

United Nations Development Programme

Programme area: Energy and Environment

<u>Project number:</u> 00043507

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Implementation Agency: Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW)

<u>Partners:</u> Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supply (MAFS)

National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS)

Donors: GEF through UNDP MoEW

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<u>Project Office:</u> MoEW 22 Maria Luiza Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in Bulgaria

SHORT TITLE: "Sustainable Land Management in Bulgaria"

Project Description

The project Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supply (MAFS), financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project will be realized in support of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Bulgaria which is ratified by law of the Parliament of Bulgaria, promulgated in the State Gazette and operates since 22 May 2001. The project will contribute to the programmatic target set for OP 15, by promoting and measuring success in capacity building ultimately helping to improve sustainability of land management in the country.

Project Goal and Objective

The project's long-term goal is to enhance the enabling environment and capacity for arresting land degradation and establishing sustainable land management practice so as to contribute to enhancing ecosystem health, integrity, functions and services while promoting sustainable livelihoods in Bulgaria.

The project's objective is to build capacity for development and implementation of a coherent land policy. It focuses on mainstreaming, institutional and technical capacity building at and financial mechanisms and resource mobilization for sustainable land management.

Outcomes

- Sound land policy and a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for sustainable land management;
- Institutional and technical capacity for sustainable land management and combating desertification strengthened;
- Local capacity strengthened for land planning and participatory decisionmaking;
- Resources mobilized for NAP implementation as well as for endorsing innovative financial mechanisms and economic incentives explored and agreed with farmers and other land users and the key Ministries.

Benefits

- Institutional and technical capacity established for sustainable land management in different sectors and on different levels;
- Stocktaking report elaborated of the degradation processes including the elaboration and analyses of options for sustainable land management using the landscape functionality analyses;
- Legislation elaborated and adopted for soil protection, including a National Action Program for Sustainable Land Management and Combating Desertification;
- Appropriate consultancy packages and messages elaborated presenting the principles for implementation of sustainable land management and monitoring based on farmers and land users participation;
 Principles and approaches for sustainable land management integrated in

1000 Sofia, Bulgaria tel: (+359 2) 940 66 43	management plans of River Basin Directorates and development and land use plans of the municipalities;
tel./ fax: 981 32 01	90% of the resources mobilized needed for the implementation of the NAP
<u>E- mail:</u>	during the first three years;
<u>slm@moew.government.bg</u>	Proposals and recommendations developed for endorsing new financial designs and models for support of the landscape units through appropriate
Web site:	local agricultural, livestock and other economic activities.
http://www.unccd-slm.org	
P	roject Achievements to Date
•	Stocktaking Report elaborated on degradation processes in the country; Report
	elaborated on analyses of options for sustainable land management using
	"landscape functionality analyses" approach and integrated planning;
•	Institutional capacity strengthened at national level through supporting the
	establishment and functioning of National Coordination Committee on
	UNCCD Implementation; National Action Program for sustainable land
	management and combating desertification elaborated and broadly validated,
	Strategy for capacity building for SLM and combating degradation and
	Communication strategy for SLM and combating degradation elaborated as
	well as series of regulation documents;
•	Institutional capacity strengthened of the MoEW and MAFS through experts
	trainings in various topics related to SLM, including economic schemes and
	mechanisms for introducing SLM;
•	Institutional capacity strengthened of the regional structures of the MoEW and
	MAFS – 15 RIEW and 28 RAAS through elaboration of specialized training
	modules on SLM (pastures and meadows, eroded and acid lands) and trainings
	of the experts conducted;
•	NAAS technical capacity strengthened through delivery of laboratory
	equipment and establishing and supporting 3 mobile teams through delivery of
	vehicles, notebook computers, multimedia projectors, and digital photo
	cameras, regular support of the 28 RAAS for direct visits to farms and farmers
	consultations;
•	Direct visits performed by experts of the 28 RAAS to more than 1000 farms in
	600 settlements on 2 000 000 ha of agricultural lands; more than 600 farmers
	comprehensively consulted in implementing SLM options;
•	SLM practices supported in forestry sector through certification of 3 forestry
	objects: Gramatikovo State Game Breeding Station, Staro Oriahovo State
	Forestry Unit and Aitos State Forestry Unit, 140 experts of 7 RFB trained in
	restricting erosion in forestry, 16 experts trained in forest certification auditing;
•	SLM principles, approaches and practices introduced as part of an accredited
	Master Program in Agrarian University in Plovdiv (master curriculum
	elaborated, 11 students being trained, textbook published) and of educational
	program for the professional secondary schools of agriculture and forestry
	(educational module elaborated, 33 teachers and 357 students from 16 schools
	trained, textbook and leaflet published), National Forum "Education in support
	of SLM" held with the participation of 61 representatives of different
	stakeholder institutions for information and good practices exchange;
•	4 information packages elaborated, published and distributed on specific SLM
	topics as well as multiple publications (available also at the project website);
•	Broad information campaign held with the participation of 102 municipalities
	with regard to the SLM policies and their implementation on municipal level;
	SLM principles and approaches of incorporated into 10 Municipal
	Development Plans with wide participation of local stakeholders, National
	Forum "Role and opportunities for the municipalities in implementation of SUM" hold with 50 participants representing the municipal administrations for
	SLM" held with 50 participants representing the municipal administrations for
	exchange of information and good practices;

	•	10 projects financed for practical implementation of options for sustainable land management;Financial schemes and mechanisms for support of SLM and environmentally important local economical activities identified;The project webpage as a platform for SLM information exchange (CHM portal).
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