

# LESSONS LEARNED LOG



Project Title: "Support to the development of a comprehensive framework for international environmental cooperation in the Republic of Belarus"		Award ID: 00076991		Date: 30/06/2014		
#	Type	Date Identified	Successes	Shortcomings	Recommended Solutions	Submitted, updated by
1	Project management	December 2011	Establishment of regional offices (Mior, Mosty and Kobrin) facilitated implementation of 3 pilot projects in view of practical activities as well as communication and involvement of local stakeholders and authorities.			Project Manager
2	Strategic	December 2011	Good relationships between 3 main partners (the UNDP, MNREP and the EU), and involvement of wide range of stakeholders (including Ministry of Housing and Municipal Economy, institutions of the National Academy of Sciences, local authorities, administration of Yelnya Reserve, local municipal and housing services organizations, Disna forest enterprise, local communities, special enterprises of the country working with water management and ecological certification, etc.), from the very beginning of the project result in: (i) implementation of the project without delay; (ii) smooth and timely information exchange; and (iii) resolution of issues arising in the process of project execution.			Project Manager
3	Project results	November 2011	Experience, results and findings received within the other projects that have been completed or are being implemented under the UNDP, are very valuable, especially in the field of environmental legislation, peatlands management and ecotourism development. These findings were			Project Manager

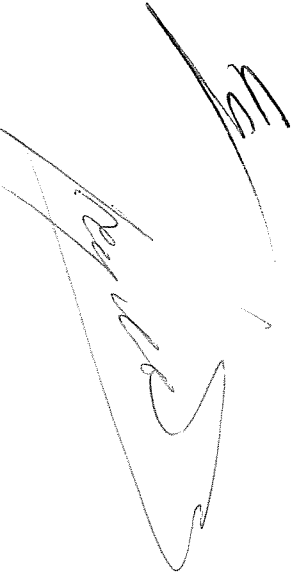
			used by the project and further developed in order to achieve project goals and tasks.			
4	Human factor	March 2012		Taking in account large project budget and especially a lot of directions of the project, having one administrative and financial assistant is not enough to cover all the issues related to financial accounting, recruitment, organization of seminars, etc.	When implementing projects with large budget and especially with a lot of different directions in the project, structure of the project should be very carefully planned.	Project Manager
5	Project management	April 2012		Due to the scope of the project and intensity of project implementation, several different events under all the project components need to be organized simultaneously that can result in delays, problems of implementation of activities, etc.	Mobilization of all the project staff and effective utilization of manpower should be ensured and well as strict control over implementation of all the project activities.	Project Manager
6	Project results	October 2012	A lot of different and complex equipment and machinery, especially on waste management, was procured under the project. Quality of the supplied equipment and machinery was guaranteed by: (i) check of the production process of the equipment by the project staff and engineers; visiting production sites of the producers in Belarus and abroad; check of the first batch of equipment produced; (ii) careful acceptance of every batch of equipment supplied in Minsk, and in all 3 pilot regions (Mily, Mosty, Kobrin) at time of delivery.			Project Manager
7	Project management	October 2012	Organization of field and PR events (like events dedicated to the famous dates (International Wetlands Day, International Birds Day, "Cranes and Cranberries" festival) allowed dissemination of information about the project results, as broad as possible, attracted a lot of republican and local mass media, involved different local and Minsk stakeholders, and facilitated sustainability of project results (e.g. "Cranes and Cranberries" festival gave an impulse for the			Project Manager

8	Strategic	June 2013	ecotourism development in Miory district). Organization of study tours to the countries, where the issues to be studied are good developed, with involvement of experts, specialists, practitioners is a good and effective tool for exchange of information and experience, and draw practical, useful and the most updated knowledge into Belarus.			Project Manager
9	Project results	June 2013		Lack of exchange of information and results achieved within the projects/ initiatives implemented in particular spheres not under the UNDP management (e.g. projects financed by the World Bank, projects implemented by NGOs, etc.) results in overlapping in projects implementation. Moreover, if there is databank on results achieved under all the projects/ initiatives under special direction (e.g. biodiversity conservation) the next steps to be implemented within the coming projects/ initiatives are more easily defined and full results achieved earlier are taken into account.	National Ministry responsible for coordination of activities under certain directions (e.g. biodiversity conservation, waste management, etc.) should establish a database with putting there all the results achieved by all the previous projects/ initiatives under this direction. Good tools for sharing information are seminars, conferences, meetings of ad hoc groups, etc.	Project Manager
10	Project results Strategic	November 2013	Due to the fact that optional educational course "Green Schools" for 1-9 classes was officially approved by the specialized institution of the Ministry of Education (the course was developed by the project experts in collaboration with the Ministry of Education based on the experience of implementation of "Green Schools" program in 2011- 2013 in the project pilot areas Mosty, Kobrin, Miory), this course is included into education programs of the Republic and can be run in all the schools of the Republic. This ensures sustainability of " Green Schools" program.			Project Manager
11	Project results Project	December 2013	Due to a number of factors: effective implementation of procurements that			Project Manager

management		<p>resulted in savings of funds, good planning of project activities, excellent work of the project team including in the regions, good relationships with the key stakeholders, efficient and timely financial management, a lot of additional activities were implemented. Such extra activities include, for instance, procurement of equipment for the schools from the pilot regions participating in the "Green Schools" program; procurement of a lot of additional equipment for ecotourism development in for Yelnya Reserve; organization of additional study tours to learn European practices in the field of ecological certification, water management; development of web-pages for Grodno regional Aarhus Centre and Yelnya Nature Reserve; development of 7 ecological tests and games; development of training programs on ecological certification of products and services and training of the auditors, etc. These additional activities facilitated sustainability of the project results, practical usage of the normative documents developed within the project; replication of the achievements, etc.</p>			
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Project Manager

Programme Officer



O.Chabrouskaya

I.Tchoulba