

Minutes
Project Board Meeting #2

"Strengthening governance and financial sustainability of the national protected area system in Ukraine" project

December 15, 2009, 16:00-18:00

Shatsk national nature park

The objective of the Project Board meeting was to review the results in 2009, approve Annual Work Plan 2010, and discuss the co-financing issue.

Participants:

Mr. Sergei Volkov, UNDP Senior Program Manager (representing Supplier side);
Mr. Mykola Stetsenko, First deputy head of the State Service on protected areas of Ukraine , NPD (representing Executive side);
Mr. Volodymyr Naida, Director of the Shatsk National Natural Park (representing Beneficiary side).

Invited:

Mr. Vasyl Tolkachov, UNDP/GEF Project Coordinator.

Agenda:

1. Project results in 2009;
2. Presentation of Plan of works for 2010;
3. Co-financing issue.

Summary of discussion:

Agenda item 1:

The information on activities implemented in 2009 was provided to the Board by the Project Coordinator:

1. National strategy for PA financing and action plan to it were developed and endorsed;
2. Association of Protected Areas (PAs) of Ukraine was officially registered, 17 regional branches were established;
3. First All-Ukrainian tournament on hand may mowing of lowland bog was conducted;
4. Training center was established. 5 trainings, one scientific conference and international seminar (Belarus, Russia and Ukraine) were conducted (representatives from 128 out of 103 PAs participated);
5. Regulations on the mini-projects programme were approved. The Programme was launched at pilot sites;
6. Document on assessment of management effectiveness of PAs was developed, tested at 7 PAs and pending the approval by the State Service on protected areas of Ukraine;
7. Draft strategy on tourist activity at PAs was developed;
8. Overview of donor's priorities in Ukraine in the sphere of environmental protection was prepared;
9. Ecological action "Clean Country" was organized and conducted at 4 PAs jointly with the 1+1 channel;

10. 3 publications (book "Botanic gardens and arboretums"; booklet "St. Nikolas country" booklet on National Nature Park "Pripyat-Stokhid") produced.

Project Board also discussed the recent Presidential Decree #611/2009 dated August 14, 2009, by which the National Training Center on Protected Area Management is established on the basis of the Kaniv Nature Reserve. Taking this into account the Project Board decided that all further activities of Mandatory Vocational Training on Protected Areas Management project output should be done in partnership and on the base of the newly established National Training Center. This is fully in line with the previous project activities (a number of training modules were already developed and series of trainings were conducted by the project in partnership with Kaniv Reserve) and will definitely multiply the positive effect of the project output.

Decision: Members of the Project Board expressed their satisfaction on the work performed by the project team in 2009, as well as decided that all further activities of Mandatory Vocational Training on Protected Areas Management project output should be done in partnership and on the base of the Kaniv Reserve in its capacity of the National Training Center on Protected Area Management.

Agenda item 2:

Project Coordinator presented the Work Plan for the 2010 with clarification for activities and expected result. Project Board's members discussed and endorsed it. Participants underlined the importance of the development the national strategy on PA financing and action plan to it. The strategy contained analysis of the current state of PA financing and concrete recommendations of further development of the state policy in this sphere.

Decision: Members of the Project Board endorsed the Work Plan for 2010.

Agenda item 3:

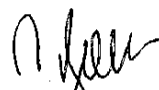
The necessity to contact and remind co-financer on their obligations according to the project document and properly signed co-financing letters was highlighted. This issue should in the focus, especially taking into consideration the upcoming mid-term evaluation, scheduled for 2010.


Decision: Members of the Project Board underlined the importance for all parties of the project to follow their obligations, particularly on co-financing issue.

In whole, the members of Project Board evaluated the project implementation in 2009 as satisfactory.

In concluding remarks, Board members thanked each other for good cooperation to date and expressed hope and commitment to successful implementation of the project.

Minutes prepared by Vasyl Tolkachov, Project Coordinator. 


Sergei Volkov, UNDP Senior Program Manager


Mykola Stetsenko, First deputy head of the State Service on protected areas of Ukraine, NPD