



INCEPTION REPORT

“Integrating Rio Conventions Provisions into Ukraine’s National Policy Framework”

«Інтеграція положень Конвенцій Ріо у національну політику України»



TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND.....	3
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS.....	4
MEANING OF THE THREE RIO CONVENTIONS.....	5
OVERVIEW OF THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY.....	5
PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT.....	7
OTHER PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS.....	9
CONCLUSION.....	12
APPENDICES.....	13
Appendix I: Agenda.....	13
Appendix II: Participants List.....	15
Appendix III: Press Release.....	19

BACKGROUND

Three United Nations Conventions (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (CCD), and Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) were adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 in response to a number of global environmental threats. They serve as a roadmap to lead the countries along the sustainable development path. Ukraine is a signatory to all three conventions.

Ukraine ratified all three Rio Conventions: UN Convention on Biological Diversity (07 Feb. 1995), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (27 Aug. 2002) and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (29 Oct. 1996). Furthermore, it ratified essential protocols supplementary to the Rio Conventions – the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2003), Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2012), the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (2004).

Ukraine also declared its support to sustainable development at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development 'Rio+20', which was held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

In 2007 Ukraine completed a National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA). As with many other countries, Ukraine's challenge in meeting global environmental priorities is rooted in a real priority to meet national socio-economic priorities, lack of awareness on the national benefits of Rio Convention implementation, weak institutional capacities to implement the Rio Conventions, and limited financial resources of government institutions, among other challenges and barriers.

Under the NCSA, Ukraine prepared the National Environmental Policy (NEP), which reflected the principles and provisions of the three Rio Conventions. The NEP also helped strengthen Ukraine's alignment with the European Union's (EU) Environment Action Programme, and subsequent EU large-scale financing.

Since 2007, Ukraine has been making positive advances towards improving its governance of the environment, passing into law (in December 2010) the Main Principles (Strategy) of the National Environmental Policy. This law calls for Ukraine to stabilize and improve the environment by **integrating environmental objectives into sectoral socio-economic policies**.

This project responds directly to the NEP law, and will facilitate the integration of Rio Convention provisions into sectoral policies, programmes, plans and legislation.

There are two **complementary objectives** of this project. The first is to integrate the principles and criteria that frame the articles of the three Rio Conventions into a key set of Ukraine's sectoral development policies. Recommendations which will be elaborated as a result of sectoral analysis will serve as a base for drafting the new comprehensive Strategy and a corresponding 'road map' for its implementation, with a focus on formation of strategic approach to planning and realization of sectoral policies.

This will be complemented by a second objective, which is to strengthen a key set of institutional and individual capacities to operationalize the improved sectoral policies, programmes, plans and legislation at the regional level. A third component serves to reinforce the first two components by promoting a greater understanding of the complex and dynamic inter-dependencies among environment, economy and social development policies. For example, targeted learning materials will be prepared for incorporation into the curricula of secondary schools and universities.

The project takes an adaptive collaborative management (ACM) approach to implementation, which calls for stakeholders to take an early and proactive role in the mainstreaming exercises, as well as to help identify and solve unexpected implementation barriers and challenges.

This project receives funding under the GEF-5 Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Strategy, Programme Framework C, which calls for the strengthening of capacities to develop policy and legislative frameworks to meet Rio Convention objectives.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

This project was developed on the basis of the consultations with a number of stakeholder representatives. Taking an adaptive and collaborative management approach to execution, the project will ensure that key stakeholders are involved early and throughout project execution as partners for development. This includes their participation in the Project Board, review of project outputs such as recommendations for amendments to policies, plans, programmes and legislation, as well as participation in monitoring activities.

The project's primary national partner is the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine. The first set of government stakeholders are the eight ministries, their respective state agencies, and central and regional authorities that will directly benefit from the project. State agencies include those that cover environmental investment (SEIA), energy (SAEE), fisheries (SFA), forests (SFRA), land (SLRA), and water (SWRA) are important stakeholders that provide oversee the management of these natural resources. Other state agencies play a more central role in managing socio-economic development priorities that may have an impact on the global environment. These include:

- Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food
- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
- Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
- Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sport
- Ministry of Energy and Coal Mining Industry
- Ministry of Infrastructure
- Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing
- Ministry of Social Policy

The project arranges for screening of relevant sectoral policies and programmes of each Ministry through the prism of Rio Conventions implementation. SWOT and Gap analysis will reveal those aspects in policing that can be further revised at a State level, to facilitate better environmental practices in compliance with the Rio Conventions.

In addition to the above, a key group of stakeholders are the parliamentarians that make policy decisions and who will be responsible for approving the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Other key stakeholders include the private sector and academic institutions, the latter holding a vast amount of data, information and expertise. Academic institutions (and to certain extent NGOs) play considerable role in Ukraine in informing decision-makers (central Government in particular) on sustainable development/environmental (Rio context in particular) matters and even initiate and undertake drafting of strategic documents and decisions to be further adopted by governmental institutions.

The project will take advantage of a number of existing mechanisms in Ukraine to engage stakeholders to formulation and realization of environmental policy. These include the four stakeholder public council meetings (dialogues) that were convened under the MENR and its regional departments that unite environmental NGOs. In addition to the public councils (platforms), Ukraine organizes an annual International Forum called "Environment for Ukraine" that gathers different stakeholders, including central and local authorities, academia, education, business, NGOs and youth.

The private sector in Ukraine has already begun to address its role in fostering sustainable development at the global level, e.g., through the work of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and initiatives such as the new UN-Private Sector Global Compact on responsible business behaviour.

Mass media will cover all public events organized in the framework of the project, while separate training sessions will be targeting journalists writing on environmental topics.

MEANING OF THE THREE RIO CONVENTIONS

An estimated billion of families around the world, living primarily in rural areas, depend on natural resources for their livelihood. Yet, global challenges such as climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity threaten the sustainability of these vital resources. These challenges and threats are also urgent for Ukraine. The country's rich black soil is among its vital assets and the basis for the national economic development.

Three United Nations Conventions (on climate change, biological diversity, desertification) cover many aspects of preservation of environmental safety, as one of the basic factors for sustainable development.

Land degradation is an extremely urgent issue for Ukraine because it has a direct impact on soil fertility and the quality of agricultural products which can lead to significant economic losses (more than 6 billion US dollars annually). Intensive chemical-based agriculture, overuse of lands, and unsustainable forestry practices are among the reasons for land degradation in Ukraine. Degradation of soils leads first to reduced productivity, causing rural incomes to fall and potentially decreasing the quality and availability of foods for rural households. Decreased agricultural productivity prompts rural population to move to the cities, that increased pressure on urban infrastructure and services. Land degradation, occurring on a broad scale within a region, can lead to food insecurity for large numbers of people.

Climate change is likely to lead to less rain thus resulting in the loss of soil fertility and desertification, degraded habitats for wildlife, and increasing threats to rural livelihoods. Gradually, climatic zones are shifting and rising temperatures are creating conditions for epidemiological insecurity (e.g., migration of malaria carrying insects in Europe). Sea level rises, which will in turn lead to relocation of millions of people living at the coastlines. Increased flooding and storm damage due to more unpredictable and extreme weather will cause both human and infrastructural damage throughout the world.

The consequences of climate change were observed in Ukraine in 1998 and in 2008, when it suffered from intensive floods and then in 2009 and 2010 when Ukrainian population witnessed abnormally hot summers. The climate change is intrinsically linked with future economic losses and will likely cause uncontrolled migration of people, spread of diseases and other social disruptions.

Human survival and wellbeing depend upon **biodiversity** and healthy ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide—such as food, medicines, crop pollination, filtration of pollutants, and protection from natural disasters. This contribution is neither fully recognized nor valued in markets. As a result, ecosystems, species and genes—the building blocks of biodiversity—are being degraded at an unparalleled pace as natural resources are being exploited without consideration for their broader ecosystem and economic values. The poor, especially in rural areas, face the most severe impacts of such changes as they directly depend on ecosystem goods and services for their survival and wellbeing.

OVERVIEW OF THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY

The project was launched at the Inception Workshop on April 29, 2014, in Kyiv, Ukraine. It gathered more than 80 representatives of the governmental institutions, academia and NGOs.

The ceremony started with the welcoming remarks from *Mrs. Ricarda Rieger*, Country Director of UNDP in Ukraine. Mrs. Rieger stressed that the project aims to contribute to the sustainable development of Ukraine and called for all parties to participate actively in its activities, because only joint efforts can result in improved application of the Rio Conventions in Ukraine. She also added that by improving policies, adjusting them in line with the Conventions and ensuring their implementation in practice a positive change would be achieved. 'By taking care of the environment today, we take care of the future generations and their wellbeing'.

Mr. Ivan Ivanets, Deputy Head of International Relations Unit of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine highlighted the importance of the project and expressed full support for its activities. Mr. Ivanets noted that the general public has insufficient knowledge of the Rio Conventions and their benefits. Little is known of the dangers for the environment and about the outcomes of anthropogenic impact. For example, land degradation is developing very fast in Ukraine, but unfortunately, this is not a subject of public interest. Thus, it is vital for mass media to reach wider audience to improve its understanding of desertification and land degradation processes.

Mr. Sviatoslav Kurulenko, Head of the Public Council by the State Agency of Environmental Investments of Ukraine, talked about the ongoing national programmes on mitigation of climate change (regional action plans are developed but still pending approval of the Cabinet of Ministers because of financial constraints which may hinder their execution; trainings for the governmental staff are carried out; negotiations with the private sector are continuing). In the context of the projected association with the EU, Ukraine has to adjust its environmental policies and practices to the European standards. Special attention should be given to regulating greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Vadym Pozharsky, GEF Operational Focal Point in Ukraine, resumed that the new project is one more initiative launched by UNDP in Ukraine, which would obviously be in the list of those activities that make a difference. GEF is supporting this project financially and fully relies on UNDP's profound expertise in implementing nation-wide environmental projects.



PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

The primary introduction to the Project was made by *Olena Ovchynnikova*, acting as a Programme Analyst at the Energy and Environment Cluster of UNDP in Ukraine.



'Sustainable Development means that the needs of current generations are being satisfied without compromising the ability of future generations to fulfill their needs' ('Our common future', 1987).

Ms. Ovchynnikova started with the concept of 'Sustainable Development' and stressed that it pursues improved quality of life for all people and facilitates well-coordinated economic development, high employment rates and high education standards, provision of good quality health care, social and territorial security of communities, and environmental protection.

In her presentation, she noted that national policies and roadmaps should be directed towards sustainable development and the framework through which this could be done is a sustainable development strategy (SDS). The SDS aims to reach a balance between the country's short-term and long-term tasks, and to link national priorities with the international commitments.

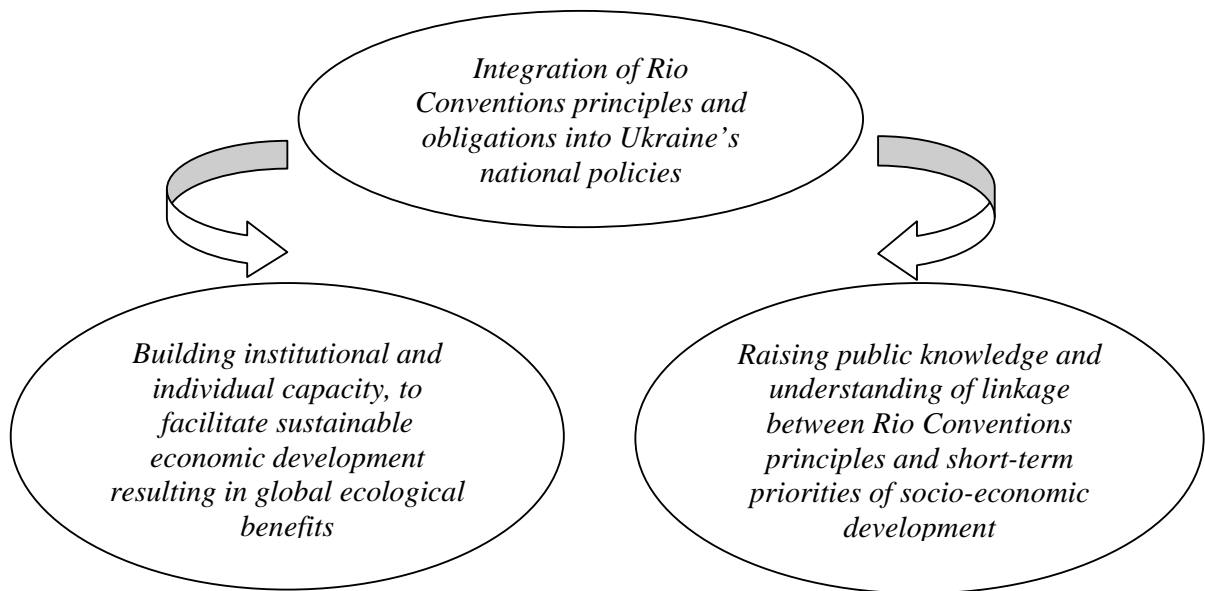
In Ukraine, as well as globally, there are a number of factors that threaten the path of sustainable development, namely:

- Increased consumption
- Lack of markets
- Inefficient national policies
- Weak institutional capacity
- Application of inadequate or outdated technologies
- Degradation of ecosystems
- High rates of environmental pollution, etc.
-

They lead to the increase of greenhouse gas emissions, land degradation, loss of biodiversity. These threats are addressed by the three Rio Conventions.

Ukraine ratified all three Rio Conventions: UN Convention on Biological Diversity (07 Feb. 1995), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (27 Aug. 2002) and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (29 Oct. 1996). Furthermore, it ratified essential protocols supplementary to the Rio Conventions – the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2003), Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2012), the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (2004).

UNDP/GEF project 'Integrating Rio Conventions Provisions into Ukraine's National Policy Framework' aims at catalyzing implementation of the Rio Conventions by re-directing the policies and governance towards sustainable development. This will be achieved through strengthening institutional capacities and awareness raising activities.



Project activities will include:

- * SWOT analysis and analysis of national policies and strategic framework for implementing Rio Conventions
- * Drafting a Framework for the Sustainable Development Strategy
- * Learning-by-doing in the course of integrating Rio Conventions provisions into selected national policies at national, regional and local levels
- * Designing the Road Map for effective integrating the conventions into national policies and for introduction of corresponding institutional improvements
- * Kick-off conference (associated with the Project launch) and Project finalization conference
- * Public opinion survey
- * Public awareness campaign
- * Production and dissemination of educational and informational materials
- * Workshops and consultations to raise knowledge
- * Educating the government staff on integrating the Conventions into the national policies
- * Posting messages and publishing articles on Rio Conventions and integration of their provisions in Ukraine on the Internet

PROJECT PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS



OTHER PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Presentation of the Project tasks and activities was followed by presentations by the speakers engaged in the Project as experts in target sectors.

The Project's Public Administration Expert, *Mr. Gennadii Marushevskiy*, made an overview of the Project's structure, detailed planned activities and provisional workplan.

At present, 11 local consultants, contracted by the Project, have started their work: 8 experts will study sectoral policies of corresponding ministries to identify gaps, which hinder implementation of Rio Conventions principles in Ukrainian practice. This will be further followed by expert consultations and elaboration of recommendations for adjusting the current policies to address the gaps revealed and, as a result, the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) will be drafted and submitted to the Parliament of Ukraine for consideration. Environmental Sociologist will be responsible for sociological surveys in target groups (awareness of Rio Conventions among ministries' staff, the general public, mass media) and organizing consecutive awareness raising activities (media awareness workshops, private sector sensitization workshops, regional informational events). Public Administration Expert will coordinate most of the Project activities and support the sectoral experts in elaboration of the SDS. The Public Awareness Expert will be engaged at every stage of organizing awareness raising activities, which will include media training workshops, production of the Public Service Announcement, awareness raising contests among higher school students and students of PR faculties, and for the content of the website on Rio Conventions (to be designed for the Project).

Ms. Tetyana Tymochko, - Public Awareness Expert, stressed the role of this Project as a platform for discussions among the experts, who have dedicated themselves to facilitating the implementation of the conventions long ago.

While making her presentation on the Project's component 3, she emphasized the most essential feature – that this Project will combine efforts of the academia, public sector, government and private sector – with the aim to promote the ideology of sustainable development. In her talk, *Ms. Tymochko* underscored that the acting legislative acts do not correspond to the requirements of the Rio Conventions. As far as the awareness component is concerned, it is worth mentioning that apart from separate activities that are planned, the Project will try to cooperate with the communications units of the Ministries to come up with joint information campaigns on environmental protection.

Information means a lot. It is extremely important to spread messages among the general public about the Rio Conventions and their application. The messages should reach everyone in all regions of Ukraine. The Project will use various tools for that – educational workshops and materials, creative competitions for youth, trainings for mass media.

Commercial companies must take social responsibility for environmental protection. While environment-friendly companies should be encouraged to further act as role models, the companies violating environmental legislation should be penalized accordingly.

Only balanced national strategies can serve as prerequisites for sustainable development. The current practice in Ukraine shows that strategies and policies of selected ministries are not coordinated with adjacent ministries. Thus, policies which are approved by, for example, Ministry of Economy or Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry are not agreed with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. Furthermore, each Ministry has in its structure some research and educational institutions. It would be beneficial if the training curricula for the ministry staff was enhanced with a series of lectures on environmental protection.



Mr. Oleksandr Tarariko, Agrarian Policy Specialist, made a presentation on the state of Ukrainian land resources, impacts of natural and anthropogenic factors on soil (land erosion and degradation). He listed the dangers for the soil and its fertility. Mr. Tarariko resumed that there is an urgent need to protect the lands, which have always been a Ukrainian vital asset. Above all, there is a need to review the acting policies and normative framework, which are extremely weak and outdated.



Mr. Yevgen Khlobystov, Environmental Economy Specialist, has started his presentation with the definition of 'sustainable development' and its components (including rational use of natural resources). He emphasized the importance of regional policies for the implementation of national programmes and listed the shortfalls that currently exist. There are several tools which can be used to influence execution of regional policies. Among the most effective financial means is a co-shared mode of funding for the programmes (joint programmes shared by different agencies or funded from both local and the State budgets). The expert also said that

the strategy of sustainable development must envisage adjustment to the requirements of the economic union to which Ukraine may integrate in the coming years.

Mr. Sergey Lisovskyi, Social Welfare Expert, listed the social factors which impact the environmental safety. Among them, he named low social standards of living in Ukraine. The public is unlikely to take care of the environment and use natural resources rationally while it needs to secure its economic survival. Yet, it is important to join the efforts of all sectors, to gain a positive result, as in the State's functioning everything is interrelated.

Mr. Volodymyr Isaienko, Environmental Education Specialist, spoke about specific aspects of current legislative regulations in Ukrainian educational sphere. He admitted that the quality and the content of public education and professional training are among determining factors on a way to sustainable development. Yet, Ukraine has not adopted two essential concepts: 'On Education for Sustainable Development' and 'On Environmental Education in Ukraine'. Mr. Isaienko quoted the results of sociological surveys among teachers and lecturers: the overwhelming majority agreed that environmental education needs enhancement, but at the same time, the teaching staff themselves lack sufficient knowledge. The survey among students and pupils showed that they do not perceive environmental protection measures as something that relates to them personally. The analysis proved that the current training courses are not sufficient. There is an obvious need to develop and adopt a Framework on Education for Sustainable Development and to establish corresponding Coordination Councils. Mr. Isaienko summed up that present educational curricula are not based on the principles of sustainable development.

Ms. Alla Novikova, Transportation Expert, has already started analysing Ukrainian transportation sector policies with regard to the implementation of provisions of Rio Conventions. Even at an early stage, she identified numerous gaps and non-compliance. Namely, Ukrainian aviation transport produces noise, which exceeds acceptable limits, and thus is not allowed to enter the EU airspace. Domestic marine vehicles endanger biodiversity by bringing in tropical species. Wastewater emissions are not limited at present. Also, the norms on energy consumption on transport are not set. To reduce losses for the environment, economic tools should be applied, such as penalties for private companies, and more strict regulations should be developed.

Mr. Leonid Rudenko, Natural Resources Expert, spoke about the consequences of irrational use of natural resources in Ukraine. He underscored incompliance between the scientific recommendations on solving environmental problems and the current policies and practices.

Some participants expressed their concerns about numerous gaps in the current legislations and programmes: not only most of sectoral policies are not corresponding to the Rio Conventions, but they also lack linkage between each other (they are rather narrow than comprehensive). Some speakers proposed to initiate a law on 'Ecological Safety in Ukraine', which would set a framework for assessment of all newly adopted laws through the prism of environmental safety of all new initiatives and regulations.

CONCLUSION

All attendees of the Inception Workshop have admitted the urgency of implementing the Rio Conventions in Ukraine to phase out further practices that abruptly affect the state of the environment and violate international norms. The parties expressed readiness to support the Project implementation.

The Project was launched with a minor delay (due to the current political instability in Ukraine), however it started smoothly. On the initial stage, the Project has contracted 11 local consultants and one international consultant who will guide the local consultants.

The consultants are expected to prepare the sectoral analysis by mid-June 2014, so as to present their results at the Project Kick-Off conference in the same month. The conference will gather up to 200 attendees representing various stakeholders and it is projected as a platform to discuss the Project's detailed course of action based on the revealed gaps in sectoral policies and planned activities.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Agenda

United Nations Development Programme



INTEGRATING RIO CONVENTION PROVISIONS INTO UKRAINE'S NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

INCEPTION WORKSHOP

Date: 29 April 2014

Venue: Conference Hall of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Address: Kyiv, 55 Volodymyrska str., 3rd floor

Languages: Ukrainian/Russian

AGENDA

9:00 – 10:00	Registration. Welcoming coffee
10:00 – 10:45	Opening of the Workshop Opening remarks: <i>Ricarda Rieger, Country Director, UNDP in Ukraine</i> <i>Representative of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine</i> <i>Representative of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine</i> <i>Vadym Pozharsky, GEF OFP in Ukraine</i>
Brief Overview of the Project	
10:45 – 11:00	Principles of Sustainable Development and national policy of Ukraine Presenter: <i>Sergei Volkov, Head, Energy and Environment, UNDP in Ukraine</i>
11:00 – 11:20	Presentation of UNDP/GEF project "Integrating Rio Convention Provisions into Ukraine's National Policy Framework" Presenter: <i>Olena Ovchynnikova, Programme Analyst, UNDP in Ukraine</i>
11:20 – 11:50	Coffee break
Project Activities in detail	

11:50 – 12:30	<p>Implementation of Rio Conventions in Ukraine</p> <p>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Presenter: <i>Representative of the State Agency on Environmental Investment in Ukraine (TBC)</i></p> <p>United Nations Convention on Biodiversity Presenter: Serhii Gubar, <i>Deputy Director of Protection of Natural Resources, Head of Department on Econetwork Development and Biological Safety by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine</i></p> <p>United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification Presenter: Iurii Kolmaz, <i>Head of Sector of Land Resources by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine</i></p>
12:30 – 12:50	<p>Brief summary of Component 1 “Integrating Rio Conventions into a Sustainable Development Strategy” and Component 2 “Developing Institutional and Technical Capacities” Presenter: Gennadii Marushevskiy, <i>UNDP Consultant on Public Administration and Sustainable Development, doctorate student of the National Academy of Public Administration under the President of Ukraine</i></p>
12:50 – 13:30	Discussion
13:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:15	<p>Brief Summary of Component 3 “Enhancing Awareness and Understanding of the Environment’s Contribution to Socio-Economic Development, with Particular Reference to the Rio Conventions” Presenter: Tetyana Tymochko, <i>UNDP Consultant on Public Awareness and Communication for Sustainable Development, Head of All-Ukrainian Ecology League</i></p>
14:15 – 14:45	<p>Discussion “Global Environmental Problems and their relevance for Ukraine and in particular implementation of Rio Conventions in Ukraine” Presenters:</p> <p>Leonid Rudenko, <i>UNDP Consultant on Natural Resources, doctor of geographical sciences, professor, Director of the Institute of Geography, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU)</i></p> <p>Oleksandr Tarariko, <i>UNDP Consultant on Agrarian Policy, Senior Scientific Fellow of the Institute of Agroecology and Nature Use by the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine</i></p> <p>Ievgen Khlobystov, <i>UNDP Consultant on Environmental Economy, Head of Department of Economic Problems of Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development by the Institute of Economy of Nature Use and Sustainable Development of the NASU</i></p> <p>Svyatoslav Kurulenko, <i>PhD in Economics, Head of Public Council at the State Agency of Environmental Investment in Ukraine, President of “Union of Ecological Auditors of Ukraine”</i></p> <p>Serhii Lisovskyi, <i>UNDP Consultant on Social Welfare, doctor of geographical sciences, Deputy Director of the Institute of Geography of the NASU</i></p> <p>Volodymyr Isaenko, <i>UNDP Consultant on Environmental Education, doctor of biological sciences, Director of Institute of Postgraduate Studies by the M.Dragomanov National Pedagogical University</i></p>
14:45 – 15:30	<p>General Discussion: cooperation opportunities with other project stakeholders Conclusions and recommendations. Workshop closing.</p>
15:30	Informal Communication with coffee and tea

Appendix II: Participants List

List of participants of the Project Inception Workshop, April 29, 2014

Name	Organization	Position
Yevgen Krekotun	Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine	Deputy Director of the International Relations Department
Ivan Ivanets	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	Deputy Director on International Relations
Olena Lehka	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine	Deputy Head of Sector of Land Resources
Sergii Gubar	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine	Deputy Director of Department on Natural Resources Protection, Head of Department of Econetworks Development and Biosafety
Yuriy Kolmaz	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine	Head of Sector of Land Resources
Olha Sokolova	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine	Senior Specialist at the Department of Ecology and Nature Use
Antonina Sinchuk	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine	Advisor to the Department of International Organizations
Iryna Terletska	Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine	Head of Department of Technical Regulation, Ecological Safety and Insurance Policy
Viacheslav Didkovskiy	Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine	Deputy Director of Department of Safety
Liudmyla Pashchenko	Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing of Ukraine	Head of Unit of Pilot Projects and Programme Development, Department of Strategies of Reforming and Development
Viktor Kornienko	State Agency of Forest Resources of Ukraine	Head of Department of Science and PR
Alla Illienko	State Agency of Land Resources of Ukraine	Head of Unit of Land Protection and Monitoring, Department of Land Management, Use and Protection
All Novikova	State Enterprise 'State Automobile Transport Scientific and Research Institute NDI-Project'	Deputy Director
Oleksandr Zakrevskiy	State Enterprise 'State Automobile Transport Scientific and Research Institute NDI-Project'	Senior Research Fellow
Oleksii Klimenko	State Enterprise 'State Automobile Transport Scientific and Research Institute NDI-Project'	Head of Laboratory
Oleksandr Tarariko	Institute of Agroecology and Nature Use of the NASU	Senior Research Fellow
Oleksandr Zaporozhets	Institute of Ecology by the National Aviation University	Director

Andriy Kovalenko	Institute of Economy of Nature Use and Sustainable Development of the NASU	Scientific Secretary
Basyl Golian	Institute of Economy of Nature Use and Sustainable Development of the NASU	Senior Research Fellow
Igor Bystriakov	Institute of Economy of Nature Use and Sustainable Development of the NASU	Head of Department
Shamil Ibatulin	Institute of Economy of Nature Use and Sustainable Development of the NASU	Deputy Director
Yevgen Khlobystov	Institute of Economy of Nature Use and Sustainable Development of the NASU	Head of Department of Economic Problems of Ecological Policy and Sustainable Development
Svitlana Malinova	Institute of Innovation Technologies and Education Content by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine	Research Fellow
Vadym Valchyk	Institute of Land Resources Protection	Deputy Director General
Leonid Rudenko	Institute of Geography of the NASU	Director
Sergii Lisovskyi	Institute of Geography of the NASU	Deputy Director
Yevgenia Stetsenko	Institute of Geography of the NASU	Deputy Chief Editor of 'Ukrainian Geographic Journal'
Yevgeniya Maruniak	Institute of Geography of the NASU	Scientific Secretary
Ihor Akimov	I.Shmalgausen Institute of Zoology by the NASU	Director
Vitalii Kharchenko	I.Shmalgausen Institute of Zoology by the NASU	Vice-Rector in Scientific Work
Iakiv Didukh	M.Kholodny Institute of Botany by the NASU	Head of Department on Ecology of Phytosystems
Svitlana Korsun	National Scientific Center 'Institute of Agriculture of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine	Deputy Head of Agrarian Ecology Department
Ivan Grygoriuk	National University of Biological Resources and Nature Use of Ukraine	
Nataliia Ridei	National University of Biological Resources and Nature Use of Ukraine	Vice-Rector on Scientific, Cultural and Education Activities
Oksana Nagorniuk	National University of Biological Resources and Nature Use of Ukraine	Head of Department of Methodology of Education
Olena Rakoyid	National University of Biological Resources and Nature Use of Ukraine	National Scientific Reporter for Activities Related to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification
Yuriy Posudin	National University of Biological Resources and Nature Use of Ukraine	Professor at the Department of Physics

Sviatoslav Kurulenko	Public Council by the State Agency of Environmental Investments, Union of Ecological Auditors of Ukraine	Head of Public Council, President of the Union
Anatoliy Stashuk	Scientific and Research institute of Ecological Policy and Sustainable Development by the State Ecological Academy of Postgraduate Education and Management	Senior Lecturer at the Department of Education for Sustainable Development
Oleksandr Dupak	Scientific Union of Energy Experts and Electrical Engineers of Ukraine	Vice President, Head of Executive Committee
Vadym Pozharskyi	State Environmental Investment Agency	Deputy Head, National Operational Coordinator of GEF
Iryna Voloshyna	State Road Scientific and Research Institute	Head of Unit of Ecology and Earth Bed
Valerii Vyrozhemskyi	State Road Scientific and Research Institute	First Deputy to the Director
Gennadii Marushevskyi	National Academy of State Governance by the President of Ukraine	
Oleksandr Rak	National M.Grushko Botanic Garden by the NASU	Research Fellow
Valentyna Zinchenko	Higher Educational Institution of Postgraduate Education 'Tutkovsky Institute'	Deputy Head of Department of Ecological Safety and Rational Nature Use
Viktor Karamushka	University of Governance in Education by the Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine	Head of Department on Project Management
Oleksandr Mudrak	Vinnitsa Oblast Institute of Postgraduate Education for Pedagogues	Head of Department of Ecology, Natural and Mathematics Sciences
Ostap Gorban	Western Center of Protecting Biodiversity	Deputy Head, Coordinator of Programme on Nature Use Management and Biodiversity Protection
Yuliy Kutsan	Academy of Technology Sciences	
Olena Pashchenko	All-Ukrainian Children's Union 'Ecological Control'	Coordinator
Tetyana Tymochko	All-Ukrainian Ecological League	Head
Oleksandr Stegnii	Center for Social and Marketing Research	Executive Director
Antonina Yerysheva	Charitable Fund 'Public Energy'	Vice-President
Oleksandr Chystiakov	Fishery Association of Ukraine	
Sergii Koretskyi	Independent Intellectual Center	
Alisa Konnyk	Information agency 'Ukrainian National News'	Reporter
Oleh Galenko	International Lawyers Union 'Liberty'	Chairman

Kateryna Pavliuk	International Public Organization 'Public control and protection'	Deputy Head
Petro Fasianov	International Public Organization 'Public control and protection'	
Viktor Kaplun	Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design	Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation
Volodymyr Isaienko	National Pedagogical Dragomanov University	Director of the Institute of Postgraduate education
Yulia Bystriakova	Public organization 'Ecological Safety'	
Stanislav Gumeniuk	Public Resistance Movement 'Let's save Polissia!'	Chairman
Adel Bosak	Ukrainian Ecological Association 'Green World'	Head
Vasyl Shevchiuk	Ukrainian Environmental Society	Chairman
Tetiana Dudenok	Youth Public Organization 'Ecospectr'	
Oleksandr Tuz	Company '220avto' (electromobile vehicles)	Director
Oksana Mykoliuk	'Day' newspaper	Reporter
Andriy Parinov	Emassy of Sweden in Ukraine	Programme Manager
Ricarda Rieger	UNDP	Country Director
Sergii Volkov	UNDP	Senior Programme Manager
Olena Ovchynnikova	UNDP	Programme Associate, Energy and Environment Cluster
Svitlana Nigorodova	UNDP/GEF Small Grants Program	National Coordinator
Yevgen Zelenko	UNDP	Communications Officer

Three United Nations Conventions (on climate change, biological diversity, desertification) were adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 in response to a number of global environmental threats. They serve as a roadmap to lead the countries along the sustainable development path. Ukraine is a signatory to all three conventions.

In order to support Ukraine in fulfilling its international obligations under these three Rio Conventions and to address the global environmental issues, which inevitably impact the national social and economic wellbeing, UNDP and the Global Environmental Facility launched a new project 'Integrating Rio Conventions Provisions into Ukraine's National Policy Framework'. The project will start with analyzing the current sectoral policies and programmes through the prism of implementation of provisions of the Rio Conventions. Further, it will assess the training needs of the line ministries employees and key stakeholders, and will develop tools to raise awareness of the environmental priorities set in the Rio Conventions. Several educational workshops for journalists will be organized, with a focus on writing about global environmental issues and their meaning for Ukraine.

On April 29, 2014, the project's inception workshop gathered around 80 representatives of the relevant Ministries, scientists and NGOs to discuss project's priorities, plans and expected results. The project will be implemented in the course of three years and will be completed in 2017. Its success largely depends on the close collaboration with its key national partner – the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, and on extensive engagement of other Ministries and stakeholders.

Land degradation is an extremely urgent issue for Ukraine because it has a direct impact on soil fertility and the quality of agricultural products which can lead to significant economic losses (more than 6 billion US dollars annually). Intensive chemical-based agriculture, overuse of lands, and unsustainable forestry practices are among the reasons for land degradation in Ukraine. Degradation of soils leads first to reduced productivity, causing rural incomes to fall and potentially decreasing the quality and availability of foods for rural households. Decreased agricultural productivity prompts rural population to move to the cities, that increased pressure on urban infrastructure and services. Land degradation, occurring on a broad scale within a region, can lead to food insecurity for large numbers of people.

Climate change is likely to lead to less rain thus resulting in the loss of soil fertility and desertification, degraded habitats for wildlife, and increasing threats to rural livelihoods. Gradually, climatic zones are shifting and rising temperatures are creating conditions for epidemiological insecurity (e.g., migration of malaria carrying insects in Europe). Sea level rises, which will in turn lead to relocation of millions of people living at the coastlines. Increased flooding and storm damage due to more unpredictable and extreme weather will cause both human and infrastructural damage throughout the world.

The consequences of climate change were observed in Ukraine in 1998 and in 2008, when it suffered from intensive floods and then in 2009 and 2010 when Ukrainian population witnessed abnormally hot summers. The climate change is intrinsically linked with future economic losses and will likely cause uncontrolled migration of people, spread of diseases and other social disruptions.

Human survival and wellbeing depend upon **biodiversity** and healthy ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide—such as food, medicines, crop pollination, filtration of pollutants, and protection from natural disasters. This contribution is neither fully recognized nor valued in markets. As a result, ecosystems, species and genes—the building blocks of biodiversity—are being degraded at an unparalleled pace as natural resources are being exploited without consideration for their broader ecosystem and economic values. The poor, especially in rural areas, face the most severe impacts of such changes as they directly depend on ecosystem goods and services for their survival and wellbeing.

<p>Our Work ></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty Reduction Democratic Governance Environment & Energy Local Development <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>2013 Human Development Report</p>  </div>	<p>Millennium Development Goals ></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 2 Achieve universal primary education 3 Promote gender equality and empower women 4 Reduce child mortality 5 Improve maternal health 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases 7 Ensure environmental sustainability 8 Develop a global partnership for development 	<p>About Ukraine ></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Population 45.513 million</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Poverty Rate 24.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Per capita income \$381</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Human Dev. Index 0.74</td> </tr> </table>	Population 45.513 million	Poverty Rate 24.3%	Per capita income \$381	Human Dev. Index 0.74
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5/05/2014

Украина берет курс на воплощение положений конвенций Рио

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Фото: Программа развития ООН в Украине

Украина намерена включить положения трех экологических конвенций в свою национальную политику.

Это конвенции по изменению климата, по биоразнообразию и по опустыниванию. Они были приняты на саммите «Планета Земля» в Рио-де-Жанейро в 1992 году. Украина является их участником.

При поддержке ПРООН и Глобального экологического фонда в Киеве был запущен проект «Интеграция положений конвенций Рио в национальную политику Украины».

Одним из чрезвычайно актуальных для Украины вопросов является деградация земель, поскольку она непосредственно сказывается на плодородии почвы и качестве сельскохозяйственной продукции. Среди факторов, которые

приводят к значительным экономическим потерям, – интенсивная химическая обработка почвы, чрезмерное использование земель и нерациональное ведение лесного хозяйства.

Последствия изменения климата наблюдались в Украине в 1998 и в 2008 годах, когда в стране произошли крупные наводнения, а затем в 2009 и 2010 годах, когда Украина дважды пережила небывало жаркое лето.

Новый проект будет реализовываться в течение трех лет и будет завершен в 2017 году.

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