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2017

Annual Review Report 2017

Project title: Landscape Approach to Management of Peatlands Aiming at Multiple Ecological Benefits

Project ID: 00082884

Expected Country Programme Outcome: 3.2 Sustainable use of the country's natural resources promoted

National Implementing Agency: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus

No.	Activity description	Fund	Donor	Implementing agency	Budget account	Expenditure*	Annual target	Overall project assessment of implemented activities (brief description)
Component 1. Favourable conditions for integrated ecosystem management on degraded peatlands created								
Output 1.1. Improvement of policy framework and enhancement of institutional capacities for a landscape approach to peatlands management								
1.1.1	As part of the development of the National Strategy on Peatlands Management including the draft Outline of the Sustainable Use of Peat Deposits and Protection of Peat Bogs in the Republic of Belarus until 2030, develop a section of the database of peatlands of Belarus with information about the boundaries of natural mires, area, conservation status, type of use, presence of protected species and biotopes, and the degree of disturbance of the hydrological regime	62000	GEF	00995	NIM funding modality	14 145		Database "Peatlands of Belarus" has been revised based on the comments of all concerned parties and released to the public on the website.
1.2.1	Preparation of the National Report to Ramsar Convention.	62000	GEF	00995	72105 contractual services	13 000		National Report on the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan (2013-2016) has been prepared and submitted to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat
1.1.3	Conduct of the final conference summarizing project results	62000	GEF	00995	72105 contractual services	1 700		The final conference summarizing project results has been conducted, during the Conference the results of Peatlands 2 project have been presented (creation of the ecological network of Viciebsk Poozerie, broadening of the network of local PAs on peatlands, ensuring sustainability of the operation of existing PAs on peatlands in the framework of the implementation of the Strategy on Peatlands Management).
1.1.4	Updating the database of peatlands (sections <i>Peatlands, Peat Deposits, Reserves of Especially Valuable Peat Types, Exploited Reserves, Peat Deposits Withdrawn From Commercial Use</i>).	62000	GEF	00995	71300 local consultants	4 000		The Database <i>Peatlands of Belarus</i> (sections <i>Peatlands, Peat Deposits, Reserves of Especially Valuable Peat Types, Exploited Reserves, Peat Deposits Withdrawn From Commercial Use</i>) has been finalized with due regard for the comments of all stakeholders and released to the public on the website.
1.1.5	Preparation and publication of the book <i>Peatlands of Belarus</i> (working title)	62000	GEF	00995	72105 contractual services	5 915		The book <i>Protection and Sustainable Use of the Peatlands of Belarus</i> has been prepared and published, 120 pages, 1500 copies. The book contains scientific and educational information on the current state of the protection and sustainable use of natural and drained peatlands of Belarus.

1.1.6	Improving legal framework for sustainable land use to ensure fulfilling of the provisions of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification by the Republic of Belarus	62000	GEF	00995	NIM funding modality	26 001	Proposals prepared for improving the legal regulation of sustainable land use, including the creation of erosion control to ensure fulfilling of the provisions of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification by the Republic of Belarus, including draft regulatory legal acts (at least 6). The report has been prepared	The legislation of the Republic of Belarus and other countries has been analysed in terms of establishing standards relating to the legal regulation of the issues of the sustainable management of land resources to implement the UN Convention to Combat Desertification by the Republic of Belarus, as regards the inclusion of activities aimed at the sustainable management of land resources (10 draft resolutions of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, 11 draft resolutions of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, and 17 draft technical regulations - environmental standards and rules)
1.1.7	Implementation of information and communication strategies to disseminate project's results and experience.	62000	GEF	00995	71400 service contract	5 120	Project results and experience have been published in the national and international media (including printed and electronic mass media).	Project results and experience have been published in the national and international media (including printed and electronic mass media).
1.1.8	Development of the concept of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Protection and Use of Bogs (Peatlands)".	62000	GEF	00995	71300 local consultants	4 000	Based on the conducted analysis of the international regulation in the area of the protection and use of peatlands and the legislation of the Republic of Belarus, the text of the concept of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Protection and Use of Bogs (Peatlands)" and rationale to the concept have been developed and agreed with the MNREP.	The international experience of the legal regulation of the issues related to the protection and use of mires, and international treaties, to which Belarus is a Party have been reviewed; the legislation of Belarus governing the issues of the protection and use of bogs (land laws, laws on nature conservation, laws on minerals, land amelioration, water conservation and management, laws regulating peat industry, etc.) has been analysed, the structure of the concept of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Protection and Use of Bogs (Peatlands)" has been developed; and the concept of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Protection and Use of Bogs (Peatlands)" and a rationale to the concept have been developed.
1.1.9	Presentation of project results during the Conference of the Parties to the ESPOO Convention	62000	GEF	00995	72105 contractual services	2 000	Project results have been presented during the Conference of the Parties to the ESPOO Convention	Project results have been presented during the Conference of the Parties to the ESPOO Convention
Total for output 1.1						75 881		
1.2 Testing a landscape approach to peatlands management through the improvement of the system of protected wetlands and establishing of the ecological network of Viciebsk Poozerie								
1.2.1	Establishing the system of wardens for the most important peatlands of Belarus	62000	GEF	00995	NIM funding modality	12 112	The system of wardens (tentatively about 60 persons) for six wetlands (Turaŭskaje Balonnie, Sož Floodplain, Vyhanaščanskaje, Hrodna Svislač, Siervieč, Dzikaje) has been established. Plans for the sustainable use of the natural resources of peatlands have been developed. Six booklets about each of the territories (design and print) have been prepared, at least two round tables have been conducted, at least 20 corresponding information signs have been manufactured and installed at the boundaries of pilot territories. The information about the establishment of the system of wardens has been broadly covered in the national and local media (at least 5 publications). Interviews with the	The system of wardens (120 people) has been established for 10 wetlands (Turaŭskaje Balonnie, Sož Floodplain, Vyhanaščanskaje, Hrodna Svislač, Siervieč, Dzikaje, Spora, Naliboki Forest, Zvaniec, Álmany Mires). Plans for the sustainable use of the natural resources of peatlands have been developed. Ten booklets about each of the territories (design and print) have been prepared, 40 workshops and working meetings have been conducted, 40 corresponding information signs have been manufactured and installed at the boundaries of pilot territories. The information about the establishment of the system of wardens has been broadly covered in the national and local media (10 publications). Final report has been prepared.
1.2.2	Establishment of an environmental and educational centre at the Republican Landscape Zakaznik Aziory	62000	GEF	00995	72105 contractual services	10 838	In cooperation with the Republican Landscape Zakaznik Aziory the environmental educational centre of the Zakaznik has been established.	Along with the Hrodna District Executive Committee an environmental and educational visitor centre has been established at the Republican Landscape Zakaznik Aziory (the building has been refurbished, equipped with the necessary equipment, the surrounding grounds have been
1.2.3	Creation of an educational trail in the neighbourhood of Hiermanavičy school to improve the educational potential of the created environmental class.	10737	NWI	00995	72105 contractual services	23 970	An educational trail has been created close to Hiermanavičy school (2.5 km long). The trail has been equipped with hard landscape elements (a viewing platform, shelters, benches, tables, information boards, boardings over swampland).	An educational trail has been created close to Hiermanavičy school (2.5 km long). The trail has been equipped with hard landscape elements (a viewing platform, shelters, benches, tables, information boards, boardings over swampland).
1.2.4	Training local guides in leading excursions along the trail	10737	NWI	00995	71300 local consultants	1 200	At least 6 locally engaged guides have completed training on leading tours along the trail and received respective certificates.	Guidelines for leading tours along the created trail have been prepared. Seven local people have completed training on leading tours of the created trail.
1.2.5	A familiarization trip for the local guides and teachers to the existing educational trails of Belarus	10737	NWI	00995	71600 travel	1 371	A familiarization trip for the teachers and local guides (at least 6 persons) to the existing educational trails of Belarus has been conducted to introduce them to the best available practices.	A familiarization trip to the protected natural areas of Belarus (Biaresinski Biosphere Reserve, Sporaški Zakaznik, Bielaviežskaja Pušča National Park) has been conducted for seven people (teachers of Hiermanavičy school, representatives of Šarkaŭščyna Districts) to introduce them to the best available practices of organizing ecotourism and education.
1.2.6	Purchase of necessary equipment for the educational trail	10737	NWI	00995	18094 equipment	1 806	Necessary equipment has been purchased (binoculars, spotting scopes, trail cameras) for conducting educational activities at the trail.	Eleven bicycles have been purchased and transferred to Hiermanavičy School to conduct educational activities at the ecotrail.
1.2.7	Opening of the ecotrail at the Hiermanavičy School	10737	NWI	00995	75705 trainings and workshops		The ecotrail at the Hiermanavičy School has been presented to the local stakeholders and mass media.	The opening ceremony of the ecotrail and its presentation to the mass media took place September 18, 2017.
1.2.8	Scientific and practical coordination of the New World project component	10737	NWI	00995	71300 local consultants	14 000	Scientific and practical coordination of the New World project component has been ensured in conformity with the Project Document, quality control of the performed works has been ensured.	Scientific and practical coordination of the New World project component has been ensured in conformity with the Project Document, quality control of the performed works has been ensured. The application of the funds as part of the New World project component is 100 per cent.
1.2.9	Development of a test system of the continuous monitoring of peat fires at the Jel'nia Bog, monitoring of the groundwater level at the Jel'nia Bog following the interventions to restore the hydrological regime	10737	NWI	00995	72105 contractual services	7 900	The system for continuous monitoring of the risk of peat fires at the Jel'nia Bog has been developed using GIS technology and transferred to Disna Forestry for field testing. The monitoring of the groundwater level at the Jel'nia Bog following the interventions to restore the hydrological regime implemented in 2015 has been continued, a report has been prepared.	The pilot software suite "Fire hazard for the Jel'nia Bog" that ensures real-time monitoring of the risk of peat fires based on GIS data has been developed; the suite has been transferred to the Disna Forestry for field testing.

					Total for output 1.2	73 197		
					Total for outcome 1	149 078		
2.1 Restoration of 2,027 ha of inefficiently drained forest peatlands								
2.1.1	Repairs of water regulation facilities constructed as part of Peatlands-1 project to optimize the hydrological regime of Moračna - a Ramsar site.	62000	GEF	00995	72105 contractual services	1 790	Works have been performed for the renovation of the water regulating facilities constructed at Moračna (Ramsar site) as part of the UNDP/GEF project Peatlands-1 to restore the hydrological regime in order to prevent peat fires.	Works have been performed for the renovation of the water regulating facilities constructed at Moračna Ramsar site as part of the UNDP/GEF project Peatlands-1 to restore the hydrological regime, which resulted in the considerably reduced probability of peat fires at peat harvesting fields.
2.1.2	Opening of the Aziory environmental educational centre	62000	GEF	00995	72105 contractual services	2 376	The Aziory environmental educational centre modernized as part of the project has been presented to the local stakeholders and mass media.	The official opening of the modernized as part of the project Aziory environmental educational centre took place on August 28, 2017 with the participation of the representatives of mass media and television. Five materials have been published in the mass media following the event.
2.1.3	Presentation of project results during the Cranes and Cranberries Ecofestival	62000	GEF	00995	72105 contractual services		Project results have been presented during the Cranes and Cranberries Ecofestival	Project results have been presented during the Cranes and Cranberries Ecofestival
2.1.4	Presentation of project results during the international ecological Sporovsky Haymaking Festival	62000	GEF	00995	72105 contractual services	4 376	Project results have been presented during the international ecological Sporovsky Haymaking Festival	Project results have been presented during the international ecological Sporovsky Haymaking Festival
Total for output 2.1						8 542		
2.3 Enhancing the readiness of the government for the implementation of carbon projects on agricultural and forest peatlands								
2.3.1	Preparation of the final report with the general evaluation of the project's outcome in terms of climate impact (greenhouse gases) as required by GEF	62000	GEF	00995	71300 local consultants	3 000	The final report with the general evaluation of the project's outcome in terms of climate impact (greenhouse gases) and ecosystem resilience to climate change has been prepared as required by GEF.	Based on instrumental measurements, GHG flow coefficients for unexplored biotopes have been calculated, and these coefficients have been used for the calculation of GHG dynamics at project sites. The calculations showed that thanks to project activities GNG emissions have reduced considerably calculated for a 20-year period (2,371,448 t CO2e): rewetting of disturbed forest and agricultural peatlands - 1,713,863 t CO2e, restoration of the hydrological regime at the Jelnia Bog - 551,342 t CO2e; GHG emission reduction after transforming arable peatlands into meadow lands - 55 200 t CO2e; planting of forest crops at disturbed peatlands -
2.3.2	Ensuring scientific and practical coordination of project activities in conformity with the Project Document	4000	UNDP	00995	71400 service contract	16 003	Scientific and practical coordination of project activities in conformity with the Project Document has been ensured, the quality of submitted scientific and technical reports has been monitored.	Scientific and practical coordination of project activities in conformity with the Project Document has been ensured, the quality of submitted scientific and technical reports has been monitored.
2.3.3	Printed matter and information products/materials	62000	GEF	00995	72105 contractual services	27 191	A final publication with the results of project implementation over the period between 2013 and 2017 has been developed and printed (150 copies). Project brief has been updated and printed in Russian (100 copies) and English (50 copies). The project's branded materials have been updated (promotional textile, folders, notebooks, pens, etc.) Products with the project's logo have been manufactured for public events. A sculpture of a crane has been manufactured for Miory District	A final publication with the results of project implementation over the period between 2013 and 2017 has been developed and printed (150 copies). Project brief has been updated and printed in Russian (100 copies) and English (50 copies). The project's branded materials have been updated (promotional textile, folders, notebooks, pens, etc.) Products with the project's logo have been manufactured for public events. A sculpture of a crane has been manufactured for Miory District. The official opening of the sculpture took place on September 17, 2017
2.3.4	Prepare a forecast of the increased greenhouse gas absorption by the forests of Belarus and the list of activities to increase greenhouse gas absorption in agriculture and forestry.	62000	GEF	00995	71300 local consultants	9 000	The carbon balance of the forests of Belarus has been prepared based on the established (used) coefficients along with the list of activities to increase greenhouse gas absorption in forestry.	The analysis of the carbon balance of the forests of Belarus based on the 2016 forestry data has been conducted. The trends of the carbon balance dynamics of the forests of Belarus have been determined. The forecast of the carbon balance dynamics of the forest of Belarus has been made until
2.3.5	Finalizing the plants database	62000	GEF	00995	72105 contractual services	2 470	The database of the National Plant Inventory has been complemented with the information on the: protected, invasive, introduced, hazardous plants, plants for economical use, and on plant communities, and especially valuable plantations.	The database of the National Plant Inventory has been complemented with the information on the: protected, invasive, introduced, hazardous plants, valuable plants for economical use, and on plant communities, and especially valuable plantations.
2.3.6	Costs for car maintenance, postage, bank charges, communication services, internet	62000	GEF	00996	72120, 72430, 73410, 74510	7 000	The project activities have been implemented in full in accordance with the work plan. The project car has been insured.	The project activities have been implemented in full in accordance with the work plan. The project car has been insured.
2.3.7	Translation services	62000	GEF	00997	71305	4 000	The project documents have been translated.	The project documents have been translated.

2.3.8	Calculation of the national balance of greenhouse gas emissions/absorption from peatlands and drained peatlands using national coefficients	62000	GEF	00995	NIM funding modality	22 164	Classification of peatlands has been conducted in terms of the quantitative indicators of greenhouse gas sinks and emissions, greenhouse gas emission coefficients determined from one unit of the area of peatlands of each category of peatlands according to the developed classification, and total emission of greenhouse gases from Belarusian peatlands has been estimated.	Averages of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for various types of peatlands have been determined, the system of peat soil classification has been developed based on their GHG absorption and emission properties; the areas of peatlands have been estimated within the framework of the developed classification for the 1970-2015 period; area coefficients of the annual GHG emissions for each type of peatlands have been estimated; the current greenhouse gas balance for peatlands has been estimated; focus areas have been defined for improving the national GHG emission estimate methodology and improving the accuracy of national reports and communications
Total for output 2.3						90 828		
Total for outcome 2						99 370		
3. Project management								
3.1	Organizing the work of the Project Steering Committee (PSC)	62000	GEF	00995			Project Steering Committee (PSC) monitors project implementation. At least two PSC meetings have been held.	Project Steering Committee (PSC) monitors project implementation. Three PSC meetings have been held (two using polling method).
3.2	Organizing the activity of the Project Management Unit (PMU)	62000	GEF	00995	71400 service contract	35 531	The achievement of targets specified in the project documents as well as the compliance with the established quality standards, terms of implementation and the budget limits of the project annual work plan 2017 have been ensured.	Project activities have been implemented in full in accordance with the work plan. Budget spending is 100 % of the planned spending. The overall percentage of the spending of funds by the project over the 2013-2017 period is 99.9%.
		4000	UNDP	00995		11 000		
3.3	Direct Project Costs	62000/4000	GEF/UNDP	00995	74699	7 000	According to UNDP procedures, project administration cost reimbursed.	According to UNDP procedures, project administration cost reimbursed.
3.4	Preparation of project progress reports and submitting them to the MNREP, UNDP and the Ministry of Economy in accordance with the approved schedule and in the prescribed form	62000	GEF	00995			Project progress reports have been prepared and submitted to the MNREP, UNDP and the Ministry of Economy in accordance with the approved schedule and in the prescribed form	Project progress reports have been prepared and submitted to the MNREP, UNDP and the Ministry of Economy in accordance with the approved schedule and in the prescribed form
Project monitoring and project management								
3.5	Final project evaluation	62000	GEF	00995	71200 international consultants 71300 local consultants	14 800	Final project performance assessment has been conducted in accordance with the donor's procedures	In line with the donor requirements the final evaluation of the performance of project activities has been conducted (evaluated as satisfactory).
3.6	Periodic monitoring through field visits to project sites	62000	GEF	00995	71600 travel	11 200	At least 10 monitoring visits have been conducted to project implementation sites	11 monitoring visits to project implementation sites have been conducted
Total for outcome 3						79 531		
Total for the project						327 979		

*- forecast of expenses is made before FY-2017 CDR closure

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