



INITIATION PLAN FOR A GEF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Project Title: <u>Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Moldova's Territorial Planning Policies and Land-Use Practices</u>	
Country: <u>Republic of Moldova</u>	
Initiation Plan Start Date:	<u>December 2013</u>
Initiation Plan End Date:	<u>August 2014</u>
CPAP Programme Component: Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management ATLAS Project Award: 00076170 ATLAS Project ID: 00087695 PIMS Project ID: 5259 Management Arrangement: DIM	Total budget: US\$ 45,662 Allocated resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GEF US\$45,662

AGREED BY UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE
Resident Representative


Signature

9 - 12 - 2013
Date: day/month/year

A. Brief Description of Initiation Plan:

The Government of Moldova has requested support from GEF to prepare the medium-sized project *“Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Moldova’s Territorial Planning Policies and Land-Use Practices”* intended to remove the barriers for mainstreaming biodiversity priorities into district territorial planning policies and land use practices. More specifically, at the national level the project aims to establishing an enabling environment for mainstreaming biodiversity into land use planning, compliance monitoring and enforcement and test at the local level models of biodiversity compatible spatial planning and land-use. Capacity building for successful mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation envisaged by the project shall ensure a proper participatory process of biodiversity compatible special planning.

The Preparation Grant for the Project *“Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Moldova’s Territorial Planning Policies and Land-Use Practices”* shall establish the baseline, collate and analyze the primary and secondary information and outline the GEF increment for the project through a number of relevant studies and stakeholders consultation with a view to further develop the approved project concept (see GEF PIF attached in Annex 1) into a fully formulated project document.

The final output of the initiation plan will be an UNDP-GEF project document and GEF CEO Endorsement request, together with Environmental and social screening checklist (ESSP) and relevant baseline GEF Tracking tool ready for submission to UNDP and GEF by end of July 2014.

B. Project preparation activities

It is envisaged that the medium-sized project will be implemented at both national and local level structured into 2 components: *Component A, Planning and enforcement system addresses biodiversity loss* and *Component B, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity on private and communal land*.

In line with this structure, the following are the proposed activities for the preparation phase of the project:

- I. Analysis of existing policies, regulation, legal, financial and institutional instruments, monitoring activities that govern biodiversity conservation and in relation to production sectors (agriculture, forestry) that impact biodiversity with identification of gaps, risks, barriers, strengths and opportunities for biodiversity mainstreaming into district territorial planning policies and land-use practices.
- II. Identify the related initiatives (both national and regional) to proposed project and outline the possible coordination between them.
- III. Describe the ‘business-as-usual’ scenario and alternative scenario after GEF intervention for biodiversity mainstreaming into district territorial planning policies and land-use practices.
- IV. Capacity assessment to determine the existing capacities (institutional, individual and financial) for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into district territorial planning policies and land-use practices, consultation with stakeholders for increased ownership and partnerships and recommendations for the capacity building measures.
- V. Profiling of proposed pilot areas in terms of existing and threatened species, socio-economic development, financial planning, spatial and land-use planning to define strategic interventions for the demonstration projects.
- VI. Propose outcomes, outputs and activities for biodiversity mainstreaming into district territorial planning policies and land-use practices in Moldova.

- VII. Preparation and finalization of the UNDP Project Document and CEO Endorsement request according to UNDP/GEF template, including:
- i. Finalization of project results framework: Further define the results framework with appropriate objective-level and outcome-level quantitative and qualitative SMART indicators, and end-of-project targets. Special attention will be made to include socio-economic and sex-disaggregated indicators.
 - ii. Definition of monitoring and evaluation (M&E): A detailed M&E work plan will be developed, including clear identification of responsibilities and accountabilities, as well as an appropriate M&E budget. The plan will be based on the standard template provided in the UNDP-GEF project document template that reflects the mandatory requirements of the GEF M&E Policy.
 - iii. Definition of management arrangements: The organisational structure governing the project will be decided. This will include identification of the Project Board. Preparation of a detailed multi-year budget following the standard template provided in the UNDP-GEF project document template that reflects the mandatory requirements of the GEF M&E Policy.
 - iv. Ensuring completion of required official co-financing letters. A co-financing guarantee will be collected from participating government institutions, bilateral development partners, multilateral development partners and NGOs who wish to provide cash or in kind contributions to the project.
- VIII. A validation workshop will gather representatives from all relevant stakeholders to present, discuss and validate the final draft project document.

C. Project preparation activities work plan, timeframe, responsibilities and budget:

PPG Activity	Timeframe (in months) ¹											Responsibility	Budget US\$	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
Analysis of existing policies, regulation, legal, financial and institutional instruments													UNDP CO	
Capacity assessment and stakeholders consultation													UNDP CO	
Profiling of pilot areas													UNDP CO	
ProDoc and CEO endorsement preparation													UNDP CO	
Validation Workshop													UNDP CO	
Total														45,662.00

D. Total Budget and Work Plan: US\$45,662.00

Award ID:	00076170											
Award Title:	Biodiversity Conservation Mainstreaming Project- Prep. Grant											
Business Unit:	MDA10											
Project Title:	Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Moldova's Territorial Planning Policies and Land-Use Practices											
Project ID:	00087695											
PIMS Number	5259											
Implementing Partner (Executing Agency)	UNDP											
GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount US\$ Year 1	Amount US\$ Year 2	Total				
Project preparation grant to finalize the UNDP-GEF project document for project "Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Moldova's Territorial Planning Policies and Land-Use Practices"	UNDP	62000	GEF TRUSTEE	71200	International Consultants	13,000	14,000	27,000				
				71300	Local Consultants	4,000	9,000	13,000				
				71600	Travel	1,000	1,500	2,500.00				
				72500	Supplies	200	462	662				
				75700	Trainings	1,000	1,500	2,500				
				PROJECT TOTAL		19,200	26,462	45,662				

¹ If an FSP project please add additional six months noting 18 month deadline between GEF approval of the PIF and GEF CEO endorsement of the project document

Annex 1: GEF CEO PIF approval letter



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Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

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August 28, 2013

Ms. Adriana Dinu
Deputy GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ms. Dinu:

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved the medium-sized project concept detailed below. I have also approved your request for project preparation grant.

Decision Sought:	Project Identification Form (PIF) and Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Approval
GEFSEC ID:	5355
Agency ID:	5259
Agency:	UNDP
Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Project Type:	Medium Size Project
Country:	Moldova
Name of Project:	Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Land-Use Practices
Indicative GEF Project Grant:	\$958,904
Indicative Agency Fee:	\$91,096
PPG Grant:	\$45,662
PPG Agency Fee:	\$4,338
Funding Source:	GEF Trust Fund

This PIF and PPG approvals are subject to the comments made by the GEF Secretariat in the attached document. It is also based on the understanding that the project is in conformity with GEF focal areas strategies and in line with GEF policies and procedures.

Please submit your final medium-sized project document for my approval no later than 12 months after PIF approval.

Sincerely,


Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Attachment: GEFSEC Review Sheet
Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee

Annex 2: Summary of Consultants Financed by the Initiation Plan

Experts
Local Consultants
<p><u>National Coordinator and Biodiversity Specialist</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate the work of the national consultants under the guidance of the International Lead Expert, prepare the TORs for national consultants for the preparation phase, collate the information received from local consultants and provide these to International Lead Expert. - Support the International Lead Expert in preparing the CEO Endorsement request and provide consolidated inputs to the UNDP Project Document, provide consolidated response to UNDP and GEF comments and liaise with the line ministries/LPAs when needed and upon UNDP request . - Prepare Annex on the Training Output 1.5 in the area of participatory spatial planning with respect to biodiversity concerns – scope, target group, host institution, draft curricular, logistics and sustainability beyond project and on Training Output 2.4 focusing on biodiversity mainstreaming - Under the guidance of the International Lead Expert initiate discussions with the relevant national stakeholders on development of the spatially based digital decision-making system for biodiversity conservation and together with national experts define the default parameters of the GIS system to be put in place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In this line, the issues to be clarified at the PPG stage would around the hosting institution, appropriate layers, compatibility with the cadaster and other existing land use maps and systems currently used by institutions and connected to satellite, the technologies needed, and how regularly it needs to be updated. Cost identification for a functioning system will also be the concern of the preparation phase, as well as ownership and financing after the project end. - Hold consultations with potential LPAs and further liaise with them to finalize selection of the two pilot districts including in terms of LPAs commitment for piloting of the project outputs at the implementation stage of the project. Secure the agreement/commitments of the LPA's for land allocation for planning and restoration activities. Define the criteria for district selection and profile these in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief administrative and population data, socio-economic context - List threats to biodiversity from territorial planning and territorial-planning related sectors and their root causes and against each of this list the biodiversity species and ecosystems affected. In identifying these guide by the IUCN Red List species as indicators as per GEF requirements, not only species of national importance. Define indicator species and ecosystems that will be used to measure the success of mainstreaming in each district. - Define measures that would need to be put in place to eliminate or mitigate the threats and budget of these measures (GEF and co-financing). - Prepare a detailed TORs for setting biodiversity standards through species passport and habitat in each district as an Annex to Project Document - Prepare terms of reference for economic valuation of ecosystem services and goods in each district as an Annex to the Project Document - Attach the description and maps of the two pilot districts, as above, as Annex to the CEO and UNDP Project Document. - Together with the LPAs and under the guidance of the Lead International Expert identify the best option for the biodiversity compensation scheme in the pilot areas and jointly with the national team work out the mechanism/required agreements/technical details for its implementation in an Annex to the Project Document - Contribute to identification of technical and knowledge barriers, and of political and administrative risks that might prevent from effective mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into territorial planning and land-use practices and from implementing successfully the project. Coordinate finalization of the project risk matrix. - Support the UNDP CO in completing the Social and Environmental Screening of the project in terms of providing the needed information and conducting public disclosure, if needed. - Support the International Lead Expert in completing the required GEF SO-2 Tracking Tool (baseline) which will be further used to track the project progress and the Capacity Needs Assessment Tracking Tool. - Analyze and propose a biodiversity monitoring system which would enable identification of acceptable level of change in biodiversity important areas in terms of which institution will host, financing and sustainability beyond the project, regularity of monitoring, monitoring methods to be used, how will it be

<p>Experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> used to monitor biodiversity results at the project implementation stage. - Ensure organization of the validation workshop at the end of the project preparation phase.
<p><u>Land use and Pasture management expert</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist National Coordinator and Biodiversity Specialist in holding consultations with potential LPAs to finalize selection of the two pilot districts. - Provide inputs for the pilot districts profiling in terms of the current land-use and spatial planning practices in the respective areas and support the consultation process with local communities on the measures to be piloted. - Under the guidance of the national coordinator gather and analyze data on standards and norms in agriculture, forestry, livestock management and water management that currently prevent mainstreaming of biodiversity at the local level. - Contribute to the analysis of potential incentives (and disincentives) for land-users to modify their practices, analyze which of the proposed solutions could be applicable and in which district. - Initiate discussion with the LPAs on the upcoming support in developing/updating the Municipal Spatial Plans accommodating biodiversity concerns, identify the concerns related to this activity, issues and risks and based on that contribute to the development of the project risk matrix. As a follow up propose an “exit strategy” for this component. - Identify areas in the selected 4-6 communities (100ha) to showcase biodiversity-compatible land uses in line with the developed spatial plans. - Secure LPA’s decisions for land allocation for restoration activities. - Based on the consultations with the LPAs, develop an outline of the optimal grazing plan/pasture management plan which will be piloted by the project during project implementation. Propose and describe the work plan for restoration activities as well as the implementation costs. Consult the plan with local communities and present evidence of consultations. - Identify the needs for further methodological support required to ensure mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into district territorial planning policies and land-use practices (e.g. cattle owners associations or cooperatives etc.).
<p><u>Forestry expert</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define on a provision basis where and what forest blocks (max.100ha) will have to be planted/restored/conserved to create the ecological connectivity by implementing forest landscape practices within the linear ecological corridors (e.g. reforestation adjacent to existing protected areas or protection forests) and stepping stone corridors. - Provide a description of the corridors in terms of the habitats they try to connect, and species that need them and the barriers that threaten them and present a map of the future corridors, if possible at this stage. - Consult with local forest experts and communities where relevant, identify the sensitive issues that might arise in relation to the establishment of new corridors and propose measure to mitigate this. Ensure obtaining agreements from the land owners for corridors establishment. - Define the technical details and activities needed to implement this at the project implementation stage and the budget. This should include delimitation of the corridors area and development of the planting technological schemes (species to be planted, type of works etc.) - Explore and define together with the local communities the structure of the future “corridors management plan”.
<p>International consultants</p>
<p>International Lead Consultant: Biodiversity Specialist (or Spatial Planning and Land Use) and GEF Specialist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guide the overall project preparation phase and provide the quality assurance of the delivered project preparation outputs; coordinate the work of the team; - Provide technical advice to the national consultants in completing the required GEF SO-2 Tracking Tools and Capacity Needs Assessment Tracking Tool and others as required - Ensure identification of required baselines as per the Project Identification Form

<p>Experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Participate in the validation workshop- Prepare the GEF CEO Endorsement request and Project Document in accordance with UNDP and GEF requirements (incl. Project Logical Framework, Project budget incl. budget notes and work-plan), , GEF SO-2 Tracking Tool , Capacity Needs Assessment Tracking Tool and others as identified in the Initiation Plan- Capture and detail the co-financing arrangements needed for the project- Incorporate comments in Project Document after UNDP/GEF Regional and Principal Technical Advisors, GEF Secretary revision.- Ensure that the whole package is structured to meet the expectations/requirements of GEF.
<p>Environmental Planner (spatial planning and land use):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provide an overview of the existing spatial planning and land use legislation concerning both municipal and local level, outline the legislative and regulatory barriers and gaps for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into spatial planning and land-use.- Review legal requirements and barriers for introduction of economic value of goods and services and propose recommendations- Prepare justifications and gap analysis for the legislative instruments mentioned in Output 1.1, that is:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Regulation on vulnerable species, habitats and ecosystem goods and services during land-use planningo Changes to Land Code introducing requirements for identification and incorporation of biodiversity outside protected areaso Minimal standards on biodiversity conservation in livestock management, hay-field management, arable farming, forest use, fishing and water-based recreation- In consultation with the line ministries, identify the best option for a multi-stakeholders committee entrusted to oversee land-use development, implementation and development with incorporation of biodiversity-related concerns and identify the membership, develop the TORs (regulation), statutory responsibilities and other relevant details as part of the UNDP Project Document- Prepare an outline of the system of penalties – and requirements that the project will need to put in place to enact that during the implementation stage (as per Output 1.4)

Annexes

Annex 1 CEO approval letter for PIF and PPG



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Annex 2: Project Cycle Management Services

Stage	Country Office ¹	UNDP/GEF at regional and global level
Project Development	<i>Initiation Plan:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination, management and financial oversight of UNDP Initiation Plan • Discuss management arrangements 	RTA and PA role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in preparation of UNDP Initiation Plan • Technical support, backstopping and troubleshooting. • Support discussions on management arrangements • Facilitate issuance of DOA
	<i>Project Document:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support project development, assist proponent to identify and negotiate with relevant partners, co-financiers, etc. • Undertake environmental and social screening of project before PAC. Ensure Environmental and Social Screening Procedure (ESSP) documentation is signed by the Resident Representative or Chair of PAC meeting and attached as Annex to the Project Document. • Review, appraise, finalize Project Document. • Negotiate and obtain clearances and signatures – Government, UNDP, Implementing Partner, co-financiers, etc. Coordinate LPAC and document meeting decisions. • Respond to information requests, arrange revisions etc. • Prepare operational and financial reports on development stage as needed. 	RTA role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sourcing of technical expertise. • Verification of technical reports and project conceptualization. • Guidance on SOF expectations and requirements. • Negotiate and obtain clearances by SOF • Respond to information requests, arrange revisions etc. • Quality assurance and due diligence.
<p><i>Key UNDP/GEF management performance indicators/targets for Project Development:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Time between PIF approval to CEO endorsement for each project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for GEF trust fund project: FSP = 18 months or less, MSP 12 months or less. • Target for LDCF and SCCF: FSP/MSP = 12 months or less. 2. Time between CEO endorsement (or PAC for non GEF funded projects) to first disbursement for each project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target = 4 months or less 		

¹ As per UNDP POPP with additional SOF requirements where relevant.