

ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT (APR)

Basic programmed/project information

Programme or project number and title: 00077357 - Pilot Project for Biodegradable Waste Management in Prespa

Project starting date: 01 January 2011

Project completion date: 31 December 2012

Total budget:

Original: 781,000 CHF

Latest signed revision: N/A

Period covered by the report: 01 January - 31 December 2011

- 1. What are the major achievements of the programme or project vis-a-vis the expected results during the year under review? To the extent possible, include an assessment of the potential impact, sustainability and contribution to capacity development.**

1.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Study Prepared

The preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment study (EIA) is mandatory, pursuant to the Law on Environmental Protection. It is also one of the key documents required for the issuance of a construction permit. The EIA for the pilot project, covering the town of Resen and the village of Jankovec, was completed in May 2011. Its main objective was to assess the environmental impact of all foreseen project activities, including the construction of a central composting plant and four waste collecting sites.

The EIA findings confirmed that the establishment of a biodegradable waste management system would have enormous positive effects on the environment and would lead to significant improvement of the natural resources in the Prespa region.

The EIA study also proposed a set of recommendations to ensure minimization of environmental pressure during the construction works for the composting plant and the four collection points. All recommendations have been fully integrated into the main construction designs.

1.2 A Study for Definition of the Pilot Project for Biodegradable Waste Management in Prespa Region

A Pilot Study was developed to elaborate in detail a management solution for treatment of the biodegradable waste generated in the selected area (the town of Resen and village of Jankovec). The document which served as a basis for development of the Pilot Study was a full-scale Study Feasibility Study for Biodegradable Waste Management developed under the Golema Reka Phase II Project. .

The main objective of the Pilot Study was to determine the capacity of the Pilot composting plant, vis-à-vis the available Project budget for investments.

The Pilot Project is developed in such a manner that the revenue expected to be generated from the compost produced in the Pilot Composting Plant provides sufficient finances for covering the costs for running the operation. It is designed to represent a complete and viable management solution for treatment of the BW generated in the selected area.

While developing the study, the consultant liaised closely with the project team, representatives of the local government and the public enterprise for solid waste management "JP Proleter".

1.3 Main Design for Composting Plan and Four Collection Points Developed

In order to comply with national regulations a Main Design for the construction of the composting plant and the four collection points was developed

The design company analyzed and reviewed all relevant chapters of the Feasibility Waste Management Study and provided comprehensive input. The Design Company also took into consideration all recommendations from the Environmental Impact Assessment study (EIA), to ensure that the construction works have no negative impact on the environment.

The development of the design required massive data collection and analysis, including a topographic survey of the composting plant and collection points' locations. All of this has been completed in May 2011.

During the entire process, the company was working closely with the project team, in coordination with relevant local government representatives, as well as with the local public enterprise for solid waste management "JP Proleter Resen".

UNDP also engaged a certified company to conduct an independent technical review of the Main Design and technical specifications, in accordance with the national legislation requirements. All comments and suggestions received were incorporated in the final version of the Main Design.

1.4 Construction Works Initiated

Based on the Main Design's recommendations, the construction works were grouped into two separate sets of activities: (i) Preparatory works on construction of the network of the composting plant and (ii) Civil works

(i) Preparatory works on construction of the network of the composting plant

The preparatory works on the Pilot Composting Plant initiated in June, included construction of infrastructure network, formation of the sub-grade and capping layers of the windrow area of the plant and construction of the foundations of all future structures. The above works were substantially completed in terms of the contract in the end of September 2011.

The outsourced Supervising Engineer, engaged to supervise/control the rate of progress of the project execution and of the overall Contractor's performance, confirmed the works had been completed in accordance with the main Design, conditions set in the Building Permit and the Law, providing highest possible quality of the works.

The completion of the construction of the infrastructure network of the Pilot Composting Plant represents the first step towards developing the Pilot Biodegradable Waste System in the region. This allowed the initiation of the following phase of construction, which consists of developing of the Pilot Composting Plant with all its facilities in place and construction of four transit collecting centers for biodegradable waste.

(ii) The implementation of the civil works: construction of the Pilot Composting plant - open windrow method with a designed production capacity of compost of up to 1,600 m³ a year with all its structures and four (4) transit collecting biodegradable waste centers

The bidding dossier for Construction of the Pilot Composting Plant and Four Transit Collecting Centers was developed based on the Main/Implementation Design.

Following its Standard Operation Procedures, UNDP conducted an independent review of all relevant aspects of the procurement procedure including certification of the BoQ from international expert, utilizing one of the qualified candidates listed in the roster of international civil engineers with professional expertise in the field of the described civil and infrastructure works.

The independent review's report concluded that the technical documentation of the respective Invitation to Bid, including project design, BoQ and technical specifications, had been prepared comprehensively, in line with the level and quality of services required and technically compliant with the underlying construction standards. As such, the report suggested that the bidding dossier forms a solid basis for proper organization and successful realization of the planned construction of the pilot composting plant and transfer collecting centers, to be publically announced.

A public call for bids was organized in August 2011. The solicitation procedure resulted in poor response of interested bidders. After completion of the formal evaluation and signing the Minutes of the meeting, the EC further reviewed the financial information presented by lowest priced bidder. The comparison of the submitted information and the official data for the financial performance of the company obtained from the Central Registry of the Republic of Macedonia showed that the company misrepresented the information on company's annual turnover in order to meet, in such way, the set tender requirements. The above lead to amending the EC Recommendation and cancellation of the solicitation procedure.

A decision was taken to re-announce the call in October 2011 using a pre-qualification method. The procedure is still in progress and it is expected to complete in the first quarter of 2012.

The completion of these construction works will round up the developing of a Pilot Composting Plant and 4 Transit Collecting Centers, representing the final step towards meeting the overall goal of the project, which is developing a sustainable biodegradable waste management system in the Municipality of Resen and the v. of Jankovec shall be established. The construction of the plant and the transit centers are expected to complete by October 2012.

1.5 Public Awareness Campaign for Better Waste Management Initiated

- a) A workshop on solid waste management was organized in May 2011, bringing together numerous representatives of local NGOs, farmers associations, apple producers, local government and other relevant stakeholders.

The attendees had an opportunity to listen to presentations from top national experts and learn more about the advantages of having an efficient waste management system in place.

The whole project was introduced to the students of the School for Journalism and Public Relations. More than 40 students were taken to project site visits. They had the opportunity to interview the project team, experts, NGO representatives and citizens. Based on this, they wrote articles and produced TV reports, highlighting the importance of having an efficient waste management system in place.

- b) A roundtable on good agriculture practices was organized in September 2011 by the Municipality of Resen and the UNDP/GEF transboundary Prespa project. A manual on introduction of agro-ecological measures in apple production was launched to honor the beginning of the apple harvest season in the Prespa region.

The event brought together the Union of Agriculture producers, local NGOs, farmers associations, local and central government representatives, and members of the public communal enterprise.

The roundtable was enriched by the participation of the representatives of Pilot Project for Biodegradable Waste Management. This event is one of the series of public awareness and educational activities of the Project to help the local population and farmers learn more about the environmental benefits of an efficient biodegradable waste management system in the region in development.

Once all construction works are finalized and the equipment is in place, the biodegradable management system will be presented to the farmers and to the public communal enterprise, who is the future owner and operator of the Biodegradable Waste Management System, to ensure that the benefits of an efficient system for management of biodegradable waste in place are fully understood.

A number of employees of the Public Communal Enterprise will be trained in the coming period to use the technology for treatment of organic waste. To implement the intended capacity development of the Public Enterprise, UNDP intends to engage external expert(s) to deliver the trainings. Once the Public Communal Enterprise staff is fully trained, they will assume the responsibility for operating with the composting plant, allowing the sustainability of the management solutions for treatment of biodegradable waste generated in the area of Resen and the village of Jankovec. This is expected to represent a solid platform for implementing a full-size management solution for biodegradable waste in the entire Prespa region. It will also serve as a model for possible replication in other regions throughout the country that are facing similar challenges.



ANNUAL REPORTING GENDER MAINSTREAMING TEMPLATE

PROJECT TITLE:	00077357 - Pilot Project for Biodegradable Waste Management in Prespa
PROJECT OBJECTIVE:	The overall objective of this project is to support the establishment of an efficient system for biodegradable waste management in the Prespa region. This will help improve the lives of the local population and ensure better environmental protection

1. Does the project incorporate a gender perspective?

NO

The project document does not explicitly incorporate a gender perspective. However, during the project implementation wide range of stakeholders were consulted in order to ensure adequate reflection of their concerns regarding this issue into the project implementation plan.

- If YES or NO:

a) In what (other, additional) potential areas could gender be incorporated in your project?

N/A

b) What would be required to incorporate gender in such a way?

N/A

c) Who could be the potential partners?

N/A

- What risks or unknowns can you identify in implementing a gender perspective?

N/A

- Can you suggest how such risks might be minimized (within or beyond the scope of your project)?

N/A

2. What major issues and problems are affecting the achievement of programme or project results?

- a) Unsuccessful public call for bids for Construction of the Pilot Composting Plant and Four Transit Collecting Centers, conducted in August 2011 caused a delay in implementation of the planned civil works for 2011

3. How should these issues or problems be resolved? Please explain in detail the action(s) recommended. Specify who should be responsible for such actions. Also indicate a tentative time-frame and the resources required.

Due to the unsuccessful public call for bids for construction of the Pilot Composting Plant and Four Transit Collecting Centers on one hand, and the fact that the "Biodegradable Waste Management in the Prespa Region" is one of the first projects of this type in the country on the other, a decision was taken to re-announce the call, using a pre-qualification method.

The aim of the prequalification was to identify companies who meet the minimum requirements in terms of their economic/financial, professional and technical capacity for Construction of a Pilot Central Composting Plant and four (4) Transit collecting centers.

Invitation for Prequalification process was successfully completed in November 2011, identifying a number of applicants with adequate capabilities and resources for execution of the intended works, to whom Solicitation documents were extended in December 2011.

Trust funds AOS (where applicable)

Swiss Development Cooperation Agency

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Programme support objectives (PSOS) or immediate objectives	Indicators	Achievements
<p><u>Planning and Pilot Project development</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study for piloting the biodegradable waste management system in the Town of Resen and the village of Jankovec developed; - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the pilot biodegradable waste management facility developed; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study for piloting the biodegradable waste management system in the Town of Resen and the village of Jankovec and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the pilot biodegradable waste management facility developed and submitted to the Municipality of Resen for further legal proceedings in May 2011.
<p><u>Technical Documentation (Main Design) development for construction works</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical documentation (Main Design and BoQ) for the pilot intervention developed - Construction permits obtained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main/implementation design for Construction of Central Composting Plant and Collecting Centers developed in accordance with the Law on Construction - Technical certification (review) of the main/implementation design as per the national law on construction obtained by a previously selected independent technical reviewer. Both the Main/Implementation Design and the Technical Review were submitted in May 2011 - A permit for construction issued by the Municipality of Resen in June 2011 to the Municipality of Resen for further legal proceedings
<p><u>Preparatory works on construction of the network of the ccomposting plant</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of the preparatory construction works substantially completed, - Final Supervision Report with positive recommendations for the completed preparatory works issued - Bidding dossier for Construction of the Pilot Composting Plant and Four Transit Collecting Centers developed, bidding procedure launched 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The preparatory works were substantially completed in terms of the contract in the end of September 2011. - The Supervising Engineer issued a Final Supervision Report confirming the works to be completed in accordance with the main Design, conditions set in the Building Permit and the Law, providing highest possible quality of the works; - Bidding dossier for Construction of the Pilot Composting Plant and Four Transit Collecting Centers developed fully based on the Main/Implementation Design, - Bidding procedure launched in November 2011 using a pre-qualification method
<p><u>Public Awareness Campaign for Better Waste Management Initiated</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changing of the behavior of the local population on handling the bio waste. - Farmers get acquainted with the use of locally produced compost as a substitute to fertilizers where possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two workshops were held, One, on solid waste management, organized in May 2011, bringing together numerous local NGOs, farmers associations, apple producers, and the second one, on good agriculture practices held in September 2011 (under UNDP/GEF transboundary Project) for introduction of agroecological measures in apple production, in which Pilot Project for BWM participated with the aim to help the local population and farmers learn more about the environmental benefits of an efficient biodegradable waste management system in the region.

4. What new developments (if any) are likely to affect the achievement of programme or project results? What do you recommend to respond to these developments?

N/A

5. What are the views of the target groups with regard to the programme or project? Please note any significant gender-based differences in those views.

One of the specific objectives of the project is mitigation of the organic solid waste impacts in the Region. UNDP with generous funds provided by SDC, in cooperation with the key stakeholders established an efficient and sustainable system for pesticide packaging waste management on the entire territory of the Resen Municipality under the Golema Reka Phase II Project, representing an appropriate management response to the uncontrolled disposal of pesticide packaging.

As a continuation of these measures, the Pilot Project's for BWM in Prespa main objective is the establishment of Biodegradable Waste Management System in a selected area of the region, as a response to the absence of a solution for collection and disposal of organic waste generated through the agriculture activities.

The Feasibility Study for Biodegradable Waste Management in the Prespa Region developed under the project provided relevant management solution with a potential for controlled treatment of the organic waste, aiming to reduce the massive quantities of this waste by converting it into potentially valuable product(s).

The study confirmed that a project of a central composting plant can generate sufficient revenues to cover the investments and all other running costs. The central composting plant is planned to be situated in the locality of the existing Resen municipal communal waste landfill representing the community contribution to the project activity. The Public Communal Enterprise has the man-capacity and the wish for running the plant, for which it will receive relevant training for a number of employers it will made available for the activity.

All the concerned parties are aware that once established, the BWM will have an enormous direct positive effects on the environment with an indirect beneficial economic impact resulting in significant increase of the local community welfare, which presented in economic terms amounts to 7 times the initial investment, of which the major part of the benefits (88%) accrues to the local farmers

Programme or project summary table

Programme/project title and number:	00077357 - Pilot Project for Biodegradable Waste Management in Prespa	Management arrangement:	NEX
Designated institution:		Period covered:	01 January 2011–31 December 2011

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

Designated institution:

Brief analysis of progress achieved in the contribution of the programme or project to the expected results.

BIODEGRADABLE WASTE

Agriculture plays a significant role in the Prespa region in terms of employment and economic sustainability. Over 60% of the local population in Resen depends on agricultural activities, mainly apple production. The annual apple production ranges from 80,000 to 110,000 tons, but in some years, due to low market demands, more than 10,000 tons are discarded as waste. This waste is being dumped along the shorelines and into the Golema Reka River and Prespa Lake.

There are two main reasons for this, one being the non-existence of an organized system for collection and disposal of biodegradable waste and the other, low environmental awareness among the local population.

This poses a serious threat to the environment and to the overall ecosystem of the Prespa Lake watershed.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this project is to support the establishment of an efficient system for biodegradable waste management in the selected area of the Prespa region covering the town of Resen and the village of Jankovec. This will help improve the lives of the local population and ensure better environmental protection.

“Biodegradable Waste Management in the Prespa Region” is one of the first pilot projects of this type in the country. It represents continuation of the successful partnership between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Government, the Municipality of Resen, civil society organizations, local private stakeholders and UNDP.

EXPECTED RESULTS

It is expected that with this project, an efficient biodegradable waste management system will be put in place. This will be achieved with the construction of a central composting plant and a number of biodegradable waste collecting stations. As soon as the construction works are completed, the whole system will be introduced to the farmers and the public communal enterprise. A series of trainings and an extensive public awareness campaign will follow. Their objective will be to ensure that everyone understands the many benefits that can be generated by good management of biodegradable waste.

This Project is also expected to represent a solid platform for implementing a full-size management solution for biodegradable waste in the entire Prespa region. It will also serve as a model for possible replication in other regions throughout the country that are facing similar challenges.

PROGRESS TO DATE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Study for piloting the biodegradable waste management system in the Town of Resen and the village of Jankovec developed. The Pilot Study determined the capacity of the Pilot compost

plant, vis-à-vis the available Project budget for investments, allowing the Pilot Composting Plant to represent a complete and viable management solution for treatment of the BW generated in the proposed area (of the town of Resen and village of Jankovec). The expected quantities of the final product - compost to be produced in the Composting Plant shall allow collecting sufficient revenue to run the plant and generate profits for further investments in the field of environment.

- An Environmental Impact Assessment Study (EIA) was prepared, concluding that the establishment of a biodegradable waste management system would have enormous positive effects on the environment and would lead to significant improvement of the natural resources in the Prespa region. It was delivered to the Municipality of Resen for further legal proceedings.

- A renowned design company has developed the Main Design and all the necessary technical specifications for the construction of the composting plant and the four collection points. The development of the design required massive data collection and analysis, including a topographic survey of the composting plant and collection points' locations. All of this has been completed in May 2011, paving the way for the development of the Main Design, and all necessary technical specifications.

The design company analyzed and reviewed all relevant chapters of the Feasibility Waste Management Study taking into consideration all recommendations from the Environmental Impact Assessment study (EIA) as well, to ensure that the construction works have no negative impact on the environment

During the entire process, the Design company was working closely with the project team, in coordination with relevant local government representatives, as well as with the local public enterprise for solid waste management "JP Proleter Resen"

As a result, a Main/Implementation design for Construction of Pilot Composting Plant and 4 Transit Collecting Centers was elaborated in fully corresponding to the requirements of the existing national regulation; ensure best quality of the planned works.

- The preparations for the construction and civil works for the full set up of the biodegradable waste management system are ongoing.

The preparatory works on the Pilot Composting Plant initiated in June included construction of the infrastructure network, formation of the sub-grade and capping layers of the windrow area of the plant and construction of the foundations of all future structures. The above works were substantially completed in terms of the contract in the end of September 2011.

The outsourced Supervising Engineer, engaged to supervise/control the rate of progress of the project execution and of the overall Contractor's performance, confirmed the works had been completed in accordance with the main Design, conditions set in the Building Permit and the Law, providing highest possible quality of the works.

The construction of the infrastructure network of the Pilot Composting Plant completed represents the first step towards developing the Pilot Biodegradable Waste System in the region. This allowed the initiation of the following phase of construction, which consists of developing of the Pilot Composting Plant with all its facilities in place and construction of four transit collecting centers for biodegradable waste

- The preparations for the civil works completed by delivering the bidding dossier for Pilot Construction Plant and 4 Transit Stations. The documentation that served as basis for the preparation of the bidding dossier for Construction of the Pilot Composting Plant and Four Transit Collecting Centers was the Main/Implementation Design developed fully in accordance with the applicable Law on Construction in the country. A technical review of the main design had been carried out by an independent reviewer, pursuant to the national legislation.
- Public Awareness and Educational Campaign activities for Better Waste Management continued

(i) A one-day workshop on solid waste management was organized in May 2011, bringing together numerous representatives of local NGOs, farmers associations, apple producers, local government and other relevant stakeholders. The attendees had an opportunity to listen to presentations from top national experts and learn more about the advantages of having an efficient waste management system in place.

Also, the whole project was introduced to the students of the School for Journalism and Public Relations. More than 40 students were taken to project site visits. They had the opportunity to interview the project team, experts, NGO representatives and citizens. Based on this, they wrote articles and produced TV reports, highlighting the importance of having an efficient waste management system in place.

The best articles and TV reports were published and broadcast in national and local media. All of this has helped ensure a successful promotion of the project, from its very beginnings

(ii) A roundtable on good agriculture practices was organized in September 2011 by the Municipality of Resen and the UNDP/GEF transboundary Prespa project.

The roundtable was enriched by the participation of the representatives of Pilot Project for Biodegradable Waste Management. This event is one of the series of public awareness and educational activities of the Project to help the local population and farmers learn more about the environmental benefits of an efficient biodegradable waste management system in the region in development.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Source of funds	Annual Budget USD	Estimated annual expenditure (USD)	Delivery rate (%)
TRAC (1 and 2): x TRAC 3: x Cost-sharing: ✓ Government: x Financial institution Third party: x	275,600.00	257,953.48	94%

6. To date, what lessons (both positive and negative) can be drawn from the experience of the programmed or project?

- Completion of legal aspects of the various project's activities, such as obtaining building permits for construction works are time consuming, involving a set of activities which require contribution of a number of participants/parties including the Municipal authorities, Ministry of Environment and physical Planning, Communal Enterprise etc. For the purposes of planning, the project annual work plan needs to be prepared in detail providing detailed description of the works/tasks to be completed under each individual contract, the order of the tasks and the time for completion of each task and their interaction;
- Having the design activities properly planned no major modifications/variations of the tendered works were identified during construction;

7. If the programmed or project has been evaluated, what is the implementation status of the recommendations made by the evaluators?

N/A

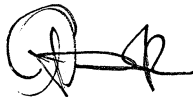
8. Do you propose any substantive revision to the programmed or project document? If yes, what are they? State justification.

N/A

9. Provide any other information that may further support or clarify your assessment of the programme or project. You may include annexes as you deem necessary.

N/A

Prepared by: Astrit Zekir, Project Manager



Endorsed by:

Alessandro Fracassetti

Mihail Volkanovski

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

Mayor of Resen


23/03/2012






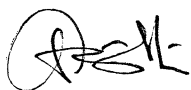
Interoffice Memorandum

To: Alessandro Fracassetti
UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

Date: 21 March. 2012

Through: Anita Kodzoman 
Programme Officer

Extension: 02 3249 560

From: Astrit Zekir 
Project Manager

File: BWM Project

Subject: Signing of official documents necessary for the Project for Biodegradable Waste Management in Prespa Region 00077357

The attached documents for signature are submitted from the Project for Biodegradable Waste Management in Prespa Region 00077357.

List of documents submitted for signature:

1. Annual Project Report (APR)

We will appreciate if you sign this document.