Outcome 2). It is expected that these recommendations will be widely used in the development of species maintenance standards, NAPs, and territorial plans.

54. Act on biotopes conservation. Effective biodiversity conservation requires protective measures to be introduced not just at the level of species, but also at the level of globally endangered landscapes, habitats and communities. Belarus, therefore, needs to develop a system for identification, protection and management of nationally and internationally important habitats, modeled on the EC Habitats Directive. This output will (i) support scientific research aimed at compiling a list of the most important/ threatened biotopes from a biodiversity conservation perspective and develop methodological recommendations for their protection and sustainable use, and (ii) develop a new normative act – Regulation for Organizing Protection of the Most Important/ Threatened Biotopes – under the charge of the MNREP.

Output 1.2 Amendments to Territorial Planning and Management Manuals and Guidelines

55. This output will make amendments to current territorial planning and management manuals and guidelines that will make it obligatory to include biodiversity information (i.e., all the new directives from

¹¹ Prior to the issuing of the 2008 manual, NAPs had been prepared (in early 2000) for the conservation of the Aquatic Warbler, the Greater Spotted Eagle and the Great Snipe. As these were prepared prior to the 2008 manual, they already need updating in line with the new guidelines.

Output 1.1) into the development and implementation of land use plans. The output will ensure harmonization between the existing normative documents for territorial planning (Manual for Land-use Plan Development) and the normative acts related to nature protection. The following improvements to normative documents will be undertaken.

56. Amendments to the Framework Regulation on Territorial Planning: Changes and amendments will be made to the current instructions so that the following requirements are included: (i) inclusion of a specialist who will coordinate and confirm that the land management scheme takes into account information on biodiversity in the documents on territorial planning for agricultural territories; (ii) biodiversity information is displayed in the textual part of the land management scheme and on the maps; and (iii) the sources of biodiversity information and persons who will be responsible for gathering, preparing and providing the information are clearly mentioned.

57. Methodological recommendations on use and display of biodiversity information in territorial planning process and documents: The recommendations will define in detail the methods for gathering, processing, analyzing and interpreting the information on biodiversity in the process of territorial planning, the detailed structure and requirements (e.g., accuracy, completeness, degree of detail), as well as methods and technology for registration and display of this information at various stages of the land use management design process. At present, such recommendations are lacking.

58. Methodological recommendations on assessment of the efficiency of land management schemes: Methodological recommendations on assessment of economic efficiency of land management schemes are under development. The emphasis is on defining the direct economic consequences of different proposals for land management. However, indirect effects are neither estimated nor included. State-of-the-art techniques for estimation of ecological and social effects of different proposals for land management (comparable with the assessment of economic effects) are not being used. As a result, the full effect (economic, social, and ecological) of different land management proposals is not being considered. By introducing these new methodological recommendations, administrative decisions on land use allocation will be better informed.

59. Amendments to the “Act on the Order of the Classifying Forests according to Protection Groups and Categories, Transferring Forests from one Protection Category or Group into another as well as Locating Specially Protected Forest Areas”: In the aforementioned Act, specially protected forest areas (based on biological criteria) can only be demarcated on condition that red-listed animal and plant species have been recorded on their territory. This normative document will be amended so that forest areas with a high level of biodiversity can also be protected (in accordance with the Act on Biotopes Conservation mentioned in Output 1.1). In order to conserve biodiversity in specially protected forest areas during forest management activities, the normative document titled “Logging Rules in the Forests of Belarus” will also be amended. This will help to adjust the national normative base in accordance with the requirements of the international systems of forest certification.

Output 1.3 System for effective monitoring and enforcement of the improved territorial plans

60. This output will establish a monitoring and enforcement system for the improved territorial plans. At present, MNREP is responsible for managing biodiversity information and the State Committee on Property for territorial plans. Monitoring and enforcement of the improved territorial plans will require a closer dialogue between staff from MNREP and the State Committee on Property. In addition, there are other actors that can play an important role in monitoring and enforcement, such as the Academy of Sciences, the Belarusian Research Institute for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography, the Republican unitary enterprise “Project Institute Belgiprozem” and its district level representatives, and the State Inspectorate for Fauna and Flora Protection of the President of Belarus.

61. Methodological recommendations will be developed on the monitoring and supervision of the district-level land management schemes, especially taking into account the conservation of biological and

landscape diversity¹². The new recommendations will define the requirements for monitoring and supervision of the implementation of territorial plans, sequential steps for their implementation, required modifications to the documentation, and also, where necessary, the definition of “compulsory” actions that need to be implemented by land users.

62. The roles and responsibilities of the involved organizations will be clearly defined. It is anticipated that the district level representatives of MNREP will, at regular intervals, monitor the condition of rare species’ habitats and biotopes that are to be protected by land users, as well as the effectiveness of the protective obligations placed on the land users by the species maintenance standards. Monitoring results will be provided to the district executive committees, MNREP and the State Committee on Property. In case of controversy, experts from the National Academy of Sciences and other appropriate organizations will be invited. The Belarusian Research Institute for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography will also participate in inspecting the implementation of territorial plans at defined, regular intervals. The output will ensure that the monitoring and enforcement system draws on the expertise of all these actors and clearly allocates roles and responsibilities based on comparative advantage.

63. Sanctions will be imposed in accordance with the national legislation, in cases where land use plans are not being complied with. Enforcement will be based on the existing administrative sanctions for environmental non-compliance, to ensure delivery of biodiversity benefits through biodiversity-compatible land use plans. Various instruments will be considered depending on the degree of non-compliance, from simple fines through ban on operations. This enforcement system will be integrated within the overall administrative compliance mechanisms in Belarus, which is characterized (at the national level) by relatively high reliability. To minimize non-compliance on the side of the land-users, the project’s Output 2.2 will be dedicated to training and testing of particular biodiversity management measures in the field. This is expected to mitigate potential opposition from land-users towards mainstreaming biodiversity.

Output 1.4 Government officers of the State Committee on Property and MNREP have the capacity to enforce the new regulations, and manage the participatory process of biodiversity-compatible territorial planning

64. This output will develop the capacity of government staff at both State and District levels from nature protection and land use planning sectors to effectively coordinate with the relevant stakeholders and integrate biodiversity and sustainable land use in subsequent territorial planning efforts across Belarus. Several capacity building workshops will be organized under this output. The following table summarizes the substantive focus of the proposed capacity building workshops, the main target group and the experts that will conduct the training. Efforts will also be made to systematize the training modules and assign institutional responsibility for continuing the training effort beyond the project’s lifetime. For instance, the modules can be included in existing training programmes geared to advanced education of national specialists.

Table 3. Summary of Capacity Building Workshops

Thematic Focus	Target Group	Experts
Methods for compiling inventories of protected species and ecosystems at the local/ district levels	Regional Inspection Services of MNREP Faculties of Biology at Universities Other organizations capable of making an inventory of biodiversity NGOs Forestries	Experts from the National Academy of Sciences and/ or other appropriate organizations
Sustainable methods for conducting economic activities (e.g., pasture and hay-field)	Developers of Land-use and Forest Management plans (i.e., Republican unitary enterprise “Project Institute Belgiprozem” and local branches of the State	Experts from the National Academy of Sciences and/ or other appropriate organizations

¹² The system for supervision of the old land management/ use schemes and projects, which date back to 30 or 40 years ago, is obsolete and non-operational.

Thematic Focus	Target Group	Experts
management, arable farming, logging, fishing in natural lakes and streams, hunting, recreation) that reduce adverse impacts on protected species, habitats and biotopes	Committee on Property “Belgosles”) Farmers from collective farms Forestries Regional Inspection Services of MNREP State Inspection Services for Animal and Plant World Protection Leasers of fisheries and hunting rights	
Methods for assessing and including the interests of biological and landscape diversity conservation in the plans of land management, forestry, hunting and fishery	Republican unitary enterprise “Project Institute Belgiprozem” Local branches of State Committee on Property Forestries	Experts from the Belarusian Research Institute for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography, Belgosles
Monitoring the implementation of land use and forest management plans and monitoring the implementation of protective obligations prescribed for conservation of rare species and biotopes	Regional Inspection Services of MNREP Regional branches of State Inspection Services for Animal and Plant World Protection Land-users and leasers of fishery and hunting rights Local branches of State Committee on Property Forestries	Experts from the Belarusian Research Institute for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography, Belgosles, and National Academy of Sciences

Outcome 2: Tested models for development and enforcement of biodiversity-compatible territorial plans outside PAs

65. This outcome will focus on district-level actions designed to address knowledge and experiential barriers to adoption of sustainable land use practices outside protected areas.

Output 2.1 Integrated territorial plans that accommodate biodiversity concerns are developed for 10 districts

66. Under this output, biodiversity-compatible territorial plans will be prepared in the following 10 pilot districts: Rechica (Gomel Region), Rogachev (Gomel Region), Ivacevichy (Brest Region), Volozhin (Minsk Region), Korelichi (Grodno Region), Slonim (Grodno Region), Klichev (Mogilev Region), Bobruysk (Mogilev Region), Rosson (Vitebsk Region), Glubokoe (Vitebsk Region). These districts have been selected as they vary in biogeographic conditions on the one hand, and socio-economic context on the other, enabling the project to compile a diverse set of experiences that will facilitate replication to other districts in Belarus.

67. As a first step, a full biodiversity and landscape diversity inventory will be carried out in the 10 districts to identify vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species, develop species maintenance standards and define concrete methodological recommendations for sustainable management of each rare species and biotope identified by the inventory. At present, in the target project districts, only 20 species maintenance standards for rare species habitats have been prepared. During the implementation of the project, approximately 1,000 species maintenance standards for rare species habitats and biotopes will be prepared in order to provide them with better protection. (During the PPG, initial information has been collected for the 10 districts and this is provided in [Annex 5](#).)

68. The Belarusian National Institute for Land Use and its regional branch will take the lead on preparing territorial plans using the background information on biodiversity. Cross-sectoral expert groups will be engaged in developing the territorial plans. A GIS mapping module and database will be created for producing economic, social and biodiversity layers, and identify “mainstreaming hot-spots” i.e., sites with existing or potential conflict between biodiversity and the current/ planned economic activity (e.g. pastureland management, hay-making, arable farming, logging, fish-pond management). At these sites, the output will propose biodiversity-optimal scenarios with maximum possible economic profitability. Species and habitat maintenance standards will be developed based on the identified scenario. These standards will be discussed with each land-user at each site of conflict. Recommendations for adapting

economic activities to the biodiversity standards will be developed jointly with the land-users. After discussion with all land-users, District territorial plans will be finalized and necessary administrative approvals will be obtained. Finally, enforcement and monitoring instructions will be put in place for sites with potential conflict where biodiversity standards have to be observed.

69. Important forest habitats will be identified based on the biodiversity inventories. In accordance with the amendments to the “Act on the Order of the Classifying Forests according to Protection Groups and Categories, Transferring Forests from one Protection Category or Group into another as well as Locating Specially Protected Forest Areas” (see Output 1.2), the designation of these areas as areas requiring special protection will be coordinated with the forestries and district executive committees. Following this designation, changes will be made to the existing forestry plans of the 10 forestries situated in the 10 target project districts. This will make it possible to give the habitats and important forest ecosystems official protection status and ensure their protection and sustainable management.

Output 2.2 Training and in-field demonstration activities for land users

70. To ensure that land users can effectively implement the territorial plans and observe land use restrictions in ecologically sensitive areas, this output will provide support for in-field training and demonstration activities. Pilot activities will be implemented in different regions to demonstrate sustainable land use management practices of the following kinds:

- Sustainable cattle grazing (duration, load) to minimize impact on Sandpiper colonies and support the right vegetation
- Sustainable hay-making (timing, methods) on floodplain meadows and fen mires in order to keep them in their open state (without bushes)
- Sustainable forest management in forests that are of special biodiversity importance and/ or are habitats for protected species. This could include measures for conservation of under-growth and forest floor; low-impact/selective logging in biotopes of forest bird species such as the Greater Spotted Eagle, increasing the proportion of natural forest regeneration as opposed to afforestation
- Restoration of the hydrological regime on disturbed mires
- Development and implementation of fishing activities on two lakes taking into consideration the interests of biodiversity such as modifications to management of pond bottoms
- Development and implementation of sustainable hunting practices
- 2-3 pilot projects will be directed at agricultural organizations operating in areas of high biodiversity to identify practical land use options such as adjustments to the annual and perennial crop rotation in areas important for certain species. This will be a logical continuation of agricultural land management schemes that regulate agrarian land use (structure and placing of agricultural crops, loading of pastures, etc.) on the lands of large agricultural organizations.

71. Impacts of project actions will be monitored using the indicators specified in the project’s logical framework, the GEF SO-2 Tracking Tool, as well as the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard. This will be further supported through independent mid-term and final evaluations. To facilitate the dissemination and replication of best practices, lessons from in-field training and demonstration activities will be collated and disseminated through a dedicated knowledge management system. In addition, a series of country-wide workshops will be held as part of the project to trigger replication in the additional 40 districts that will be developing integrated territorial plans by 2012 (7.4 million hectares or 36% of the entire Belarusian territory). The center-piece of these workshops will be the field-level experiences generated by the project.

2.4 Key Indicators, Risks and Assumptions

72. The indicators and their baseline and target values are presented in the [project's logical framework](#). Based on discussions during project preparation, the following risks were identified. Means to mitigate these risks were also discussed and integrated into the project strategy.

Table 4. Project Risks

Objective/ Outcome	Risk	Level	Mitigation
Project objective	State Land Use Committee and MNREP are not interested in transferring lessons to additional districts	L	This threat is considered low. The GOB has recently taken a number of recent legislative steps to mitigate adverse impacts on biodiversity outside PAs. Notable among these is the 2008 Framework Regulation on Territorial Planning (under the purview of the State Land Use Committee). This is a legal annex to the Land Code and explicitly requires territorial plans to reflect environmental sustainability. In addition, there are a raft of legislations/ regulations under the purview of the MNREP, notable among which are the two new legal acts adopted in 2004 and 2007 (Law on Wildlife and Law on Plant World) that place obligations on economic entities for conservation of international and national red-listed species. What is lacking is practical demonstrations of the feasibility of achieving biodiversity mainstreaming outside PAs. GOB has is requesting support from GEF through UNDP to develop these practical demonstrations as well as put in place a sound enabling environment, so that MNREP and the Land Use Committee can effectively implement the 2008 Framework Regulation.
Project objective	Rayon and Oblast Executive Councils (local authorities) from other Rayons and Oblasts are not receptive to applying the project approach in their districts	L to M	The project will mitigate this threat by involving relevant stakeholders from the 45 additional districts in the project's capacity-building workshops and in-field demonstration.
Outcome 1	Amendments and methodological recommendations for economic land use activities do not receive political support	L	This threat is considered low given the strong political support and close alignment of the project with national priorities in terms of implementing the 2008 Framework Regulation. The project will mitigate this risk by ensuring that a wide consultative process is followed in the development of the amendments and the methodological recommendations to ensure that any concerns can be addressed early on in the process.
Outcome 1	Key government actors/ institutions are not fully engaged and committed to the project strategy	L	This threat is considered low. Active participation will be ensured through the project's capacity building activities, as well as involvement in field-level demonstrations.
Outcome 2	Oblast-level approval process of Land Use Plans does not proceed smoothly	L to M	The project will mitigate this risk by ensuring that key representatives from the Oblast level are involved in early stages of the development of the biodiversity-enhanced Territorial Plans.
Outcome 2	Increase in threats to biodiversity beyond the background rates over the past decade	L	The territorial plans will be subject to rigorous monitoring and update. Although this risk has low probability, the project's enforcement and monitoring mechanisms (Outcome 1) to make sure any changes over background rates are tracked. Biodiversity standards and measures recommended at the level of land-user will then be adjusted to account for a higher biodiversity risk level.
Outcome 2	Climate change does not lead to catastrophic impacts	L	More frequent drought, warmer summers and changed winters are some of the climate change symptoms in Belarus. During the preparation of its National Communication to UNFCCC and implementation of the peatland project, Belarus developed good knowledge on climate change impacts on the vegetation and fauna structure of the country. The expert teams working on territorial plans and sectoral mainstreaming will use that material to make sure that proposed solutions do incorporate the climate change risks.

L = Low threat; M = Medium threat; H= High threat

2.5 Incremental Cost Assessment

73. **Business-as-usual scenario:** Compared to its neighbors, Belarus has a relatively high rate of intactness of natural landscapes, with floodplains and peatlands playing a particularly important role in conservation of regionally and globally significant biodiversity. In the without-project scenario, GOB will continue its biodiversity conservation efforts through its protected area system. However, the largest part of the natural and most valuable ecosystems in Belarus is located outside protected areas. Only 13.7% of forested lands in Belarus are part of protected areas (1,085 thousand hectares). Key biotopes and species that reside outside protected areas are threatened by habitat destruction and conversion brought about by unsustainable economic activities such as arable farming, fishing, hay-making, livestock, forestry, and hunting. The government has several sector-based programs, but these do not effectively take into account impacts on important biotopes and species (the table below lists the key Sectoral programs). The location and methods employed by economic activities in the rural landscape are governed by the district territorial plans, which, under the 2008 Framework Regulation, are supposed to take into account environmental sustainability. Territorial plans are about to start being designed, with GOB committing resources to develop these plans in 40 districts by 2012. Without the project, the baseline course of action will see the country in 2012 with 40 district territorial plans, only few of which (if any) will truly mainstream biodiversity, while the majority is most likely to be biased to quicker profit making in agriculture, forestry, and other economic activities (for the reasons described in the [barriers analysis](#) above). Territorial plans will be adopted without account of species and habitat requirements. The baseline scenario, therefore, will see the continuation of habitat degradation outside protected areas, manifested by progressing degradation of wetlands, fires, negative vegetation successions, and such.

Table 5. Baseline sectoral programs of the government

Program	Year	Main objectives
State Scheme on the Complex Territorial Organization of Belarus (the Statement of the President of the Republic of Belarus 12.01.2007 № 19)	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the underlying principles of this scheme is to improve protection and rational use of biodiversity and natural resources outside specially protected natural areas. However, practical experiences of introducing ecological regulations that can mitigate the adverse impact of economic activities in the rural landscape on threatened and vulnerable biotopes and species are lacking, thus curtailing the effectiveness of this scheme.
Program of Activity of the Government of Republic of Belarus for 2006-2010 (the Statement of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 26.05.2006 № 664)	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures for increasing the efficiency of use and the protection of Belarus' land resources through a long-term programme for protection and use of land resources in the country. • Minimizing the negative influence of economic activities on the environment and optimizing the structure of land resources by modifying the use of ecologically unstable lands. • Development of land use planning. • However, the program only declares these objectives without any specific mechanisms for their realization.
Program of Forestry Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2007–2011 (the Statement of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 29.12.2006 №1760)	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This program is directed at rational and non-exhaustive use of forests and their reproduction and protection through sustainable forest management, conservation of forest ecosystems, and increasing the ecological and resource potential of forests. However, the full potential of this program to preserve biodiversity in the wider landscapes outside specially protected nature areas is not being realized, mainly due to a lack of information on the distribution of protected species and biotopes. There is a lack of knowledge on occurrence of rare species among biologists and ecologists, and limited understanding of the harm caused by alien tree species in forest plantations
Fish Industry Development Program for 2006-2010 (the Statement of the Council of Ministers of the	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rational use of natural reservoirs of fish resources • Creation of a rational fishing system

Program	Year	Main objectives
Republic of Belarus 19.04.2006 № 535)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, as described above (see Drivers of Biodiversity Loss), in spite of the strong legislative basis, fishing practices continue to harm vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species. The governance of land use at the local level is not effectively regulating different land users to ensure that their land-use practices are not harming ecologically sensitive areas.
State Program for Hunting Activities for 2006-2015 (the Statement of the President of the Republic of Belarus 8.12.2005 № 580)	2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main focus of this program is the maintenance of reproduction, dispersion, introduction and acclimatization of wild animals. • Development of management plans for species included in the Red book of Belarus (bear, lynx, badger) • However the program is mainly oriented to managing hunting as an economic activity and does not take into account the interests of biodiversity conservation.
State Programme on Conservation and Management of Meliorated Areas for 2005-2010	2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This program addresses disaggregating of polder systems, planting forest belts, creating ecological niches and migration corridors. • The program, however, only states the necessity for observing principles of natural landscapes conservation at meliorative works, without any concrete recommendations on how these principles can be realized in practice. The majority of active meliorated territories are leading to disruptions in the hydrological regime in adjoining territories.

74. The GEF Alternative and Incremental Value: The fact that Belarus is commencing the process of developing new territorial plans in 40 districts, coupled with the existence of legislative backing for more effective mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation goals into economic activities outside protected areas, makes the timing of the GEF project opportune. The difference between the baseline and the project scenarios lies in the quality and speed of proliferation of advanced biodiversity-mainstreaming solutions into territorial and sectoral planning in Belarus. With a US\$ 1 million investment, the GEF will bring state-of-the art biodiversity mainstreaming solutions, tailor them to the country specifics, test them in 10 districts, and anchor them in policies, thus providing assurance that the majority of the 118 plans going into the future will truly integrate biodiversity concerns. Ultimately, the two scenarios vary in the state of biodiversity outside PAs: in the business-as-usual scenario, only about half of the internationally important species and habitats will be assured some protection, yet some of the important habitats (e.g. wetland habitats) will be irreversibly lost; the project scenario strives for their 100% coverage by 2020.

75. Summary of costs: The total cost of implementing the GEF Alternative Strategy amounts to US\$ 8,055,300. Of this total, co-funding constitutes 88% or US\$ 7,084,300. GEF financing comprises the remaining 12% of the total, or US\$ 971,000.

76. Expected global benefits: The immediate global biodiversity benefits include enhanced ecosystem integrity outside PAs in 10 administrative districts (approximately 2 million hectares). This will be measured by the stabilization of a number of globally important indicator species: Aquatic warbler for fen mires; Greater Spotted Eagle for floodplain wet deciduous forests; Bittern for lake, reed-bed and oxbow ecosystems; Great Snipe and Black-tailed Godwit for meadows; European Otter for small river ecosystems; and overall fish population dynamics for glacial lakes. By project end, sustainable land uses outside PAs (logging, hay-making, pasture management, fishing, hunting, recreation) will be demonstrated in the following key biotopes¹³: Mires: 12,000 ha; Floodplain meadows: 8,000 ha; Lakes: 5,000 ha; and forests of high natural value such as floodplain wet deciduous forests: 20,000 ha). In the long-term, taking into account the sought replication effect, the project will ensure the long-term integrity

¹³ The above targets for the land area where sustainable management practices are to be demonstrated are only indicative at this stage. By end of Y1, once detailed biodiversity inventories are collected and biotope information is mapped against socio-economic information, a clearer picture will emerge of the areas in the 10 districts where conflicts are present and practices need to be modified. These targets will therefore be adjusted once this information is available.

of fragile ecosystems over 36% of the country, including 120,000 ha of unique broad-leaf, 80,000 ha of fen and bog mire, 50,000 floodplain meadows and 5,000 ha of glacial lake ecosystems.

77. Expected national and local benefits: Benefits at the national level will include enhanced technical capacities among key stakeholder groups (MNREP and State Committee on Property) to mainstream biodiversity concerns into territorial planning enabling them to effectively implement national legislation in this respect. Local land users in the 10 pilot districts will benefit from financial and technical support to implement modified land use practices that enhance the sustainability of their operations over the long run.

2.6 Cost-effectiveness

78. Three scenarios can be analyzed from the perspective of cost-effectiveness of maximizing biodiversity security. The first is the business-as-usual scenario in which minimal biodiversity security is achieved. Ecosystem degradation outside protected areas will continue and the approach will be to focus on the elimination of consequences after a threat materializes. The cost-effectiveness of this approach is extremely low. For example, rehabilitation of a forest or wetland tract after a fire costs approximately US\$ 40,000/1,000 ha, while installing an optimal hydrological regime to prevent a fire costs US\$ 15,000/1,000 ha. Another example is the removal of shrub and floating vegetation islands from a river channel to restore floodplain wetland or grassland biodiversity that takes longer and costs twice as much as regular hay-making and other land-use techniques. By 2012, the amount needed to be invested in severely degraded ecosystems will substantially outweigh the proposed investment now, when changes to territorial policy making can minimize the need for remedial actions¹⁴. The second scenario is that proposed under the project that is based on policy-making and real-life promotion of best mainstreaming practices in key sectors. The third possible scenario is the expansion of the protected area network to cover all the globally significant populations and habitats that are currently unprotected. Calculations indicate that the most cost-effective intervention is the project approach for it is too expensive to establish protected areas in the landscapes targeted for intervention. The income foregone by economic users is insurmountable for the local and national economy. The financial and social value these lands generate is too high for them to be withdrawn from the economic cycle and put under protection (even if it is IUCN management category IV, V or VI).

79. The cost effectiveness of this project will be further ensured by the following elements that have been included in project design.

- *Combination of systemic and site specific actions*: The project design includes site-specific activities, on-the-ground activities (Outcome 2) that will help test and develop management approaches in areas of potential conflict between biodiversity conservation and economic activities in the rural landscape outside protected areas. These experiences will inform the changes at the systemic level in terms of improved policies, manuals and guidelines, in turn facilitating the replication of site-level experiences.
- *Selection of pilot districts that exhibit a range of biogeographical and socio-economic characteristics*: This will make the site-level experiences relevant to a greater number of districts for further replication.
- *Close coordination with project teams of the Polesie and Peatlands projects*: These UNDP-GEF funded projects are already under implementation and are accumulating practical experiences with mainstreaming biodiversity. The former project is looking at mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into economic activities that are permitted to take place within certain types of protected areas (zakazniks). The latter looks at mainstreaming biodiversity into activities of the peat mining sector. While the target of mainstreaming in these projects is slightly different from that of the current project (i.e., territorial plans in the wider landscape outside protected areas), some of the experiences and models for sustainable use may still be relevant.

¹⁴ Not to mention that some ecosystems will simply not respond to restoration.

2.7 Sustainability

80. Ecological sustainability. The project's main goal is to enhance ecological sustainability by improving the protection afforded to vulnerable and threatened biotopes and species outside the PA network. It will do so by ensuring that even outside PAs, economic activities are guided by territorial plans in ways that minimize their adverse impact on ecologically sensitive areas. By effectively mainstreaming information on biodiversity in the territorial planning process, the project will directly contribute to improving ecosystem integrity in 10 target districts that span approximately 1.9 million hectares. The replication of the project strategy in an additional 40 districts will improve ecological sustainability over approximately 7.4 million hectares.

81. Financial sustainability. The benefits of biodiversity mainstreaming for long-term profitability of specific land-based activities have not been demonstrated in Belarus. Apart from the peat-mining sector¹⁵, there is a widely held perception among land-users that "whatever is prescribed for biodiversity outside protected areas will not work, and is just a hindrance to profit-making". Outcome 2 of the project will specifically focus on working with land users to demonstrate how current land use practices can be modified to both improve biodiversity outcomes and maintain economic viability. The project's in-field training and demonstration activities, directly engaging land-users, will be designed to overcome the existing barriers to adopting improved practices. Workshops and dissemination activities will include relevant stakeholders from the other 40 districts where the project strategy is to be replicated to demonstrate the financial sustainability of the improved methods. Finally, by better harmonizing the processes of territorial planning with the collection of information on threatened/ vulnerable biotopes and species, the project will realize some cost-efficiencies. An inter-sectoral approach, where different agencies collaborate based on their comparative advantage will facilitate more reasonable choices on land use, as well as the pooling of available resources to achieve common objectives.

82. Institutional sustainability. The project's efforts to harmonize and eliminate inconsistencies between various branches of the law (land-use, environment, forest, water resources) by defining practical mechanisms for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into territorial planning will improve the effectiveness of existing administrative structures and decisions. To ensure that project activities are continued and benefits sustained beyond the time frame of this GEF funded project, it will be important that the project strategy be internalized by regional (oblast) and district (rayon) level institutions. Therefore, the project will rely on the existing institutional structure for implementing project activities and delivering outputs, and will make strategic enhancements to improve the ability of existing institutions to mainstream biodiversity conservation into land use planning. Further, staff from the relevant government agencies will be key partners in implementing the project strategy and will be fully engaged in capacity building activities. An equally important element for institutional sustainability are scientific institutions such as the National Academy of Sciences and the Institutes for Land Use Management, which will also be tapped for organizing, promoting, monitoring and assessing implementation.

2.8 Replicability

83. Replication will be achieved through the direct replication and scaling up of sustainable practices and methods demonstrated by the project. Although a small country, Belarus' 118 districts exhibit variation in biogeographical and socio-economic terms. Therefore, the selection of the 10 project districts has been made so as to cover as much of this diversity as possible, and generate a diverse set of practical experiences on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into economic activities outside protected areas. The project will develop and use a knowledge management system to ensure the effective collation and

¹⁵ Barriers to shifting to sustainable practices in the peat-mining sector have been addressed through successful demonstrations undertaken by the UNDP-GEF Peatlands project.

dissemination of experiences and information gained in the course of the project's implementation. A series of country-wide workshops will be held as part of the project to trigger replication in the additional 40 districts that will be developing integrated territorial plans by 2012 (7.4 million hectares or 36% of the entire Belarusian territory).

3. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Outcome as defined in the CPD for Belarus (2006-2010): 11. Biodiversity, ecosystem services, protected areas and other commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements integrated into national governance and production systems (including social, economic and policy frameworks such as MDGs, NSSEDS and key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, and flood control)
Country Programme Outcome Indicators: Area, hectares
Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area: 1. Mainstreaming environment and energy
Applicable GEF Strategic Objective and Program: Strategic Objective 2 – To mainstream biodiversity in production landscapes/ seascapes and sectors; Strategic Priority 4 – Strengthening the policy and regulatory frameworks for mainstreaming biodiversity
Applicable GEF Expected Outcomes: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity incorporated in the productive landscape and seascape
Applicable GEF Outcome Indicators: By project end (2013), 10 districts (approx. 2 million ha) have biodiversity-enhanced land use plans in place, and an additional 40 districts (approx. 7.4 million hectares; 36% of national territory) have commenced replication of the project approach

Project Strategy	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Baseline	Target ¹⁶	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
Objective: To mainstream biodiversity conservation priorities into Belarus' territorial planning policies and practices	Land area for which integrated land-use plans that deliver biodiversity benefits outside PAs are developed and under implementation	0 ha	Approximately 2 million ha (10 districts) Additional 7.4 million hectares have commenced replication	Approved Land Use Plans for 10 Districts; Project reports, Final external evaluation	State Committee on Property and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP) remain interested in transferring lessons to additional districts Rayon and Oblast Executive Councils (local authorities) from other Rayons and Oblasts are receptive to applying the project approach in their districts
Component 1. Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional framework for land-use planning that reflects biodiversity considerations outside protected areas	Number of sectoral regulations and methodological guidelines that facilitate the incorporation of biodiversity conservation requirements into planning and management of land use outside protected areas (to be tracked in more detail through the SO 2 Tracking Tool)	0	8 ¹⁷	Approved documents printed for circulation to relevant departments	Amendments and methodological recommendation for economic land use activities receive political support Key government actors/ institutions are fully engaged and committed to the project strategy
	Changes in procedures for monitoring land use plans	Old monitoring system is obsolete and non-operational	New monitoring system involving key actors (with roles and responsibilities shared among State Committee on Property, MNREP, Academy of Sciences, Belarusian National Institute for Land Use based on comparative advantage) is approved and under implementation	Internal documents of the State Committee on Property, and MNREP	
	Number of government staff trained in collection of biodiversity information	0	At least 30 officers	Trainer reports; analysis of training	

¹⁶ The target timeframe for all indicators is by project end i.e., 2013, unless otherwise stated.

¹⁷ 1. Species maintenance standards; 2. Standards for developing NAPs for rarest species; 3. Minimal standards for different economic activities to aid habitat management; 4. Act on biotopes preservation; 5. Framework Regulation on Territorial Planning; 6. Use and display of biodiversity information in territorial planning process; 7. Assessment of efficiency of land management schemes; 8. Act on specially protected forest areas.

Project Strategy	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Baseline	Target ¹⁶	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	and integration of this into the development and implementation of land use plans (Note: A more detailed tracking of capacity development impacts at the systemic, institutional and individual levels will be based on the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard)			evaluation forms	
Component 2. Tested models for development and enforcement of biodiversity-compatible land-use plans at the district levels	Species maintenance standards covering vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species	Approximately 10-20 species maintenance standards	1,000 species maintenance standards	Printed species maintenance standards on record with Rayon Inspectorate of the MNREP	Oblast-level approval process of Land Use Plans proceeds smoothly Threats to biodiversity do not increase beyond the background rates over the past decade Climate change does not lead to catastrophic impacts
	Increase in land area outside protected areas where threats to vulnerable/ threatened biotopes from economic activities are controlled	0 ha	Sustainable land uses (logging, hay-making, pasture management, fishing, hunting, recreation) demonstrated in following key biotopes ¹⁸ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mires: 12,000 ha; • Floodplain meadows: 8,000 ha; • Lakes: 5,000 ha; • Forests of high natural value such as floodplain wet deciduous forests: 20,000 ha 	Field Survey, photo documentation, Final External Evaluation	
	Population of following indicator species outside protected areas remains stable: Aquatic warbler (vulnerable – global threat status) for fen mires; Greater spotted eagle (vulnerable) for floodplain wet deciduous forests; Bittern (depleted) for lake, reed-bed and oxbow ecosystems; Great snipe (near-threatened) and Black-tailed godwit (near threatened) for meadows; European otter (near threatened) for small river ecosystems; overall fish population dynamics for glacial lakes.	Baseline populations ¹⁹	No decrease over baseline values	Field Survey, Survey information collected by the National Biodiversity Monitoring Center	
	% of local land-users in 10 districts who are conducting economic activities in ecologically sensitive areas and receive in-field training and technical assistance with implementing modified practices	0	100%	Report from Project Implementation Unit based on feedback from land users; Final External Evaluation	

¹⁸ The above targets for the land area where sustainable management practices are to be demonstrated are only indicative at this stage. By end of Y1, once detailed biodiversity inventories are collected and biotope information is mapped against socio-economic information, a clearer picture will emerge of the areas in the 10 districts where conflicts are present and practices need to be modified. These targets will therefore be adjusted once this information is available.

¹⁹ Baseline population figures will be provided once the biodiversity inventories are completed in the 10 districts by year 2 of the project.

TOTAL BUDGET AND WORKPLAN

Award ID:		00058307									
Award Title:		PIMS 3985 BD MSP: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Practices									
Business Unit:		BLR10									
Project Title:		PIMS 3985 BD MSP: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Practices									
Atlas Project ID		00072384									
PIMS number:		3985									
Implementing Partner (Executing Agency)		MNREP (NEX/NIM)									
GEF Outcome/ Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/ Implementing Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Total (USD)	Budget Note
Outcome 1. Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional framework for land-use planning that reflects biodiversity considerations outside protected areas	MNREP	62000	GEF	71300	Local Consultants	10,500	19,200	4,500	4,760	38,960	1
				71600	Travel	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000	2
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies (Training)	0	5,000	5,000	10,000	20,000	3
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies	30,000	30,000	0	0	60,000	4
				72300	Materials & Goods	0	500	500	1,000	2,000	5
				72400	Communic. & Audio Visual Equip.	0	1,000	580	460	2,040	6
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	0	2,000	0	0	2,000	7
	Subtotal Outcome 1 (GEF)	40,500	59,700	12,580	18,220	131,000					
Outcome 2. Tested models for development and enforcement of biodiversity-compatible land-use plans at the district levels	MNREP	62000	GEF	71200	International Consultants	0	13,750	0	13,750	27,500	8
				71300	Local Consultants	9,912	14,904	19,602	14,902	59,320	9
				71600	Travel	2,500	5,000	7,500	5,000	20,000	10
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies	100,600	199,300	240,000	86,280	626,180	11
				72200	Equipment and Furniture	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	12
	Subtotal Outcome 2 (GEF)	123,012	232,954	267,102	119,932	743,000					
Project Management				71300	Local Consultants	21,120	21,120	21,120	21,120	84,480	13
				71600	Travel	0	4,520	4,000	4,000	12,520	14
					Subtotal Proj. Mgmt. (GEF)	21,120	25,640	25,120	25,120	97,000	
PROJECT TOTAL						178,620	325,140	311,620	155,620	971,000	

Budget Notes:

1	Chief Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Expert - 320 *28 weeks=8,960; Land-Use Planning Expert - 320*25 weeks=8,000; Forestry Expert - 280*24weeks=6,720; Specialist on Agricultural Economics - 280*10weeks=2,800; PM technical input to Outcome 1 (320*39weeks=12,480).
2	Travel of local consultants for 4 Capacity Building Workshops (Output 1.4)
3	Cost of organization of 4 Capacity Building Workshops (Output 1.4). Cost of each seminar is 5,000.
4	Subcontractors for (i) Amendments to legislation on species maintenance standards, (ii) Development of new National Action Plans (NAPs) for Threatened Species, and (iii) Development of Act on biotopes conservation under Output 1.1 (60,000)
5	Expendables, accessories
6	Expenses related to communication for Outcome 1 implementation.
7	Insurance, bank charges, other miscellaneous expenses.
8	International evaluation expert for mid-term and the final evaluations 2,750 * 10 weeks=27,500
9	Chief Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Expert - 320*57weeks=18,240; Land-Use Planning Expert - 320*43=13,760; Forestry Expert - 280*28=7,840; Economist/ Agric expert - 280*11=3,080; Evaluation Specialist 280*14=3,920; PM technical input to Outcome 2 (320*39= 12,480).
10	Cost of travel of local consultants for coordination of the following activities: Inventory of biodiversity, development passport and recommendation for conservation in 10 district organizations, Development of land use and forestry use plans for 10 districts.
11	Subcontractors for (i) Inventory of biodiversity, development passport and recommendation for conservation in 10 district (190,000); (ii) Development of land use plans for 10 districts (240,000); (iii) Development and changes of the existing forestry plans of the 10 forest enterprises situated in the 10 target project districts (100,000) under Output 2.1; and (iv) Organization of in-field training and demonstration activities under Output 2.1 (96,180).
12	Equipment for biodiversity and land-use inventory works - computers, a notebook, printer, GPS device - 10,000.
13	The salary of Project Manager (320 per week * 114weeks=36,480) and Administrative Assistant (250 per week * 192 weeks=48,000)
14	Management-related travel to/from project sites for the project management team to enable hands-on management.

Summary of Funds: ²⁰

	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Total (USD)
GEF	178,620	325,140	311,620	155,620	971,000
State Committee on Property	550,000	550,000	550,000	550,000	2,200,000
MNREP	50,000	50,000	0	0	100,000
Ministry of Forestry	1,483,800	789,600	1,766,400	744,500	4,784,300
TOTAL FINANCING (Excluding PPG)	2,262,420	1,714,740	2,628,020	1,450,120	8,055,300

²⁰ Summary table includes all financing of all kinds: GEF financing, cofinancing, cash, in-kind, etc.

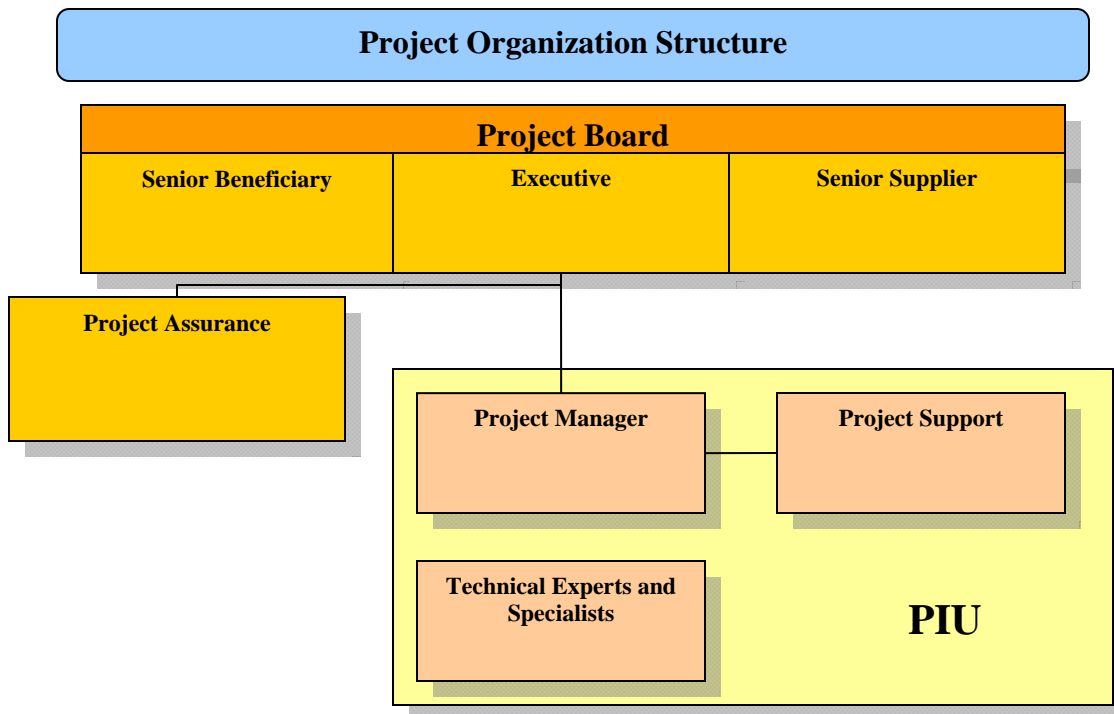
4. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Institutional Arrangements

84. UNDP is the Implementing Agency for this project. The project fully complies with the comparative advantages matrix approved by the GEF Council. UNDP Belarus has been successfully managing a portfolio of technical assistance and capacity building initiatives in the areas of biodiversity conservation, prevention of land degradation and climate change mitigation. UNDP Belarus has extensive experience and expertise in policy advice, project management in a highly challenging technical assistance environment in the country, as well as an extensive network of national partners. UNDP is implementing 32 GEF-funded projects in biodiversity conservation in the region through its network of 26 Country Offices. Under the biodiversity mainstreaming theme, UNDP-GEF activities aim to modify production methods by piloting and adapting production measures that satisfy both development and conservation fundamentals and that do so at acceptable levels of tradeoff. UNDP-GEF is supporting efforts to mainstream biodiversity in production systems through biodiversity projects in 6 countries covering an area of 54,952,198 hectares in terms of demonstration activities, and indirectly, through reform of policies, strategies and institutional structures, an area of 115,309,990 hectares. The portfolio covers a number of sectors, notably tourism, agri-business (agricultural biodiversity and agri-environmental schemes), fisheries and forestry.

4.2 Project Implementation Arrangements

85. The project will be executed by the MNREP. The project organization structure (summarized in the figure below) will consist of a Project Board, Project Assurance and a Project Implementation Unit (PIU). Roles and responsibilities are described below.



86. **Project Board:** The Project Board will be responsible for making management decisions for the project, in particular when guidance is required by the Project Manager. It will play a critical role in project monitoring and evaluations by assuring the quality of these processes and associated products, and by using evaluations for improving performance, accountability and learning. The Project Board will ensure that required resources are committed. It will also arbitrate on any conflicts within the project and negotiate solutions to any problems with external bodies. In addition, it will approve the appointment and responsibilities of the Project Manager and any delegation of its Project Assurance responsibilities. Based on the approved Annual Work Plan, the Project Board can also consider and approve the quarterly plans and also approve any essential deviations from the original plans.

87. In order to ensure UNDP’s ultimate accountability for project results, Project Board decisions will be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the final decision shall rest with the UNDP Project Manager.

88. Members of the Project Board will consist of key national governmental and non-governmental agencies, and appropriate local level representatives. UNDP will also be represented on the Project Board, which will be balanced in terms of gender. Potential members of the Project Board will be reviewed and recommended for approval during the PAC meeting. The Project Board will contain three distinct roles:

- *Executive Role:* This individual will represent the project “owners” and will chair the group. It is expected that MNREP (in consultation with the State Committee on Property) will appoint a senior official to this role who will ensure full government support of the project.
- *Senior Supplier Role:* This role requires the representation of the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding for specific cost sharing projects and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier’s primary function within the Board will be to provide guidance regarding the technical

feasibility of the project. This role will rest with UNDP-Belarus represented by the Resident Representative.

- *Senior Beneficiary Role*: This role requires representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary's primary function within the Board will be to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. This role will rest with the other institutions (key national governmental and non-governmental agencies, and appropriate local level representatives) represented on the Project Board, who are stakeholders in the project.

89. Project Assurance: The Project Assurance role supports the Project Board Executive by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. The Project Assurance role will rest with the UNDP Belarus Environment Focal Point.

90. A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be established comprising permanent staff including: a National Project Manager (NPM) and Project Assistant. The PIU will assist MNREP in performing its role as implementing partner. The Project Manager has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Implementing Partner within the constraints laid down by the Board. The Project Manager's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost. The NPM will be recruited in accordance with UNDP regulations and will be based in Minsk. S/he will report to the UNDP Focal Point on Energy and Environment. The NPM will be responsible for overall project coordination and implementation, consolidation of work plans and project papers, preparation of quarterly progress reports, reporting to the project supervisory bodies, and supervising the work of the project experts and other project staff. The NPM will also closely coordinate project activities with relevant Government institutions and hold regular consultations with other project stakeholders and partners, including UNDP's Polesie and Peatlands projects, and the GEF Small Grants Programme. Under the direct supervision of the NPM, the Project Assistant will be responsible for administrative and financial issues, and will get support from UNDP-CO administration.

91. The permanent core technical staff of the project will be a Chief Expert on Biodiversity and a Chief Expert on Land-Use Planning. They will supervise a team of national specialists who will implement specific activities of the project at the local level. The NPM, Chief Experts and national specialists will spend a large portion of their time in the field, and the NPM will be ultimately responsible for liaison with communities engaged in the project.

92. The PIU, following UNDP procedures on implementation of NEX projects, will identify national experts and consultants, and international experts as appropriate to undertake technical work. The national and international companies may also be involved in project implementation. These consultants and companies will be hired under standard prevailing UNDP procedures on implementation of NEX projects. The UNDP Country Office will provide specific support services for project realization through the Administrative and Finance Units as required.

4.3 *Audit arrangements*

93. Audit Arrangements: The Audit will be conducted in accordance with the established UNDP procedures set out in the Programming and Finance manuals by the legally recognized auditor.

4.4 *Coordination with other related initiatives*

94. Belarus has benefited from two UNDP/GEF funded projects: (i) "Catalyzing Sustainability of the Protected Area System in Polesie region" and "Renaturalization of Peatlands in Belarus to Combat Land

Degradation, Conserve Biodiversity and Mitigate Climate” (OP 12). The present mainstreaming proposal is focusing on biodiversity outside protected areas and together with the Polesie protected area project will ensure conservation of internationally important biodiversity covering the whole territory of the country. Both projects are under the management of the MNREP and it is envisaged that the Project Manager of each project shall sit on the Project Board. The UNDP/GEF project on peatlands is a multi-focal project supporting conservation and wise use of peatlands in the country, including recommendations for integration of biodiversity in the peat mining industry. Thus, it indeed addresses one of the key threats to biodiversity outside protected areas. This project has generated massive know-how and produced a profound demonstration effect not only in the country, but wider in Europe. Taking into account the activities of the peatlands project, the present proposal does not directly include peat-mining activities. But it has been agreed that regular communication links will be established between the expert groups of the two projects to ensure that the peatlands project know-how is transferred to other land-uses by means of the present project.

95. Further, the project will coordinate with other related projects in the target project districts to garner their financial and technical support towards pilot projects recommended by the improved territorial plans (see table below).

Table 6. Linkages with other projects in the target districts

Project title	Executors	Aims and objectives	Linkages with the UNDP-GEF MSP	Project budget
“Restoring Peatlands and Applying Concepts for Sustainable Management in Belarus – Climate Change Mitigation with Economic and Biodiversity Benefits” (Belarus-2)	Managed by RSPB and financed by KfW	Building on the success of the UNDP-GEF project (Belarus-1), it is expected that within “Belarus-2” large areas of degraded peatlands will be renaturalized. An inventory of natural peatlands will be prepared.	Some projects on restoration of depleted peatlands will be implemented in the territory of the 10 target project districts. The inventory of natural peatlands will include the territory of all 10 target project districts and the inventory results will be used during the preparation of land management plans.	2.3 million dollars
GEF Small Grants Programme	Various NGOs, communities	To support community-led actions on preserving the global environment	Mobilize their resources in support of pilot projects for biodiversity conservation and control of land degradation that are recommended by the land use plans in the 10 target project districts, in order to magnify on-the-ground impacts	700,000 \$ annually
Providing conservation and sustainable management of biologically important forests with a view to supporting the process of forest certification	BirdLife Belarus, The consulting company “Амеко” (Ameco), Netherlands Bureau Waardenburg, Netherlands	The project aim is to support the process of forest certification by strengthening preservation and sustainable management of biologically important forests through implementation of pilot projects in territories of Pruzhansky, Gluboksky and Disnensky forestry.	Mobilize their resources in support of the inventory of biodiversity and forests of high biological importance in Gluboksky district (which is one of the target project districts) and maintenance of their sustainable use.	80,000 Euro

4.5 Use of institutional logos on project deliverables

96. In order to accord proper acknowledgement to GEF for providing funding, a GEF logo should appear on all relevant GEF project publications, including among others, project hardware and vehicles

purchased with GEF funds. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by GEF should also accord proper acknowledgment to GEF. The [UNDP logo](#) should be more prominent -- and separated a bit from the [GEF logo](#) if possible -- as, with non-UN logos, there can be security issues for staff.

5. MONITORING FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION

97. The project team and the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) supported by the UNDP/GEF Regional Coordination Unit in Bratislava will be responsible for project monitoring and evaluation conducted in accordance with established UNDP and GEF procedures. The [Project Results Framework in Annex A](#) provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation, along with their corresponding means of verification. The GEF SO-2 Tracking Tool will also be used to monitor progress on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in production landscapes. The following sections outline the principle components of the M&E plan and indicative cost estimates related to M&E activities. The project's M&E plan will be presented to all stakeholders at the Project's Inception Workshop and finalized following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

5.1 Project start

98. A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 2 months of project start with those with assigned roles in the project organization structure, UNDP country office and where appropriate/ feasible regional technical policy and programme advisors as well as other stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first year annual work plan. The Inception Workshop will address a number of key issues including:

- Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project. Detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP CO and RCU staff vis à vis the project team. Discuss the roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for project staff will be discussed again as needed.
- Based on the project results framework and the GEF SO-2 Tracking Tool, finalize the first annual work plan. Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and recheck assumptions and risks.
- Provide a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The Monitoring and Evaluation work plan and budget should be agreed and scheduled.
- Discuss financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit.
- Plan and schedule Project Board meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organization structures should be clarified and meetings planned. The first Project Board meeting should be held within the first 12 months following the inception workshop.

99. The Inception Workshop report will be a key reference document and will be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

5.2 Quarterly

- Progress made shall be monitored in the UNDP Enhanced Results Based Management Platform.
- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in ATLAS.
- Based on the information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) can be generated in the Executive Snapshot.

- Other ATLAS logs can be used to monitor issues, lessons learned etc. The use of these functions will be a key indicator in the UNDP Executive Balanced Scorecard.

5.3 *Annually*

100. Annual Project Review/ Project Implementation Reports (APR/PIR): This key report will be prepared to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the previous reporting period (30 June to 1 July). The APR/PIR combines both UNDP and GEF reporting requirements. The APR/PIR includes, but is not limited to, reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes - each with indicators, baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative)
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual)
- Lesson learned/good practice.
- AWP and other expenditure reports
- Risk and adaptive management
- ATLAS QPR
- Portfolio level indicators (i.e. GEF focal area tracking tools)

5.4 *Periodic Monitoring through site visits*

101. UNDP CO and the UNDP RCU will conduct visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Other members of the Project Board may also join these visits. A Field Visit Report/BTOR will be prepared by the CO and UNDP RCU and will be circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team and Project Board members.

5.5 *Mid-term of project cycle*

102. The project will undergo an independent Mid-Term Evaluation at the mid-point of project implementation (January 2012). The Mid-Term Evaluation will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term evaluation will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The Terms of Reference for this Mid-term evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The management response and the evaluation will be uploaded to UNDP corporate systems, in particular the [UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center \(ERC\)](#). The GEF SO-2 Tracking Tool will also be completed during the mid-term evaluation cycle.

5.6 *End of Project*

103. An independent Final Evaluation will take place three months prior to the final Project Board meeting and will be undertaken in accordance with UNDP and GEF guidance. The final evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term

evaluation, if any such correction took place). The final evaluation will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental benefits/goals. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The Terminal Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response which should be uploaded to PIMS and to the [UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center \(ERC\)](#). The GEF SO-2 Tracking Tool will also be completed during the final evaluation.

104. During the last three months, the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems met and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's results.

5.7 Learning and knowledge sharing

105. Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. Finally, there will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus.

Table 7. Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget (US\$)	Time frame
Inception Workshop (IW)	Project Manager Ministry of Environment, UNDP, UNDP-GEF	5,000	Within first two months of project start up
Inception Report	Project Team PSC, UNDP CO	None	Immediately following IW
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Purpose Indicators	Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop. Cost to be covered by targeted survey funds.	Start, mid and end of project
Annual Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress and Performance	Oversight by Project GEF Technical Advisor and Project Manager Measurements by regional field officers and local IAs	TBD as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation. Cost to be covered by field survey budget.	Annually prior to APR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
PIR	Project Team PSC UNDP-GEF	None	Annually
Steering Committee meetings	Project Manager	None	Following IW and annually thereafter.
Technical and periodic status reports	Project team Hired consultants as needed	6,000	TBD by Project team and UNDP-CO
Mid-term External Evaluation	Project team PSC UNDP-GEF RCU External Consultants (evaluation team)	25,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Final External Evaluation	Project team, PSC, UNDP-GEF RCU External Consultants (evaluation team)	32,000	At the end of project implementation
Terminal Report	Project team PSC External Consultant	None	At least one month before the end of the project

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget (US\$)	Time frame
Audit	UNDP-CO Project team	5,000	Yearly
Visits to field sites (UNDP staff travel costs to be charged to IA fees)	UNDP-CO, UNDP-GEF RCU Government representatives	None	Yearly average one visit per year
TOTAL (indicative) COST (Excluding project and UNDP staff time costs)		73,000	

6 LEGAL CONTEXT

106. This document together with the CPAP signed by the Government and UNDP which is incorporated by reference constitute together a Project Document as referred to in the SBAA and all CPAP provisions apply to this document.

107. Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, the responsibility for the safety and security of the implementing partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the implementing partner's custody, rests with the implementing partner. The implementing partner shall:

- put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
- assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

108. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.

109. The implementing partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>. This provision will be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

7. ANNEXES

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Annex 1: GEF-4 Tracking Tool for GEF Biodiversity Focal Area Strategic Objective Two: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in Production Landscapes and Sectors

I. PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Practices
2. Project Type (MSP or FSP): MSP
3. Project ID (GEF): 3914
4. Project ID (IA): 3985
5. Implementing Agency: UNDP
6. Country: Belarus
7. Name of reviewers completing tracking tool and completion dates:

	Name	Title	Agency
Work Program Inclusion	A. Kozulin	Dr. Senior researcher	National Academy of Science
	G. Dudko	Director	Institutes for Land Use Management
	M. Maksimenkov	Senior researcher	National Academy of Science
Project Mid-term			
Final Evaluation/ project completion			

8. Project duration: Planned 4 years Actual _____ years
9. Lead Project Executing Agency: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP)
10. GEF Strategic Program:
 - Strengthening the policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity (SP 4)
 - Fostering markets for biodiversity goods and services (SP 5)
11. Production sectors and/or ecosystem services directly targeted by project:

Please identify the main production sectors involved in the project. Please put “P” for sectors that are primarily and directly targeted by the project and “S” for those that are secondary or incidentally affected by the project.

Agriculture P
 Fisheries P
 Forestry P
 Tourism S
 Mining
 Oil
 Transportation
 Other (please specify): Territorial Planning P
 Hunting S

II. PROJECT LANDSCAPE COVERAGE

12. What is the extent (in hectares) of the landscape or seascape where the project will directly or indirectly contribute to biodiversity conservation or sustainable use of its components?

Area Coverage	Total hectares		
	Targeted at project start	Achieved by mid-term Evaluation	Achieved by Final Evaluation
Landscape area directly covered by the project (ha)	1.9 million hectares (10 districts)	[to be filled-in at mid term evaluation]	[to be filled-in at final evaluation]
Landscape area indirectly covered by the project (ha)	7.4 million hectares (in 40 districts)	[to be filled-in at mid term evaluation]	[to be filled-in at final evaluation]

Explanation for indirect coverage numbers:

The project will be directly carried out in the territory of 10 districts with a total area of 1.9 million hectares: Ivacevichy (Brest Region), Rechitsa (Gomel Region), Rogachev (Gomel Region), Volozhin (Minsk Region), Korelichy (Grodno Region), Slonim (Grodno Region), Klichev (Mogilev Region), Bobruysk (Mogilev Region), Rossony (Vitebsk Region), Glubokoe (Vitebsk Region).

The project will “indirectly” influence another 40 districts. A series of country-wide workshops will be held as part of the project to trigger replication throughout the 40 districts that will be developing integrated territorial plans by 2012 (7.4 million hectares or 36% of the entire Belarussian territory. These districts are:

Brest region: Baranovichsky, Berezovsky, Brestsky, Gancevichsky, Kamenecky, Lyahovichesky, Pruzhansky, Stolinsky;

Vitebsk region: Vitebsky, Gorodoksky, Dokshicky, Orshansky, Postavsky, Sennensky, Chashnicky;

Gomel region: Gomelsky, Dobrushsky, Zhitkovichesky, Zhlobinsky, Kormyansky, Chechersky;

Grodno region: Berestovicky, Grodnensky, Lidsky, Svislochsky;

Minsk region: Borisovsky, Vileysky, Klecky, Kopilsky, Logoysky, Molodechensky, Nesvizhsky, Slucky, Starodorozhsky;

Mogilev region: Glussky, Gorecky, Kruglyansky, Mogilevsky, Osipovichsky, Shklovsky.

13. (b) Are there Protected Areas within the landscape covered by the project? If so, name these PAs, their IUCN or national PA category, and their extent in hectares.

Name of Protected Areas	District	Extent in hectares	IUCN and/or national category of PA
Republic landscape reserve «Smichok»	Rechica	575	Landscape Reserve
Republic landscape reserve Vigonoschansky	Ivacevichy	45,587	Landscape Reserve
Republic landscape reserve «Naliboksky»	Volozhin	28,302	Landscape Reserve
Republic biological reserve «Slonimsky»	Slonim	4,813	Biological Reserve
Republic hydrological reserve «Miranka»	Korelichy	3,107	Hydrological Reserve
Republic hydrological reserve «Ostrova Dulebi»	Klichev	21,636	Hydrological Reserve
Republic landscape reserve «Krasny bor»	Rossony	34,062	Landscape Reserve
Republic landscape reserve «Sinscha»	Rossony	13,398	Landscape Reserve
Republic hydrological reserve «Beloe»	Glubokoe	483	Hydrological Reserve
Republic hydrological reserve «Dolgoe»	Glubokoe	644	Hydrological Reserve
Republic hydrological reserve «Servech»	Glubokoe	1,188	Hydrological Reserve

14. (c) Within the landscape covered by the project, is the project implementing payment for environmental service schemes?

No, the project will not be implementing such a scheme.

III. MANAGEMENT PRACTICES APPLIED

15. Within the scope and objectives of the project, please identify in the table below the management practices employed by project beneficiaries that integrate biodiversity considerations and the area of coverage of these management practices. Please also note if a certification system is being applied and identify the certification system being used. Note: this could range from farmers applying organic agricultural practices, forest management agencies managing forests per Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) guidelines or other forest certification schemes, artisanal fisherfolk practicing sustainable fisheries management, or industries satisfying other similar agreed international standards, etc.

Specific management practices that integrate BD	Name of certification system being used	Area of coverage foreseen at start of project	Achievement at Mid-term Evaluation of Project	Achievement at Final Evaluation of Project
1. <u>Crop cultivation</u> : 2-3 pilot projects will be directed at agricultural organizations operating in areas of high biodiversity to identify practical land use options such as adjustments to the annual and perennial crop rotation in areas important for certain species.	NA	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
2. <u>Hay-making</u> : Sustainable hay-making (timing, methods) on floodplain meadows and fen mires in order to keep them in their open state (without bushes)	NA	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
3. <u>Livestock grazing regime</u> : Sustainable cattle grazing (duration, load) to minimize impact on Sandpiper colonies and support the right vegetation	NA	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
4. <u>Forestry</u> : Sustainable forest management in forests that are of special biodiversity importance and/ or are habitats for protected species. This could include measures for conservation of undergrowth and forest floor; low-impact/selective logging in biotopes of forest bird species such as the Greater Spotted Eagle, increasing the proportion of natural forest regeneration as opposed to afforestation.	FSC	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
5. <u>Hunting</u> : Development and implementation of sustainable hunting practices	NA	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
6. <u>Fishing</u> : Development and implementation of fishing activities on two lakes taking into consideration the interests of biodiversity such as modifications to management of pond bottoms	NA	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
7. <u>Land reclamation and melioration</u> : Restoration of the hydrological regime on disturbed mires	NA	To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		
8. <u>Water resource management</u> : Cessation of certain types of economic activities within 100 meters of water bodies		To be provided by end of Year 1 (see explanatory note at the end of this table)		

Explanatory note for land area where sustainable land use practices are expected to be implemented:

By project end, the above listed sustainable land uses will be demonstrated in the following key biotopes:

Mires: 12,000 ha

Floodplain meadows: 8,000 ha

Lakes: 5,000 ha

Forests of high natural value such as floodplain wet deciduous forests: 20,000 ha

These land area targets (listed by biotopes) where sustainable management practices are to be demonstrated are only indicative at this stage. By end of Y1, once detailed biodiversity inventories are collected and information on vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species in the 10 districts is mapped against socio-economic information, a clearer picture will emerge of the areas where conflicts are present and practices need to be modified. These targets will therefore be adjusted once this information is available. At that stage, the project team will also have better information to provide targets for the extent of land area on which each improved practice is to be applied. Therefore, by end of Year 1 of the project, it will be possible to complete column 3 of the above table.

IV. MARKET TRANSFORMATION

16. For those projects that have identified market transformation as a project objective, please describe the project's ability to integrate biodiversity considerations into the mainstream economy by measuring the market changes to which the project contributed.

Not applicable.

V. POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

For those projects that have identified addressing policy, legislation, regulations, and their implementation as project objectives, please complete the following series of questions: 17a, 17b, and 17c.

17. (a) Please complete this table at CEO endorsement for each sector that is a primary or a secondary focus of the project. Please answer YES or NO to each statement under the sectors that are a focus of the project.

Since territorial planning legislation has a superior and more over-arching value than sector-specific legislation in Belarus, mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into territorial planning is considered an effective way of favorably modifying sector practices. Further, the limited GEF resources available to Belarus would not be sufficient to cover land-use regulations, together with a comprehensive coverage of policy/ regulatory frameworks of such large-scale sectors as agriculture, forestry, and water management. The project will therefore focus on modifying the policy and regulatory frameworks of the Territorial Planning Sector and Environment and Natural Resource Management Sector to mainstreaming biodiversity conservation.

Changes to normative documents in the Territorial Planning Sector will ensure that manuals and guidelines of this sector make it obligatory to include biodiversity information (i.e., all the new directives from Output 1.1) into the development and implementation of land use plans. Changes to normative documents in the Environment and Natural Resource Sector will ensure that existing processes for collecting information on vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species are made more comprehensive (moving away from single-species-ecology to an ecosystem approach), that they are better integrated with the process of developing territorial plans and can feed-in biodiversity information at the correct time, and that they provide clear methodological recommendations on how habitat management and economic

activities should be conducted to minimize adverse impacts on these species and biotopes to provide them with improved protection.

Direct modifications to these sectors, in turn, will drive changes in location and methods employed by the agriculture (includes arable farming, livestock grazing, hay-field management), fisheries, forestry, hunting and tourism sectors in the 10 pilot districts. Sector practices will be modified in line with minimal standards and requirements established under the territorial plan.

Statement: Please answer YES or NO for each sector that is a focus of the project.	Sectors targeted by the project					
	Territorial Planning	Agriculture ²¹	Fisheries	Forestry	Hunting	Tourism
Biodiversity considerations are mentioned in sector policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partial	Yes
BD considerations are mentioned in sector policy through specific legislation	Partial	Partial	Partial	Yes	No	Partial
Regulations are in place to implement the legislation	Partial	No	No	Partial	No	No
The regulations are under implementation	No	No	No	Partial	No	No
The implementation of regulations is enforced	No	No	No	No	No	No
Enforcement of regulations is monitored	No	No	No	No	No	No

17. (b) Please complete this table at the project mid-term for each sector that is a primary or a secondary focus of the project.

Statement: Please answer YES or NO for each sector that is a focus of the project.	Sectors targeted by the project					
	Territorial Planning	Agriculture	Fisheries	Forestry	Hunting	Tourism
Biodiversity considerations are mentioned in sector policy						
BD considerations are mentioned in sector policy through specific legislation						
Regulations are in place to implement the legislation						
The regulations are under implementation						
The implementation of regulations is enforced						
Enforcement of regulations is monitored						

17. (c) Please complete this table at project closure for each sector that is a primary or a secondary focus of the project.

Statement: Please answer YES or NO for each sector that is a focus of the project.	Sectors targeted by the project					
	Territorial Planning	Agriculture	Fisheries	Forestry	Hunting	Tourism
Biodiversity considerations are mentioned in sector policy						
BD considerations are mentioned in sector policy through specific legislation						
Regulations are in place to implement the legislation						
The regulations are under implementation						
The implementation of regulations is enforced						
Enforcement of regulations is monitored						

²¹ This covers activities such as pasture management, hay-field management, arable farming.

All projects please complete question 17(d) at the project mid-term evaluation and at the final evaluation, if relevant:

17. (d) Within the scope and objectives of the project, has the private sector undertaken voluntary measures to incorporate biodiversity considerations in production? If yes, please provide brief explanation and specifically mention the sectors involved. An example of this could be a mining company minimizing the impacts on biodiversity by using low-impact exploration techniques and by developing plans for restoration of biodiversity after exploration as part of the site management plan.

VI. OTHER IMPACTS

18. Please briefly summarize other impacts that the project has had on mainstreaming biodiversity that have not been recorded above.

Annex 2: Scorecard for Assessing Progress on Developing Capacities for Mainstreaming

110. This scorecard has been designed specifically for this project, as a tool to measure success in terms of developing national capacity to mainstream biodiversity conservation considerations into territorial planning. While, the tool is conceptually based on the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard, it is different in its substantive focus and the indicators. This is because the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard is meant to assess the development of capacities vis-à-vis the management of protected areas, whereas this project is about biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans and does not deal with protected areas.

111. Table 1 tries to be as objective as possible in its selection of indicators. Each indicator is scored from 0 (worst) to 3 (best), with an explanation of what each score represents for the particular indicator. The tool then estimates the baseline situation/ score for each indicator (cell marked in red), and then identifies the target situation/ score (marked in green). Tables 2 through 6 provide a quantitative summary of the total possible scores, baseline scores, target scores, baseline score as a percentage of the total possible score, and the target score as a percentage of the total possible score.

Table 1: Scorecard

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores						
			Worst (Score 0)	Marginal (Score 1)	Satisfactory (Score 2)	Best (Score 3)			
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programmes	Systemic	There is a strong and clear legal mandate for mainstreaming biodiversity into territorial planning	There is no legal framework for biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans		There is a partial legal framework for biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans, but it has many inadequacies	There is a reasonable legal framework for biodiversity mainstreaming but it has a few weaknesses and gaps	2	There is a strong and clear legal mandate for biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	3
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programmes	Institutional	There is an institution responsible for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into territorial planning that is able to prepare effective strategies and plans to this end	Territorial planning institutions do not have clear plans or strategies for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into territorial planning	0	Territorial planning institutions do have strategies and plans for biodiversity mainstreaming, but these are old and no longer up to date or were prepared in a top-down fashion	Territorial planning institutions have some sort of mechanism to update their strategies and plans, but this is irregular or is done in a largely top-down fashion without proper consultation		Territorial planning institutions have a clear strategy and plan for biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans that have been developed with adequate participation and are regularly updated	3

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores					
			Worst (Score 0)	Marginal (Score 1)	Satisfactory (Score 2)	Best (Score 3)		
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Systemic	There are adequate skills for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into territorial planning	There is a general lack of planning and management skills	Some skills exist but in largely insufficient quantities to guarantee effective planning and management	1	Necessary skills for effective biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans do exist but are stretched and not easily available	Adequate quantities of the full range of skills necessary for effective biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans are easily available	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Systemic	There is a fully transparent oversight authority for the Territorial Planning institutions that has the capacity to monitor and enforce biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	There is no oversight at all of Territorial Planning institutions	There is some general oversight, but it lacks capacity to specifically monitor and enforce compliance with biodiversity considerations	1	There is a reasonable oversight mechanism in place providing for regular review of biodiversity considerations but it lacks transparency (e.g. is not independent, or is internalized)	There is a fully transparent oversight mechanism in place providing for regular review of biodiversity considerations	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	Territorial planning institutions have regularly updated, biodiversity-compatible territorial plans that have been prepared with effective participation of land users	Territorial planning institutions do not have biodiversity-compatible territorial plans	0	Territorial planning institutions have biodiversity-compatible territorial plans, but these are not developed through consultations with land users	Territorial planning institutions have biodiversity-compatible territorial plans, developed through consultations with land users, but there is no process for regular review and updating of the plans	Territorial planning institutions have biodiversity-compatible territorial plans, developed through consultations with land users, and there is a process for regular review and updating of the plans	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	Human resources are well qualified and motivated to mainstream biodiversity concerns into territorial plans	Human resources (HR) are poorly qualified and unmotivated		1	HR in general reasonably qualified, but many lack in motivation, or those that are motivated are not sufficiently qualified.	Human resources are well qualified and motivated	3

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	Biodiversity-compatible territorial plans are implemented in a timely manner effectively achieving their objectives	There is very little implementation of biodiversity-compatible territorial plans	0	Biodiversity-compatible territorial plans are poorly implemented and their objectives are rarely met		Biodiversity-compatible territorial plans are usually implemented in a timely manner, though delays typically occur and some objectives are not met		Biodiversity-compatible territorial plans are implemented in a timely manner effectively achieving their objectives	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	Territorial Planning institutions are able to adequately mobilize sufficient funding, and human and material resources to effectively implement the biodiversity mainstreaming mandate	Territorial Planning institutions typically are severely under funded and have no capacity to mobilize sufficient resources		Territorial Planning institutions have some funding and are able to mobilize some human and material resources but not enough to effectively implement their biodiversity mainstreaming mandate	1	Territorial Planning institutions have reasonable capacity to mobilize funding or other resources but not always in sufficient quantities for fully effective implementation of their biodiversity mainstreaming mandate		Territorial Planning institutions are able to adequately mobilize sufficient quantity of funding, human and material resources to effectively implement their biodiversity mainstreaming mandate	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	The process of collecting biodiversity information (led by MNREP) and the process of developing territorial plans (led by the State Committee on Property) are well integrated so the former can feed in the right information at the right time into the latter	Only the standard land use planning process is occurring in the district, with no biodiversity information being collected		Both processes are occurring but are taking place independent of the other and are not coordinated	1	There is agreement in principle on coordinating the 2 processes, but there is a lack of clarity in the normative documents guiding the 2 processes and no practical guidelines/ protocols on how to coordinate		The two processes are well coordinated	3

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Individual	Individuals in Territorial Planning institutions are appropriately skilled for biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	Individuals have no skills for biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	0	Individuals have some or poor skills for biodiversity mainstreaming		Individuals are reasonably skilled but could further improve for optimum match with job requirement		Individuals are appropriately skilled for biodiversity mainstreaming	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Individual	Individuals in Territorial Planning institutions are highly motivated for biodiversity mainstreaming	No motivation at all	0	Motivation uneven, some are but most are not		Many individuals are motivated but not all	2	Individuals are highly motivated	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Individual	There are appropriate systems of training, mentoring, and learning in place to maintain a continuous flow of new staff with the capacity to mainstream biodiversity in territorial plans	No mechanisms exist	0	Some mechanisms exist but unable to develop enough and unable to provide the full range of skills needed		Mechanisms generally exist to develop skilled professionals, but either not enough of them or unable to cover the full range of skills required		There are mechanisms for developing adequate numbers of the full range of highly skilled professionals able to mainstream biodiversity in territorial plans	3
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	Systemic	Biodiversity-compatible Territorial Plans have the political commitment they require	There is no political will at all, or worse, the prevailing political will runs counter to the interests of biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans		Some political will exists, but is not strong enough to make a difference		Reasonable political will exists, but is not always strong enough to fully support biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	2	There are very high levels of political will to support biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	3

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	Systemic	Biodiversity-compatible Territorial Plans have the public support they require	The public has little interest in Biodiversity-compatible Territorial Plans and there is no significant lobby for it	0	There is limited support for Biodiversity-compatible Territorial Plans		There is general public support for Biodiversity-compatible Territorial Plans and there are various lobby groups such as environmental NGO's strongly pushing for them	2	There is tremendous public support in the country for Biodiversity-compatible Territorial Plans	
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	Institutional	Territorial Planning institutions can establish the partnerships needed to achieve biodiversity mainstreaming objectives	Territorial Planning institutions operate in isolation		Some partnerships are in place but there are significant gaps, and existing partnerships achieve little	1	Many partnerships in place with a wide range of agencies, NGOs etc, but there are some gaps, partnerships are not always effective and do not always enable efficient achievement of biodiversity mainstreaming objectives		Territorial Planning institutions establish effective partnerships with other agencies and institutions, including provincial and local governments, NGO's and the private sector to enable achievement of biodiversity mainstreaming objectives in an efficient and effective manner	3
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge	Systemic	Territorial Planning institutions have the biodiversity information they need to develop and monitor biodiversity-compatible territorial plans	Information is virtually lacking		Some information exists, but is of poor quality, is of limited usefulness, and is not always available at the right time	1	Much information is easily available and mostly of good quality, but there remain some gaps in quality, coverage and availability		Territorial Planning institutions have the biodiversity information they need to develop and monitor territorial plans	3

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge	Individual	Individuals working on territorial planning work effectively together as a team	Individuals work in isolation and don't interact		Individuals interact in limited way and sometimes in teams but this is rarely effective and functional	1	Individuals interact regularly and form teams, but this is not always fully effective or functional		Individuals interact effectively and form cross-disciplinary functional teams	3
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn	Systemic	Society monitors the state of biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	There is no dialogue at all		There is some dialogue going on, but not in the wider public and restricted to specialized circles	1	There is a reasonably open public dialogue going on but issues that particularly magnify the conflict between economic activities and biodiversity considerations are not discussed.		There is an open and transparent public dialogue about the state of biodiversity mainstreaming into territorial plans	3
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn	Institutional	Territorial Planning institutions have effective internal mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning	There are no mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting or learning		There are some mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning but they are limited and weak	1	Reasonable mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning are in place but are not as strong or comprehensive as they could be		Institutions have effective internal mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning	3

Table 2: Quantitative summary of Total Possible Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Total Possible Scores		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	3	3	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	6	15	9
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	6	3	-
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	3	-	3
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	3	3	-
Total	21	24	12

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Table 3: Quantitative summary of Baseline Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Baseline Scores		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	2	0	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	2	3	0
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	2	1	-
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	1	-	1
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	1	1	-
Total	8	5	1

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Table 4: Quantitative summary of Target Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Target Scores		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	3	3	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	6	15	8
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	5	3	-
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	3	-	3
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	3	3	-
Total	20	24	11

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Table 5: Quantitative summary of Baseline Scores as a % of Total Possible Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Baseline Scores as % of TPS		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	67%	0%	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	33%	20%	0%
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	33%	33%	-
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	33%	-	33%
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	33%	33%	-
Total	38%	21%	8%

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Table 6: Quantitative summary of Target Scores as a % of Total Possible Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Target Scores as % of TPS		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	100%	100%	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	100%	100%	89%
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	83%	100%	-
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	100%	-	100%
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	100%	100%	-
Total	95%	100%	92%

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Annex 3: Letter of Endorsement and Co-financing agreements

The letter of endorsement and co-financing letters are attached as a separate file.

Annex 4 Terms of References for key project staff and main sub-contracts

Project Staff and Consultants

Position Titles	\$/ person week	Estimated person weeks	Tasks to be performed
For Project Management (only local/no international consultants)			
National Project Manager (PM)	320	114	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervise and coordinate the project to ensure its results are in accordance with the Project Document and the rules and procedures established in the UNDP Programming Manual Assume primary responsibility for daily project management - both organizational and substantive matters – budgeting, planning and general monitoring of the project Ensure adequate information flow, discussions and feedback among the various stakeholders of the project Ensure adherence to the project’s work plan, prepare revisions of the work plan, if required Assume overall responsibility for the proper handling of logistics related to project workshops and events Prepare, and agree with UNDP on, terms of reference for national and international consultants and subcontractors Guide the work of consultants and subcontractors and oversee compliance with the agreed work plan Maintain regular contact with UNDP Country Office and the National Project Director on project implementation issues of their respective competence Monitor the expenditures, commitments and balance of funds under the project budget lines, and draft project budget revisions Assume overall responsibility for meeting financial delivery targets set out in the agreed annual work plans, reporting on project funds and related record keeping Liaise with project partners to ensure their co-financing contributions are provided within the agreed terms Assume overall responsibility for reporting on project progress vis-à-vis indicators in the logframe Undertake any other actions related to the project as requested by UNDP or the National Project Director
Administrative assistant	250	192	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist the PM in managing the project staff Coordinate the project experts and ensure that their results are delivered on time Prepare GEF quarterly project progress reports, as well as any other reports requested by the Executing Agency and UNDP Ensure collection of relevant data necessary to use in the SO-2 Tracking Tool Assist the PM in managing the administrative and finance staff and ensure that all information is accurate Act as PM in case of his/her absence Overall, provide all necessary support to the PM in implementation of the project Provide general administrative support to ensure the smooth running of the PMU Provide logistical support to the PM and project consultants in conducting different project activities (training workshops, stakeholder consultations, arrangements of field visits, etc.) During the visits of foreign experts, manage their visa support, transportation, hotel accommodation etc

Position Titles	\$/ person week	Estimated person weeks	Tasks to be performed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize control of budget expenditures by preparing payment documents, and compiling financial reports Maintain the project's disbursement ledger and journal Monitor the use of non expendable equipment (record keeping, drawing up regular inventories) Arrange duty travel Perform any other administrative/financial duties as requested by the PM Organize and coordinate the procurement of services and goods under the project Under supervision of the PM, be responsible for all aspects of project financial management
For Technical Assistance			
Local			
Chief Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Expert	320	85	<p><u>Output 1.1</u> In consultation with all stakeholders, identify the modifications needed to the legislative/ regulatory framework for environment and natural resource management. Take the lead on providing technical justification/ explanation for proposed amendments during discussions/ consultations with key government staff. Develop terms of reference for preparing changes in the normative documents.</p> <p><u>Output 1.2</u> Work closely with the Chief Land Use Planning Expert to identify amendments to Land Use Planning and Management Manuals and Guidelines that will make it obligatory to include biodiversity information (all new directives from Output 1.1) into the development and implementation of land use plans.</p> <p><u>Output 1.3</u> Ensure that the responsibility for monitoring impacts on biodiversity will be effectively allocated within the new monitoring and enforcement system that is to be developed for the territorial plans.</p> <p><u>Output 1.4</u> Together with the Land-Use Planning Expert, take the lead on developing the different training modules within the training program. Oversee aspects such as: content development, selection of trainees, selection of trainers.</p> <p><u>Output 2.1</u> Lead the work on collecting biodiversity information that is to be fed-in to the territorial plans; develop the terms of reference for organizations that will carry out the biodiversity inventory and develop protective obligations; supervise the work on implementation of biodiversity inventory.</p> <p><u>Output 2.2</u> Together with the other experts select pilot projects. Provide technical advice on monitoring of project impacts.</p>
Chief Land-Use Planning Expert	320	68	<p><u>Output 1.1</u> Review suggested changes to normative documents in the environment and natural resource sector and ensure that the changes do not conflict with normative documents on territorial planning.</p> <p><u>Output 1.2</u> In consultation with all stakeholders, identify the amendments needed to Land Use Planning and Management Manuals and Guidelines that will make it obligatory to include biodiversity information (all new directives from Output 1.1) into the development and implementation of land use plans. Take the lead on providing technical justification/ explanation for proposed amendments during discussions/ consultations with key government staff. Develop terms of reference for organizations that will undertake the development of normative documents.</p> <p><u>Output 1.3</u> Define an effective monitoring and enforcement system for the improved territorial plans, based on consultations with the key agencies that need to be involved.</p>

Position Titles	\$/ person week	Estimated person weeks	Tasks to be performed
			<p><u>Output 1.4</u> Together with the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Expert, take the lead on developing the different training modules within the training program. Oversee aspects such as: content development, selection of trainees, selection of trainers.</p> <p><u>Output 2.1</u> Lead the work of the District Land Use agencies on developing biodiversity-compatible territorial plans; lead consultations among experts from different organisations that are developing the land management plans on requirements placed by the new normative acts; supervise the process of land use plans development.</p> <p><u>Output 2.2</u> Jointly with other experts, implement the selection of the pilot demonstration projects. Provide technical advice on monitoring of project impacts.</p>
Forestry Expert	280	52	<p><u>Output 1.1</u> Provide advice on developing minimal standards for forestry activities taking place near vulnerable/ threatened biotopes.</p> <p><u>Output 1.2</u> Identify and develop necessary improvements to new normative acts in the area of forest management; development of draft proposals on preparation of normative documents.</p> <p><u>Output 1.3</u> Define an effective monitoring and enforcement system for the improved forest management plans, based on consultations with the key agencies that need to be involved.</p> <p><u>Output 1.4</u> Provide inputs to the development and implementation of the training modules, specifically looking at the forestry sector.</p> <p><u>Output 2.1</u> Participate in cross-sectoral groups to be established by the project for developing the enhanced territorial plans.</p> <p><u>Output 2.2</u> Provide technical assistance to land users on sustainable land use methods at pilot sites.</p>
Specialist on Agricultural Economics	280	21	<p><u>Output 1.1</u> Provide advice on developing minimal standards for agricultural activities (arable farming, hay-making, livestock grazing) taking place near vulnerable/ threatened biotopes.</p> <p><u>Output 1.2</u> Coordinate work on preparation of methodological recommendations on assessment of general efficiency of the land management schemes.</p> <p><u>Output 1.4</u> Provide inputs to the development and implementation of the training modules, specifically looking at the agricultural sector.</p> <p><u>Output 2.1</u> Participate in cross-sectoral groups to be established by the project for developing the enhanced territorial plans.</p> <p><u>Output 2.2</u> Provide technical assistance to land users on sustainable land use methods at pilot sites.</p>
Evaluation Specialist	280	14	<p><u>Output 2.2</u> Work closely with the international evaluation expert to provide a comprehensive assessment of project progress and impacts at mid-term and project end, in line with UNDP's standard Terms of Reference for such evaluations.</p>
International			
Evaluation Expert	2,750	10	<p>The international evaluation expert will lead the mid-term and the final evaluations. He/she will work with the local evaluation consultant in order to assess the project progress, achievement of results and impacts. The expert will develop a draft evaluation report, discuss it with the project team, government and UNDP, and as necessary participate in discussions to extract lessons for UNDP and GEF. The standard UNDP/GEF project evaluation TOR will be used.</p>
Justification for GEF resources allocated to travel costs: An allocation of USD 12,520 in GEF resources has been made to support travel to the 10 pilot districts over the four-year time frame of the project.			

Main Sub-Contracts²²

Subcontract 1

- Identify amendments to “Species Passport” legislation
- Develop new National Action Plans (NAPs) for Threatened Species
- Develop methodological recommendations on minimal standards to be observed by different economic activities to maintain the integrity of key biotopes/ habitats outside PAs
- Develop Act on biotopes conservation
- Carry out a full biodiversity and landscape diversity inventory in the 10 districts to identify vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species
- Prepare species passports (habitat maintenance standards) and develop concrete methodological recommendations for sustainable management of each rare species and biotopes revealed during inventory

Subcontract 2

- Amendments to Territorial Planning and Management Manuals and Guidelines
- Amendments to Framework Regulation on Territorial Planning
- Development of methodological recommendations on the use and display of information on biodiversity in territorial planning and in carrying out forest management
- Development of methodological recommendations on assessment of the efficiency of land management schemes
- Development of a system for effective monitoring and enforcement of the improved territorial plans
- Preparing territorial plans for 6 districts
- Supervision of the realization of land management plans

Subcontract 3

- Supervision of the realization of land management plans
- Preparing territorial plans for 4 districts

Subcontract 4

- Amendments to the “Act on the Order of the Classifying Forests according to Protection Groups and Categories, Transferring Forests from one Protection Category or Group into another as well as Locating Specially Protected Forest Areas”
- Amendments to the “Logging Rules in the Forests of Belarus”
- Following designation of important forest habitats, make changes to the existing forestry plans of the 10 forestries situated in the 10 target project districts

²² The project intends to sub-contract out some project activities as four different sub-contracts. More detailed TORs will be developed for each sub-contract, based on UNDP guidance, during the project inception phase.

Annex 5 Data sheets for 10 pilot districts

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DISTRICT 8: BOBRUYSK (MOGILEV REGION).....77
DISTRICT 9: ROSSONY (VITEBSK REGION).....80
DISTRICT 10: GLUBOKOE (VITEBSK REGION).....83

DISTRICT 1: RECHICA (GOMEL REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Broadleaved forest	11.0	Ladybells <i>Adenophora lilifolia</i> ** Lady's Slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i> *, ** Leathery grapefern <i>Botrichium multifidum</i> ** Dicranum moss <i>icranum viride</i> ** Dragonhead <i>Dracocephalum ruyschiana</i> * Bluntleaf sandwort <i>Moehringia lateriflora</i> **	Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Greater spotted eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i> Green woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i> Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Change in hydrological regime due to forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories 3. Increased incidence of pests and diseases 4. Forest drying 5. Unsustainable management of game resources 6. Spring hunting
Small density oak floodplain forests	0.4	Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i> *, ** Bluntleaf sandwort <i>Moehringia lateriflora</i> **	Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Gray-headed woodpecker <i>Picus canus</i> Dusky large blue <i>Maculinea nausithous</i>	1. Change in hydrological regime 2. Changes in traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 3. Drying of forest 4. Increased incidence of pests and diseases
Extra humidified softleaved forests	8.2		Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i> Eurasian eagle-owl <i>Bubo bubo</i>	1. Change in hydrological regime due to forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories

			Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Common Tree Frog <i>Hyla arborea</i> Fen Raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	2. Logging 3. Unsustainable management of game resources
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Floodplain meadows and fen mires	13.7		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Pewit <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i> Shoveler <i>Anas clipeata</i> Fire-bellied Toads <i>Bombina bombina</i> Dusky large blue <i>Maculinea nausithous</i> Scarce Fritillary <i>Euphydryas maturna</i>	1. Changes in traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Spring hunting 5. Uncontrolled grassland fires
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
Large and medium rivers (Dnepr, Berezina)	2.0	Floating watermoss <i>Salvinia natans</i> ** Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i> *	European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i> Sterlet <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> Common barbel <i>Barbus barbus</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i> European ruffes <i>Gymnocephalus acerinus</i> Sabrefish <i>Pelecus cultratus</i>	1. Changing hydrological regime due to construction of water reclamation system in the catchment area and straightening of tributaries 2. Chemical pollution due to untreated domestic and industrial effluents; and discharge from agricultural lands 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas 7. Spring hunting
Oxbow lakes	0.6	Floating watermoss <i>Salvinia natans</i> ** Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i> *	European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> European pond turtle <i>Emys orbicularis</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	1. Shallowing of lakes due to changing hydrological regime 2. Washing away of channels and passages, and reduction of flow 3. Dystrophication 4. Overgrowth by littoral vegetation 5. Unsustainable fish pond management 6. Unsustainable hunting management 7. Degradation of spawning areas 8. Spring hunting
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)		Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project)
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>		1-2 pairs	1-2 pairs
Great snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		5-10 displaying males	20-30 displaying males
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		35-50 displaying males	50-70 displaying males

Detailed characteristics of 2-3 economic threats on the territory of the region (outside protected areas)	
<p>Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/ or pilot (demonstration) projects.</p>	<p>Logging and sanitary felling The forest cover in the district is about 44.2%, which is a little above average for the country. The threat of logging (mature and over-mature stands) affects an area of 8,000 hectares (7% of forest land). Forests are concentrated mainly in the Northern part of the district as a single forest array, among which meadows and plowing lands are situated. Old deciduous and mixed coniferous-broad leaved forests, which are the most important from the economic and nature conservation points of view, are part of the forest structure. Aged hollow and shrinking trees that are the habitat of numerous birds and xylophage insects are eliminated during logging. Soil cover is being disturbed. Disturbance associated with forest management has a negative influence on the state of fauna. Logging and sanitary cutting result in decreases of protected bird species such as Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i>, Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, Green woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i> etc. As a result of logging, a decrease in abundance (and in some places complete disappearance) of protected plant species such as Ladybells <i>Adenophora lilifolia</i>, Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>, Leathery grapefern <i>Botrichium multifidum</i>, Dicranum moss <i>Dicranum viride</i>, Dragon head <i>Dracocephalum ruyschiana</i>, Bluntleaf sandwort <i>Moehringia lateriflora</i> are possible. This problem could be alleviated by certifying forestry organizations, mapping protected species habitats, and, on this basis, amending the forest management plans of the Rechica forestry organization.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities</p>	<p>In the territory where forestries are operating, forest areas with especially great ecological value will be identified, and limitations will be placed on logging activities in these areas. An inventory of protected species of plants and animals will be undertaken. Habitats of plants and animals included in Belarus' Red Book, as well as those protected in compliance with international agreements, will be maintained by preparing rules for their protection. Restrictions on forestry activities will be introduced, in compliance with the ecological requirements of these species. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rechica Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Use, Geodesy and Cartography, and the Rechica Forestry will be involved in implementing the pilot measures.</p>
<p>Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).</p>	<p>The adverse impacts of logging and sanitary felling on areas that are important for biodiversity conservation are typically experienced in all forests of the country. This is for areas important for biodiversity conservation outside PAs, because within PAs there is a different regime of protection.</p>
<p>Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.</p>	<p>Reduction of natural areas of wet floodplain meadow and fen mires in the valley of Dnepr and Berezina rivers This is occurring due to changes in traditional farming methods, principally, a reduction in hay-mowing areas and pastures. The construction of polder systems in the floodplain, plowing, and drainage of adjoining territories are detrimental for natural floodplain meadow and bogs community. As a result, open areas are being overgrown by shrubs and reeds, in turn resulting in a reduction of fauna and flora diversity, and disappearance of some rare and protected species. Species such as: Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>, Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>, Great Snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>, Short eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>, Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>, Pewit <i>Vanellus</i></p>

	<i>vanellus</i> , Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i> are at risk of disappearance. The threat is permanent and has a trend to accelerate. Annually, from 3% to 5% of open floodplain communities are being degraded.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	This problem can be alleviated by organizing hay-mowing and pasturing on these areas, restriction of areas where plowing takes place, and by prohibition of water reclamation activities by amending the territorial management plan of Rechica district. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rechica Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of the State Committee on Property, farming industry, landowners and land users, and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing the pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	This threat affects all wide floodplain rivers of Belarus, notably the floodplains of Pripyat, Dnepr, Sozh, Berezina and Neman. The experience with sustainable land use of open floodplain communities in the Rechica district will be applicable to the areas of rivers mentioned above.

DISTRICT 2: ROGACHEV (GOMEL REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Mixed coniferous-broad leaved forest of Poles'e type	8.8	Leathery grapefern <i>Botrichium multifidum</i> **	Common dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing hydrological regime due to forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories 3. Increased incidence of pests and diseases 4. Forest drying 5. Unsustainable management of game resources
Small density oak floodplain forests	0.02		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>	1. Forest drying 2. Infringement of hydrological regime 3. Increased incidence of pests and diseases. 4. Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures)
Extra humidified softleaved forests	6.1		Common Tree Frog <i>Hyla arborea</i> Fen Raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	1. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 2. Logging 3. Unsustainable management of game resources
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Floodplain meadows	8.4		Lesser noctule <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures)

			Black tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Fire-bellied Toads <i>Bombina bombina</i>	2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation
Fen mires	2.1		Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Common Tree Frog <i>Hyla arborea</i> Fen Raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Water reclamation and construction of polder system 4. Peat extraction 5. Uncontrolled grassland fire
Bogs and transitional mires	1.1	Yellow Marsh Saxifrage <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> *, **		1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 3. Peat extraction
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
Medium and large rivers (Dnepr, Drut')	2.5	Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i> *	European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Sterlet <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> Common barbel <i>Barbus barbus</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i> Sabrefish <i>Pelecus cultratus</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchment area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas
Oxbow lakes	0,5	Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i> *	European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> European pond turtle <i>Emys orbicularis</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	1 Shallowing due to changing of hydrological regime 2. Washing away of channels and passages, reduction of flow 3. Dystrophication 4. Overgrowth by littoral vegetation
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	1-2 pairs	2-3 pairs	
Great snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	10-15 displaying males	20-40 displaying males	
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	30-40 displaying males	40-60 displaying males	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well	Logging and sanitary felling Logging and sanitary felling are being carried out in forests without attention to biodiversity			

<p>as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.</p>	<p>conservation. Forest coverage in the district is 34%, which is below the national average. The threat of logging of mature and overmature stands affects an area of 5 thousand hectares (7% of forest land). This threat is permanent and appears when forests reach the age of logging. As a result of deforestation, native deciduous forest, mixed coniferous broad leaved forest and extra humidified small-leaved forests, which are the richest from the biodiversity conservation point of view, are disappeared. Aged hollow and shrinking trees that are the habitat of numerous birds, xylophage insects and bats are eliminated during logging. The soil cover is being disturbed. As a result of deforestation the reduction of population and in some cases the disappearance of protected plants and animals are possible: Leathery grapefern <i>Botrichium multifidum</i>, Common dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>, Lynx <i>Felis linx</i>, Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>, Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i>, Lesser noctule <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>. This problem can be addressed by certifying forestry organizations, mapping protected species habitats, and on this basis, amending the plans of Rogachev forestry management.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities</p>	<p>In the territory where forestries are operating, forest areas with especially great ecological value will be identified, and limitations will be placed on logging activities in these areas. An inventory of protected species of plants and animals will be done. Habitats of plants and animals included in Belarus' Red Book, as well as those protected in compliance with international agreements, will be maintained by preparing rules for their protection. Restrictions on forestry activities will be introduced, in compliance with the ecological requirements of these species.</p>
<p>Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).</p>	<p>Deforestation risk on areas that are important for biodiversity conservation are typical for all forests of the country, outside of PA's (within PAs there is a differentiated regime of protection). The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rogachev Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography and Rogachev forestry will be involved in implementing pilot measures.</p>
<p>Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.</p>	<p><i>Reduction of natural areas of wet floodplain meadow and fen mires in Prip'yat valley</i> is connected with changing of traditional farming practices, notably a reduction of hay-mowing areas and pastures. Construction of polder system in floodplain, plowing, diking, drainage of adjoining territories are detrimental to natural floodplain meadow – bogs community. As a result, overgrowth of open areas by shrubs and reeds, reduction of fauna and flora diversity, disappearance of some rare and protected species. As a result of degradation of natural open floodplain communities such species as: Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>, Black-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa limosa</i>, Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>, Fen Raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i> are under the risk of disappearance. The threat is permanent and shows an accelerating trend. Annually from 3% to 5% of open floodplain communities are being degraded.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.</p>	<p>The elimination of this problem is possible by arrangement on these areas of hay-mowing, pasturing, restriction of ploughing areas, prohibition of water reclamation by amending the plan of Rogachev district territorial management. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial departments of the Ministry of Natural resources, Rogachev Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, farming industry, landowners and land users, local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.</p>

Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).

This threat concerns all wide floodplain rivers of Belarus, most notably the floodplains of Pripyat, Dnepr, Sozh, Berezina and Neman. The experience of sustainable use of open floodplain communities can be applied in the floodplains of rivers mentioned above.

DISTRICT 3: IVACEVICHY (BREST REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Mixed coniferous – broadleaved forest of Polesye type	3.4	Lady’s slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus*</i> ,**	Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Mouse-eared bats <i>Myotis dasycneme</i> Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Common tree Frog <i>Hyla arborea</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Increased incidence of pests and diseases. 4. Forest drying. 5. Unsustainable management of game resources. 6. Spring hunting
Extra humidified softleaved forests	19.5		Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Common Tree Frog <i>Hyla arborea</i> Fen Raft spider Dolomedes plantarius	1. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 2. Logging of mature and overmature stands 3. Unsustainable management of game resources.
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Floodplain meadows and fen mires	25.0		Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Aquatic Warbler Acrocephalus paludicola Fire bellied toads <i>Bombina bombina</i>	1. Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Spring hunting 5. Peat extraction 6. Uncontrolled grassland fire
Bogs and transitional mires	0.1		Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i> Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> Common Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 3. Peat extraction 4. Spring hunting
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
Medium rivers (Schara)	0.3		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> European pond turtle <i>Emys orbicularis</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands. 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking. 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas

Lakes of different origin	3.8		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Mouse eared bats <i>Myotis dasicneme</i> White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> European pond turtle <i>Emys orbicularis</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	1 Shallowing due to changing of hydrological regime 2. Washing away of channels and passages, reduction of flow 3. Dystrophication 4. Overgrowing by littoral vegetation. 5. Unsustainable fish pond management 6. Unsustainable hunting management
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	1 pair	2-3 pairs	
Great snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	10-20 displaying males	20-30 displaying males	
Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	10-15 males	20-30 males	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside protected areas):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Logging and sanitary felling Logging and sanitary felling are conducted without attention to biodiversity conservation. This threat is permanent and appears when forests reach the age of logging. The forest coverage is more than 49%. The threat of logging of mature and overmature stands affects an area of 14 thousand hectares (10 % of forest land). As a result of deforestation, native deciduous forest, mixed coniferous broad leaved forest and extra humidified small-leaved forests, which are the richest from the biodiversity conservation point of view, are disappearing. It should be mentioned that the main part of forests in Ivecevichy district are growing on extra humidified areas and islands among the wetlands. Aged hollow and shrinking trees that are the habitat of numerous birds, xylophage insects and the bats are eliminated as a result of logging. The soil cover is being disturbed. The factor of disturbance and elimination of nests are the reason for reduction of population number of Greater spotted eagle (<i>Aquila clanga</i>), White-tailed (sea) eagle (<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>). It is also possible to see a reduction of population of the following protected plants and animals: Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i> , Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> , Mouse eared bats <i>Myotis dasicneme</i> , Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> . The elimination of this problem is possible by certifying forestry organizations, mapping protected species habitats, and on this basis, amending the plans of Ivecevichy forestry management, Ivecevichy military forestry management and Telehany forestry management.		
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities		In the territory where forestries are operating, forest areas with especially great ecological value will be identified, and limitations will be placed on logging activities in these areas. An inventory of protected species of plants and animals will be done. Habitats of plants and animals included in Belarus' Red Book, as well as those protected in compliance with international agreements, will be maintained by preparing rules for their protection. Restrictions on forestry activities will be introduced in compliance with the ecological requirements of species in these areas. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial departments of the Ministry of Natural		

	resources, Ivacevichy Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, district level representatives of State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, forestry organizations will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	Deforestation risk on areas that are important for biodiversity conservation are typical for all forests of the country, outside of PA's (within PAs there is a differentiated regime of protection).
Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.	Changing of economic management of meadow and meadow-wetland areas In Ivacevichy district, agricultural management is conducted on polder system on peat bogs areas. The farming of arable crops on peat bogs results in degradation of soil. Such lands are being removed from agricultural use. As a consequence, they, as a rule, are overgrown with shrubs, not valuable for maintenance of native biodiversity. Unsustainable use of polder systems results in reduction of populations of species such as: Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> , Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> , Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> , Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> , Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> . The threat is permanent and shows an accelerating trend. Annually from 3% to 5% of open floodplain communities are being degraded. The threat can be solved by changing of polder system management.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	The elimination of this threat is possible by replacing polder use from cultivated lands to hayfield and pasture. It is feasible to conduct iterative waterlogging and restoration of fen mires on the degraded peat bogs. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ivacevichy Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, farming industry, landowners and land users, and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	The threat mainly affects the parts of Pripyat Poles'e that were drained in the process of large-scale melioration over 60-80 years of the last century. The experience of polder system sustainable use can be widely applied in Brest, Gomel and partly in Minsk regions.

DISTRICT 4: VOLOZHIN (MINSK REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Boreal and nemoral mixed coniferous – broad leaved forests	10.8	Leathery grapefern <i>Botrichium multifidum</i> ** Matricary grapefern <i>Botrychium matricariifolium</i> **	European Bison <i>Bison bonasus</i> Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Fat Dormouse <i>Myoxus glis</i> Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Forest drying 4. Unsustainable management of game resources 5. Spring hunting
Extra humidified softleaved forests	8.4		Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	1. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 2. Logging of mature and overmature stands

				3. Unsustainable management of game resources
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Floodplain meadows and fen mires	3.4		Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Fire bellied toads <i>Bombina bombina</i> Scarce fritillary <i>Euphydryas maturna</i>	1. Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Unsustainable management of game resources
Bogs and transitional mires	3.4	Fen Orchid <i>Liparis loeselii</i> *		1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 3. Peat extraction 4. Unsustainable management of game resources
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
Medium rivers (West Berezina)	0.2		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Common barbel <i>Barbus barbus</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas
Small rivers	0.4		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Common sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i> European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i>	1. Straightening and diking of river beds 2. Shallowing due to changing of hydrological regime 3. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands.
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)		Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project)
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>		1 pair	1-2 pairs
European Bison	<i>Bison bonasus</i>		67 animals	70-75 animals
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside protected areas):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.			Logging and sanitary felling Logging and sanitary felling are conducted without attention to biodiversity conservation. This threat is permanent and appears when forests reach the age of logging. Forest cover is about 38%. The threat of logging of mature and overmature stands affects an area of 3.4 thousand hectares (5% of forest land). As a result of deforestation, the richest from the biodiversity	

	<p>conservation point of view native deciduous forest, mixed coniferous broad leaved forest and extra humidified small-leaved forests are disappearing, especially in the valley of river West Berezina (this river doesn't enter the reserve "Nalibokskaya puscha"). In the area of native forests, forests that are considered poor from the biodiversity point of view are emerging. Aged hollow and shrinking trees that are the habitat of numerous birds, xylophage insects and bats are eliminated as a result of logging. The soil cover is being disturbed. The factor of disturbance and elimination of nests are the reason for reduction of population numbers of Greater spotted eagle (<i>Aquila clanga</i>). Populations of the following protected plants and animals could also be reduced: Leathery grapefern <i>Botrichium multifidum</i>, Matricary grapefern <i>Botrychium matricariifolium</i>, Lynx <i>Felis linx</i>, Fat dormouse <i>Myoxus glis</i>, Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>. The elimination of this problem is possible by certifying forestry organizations, mapping protected species habitats, and on this basis, amending the plans of Volozhin forestry management.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities</p>	<p>In the territory where forestries are operating, forest areas with especially great ecological value will be identified, and limitations will be placed on logging activities in these areas. An inventory of protected species of plants and animals will be done. Habitats of plants and animals included in Belarus' Red Book, as well as those protected in compliance with international agreements, will be maintained by preparing rules for their protection. Restrictions on forestry activities will be introduced in compliance with the ecological requirements of species in these areas.</p> <p>The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Volozhin Regional Executive Committee, district level representatives of State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Volozhin forestry and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.</p>
<p>Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).</p>	<p>Deforestation risk on areas that are important for biodiversity conservation are typical for all forests of the country, outside of PA's (within PAs there is a differentiated regime of protection).</p>
<p>Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.</p>	<p>Unsustainable hunting management especially related to protection and sustainable use of European bison population (<i>Bison bonasus</i>).</p> <p>The local population of <i>Bison bonasus</i> inhabits the territory of Volozhin district from the mid-1990s. However, hunting, forest and agriculture management conflict with the protection and rational use of this species. Logging is conducted without taking into account seasonal, migration and feeding aspects of the species. This has a negative impact on European bison during the period of rut and calving when these animals are most vulnerable. Cultivation of some agricultural crops, especially grains on the lands adjoining areas of constant European bison dwelling, leads to poisoning of animals that has adverse social resonance and leads to considerable economic losses. The intensive extra feeding during the winter is the reason of large herd formation that negatively affects on population structure and promotes the transfer of some serious diseases. There are large populations of ungulate animals (notably, European red deer) that feed concurrently with European bison in this territory.</p> <p>The threat has existed since the free herd formation of European bison in Volozhin district and shows an increasing tendency. To address this issue, it is necessary to conduct the optimization of forest, hunting and agriculture management in Volozhin district.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land</p>	<p>It is necessary to conduct an analysis of migrations, food reserves and spatial structure of this</p>

management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	species population. On the basis of obtained data, forest management (logging, afforestation) will need to be amended, quiet areas will need to be created, number of feeding competitors will have to be optimized, cultivation of agricultural crops will need to be modified so that they take into account the spatial features and migrations of European bison. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Volozhin Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography , Volozhin forestry, landowners and land users, and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	The same problems exist for other European bison local populations created in the National park "Pripjatsky", Berezinsky biosphere reserve, Osipovichy and Grodno districts where the experience of sustainable management of Bison population in Volozhin can be applied. The total area of the land (including the area of migration), on which European bison exist is about 1,200 hectares.

DISTRICT 5: KORELICHI (GRODNO REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Boreal and nemoral mixed coniferous – broad leaved forests	4.7		Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Forest drying 4. Unsustainable management of game resources 5. Spring hunting
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Out floodplain meadows	4.3		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Spotted souslik <i>Spermophilus suslicus</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Unsustainable management of game resources
Fen mires	2.1		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Spring hunting
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
River Neman	0.2		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and

				floodplain diking 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas
Small rivers	0.3		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i> European Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>	1. Straightening and diking of river beds 2. Shallowing due to changing of hydrological regime
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	20-25 displaying males	30-40 displaying males	
Great snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	5-10 displaying males	10-15 displaying males	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Logging and sanitary felling Logging and sanitary felling are conducted without attention to biodiversity conservation. This threat is permanent and appears when forests reach the age of logging. The forest coverage is about 21%, which is two times lower than the national average. The threat of logging of mature and overmature stands affects an area of 1 thousand hectares (4.5 % of forest land). The forests of Korelichy district are concentrated mainly on the right-bank of the river Neman. In other parts of the district, forests are situated as small island areas among agricultural lands. These small forest island areas are places of rich biodiversity concentration. They function as environmental corridors and are places of "survival" for the large mammals. Such areas also play an important role for nesting of large birds of prey and dendrophil birds. Logging in these small island areas and disturbance to animals results in reduction in abundance of forest animals, in changing of formed migration tracks of hoofed animals, in replacement of native forests by forests that are considered poor from the biodiversity point of view. The cutting of native small-leaved forests in the floodplain has a negative influence on the status of animals and plants. Forest disturbance is the reason for a reduction in abundance of such protected species as Lynx (<i>Felis linx</i>) and Squirrel (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>). The elimination of this problem is possible by certifying forestry organizations, mapping protected species habitats, and on this basis, amending the plans of Novogrudok forestry management (this forestry is managing the forest lands in the Korelichy district).		
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities		In the territory where forestries are operating, forest areas with especially great ecological value will be identified, and limitations will be placed on logging activities in these areas. An inventory of protected species of plants and animals will be done. Habitats of plants and animals included in Belarus' Red Book, as well as those protected in compliance with international agreements, will be maintained by preparing rules for their protection. Restrictions on forestry activities will be introduced, in compliance with the ecological requirements of these species. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural		

	Resources, Korelichy Regional Executive Committee and Novogrudok forestry will be involved in the procedures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	Deforestation risk on areas that are important for biodiversity conservation are typical for all forests of the country, outside of PA's (within PAs there is a differentiated regime of protection).
Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.	Infringement of natural structure of landscapes as a result of unsustainable land use and incorrect planning Korelichy district is one of the most cultivated areas in the country. Agricultural lands in the district comprise about 66.6%. Important biodiversity is concentrated in small areas situated in the river floodplains, on steep areas not conducive to plowing, in swamped hollows, as well as in small rivers and stream heads. As a result of prevalence of open farmlands with monocultures the number of large predators is reduced, notably Lesser spotted eagle and Greater spotted eagle, for which a mosaic combination of agricultural lands and natural areas of fen mires, meadows and forest islands is necessary. The abundance of other animal and plant species (health cock, common partridge, pewit and corncrake) is also reducing because of unsustainable planning. The relic population of Spotted souslik is critically endangered.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	An inventory of habitats that are of critical importance for the conservation of valuable biodiversity is required. On the basis of the inventory, the Korelichy territorial plan needs to be amended. Protection rules and species maintenance standards will be created for habitats of rare species of plants and animals included in the Belarus Red Book. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Korelichy Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, Novogrudok forestry, landowners and land users, and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	This threat is characteristic for a considerable part of the Minsk, Mogilyov and Grodno areas and has historical roots. Infringement of natural structure of landscapes as a result of unsustainable land use and incorrect planning has a centuries-old history and is observed on the area of 4.2 million hectares in the Republic.

DISTRICT 6: SLONIM (GRODNO REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Nemoral mixed coniferous – broad leaved forests	8.2	Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus*</i> , **	Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i> Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Forest drying (fir, ash) 4. Unsustainable management of game resources. 5. Spring hunting

<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>			
Floodplain meadow and fen mires	4,1		<p>Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i> Fire-bellied toads <i>Bombina bombina</i></p> <p>1. Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Spring hunting</p>
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>			
Medium (river Schara) and Small rivers.	0,3		<p>European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Common sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> Common Barbel <i>Barbus barbus</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i> European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i> European Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i></p> <p>1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas</p>
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:			
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):
Lady's slipper	Cypripedium calceolus	3 populations	5 populations
Corncrake	Crex crex	10-25 displaying males	10-25 displaying males
Great snipe	Gallinago media	5-10 displaying males	5-10 displaying males
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):			
<p>Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.</p>		<p>Infringement of natural structure of landscapes as a result of unsustainable land use and incorrect planning. Slonim district area has historically been developed by man. Agricultural lands in the district comprise about 51.2%. Large forests in the West form part of the Republic of Belarus' system of reserves. Important biodiversity is concentrated in small areas situated in the river floodplains, on steep areas not conducive to plowing, in swamped hollows, and in small rivers and stream heads that are numerous in the district. As a result of prevalence of open farmlands with monocultures the number of large predators has reduced, notably the number of Lesser spotted eagle and Greater spotted eagle. These species need a mosaic combination of agricultural lands with natural areas of fen mires, meadows and forest islands. The abundance of other animal and plant species (Health cock, Common partridge, Pewit and Corncrake) is also reducing because of unsustainable planning. The straightening of small rivers results in disappearance of typical species - European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i> and European Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>.</p>	
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent		An inventory of habitats that are of critical importance for the conservation of valuable biodiversity is required. On the basis of the inventory, the territorial plan of Slonim territory	

implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities	management will be amended. Protection rules and species maintenance standards will be created for habitats of rare species of plants and animals included in the Belarus Red Book. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Slonim Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Slonim forestry, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, landowners and land users, local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	This threat is characteristic for a considerable part of the Minsk, Mogilyov and Grodno areas and has historical roots. Infringement of natural structure of landscapes as a result of unsustainable land use and incorrect planning has centuries-old history and is observed over 4.2 million hectares in the Republic.
Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.	Reduction of areas of natural wet floodplain meadow and fen mires situated in the valley of Schara river and floodplains of small rivers This is due to changing of traditional farming practices, notably a reduction of hay-mowing areas and pastures. The plowing, diking, and drainage of adjoining territories are detrimental to natural floodplain meadow – bogs community. The result is overgrowth of open areas by shrubs and reeds, reduction of fauna and flora diversity, and disappearance of some rare and protected species. The degradation of natural open floodplain communities leads to a risk of disappearance of such species as: Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> , Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> . The threat is permanent and shows an accelerating trend. Annually from 3% to 5% of open floodplain communities are being degraded.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	The elimination of this problem is possible by organizing hay-mowing, pasturing, restricting plowing areas, and prohibiting water reclamation by amending the territorial plan of Slonim district. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Slonim Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, farming industry, landowners and land users, and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	This threat concerns the all meadow and floodplain communities of small, medium and large rivers of Belarus. The experience of sustainable use of open floodplain communities realized in Slonim district can be applied in the areas of rivers mentioned above.

DISTRICT 7: KLICHEV (MOGILEV REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Boreal and nemoral mixed coniferous – broad leaved forests	13.7		Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Common dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Forest drying. 4. Unsustainable management of game

			Black stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i> Short-toed Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	resources. 5. Spring hunting
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Bogs and transitional mires	2.3		Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i>	1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 3. Peat extraction 4. Spring hunting
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
Large (Berezina), medium (Drut') and small rivers	0.5		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	1. Straightening and diking of small river beds 2. Shallowing due to changing of hydrological regime 3. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands. 4. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking 5. Unsustainable fish pond management 6. Unsustainable hunting management 7. Degradation of spawning areas
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Black tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	10-15 pairs	20-30 pairs	
Lesser spotted eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	3-5 pairs	5-7 pairs	
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1-2 pairs	2-3 pairs	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Logging and sanitary felling Klichev district is one of the woodiest in the East of Belarus. Forests occupy about 57% of district territory. The main part of forests is swamped and not easily accessible. But, in the last few years, due to the high price of wood from broad-leaved forests, logging of mature and overmature stands is conducted here with minimal attention paid to biodiversity protection. This threat is permanent and appears when forests reach the age of logging. The threat of logging of matures and overmature stands affects an area of 14 thousand hectares (14 % of forest land). As a result of deforestation, native deciduous forest, mixed coniferous broad leaved forest and extra humidified small-leaved forests, which are the richest from the biodiversity conservation point of view, are disappearing. Monoculture forests, not valuable from maintenance of biodiversity point of view, are replacing native forests. Aged hollow and shrinking trees that are the habitat of numerous birds and xylophage insects are eliminated during the logging. The soil is being disturbed, the abundance of such species as Common dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> , Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> is being decreased. The elimination of this problem is		

	possible by certifying forestry organizations, mapping protected species habitats, and on this basis, amending the plans of Klichev forestry management.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities	In the territory where forestries are operating, areas with especially great biodiversity value will be identified and limitations will be placed on forest management in these areas. An inventory of protected species of plants and animals will be done. Habitats of plants and animals included in Belarus' Red Book, as well as those protected in compliance with international agreements, will be maintained by preparing rules for their protection. Restrictions on forestry activities will be introduced, in compliance with the ecological requirements of these species. The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Klichev Regional Executive Committee District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography and Klichev forestry will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	Deforestation risk on areas that are important for biodiversity conservation are typical for all forests of the country, outside of PA's (within PAs there is a differentiated regime of protection).
Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.	Forest reclamation The majority of forests in the Klichev district are swamped. To improve the quality and availability of wood, forest drainage is carried out. Small rivers are straightened, channelized and diked. However, forest drainage in many sites has proved to be inefficient. As a result of drainage, humid forests are degraded, fir forests and mixed coniferous-broad-leaved forests are drying, the wetland biodiversity of flora and fauna are reducing in these areas, and the area and frequency of forest fire is increasing. The channels increase the access of beavers to forests and this results in waterlogging and degradation of woodlands. Bogs and transitional mires that are the heads of many small rivers in Klichev district are degrading. The result of drainage and straightening of rivers is a reduction of species abundance (European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> , Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i> .) The elimination of this problem is possible by conducting an assessment of forest drainage efficiency from the natural and economic point of view, identifying inefficient ones, and decommissioning them. On the basis of these actions, forest-use plans of Klichev forestry need to be amended.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	An inventory of forest drainage systems on the territory of Klichev district will be done. Inefficient forest reclamation systems will be determined for forest and wetland ecosystem. On the basis of investigations, the Klichev forest-use plans will be amended. The National Academy of Sciences, The design and survey republican unitary enterprise "Belgiproles", Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Klichev Regional Executive Committee, Klichev forestry and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	Forest reclamation in Belarus is carried out over 510 thousand hectares, of which 24 thousand hectares are recognized as inefficient. The experience gained in Klichev district can be applied on this area.

DISTRICT 8: BOBRUYSK (MOGILEV REGION)

Biotope	Area	Important flora species	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
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	(thousand hectares)	(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)	(English/Latin Name)	
<i>Forest ecosystems</i>				
Boreal and nemoral mixed coniferous – broad leaved forests	17,1	Leathery grapefern Botrichium multifidum**	Lynx Felis linx Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Garden dormouse <i>Eliomys quercinus</i> Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i> Black Stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Forest drying (fir, ash, oak). 4. Unsustainable management of game resources. 5. Spring hunting
<i>Meadow and wetland ecosystems</i>				
Floodplain meadow and Berezina river	1,1		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Spring hunting
Fen mires	2,8		Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Spring hunting
Bogs and transitional mires	1,5		Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Short-toed Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 3. Peat extraction 4. Spring hunting
<i>Freshwater ecosystem</i>				
Medium and small rivers (Berezina river with tributaries)	0,8	Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i> *	European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Common barbell <i>Barbus barbus</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Common sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands. 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking. 3. Channeling and straightening of small rivers. 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas 7. Spring hunting
Oxbow lakes			European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	1. Shallowing due to changing of hydrological regime 2. Washing away of channels and passages, reduction of flow

			3. Dystrophication 4. Overgrowing by littoral vegetation.
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:			
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	20-30 displaying males	40-50 displaying males
Great snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	10-15 displaying males	20-30 displaying males
Lesser spotted eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	2-3 pairs	3-5 pairs
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):			
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Forest reclamation and unsustainable use of swamped forests Extra humidified forests cover 30% of the territory of Bobruysk district. To improve wood quality and availability, open forest drainage is conducted here over 300 hectares of forests. The result of drainage is an increase in forest fires and peat mineralization, and a decrease in biodiversity of wetlands and extra humidified forests including the threatened species such as Lesser spotted eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i> , Black stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i> , European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> , Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> etc.. However forest drainage on many sites has appeared inefficient. As a result of drainage, humid forests are degrading, fir forests and mixed coniferous-broad-leaved forests are drying out, wetland flora and fauna biodiversity are reducing in these territories, area and frequency of forest fires are increasing. The channels increase the access of beavers to forests and this results in waterlogging and degradation of woodlands. Bogs and transitional mires that are the heads of many small rivers in Bobruysk district are degrading. The elimination of this problem is possible by conducting of assessment of forest drainage efficiency from the natural and economic point of view, identifying inefficient ones, and decommissioning them. On the basis of these actions the forest-use plans of Bobruysk forestry will be amended.	
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities		An inventory of forest drainage systems on the territory of Bobruysk district will be done. For forest and wetland ecosystem, the inefficient forest reclamation systems will be determined. On the basis of investigations the Bobruysk forest-use plans will be amended. The National Academy of Sciences, The design and survey republican unitary enterprise “Belgiproles”, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Bobruysk Regional Executive Committee, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Bobruysk forestry and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.	
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).		Forest reclamation in Belarus occurs on an area of 510 thousand hectares. 24 thousand hectares of this is recognized as inefficiently drained. The experience gained in Bobruysk district can be applied on this territory.	
Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Unsustainable use (ecologically not oriented) of floodplain lands One of the biggest rivers in Europe – Berezina – runs through the district. The floodplain width reaches 3-5 kilometers at some points. The Berezina floodplain is the main migration track of marsh birds. But the use of the floodplain is conducted ineffectively from the point of view of sustainable use of biodiversity. Polder systems are created, arable crops are grown, and intensive cattle grazing are taking place. As a result of changes to the hydrological regime of the	

	<p>floodplain, there is a shallowing of oxbow lakes and degradation of spawning areas in the district. Cattle farms are situated in the water protection zone (i.e., within 100 meters of water bodies). The overgrowing of floodplain by shrubs has intensified in the last few years. Uncontrolled recreation in the district is leading to wildlife disturbance, especially during the nesting period. As a result of these processes, the environmental conditions for birds of passage are becoming worse during spring and autumn migrations. The population abundance of European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>, Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>, Great snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>, Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>, Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i> is decreasing. The elimination of this problem is possible by undertaking Berezina floodplain nature conservation assessment, development of sustainable use system and in the future amending the territorial plans of Bobruysk district.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.</p>	<p>The elimination of the threat is possible by using floodplains as hayfields and pastures. Optimum loading (stress) for hayfields and optimum haymaking time for pastures will be defined. A sustainable recreation management plan will be put in place whereby location of recreation/ vacation activities is organized so as to decrease recreation pressures and disturbance to wildlife. On the basis of an inventory of habitats of animals and plants, species that are included in Belarus Red Book and protected in compliance with national legislation will be identified and placed under protection.</p> <p>The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Bobruysk Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, farming industry, landowners and land users, local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.</p>
<p>Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).</p>	<p>This threat concerns all wide floodplain rivers of Belarus (Pripyat, Dnepr, Sozh and Neman). The experience of sustainable use of open floodplain communities gained in Bobruysk district can be applied in all regions of Belarus. The area of floodplain lands is about 80 thousand hectares.</p>

DISTRICT 9: ROSSONY (VITEBSK REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
Forest ecosystems				
Boreal forests	24.5	Dragonhead <i>Dracocephalum ruyschiana</i> * Bluntleaf sandwort <i>Moechringia lateriflora</i> ** Drooping woodreed <i>Cinna latifolia</i> ** Yellow coralroot Corallorhiza trifida	Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Siberian Flying Squirrel <i>Pteromys volans</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Unsustainable management of game resources. 4. Spring hunting
Meadow and wetland ecosystem				
Fens, Transitional mires and bogs.	8.6	Marsh Angelica Angelica palustris*, ** Yellow coralroot Corallorhiza trifida	Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Fen Raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 3. Spring hunting

		Yellow Marsh Saxifrage <i>Saxifraga hirculus*</i> , **		
Freshwater ecosystem				
Medium and small rivers.	0.8		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Asp <i>Aspius aspius</i> European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands. 2. Channeling and straightening of small rivers. 2. Changing of hydro regime due to construction of water reclamation system in catchment area, tributary rectification and floodplain diking. 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism. 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Irrational hunting management 6. Degradation of spawning areas
Lakes and lake complexes of different origin	8.0	Nodding watery nymph <i>Caulinia flexilis*</i> ,** Water Chestnut <i>Trapa natans*</i>	European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Green-Throated Black-Billed Loon <i>Gavia arctica</i> White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Vendace <i>Coregonus albula</i>	1. Degradation of water quality 2. Overgrowing by coastal vegetation. 3. Irrational fish pond management 4. Recreation pressures leading to wildlife disturbance. 5. Illegal fishery 6. Spring hunting 7. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands. 8. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism.
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Nodding watery nymph	<i>Caulinia flexilis</i>	1 populations	2-3 populations	
European Fresh Water Crayfish	<i>Astacus astacus</i>	7-12 populations (lakes)	15-20 populations (lakes)	
Marsh Angelica	<i>Angelica palustris</i>	1 populations	2-3 populations	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Unsustainable use of lakes There are 192 lakes with a total area of 8012 hectares in the territory of Rosson district. Most of them are leased for amateur and commercial fishery and exploited for recreation and tourism development. But these activities do not take into account biodiversity. Lakes are being stocked with alien (not native) fish – Carp and Silver porgy. Extra nutrition is being supplied through artificial food, and fishing is conducted with fixed nets and seine. Fishery with fixed nets is resulting in elimination of rare water plant populations - Nodding watery nymph <i>Caulinia flexilis</i> and Water chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i> . Swimming birds and globally threatened White-tailed eagle (<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>) and Black-throated diver are caught and killed in fixed nets. Contamination of water is resulting in degradation of European Cisco population (<i>Coregonus albula</i>) and <i>Astacus astacus</i> . Illegal fishing has a negative influence on ichthyofauna. The		

	absence of arranged camping areas is leading to degradation of vegetation and soil cover in riverside areas. Disturbance of habitats and spring hunting have negative impacts on swimming birds and birds nesting near water. Water contamination is occurring due to sewage, domestic water, plowing of land area in/ near coastal and water protected zones. Elimination of this problem is possible on the basis of environmental assessment of lakes, developing a rational system for their use and integrating these rules in the territorial plan of the Rosson district.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	Elimination of this problem is possible through assessment of the lake ecosystem and adjacent territories. Amendments to fisheries rules will be needed, such as excluding lake stocking by non-native species and providing extra nutrition through artificial food, cattle farms and their treatment facilities need to be moved out of the water protected zones (within 100 meters of water bodies), arable areas need to be replaced by hayfields, recreation activities need to be better managed, and camping areas need to be improved. An inventory of the habitats of rare and vanishing species of animals and plants will be undertaken. The National Academy of Sciences, Belarusian State University and Vitebsk State University, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rosson Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, agricultural enterprises, landowners and land users, local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	This threat concerns the entire Vitebsk Poozer'e region. Experience gained in this district can be applied here. Lakes cover 114 thousand hectares in the region.
Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.	Forest reclamation The district area is 1.9 thousand hectares, 70.6% of which is forests. 49% of forests are swamped. There are huge wetlands situated in this area (Zaborsky Moh, Uhovichski Moh, Rosson Moh, Mezho). To improve wood quality and availability, forest drainage is carried out over an area of 3.8 thousand hectares. Small rivers are straightened, canalized and diked. However, forest drainage on many sites has appeared inefficient (over almost 800 hectares). As a result of drainage, humid forests are degrading, fir forests and mixed coniferous-broad-leaved forests are drying out, wetland flora and fauna numbers are reducing in these areas, area and frequency of forest fire is increasing. The canals increased the access of beavers to forests and this results in waterlogging and degradation of woodlands. Bogs and transitional mires that are the heads of many small rivers in Rosson district are degrading. The result of drainage is degradation of growing conditions of such protected species as <i>Angelica palustris</i> , <i>Corallorhiza trifida</i> , Yellow marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) and also the reduction of animal population of Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) and Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>). The elimination of this problem is possible by conducting an assessment of forest drainage efficiency from the natural and economic point of view, identifying inefficient ones, and decommissioning them. On the basis of these actions, Forest-use plans of Rosson forestry need to be amended.
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.	An inventory of forest drainage systems on the territory of Rosson district will be done. For forest and wetland ecosystems, the inefficient forest reclamation systems will be determined. On the basis of investigations the Rosson forest-use plans will be amended. The National Academy of Sciences, The design and survey republican unitary enterprise "Belgiproles", Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rosson Regional

	Executive Committee, district level representatives of State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Rosson forestry and local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).	Forest reclamation in Belarus is done over an area of 510 thousand hectares, of which 24 thousand hectares them are recognized as inefficient. The experience gained in Rosson district can be applied on this territory.

DISTRICT 10: GLUBOKOE (VITEBSK REGION)

Biotope	Area <i>(thousand hectares)</i>	Important flora species <i>(*Appendix I to Berne Convention, **Appendix II to EU Habitats directive)</i>	1-3 IUCN Protected Species found in the Biotope <i>(English/Latin Name)</i>	1-3 Economic Threats for the Biotope
Forest ecosystems				
Boreal forests	10,2	Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus*</i> , **	Lynx <i>Felis linx</i> Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i>	1. Logging and sanitary felling 2. Changing of hydrological regime (forest reclamation and draining of adjoining territories) 3. Unsustainable management of game resources. 4. Spring hunting
Meadow and wetland ecosystems				
Meadows	13,8		Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Fire-bellied Toads <i>Bombina bombina</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices (depletion of hay-fields and pastures) 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Construction of polder system for water reclamation 4. Plowing in agricultural purposes
Fen mires	8,2		Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> Fen Raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	1 Changing of traditional farming practices 2. Overgrowing of meadows by shrubs and reeds 3. Water reclamation 4. Peat extraction
Bogs and transitional mires	3,3	Yellow widelip orchid <i>Liparis loeselii*</i> , **		1. Water reclamation 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to reclamation of adjoining territories 4. Spring hunting
Freshwater ecosystem				
Small rivers	0,4		European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i>	1. Chemical pollution by untreated domestic and industrial effluents; discharge from agricultural lands. 2. Changing of hydrological regime due to construction of hydro reclamation system in catchments area, tributary straightening and floodplain diking. 3. Channeling and straightening of small rivers. 3. Uncontrolled recreation and tourism 4. Unsustainable fish pond management 5. Unsustainable hunting management

Lakes and lakes systems of different origin	3,0		Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> Smelt <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i> Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i> European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i>	6. Degradation of spawning areas 1. Degradation of water quality 2. Overgrowing by coastal vegetation. 3. Irrational fish pond management 4. Recreation pressure leading to wildlife disturbance. 5. Illegal fishery 6. Spring hunting
Please choose 2-3 species (from the IUCN list) which are to be regarded in the project as ecological indicators for the region:				
Name of the Species (English)	Name of the Species (Latin)	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (current situation):	Population numbers or other ecological parameters to be regarded as the indicator (forecast for 2 years after the project):	
Aquatic Warbler	Acrocephalus paludicola	20-25 males	20-25 males	
Corncrake	Crex crex	10-20 displaying males	10-20 displaying males	
Lady's slipper	Cypripedium calceolus	2 populations	3-5 populations	
Detailed characteristics of 2-3 basic economic threats on the territory of the region (outside PAs):				
Threat 1: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Unsustainable use of recreation potential There are more than 110 lakes in the territory of Gluboksky district. However, their use is conducted without attention to biodiversity conservation. Recreation pressures on a considerable number of lakes leads to vegetation degradation in the coastal zone, and to wildlife disturbance especially of birds during the nesting period. The creation of recreation areas in the coastal zone without consideration of biodiversity conservation is leading to water quality degradation of the lakes (this is a limiting factor for animals such as Smelt <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i> and European Fresh Water Crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i> .) The elimination of this problem is possible on the basis of a nature conservation assessment of the lakes in the district, assessment of recreation carrying capacity, and development of recommendations on sustainable recreation activity in the Glubokoe district.		
Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities		The elimination of this problem is possible by assessing the recreation capacity of the lake ecosystem and adjoining territories. Based on the recommendations that are developed, the Gluboksky territorial management plan will be amended. An inventory of animal habitats and areas of occurrence of plants (rare and vanishing species) will be undertaken. The National Academy of Sciences, the Belarusian State University, Vitebsk University, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Glubokoe Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, farming industry, landowners and land users, local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.		
Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).		The threat concerns the entire region of Vitebsk Poozer'e, where the experience gained in the pilot district can be applied (the area of lakes in the district is 114 thousand hectares)		
Threat 2: Give a detailed description of the threat, specifying the affected area and species as well as its time span, the possibility and reasonability of its alleviation by means of sustainable land management and/or pilot (demonstration) projects.		Decreasing of globally significant biodiversity as a result of unsustainable land use and incorrect planning. Glubokoe district is one of the most cultivated in Vitebsk region. Forests occupy 30.3% of territory, wetlands occupy 6.4% and are mainly situated in the Eastern part of the district. Residential areas with urban landscapes are about 58%. Important biodiversity is concentrated in small areas, situated in river floodplains, lake hollows, swamped hollows, river heads and		

	<p>streams. Planning and implementation of economic activity in the district is still conducted without attention to biodiversity conservation. The cessation of haymowing on wetlands is the reason for the overgrowing of areas by shrubs that result in decreases in populations of of Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>. The use of meadows for growing of arable crops and afforestation are reducing the abundance of Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>. Straightening of small rivers, chemical pollution by untreated effluents result in degradation of habitats of local populations of European river otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>, Smelt <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>, European crayfish <i>Astacus astacus</i>. The logging of island deciduous forests can be a factor responsible for disappearance of Lady's slipper <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>. The elimination of this threat is possible on the basis of inventory of rare species habitats and amending the territorial plan of Glubokoe district.</p>
<p>Planned measures aimed at alleviating the threat (by means of developing a land management plan, devising a species/biotope certificate with the subsequent implementation of the pilot measures listed): measures, organisations involved, sequence of activities.</p>	<p>An inventory of habitats that are of critical importance for the conservation of valuable biodiversity is required. On the basis of inventory, the territorial plan of Glubokoe will be amended. Protection rules and species maintenance standards will be created for habitats of rare species of plants and animals included in the Belarus Red Book.</p> <p>The National Academy of Sciences, Territorial Departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Glubokoe Regional Executive Committee, Local Councils of Deputies, District-level representatives of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Scientific and Design Institutes of State Committee on Property, Glubokoe forestry, landowners and land users, local hunting communities will be involved in implementing pilot measures.</p>
<p>Place outside the area (though within the borders of the country) where a similar problem is observed and which will benefit from the acquired project experience (ha).</p>	<p>The threat concerns the entire region of Vitebsk Poozer'e, where the experience gained in the pilot district can be applied (the area in district is 4.4 million hectares)</p>

Annex 6 Stakeholder Involvement Plan

112. The following table lists the main stakeholders of the project and how they are to be mobilized in realizing the project objective.

Stakeholder	Mandate	Contribution to project objective and outcomes
GOVERNMENT		
The State Committee on Property of the Republic of Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for implementing State policy in the spheres of land management, the State Land Cadastre, the State Register of Real Estate, Related Rights and Transactions, and valuation. Exercises State control over the use and protection of lands Develops and implements State programs/ projects on rational use and protection of land resources, land management, land cadastre, geodesy and cartography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead project efforts to institutionalize mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into the development and implementation of territorial planning policies and practices. Ensure that relevant staff of the State Committee, at the national and district levels, actively participate in policy-level discussions on policy amendments and in training programs organized by the project. Provide their technical expertise and services on territorial planning, especially in the development and implementation of the biodiversity-enhanced territorial plans in the 10 pilot districts
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus (MNREP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for implementing State Policy in the area of environmental preservation and rational use of natural resources, including both economic and scientific-technical aspects. Study, protection, reproduction and rational use of natural resources, including subsoil assets, water, fauna and flora, preservation of the environment Development and implementation of government programs/ projects, action plans and other documents in the field of environmental preservation and rational use of natural resources Regulation and coordination of activity of other republican state bodies, local executive and administrative organs, and other organizations in maintaining ecological security, preservation of the environment and rational use of natural resources Exercises State control in the area of the environmental preservation Provision of ecological information for republican state bodies, local executive and administrative organs, and citizens Organization of ecological knowledge and its dissemination, participation in the creation of education system in the area of environment preservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate the development and issuance of normative documents within the project Ensure that relevant staff of the MNREP, at the national and district levels, actively participate in policy-level discussions on policy amendments and in training programs organized by the project Provide their technical expertise and services on providing protection to the habitats of rare species and biotopes
The local executive and administrative organs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for implementing, within their jurisdictional territory, State control over protection of fauna and flora Address land management and land use questions, in accordance with the legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply information and provide support during the developing of territorial plans Garner support and participation of land users in the development of territorial plans Support decision making with regard to the issuance of passports (habitat maintenance standards) for protected species and biotopes
Ministry of Agriculture and Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for implementing State policy in the area of agricultural production and land reclamation (design, building and exploitation of reclamation and water systems) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance in introducing land use decisions mandated by the new territorial plans into on-the-ground practices of agriculture management, management of water resource and fisheries

Stakeholder	Mandate	Contribution to project objective and outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of water resource with an agricultural purpose • Managing productive fisheries (fish and water invertebrates), including preservation and recovery of their dwelling environment 	
Ministry of Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for implementing State scientific and technical policy in the field of forestry and hunting • Exercises State control over forestry and hunting activity • Organizes the complex administration of forestry and hunting activities • Provides for the rational use and protection of State forest lands by: managing forest reproduction and afforestation, managing forest seeds business and forest farms on a genetic selection basis, and providing the preservation of a gene pool of forest vegetation • Organizes work on reproduction, protection and rational use of wild animals, as well as the preservation and reclamation of their dwelling environment under hunting laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of the development and issuance of normative documents developed for the forestry sector by the project • Ensure that relevant staff of the Ministry, at the national and district levels, actively participate in policy-level discussions on policy amendments and in training programs organized by the project • Provide their technical expertise and services on providing protection to habitats of rare species and biotopes on forest lands
Academy of Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides scientific justification for accepted decisions in all areas including the sustainable use of nature resources and biodiversity conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inputs to project management • Inputs on the formation of the Project Board • Coordination between all involved ministries and departments
The State Inspectorate for Fauna and Flora Protection of the President of Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for implementing State control over the protection and management of wild animals for hunting and fishing, as well as tree, shrub species and other harvested wild plants • Responsible for detection and suppression of violations in the area of protection and management of wild animals, belonging to wild game and fishery reserves, other wild animals if their removal from natural habitats is done in violation of wild game hunting and fishery rules, as well as of tree, shrub species and other harvested wild plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support implementation of actions to protect species and biotopes mandated in the passports (habitat maintenance standards)
RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS		
State Scientific and Production Amalgamation of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus “The Scientific and Practical Centre for bioresources”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides scientific justification for the list of animal and plant species included in the Red Book of Belarus and development of actions for their protection and sustainable use • Development of scientific justification of various normative documents in the area of sustainable use of natural resources • Conducts monitoring of the state of biodiversity • Scientific support of nature protection conventions • Development of the National Strategy and Plans of Action on biodiversity conservation, wetlands, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify amendments to “Species Passport” legislation • Development of new National Action Plans (NAPs) for Threatened Species • Development of methodological recommendations on minimal standards to be observed by different economic activities to maintain the integrity of key biotopes/ habitats outside PAs. • Development of Act on biotopes conservation. • Carry out a full biodiversity and landscape diversity inventory in the 10 districts to identify vulnerable/ threatened biotopes and species, • Prepare species passports and develop concrete methodological recommendations for sustainable management of each rare species and biotopes revealed during inventory
Belarusian Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out of scientific research and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to Territorial Planning and

Stakeholder	Mandate	Contribution to project objective and outcomes
Institute for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography	<p>experimental works in the field of land management, geodesy, cartography and assessment of lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodical maintenance of works on land management and the assessment of lands • Design and implementation of schemes and land management projects • Creation of geographical information systems and cadastres of special purpose • Carrying out geodesic and cartographical works • Realization of publishing activities including the distribution of legal information 	<p>Management Manuals and Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to Framework Regulation on Territorial Planning. • Development of methodological recommendations on the use and display of information on biodiversity in territorial planning and in carrying out forest management • Development of methodological recommendations on assessment of the efficiency of land management schemes • Development of a system for effective monitoring and enforcement of the improved territorial plans • Preparing territorial plans for 6 district • Supervision over the realization of land management plans
Republican unitary enterprise “Project Institute Belgiprozem” and district level representatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out of investigation works on the study of forest resources of the country, on preparation of data for conducting the state land cadastre • Realization of cadastral estimation of the lands • Developing and implementing schemes and land management projects • Carrying out geodesic works on establishment of the land areas borders • Creation of digital models of territories, plans and maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision over the realization of land management plans • Preparing territorial plans for 4 district
Republican unitary enterprise “Belgosles”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of sustainable use of forest resources • Carrying out of forest management in territory of all forestry of Belarus. • Development of normative documents for forest sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to the “Act on the Order of the Classifying Forests according to Protection Groups and Categories, Transferring Forests from one Protection Category or Group into another as well as Locating Specially Protected Forest Areas” • Amendments to the “Logging Rules in the Forests of Belarus” • Following designation of important forest habitats, make changes to the existing forestry plans of the 10 forestries situated in the 10 target project districts
NGOs		
Small Grant Programme of GEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to community-led action on global environmental conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the realization of pilot projects planned within the limits of territorial plans in 50 project districts
BirdLife Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity conservation and especially – birds in the Republic of Belarus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to realization of pilot projects planned within the limits of territorial plans
COMMUNITIES		
Land users in project sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable use of land resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide their local knowledge in the development of integrated land use plans, and selection of strategies that can reduce impact on threatened/ vulnerable biotopes and species • Active participants in all project-led training and capacity building efforts • Assistance with monitoring impacts

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Country: Belarus

UNDAF Outcome (s)/Indicator (s):

CPAP Outcome (s)/Indicator (s): 11. Biodiversity, ecosystem services, protected areas and other commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements integrated into national governance and production systems (including social, economic and policy frameworks such as MDGs, NSSEDS and key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, and flood control)

CPAP Output (s)/Indicator (s): Protected areas, ha

Implementing partner: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

(Designated institution/Executing agency)

Programme Period:	2006-2010	Total resources required	8,055,300
Atlas Award ID:	00058307	Total allocated resources:	8,055,300
Project ID:	00072384	o GEF	<u>971,000</u>
PIMS #	<u>3985</u>	o MNREP	<u>100,000</u>
Start date:	January 2010	o State Committee on Property	<u>2,200,000</u>
End Date	January 2014	o Ministry of Forestry	<u>4,784,300</u>
Management Arrangements	<u>NEX</u>		
PAC Meeting Date	<u>tdb</u>		

NAME SIGNATURE Date/Month/Year

Agreed by (Executing Entity/Implementing Partner):

NAME SIGNATURE Date/Month/Year

Agreed by (UNDP):

NAME SIGNATURE Date/Month/Year