

APPROVED

Head of International Cooperation Department
of the Ministry of Environmental Protection
and Natural Resources


_____ M.V. Philipuyk

« _____ » _____ 2014

MINUTES No. 7

of the session of the Steering Committee of the EU/ UNDP Project
“Support to the development of a comprehensive framework for international environmental
cooperation in the Republic of Belarus”

The National executive agency is the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural
Resources (the Ministry of Environmental Protection).

Date and time of the session: *July 31, 2014, 11:00 – 12:00.*

Location: *Minsk, Kollektornaya Street, 10, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and
Natural Resources, office 436.*

Chairperson of the Steering Committee: Marina Viktorovna Philipuyk, head of the
International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural
Resources of the Republic of Belarus.

Secretary: Olga Mikhailovna Chabrouskaya, the Project manager.

Participants of the session, members of the Steering Council:

Natalia Vladimirovna Minchenko	Head of the Department of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of the Republic of Belarus
Viktor Vladimirovich Gogolinsky	Deputy head of the Administration of Food and Agriculture of Miory District Executive Committee
Aleksandr Vladimirovich Moiseiuk	Deputy head of Kobrin District Executive Committee
Sergei Petrovich Elets	Director of the Municipal and Housing Services Organization
Sergei Georgievich Frolov	Director of Mosty Municipal and Housing Services Organization
Ivan Ivanovich Borok	Director of “Yelnya” Nature Reserve Administration
Irina Mikhailovna Safronova	Consultant of the Department of Communal Utility Services and Energy of the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Economy of the Republic of Belarus

Observers:

Inna Ivanovna Klimenkova, Programme assistant, UNDP Office in the Republic of
Belarus

Galina Ivanovna Mikhalap, deputy head of the Waste Management Department of the
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of the Republic of Belarus.

Elena Vitalyevna Shnitkova, a consultant of the International Cooperation Department of
the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of the Republic of Belarus.

Ekaterina Aleksandrovna Gapeenko, a chief specialist of the Department of Information
and Public Relations of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of the
Republic of Belarus

Anna Sergeevna Trofimchuk, a specialist of the Public Organization “Achova Ptušak Backauščyny” (APB, “BirdLife Belarus”)

Dmitry Valentinovich Krasovsky, the head of the Department of Forestry Policy, Forestry Record-Keeping and Forest Utilization of the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus

Agenda:

1. On the results of activities within the whole period of project implementation (2011-2014); review of the final project report; review of lessons learnt log, risk log, and issues log:
 - main achieved results;
 - problems and challenges during the project implementation.
2. On transfer of the EU/ UNDP Project equipment after completing the project.
3. Discussion of further activities/ steps as to develop the results achieved within the frameworks of the EU/ UNDP Project.
4. Other issues.

M.V. Philipyk greeted the attendees of the session and expressed her gratitude to the project management group for the successful project implementation.

Members and observers of the Steering Committee in their fields (N.V. Minchenko, G.I. Mikhalap, E.A. Gapeenko, I.M. Safronova) also expressed gratitude to the project management group for the successful project implementation.

THE FIRST ISSUE ON AGENDA was discussed and presented by:

O.M. Chabrouskaya, the project manager, reported on the results of activities within the whole period of the project implementation (2011-2014) as well as on main points of the final report and lessons learnt log, risk log and issues log.

O.M. Chabrouskaya noted that all project activities had been completed. The project manager drew attention to the challenges that arose within the project implementation and which were to be paid attention to in planning and implementation of perspective international technical assistance projects. First of all, when planning a number of activities time for development of engineering design documentation was not stipulated and provided as well as time for state expertise of projects, and other established procedures, for example, before construction of the sorting out station for solid municipal waste in Mosty and the ecological path in the Reserve “Yelnya”. Besides, the activity of creating a visit-center in Miory did not provide time for search of location of the premises of this center and approval of such location. These problems were solved due to efficient employment and effective work of the project team (for example, there were employees responsible for procurement, regional staff). So, the work of employees in the pilot regions contributed to a timely supply of the equipment and due customs procedures execution. Implementation of the activity on development of legislation related to the Aarhus Convention, also required additional time due to the limited number of specialists in this field and complexity of the issue.

O.M. Chabrouskaya noted that the international experts of the final evaluation of the project recommended in case of implementation of the UNDP international technical assistance project to develop an inception report at the early stage where it was possible to introduce amendments and modifications in the project indicators. The international experts also recommended to strengthen control over the efficiency of the project activities (for example, study tours).

O.M. Chabrouskaya mentioned that good mutual understanding between all stakeholders was achieved during the course of the project implementation.

The final project report, lessons learnt log, risk log, and issues log are provided in Annex 1.

QUESTIONS were asked by:

I.I. Klimenkova asked about sustainability of the project results, particularly regarding the Aarhus center in Grodno.

M.V. Philipuyuk answered that the relevant agreements were achieved and the stakeholders are going to develop further the achieved project results.

ON THE FIRST ISSUE WAS DECIDED:

1. To recognize the work of the project management group responsible for implementation of the project activities during the whole period of the project implementation (2011-2014) as good.

2. To approve the final project report as well as the lessons learnt log, risk log and issues log.

THE SECOND ISSUE was discussed and presented by:

O.M. Chabrouskaya said that all equipment, the list of which was agreed upon and approved within the established procedure, will be transferred to the relevant organizations on August 7-8, 2014. Besides, there is a vehicle Nissan Patrol on the balance sheet of the project, and the UNDP agreed upon transfer of this vehicle to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources.

ON THE SECOND ISSUE WAS DECIDED:

To approve the transfer of the vehicle Nissan Patrol after the project completion to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources.

THE THIRD ISSUE was discussed and presented by:

O.M. Chabrouskaya reported that proposals were developed by the stakeholders on further activities as to promote the results achieved within the EU/ UNDP project; they were proposed at the final seminar within this project organized on July 31, 2014 in Minsk.

In the field of solid waste management it was proposed:

- to point out the significance of the statistical record-keeping in the field of waste management, because bad statistical record-keeping is a wide-spread cause of mistakes in development and implementation of activities and actions in the field of waste management;

- to apply sorting out in the source of waste formation, which is a cheap and convenient way to work with municipal waste;

- it is important to provide the population with the whole equipment set for sorting out (containers), because if people start to sort out one type of waste, they also sort out other types of waste successfully;

- to apply sorting out of the mixed waste on the efficient conveyers with the capacity 10 to 30, 000 tons per year. By that, as to make investments profitable, at least 30 % of the current expenses for their operation should be covered at expense of payment for waste processing. If there are less than 10 % of the qualitative recoverable materials, the investments in sorting out stations will result in capital loss;

- for the Republic of Belarus as well as for other countries a qualitative step to develop sorting out of solid municipal waste will be development of fuel recovered from the waste (RDF). But it is necessary to remember that the prime cost of development of RDF is 2-2.5 times higher than the selling price. There is also a problem with development of the required quality of RDF with humidity not exceeding 20 % and calorific value no less than 10-15, 000 kJ;

- to carry out work with biodegradable waste, which will be most effective if the simplest ways of composting are used. To apply biocomposters for private houses and field sites for composting at landfills is a good practice. At the same time collection of food waste from blocks of flats is expensive due to transportation costs and fast spoiling of such waste, especially in hot weather;

- to review the tariff system for collection and transportation of the solid municipal waste as to introduce flexible payment schemes for such services and as to involve in systems of separate collection and composting;

- when constructing plants of mechanical and biological waste processing it is necessary to operate plants to burn solid municipal waste. They allow to use a number of other substances as fuel and composting products. At the same time it is irrational to invest capital in mechanical and biological waste processing in the regions and districts where it is perspective to build burning plants;

- the sale market determines price and volume of recoverable materials to sell. It is technically possible to increase volumes of materials at sorting out up to 100 % from available waste; but it is impossible to sell a part of the materials, at least 20 %, due to their poor quality;

- one should not create excessive capacities for waste processing, but one should take into account the level of their load at 80-90% from the established capacity as to reduce costs;

- as to achieve a high efficiency level a sorting out, the best volume of waste processing is 30, 000 tons per year. That's why municipalities should unite as to increase effectiveness of control over waste flows and resources (joint use of infrastructure objects for the communal utility services in the region);

- to provide information to the population, which is the most important factor of the successful work of the waste management system.

In the field of biodiversity conservation and development of the "Green Schools" networks it was proposed:

- to send the strategy of tourism development in the reserve "Yelnya", drafted within the project, to Miory District Executive Committee for approval on behalf of the project or the Ministry of Environmental Protection;

- to monitor further not only groundwater but surface water as well in the Reserve "Yelnya" for the adequate assessment of the hydrological situation in the bog land;

- to ask the Steering Committee of the Republican educational project "Green Schools" to appeal to NGOs (public organizations) with their representatives in the Committee with a request to decide on membership of one of the organizations in the Foundation of Environmental Education (FEE) as to include the "Green Schools" project in the global program for environmental schools.

In the field of water protection it was proposed to provide practical support to organize activities of basin councils as well as to contribute to implementation of river basins management plans.

In the field of ecological certification it was proposed to continue the work on further improvement of the normative legal base in the field of ecological certification of products and services for dwelling and location (development of standards, testing methods for determining environmental criteria (for example, methods for determining indicators of product ingredients biodegradation)), as well as work on practical piloting of ecological certification of products and services for dwelling and location – to promote ecological certification of products and services for dwelling and location (creation and dissemination of information materials, development and support the Internet website (Internet-page) devoted to ecological certification of products and services, advertising, organization of training activities).

The following participants MADE STATEMENTS:

A.E. Vinchevsky proposed to include training activities (trainings) in the international technical assistance projects to be planned as to develop the network of "Green Schools".

O.M. Chabrouskaya noted that in most projects of international technical assistance there are training activities, and that's why trainings for development of the network of the "Green Schools" can be organized together with these activities (where possible).

M.V. Philipuyuk mentioned that the international technical assistance project for the green economy funded by the EU would be implemented in the Republic of Belarus. Within the frameworks of this project a Grant Competition (Call of Proposals) with NGOs participating in it

would be provided. An application related to the development of the "Green Schools" network could be sent to the above-mentioned grant competition.

I.M. Safronova proposed to include the issues of solid municipal waste management in perspective international technical assistance projects.

M.V. Philipuyuk mentioned that there are programs in the Republic of Belarus that provide international technical assistance on the basis of applications (project proposals) that could take into account the issues of waste management. These programs, for example, include UNDP/ GEF Small Grants Program.

ON THE THIRD ISSUE WAS DECIDED:

To take into account the proposed activities as to develop the results achieved within the EU/UNDP project in the activities of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and when planning further projects of international technical assistance in the field of environmental protection.

AGREED:

UNDP Programme Analyst
[Signature]
Віце-Аддасячальнік

« 18 » August 2014

The minutes prepared by:

[Signature]
O.M. Chabrouskaya,
Project Manager,
Executive Secretary of the Steering Council