Catalyzing sustainability of the wetland protected area system in Belarusian Polesie through increased management efficiency and realigned land use practices

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GEF OP2: Coastal, Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems
GEF Strategic Priority Biodiversity (SP-1):
Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Areas

Government of the Republic of Belarus
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

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The evaluation is intended to give a summary of what has been achieved in the project as well a glean some of the lessons that can be learned from it in what was a relatively short period. In the report, we have tried to offer constructive criticism where we think it is warranted and we hope that those involved in the project take it as such.

Finally, it is a pleasure to be welcomed to a new country (at least for one of us), to be shown around with such evident pride and to see wonderful places. We saw the results of the dedication and enthusiasm that people had put into the work of conserving important places in the world. We would like to offer them our thanks and wish them every success in their continuing endeavours.

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Acronyms, Abbreviations and Glossary of Terms

APB	BirdLife Belarus
APR	Annual Project Reports
CCF	Country Cooperation Framework
District	The smallest administrative unit, also known as *rayon*
ECQT	Evaluation Component and Question Table
EOP	End of project (usually when talking of targets for indicators)
Forestry	The term use to describe areas of forest that fall under the management of the Ministry of Forestry
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GOB	Government of Belarus
IP	Implementing Partner
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MTE	Mid Term Evaluation
MNREP	Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment Protection
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOF	Ministry of Forestry
NAS	National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NSSEDS	National Sustainable Socio-Economic Development Strategy
PAMS	Protected Area Monitoring Systems
PAMU	Protected Areas Management Units
Passports	Conservation management plans to regulate economic activity to protect the habitat of a species of animal or plant
PDF-B	Project Development Facility B
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes
PIR	Project Implementation Reviews
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PO	Programme Officer
Poulders	Fields, surrounded by dykes or embankments to protect them from seasonal flooding, usually used for hay production
Region	Belarus is divided into seven administrative regions or *oblasts* which, in turn, encompass a number of districts or *rayons*.
Reserve	The third category of Protected Area in Belarus, otherwise know as *zakaznik*, equivalent to Category VI under the IUCN categorization of Protected Areas.
SCLRC	State Committee on Land Resources and Cartography
SGP	Small Grants Programme
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

Executive Summary

The Terminal Evaluation was carried out by one International Consultant and one National Consultant with a mission to Belarus between 12 – 22 January 2012. The Terminal Evaluation took place as the project was closing (with the closing date expected to be 01 February 2012, having received approval for a eight-month, no-cost extension of the project). During the mission, the evaluation team met and interviewed a large number of stakeholders including i) members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), ii) stakeholders within the state organizations within Minsk, iii) representatives from the protected areas targeted by the project, iv) members of the small team that was responsible for the implementation of the project, including the National Project Manager, v) representatives from the executive committees at the rayon (or district) levels, vi) a representative of the principal NGO partner of the project, and vii) local recipients of small grants, either from the project and/or from the Small Grants Program (SGP).

Key Findings

The project was originally conceived and initiated by a group of people representing a number of organizations, including the MNREP (which is the key central governmental body involved in biodiversity policy in Belarus and which was the executing agency of the PDF-B stage; APB-BirdLife Belarus (NGO and key project partner); and the Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (which is involved in research on fauna of Belarus).

The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the United Nations Development Programme, as well as the Project Document for UNDP/GEF international assistance Project "Catalyzing Sustainability of the Wetland Protected Area System in Belarusian Polesie through Increased Management Efficiency and Realigned Land Use Practicies" was registered in the database of international technical assistance projects and initiatives in the Ministry of Economy on 17 April 2006, registration No.2/06/0000265. The project commenced in June 2006 and was due to be complete by May 2011. The project was extended by eight months until 31 January 2012.

The project's overall goal was expressed as: "*catalyzing sustainability and effectiveness of Belarus' national system of protected areas with the emphasis on its network of wetland Reserves*." The project's objective was "*to catalyze sustainability of the wetland protected area system in Belarusian Polesie through increased management efficiency, and aligning the land use framework in and around protected areas with conservation objectives*." Six indicators were selected to measure the achievement of this objective. Five Outcomes with 16 associated outputs (with 23 indicators to measure the achievement of the project's objective and outcomes) were designed to achieve the above objective and, ultimately, contribute to the achievement of the project's goal. The project targeted four wetland reserves (or *zakazniks*) of the Belarusian Polesie (Mid-Pripyat, Prostyr, Zvanets and Sporovsky reserves) to demonstrate improved management and various methodologies.

The project was designed to be implemented by the MNREP in partnership with the NAS, APB and UNDP. In addition, other key partners included the SCLRC, the Ministry of Forestry, the Executive Committees of the Districts in which the four

target protected areas are found, the counterpart organizations in Ukraine, UNESCO, and the Small Grants Program (SGP).

The project was well managed and implemented, and the results were commensurate with the project's objectives (both original and as slightly modified in the Inception Period). The results were largely relevant and consistent with both the project's identified focal area and operational program strategies. The project also contributed significantly to achieving the country's development priorities, with tourism being highlighted as a growth area for the country (and, for example, has significant tax incentives). The project was implemented in a cost-effective – and thus, efficient – way using a number of approaches to be cost-effective.

Key results

Overall, the project has made a significant contribution to the global environment. The approaches and implementation represent best practices and warrant replication and scaling-up to the rest of the protected area system of Belarus, as indeed has already started.

While much has been written in APRs and the PIRs regarding the results of the project, the key results can be highlighted as including:

- The establishment of the Protected Area Management Units (PAMUs) within the four reserves
- The development of a protected area management planning manual and the development of management plans within the four target reserves
- The development and implementation of tourism strategies for the reserves; two of the reserves are now generating significant revenue (relative to their annual management costs)
- The formation of strong partnerships among stakeholders, including at the local level. The project and reserves formed particularly good relationships with the Executive Committees of the Luninets and Berezai Districts: this had a very positive effect on delivery of results in these Districts.
- The restoration of a number of ecological processes and sites (e.g., fish spawning grounds in Rakitno poulder; removal of shrubs that results from vegetation changes that have occurred because of changes in land use in Mid-Pripyat and Sporovsky reserves; the hydrological system in Zvanets reserve; restoration of the Tsna river; implementation of mechanised harvesting of hay).
- The amendment and development of a number of strategies, action plans, legalisation and policy documents (notably, the Protected Area System Strategy and Action Plan; the Environmental Code; the Law on Protected Areas; Law on Wildlife Protection; Law on Plant Protection).
- The development and approval of 425 "passports" designed to protect threatened or rare species of plant and animal species.
- Mainstreaming of environmental concerns – and more specifically biodiversity issues – into various sectors – land use planning (through the SCLRC) and forestry (through the Ministry of Forestry and using certification of forestry products as the mechanism)

- The notable scaling-up and replication of the results of the project to other protected areas and to other districts in the country.

Item	Rating	Comment
Overall Project Results	**HS**	**The project has achieved all of its major objectives and yielded satisfactory benefits, with no significant shortcomings**
M&E		
Overall quality of M&E	**HS**	The monitoring and evaluation of the project has been satisfactory with no significant shortcomings.
M&E design at project start-up	**HS**	The design was standard for UNDP-GEF biodiversity projects.
M&E plan Implementation	**HS**	The project has not deviated from the M&E design and all M&E processes and events were satisfactorily implemented with no significant shortcomings.
Outcomes		
Overall quality of project outcomes	**HS**	The project has mostly achieved its objectives, outcomes, outputs and indicators; where it did not quite achieve everything that it set out to achieve, it took significant steps to trial techniques and provide demonstrations.
Relevance	**HS**	The focus on biodiversity conservation remained sharp through the majority of the project's activities. The only occasions where the relevance may have swayed was in some of the tourism development. However, if the tourism enterprises ensure that the reserves remain a central part of their activities, the work can easily be justified as enhancing the financial sustainability of the reserves – and therefore remains relevant.
Effectiveness	**HS**	The project was effective at attaining the results. Only one note should be made here: this is that the project did not entirely transform the reserves – particularly when restoring ecological processes. In these areas, the project focused on *demonstration* through the implementation of pilot projects. The onus now falls on the state organizations to scale-up the successes that can be observed in these pilot projects.
Efficiency	**HS**	The project took pains to ensure cost-effectiveness primarily by following UNDP procurement rules but in those cases where this was not possible because of the context of Belarus, the project was especially careful to ensure cost-effectiveness.
Catalytic Role		
Production of a Public Good	**HS**	Having a systemic approach was one of the objectives of the project; the project fulfilled this objective. Different aspects of the project have formed a demonstration or have been either replicated or scaled-up across the country. Examples of these have been given above but in summary, the project
Demonstration	**HS**	
Replication	**HS**	
Scaling up	**HS**	
Sustainability		
Overall likelihood of risks to sustainability	**ML**	These factors are closely linked: the environmental sustainability is dependent on institutional, financial and social sustainabilities. The project has worked hard to develop all aspects of sustainability and made considerable gains. However, caveats remain and until these are overcome, sustainability remains **Moderately Likely**.
Financial resources	**ML**	
Socio-economic	**ML**	
Institutional Framework and governance	**ML**	
Environmental	**ML**	

Key Issues

There were a few issues associated with the project, its design and implementation:

- The starting point for the project was one in which there was little coherence in the protected area system of Belarus. While the project has made significant gains in i) catalysing the development of the protected area system strategy and action plan and ii) contributing many lessons into the protected area system, the Terminal Evaluation found that gaps and some incoherence remained. We **recommend** that these are dealt with and we make suggestions of how this might be done. Examples of some things that may be considered for the protected area system in the future include:
    - Finding a tool for monitoring the effectiveness of protected area management across the system: the METT, as used in this and other GEF projects, provides a good option
    - Consolidating management plans; currently they are complex (incorporating "passports", environmental and economic zoning, boundaries and buffer areas), and may consequently be confusing to stakeholders and difficult to implement
    - Taking an ecosystem and key conservation target approach for protected area planning and management
    - Adopting remote sensing as a planning, management and monitoring tool
    - Continuing to work towards and find innovative solutions to financial sustainability of the system.
- The project, rightly, focused on testing and demonstrating methodologies and carrying out pilot projects. The result is that the conservation and ecological impacts are localised. The responsibility for scaling-up these pilots and demonstration now lies with various groups of people.
- Similarly, the project invested in relatively few people. If any of these key people move on from their current positions, the sustainability of the project's investments and results becomes more tenuous. We **recommend** that increasing the depth of trained personnel in the protected area system be treated as a priority.
- The tourism strategy that was developed was the weakest part of the project and the strategy appeared to have a number of gaps. (Despite this, the project successfully implemented tourism activities in two of the reserves, see above).
- The support of the Executive Committees of local districts was not always guaranteed but their support was pivotal to project success. We **recommend** that future work find mechanisms by which these District Executive Committees can be more supportive and compliant. Similarly, finding mechanisms by which people living within and surrounding protected areas can be involved in the definition, development and management of the protected will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the system.
- There may be long-term risks to the Polesie wetland systems through climate change. We **recommend** that the system is monitored closely in years to come using parameters that will be sensitive to climate change. It may be already

worthwhile to starting considering different adaptation and mitigation plans to various scenarios.

- Finally, as an observation, the diversity of NGOs in the conservation sector is very low. Indeed, it is dominated by one NGO, APB. While APB's efforts to catalyse this project and carry out outstanding work elsewhere in the country and given the contribution that NGOs have made to conservation across the globe, a greater diversity of NGOs may contribute further to securing the biodiversity, ecosystems and ecological processes of Belarus for future generations.

Key lessons learned

Lessons learned are usually about processes: those that worked well and garnered results and those that worked less well. There are a number of lessons that can be learned from the project. These may be summarized as being:

- The support and collaboration of the Executive Committees of the District was a key to project success
- Much of the project's success pivots on the quality of the team and the project manager. These people must have outstanding knowledge of the system, the area in question as well as be approachable and trustworthy.
- There are short-term costs to environmental management, particularly when trying to restore and maintain ecosystems and ecological processes. These costs should, however, be offset by the long-term benefits that will be accrued from functional systems.
- The success of conservation and the success of project such as this one can hinge on having a committed government (and in this case, the MNREP and NAS in particular) to support the implementation and to be willing to assume their long-term responsibilities once the project closes.

1 Introduction

1. The Terminal Evaluation of the UNDP-GEF project "Catalyzing Sustainability of the wetland protected area system of the Belarusian Polesie through increased management efficiency and realigned land use practices" was carried out according to the UNDP-GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy. Thus, it was carried out with the aim of providing a systematic and comprehensive evaluation of the performance of the project by assessing its design, processes of implementation, achievement relative to its objectives. Under this overarching aim, its objectives were i) to promote accountability and transparency for the achievement of GEF objectives through the assessment of results, effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, sustainability and impact of the partners involved in the project, and ii) to promote learning, feedback and knowledge sharing on the results and lessons learned from the project and its partners as a basis for decision-making on policies, strategies, programme management and projects, and to improve knowledge and performance. As such, this Terminal Evaluation was initiated by UNDP Belarus as the GEF Implementation Agency for the "Catalyzing Sustainability of the wetland protected area system of the Belarusian Polesie through increased management efficiency and realigned land use practices" to determine its success in relation to its stated objectives and to understand the lessons learned through the implementation of the project.

2. The Terminal Evaluation was conducted by two consultants – one international and national. Both consultants were independent of the policy-making process, and the delivery and management of the assistance to the project. Neither consultant was involved in the design, implementation and/or supervision of the project.

3. The Terminal Evaluation was carried out over a period of 29 days from 01 January 2012, one month before the project was due to close (on 01 February 2012) at the end of an eight-month no-cost extension that had been agreed by the Project Steering Committee (PSC). Carrying out the Terminal Evaluation at this point was in line with UNDP/GEF policy for Terminal Evaluations.

1.1 Approach and methodology

4. The approach for the Terminal Evaluation was determined by the Terms of Reference (TOR, see Annex I). The TOR were followed closely but the evaluation has focused on assessing i) the concept and design of the project, ii) its implementation in terms of quality and timeliness of inputs, financial planning, and monitoring and evaluation, iii) the efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of the activities that were carried out, iv) whether the desired (and other undesirable but not intended) outcomes and objectives were achieved, v) the likelihood of sustainability of the results of the project, and vi) the involvement of stakeholders in the project's processes and activities.

5. The Terminal Evaluation included a thorough review of the project documents and other outputs, documents, monitoring reports, Annual Project Reports (APR), Project Implementation Reviews (PIR), relevant correspondence and other project related material produced by the project staff or their partners. The evaluation assessed whether a number of recommendations that had been made following the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) and two subsequent monitoring and support visits from

a member of the Biodiversity staff of UNDP's Regional Centre in Bratislava had been implemented and to ascertain the explanations if they had not been.

6. The Terminal Evaluation also included a mission to Belarus between 12 – 22 January 2012. The evaluation process during the mission followed a participatory approach and included a series of structured and unstructured interviews, both individually and in small groups. Site visits were also conducted i) to validate the reports and indicators, ii) to examine, in particular, any infrastructure development and equipment procured, iii) to consult with protected area staff, local authorities or government representatives and local communities, and iv) to assess data that may be held only locally. The evaluators worked with the Project Staff and particularly with the National Project Manager (NPM) throughout the evaluation. Particular attention was paid to listening to the stakeholders' views and the confidentiality of all interviews was stressed. Whenever possible, the information was crosschecked among the various sources. A full list of people consulted over the course of the mission and by telephone, skype or email thereafter is given in Annex III.

7. The evaluation was carried out according to the UNDP/GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy. Therefore, activities and results were evaluated for their: i) Relevance – thus, the extent to which the results and activities were consistent with local and national development priorities, national and international conservation priorities, and GEF's focal area and operational programme strategies, ii) Effectiveness – thus, how the project's results were related to the original or modified intended outcomes or objectives, and iii) Efficiency – thus, whether the activities were carried out in a cost effect way and whether the results were achieved by the least cost option. The results, outcomes, and actual and potential impacts of the project were examined to determine whether they were positive or negative, foreseen or unintended. Finally, the sustainability of the interventions and results were examined to determine the likelihood of whether benefits would continue to be accrued after the completion of the project. The sustainability was examined from various perspectives: financial, social, environmental and institutional.

8. In addition, the evaluators took pains to examine the achievements of the project within the realistic political and socio-economic framework of Belarus over the last five years.

9. The logical framework (which was amended following the Inception period, with the amended logframe being included in the Inception Report and being endorsed by the PSC and the UNDP Regional Centre in Bratislava) with Outcomes, Outputs and indicators towards which the PIU worked and which formed the basis of the Terminal Evaluation.

10. According to the GEF policy for Terminal Evaluations, the relevant areas of the project were evaluated according to performance criteria (Table 1).

Table 1. The ratings that were assigned to the various aspects of the project, in accordance with UNDP/GEF policies.

Rating	Explanation
Highly satisfactory (HS)	The aspect had no shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency
Satisfactory (S)	The aspect had minor shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives

	in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	The aspect had moderate shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	The aspect had significant shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency
Unsatisfactory (U)	The aspect had major shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The aspect had severe shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency

11. There were no aspects of the project that were deemed Not Applicable (N/A) or Unable to Assess (U/A).

12. In a similar way, the sustainability of the project's interventions and achievements were examined using the relevant UNDP/GEF ratings (Table 2).

Table 2. The ratings that were assigned to the different dimensions of sustainability of the interventions and achievements of the project.

Rating	Explanation
Likely (L)	Negligible risks to sustainability, with key outcomes expected to continue into the foreseeable future
Moderately Likely (ML)	Moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained
Moderately Unlikely (MU)	Substantial risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on
Unlikely (U)	Severe risk that project outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained
Highly Unlikely (HU)	Expectation that few if any outputs or activities will continue after project closure

13. A summary of the results of the evaluation was given to the Project Steering Committee at the end of the mission in Belarus. A debriefing meeting was held with the UNDP-CO at 09.30 on 20 January 2012 at the UNDP offices in Minsk.

14. The Terminal Evaluation was carried out with a number of audiences in mind, including: i) the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP) as the organisation with the mandate to manage the protected areas, ii) the Institutes of Botany and Zoology of the National Academy of Science (NAS) – these are key institutes with respect to catalysing biodiversity conservation in the country and are also responsible for the National Environmental Monitoring System, iii) the Executive Committee at the regional and district levels – not only those involved with the project but also those with the potential to be involved in future projects, iv) the UNDP-CO, v) the office of the SGP in Minsk, and vi) conservation NGOs within Belarus but particularly APB.

15. The report follows the structure of Terminal Evaluations recommended in the UNDP Evaluation Guidance for GEF-Financed Projects. As such, it first deals with a description of the project and the development context in Belarus (Section 2), it then

deals with the Findings (Section 3) of the evaluation within three sections (Project Formulation, Project Implementation and Project Results, respectively). The report then draws together the Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons from the project (Section 4).

2 Project Description and Development Context

16. The Republic of Belarus is one of the former states of the Soviet Union. During the Soviet era, the drive to expand agriculture resulted in the drainage a numerous wetlands in Belarus. This was a symptom of the fact that economic activities and development took precedence over environmental considerations. As described in the Project Document, the "seemingly unending wetland areas were hardly perceived as natural heritage, rather as an impediment to extensive agriculture, forestry and peat extraction which needed to develop fast enough to "feed" the [rapidly developing] industries and cities." During this process of wetland drainage, an estimated 40% of the wetlands were drained, and rivers and streams significantly impacted – with associated loss of biodiversity and impacts on ecological processes.

17. Over the past decade, the principles of Agenda 21 have become increasingly recognized. As a consequence, in policy documents such as the National Sustainable Socioeconomic Development Strategy (NSSDS, covering the period to 2020 and building on the first strategy developed in 1997), the concepts of environmental governance were introduced. There was a focus on mainstreaming environmental issues into various sectors of the economy. Further, a Commission was appointed to oversee the implementation of the strategy.

18. Further to the NSSDS, the country signed and ratified a number of international conventions, pertinently including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention and UNFCCC.

19. The conservation of the remaining wetlands emerged as a priority issue for the country – with particular recognition of the importance and uniqueness of the Polesie wetlands for the country. The rates of carbon fixation within the wetlands were found to be extremely high. The recognition was not only for the natural heritage but the cultural aspects of the area have also gained recognition.

20. As the first step to working towards the conservation of the Polesie area of Belarus, the *First International Conference on Conservation of Floodplains and Fen Mires of the Belarusian Polesie* was held in 1997 and it resulted in an Action Plan, which supported the establishment of the Mid-Pripyat reserve, the review of the borders of the Sporovsky reserve and the elaboration of management plans for key biodiversity sites of the Polesie. In addition, the conference catalyzed a forestry project and the development of the Dnieper Basin Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. This strategy identified three of the four target sites for the current project as priority areas.

21. Further to this conference and the strategies that it catalyzed, and congruent with the recommendation of the *Second International Conference on Conservation of Floodplains and Fen Mires of the Belarusian Polesie* (held in May 2002), there was a recognition by the Government of Belarus (GOB) for the need for the implementation of various strategic plans, including the *National Sustainable Socio-Economic Development Strategy for the period to 2020 of the Republic of Belarus and Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the Dnieper Basin*.

22. At the same time, the Polesie Bionetwork was being conceived as a joint venture between the GOB and UNESCO. The current project was fully aligned with the Bionetwork concept that had been developed.

23. In addition to these conservation and protected area strands, there was also an acknowledgement that mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into broader areas was also necessary. Most notably, biodiversity had not previously been included in the plans developed in the agriculture, forestry, flood defence and land use planning. The project was identified as a mechanism for carrying out pilot projects to demonstrate how this could best be done.

24. In summary, on the initiation by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP), APB-BirdLife Belarus (hereafter simple referred to as APB) and the Institute of Zoology within the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS), this project was conceived and developed. The MNREP was the executing agency through the PDF-B phase of the project's development.

25. The project was designed to be a five-year project and project activities commenced in June 2006 with the Inception period that culminated in the Inception Report.

26. The target and demonstration sites for the project were four reserves or *zakazniks*: these were Mid-Pripyat reserve (straddling four districts and two regions – Brest and Gommel); Prostyr reserve (straddling two districts within Brest region and on the Ukrainian border); Zvanets reserve (also straddling two districts within Brest region) and Sporovsky reserve (straddling two districts in Brest region).

27. *Key Stakeholders*. There were a number of stakeholders, largely reflecting the system and local levels at which the project's activities were targeted. At the republican level, the principal partners for the project were the MNREP – as the executor of the project, the NAS (both the Institutes of Zoology and Botany), APB, Ministry of Forestry (responsible for developing and monitoring forest policy in the country), Ministry of Agriculture (responsible for developing and monitoring policy for state agriculture), Belmeliovodkhoz Concern (which is the state agency in charge of the State Program for Flood Defence and land amelioration activities), and State Committee on Land Resources and Cartography (which determines land use and regulation through the development of proposals for the priority lines of state land policy, drafts regulatory acts for land legislation and ensures their practical application).

28. At a more local level, the project worked specifically with the Executive Committees in each of the districts in which the four target reserves were found. In addition, the project work variously with a number of other stakeholders, including: i) churches, ii) local people – particularly those interested in developing ecotourism, and iii) NGOs.

3 Findings

3.1 Project Formulation

29. As indicated above, through the Soviet period, a large proportion of the wetlands were drained for agricultural expansion. However, while draining of wetlands does not represent an issue in the Polesie at present[1], other threats persist. These were, primarily: i) at a protected area system level, a lack of coherence, poor legislative framework and poor capacity, ii) changes in hydrology due to agriculture, fish farming and alteration of water flow through the construction of dykes and embankments, iii) unsustainable natural resource use by local communities, iv) unsustainable forestry and v) the exclusion of local stakeholders from land use and development decision making.

30. The project was designed specifically to address these persistent threats, including strengthening of the protected area system as a whole. However, in the project document, the analysis of the root causes of the threats and that of the barriers to achieving i) sustainability across the protected area system and ii) effective management of protected areas was incomplete. For example, while the success of the establishment of Protected Area Management Units (PAMU) and the development of the management plans has been hailed as a success of the project, the absence of these things, as a threat, root cause or barrier to effective management of the protected areas, was not mentioned in the Threats, Root Causes and Barriers Analysis of the project document.

31. Despite the inadequacy of the analyses, the project was designed to overcome the threats and their root causes, and the barriers to effective management of the protected areas – and more! The link between the analysis and the design of the project's goal, objective, outcomes and outputs was, as a consequence, not direct. However, we are grateful for that – for the expressed goal, objective, outcomes and outputs were targeting the real (if not articulated) threats, root causes and barriers. In addition, as attention was turning to the protected area system as a whole, the project was **timely** as a mechanism to test and demonstrate methodologies as well as build a framework for the protected area system.

32. As such, the project's overall goal was expressed as: "*catalyzing sustainability and effectiveness of Belarus' national system of protected areas with the emphasis on its network of wetland Reserves*." In the MTE, this was described as being a "lofty" goal but given that any project's goal should represent a 20 year vision, this seems appropriate.

33. The project's objective was "*to catalyze sustainability of the wetland protected area system in Belarusian Polesie through increased management efficiency, and aligning the land use framework in and around protected areas with conservation objectives*." Six indicators were selected to measure the achievement of this objective (Table 3).

Table 3. The indicators, baseline figures and end-of-project targets for the project's objective.

[1] In contrast, in the XXX area of Belarus, the GOB is considering commercial-scale extraction of peat – to fuel a cement factory – at considerable environmental cost.

Indicator	Baseline	EOP target
Water management regime by fish- farms and drainage facilities conducive of biodiversity conservation	8 out of 10 years, water conditions are not favorable for biodiversity	8 out of 10 years, water conditions are optimum for biodiversity
Areas occupied by unique plant associations and vegetation composition of open fens and floodplain meadows	• open fens - 58,000 ha; • floodplain meadows - 11,000 ha	• open fens - 59,200 ha; • floodplain meadows - 11,500 ha
Population of indicator bird species (spotted eagle, aquatic warbler, great snipe, corncrake)	Population of indicator species: • spotted eagle (10-22) • Aquatic warbler (3700-9000) • Great snipe (150-1000) • corncrake (550-2100)	Population is retained at the baseline level
Population of indicator animal species (elk, beavers, otter)	Population of indicator species elk (65), beaver (400), otter (135) at the low level	Population is kept at the baseline level or increases
Population of indicator fish species (pike, ide, catfish, pike perch, roach, zope, white bream)	The share of catch of valuable species decreases pike from 34% in 1960s till 13% in 2000's, ide from 2,1% to 0,4%; catfish from 1.0% to 0,05%; pike perch from 1.2% to 0,14%);the share of roach, zope and white bream increases by 7-15%	Population is kept at the baseline level or increases The share of catch of valuable species (pike, ide, catfish, pike perch) stabilized, while the share of roach, zope and white bream remains at the same level
Use of METT indicates measurable increase in management capacities of the four PAs	METT score: • Zvanets – 48 • Sporovski – 48 • Prostyr – 20 • Mid Pripyat – 21 Total - 137	METT score: • Zvanets – 72 • Sporovski - 72 • Prostyr – 70 • Mid Pripyat – 75 Total – 289

34. There are a number of issues with the project's objective level indicators, some of which were identified during the project's MTE. For example:

- The first two indicators ("the water management regime … conducive [to] biodiversity conservation" and "areas occupied by unique plant associations") are neither Specific nor Measurable. We also agree with the comment made during the MTE on the third indicator: it would have made more sense to express the numbers as the estimates with the standard deviation.
- Barring catastrophic collapses of their populations, the selection of the populations of the spotted eagle and elk as indicators for the achievement of the project's objective were, arguably, inappropriate because they are rare or uncommon species and, as a result, very difficult to census accurately or with sufficient short-term sensitivity to be used as indicators for the success (or otherwise) of a five-year project. In addition, as K-selected species, any population growth (from a small baseline at the beginning of the project) could be difficult to detect over a five-year project.
- The indicator and baseline figures for the fish species are muddled, again as indicated in the MTE. First, the indicator talks of "population of indicator fish species." The means of measurement assumes that the population sizes can be easily and accurately assessed by the "share of catch" when such an assumption

may not be warranted. Second, the baseline gives surplus information: the trend in the share of catch from the 1960s – such information should be in the background information to the project not in the logical framework! Third, there is a degree of ambiguity in the wording: given the reported trend in the baseline figures and the end-of-project target for "stabilized" – but stabilized at what level?

35. In summary and with the benefit of a Terminal Evaluation's hindsight, we would suggest that future project consider carefully the objective level indicators taking into consideration the key biodiversity values, ecosystems and ecological processes of the targeted areas. They can be narrowed to focus on the conservation targets of a given protected area (see description in Recommendations section). For example, the focus on the aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* appeared to be entirely justified. However, there was no overall focus (either in terms of determining action or as a mechanism for measuring success) on migrating birds despite the importance of the Polesie for this process.

36. Further, we do, however, agree that an objective level indicator should include the coverage of effectively managed protected areas (as measured by the legal status, the cumulative area and the METT scores of the protected areas).

37. The five Outcomes with 16 associated outputs (with 23 indicators to measure the achievement of the project's objective and outcomes) that were designed to achieve the above objective and, ultimately, contribute to the achievement of the project's goal were:

38. Outcome 1: "*Reserves are being managed effectively, with the active participation of local stakeholders in design and implementation aspects*."

39. This outcome specifically deals with reserve function and management – even though these were not specifically identified in the threats, root causes and barriers analysis as being issues. Nonetheless, this was an important – if not central – component of the project. It was the component with the largest allocation of the budget (41%), it had five outputs and six indicators to measure its achievement.

Table 4. The indicators, baseline figures and end-of-project targets for Outcome 1.

Indicator	Baseline	EPO target
Increase in the area of Zvanets and Prostyr protected areas (in hectares)	• Zvanets – 10,460 ha; • Prostyr – 3,440 ha	• Zvanets – 15,873 ha; • Prostyr – 7,600 ha
Legislative approval of cross-border Ramsar site status for Prostyr Reserve	Prostyr has status of national reserve (zakaznik) and a Ramsar Site	Prostyr has status of transboundary Ramsar site "Prostyr- Pripyat- Stokhid"
Full complement of PAMU staff recruited, trained, funded	0	• Zvanets - 2 staff members, • Sporovsky - 2, • Mid-Pripyat - 4, • Prostyr - 1; all are funded by the state
Annual budget allocation from Nature Protection Fund	0	Starting from 2nd year onwards, all 4 PAMUs receive an annual budget, adjusted every year for cost increases
Locals: • aware of biodiversity conservation values and zoning regimes of reserves (% of local	• 20% • 24	• 80% • 150

population) • involved in PA management (individuals)		
Incidence of violations of reserves' regime through: • illegal fishing • poaching	• 2,200 • 200	• 450 • 40

40. There are some issues with these indicators:

- Somewhat surprisingly (and even though acknowledging that management plans are inputs), the development and implementation of management plans was not an indicator for this Outcome despite their importance for effective management of the reserve; the management plans should also be closely linked with the budgeting of the reserves (and the budgets are given two of the six indicators).
- The terms "local populations" and "locals" are not defined and are, therefore, meaningless. Similarly, the term "involved in management" is equally not defined.
- The "incidence of violations" are not measured by unit effort; however, in this case, given the staffing of the reserves and consequent increases in effort, the targeted drop should, in reality and therefore, be many times greater than the figures!

41. Outcome 2: *Agricultural activity in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity harboured in reserves*.

42. This outcome is slightly confusing because the activities and indicators associated with it are more to do with restoration ecology rather than modifying current and ongoing agricultural practices. It is more to do with reversing the damaging historical drainage systems implemented under the Soviet era than current, growing or persistent threats of drainage.

43. The Outcome had four Outputs to ensure its achievement and was to be measured by five indicators (Table 5).

Table 5. The indicators, baseline figures and end-of-project targets for Outcome 2.

Indicator	Baseline	EOP target
Land area converted from arable agriculture to grasslands	0 ha	4,000 ha by 4th project year
Areas under sustainable haymaking: • floodplain meadows • fen mires	 • 2,700 ha • 500 ha	 • 3,200 ha • 1,700 ha
Area of mineral islands under traditional agriculture	• Zvanets – 90 ha • Sporovski – 100 ha	Stable or decreases
Area of non-productive agricultural lands that continue to be employed in agriculture in the Polesie lowlands	283,000 ha (700,000 ha total for Belarus)	274,000 ha
Number and extent of human-caused uncontrolled burning of vegetation	About 20,000 ha in fen mires affected	Less than 100 ha

44. Overall, the activities and indicators were appropriate. It is only slightly surprising that, given its importance as a process (particularly for replication but also for lessons learned), that the guidelines were not included as an indicator. As with Outcome 1, this is in acknowledgement that these guidelines are inputs (rather than outputs) but their achievement for the protected area system as a whole and for mainstreaming the environment into agriculture is, in our view, sufficient to include them as an indicator.

45. Outcome 3. *Forestry activity in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity in reserves*.

46. This outcome was designed to improve the management of the forestries such that the integration of biodiversity conservation was implemented. The Outcome had two outputs associated with it and two indicators to measure its achievement.

Table 6. The indicators, baseline figures and end-of-project targets for Outcome 3.

Indicator	Baseline	EOP target
Number of forest enterprises operating in and around the project reserves that apply special forestry planning principles (6 forestries in the project region)	0	6
Number of forest enterprises operating in and around the reserves that are certified• according to national standards• according to international standard	• 0 • 0	• 6 • 2

47. Both the outputs and indicators were appropriate.

48. Outcome 4. *Flood protection program in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity harboured in reserves*.

49. As with Outcome 2, this Outcome was more closely associated with restoration of areas that were either previously drained or were otherwise altered during the Soviet era than actually altering the development of further flood protection systems. The outcome had no outputs and had only one indicator to measure its achievement.

Table 7. The indicator, baseline figures and end-of-project targets for Outcome 4.

Indicator	Baseline	EOP target
Number of planned anti- flood embankments that are modified to avert adverse impacts on biodiversity	4 anti-flood embankments (20 km long); 7 dykes (35 km long) constructed	6 dykes (30 km) are relocated, 3 dykes (10 km) are not constructed at all and 2 existing dykes (15 km) are demolished

50. The focus of the activity description in the project document was primarily on the restoration of summer poulders – with little or no reference to the dykes and anti-flood embankments mentioned in the one indicator. From the description of the activities and the indicator, we would not have known quite what the project should have done under this Outcome. Nonetheless, in a demonstration of adaptive

management, the project carried out a significant amount of work under this Outcome (see Results section below).

51. Outcome 5. *Tools and methodologies generated by the project in selected wetland reserves are institutionalized, enabling replication in other similar areas within the protected areas system*.

52. Obviously, this Outcome is focused on replicating lessons learned and best practices from the project to other protected areas and to the protected area system as a whole. The Outcome had four outputs associated with it and three indicators to measure its successful achievement (Table 8).

Table 8. The indicators, baseline figures and end-of-project targets for Outcome 5.

Indicator	Baseline	EOP target
Number of reserves functioning under the project model	0	22
Number of district's comprehensive land-use schemes	1	3
Number of forest enterprises in Belarus (outside project region) that: • apply special forestry planning principles, • are certified according to national standards, • are certified according to international standards	• 0 • 0 • 2	• 6 • 15 • 5

53. Of the three indicators, the third (relating to forest enterprises) is the most specific leaving little doubt over what needs to be done and what needs to be achieved. In contrast, the other two indicators were less specific and could be subject to misinterpretation. In the first indicator, the "project's model" is not defined. In the second, any district in the country could argue that it was implementing a "comprehensive land-use scheme" with no knowledge or reference to the project.

3.1.1 Assumptions and risk analysis

54. The assumptions and risks were integrated into the project's logical framework. This meant, for the risks, that their intensity was neither analysed (in the usual fashion, categorising them into High, Medium and Low) not were mitigation measures contemplated.

3.1.2 Lessons from other relevant projects

55. Few other projects in the biodiversity sector have been carried out in Belarus; indeed, the project was somewhat pioneering and will pave the way for future projects. As such, there were no analyses in the project document relating to lessons learned from other projects.

3.1.3 Replication approach

56. As with many other CIS countries, there is a strong degree of commitment to replication and scaling-up. Once demonstration has successfully occurred and the key

stakeholders have been involved in development of policy and legislation, there is relatively rapid translation into replication across other areas. Belarus is no exception and the aim of the project "to integrate biodiversity concerns into key economic activities" was largely achieved. In terms of replication, the project was targeting replication of project successes across 20 reserves elsewhere in the country. In addition, it was expecting to lead to the amendments of laws, policies and regulations

3.1.4 Role of UNDP-CO

57. In the context of Belarus, UNDP has a strong competitive advantage over other Implementation Agencies: in effect, it has the monopoly over the development and implementation of biodiversity projects in the country.

58. The UNDP-CO has worked closely with stakeholders in order to develop and implement the project. However, its role can be seen to be more passive than can be seen in other countries. In other words, the initiation and development of projects are largely driven by the country itself. There are many advantages to this approach (e.g., it significantly increases country driveness and ownership) but there may be some disadvantages. For example, in countries where i) capacity is low or ii) the sector is dominated by people with a specific but not necessarily balanced view of priorities, there is the possibility that projects may not develop quite as coherently as it might otherwise. In addition, when compared with other countries, the protected area system of Belarus is still in its emergent stages. As such, we **recommend** that UNDP, particularly with the input of the UNDP Regional Centre in Bratislava, could work with the Belarusian government to develop an integrated, coherent and strategic protected area system for the country. However, in conclusion, there is a balance to be sought here.

3.1.5 Stakeholder participation.

59. In its formulation, a number of key stakeholders were involved – particularly at the central level. These specifically included the Institute of Zoology of the NAS, the MNREP, APB and UNDP-CO.

60. In the implementation of the project, the project took pains to include stakeholders in the project. While the local level Conservation Committees suggested by the MTE were not established[2], the project worked with different stakeholder groups, including: i) Executive Committees of the Districts in which the target reserve were found, ii) local people (for ecotourism development), iii) church groups (for agreement over hydrological works), and local NGOs (Brest division of APB).

61. At the republican level, a broad range of governmental and scientific stakeholders were involved – in line and continuation of the foundation developed during the project formulation phase.

62. In conclusion, the stakeholder engagement through the project was, given the circumstances of contemporary Belarus, **Highly Satisfactory**. However, in the Recommendations, we dwell a little further on mechanisms to further increase stakeholder participation in biodiversity conservation.

[2] The establishment of Conservation Committees or any other stakeholder forum that brings all local stakeholders, including local communities and residents, remains problematic in Belarus primarily because of the political environment (see Recommendations).

3.2 Project Implementation

63. The project is one of two UNDP-GEF projects in the country at present. The other,

3.2.1 Implementation modalities and project management

64. The project was implemented under the National Execution (NEX) modality through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. However, with the exception of a float that was granted to the PIU for small costs (that were approved through the annual workplans and accounted normally), all contractual payments were made directly by the UNDP-CO. As such, the UNDP-CO managed all project funds, including budgetary planning, monitoring, revisions, disbursements, record keeping, reporting and auditing. In conclusion, the project was implemented under a NEX modality with UNDP making direct payments. While interviewees reported that at times the UNDP-CO was slow to respond to requests, it appears that this arrangement was not a significant obstacle or barrier to efficient implementation of the project; on the contrary, this has been a very effective mechanism for implementation. Indeed, the government strongly favours working with UNDP above other GEF Implementation Agencies.

65. Project oversight was carried out by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) that was based on the National Intersectoral Ramsar Committee that has the mandate to coordinate the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Belarus. The PSC was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Natural resources and Environmental Protection and the National Coordinator of the Ramsar Convention from the MNREP, while the project's team provided secretariat services to the PSC.

66. Two PSC meetings were held per year throughout the duration of the project. Te PSC meetings were predominately held in Minsk; on occasion including in the last year of implementation, the PSC members travelled to the field for meetings and visits, including to Luninets District. However, the meetings were often attended by people designated by people to represent the appointees for the PSC. As such, we **recommend** that in future projects, the PSC meetings take place in Minsk but that the project organize two to three field visits for the members of the PSC. Such visits may be timed around one-third of the way through the project (thereby preparing the members of the PSC for the MTE) and in the final quarter of the project (so that they can see the impacts of the project and prepare themselves for the Terminal Evaluation).

67. The project's activities were implemented by a small team of people based within the MNREP in Minsk and, where appropriate, by contracted persons or organizations. Within the limitations of Belarus (see section below on Cost Effectiveness), all contracts and procurement were awarded after a competitive tendering process, adhering to UNDP procurement rules. The project team prepared all tender documents and terms of reference, and the UNDP-CO, through the direct payment modality, was the contracting agency on contracts.

68. At the republican level, the project, through the NPM and the Scientific Coordinator, had an excellent working relationship with the MNREP and the members of the PSC. In addition, the team formed good working relationships with the Executive Committees of a number of the Districts (however, see Lessons Learned). All stakeholders who were met over the course of the Terminal Evaluation

mission displayed respect for the NPM and his team, and knowledge of the project and its objectives.

69. The project team was established in Minsk. This placed the team some distance from the project's target sites. Despite the fact that the NPM and his team travelled regularly to the field, it is possible that having a Liaison Officer based permanently in the field, particularly in key periods when sensitive processes are being negotiated with the Executive Committees of the Districts, may have been useful. In such a situation, the project would have had permanent local representation, on the ground, to ensure follow-up of activities and to facilitate cost-effective implementation. A Liaison Officer could, for example, i) manage the distribution of all awareness materials, ii) organize meetings well ahead of the arrival of the team and iii) ensure follow-up of the activities. We **recommend** that this possibility be explored for future GEF projects within the country because these relationships are so vital for the success of the project (see Lessons Learned and Recommendations).

Item	Rating	Comment
IA & EA Execution		
Overall quality of implementation & execution	**HS**	The project appears to have been implemented with no significant problems; it worked well within the framework of Belarus.
Implementation Agency Execution	**HS**	The MNREP has proved to be an excellent implementer, providing space for the project team and responding positively too all gains made by the project with significant moves to replicate the results of the project. The MNREP has also provided significant co-finance.
Executing Agency Execution*	**HS**	UNDP-CO has facilitated the development of the protected area system and provided good support for the project – particularly with the provision of training for the project team and in the management of the project's contracts and finances.

*While there may be some confusion about nomenclature, UNDP is taken as the Executing Agency for this analysis.

3.2.2 Project staff

70. The composition of the project remained the same through the majority of the project thus allowing for continuity. The team worked well together and were effective.

Table 9. The staff employed over the implementation of the project, their positions and their duration of employment.

Name	Position	Period of service
Alexei Artushevsky	Project Manager	24 May 2006 – 31 January 2012
Natalia Huk	Administrative and Finance Assistant to the Project Manager	7 April 2008 – 31 January 2012
Mikhail Moroz	Project Scientific Coordinator	28 May 2007 – 31 December 2011
Alexei Tchistodarski	Information Officer	01 January 2009 – 31 December 2011
Igor Mashkov	Project Vehicle Driver	1 March 2008 – 31 December 2011

Vladimir Lomako	Ecotourist Expert	01 July 2007 – 30 June 2010

3.2.3 Adherence to logframe

71. The project's team adhered strongly to the logframe as a guide to the implementation of the project and, as discussed below, the project achieved the majority of the indicator targets. In addition, the logframe was used as the principal means of monitoring and evaluating the project. The logframe was amended slightly during the Inception Period and reported in the Inception Report. This was endorsed by both the UNDP Regional Centre in Bratislava and by the PSC. The MTE made recommendations for further amendments to the logframe and in particular to come of the indicators; however, no changes resulted from these recommendations.

72. While the adherence to the logframe was strong, the project displayed good adaptive management. One notable example of this was the efforts to build awareness. In part, this was in response to recommendation made in the MTE. However, the project made efforts and notable successes in raising awareness, not only among local communities (and there was a demonstrated 60% increase of awareness from baseline levels) but also across the nation[3].

3.2.4 Financial Planning

73. The project was funded by the GEF with substantial co-finance – particularly from the Government of Belarus – both in cash but particularly in kind.

Table 10. The value of the project including the funding from GEF and sources of co-finance and leveraged funds (both cash and in-kind).

Type	Donor	Value (USD)
UNDP-managed grants	GEF	2,191,500.00
	UNDP	
Partner-managed grants	Govt. of Belarus	
	RSPB	48,235.00
In-kind donations	Government of Belarus	9,094,000.00* 10,360,000.00†
TOTAL		**11,327,735.00*** **12,599,735.00†**

* As budgeted; † Actual expenditure

74. The implementation of the project followed usual UNDP-GEF procedures with the workplan and associated budget being examined and endorsed by the PSC each year. The annual budget for GEF funds, by Outcome, with associated expenditure is shown in Table 11.

75. The planned budget was not evenly distributed by Outcome (see Figure 1). Indeed, 42% of the project's budget was allocated to Outcome 1; in contrast, Outcome 3 accounted for less than 4% of the project's budget.

[3] Interestingly, the project had far less success in the international media: it appeared that the international media were little interested in "good news" stories of conservation success!

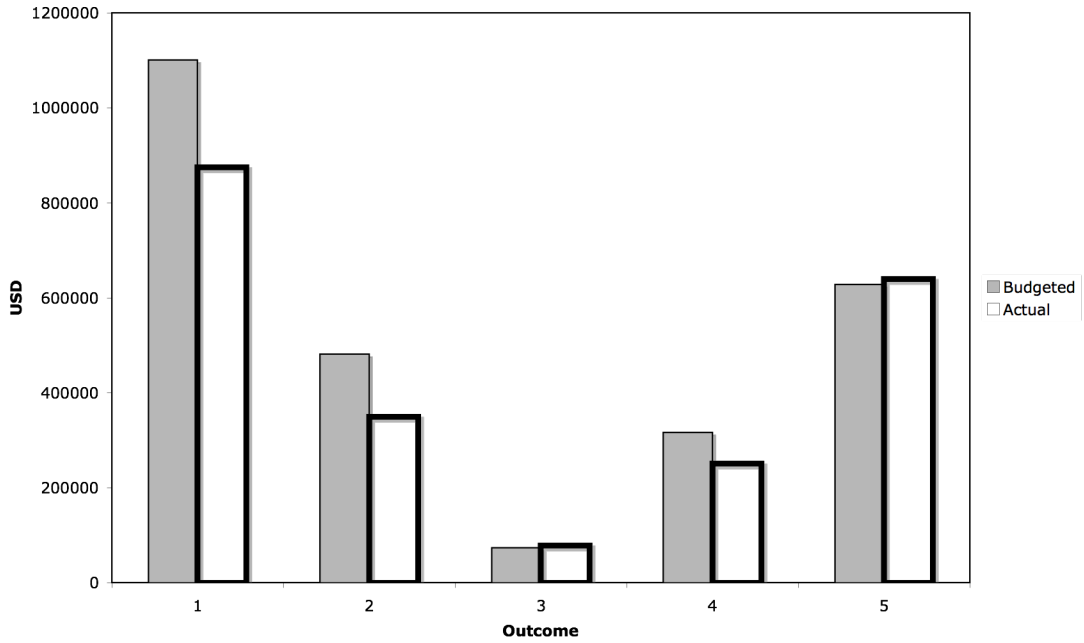

Figure 1. The distribution of budgeted funds across the different outcomes

76. In terms of implementation of the budget, the project consistently underspent the approved budget (see Figure 2). Because Figure 2 represents the total expenditure against the total budget, it hides the fact that this was not always the case across all outcomes and across all years.

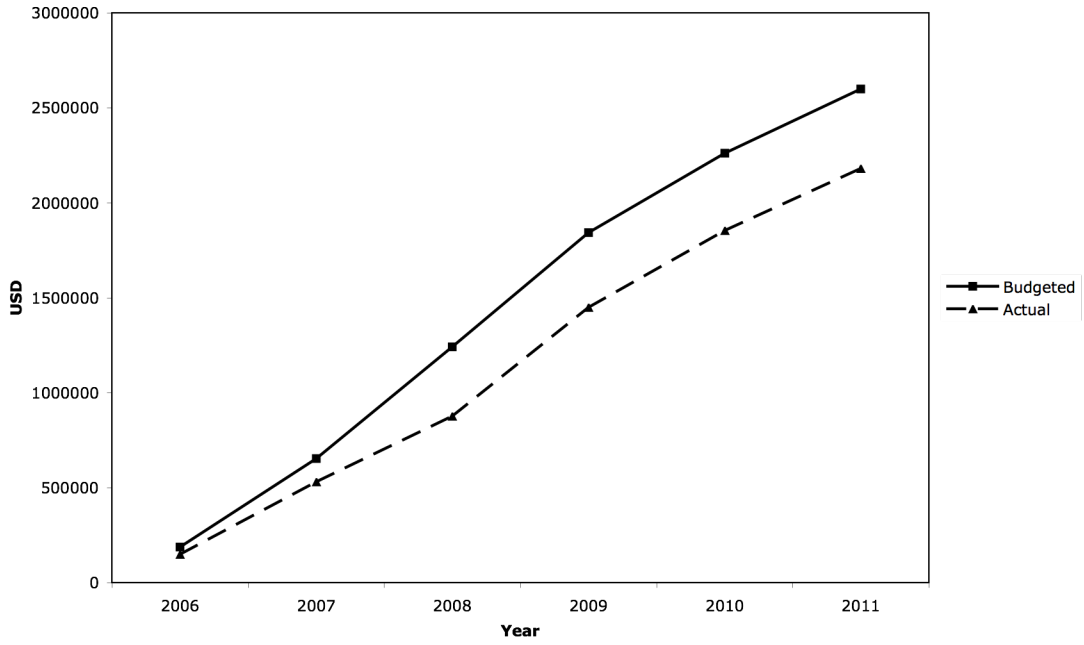

Figure 2. The cumulative actual expenditure (dashed line) relative to the approved budget (solid line) illustrating that across all Outcomes, the project consistently underspent its budget

Table 11. The budget (as it appears in the annual, approved workplan) and actual expenditure, by Outcome and funding source, for the project.

	GEF			Co-Finance			Total		
	Budgeted	**Actual**	**%**	**Budgeted**	**Actual**	**%**	**Budgeted**	**Actual**	**%**
Outcome1	1 100 408.65	874 564.09	79.48	48 511.15	39 074.05	80.55	1 148 919.80	913 638.14	79.52
Outcome2	481 430.03	348 978.57	72.49	9 133.00	9 125.26	99.92	490 563.03	358 103.83	73.00
Outcome3	73 683.00	78 021.10	230.63				73 683.00	78 021.10	230.63
Outcome4	316 470.50	250 501.77	79.15				316 470.50	250 501.77	79.15
Outcome5	627 557.44	628 855.15	100.21				627 557.44	628 855.15	100.21
Total	**2 599 549.62**	**2 180 920.68**		**57 644.15**	**48 199.31**		**2 657 193.77**	**2 229 119.99**	

Table 12. The detailed annual expenditure of GEF funds, by year and by outcome, relative to the approved budget.

	2006			**2007**			**2008**		
	Budgeted	**Actual**	**%**	**Budgeted**	**Actual**	**%**	**Budgeted**	**Actual**	**%**
1	92 100,00	69 381,66	75,33	215 000,00	165 978,38	77,20	302 760,00	152 655,33	50,42
2	21 800,00	19 174,64	87,96	137 000,00	79 292,97	57,88	101 740,00	39 803,97	39,12
3	24 800,00	20 446,65	82,45	25 000,00	32 156,70	128,63	12 500,00	8 414,83	67,32
4	7 000,00	5 509,39	78,71	30 000,00	1 637,81	5,46	41 300,00	29 788,67	72,13
5	40 700,00	35 158,08	86,38	60 000,00	102 707,05	171,18	129 925,00	113 551,12	87,40
Total	186 400,00	149 670,42	80,29	467 000,00	381 772,91	81,75	588 225,00	344 213,92	58,52

	2009			**2010**			**2011 (not finalised)**		
	Budgeted	**Actual**	**%**	**Budgeted**	**Actual**	**%**	**Budgeted**	**Actual**	**%**
1	312 063,00	301 194,21	96,52	116 336,00	117 884,93	101,33	62 149,65	67 469,58	108,56
2	154 903,00	151 294,67	97,67	52 321,00	32 625,42	62,36	13 666,03	26 786,90	196,01
3	7 500,00	6 740,41	89,87	3 883,00	10 222,28	263,26	0	40,23	-
4	3 700,00	1 385,81	37,45	119 186,00	120 226,83	100,87	115 284,50	91 953,26	79,76
5	123 550,00	112 624,95	91,16	126 849,00	124 009,62	97,76	146 533, 44	140 804,33	96,09

Total	601 716,00	573 240,05	95,27	418 575,00	404 969,08	96,75	337 633,62	327 054,43	96,87

	2012 (not finalised)			**TOTAL**		
	Budgeted	**Actual**	**%**	**Budgeted**	**Actual**	**%**
1				1 100 408.65	874 564.09	79 48
2				481 430.03	348 978.57	72.49
3				73 683.00	78 021.10	230.63
4				316 470.50	250 501.77	79.15
5	10 579.32	10 579.32	100	627 557.44	639 434.47	101.89
Total	2 191 500.00			2 599 549.62	2 191 500.00	

3.2.5 Cost effectiveness

77. The project has adopted a number of approaches to improve cost-effectiveness. First, the project was the one of the few GEF biodiversity projects implemented in Belarus and the first to take a systemic approach. However, there is synergy between this project and the other UNDP-GEF project currently being implemented in Belarus "*Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Practices*" and with a second peatlands project that is currently under development. As the systemic approach takes further shape and the synergy among all the projects further increases, cost-effectiveness will be further assured.

78. Second, where possible, the project followed the usual UNDP rules for procurement of project personnel, studies, consultants, and materials and equipment such that cost-effectiveness was assured. However, a note must be made of the context of Belarus in which the procurement took place vis-à-vis cost effectiveness. The UNDP procurement processes are not designed for situations such as those that exist in Belarus which include: i) the majority of service providers are state-owned, ii) (somewhat as a result) there are occasions when there are few or no competitors in any given bidding process and iii) the state regulates the prices very closely. In these cases, the project team requested a detailed breakdown of the costs. This allowed them to examine financial bids closely and, therefore, to be sure that the bid was cost-effective.

79. Third, where the project provided small grants (e.g., to ecotourism operators), the following illustrative and informative steps were undertaken:

- A guidance document was produced and agreed upon by the MNREP (specifically the National Project Director); this document was used to regulate all stages of the grant-giving process; regulations included aspects such as: i) the need for demonstrable co-finance, ii) only certain types of costs could be covered (e.g., infrastructure development but neither salaries nor recurrent costs and iii) there had to be demonstrable cooperation and collaboration with the reserve thereby demonstrating relevance to the project and biodiversity conservation);
- That the project was supporting a given process or programme was then advertised;
- Applications were collected and evaluated by key stakeholders (including MNREP, UNDP, District Executive Committees with the project staff); the applications were evaluated, using a point-allocation system, according to environmental and social criteria;
- Selected applicants were then contracted; the call for applications was advertised twice – in the first round, only 15 of the 40 applications received grants
- Grantees received an advance payment (of 15% of the value of the grant); the balance was paid on completion of the work and on receipt of the proof of payment
- The work of the grantees was monitored by project staff, reserve staff and representatives from the district's Executive Committees.

80. Fourth, the project was audited in FY2010 for the period 01January 2006 – 31 December 2009 under UNDP's overall audit by an independent financial auditor. The financial statements audited were: i) statement of expenditures (Combined Delivery

report); ii) Statement of Assets and Equipment as of 31 December 2009; and iii) Statement of Cash position. The project got unqualified (clean) opinion. The audit report stated that: "In our opinion, the Combined Delivery Report present fairly, in all material respects, expenditures of USD 1,480,903 incurred by the project for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2009 in accordance with UNDP accounting requirements … In our opinion, the project inventory ledger presents fairly in all material respect the inventory balance of the project amounting to USD 60,571.86 as of 31 December 2009 in accordance with UNDP requirements … In our opinion, the statement of cash position presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash balance of the project partner as of 31 December 2009, which amounts to USD 0.00."

3.2.6 Monitoring and evaluation

81. The project's monitoring and evaluation framework was typical for UNDP-GEF projects and included: i) and Inception Period and Report, ii) annual Tripartite Reviews, iii) biannual PSC meetings, iv) day-to-day monitoring by the project manager, v) regular monitoring by the UNDP-CO, vi) annual project reports (APR) and Project Implementation Reports (PIR), vii) the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) viii) the Terminal Evaluation and, finally, ix) the Terminal report. In addition, as mentioned above, independent financial audits have also taken place.

82. In short, the monitoring and evaluation of the project appears to have adequate. The UNDP-CO and members of the UNDP Regional Centre in Bratislava regularly visited the project. The project was otherwise monitored by the PSC and the project team produced all necessary reports.

83. In summary, the Terminal Evaluation finds the monitoring and evaluation of the project to be **Highly Satisfactory**.

Item	Rating	Comment
M&E		
Overall quality of M&E	**HS**	The monitoring and evaluation of the project has been satisfactory with no significant shortcomings.
M&E design at project start-up	**HS**	The design was standard for UNDP-GEF biodiversity projects.
M&E plan Implementation	**HS**	The project has not deviated from the M&E design and all M&E processes and events were satisfactorily implemented with no significant shortcomings.

3.3 Project Results

84. As the project reaches closure, it has achieved the majority of its objectives as measured by the indicators for the different Outcomes and Outputs. Indeed, it has done this and more. Under each outcome and output, the project has delivered more than simply the results as measured by the indicators. Because the project will be producing its final report imminently, coupled with other project reports and outputs, here we only report on the majority achievements of the project and focus on those aspects of the results that illustrate pertinent points – for example, those relating to replication, catalysing, effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, lessons learned or sustainability.

3.3.1 Attainment of objectives

85. The project's objective was: "*to catalyze sustainability of the wetland protected area system in Belarusian Polesie through increased management efficiency, and aligning the land use framework in and around protected areas with conservation objectives*." Notwithstanding the issues with the indicators, the project has generally achieved its objective. Indeed, there are now four functional reserves in the Polesie region of the country; the sustainability of the reserves is secured both through government commitment and through the generation of revenue from ecotourism; land-use practices have changed – both through the restoration of previously drained areas and through the amendment of land planning and forestry management. The project has yielded results, some outstanding and many positive lessons learned for institutionalization within the MNREP and for incorporation into ongoing and future development and GEF-funded projects in Belarus.

86. The analysis of the five outcomes were as follows (see also Annex 5 for a list of activities, results and means of verification):

87. Outcome 1: "*Reserves are being managed effectively, with the active participation of local stakeholders in design and implementation aspects*." The project had success in this Outcome, taking the protected areas from being "paper parks" to those that are actively managed.

88. Output 1.1 *Legal framework is amended to improve protection level at reserves*.

89. The project took steps to amend the legal framework such that there was adequate provision for the protected areas. Many of these pieces of legislation provide the foundation for protected areas with amendment to the Environmental Code (*On including changes and amendments to the Law on Environmental Protection*, 05 May 2010, No. 127-3; *On including changes and amendments to the Law on specially protected territories*, 08 July 2008, Nos. 375-3 and N 375-3; *On including changes and amendments to the Law on plant kingdom protection*, 17 May 2011, No. 260-3; and *On including changes and amendments to the Law on wildlife protection*, 17 May 2011, No. 261-3). The project also had influence on the Forestry Code and, through the demonstration of certification through the FSC (based on inclusion of biodiversity and conservation principles), led to a Presidential Decree making certification obligatory.

90. Output 1.2 *Capacity of institutions and individuals for reserve management is developed*

91. The capacity development took a number of different forms. Again, this meant that the project not only met the targets for the indicators but surpassed them:

- Protected Area Management Units (PAMU) were put into place for each of the four target reserves
- Management plans were developed for two reserves and were updated for the other two target reserves;
- Two of the reserves were expanded (Zvanets reserve from 10,460ha to 16,227ha and Prostyr reserve from 3,440ha to 9,514ha)
- The reserves were included into the National Environmental Monitoring System and baseline information collected – this specifically covers fauna, flora and hydrological parameters.

- A methodology for monitoring ecosystems was developed and approved
- The borders of the reserves were demarcated
- Sustainable financing plans were developed
- "Passports" and conservation obligations were developed to target the protection of species
- Artificial nests (262) were installed for target species; they were monitored
- Restocking of fish species (two restocking events each of specifically 0.5tonnes of starlets, each young fish of 250g) to the Pripyat River; the fish demonstrated 90% survival; all fish stocks used for restocking came from the Dnieper basin (therefore no genetic issues); the restocking attracting much media attention and support
- Awareness building among local populations (and monitored through surveys)
- In vitro propagation and planting of threatened plant species
- Training of protected area staff

92. However, the Conservation Committees, as defined in the Project Document and as noted in the MTE, were not established. In principle, the involvement of the local communities in protected area management has support in Belarus. However, the project document was very specific in its language. If the language had been looser – say, "*find and trial mechanisms to involve local communities in planning, establishing and managing protected areas and demonstrate the effectiveness of these mechanisms for more formal adoption and replication in the protected area system*," then, we are sure that the reception would have been positive and we would have positive results to replicate elsewhere in the system. As it turned out, the project *did* find mechanisms for involving local communities, to some extent, through the project team's own initiative and intuition.

93. Output 1.3 *Transboundary conservation arrangements are established and coordination is strengthened between Ukrainian and Belarus protected areas in Polesie*

94. The project, in partnership with an similar UNDP-GEF project in Ukraine, developed, submitted and received approval from the Ramsar Secretariat for the Prostyr-Pripyat-Stokhid Transboundary Ramsar site. This was the firs step towards securing the area as a transfrontier protected area.

95. The further agreements between the Governments of Belarus and Ukraine are underway. The principal agreement has been drafted, with provision for joint management of the area. This would include joint scientific research and monitoring. The Belarusian Council of Ministers has already approved the agreement and is ready for signing. Further, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus has indicated in a letter (№ 11-25/307 of 06/11/2012) confirming that Ukrainian Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources is currently preparing the final draft of the agreement "*On Cooperation in the area of Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Protected Areas*" and that, if there are no disputes, they too will be ready to sign during an upcoming meeting of the Prime Ministers of Belarus and Ukraine.

96. Despite the significant steps that the project has taken to establish the transboundary protected area, it has not gone as far as was originally hoped or

described in the project document. However, we believe that the design was unrealistic and over-ambitious. Transboundary agreements and protected areas are complicated political processes and more often than not take more than five years to develop and implement. As such, while we commend the efforts of the project, we **recommend** that future GEF projects be more realistic about what can be achieved in such a time frame. At best, they can establish the foundations of such an agreement: i) bringing politicians and civil servants together to move towards agreeing the text of an agreement, ii) getting their respective governments to agree on the content of the agreement, iii) hopefully actually securing the agreement and iv) initiating the process of developing the functional, management plan for the transboundary area. It would be unrealistic to imagine that within a five-year project more could be achieved than this.

97. Output 1.4 *Viability of ecotourism as an alternative biodiversity-friendly livelihood is demonstrated*

98. The project took significant steps in the development of ecotourism within the four reserves such that, for example, Sporovsky reserve now derives a good proportion of its annual budget from revenue generated through tourism[4]. This has, effectively, occurred over the life of the project.

99. Successfully implemented activities included:

- Development of ecotourism strategies for two of the reserves
- Provision of small grants to people to develop tourism initiatives within the Polesie area (15 grants provided while over 45 applications were received; typical activities including upgrading facilities to accommodate tourists).
- Training provided to tourism organizations, local communities, and executive and administrative authorities (also attended by the media)
- Development of tourism infrastructure within the protected areas (specifically, trails, environmental education centres, recreational equipment)
- Further training provided to representatives from the MNREP through a study tour to Lituania.

100. While the gains have been significant and the revenue – at least in Sporovsky and Mid-Pripyat reserves has been increasing, the ecotourism strategy was one of the weakest project outputs. There were numerous issues with the strategy and it did not cover various important aspects (global norms for tourism strategies – e.g., willingness-to-pay studies; detailed analysis of the tourism chain to determine where the barriers and bottlenecks lie; the potential social impacts of tourism development in the area and how these impacts may be mitigated; the opportunities for women within tourism (thus, gender aspects); the competitive advantage that the areas have to attract (and thereafter secure greater revenue from) specialised tourists – in the case of the reserves specifically birders! And there appeared to be no understanding of the linkage to speciality markets and how they may be accessed). Having such a poor strategy while the project has (rightly) gone ahead to test and trial methodologies and practices may result in reduced cost-effectiveness as lessons will be being relearned through this process.

[4] Sporovsky reserve's tourism revenue was BYR 75 million and BYR 170 million for 2010 and 2011, respectively. Once the running costs are removed from this revenue, the managers are left with over BYR 5 million to spend on other management costs.

101. Output 1.5 *Linking of target reserves within the Polesie bionetwork (supported by UNESCO) concept is achieved*

102. The reserves were fully integrated into the UNESCO Polesie Bionetwork.

103. However, one concern remains here and this should be further investigated by UNESCO: the issue of maintaining or restoring the integrity of the corridors among all the "islands" that the protected areas form. While the waterways form natural corridors among the protected areas and the riparian borders to the waterways for protected in the legislation, the degree to which the waterways function as corridors requires some analysis. If found to be failing as corridors, work will have to be done to restore and manage them.

104. Outcome 2: *Agricultural activity in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity harboured in reserves*.

105. The principal focus of this outcome was to integrate the environment and more specifically biodiversity conservation into land use planning process. This has not only been achieved successfully but it is also being scaled-up through the country. In this, the project formed a close and good working partnership with the State Committee of Property.

106. Output 2.1 *Guidelines for the environmental and economic optimization of agricultural land are developed and tested*

107. While it was not measured as an indicator, the key result under this output was the development of a manual – with methodological guidelines – for the integration of environmental (and specifically biodiversity) concerns into agricultural activities. This manual has been taken to other areas in the country for replication.

108. In line with the development of the above manual, the project developed (and had approved by the respective Regional Executive Committees) land management systems for three districts.

109. Output 2.2 *Impact of drainage systems on project sites is reduced*

110. The component of the project focused specifically on the hydrological system in Zvanets reserve. The issue here was that Zvanets is the breeding site for a significant proportion of the aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. Alterations to the hydrology system in the wetlands was reducing available habitat for nesting. The project carried out a series of engineering works under this Output to ensure that during the peak nesting period, the water level is maintained at an optimum level.

111. Output 2.3 *Viability of haymaking as an alternative biodiversity-friendly use of land owned by collectives is demonstrated*

112. Changes to the use of the floodplains over the past three decades have led to vegetation changes – more notably and increase in shrubby species. In two sites, in Sporovsky reserve and in the Turov area of the Mid-Pripyat reserve, the project testing a number of techniques i) to restore the areas through the removal of shrubby plants and ii) to harvest hay without significant impacts to the wetlands.

113. In the Turov area (more specifically in the Pogostsky meadow on the Pripyat floodplain in the Zhitkovchy District), 151ha were restored through the removal of shrubs. In Berezai District in the Sporovsky reserve, 582ha were restored and various methods of harvesting hay were tested and impacts on the fragile substrate examined. The conclusion was to import an adapted harvester from Poland; this machine has

very little impact on either the plants or substrate. It can cut up to 6ha of hay per day, yielding 3.5tonnes of hay or 7 tonnes of reeds (which are then processed as pellet biofuel for sale for combustion in western markets). However, it proved to be very expensive to purchase and consumes a large amount of fuel; the government will have to subsidize these costs in the long-term.

114. While the project may not have achieved the target indicator for this output, the experience has been very valuable and provided **lessons learned** from the project. First, it illustrates very effectively that environmental management, in the short-term, has associated costs. However, the long-term benefits will outweigh the costs. Second, the scale of the landworks that were required to transform the wetlands to agriculture during the Soviet era was enormous; restoring them to the wetlands may require equally large-scale works to restore them. Linked to this, third, the project has only *demonstrated* what can and needs to be done. It was beyond the scope of the project to restore all the wetlands in the four reserves to their former, natural state. It is now the responsibility of the stakeholders – primarily the state – i) to continue the work that the project has started and ii) to scale-up the demonstrations to the entire reserves and to elsewhere in the country.

115. Finally, the works, such as using the harvester, may have to be innovative – at least for Belarus: indeed, the most developed wetlands conservation work is taking place in north America (e.g., Florida or in Canada) and there is a large range of amphibious machinery designed to carry out precisely the work that is required in the Polesie. Future projects need to explore these possibilities further to ensure that the currently used harvester is the most cost-effective solution.

116. Output 2.4 *Adverse impact of water use by upstream fish farms is reduced*

117. All the groundwork to determine the potential impacts of upstream fish farms on the Yaselda river was carried out. Thus, the water was tested and the resulting report with recommendations was disseminated. However, again, the onus falls to those state organizations – including the fish farms themselves, the MNREP, the District Executive Committees and the reserves – to implement them such that the recommendations are implemented.

118. Outcome 3. *Forestry activity in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity in reserves*.

119. Output 3.1 *Forest management plans are revised to integrate biodiversity conservation objectives*

120. As with other mainstreaming aspects of the project, the integration of biodiversity conservation into forestry management plans was largely successful. In partnership with the organization *Belgosles*, the recommendations for four forestries (Pinsk, Luninets, Stolin and Zhitkovichy) were submitted to and approved by the Ministry of Forestry. The result was the integration of biodiversity concerns into the ten-year management plans for these forestries.

121. In addition, the biodiversity components of the forestries were mapped – not only for these four forestries but also for six others (Drogochen, Ibatsevichy, Brest, Telekhany, Baranovichy and Pruzhany forestries) –thereby allowing the forestries to incorporate this information into future planning.

122. Output 3.2 *Certification in line with national standards (6 forestry enterprises) & international standards (2 forestry enterprises) on forest certification is completed, with guidelines for replication*

123. The project successfully established an Education Centre on forest certification and forest ecology.

124. In addition, at the PDF-B stage of the project, a forestry was certified through the FSC. The certification was based upon the inclusion of biodiversity conservation principles in the management and harvesting regimes. This demonstration was sufficient to convince the state to initiate a national programme of certification. In summary, the project was successful even in its preliminary, preparation stages!

125. Outcome 4. *Flood protection program in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity harboured in reserves*.

126. While this outcome did not have any outputs associated with it, the project expended much energy and resources in carrying out restoration of various wetlands and their ecological functions. These included:

- Restoration of the fish spawning grounds in the Rakitno area of Luninets District
- Restoration of the Tsna river the i) clearing the 3km of overgrown river bed and ii) diverting the flow from the 1.5km artificial canal that had previously diverted the river from its natural course.
- Restoration of fish spawning and over-wintering sites in the Volyansky Mosty site along the Pripyat river in the Mid-Pripyat reserve.
- Restoration of flooding regime of the poulder system at Berezhtsy in Pinsk District which allows for spawning of fish species during the spring flood.

127. In summary, the project initiated a number of substantial engineering works to restore the natural flooding systems within and adjacent to the reserves. While these will have impacts on the local biodiversity, they can also act as demonstrations for replication elsewhere within Belarus.

128. Outcome 5. *Tools and methodologies generated by the project in selected wetland reserves are institutionalized, enabling replication in other similar areas within the protected areas system*.

129. Output 5.1 *Management capacity of the national network of wetland reserves is strengthened*

130. At the beginning of the project, the protected area system of Belarus was in its nascent stage. It lacked coherence and much work remained to develop a strategy and action plan to put it into place. The project was a key catalyst in this process, not only to provide demonstrations and to test methodologies through pilots but also to catalyse the development of the strategy and action plan itself. Various other outputs were coupled with the protected area system strategy and action plan:

- A manual for the preparation of protected area management plans
- The development of a methodology to determine the carrying capacities of the protected areas from the point of view of human use (including tourism)

131. Further to this overall plan for the protected area system of Belarus, the project also catalysed the development of a strategy and action plan for the wetlands

of Belarus. This was coupled with a strategy for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Belarus.

132. In order to consider the value of the protected areas to the nation, as a first step, the project made an estimation of the value of the ecosystem services in Zvanets. This acts as a demonstration for elsewhere in the protected area system.

133. Output 5.2 *Implementation of sustainable agriculture policy near wetland reserves strengthened at a national level*

134. The SCLRC has been a key partner through the project particularly in the area integration of environmental – and specifically biodiversity concerns – into land use planning. In this Output, the project again partnered with the SCLRC to provide a training for representatives from the SCLRC from throughout the country on how this integration should be carried out. At least 80 people attended the training.

135. The SCLRC has, therefore, institutionalized the approach and is replicating it across the country.

136. Output 5.3 *Integration of biodiversity principles in forest management plans at a national level*

137. As with the above training within SCLRC, the project also provided training within the forestry sector. Therefore, the results of the integration of biodiversity conservation concerns into forestry management planning processes were disseminated at a seminar held in Luninets District to at least 40 participants from the Ministry of Forestry.

138. Output 5.4 *Adaptive management and learning*

139. Adaptive management was included at the Output level, giving it a level of importance above the usual section within the Project Document. This was necessary as Belarus because its protected area system was, on the onset of the project, in its nascent state and it was likely that considerable learning would take place as the project was being implemented and, consequently, adaptive management would be necessary.

140. The project did indeed demonstrate high levels of adaptive management. The trials that took place in order to find a suitable means of harvesting hay from the floodplains in the Sporovsky reserve illustrate this point well. The project tried various techniques and eventually found the solution of the Polish-built harvester.

141. In terms of learning, as indicated above, the project has worked hard to disseminate its results and lessons. Indeed, the uptake of the results and their integration into different sector's policies and practices is a symptom of this.

Item	Rating	Comment
Outcomes		
Overall quality of project outcomes	**HS**	The project has mostly achieved its objectives, outcomes, outputs and indicators; where it did not quite achieve everything that it set out to achieve, it took significant steps to trial techniques and provide demonstrations.
Relevance	**HS**	The focus on biodiversity conservation remained sharp through the majority of the project's activities. The only occasions where the relevance may have swayed was in some of the tourism development. However, if the tourism enterprises ensure that the reserves remain a central part of

		their activities, the work can easily be justified as enhancing the financial sustainability of the reserves – and therefore remains relevant.
Effectiveness	**HS**	The project was effective at attaining the results. Only one note should be made here: this is that the project did not entirely transform the reserves – particularly when restoring ecological processes. In these areas, the project focused on *demonstration* through the implementation of pilot projects. The onus now falls on the state organizations to scale-up the successes that can be observed in these pilot projects.
Efficiency	**HS**	The project took pains to ensure cost-effectiveness primarily by following UNDP procurement rules but in those cases where this was not possible because of the context of Belarus, the project was especially careful to ensure cost-effectiveness.

Table 13. Summary of project achievements by Outcome and Output, relative to the performance indicators from the baseline at the start of the project and the targets. For delivery status, green = successful achievement; yellow – partial achievement; red = significantly incomplete by EOP

No.	Outcome/output	Indicator	Baseline	EOP target	Status, EOP	Rating & comments
	The project objective is to catalyze sustainability of the wetland protected area system in Belarusian Polesie through increased management efficiency, and aligning the land use framework in and around protected areas with conservation objectives	1. Water management regime by fish- farms and drainage facilities conducive of biodiversity conservation	8 out of 10 years, water conditions are not favorable for biodiversity	8 out of 10 years, water conditions are optimum for biodiversity	2006-2010 have seen close to optimal conditions for biodiversity. Hydrological monitoring by Protected Area Management Units (PAMU) indicate that water regime in 2006-2010 was close to optimal for biodiversity	**HS**. Through a series of engineering works and regulating fish farms, the project has achieved this indicator.
		2. Areas occupied by unique plant associations and vegetation composition of open fens and floodplain meadows	• open fens - 58,000 ha; • floodplain meadows - 11,000 ha	• open fens - 59,200 ha; • floodplain meadows - 11,500 ha	• open fens – 58,510 ha (increased through hay mowing in Sporovski reserve in 2006-2010 and in Zvanets reserve in 2008, 2010) • floodplain meadows – 14,515 ha.	**HS.** The floodplain meadows were increased through removing shrubs in the Pogost floodplain meadow, Bludnoe area in Mid Pripyat reserve, Berezhtsy polder and reconstruction of Rakitno polder in Luninets district of Mid Pripyat reserve
		3. Population of indicator bird species (spotted eagle,	Population of indicator species:•	Population is retained at the baseline level	Populations of indicator bird species at or above baseline level • Spotted	**HS -** Notwithstanding concerns about this indicator (see main text),

No.	Outcome/output	Indicator	Baseline	EOP target	Status, EOP	Rating & comments
		aquatic warbler, great snipe, corncrake)	spotted eagle (10-22)• Aquatic warbler (3700-9000)• Great snipe (150-1000)• corncrake (550-2100)		Eagle (30-33)• Aquatic warbler (6100) singing males• Great snipe (460)• corncrake (2000). Verified through monitoring data, 2010 – 2011.	this indicator as been satisfactorily achieved.
		4. Population of indicator animal species (elk, beavers, otter)	Population of indicator species elk (65), beaver (400), otter (135) at the low level	Population is kept at the baseline level or increases	Populations of indicator animal species increased above baseline levels • elk (181) • beaver (1809) • otter (384); verified through monitoring data, 2010 - 2011	**HS** – as above.
		5. Population of indicator fish species (pike, ide, catfish, pike perch, roach, zope, white bream)	The share of catch of valuable species decreases pike from 34% in 1960s till 13% in 2000's, ide from 2,1% to 0,4%; catfish from 1.0% to 0,05%; pike perch from 1.2% to 0,14%); the share of roach, zope and white bream increases by 7-15%	Population is kept at the baseline level or increasesThe share of catch of valuable species (pike, ide, catfish, pike perch) stabilized, while the share of roach, zope and white bream remains at the same level	The share of valuable fish species has increased above the baseline (except for pike and catfish): • pike - 21%, • ide - 4,9%; • catfish - 4,1%; • pike perch - 2.5%; Share of roach, zope and other low-valuable species is 2-40%; verified through fisheries survey data, 2010	**HS** – Notwithstanding the lack of clarity of the wording of the indicator, it has been satisfactorily achieved with only two species partially achieved.

No.	Outcome/output	Indicator	Baseline	EOP target	Status, EOP	Rating & comments
		6. Use of METT indicates measurable increase in management capacities of the four PAs	METT score: • Zvanets – 48 • Sporovski – 48 • Prostyr – 20 • Mid Pripyat – 21 Total - 137	METT score: • Zvanets – 72 • Sporovski - 72 • Prostyr – 70 • Mid Pripyat – 75 Total – 289	METT score: • Zvanets –75 • Sporovski – 82 • Prostyr – 64 • Mid Pripyat – 77 Total – 298	**HS** – the project has surpassed targets for these indicators – thereby demonstrating that management in the protected areas has significantly improved.
	Reserves are being managed effectively, with the active participation of local stakeholders in design and implementation aspects	7. Increase in the area of Zvanets and Prostyr protected areas (in hectares)	• Zvanets – 10,460 ha; • Prostyr – 3,440 ha	• Zvanets – 15,873 ha; • Prostyr – 7,600 ha	• Zvanets- 16,227ha; • Prostyr – 9,445 ha	**HS** - Prostyr has been extended to 9445ha by the Decision Council of Ministers dated December 2, 2011, # 1642; targets surpassed
		8. Legislative approval of cross-border Ramsar site status for Prostyr Reserve	Prostyr has status of national reserve (zakaznik) and a Ramsar Site	Prostyr has status of transboundary Ramsar site "Prostyr- Pripyat-Stokhid"	Prostyr has status of national reserve and a part of transboundary Ramsar site Prostyr-Pripyat-Stokhid.	**HS** – While work remains to be done to finalise the transboundary agreement (even though the
		9. Full complement of PAMU staff recruited, trained, funded	0	• Zvanets - 2 staff members,• Sporovsky - 2,• Mid-Pripyat - 4,• Prostyr - 1; all are funded by the state	• Zvanets - 6 staff members, • Sporovsky - 6 staff members, • Mid-Pripyat - 13 staff members; Prostyr - 2 members All are funded by the state	**HS** – the formation and funding of the PAMUs remains a key success of the project.
		10. Annual budget allocation from	0	Starting from 2nd year onwards, all	In 2010, state and district budgets covered	**HS** – the allocation of budgets to the protected

No.	Outcome/output	Indicator	Baseline	EOP target	Status, EOP	Rating & comments
		Nature Protection Fund		4 PAMUs receive an annual budget, adjusted every year for cost increases	100% costs of staff salary and operating expenses - US$ 176,500, reserve's income from tourist activities consists of US$ 49 100 .	areas' running costs, including salary is another key success of the project and significantly contributes to the sustainability of the project's impacts.
		11. Locals • aware of biodiversity conservation values and zoning regimes of reserves (% of local population) • involved in PA management (individuals	• 20% • 24	• 80% • 150	• 77%Based on the results of surveys undertaken by the project in June 2011 • 149 employees of local forestries, agriculture enterprises and participants of mini-grants ecotourism development program. (PAMUs report.)	**HS** – the project has successfully increased awareness both through dissemination of information but also through the media.
		12. Incidence of violations of reserves' regime through: • illegal fishing • poaching	• 2,200 • 200	• 450 • 40	• 270 (249 – Mid Pripyat, 21 –Sporovsky) • 10 (all in Mid Pripyat) (According to official reports of PAMUs for 2010)	**HS** – compliance to regulations is high; the presence of PAMUs within the protected areas has had significant impacts.
	Agricultural activity in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity harboured in reserves	13. Land area converted from arable agriculture to grasslands	0 ha	4,000 ha by 4th project year	6,500 ha increase in Pinsk and Stolin districts through reforestation of arable lands as per results of land use schemes implementation	**HS** – target achieved.
		14. Areas under				**HS** – While the project

No.	Outcome/output	Indicator	Baseline	EOP target	Status, EOP	Rating & comments
		sustainable haymaking: • floodplain meadows • fen mires	• 2,700 ha • 500 ha	• 3,200 ha • 1,700 ha	• 3,350 ha (all in Mid Pripyat reserve) • 590 ha (Zvanets and Sporovsky reserves) (as per PAMUs reports)	did not meet its target for the hay production in the fen mires, the demonstration of adaptive management and willingness to try innovative (for Belarus) solutions warrants this rating.
		15. Area of mineral islands under traditional agriculture	• Zvanets – 90 ha • Sporovski – 100 ha	Stable or decreases	• Zvanets – 40 ha • Sporovski – 40 ha (as per PAMUs reports)	**HS** – mineral islands under production are limited to traditional areas alone.
		16. Area of non-productive agricultural lands that continue to be employed in agriculture in the Polesie lowlands	283,000 ha (700,000 ha total for Belarus)	274,000 ha	273,315 ha Through transformation of agricultural lands into forested lands in Pinsk and Stolin districts and Berezhtsy and Rakitno polders transformation	**HS** – the project has demonstrated how these areas can be restored.
		17. Number and extent of human-caused uncontrolled burning of vegetation	About 20,000 ha in fen mires affected	Less than 100 ha	9.2 ha in 2010-2011 The fires impacted fen mires on 3.5 ha in Mid-Pripyat, and 5.7 ha in Zvanets reserves, according to PAMUs reports	**HS** – fires are much reduced – through enforcement with the PAMUs in place and reduced agriculture.
	Forestry practice in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity harboured in reserves	18. Number of forest enterprises operating in and around the projectreserves that apply special forestry planning principles (6	0	6	6 forestry enterprises (Luninets, Stolin, Pinsk Zhitkovichi, Drogichin and Lyaskovichi districts) relevant special forestry planning recommendations were	**HS** – targets achieved.

No.	Outcome/output	Indicator	Baseline	EOP target	Status, EOP	Rating & comments
		forestries in the project region)			integrated into 10-years forestry plans.	
		19. Number of forest enterprises operating in and around the reserves that are certified i) according to national standards and ii) according to international standard	• 0 • 0	• 6 • 2	• 22 (Zhitkovichi, Ivatsevichi, Pinsk, Stolin, Drogichin, Telekhany, Gantsevichi, Kobrin, Malorita, Mozyr, Kalinkovichi, Elsk, Retchitsa, Gomel, Petrikov, Vetka, Miloshevichi, Vasilevichi, Leltchitsy, Narovlya, Komarin, Khoiniki forestries)• 10 (Luninets, Ivatsevichi, Stolin, Pinsk, Telekhany, Brest, Gantsevichy, Kobrin, Drogichin, Malorita) All forestries in and around target reserves are certified in accordance with national and international standards.	**HS** – targets surpassed. The project has successfully managed to ensure certified forestry in the area and has worked to reconcile national and international systems.
	Flood protection program in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity harboured in reserves	20. Number of planned anti- flood embankments that are modified to avert adverse impacts on biodiversity	4 anti-flood embankments (20 km long); 7 dykes (35 km long) constructed	6 dykes (30 km) are relocated, 3 dykes (10 km) are not constructed at all and 2 existing dykes (15 km) are demolished	Totals - 17,6 km dike reallocated, 7.8 km are not constructed, 19.1 km lost functionality Dike for 5 km near village Snyadin is not constructed Dike for 2 km near flood meadow in Turov is not	**HS** – while the targets were no precisely achieved, the project made significant gains in preventing the construction of various dykes and embankments – thereby preventing further conversion of

No.	Outcome/output	Indicator	Baseline	EOP target	Status, EOP	Rating & comments
					constructed Dike for 5 km in Stolin district is reallocated for 1,5 km far from the river Pripyat Dike for 12.6 km in Luninets district is reallocated for 1,2 km far from the river Pripyat Dike in Khotomelsky waterpass reduced from 14,2 till 13.4 km Dike for 10,5 km lost its functionality during recosntruction of Berezhtsy polder with the aim to restore natural spawning area in Mid Pripyat reserve	wetland to agricultural land.
	Tools and methodologies generated by the project in selected wetlandreserves are institutionalised, enabling replication in other similar areas within the national protected areas system	21. Number of reserves functioning under the project model	0	22	For 26 reserves PAMUs were established (Vygonoschanskoe, Zvanest, Mid Pripyat (Stolin district), Pribuzhskoe POlesie, Mid Pripyat and Prostyr (Pinsk district), Sporovski, Mid Pripyat (Luninets district), Elnya, Kozyanski, Ecorossy, Osveiski, Korytenski mokh, Ozyory, Lipichanskaya Pushcha, Kotra,	**HS** – this represents a key success for the project: the demonstration of the PAMUs within the target reserves and the scaling-up to other reserves around Belarus.

No.	Outcome/output	Indicator	Baseline	EOP target	Status, EOP	Rating & comments
					Sorochanskie ozyora, Vydritsa, Dneprovo-Sozchski, Smychok, Selyava, Lebyazhii, Berezinski biosphere reserve, National Parks "Belovezhskaya Pushcha", "Braslavskie ozyora", "Narochanski" and "Pripyatski"). For 9 of them (Yelnia, Osveia, Mid Pripyat, Prostyr, Zvanets, Sporovski and Lebiazhii reservs, Berezinski biosphere reserve and Belovezhskaya puscha national park) management plans were prepared and duly approved. For Vygonoschanski and Pribyzhskoe Polesie reserves management plans are under preparation	
		22. Number of district's comprehensive land-use schemes	1	3	4 were prepared with the Project contribution:Comprehensive land-use scheme for Luninets district was finalized in 2006, for Pinsk districtin 2008, for Stolin district in 2009,	**HS** – this demonstrated replication and scaling-up of project results.

No.	Outcome/output	Indicator	Baseline	EOP target	Status, EOP	Rating & comments
					for Zhitkovichi district in 2010 with support by the project.Nationally with state support 20 land use schemes were prepared using methodology, developed by the project in 2006-2007	
		23. Number of forest enterprises in Belarus (outside project region) that: • apply special forestry planning principles, • are certified according to national standards, • are certified according to international standards	• 0 • 0 • 2	• 6 • 15 • 5	12 94 49 43 forestries are certified through both systems (national and international)	**HS** – again, this demonstrates the scaling-up of project demonstrations and results with the results far surpassing the targets.

3.3.2 Replication, mainstreaming and catalytic role

142. Replication, mainstreaming and having a catalytic role lay very close to the heart of the project. Indeed, not only was the project partly systemic in its approach but it also retained a philosophy throughout its implementation that it could neither solve all the issues in the reserves nor could it fully restore all the wetlands to their former state with functional ecological processes. Instead, the project focused on demonstrating methodologies through the implementation of a series of pilot projects. As repeatedly mentioned through this report, the onus now lies on the state to take up the best practices demonstrated by the project and replicate them not only within the reserves but also elsewhere in the country.

143. A number of aspects have already been replicated and mainstreamed, for example:

- The integration of biodiversity conservation into land use planning across the country even in areas where there are no protected areas; for example, the process is being replicated in the EU/UNDP land-use planning project which covers ten districts across the country.
- The integration of biodiversity conservation into forestry management plans
- The formation of PAMUs within protected areas (a total of 22 PAMUs have now been established across the country – including the initial four started by the project in the target reserves)
- The development and implementation of management plans for protected areas
- Following the success of the restoration of the Rakitno poulder, Brest oblast environmental committee is committed to restore at least a further two poulders.
- A number of similar harvester to that procured for Sporovsky reserve is being purchased for similar ecosystems with similar problems around the country.
- Following the success of the establishment of the Prostyr-Pripyat-Stokhid transfrontier Ramsar site, Belarus has entered into negotiations with both Latvia and Lithuania regarding replication of this model. The agreement with Latvia is already signed and Lithuania is well under way towards agreement.

144. The development of the protected area system strategy and action plan is, by definition, a mechanism for catalysis and replication. Indeed, the strategy and action plan was catalysed by the project and included all of the best practices and lessons learned from the project.

Item	Rating	Comment
Catalytic Role		
Production of a Public Good	**HS**	Having a systemic approach was one of the objectives of the project; the project fulfilled this objective. Different aspects of the project have formed a demonstration or have been either replicated or scaled-up across the country. Examples of these have been given above but in summary, the project
Demonstration	**HS**	
Replication	**HS**	
Scaling up	**HS**	

3.3.3 Country ownership

145. The willingness of the GOB to scale-up the results of the project across the country is indicative of its ownership of the project. This is not without substantial

cost implications: as indicated above, the PAMUs have now been replicated in 22 protected areas across the country (including the four initiated by the project in the target sites). The average annual cost for the PAMUs is BYR 30 million (equivalent to about US$ 10k). Nonetheless, the GOB is committed to cover these costs and replicate the PAMUs further.

146. A second symptom of the ownership was the willingness to house the project and provide significant co-finance, both cash and in-kind. Much to his delight and to the significant increase in management effectiveness, the Director of Sporovsky reserve received a vehicle from the Luninets Executive Committee; again, this indicates ownership and commitment from the district authorities.

147. From the outset, with the initiation of the process to develop a project, country-ownership has been high. It is apparent that people in both the Institutes of Botany and Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences have been also important to the development of the project (and future projects). The project's Scientific Coordinator is a member of staff from the Institute of Zoology from the NAS – indicating the commitment that the NAS has towards such projects.

Sustainability

148. The Terminal Evaluation assessed the sustainability of the activities and results of the project, taking into account the different facets of sustainability.

3.3.3.1 Institutional Sustainability

149. All institutions involved in the project – notably the MNREP and the NAS – are stable, sustainable institutions. Unlike in other countries, reshuffling government departments is not an issue with the GOB. Therefore, at the republican level, at least, institutional sustainability is assured.

150. Similarly, the regional and district level executive committees are robust and sustainable institutions.

151. The PAMUs are, as a consequence of the project's work, also sustainable. The MNREP is committed to scaling-up PAMUs to other protected areas in the country and the need for PAMUs is included in the protected area system strategy and action plan.

152. However, one caveat should be mentioned. The project invested in relatively few people; the sustainability of the outcomes and impacts hinges on those few people remaining in place and remaining empowered to continue their roles with all necessary support. If any one of these people should be removed from their positions, for whatever reason, the gains and successes that the project has made may be threatened. In the future, MNREP needs to work hard to develop a broader base of capacity (see Recommendations).

153. In summary and because of that one caveat, institutional sustainability is **Moderately Likely**.

3.3.3.2 Financial Sustainability

154. As amply demonstrated by the project with the experience of procurement, maintenance and running of the mechanical harvester in the Sporovsky reserve, environmental management can appear to be costly in the short-term. However, the long-term environmental benefits of conserving biodiversity and ensuring the

integrity and function of ecological processes far outweigh these short-term costs. It remains the responsibility of the MNREP and the NAS to develop economic models that continue to persuade the Ministries of Finance and Economy that this is the case and that continued investment in the protected areas is warranted.

155. The project has worked hard to find mechanisms that allow the reserves to generate revenue. This has been primarily in the area of revenue from ecotourism. In all the reserves (with the exception of Prostyr), tourism facilities were developed over the course of the project and as a result the reserves – and most notably Sporovsky reserve – have been generating revenue and using the revenue to cover the reserves' recurrent management costs.

156. There are two linked issues that this raises. First, the fact that the reserves can retain all the revenue that they generate is remarkable. Many countries have to enter protracted negotiations before the state allows protected areas to retain any portion of the revenue they generate. However, the degree to which this motivates the reserve managers was amply demonstrated in Sporovsky and Mid-Pripyat reserves. The second issue is that the reserves may become victims of their own success. While the revenues are subject to normal taxes, if the revenue that they generate increases significantly, it is possible that the GOB may start to prevent revenue retention. In addition, if the state limits funding to protected areas in any way, the reserves will be forced to focus on revenue generation and may, in such circumstances, lose sight of their primary function: the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystems and ecological processes.

157. In conclusion, on first glance, the project has made significant gains through the development of tourism in the sites – and in Mid-Pripyat and Sporovsky reserves in particular. However, that this makes us nervous at all is notable and it is essential that the issues that we raise should be fully incorporated into the protected area system strategy and action plan. Further to this, at a system-wide level, it is probable that there will be sites of outstanding conservation value but of limited tourism potential. These sites will require subsidization from the state and in a functional system where some protected areas are generating substantial revenues, they can cross-subsidize those areas that generate less revenue than their management costs demand. Because these aspects are not fully in place and will require further negotiation, we see that the financial sustainability aspects are **Moderately Likely**.

3.3.3.3 Social Sustainability

158. The rather unique context of Belarus brings attention to a number of sustainability issues.

159. First, it was notable that the tourism strategies that were developed for the reserves neglected to include an analysis of the social impacts of tourism development to the people living within and surrounding the reserves. The social impacts of tourism are well documented from elsewhere in the world and there may be issues if and when tourism further develops among the rural or remote local communities in Belarus. We **recommend** that at the protected area system level this is analysed further and in future protected areas projects that have tourism-development components, the social impacts of tourism development – and mechanisms to mitigate those impacts – are fully analysed and incorporated into tourism development strategies.

160. Second, while there may be potential issues with the social impacts of tourism, the additional revenue that tourism brings into local economies is welcome. As tourism grows further, its impact in the local economies will continue to grow such that it has the potential to become a driver of local economies. However, given its fickle nature, it is always good to have a diverse economy that does not become over-dependent on tourism.

161. Third, the project document included the proposal to form Conservation Committees at a local level. The aim of these Committees was to increase the involvement of local communities (in the broadest sense of that term) in the development, definition and management of the protected areas. Because of constraints within the Belarusian context, these Conservation Committees were not established. While the inclusion of this may have demonstrated that the designers of the project underestimated the barriers to such institutions in the context of Belarus, the project *did* find mechanisms for involving both the executive committees of the districts and, to some extent, the local communities in the project processes. It is probable, therefore, that in specifying the establishment of "Conservation Committees," the project document is being too specific in its language. If the language had been looser – say, "*find and trial mechanisms to involve Executive Committees and local communities in planning, establishing and managing protected areas and demonstrate the effectiveness of these mechanisms for more formal adoption and replication in the protected area system*," then, first, we are sure that the reception would have been positive and we would have further positive results to replicate across the system.

162. The project also worked, with great success, to increase the awareness of local communities, specifically with regard to conservation within the reserves, and the functions and functioning of the reserves. This also assists to ensure social and environmental sustainability.

163. Finally, one comment may be made about the presence and roles of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Civil society in Belarus appears to be relatively weak – certainly relative to the omnipotence of the state. As such, the efforts and successes of APB, as a partner to the project and as a catalyst of conservation of the avifauna of Belarus, are notable. As a result and in recognition of the role that civil society organizations have played in the environmental sector and in conservation in particular across the globe, we may wish for a greater number, a greater role and a greater diversity of NGOs working in conservation in Belarus. We believe that the protected area system and the biodiversity, ecosystems and ecological processes would be better off as a result.

3.3.3.4 Environmental sustainability

164. The project's objective was not only environmental in nature but also with a specific focus on environmental sustainability: "to catalyse sustainability of the wetland protected area system in Belarusian Polesie." As describe above, it has largely achieved that through the following:

- Working to ensure financial sustainability of the protected areas
- Significantly contributing to the development of the protected area system strategy and action plan

- Putting into place the PAMUs and management plans in the four target reserves; developing the capacity of the reserves through developing infrastructure and provision of equipment
- Demonstrating methodologies for restoring the ecology of the wetlands – thereby reversing i) some of the drainage to agriculture and ii) some of the vegetation changes that have occurred as a result of changes to land use practices
- Securing the support of the District Executive Committees (at least in the case of Luninets and Berezai Districts) for the reserves

165. In contrast and because of levels of funding and scale, the project set out to *demonstrate* methodologies. As such, it has not completely transformed the reserves, reversing all previous environmental impacts (e.g., drainage for agriculture and vegetation changes as a result of changing land use practices) and removing all threats. As such, the overall environmental sustainability of the reserves and the conservation of their values is dependent on other people and organisations to take up the baton and continue the work. We have seen that the government is committed to doing this – thus enhancing the probability of environmental sustainability.

166. However, overall environmental sustainability is completely dependent on the institutional, financial and social sustainabilities. Given that these appear to be moderately likely, the environmental sustainability, too, must be evaluated to be **Moderately Likely**.

3.3.3.5 Conclusion on sustainability

167. Overall, it appears that it is **Moderately Likely** that sustainability across the wetland protected area system of the Belarusian Polesie will be achieved. There is, however, one further observation that must be made. If Belarus goes through political transformations that result in a power hiatus or vacuum (however unlikely that may seem from within the country, external observers may consider this an inevitability – thus, it is not a question of whether it will occur but rather when and how it will occur), then there is the possibility that institutions associated with the state may be targeted. This may be best illustrated by what happened in Ethiopia. Following the collapse of the Marxist-militarist government of Haile Mariam Mengistu in 1991, there was a power vacuum for a relatively short period of time. During this period, institutions that local communities associated with the state and repression – including protected areas – were destroyed in acts of reprisal. We **recommend** that in the protected area system strategy and action plan, this longer-term and scenario planning be incorporated. The key to overcoming this is i) to find mechanisms to include local people in the development and management of protected areas (thereby transferring some of the responsibility to them) and ii) to ensure that when economic or environmental benefits are accrued from protected areas, the local people are aware of the degree to which they are benefiting and that those benefits are directly linked and related to the protected area.

Item	Rating*	Comment
Sustainability		
Overall likelihood of risks to sustainability	**ML**	These factors are closely linked: the environmental sustainability is dependent on institutional, financial and social sustainabilities. The project has worked
Financial resources	**ML**	
Socio-economic	**ML**	
Institutional Framework and governance	**ML**	

Environmental	**ML**	hard to develop all aspects of sustainability and made considerable gains. However, caveats remain and until these are overcome, sustainability remains **Moderately Likely**.

* As per *Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluations* and *UNDP Evaluation Guidelines for GEF-Financed Projects*, sustainability is rated as: Likely (L), Moderately Likely (ML), Moderately Unlikely (MU), Unlikely (U), Highly Unlikely (HU).

3.3.4 Impact

168. The project kept biodiversity conservation in its sights throughout all its activities. It has had profound impacts on the development and management of the wetlands protected areas of the Belarusian Polesie. In a number of sites, it has restored the ecological processes and functions. However, as discussed in a number of places above, it has not *fully* reversed the historic impacts to these wetland systems and thus, primarily as a function of limitation of time and resources, it did not transform the protected areas into functional ecological systems. Instead, the project chose to test and then *demonstrate* methodologies. As a result, some of its conservation impacts remain confined to the demonstration sites. There are still large areas of the reserves in which the shrubby vegetation remains. The ecological function of many of the floodplains and poulders has not yet been restored. Thus, while the project has successfully demonstrated methodologies, and significantly contributed to amending the legal and policy framework in which the protected areas exist, much work remains to ensure the desired conservation impacts.

169. Through the development of tourism in the reserves, the project has had positive economic and socio-economic impacts. In terms of awareness and changing "ways of thinking" and possibly behaviour, the project has had good impact: there was a 60% increase in awareness "of biodiversity conservation values and zoning regimes of reserves" over the duration of the project.

170. To our knowledge, the project has not had any inadvertent negative impacts. As mentioned above, the tourism strategy that was developed under the project for the areas did not include a social impact assessment. This appears to be the only area in which there may be long-term inadvertent impacts of the project.

4 Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons

171. One of the pleasures of carrying out such evaluations is to find places where such GEF projects are working and having an impact. We confess that one of the sentiments that we stated during the mission, once we had seen some of the work of the project was, "if all GEF projects around the world could achieve as much as this project had, the world would be a different place!" Indeed, we feel **highly satisfied** by the overall work and results of the project. The project offers examples of best practices that should be replicated, particularly within Belarus. The contribution of the project to global biodiversity, ecosystem and ecological process conservation is significant. The corollary is that global biodiversity is better off because of the project

Item	Rating	Comment
Overall Project Results	**HS**	The project has achieved all of its major objectives and yielded satisfactory benefits, with no significant shortcomings

4.1.1 Recommendations

172. The protected area system of Belarus is still in its emergent stage. Thus, while we have a small number of recommendations that pertain to this project's processes and results, the majority of our recommendations relate to the protected area system as a whole and to its development in the future.

173. The protected area system strategy and action plan has recently been developed – indeed, it was catalysed so by the project. However, our first recommendation is that for the next five years, the strategy and action plan remains *adaptive* such that as experience grows across the system, the strategy and action plan can be amendment accordingly to incorporate best practices – particularly as future GEF biodiversity project are rolled out in the country. The mechanisms for doing this must be agreed by stakeholders. However, we suggest that a Protected Area System Review Committee be established:

- The Committee should be comprised of key stakeholders, including MNREP, the Institutes of Experimental Botany and Zoology of the NAS, UNDP, Ministry of Forestry, SCLRC, relevant NGOs (and probably only APB at present) and the Presidential Administration (that has the mandate to manage National Parks and Biosphere Reserves).
- The Committee should have a limited but well defined mandate of five years and to meet annually to review the status of the protected area system strategy and action plan, and to evaluate amendments that are necessary to them. The work to carry out the analysis and make recommendations to the Committee could be contracted to a short-term consultant.
- The Committee should have well-defined Terms of Reference to describe their mandate but, overall, the Committee should be responsible to make amendments to the protected area system strategy and action plan, and to submit these amendments to the MNREP for approval and enactment.

174. The result of such an adaptive approach is that the protected area system should result in being coherent and relevant.

175. Other recommendations that relate specifically to the protected area system that emerge from the Terminal Evaluation are:

176. *Explore mechanisms to involve local communities in the definition, development and management of protected areas*. Notwithstanding the efforts made by the project to involve local stakeholders and notwithstanding the complexities of doing so within the socio-political context of Belarus, the results of involvement of local stakeholders in protected area process are almost always positive[5]. In addition and as described above, doing so also enhances the probability of achieving long-term sustainability of the protected areas. Future work and projects within the protected area system should, therefore, explore all possible mechanisms for involving local stakeholders.

177. *Ensure financial sustainability of the protected area system*. The project made significant gains to ensuring the sustainability of two of the four reserves. That the other two reserves may not accrue revenues of the same magnitude from tourism neatly illustrates the systemic approach that is necessary for protected areas. Protected areas are not all made equal in their ability to attract tourists but their biodiversity, ecosystems and/or ecological processes, as a sum of the system, can be all seen to be critically important. As such, those protected areas of lesser tourism potential will be dependent on subsidisation – either from the state (as part of its commitment to achieving its national and international environmental commitments) or through cross-subsidisation from other protected areas that are successfully generating significant amounts of revenue.

178. The approaches for ensuring financial sustainability of protected areas have to use innovative methods (at least in the context of Belarus) and should target the particular and possibly specialty tourism values of each protected area. For example, the wetland protected areas of the Polesie are attractive to ornithologists. Thus, use of special hides (that could be established by the protected area) that allow good views of specific and interesting bird species could be subject to special tariffs for visiting ornithologists.

179. *Scaling-up the use of the METT*. The WB/WWF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) can be used to monitor the effectiveness of management in protected areas. It is sufficiently sensitive to determine changes to management systems and improved management in relatively short periods of time (as it has done over the course of this project in the four protected areas). When fully completed (thus, the final two columns are filled in), it can also be as a tool for protected area managers to determine in which areas of management they need to focus. As both a management effectiveness monitoring tool and a management planning tool, it is useful. As such, MNREP should consider, within the context of the protected area system, whether it wishes to scale-up the use of the METT across all protected areas in the country.

180. *Consolidation of management plans*. The project made significant gains by developing i) management plans for the target protected areas and ii) a manual for

[5] The only caveat to this is that protected areas must work within a defined environmental framework such that their recognised biodiversity, ecosystem and ecological process values should not be undermined irrespective of the wills of any stakeholders, local or otherwise.

other protected areas to develop their own management plans. As with the protected area system, as described above, the planning process for development management plans may yet have to be adaptive. As an illustration, in this project, at least three "layers" (which can be understood to be GIS layers) of mapping data have been developed, each with its own management regime. These are: i) the boundary of the reserve, ii) the "zonation" of the reserves which define the economic activities that can be carried out in each zone, and iii) the "passports" for various species and their habitats. Consolidation of these layers into a coherent management plan would improve the chances of success; as it is, these layers add complexity and may result in confusion among stakeholders.

181. *Building systemic capacity*. As indicated above, the project trained relatively few people and thus if any one of these people were to move from their current position, there would be a risk to the long-term sustainability of the impacts or outcomes of the project. It is imperative that the capacity of the protected area system, as a whole, should be deepened to reduce these risks to sustainability. There are various opportunities to do this: i) in future GEF biodiversity projects that have a focus on protected areas and/or ii) working in collaboration with UNESCO. Quite what the best route to build capacity will have to be decided but it may take the form of i) the construction of a protected areas managers and staff training centre, ii) a course or module developed within an existing institution (e.g., adapting the three-year course in the Geography Department of the State University – this course is already underway but has not been running long enough to have graduates).

182. Another aspect in which systemic capacity could be developed is to provide managers with some level of legal training (so that they understand the legislative framework in which they operate) and to have centralised legal advisors who can be called upon by protected area managers when the need arises.

183. In addition to the training component to building capacity, the protected area system may also build the technological aspects: networking, digitisation and communications.

184. *Ecosystem approaches and key conservation targets*. Both of these concepts and methodologies associated with them are well developed around the world. For example, the South African National Parks have one of the best developed systems for identifying threats to ecosystems and, thereafter, categorising the threats to them. Conservation work, including the development and management of protected areas, is then based on this ecosystem approach. This is especially useful when considering the impacts of and adaptation to climate change.

185. Key conservation targets is a concept developed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and is a methodology for ensuring that the key biodiversity, ecosystem and/or ecological process value of any area become and remain the focus of any given piece of conservation work – including in protected areas. They can be defined as the ecological systems, communities and species that are identified as priorities for conservation within any discrete area (which is usually a protected area but could extent to the system as a whole). Together the conservation targets reflect the overall health of the ecosystem and therefore their conservation should lead to the conservation of other systems, species and communities that have not been prioritised.

186. Both of these concepts are useful for planning purposes and, thereafter, for monitoring the success of management.

187. *Remote sensing as a monitoring tool*. Remote sensing can be a very useful tool both for planning protected areas (identifying the boundaries of ecosystems or the boundaries of anthropogenic influence) as well as for monitoring the effectiveness of management regimes. We recommend that the use of remote sensing for these purposes is explored in the protected area system; this would be done in collaboration with the SCLRC.

188. In addition to these system-wide recommendations, we have four further recommendations.

189. First, we have highlighted that there are caveats that exist to the sustainability of the impacts or outcomes of the project. We recommend that all partners must remain vigilant and monitor the caveats that we have identified. There are a number of mechanisms that could be used to ensure sustainability if necessary. For example, the Small Grants Program (SGP) may target local stakeholders to ensure sustainability within the Polesie area. In addition, partners may work with UNESCO, under their Bionetwork program.

190. Second, because attributes of the protected areas (specifically fauna, flora and hydrology) have been included under the National Environmental Monitoring System and because these data are available, we recommend that the Polesie be considered for long-term monitoring of GEF impacts around the globe. The Monitoring System requires further investment (perhaps through future GEF projects) to digitise it to make the data even more readily available but the value of doing so for such long-term monitoring will far outweigh these investment costs.

191. Third, working in an extremely productive ecosystem such as the wetlands of the Polesie offers a unique opportunity to explore options for trading carbon on the formal, CDM markets as well as in the voluntary markets – as mechanisms to generate further sustainable revenue for protected areas. However, Belarus remains constrained because despite being party to Annex I of the Kyoto Protocol and despite having its targets accepted, it has not been accepted on Annex B (despite putting in a request for inclusion in COP12 in Nairobi). This has prevented Belarus from trading carbon on either market; if and when this gets resolved, future protected area system projects should further explore the possibility of securing finance from these sources.

192. Finally, in the agricultural sector, the project focused largely on previously drained wetlands such that their ecological functions were restored. However, future GEF projects that either work in productive systems or on the edges of protected areas may consider agricultural practices and whether changing practices may contribute to further improving ecological functionality. For example, reducing inputs and/or seeking organic certification in a "buffer" zone may be worthy of consideration.

4.1.2 Lessons Learned

193. Lessons learned are generally of processes. They are reflections on or answers to the questions: i) of the things that worked in the project, why did they work? and ii) of the things that either did not work or did not work so well, why did they not work optimally? An easier way of thinking about the lessons learned from the project is to imagine (or, better still, actually to try to articulate) the explanation to a colleague from, say, Ethiopia of why the project had succeeded where it had and why the project had fallen short in those areas that it had. These, then, are the lessons from the project.

4.1.2.1 Why the project was successful: lessons learned

194. **The government was fully supportive of and committed to the project**. These are subtly different things: one facilitates the implementation of the project; the other ensures the sustainability of the activities and results. In this case, the government – and particularly the MNREP and the NAS – fulfilled both of these things.

195. The government also recognised the limitations of its own capacity. Therefore, it appreciated that the support of UNDP, when it came to managing the project's contracts and finances, was necessary. Such self-awareness among governments is rare and this has certainly contributed to the success of the project.

196. **Support of the District Executive Committees.** The project demonstrated that where the protected area and its staff, and development projects such as these have the support of the Executive Committees of the local Districts, they not only work, but they work well. The corollary of this is that where that support is lacking (e.g., for Zvanets reserve), the protected area and project both struggle to make achievements. Finding mechanisms to ensure the support of Executive Committees is therefore extremely important.

197. **A well-chosen team and National Project Manager**. Much of the success of the project can be attributed to the NPM and his team. The team was locally respected and the NPM knew the system well enough to know how to achieve results within its framework. Other, lesser people could be floored by this system.

198. The team had to be flexible (sometimes against their wishes!) – primarily because the team was small. As a consequence, they had to take on things that may have fallen outside of their remits. Flexibility is a necessary part of such projects and team members should expect to have to be flexible.

199. **Understand local conditions and building trust**. The project team had a good grasp of local conditions; local conditions in which 'strangers' are not always much trusted particularly when they come to meddle in local affairs. Thus, the team knew where and how they could best influence the situations. For example, they understood that the most effective mechanism for determining attitudes to the Tsna river and the proposal to restore its flow along its natural course: this was through the church. Knowledge and understanding of the local situations, which might have otherwise have been a barrier to the success of the project, was therefore one of the keys to the project's successes.

200. A further aspect to this lesson is that where possible, projects must have representation on the ground – thus, where the work takes place. Where this is not possible, representation can come in the form of local representatives or liaison officers. These people can then follow-up activities on a day-to-day basis, organize meetings well before they are scheduled, distribute materials, etc. It is also a mechanism to build trust among stakeholders.

201. **Short-term management costs (vs. long-term benefits).** The project demonstrated that when it comes to restoration ecology, there are costs involved. For example, the procurement of the hay harvester for Sporovsky reserve and its maintenance and running costs are relatively expensive. However, the long-term benefits for biodiversity of maintaining this ecosystem for the avifauna will outweigh these short-term costs.

4.1.2.2 Why the project was less than successful in some areas: lessons learned

202. **Unsupportive District Executive Committees.** As explained above, the corollary to having committed Executive Committees is that the protected areas and the project activities were less successful in those Districts in which the Executive Committees were less supportive.

203. **Political imperatives can outweigh environmental impacts**. On occasion, the project encountered political barriers to their progress. This is somewhat an extension or *root cause* of the above point. Thus, political leaders took decisions despite the environmental impacts; alternatively, the adherence to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) was unpredictable. As such, political imperatives were outweighing environmental rationale. Finding mechanisms by which response to and compliance with environmental imperatives is increased is obviously important for environmental sustainability across the country.

204. **Conservation Committees**. The project was unable to establish these for reasons discussed above. In the future, project designers and developers should be more realistic and have a profound understanding of the local context before including into projects components that are unrealistic.

Catalyzing sustainability in the wetland protected area system of the Belarusian Polesie through increased management efficiency and realigned land use practices

PIMS 2894

Atlas Award 00042261

Atlas Project No: 00048429

Terminal Evaluation, January 2012

Volume 2: Annexes

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Annex 1 Terms of Reference

INTRODUCTION

In line with UNDP/GEF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) policies and procedures, all full-sized and medium-sized projects supported by the GEF should undergo a terminal evaluation upon completion of implementation.

The terminal evaluation must provide a comprehensive and systematic account of the performance of a completed project by assessing its project design, process of implementation, achievements vis-à-vis project objectives endorsed by the GEF including any agreed changes in the objectives during project implementation and any other results.

Terminal evaluations have four complementary purposes:

- To promote accountability and transparency, and to assess and disclose levels of project accomplishments;
- To synthesize lessons that may help improve the selection, design and implementation of future GEF activities;
- To provide feedback on issues that are recurrent across the portfolio and need attention, and on improvements regarding previously identified issues; and,
- To contribute to the GEF Evaluation Office databases for aggregation, analysis and reporting on effectiveness of GEF operations in achieving global environmental benefits and on the quality of monitoring and evaluation across the GEF system.

Project overview

The project has been implemented since April 2006 and is expected to be completed in December 2011. The project is nationally executed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus. The total GEF contribution amounts to $ 2,191,500, matched by $ 48 718 from Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (international project partner), and $8,767,000 from local project partners.

This project aims to enhance Belarus` capacity to conserve wetland biodiversity harbored in its network of wetland reserves by enhancing the management efficiency of reserves, while at the same time integrating biodiversity conservation concerns in agricultural, forestry and flood protection activities that occur in and around wetland reserves, to ensure sustainability of conservation efforts. This will be achieved through the demonstration of this approach at four wetland reserves (Middle Pripyat, Prostyr, Sporovsky, Zvanets) in the Polesie lowland, which is unique biogeographical area spanning southern Belarus, Northern Ukraine and parts of Poland and Russia.

The project's prime objective is going to be realized through 5 key outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Reserves are being managed effectively, with the active participation of local stakeholders in design and implementation aspects;
- Outcome 2: Agricultural activity in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity harboured in reserves;

- Outcome 3: Forestry activity in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity harboured in reserves;
- Outcome 4: Flood protection program in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity harboured in reserves;
- Outcome 5: Tools and methodologies generated by the project in selected wetland reserves are institutionalised, enabling replication in other similar areas within the national protected areas system.

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

The TE has been initiated by UNDP Country Office in Belarus in line with the UNDP/GEF M&E guidelines in order to provide a comprehensive and systematic account of the performance of a completed project by assessing its project design, process of implementation, achievements vis-à-vis project objectives endorsed by the GEF including any agreed changes in the objectives during project implementation and any other results.

The evaluation attempts to determine, as systematically and objectively as possible, the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the project. The evaluation will assess the achievements of the project against its objectives, including examination of the relevance of the objectives and of the project design. It will also identify factors that have facilitated or impeded the achievement of the objectives. While a thorough review of the past is in itself very important, the in-depth evaluation is expected to lead to detailed recommendations and lessons learned for the future.

The evaluation is expected to work with key project stakeholders, including UNDP Country Office in Belarus, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, APB Belarus, members of the Project Steering Committee.

SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

The evaluation will focus on the range of aspects described below. In addition to a descriptive assessment, all criteria marked with (R) should be rated using the following divisions: *Highly Satisfactory, Satisfactory, Marginally Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory, Highly Unsatisfactory*. All ratings given should be properly substantiated:

1. Project concept/design, relevance and strategy

1.*1 Project relevance, country ownership/drivenness* (R): the extent to which the project is suited to local and national development priorities and organizational policies, including changes over time as well as the extent the activities contribute towards attainment of global environmental benefits:

- Is the project concept in line with the sectoral and development priorities and plans of the country?
- Are project outcomes contributing to national development priorities and plans?
- How and why project outcomes and strategies contribute to the achievement of the expected results.
- Examine their relevance and whether they provide the most effective way towards results.

- Do the outcomes developed during the inception phase still represent the best project strategy for achieving the project objectives (in light of updated underlying factors)? Consider alternatives.
- Were the relevant country representatives, from government and civil society, involved in the project preparation?
- Does the recipient government maintain its financial commitment to the project? Has the government – or governments in the case of multicountry projects – approved policies or regulatory frameworks been in line with the project's objectives?

1.2 *Preparation and readiness*:

- Are the project's objectives and components clear, practicable and feasible within its timeframe?
- Were the capacities of executing institution and counterparts properly considered when the project was designed?
- Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated in the project design?
- Were the partnership arrangements properly identified and the roles and responsibilities negotiated prior to project approval?
- Were counterpart resources (funding, staff, and facilities), enabling legislation, and adequate project management arrangements in place at project entry?

1.3 *Stakeholder involvement* (R):

- Did the project involve the relevant stakeholders through information-sharing, consultation and by seeking their participation in the project's design?
- Did the project consult and make use of the skills, experience and knowledge of the appropriate government entities, NGOs, community groups, private sector, local governments and academic institutions in the design of project activities?

1.4 *Underlying factors/assumptions*:

- Assess the underlying factors beyond the project's immediate control that influence outcomes and results. Consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of the project's management strategies for these factors.
- Re-test the assumptions made by the project management and identify new assumptions that should be made.
- Assess the effect of any incorrect assumptions made by the project.

1.5 *Management arrangements* (R):

- Were the project roles properly assigned during the project design?
- Are the project roles in line with UNDP and GEF programming guidelines?
- Can the management arrangement model suggested by the project be considered as an optimum model? If no, please come up with suggestions and recommendations.

1.6 *Project budget and duration* (R):

- Assess if the project budget and duration were planned in a cost-effective way?

1.7 *Design of project M&E system* (R):

- Examine whether or not the project has a sound M&E plan to monitor results and track progress towards achieving project objectives.
- Examine whether or not the M&E plan includes a baseline (including data, methodology, etc.), SMART indicators and data analysis systems, and evaluation studies at specific times to assess results and adequate funding for M&E activities.
- Examine whether or not the time frame for various M&E activities and standards for outputs are specified.

1.8 *Sustainability*:

- Assess if project sustainability strategy was developed during the project design?
- Assess the relevance of project sustainability strategy

2. Project implementation

2.1 *Project's adaptive management* (R):

- Monitoring systems
    - Assess the monitoring tools currently being used:
    - Do they provide the necessary information?
    - Do they involve key partners?
    - Are they efficient?
    - Are additional tools required?
    - Assess the use of the logical framework as a management tool during implementation and any changes made to it.
    - What impact did the retro-fitting of impact indicators have on project management, if such?
    - Assess whether or not M&E system facilitates timely tracking of progress towards project's objectives by collecting information on chosen indicators continually; annual project reports are complete, accurate and with well justified ratings; the information provided by the M&E system is used to improve project performance and to adapt to changing needs.
- Risk Management
    - Validate whether the risks identified in the project document and PIRs are the most important and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate. If not, explain why.
    - Describe any additional risks identified and suggest risk ratings and possible risk management strategies to be adopted.
    - Assess the project's risk identification and management systems:
        - Is the UNDP-GEF Risk Management System1 appropriately applied?

[1] UNDP-GEF's system is based on the Atlas Risk Module. See the UNDP-GEF Risk Management Strategy resource kit, available as Annex XII at http://www.undp.org/gef/05/monitoring/policies.html

        - How can the UNDP-GEF Risk Management System be used to strengthen the project management?

- Work Planning
    - Assess the use of routinely updated workplans.
    - Assess the use of electronic information technologies to support implementation, participation and monitoring, as well as other project activities.
    - Are work planning processes result-based2? If not, suggest ways to re-orientate work planning.
- Financial management
    - Consider the financial management of the project, with specific reference to the cost-effectiveness of interventions. (Cost-effectiveness: the extent to which results have been delivered with the least costly resources possible.). Any irregularities must be noted.
    - Is there due diligence in the management of funds and financial audits?
    - Did promised co-financing materialize (please fill out the co-financing form provided in Annex 1)?.
- Reporting
    - Assess how adaptive management changes have been reported by the project management.
    - Assess how lessons derived from the adaptive management process have been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners.
- Delays
    - Assess if there were delays in project implementation and what were the reasons.
    - Did the delay affect the achievement of project's outcomes and/or sustainability, and if it did then in what ways and through what causal linkages?

2.2 *Contribution of Implementing and Executing Agencies*:

- Assess the role of UNDP and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus against the requirements set out in the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures3. Consider:
    - Field visits
    - Participation in Steering Committees
    - Project reviews, PIR preparation and follow-up
    - GEF guidance
    - Operational support

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2 RBM Support documents are available at http://www.undp.org/eo/methodologies.htm

3 Available at http://content.undp.org/go/userguide/results/project/

- Consider the new UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures, especially the Project Assurance role, and ensure they are incorporated into the project's adaptive management framework.
- Assess the contribution to the project from UNDP and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus in terms of "soft" assistance (i.e. policy advice & dialogue, advocacy, and coordination).
- Suggest measures to strengthen UNDP's soft assistance to the project management.

2.3 *Stakeholder participation, partnership strategy* (R):

- Assess whether or not and how local stakeholders participate in project management and decision-making. Include an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the approach adopted by the project and suggestions for improvement if necessary.
- Does the project consult and make use of the skills, experience and knowledge of the appropriate government entities, NGOs, community groups, private sector, local governments and academic institutions in the implementation and evaluation of project activities?
- Consider the dissemination of project information to partners and stakeholders and if necessary suggest more appropriate mechanisms.
- Identify opportunities for stronger partnerships.

2.4 *Sustainability*:

- Assess the extent to which the benefits of the project will continue, within or outside the project scope, after it has come to an end; commitment of the government to support the initiative beyond the project.
- The evaluators may look at factors such as mainstreaming project objectives into the broader development policies and sectoral plans and economies.
- The sustainability assessment will give special attention to analysis of the risks that are likely to affect the persistence of project outcomes. The sustainability assessment should also explain how other important contextual factors that are not outcomes of the project will affect sustainability. The following four dimensions or aspects of sustainability will be addressed:
    - *Financial resources*: Are there any financial risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes? What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GEF assistance ends (resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and trends that may indicate that it is likely that in future there will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project's outcomes)?
    - *Socio-political*: Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes? What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow? Is there

sufficient public / stakeholder awareness in support of the long term objectives of the project?

- *Institutional framework and governance*: Do the legal frameworks, policies and governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project benefits? While assessing this parameter, also consider if the required systems for accountability and transparency, and the required technical know-how are in place.
- *Environmental*: Are there any environmental risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes? The terminal evaluation should assess whether certain activities will pose a threat to the sustainability of the project outcomes.

- On each of the dimensions of sustainability of the project outcomes will be rated as follows:
  - *Likely* (L): There are no or negligible risks that affect this dimension of sustainability.
  - *Moderately Likely* (ML): There are moderate risks that affect this dimension of sustainability.
  - *Moderately Unlikely* (MU): There are significant risks that affect this dimension of sustainability
  - *Unlikely* (U): There are severe risks that affect this dimension of sustainability.

3. Project results (outputs, outcomes and objectives)

3.1 *Progress towards achievement of intended outputs, outcomes/measurement of chang*e:

- Progress towards results should be based on a comparison of indicators before and after (so far) the project intervention, e.g. by comparing current conditions for sustainable reserves management (legal and regulatory frameworks, biodiversity conservation practices and results, etc.) to the baseline ones.
- The evaluation should specifically look into:
  - Adequacy of the level and proposed modes of enforcement of the regulatory and programmatic documents (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus programs, methodological recommendations on biodiversity conservation and reserves management) developed within the project for creating of an enabling environment for sustainable management of specially protected nature areas of the Belarusian Polesie and introduction of biodiversity conservation concerns into agricultural, forestry and flood protection activities in and around protected wetlands;
  - Verification of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool data, as collected and reported by the project;
  - Validation of the adequacy and viability of the reserves' management plans developed within the project;

- Validation of the proposed limited economic activities (forestry, agriculture and eco-tourism) on the reserves territories and methods of how these activities are performed;
- Adequacy and effectiveness of the proposed measures to reduce adverse impact of flood protection activities on wetland biodiversity.

- To determine the level of achievement of project outcomes and objectives following three criteria should be assessed:
  - *Relevance*: Are the project's outcomes consistent with the focal areas/operational program strategies and country priorities?
  - *Effectiveness*: Are the actual project outcomes commensurate with the original or modified project objectives? In case the original or modified expected results are merely outputs/inputs then the evaluators should assess if there are any real outcomes of the project and if yes then whether these are commensurate with the realistic expectations from such a project.
  - *Efficiency*: Is the project cost effective? Is the project the least cost option? Is the project implementation delayed and if it is, then does that affect cost-effectiveness? Wherever possible, the evaluator should also compare the cost-time vs. outcomes relationship of the project with that of other similar projects.
- Outcomes should be rated as follows for relevance, effectiveness, efficiency:
  - *Highly Satisfactory* (HS): The project has no shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives.
  - *Satisfactory* (S): The project has minor shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives.
  - *Moderately Satisfactory* (MS): The project has moderate shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives.
  - *Moderately Unsatisfactory* (MU): The project has significant shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives.
  - *Unsatisfactory* (U): The project has major shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives.
  - *Highly Unsatisfactory* (HU): The project has severe shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives.

EVALUATION DELIVERABLES

The expected output of the present evaluation is a report that includes:

- Findings with the rating on performance;
- Conclusions drawn;
- Lessons learned concerning best and worst practices in producing outputs;
- A rating on progress towards outputs.

The report is proposed to adhere to the following basic structure:

1. Executive summary

- Brief description of project

- Context and purpose of the evaluation
- Main conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned

2. Introduction

- Project background
- Purpose of the evaluation
- Key issues to be addressed
- The outputs of the evaluation and how will they be used
- Methodology of the evaluation
- Structure of the evaluation

3. The project and its development context

- Project start and its duration
- Implementation status
- Problems that the project seeks to address
- Immediate and development objectives of the project
- Main stakeholders
- Results expected
- Analysis of the situation with regard to outcomes, outputs and partnership strategy

4. Findings and Conclusions

4.1 Project formulation

- Project relevance
- Implementation approach
- Country ownership/Driveness
- Stakeholder participation
- Replication approach
- Cost-effectiveness
- Sustainability
- Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector
- Management arrangements

4.2 Project implementation

- Financial management
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Management and coordination
- Identification and management of risks (adaptive management)

4.3 Results

- Attainment of outputs, outcomes and objectives

- Project Impact
- Prospects of sustainability

5. Conclusions and recommendations

- Findings
- Corrective actions for the design, duration, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project which may be for similar project in the future
- Actions to strengthen or reinforce benefits from the project
- Proposals for future directions underlining main objectives
- Suggestions for strengthening ownership, management of potential risks

6. Lessons learned

- Good practices and lessons learned in addressing issues relating to effectiveness, efficiency and relevance

7. Annexes

- Evaluation TOR
- Itinerary
- List of persons interviewed
- Summary of field visits
- List of documents reviewed
- Questionnaire used (if any) and summary of results
- Comments by stakeholders (only in case of discrepancies with evaluation findings and conclusions)

The expected length of the report is around 50 pages in total. The first draft of the report is expected to be submitted to the UNDP Country Office in Belarus after the in-country mission for subsequent circulation to the key project stakeholders for comments. Any discrepancies between the interpretations and findings of the evaluator and the key project stakeholders will be explained in an annex to the final report.

METHODOLOGY

It is recommended that the evaluation methodology include the following:

- Documentation review (desk study), to include Project Document, Mid-Term Evaluation report, GEF Project Implementation Reviews, Minutes of the Project Steering Committee meetings, GEF quarterly project updates, National Comprehensive Project Assessment and other relevant national legislative and policy documents;
- Interviews with Project Management Unit and key project stakeholders, including UNDP Country Office in Belarus, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, management units of the target reserves and other stakeholders, as necessary;
- In-country field visits.

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this evaluation lies with UNDP Country Office in Belarus. It will be responsible for liaising with the project team to set up the stakeholder interviews, arrange the field visits, coordinate with the Government.

These Terms of Reference follow the UNDP GEF policies and procedures, and together with the final agenda will be agreed upon by the UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinating Unit, UNDP Country Office in Belarus and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental protection of the Republic of Belarus. These three parties will receive a draft of the final evaluation report and provide comments on it prior to its completion.

Annex 2 Itinerary of Field Mission and Summary of Field Visit

Date	Activities
12 January	International Consultant arrives in Minsk Meet with UNDP DRR Farid Garakhanov and UNDP Programme Officer, Igor Tchoulba Meet with Project Team: Natalia Huk (Financial and Administrative Assistant); Mikhail Moroz (Scientific Coordinator); Alexey Artushevski (National Project Manager); Alexey Chestodarsky (PR and Information Officer) Meet with Natalya Minchenko, Head Department of Biological and Landscape Diversity, MNREP
13 January	Meet with Aliaksandr Puhacheuski, Director of the Institute of Experimental Botany, NAS Meet with Alexandre Rachevsky, Head of the Department of International Cooperation, MNREP Meet with Valentin Shatravko, Head of the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Forestry Meet with Svetlana Dunaevskaya, Head of the State Design and Research Enterprise *Belgiprovodhoz* and Stanislav Krupenchik, Head of the Technical Department of the State Design and Research Enterprise *Belgiprovodhoz*
14 January	Travel to field (Mid-Pripyat reserve) Meet with Sergei Doroshko, Head of Local tourist enterprise "Turov tourist" and, with Gennady Struk, Turov Agriculture Enterprise Representative, inspect shrub clearing work on Pripyat floodplain Meet with Anna Stepnovna Doroshko, Rural tourism farm-set owner, Turov Inspect restoration of Tsna river and engineering works to divert the river back to its original course. Inspect restored sluice gates that facilitate the restoration of the "Rakitno" poulder Meet with Vasyl Mordukhai, Head of PAMU Mid Priyat reserve (Luninets district) and inspect shrub clearing work and tourism infrastructure. Inspect Environmental Education Centre in Luninets Meet with Victor Rafalovich, Deputy Chairman of the District Executive Committee of Luninets District Meet with Viktor Belenko, Head of PAMU Mid Priyat Reserve

	(Pinsk district) Inspect tourism infrastructure, Mid-Pripyat reserve, Pinsk District
15 January	Inspect tourism infrastructure, Mid-Pripyat reserve, Pinsk District with Viktor Belenko, Head of PAMU Mid Priyat Reserve Travel to Zvanets reserve Meet with Ekaterina Gumeniyk, Acting Head of the PAMU Zvanets Reserve (Drogichin District) and Mikhail Drobov, first category specialist of Zvanets Reserve Travel to Sporovsky reserve Meet with Vadim Protasevich, Head of PAMU Sporovski Reserve (Bereza District)
16 January	With Vadim Protasevich, Head of PAMU Sporovsky Reserve, inspect Education and Visitor's Centre. Inspect mechanical harvester for cutting hay Interview with Belarusian Television Meet with Mikhail Kreidich, Deputy Chairman of the District Executive Committee of Bereza District, Head of the Management Unit on Agriculture Meet with Maria Zaitseva, Eco-Tourism farm-set owner, Bereza District Travel to Minsk
17 January	Meet with Anatolii Lis, National Project Director and Vice-Minister, MNREP Meet with Alexander Levchenko, National Coordinator GEF SGP program Meet with Alexander Kozulin, Head of the Centre on Bioresources, NAS and one of the project's initiators Meet with Leonid Gaidukevich, Head of the Department of International Tourism, Belarussian State University Meet with Igor Tchoulba, UNDP Programme Officer
18 January	Meet with Alexander Pomelov, Director of the Belarussian Research Institute on Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography (SCLRC) and Gennadii Dudko, Deputy Director SCLRC Meet with Vladimir Malashevich, *Akhova prushak Bat'kauschyny* (APB BirdLife Belarus) NGO Meet with Natalia Rubyanets, National coordinator UNESCO Program "Man and Biosphere Meet with Tatiana Trofimovich, Chief Specialist of biological and landscape diversity, MNREP
19 January	Meet with Alexey Artushevski, NPM

	Afternoon spent preparing presentation for PSC meeting
20 January	Debriefing with Igor Tchoulba, UNDP Programme Officer Attend and make presentation at project's final Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting. Meet with Grigory Sokolovsky, Chief Engineer of the State Design and Research Enterprise *Belgiprovodhoz*
21 January	Free day
22 January	International Consultant departs Minsk

Annex 3 List of People Interviewed

Name	Position and Organization
Farid Garakhanov	UNDP Deputy Resident Representative
Igor Tchoulba	UNDP Program Officer
Alexey Atrushevsky	Project Manager
Natalia Huk	Project Financial Assistant
Mikhail Moroz	Projrct Scietific Coordinator
Alexey Chestodarsky	Project PR & Information expert
Anatolii Lis	Vice-minister of Natural Resources and Enviromental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
Alexandre Rachevsky	Head of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Enviromental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
Natalya Minchenko	Head Department of Biological and Landscape Diversity Ministry of Natural Resources and Enviromental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
Tatiana Trofimovich	Chief Specialist of biological and landscape diversity of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Enviromental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
Valentin Shatravko	Head of the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus
Svetlana Dunaevskaya	Head of the State Design and Research Enterprise Belgiprovodhoz
Aliaksandr Puhacheuski	Director of the Institute of Experimental Botany of the National Academy of Science of the Republic of Belarus
Grigory Sokolovsky	Chief Engineer of the State Design and Research Enterprise Belgiprovodhoz
Stanislav Krupenchik	Head of the Technical Department of the State Design and Research Enterprise Belgiprovodhoz
Sergei Doroshko	Head of Local tourist enterprise “Turov tourist”
Anna Stepnovna Doroshko	Rural tourism farm-set owner, Turov
Gennady Struk	Turov Agriculture Enterprise Representative
Vasyl Mordukhai	Head of PAMU Mid Priyat reserve (Luninets district)
Victor Rafalovich	Deputy Chairman of the District Executive Committee of Luninets District

Viktor Belenko	Head of PAMU Mid Priyat Reserve (Pinsk district)
Ekaterina Gumeniyk	Acting Head of the PAMU Zvanets Reserve (Drogichin District)
Mikhail Drobov	1st category specialist of Zvanets Reserve (Drogichin District)
Vadim Protasevich	Head of PAMU Sporovski Reserve (Bereza District)
Mikhail Kreidich	Deputy Chairman of the District Executive Committee of Bereza District, Head of the Management Unit on Agriculture
Maria Zaitseva	Eco-Tourism farm-set owner, Bereza District.
Alexander Kozulin	Head of the Centre on Bioresources of the National Academy of Science (NAS)
Vladimir Malashevich	"Akhova prushak Bat'kauschyny" (APB BirdLife Belarus) NGO
Alexander Levchenko	National Coordinator GEF SGP program
Leonid Gaidukevich	Head of the Department of International Tourism, Belarussian State University
Alexander Pomelov	Director of the Belarussian Research Institute on Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography
Gennadii Dudko	Deputy Director of the Belarussian Research Institute on Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography
Natalia Rubyanets	National coordinator UNESCO Program "Man and Biosphere

Annex 4 List of Documents Reviewed and Documents Produced by Project

4.1 Documents and reports produced by the Project

Final report of the implementation of UNDP / GEF project "Polesie" (2006-2011), (in Russian and English), December 2011

The report, "Improving the stability of populations of rare and endangered species of plants listed in the Red Book of Belarus, in the reserve" Sporovsky ", December 2011

The report "Evaluation of the corncrake population in the reserve Middle Pripyat "in 2011", October 2011

The report "Evaluation of the effectiveness of the integrated use of the reconstructed polder "Rakitnoe" in the quality of wetland habitat types of birds", October 2011

Report on the implementation of research, "Assess the effectiveness of the reconstructed polder "Rakitnoe" in the quality of spawning native fish species", August 2011

The report "Assessment of the Aquatic Warbler population in the reserve "Sporovsky" and "Zvanets" in 2011", July 2011

The report "Survey of artificial nests for the rare and endangered bird species groups owls-formes, falcon-formes and rakhse-formes in areas of protected areas ("Middle Pripyat","Zvanets","Prostyr","Sporovsky")", July 2011

The report "Monitoring of artificial nests in the reserve "Sporovsky", July 2011

The report "The impact of the implementation of the land-use schemes proposals and design of target areas, aimed at optimizing the ecology and intensity of land use", July 2011

Report on the results of a local people survey "Awareness of the local population on reserves regime and a willingness to engage citizens in ecotourism activity on the territory of the reserve "Sporovsky", "Zvanets", "Middle Pripyat" (19-30 May 2011) , June 2011

Analysis of execution of flood protection Program in and neighborhood of the reserves in terms of biodiversity in the floodplain of Pripyat river, April 2011

Strategy for the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially on Waterfowl Habitat (in Russian and English), February 2011

Guidelines for the valuation of Belarusian specially-protected areas, November 2010

Environmentally-oriented forest management - the basis for sustainable forest management and forest use. September 2010

Guidelines for the development of management plans for individual protected areas, March 2009

The report "Analysis of the legal acts of the Republic of Belarus, international agreements, laws of other countries on the formation and functioning of the national ecological network of biosphere reserves and transboundary protected areas." March 2009

Report on the workshop on the conservation of rare and typical landscapes, habitats, forming ecological networks of biosphere reserves and transboundary protected areas. Domzheritsy, Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve, March 19-20, 2009

Materials of the International Seminar "European Polesie - economic value and environmental risks", Pinsk June 19-21, 2007

Guide to environmental and technical tour of the International Seminar "European Polesie - economic value and environmental risks». 2007.

Analysis and forecast the dynamics of transformation of the landscape reserve "Zvanets" and "Sporovsky" on the basis of remote sensing data (final version). 2007

Analysis of the factors in the development of ecological tourism in the reserve "Sporovsky" Development of the concept of ecological tourism in the reserve "Sporovsky". 2007

Assessment of impact of the program on the hydrological regime reserve "Middle Pripyat". 2007

Preparation of Reserve Management Plan of the "Middle Pripyat" reserve in Stolin district on the basis of an analysis and update of data on the current status and trends in key components of biodiversity. 2007.

Preliminary assessment of feasibility of construction of water regulating facilities on the river Yaselda with the aim of optimizing hydrological regime of the "Sporovsky" reserve. 2007.

Development of the recommendations for reducing the threat for biodiversity in the Polesye region during engineering works on the example of the object Yastrebel (Stolin district, Brest region) for further use in the design and construction of flood protection. Stage 1. 2007.

Development of land-use schemes of the Pinsk Administrative Region. Stage 1. 2007.

Calculation aerosol component of anthropogenic loading, organization of hydrochemical and hydrobiological observations on watercourses reserve "Zvanets". 2007.

Creation of an integrated system for monitoring of vegetation and forest in "Zvanets" reserve in the framework of integrated ecosystem monitoring the individual protected areas. 2007.

Establishing wildlife monitoring system of reserve "Zvanets" in the framework of integrated ecosystem monitoring the individual protected areas. 2007

Report by Jim Glover: A review of potential locations and buildings within the Belarusian Polesie region for the development of Visitor Centres for Ecotourism (in English), August 2008

The draft of the national strategy on development and management of protected areas and state program on development of the protected areas of the Republic of Belarus. 2007.

Adaptation of standard software tools that provide management of geographic information system (GIS), "Forest Resources" for Zhitkovichi forestry. 2008.

Justification of proposals for improving forest management practices in the reserve "Middle Pripyat" in the border forest Zhitkovichi region with the goal of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation. Evaluation of protective plantations outside forest lands of Zhitkovichi forestry. 2008.

Organization of hydrochemical and hydrobiological observations on water systems of the reserve "Sporovsky" in the framework of integrated ecosystem monitoring the protected areas. 2007.

Creation of an integrated system for monitoring of vegetation and forest of the "Sporovsky" reserve in the framework of integrated ecosystem monitoring the protected areas. 2008.

Creation of an integrated system for wildlife monitoring in "Sporovsky" reserve in the framework of integrated ecosystem monitoring the individual protected areas. 2008.

Development forecast the dynamics of the state of natural systems of the National landscape reserve "Middle Pripyat" on the basis of GIS technologies and multi-temporal analysis of aerospace photographs, preparation of recommendations for optimization of wildlife to be included on the Plan of Management Reserve. 2008.

Report on adaptation of software tools, that provide management of geographic information system (GIS), "Forestry Resources" for Drahichyn, Ivatsevichi, Brest, Telekhany, Baranovichi, Pruzhany forestry.2008.

Development of land management schemes Pinsky Administrative District. Stage 2 (testing and approval guidelines for environmental and economic optimization of agricultural land). 2008.

Article "The tourists will be in ... swamp" (Magazine "Wilderness" № 2, 2008)

Increasing population stability of rare and endangered plant species in the Sporovski reserve

Definition of corncrake numbers in Mid Pripyat reserve

Assessment of effectiveness of using of reconstructed Rakitno polder as habitat for waterfowl birds

Assessment of effectiveness of using of reconstructed Rakitno polder as spawning area for Propyat river aboriginal fish species

Definition of Aquatic warbler numbers in Sporovski and Zvanets reserves

Monitoring of usage of artificial nests in the project target reserves

Assessment effectiveness of implementation of actions and measures, proposed within developed land-use schemes

Survey of locals awareness of reserves regimes in 2011

Analysis of implementation of flood-protection measures with respect to biodiversity concerns

Strategy on Ramsar Convention implementation

Recommendations of estimation of ecosystem services, provided by Belarussian protected territories

Ecologically-oriented forestry – background for sustainable forestry

Manual on reserves management plans preparation

Analysis and prognosis of landscapes transformation in Zvanets and Sporovski reserves based on satellites images

Development of a concept for ecotourism development for the Sporovski reserve

Development of a management plan for Mid Pripyat reserve

Initial assessment of water regulating facility construction necessity to optimize hydroregime in Sporovski reserve

Development of land use schemes for Pinsk, Stolin and Zhtikovichi districts

Development of a comprehensive monitoring system for Zvanets reserve (for plant kingdom, fauna, hydrology)

Perspectives of ecotourism development in Belarus Polesie, RSPB

Draft of the national Strategy for development of a national system of protected territories and corresponding state program

Targeted adaptation of GIS “Forest Resources” for Zhitkovichi, Drogichin, Ivatsevichi, Brest, Telekhany, Baranovichi and Pruzhany forestries

Proposals substantiation for optimizing of current forestry practice in 4 admonistrative regions of the Mid Pripyat reserve

Development of a comprehensive monitoring system for Sporovski reserve (for plant kingdom, fauna, hydrology)

Analysis and prognosis of landscapes transformation in Mid Pripyat reserve based on satellites images

Updating of “Sporovsky” and “Zvanets” reserves management plans

Organization monitoring system for flora and fauna, as well as hydro chemical and hydro biological monitoring on the water sites of the “Middle Pripyat” and “Prostyr” reserves in the framework of the SPNAs comprehensive monitoring.

Preparation of methodology for conduction of a complex monitoring of ecological systems at the SPNAs

Definition of borders of land plots at the Republican Reserves “Middle Pripyat” and “Sporovsky” with the objective of their further reorganization

Preparation of rationale for the “Prostyr” and “Middle Pripyat” Reserves reorganization

Analysis of data on Conservation Finance Alliance for ensuring financial sustainability using global experience

Survey of indicator species of animals in the “Sporovsky”, “Zvanets”, “Middle Pripyat” and “Prostyr” Reserves

Preparation of passports and conservation obligations on transfer under the protection of habitats for protected plants and animals, included in the Red Book of Republic of Belarus’ in the reserves “Zvanets” , “Mid Pripyat”, “Prostyr” and “Sporovsky”

Installation of artificial nests for specially protected bird species (greater spotted eagle, great gray owl, roller, scops-owl, boreal owl, little owl, stockdove) as well as for bats and and dormice in the reserves “Mid Pripyat”, “Prostyr”, “Sporovsky” and “Zvanets”

Conduction of sociological surveys among local communities located in and around the target reserves to assess the level of awareness on the issues of nature protection in the reserves

Elaboration of the Conception for the ecological tourism sustainable development in the "Middle Pripyat" reserve

Preparation of the drafts of normative- legal documents on the creation of the ecological trails

Refinement of the Manual (methodological recommendations) on ecological and economic optimisation of agricultural activities and its presentation for approval at the State Property Committee of the Republic of Belarus

Development of a sustainable land management model (draft of a in-house land management) JSC "Pinskagroservice" (Pinsk district), bordering the natural reserve "Middle Pripyat"

Analysis of implementation of flood protection programme in and around the reserves with the objective to diminish threats to biodiversity in the Pripyat River bottom-land

Development of strategy and action plan on conservation of wetlands in Belarus

Development of methodology on identification of maximum allowed anthropogenic loads on specially protected natural areas and aprobation of the given methodology on the basis of "Zvanets" reserve

Preparation of methodological guidance for calculation of reimbursement for damage caused to ecosystems by human activities, as well as for determination of damage caused by land degradation with the corresponding grounding

Passports and conservation obligations (232 for 55 species) on transfer for protection of the Belarusian Red Book wild animals and plants habitats in the "Middle Pripyat" and "Prostyr" Reserves were prepared and duly endorsed

Passports and conservation obligations (193 for 57 species) on transfer for protection of the Belarusian Red Book wild animals and plants habitats in the "Zvanets" and "Sporovski" Reserves were prepared and duly endorsed

4.2 Other promotion material and manuals produced by project

Promotional materials (booklets, leaflets, maps) of Mid Priyat, Prostyr, Zvanetc and Sporovsky reserve.

Ecological approach in forestry – basement of sustainable forestry and forest management. 2010.

Manual on the protected area management plan development. 2009.

Transboundary Ramsar Site "Pripyat-Stokhid-Prostyr": development of joint nature protection activity between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus. 2010.

Strategy of implementation of the convention on wetlands of international importance specially as waterfowl habitat. 2011.

National strategy of the development and management of the system of protected areas till January 1, 2015.

Legislation on conservation and sustainable using of biological and landscape diversity of the Republic of Belarus. 2011.

Regulatory support to the agro-eco tourism development in the Republic of Belarus (2008) 1000 copies

Manual for the development of Specially Protected Nature Areas management plans (2009) 500 copies

Legal basis for protection and wise use of Specially Protected Nature Areas (2009) 300 copies

"In Harmony with Nature". Ecological tourism in the Belarusian Polesie reserves ("Sporausky", "Zvanets", "Middle Pripyat") (2010) 150 copies

Ecologically oriented forestry – the base for sustainable forest management and use (2010) 700 copies

Recommendations on production and installation of artificial nests for water fowl and rare species of birds (2010) 700 copies

Contribution of international organizations to conservation of biodiversity at the territory of the Republic of Belarus (2010) 700 copies

Transboundary Ramsar Site "Pripyat-Stokhid-Prostyr". Development of joint nature protection activity between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus (2010) 700 copies

Documentary film "The Pearl of the Belarusian Land" (2010) 300 copies

E-version of the Red Book of Belarus (2011) 1000 copies

"Polesie" Project Final Report (2006-2011) (2011) 300 copies

Update version of the documentary "The Pearl of the Belarusian Land" (2011) 250 copies

Legal Basis for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity in the Republic of Belarus (2011) 350 copies

4.3 Other documents reviewed by the Evaluation Team

Back-to-Office-Report, Belarus mission from UNDP Regional Office – Bratislava, Maxim Vergeichik, June 2009

Back-to-Office-Report, Belarus mission from UNDP Regional Office – Bratislava, Maxim Vergeichik, October 2011

Final Report of the Mid-Term Evaluation Catalyzing Sustainability of the wetland protected area system of the Belarusian Polesie through increased management efficiency and realigned land use practices, 30 December 2008

GEF Evaluation Office. GEF Evaluation Office Ethical Guidelines, 2007

GEF Evaluation Office. Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluations, 2008

GEF Evaluation Office. The GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, 2010

Project Annual Reports

Project Annual Workplans

Project Implementation Report (PIR), 2011

UNDP Evaluation Guidelines for GEF-Financed Projects: Version for External Evaluators, March 2011

UNDP Project Document: Catalyzing Sustainability of the wetland protected area system of the Belarusian Polesie through increased management efficiency and realigned land use practices

Annex 5 List of activities carried out by the project, by Outcome, the results and means of verification

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
Outcome 1 Reserves are being managed effectively, with the active participation of local stakeholders in design and implementation aspects		
Output 1.1. Legal framework is amended to improve protection level at reserves		
Section of the draft Environmental Code on protected areas	Section of the Environmental Code devoted to the functioning of specially protected territories was prepared and accepted by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (Ministry of Environment)	Developed sections were integrated into the following Law: "On including changes and amendments to the Law on Environmental Protection", 2010-05-06, N 127-3
Development of proposals on definition of mechanisms for legal regulation at the SPNAs	Agreed draft of regulatory legal act on the mechanism of legal regulation of SPNAs is approved by the Ministry of Environment	Developed proposals were integrated into the following Law: "On including changes and amendments to the Law on specially protected territories" 2008-07-08, N 375-3
Preparation of proposals on legal regulation of the issues on formation and functioning of the National ecological network, biosphere reserves, transboundary SPNAs	Proposals on legal regulation of the issues on formation and functioning of the National ecological network, biosphere reserves, transboundary SPNAs developed and integrated into the Law on Protected Territories	Developed proposals were integrated into the following Law: "On including changes and amendments to the Law on specially protected territories" 2008-07-08, N 375-3
Legislative support of unique and valuable habitats and landscapes conservation and their sustainable management. Analysis of international experience and working out of relevant proposals	In terms of international experience proposals on legislative support of unique and valuable habitats and landscapes conservation and their sustainable management were worked out, approved by the Ministry of Environment and used as a basis for developing of respective regulatory act (Law on wildlife protection and Law on pant kingdom protection))	Developed proposals were integrated into the following Laws: "On including changes and amendments to the Law on plant kingdom protection" 2011-05-17, N 260-3, and "On including changes and amendments to the Law on wildlife protection" 2011-05-17, N 261-3

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
Output 1.2. Capacity of institutions and individuals for reserve management is developed		
Preparing management plans for Mid Pripyat and Prostyr reserves	Management plans for "Middle Pripyat" (90 447 ha) and "Prostyr" (9 514 ha) reserves are prepared and enforced into action in accordance with the national legislation	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Update of "Sporovsky" and "Zvanets" reserves management plans	Management plans for "Sporovsky" (19 384 ha) and "Zvanets" (16 227 ha) reserves were updated on 5-years basis and enforced into action in accordance with the national legislation	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Preparation of a draft project on enlargement of "Zvanets" and "Prostyr" reserves	Legal justifications for reserves enlargement were prepared. Accordingly these justifications Zvanets reserve was enlarged from 10,460 up to 16,227, Prostyr from 3,440 up to 9,514 ha respectively	Decisions of Council of Ministers #130, 2010-02-01 and #1642, 2011-12-02 respectively
Organization of the system of monitoring for targeted reserves as part of the comprehensive ecosystem monitoring for the Zvanets Reserve	Integrated monitoring system for flora and fauna, as well as hydro-chemical and hydro-biological monitoring in the Zvanets Reserve in the framework of the SPNAs comprehensive monitoring was developed and integrated into the National Environmental Monitoring System	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Organization of the system of monitoring for targeted reserves as part of the comprehensive ecosystem monitoring for the Sporovski Reserve	Integrated monitoring system for flora and fauna, as well as hydro-chemical and hydro-biological monitoring in the Sporovski Reserve in the framework of the SPNAs comprehensive monitoring was developed and integrated into the National Environmental Monitoring System	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Organization monitoring system for flora and fauna, as well as hydro chemical and hydro biological monitoring on the water sites of the "Middle Pripyat" and "Prostyr" reserves in the framework of the SPNAs comprehensive monitoring.	Integrated monitoring system for flora and fauna, as well as hydro-chemical and hydro-biological monitoring in the Mid Pripyat and Prostyr Reserves in the framework of the SPNAs comprehensive monitoring were developed and integrated into the National Environmental Monitoring System	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Preparation of methodology for conduction of a complex monitoring of ecological systems at the SPNAs	Methodology for conduction of a comprehensive monitoring of ecological systems at the SPNAs developed and approved by the Ministry of Environment	Decisions of Ministry of Environment # 63, 2009-10-13
Development of forecast of dynamics of the nature complex condition at the "Middle Pripyat" reserve	Based on the maps of the current condition and data of distant reconnaissance for the period starting from 1950s, the forecast for 15 years of dynamics of the	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
based on the GPS technologies and analysis of diverse aerospace photos, preparation of recommendations on □eorganizati of land management for their inclusion into the Management Plan	nature complex condition at the “Middle Pripyat” reserve were prepared; recommendations on optimisation of land management were worked out and used in preparation of reserve’s Management Plan	
Producing of boundary signs for the reserves “Zvanets” and “Mid Pripyat” (Pinsk and Stolin Districts)	Boundary and information signs produced and installed in the "Zvanets" and "Mid Pripyat" (Pinsk and Stolin Districts) reserves. All project target reserves are being duly marked on the ground.	
Definition of borders of land plots at the Republican Reserves “Middle Pripyat” and “Sporovsky” with the objective of their further □eorganization	Borders of land plots at the Republican Reserves "Middle Pripyat" and "Sporovsky" were defined with the objective of their further reorganisation	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Preparation of rationale for the “Prostyr” and “Middle Pripyat” Reserves reorganization	Scientific rationale for the "Prostyr" and "Middle Pripyat" Reserves reorganisation was prepared and approved by the Ministry of Environment	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Analysis of data on Conservation Finance Alliance for ensuring financial sustainability using global experience	Proposals on sustainable financing of SPNAs administrations in Belarus, based on the international experience, were prepared and approved by the Ministry of Environment	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Survey of indicator species of animals in the “Sporovsky”, “Zvanets”, “Middle Pripyat” and “Prostyr” Reserves	Data on current status of the indicator species of animals in the "Sporovsky", "Zvanets", "Middle Pripyat" and "Prostyr" Reserves were obtained	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Preparation of passports and conservation obligations on transfer under the protection of habitats for protected plants and animals, included in the Red Book of Republic of Belarus’ in the reserves “Zvanets” , “Mid Pripyat”, “Prostyr” and “Sporovsky”	Passports and conservative obligations on the transfer under the protection of habitats for protected plants and animals, included in the Red Book of Republic of Belarus, in the reserves “Zvanets” , "Mid Pripyat", "Prostyr" and “Sporovsky” prepared and duly approved by the Ministry of Environment and local stakeholders (land users, forestries, local authorities)	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Installation of artificial nests for specially protected bird species (greater spotted eagle, great gray owl, roller, scops-owl, boreal owl, little owl, stockdove) as well as for bats and and dormice in	Artificial nests for specially protected bird species (greater spotted eagle, great gray owl, roller, scops-owl, boreal owl, little owl, stockdove) as well as for bats and dormice manufactured and installed in the reserves “Mid Pripyat”,	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
the reserves “Mid Pripyat”, “Prostyr”, “Sporovsky” and “Zvanets”	“Prostyr”, “Sporovsky” and “Zvanets”	
Evaluation of the efficiency of artificial nests stocking, constructed in 2010 at the target territories	Efficiency of artificial nests stocking (262 nests), constructed in 2010 at the target territories was determined through field studies , the data were analyzed and recommendations were submitted to the Ministry of Environment	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Restoration of endandered aboriginal valuable fish species populations through fish stocking	Restoration of endandered aboriginal valuable fish species (sterlet) populations was carried out through two fish stockings in 2010 and 2011. Totally about 450 kg of starlet young fishes were released in the Pripyat river	Waybills
Conduction of sociological surveys among local communities located in and around the target reserves to assess the level of awareness on the issues of nature protection in the reserves	Sociological data obtained through surveys (1500 respondents) in 2008 and 2011 on the awareness level of local communities, located in and around the target reserves, on the issues of nature protection in the reserves and its functioning.	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Increasing of populations stability for rare and endangered plant species, included into the Red Data Book in Sporovski reserve through in vitro propagation	Populations stability for rare and endangered plant specie, included into the Red Data Book was increased through in vitro propagation. 1500 enrooted seedlings of ladybells (Adenophora liliifolia) were planted at 3 selected sites in Sporovski reserve.	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Evaluate efficiency of usage of reconstructed polder “Rakitno” lands for conservation and sustainable management of biological diversity of inundable lands	Expert evaluations on complex management reconstructed polder "Rakitno" lands (320 ha) as a habitat of wetlands species of birds and spawning grounds for aboriginal fish species were conducted and recommendations on it further usage with biodiversity interests were developed and submitted to the Ministry of Environment for further dissemination	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Organization of a training workshop for SPNAs staff	35 SPNAs staff members updated on budgetary funding management through organized training workshop	Workshop agenda
Increase of professional level of the staff at the target reserves on the issues of SPNAs sustainable management	The staff of the target reserves (17 people) participated in the events conducted by the Ministry of Nature and other state governing bodies on the issues of application of nature protection legislation enforcement and SPNAs sustainable management	Workshop agenda
Output 1.3. Transboundary conservation arrangements are established and coordination is strengthened between Ukrainian and Belarus protected areas in Polesie		

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
Completion of works on creation of transboundary Ramsar Territory Prostyr-Pripyat-Stokhid	Application for establishing of the Prostyr-Pripyat-Stokhid transboundary Ramsar Territory (Belarus-Ukraine) was prepared and submitted to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. Confirmation from Ramsar Convention Secretariat was received on recognition of Prostyr-Pripyat-Stokhid system as the transboundary Ramsar Territory	Copy of Ramsar Diploma
Draft of the agreement between Belarus and Ukraine on co-operation in the field of transboundary wetlands functioning is agreed by both Ministries and refined in accordance with comments and proposals of the interested state bodies and organisations	Draft of the agreement between Belarus and Ukraine on co-operation in the field of transboundary wetlands functioning is preliminary agreed by both Ministries and refined in accordance with comments and proposals of the interested state bodies and organisations. The agreement provides with the possibility to strengthen transboundary co-operation between Belarus and Ukraine via realisation of joint conservation and sustainable management of transboundary SPNAs; preparation and implementation of the SPNAs management plans, joint scientific research and regular monitoring data exchange, joint educational programs for the SPNAs personnel and etc. Belarus accomplished its national legal procedures and corresponding Decision Council of Ministers was issued	Letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus #11-25/307, 2012-01-06
Output 1.4. Viability of ecotourism as an alternative biodiversity-friendly livelihood for local communities is demonstrated		
Elaboration of the Conception for the ecological tourism sustainable development in the "Middle Pripyat" reserve	Practical recommendations and concept of sustainable development of ecological tourism in the Mid Pripyat reserve were prepared, approved by the Ministry of Environment and forwarded to the reserve administrations for implementing.	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Development of a strategy for ecotourism development for Sporovski	Practical recommendations and concept of sustainable development of ecological tourism in the Sporovsky reserve were prepared,approved by the Ministry of Environment and forwarded to the reserve administration for implementing..	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Creation and description of ecotouristic routes in the "Middle Pripyat" reserve	Description of 10 ecotouristic routes in the Mid Pripyat reserve, including objects of nature and cultural heritage, maps were prepared and submitted to the Reserve administrations.	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Printing of the methodological recommendations on legal issues of ecotourism organisation at the local level, attraction of targeted credits for persons	The methodological recommendations on legal issues of ecotourism organisation at the local level, attraction of targeted credits for persons aimed at the development of tourist infrastructure published and disseminated among	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
aimed at the development of tourist infrastructure	interested parties (locals, local authorities, local entrepreneurs) on the project target territories	
Conduction of a contest within the Financial Support Program for Ecotourism development in the Polesie region and practical realisation of the selected initiatives on tourist infrastructure improvement at the project territories	The contest within the Program was conducted. More than 45 applications were received, 15 selected initiatives were supported through concluding contracts. All were successfully completed.	Acts of works completion:
Workshop on development of ecotourism in the reserves “Sporovsky” and "Mid Pripyat"	Tourist packages for "Sporovsky" and "Mid Pripyat" reserves were presented at the workshop attended by tourism organizations, mass media, local communities, executive and administrative authorities and other stakeholders (about 60 people)	Tour Agenda
Preparation of the drafts of normative- legal documents on the creation of the ecological trails	Legal documents on the creation of the ecological trails in reserves prepared and duly approved by the Ministry of Environment	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Equipping of ecotrails in "Mid Pripyat" reserve	4 ecotrails in Mid Pripyat reserve were planned, equipped and became operable	Acts of works completion:
Material and technical support to the target reserves for ecotourism development	The project provided assistance in strengthening of material and technical base of “Zvanets”, “Sporovsky”, “Mid Pripyat” (Pinsk District), “Mid Pripyat” (Stolin District), “Mid Pripyat” (Luninets District): 24 bikes procured (6 - “Mid Pripyat” (Pinsk District), 6 - “Mid Pripyat” (Stolin District), 6 -“Mid Pripyat” (Luninets District), 6 – “Zvanets” ;12 boats procured (2 – “Mid Pripyat” (Pinsk District), 2 – “Mid Pripyat” (Stolin District), 2 – “Mid Pripyat” (Luninets District), 2 - “Zvanets”, 4-“Sporovski”) 8 boat engines (2 – “Sporovski” , 2 – “Mid Pripyat” (Pinsk District), 1 – “Mid Pripyat” (Stolin District), 2 – “Mid Pripyat” (Luninets District), 1 - “Zvanets”,;One motorbike is procured (“Zvanets” reserve).Equipment for organisation of ecotourism activities in the reserves (tents, sleeping bags, etc) procured and transferred to the project target reserves	Letters of Property Transfer
Reconstruction of the building of the environmental education centre in the reserve "Zvanets"	The environmental education centre in the reserve "Zvanets" reconstructed, fully equipped for acceptance of 7 people and operates	Act of works acceptance ,

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
Reconstruction of the building of the environmental education centre in the reserve "Sporovski"	The environmental education centre in the reserve "Sporovski reconstructed, fully equipped for acceptance of 7 people and operates	Act of works acceptance
Reconstruction of the building of the environmental education centre in the reserve "Mid Pripyat" Luninetski district	The environmental education centre in the reserve "Mid Pripyat" reconstructed, fully equipped for acceptance of 6 people and operates	Act of works acceptance
Educational trip to Lithuania with the objective to study the experience on SPNAs sustainable management, development of management plans and ecological tourism at SPNAs	Representatives of the Ministry of Nature, administrations of the reserves (9 persons) got acquainted with practical organisation of natural resources sustainable management and SPNAs functioning, as well as the development of ecological tourism at the SPNAs in Lithuania	Respective Travel Reports
Output 1.5.Linking of target reserves within the Polesie bionetwork (supported by UNESCO) concept is achieved		
Meeting of a Special Research and Development Commission of UNESCO project with participation of experts and administration of GEF project on discussion of the results of the conducted activities	Target reserves of the project are included into the Polesie econetwork, the draft network presented to UNESCO	Letter from the Belarus UNESCO office
Outcome 2 Agricultural activity in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity harboured in reserves		
Output 2.1. Guidelines for the environmental and economic optimization of agricultural land developed and tested		
Refinement of the Manual (methodological recommendations) on ecological and economic optimisation of agricultural activities and its presentation for approval at the State Property Committee of the Republic of Belarus	Manual (methodological recommendations) on ecological and economic optimisation of agricultural activities prepared and duly approved by the State Committee of Property	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Development of the land management system for the Pinsk administrative district.	The land management system for Pinsk administrative district developed and approved by the Brest Regional Executive Committee in accordance with the established procedure	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment, decisions by the Brest Regional Eexecutive Committee #192, 2010-03-10
Development of the land management system for	The land management system for Stolin administrative district developed and approved by the Brest Regional Executive Committee in accordance with the	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment, decisions

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
the Stolin administrative district.	established procedure	by the Brest Regional Eexecutive Committee #329, 2010-04-21
Development of the land management system for the Zhitkovichi administrative district.	The land management system for Zhitkovichi administrative district developed and approved by the Gomel Regional Executive Committee in accordance with the established procedure	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment, decisions by the Gomel Regional Eexecutive Committee # 1563, 2010-12-27
Analysis of land management materials on transfer of agricultural lands to grassing and afforestation at the target territories in 2006-2010	A report, containing data on transfer of agricultural lands to grassing and afforestation at the target territories in 2006-2010 in the framework of land management schemes developed by the project for administration districts of the Polesie region developed and results of the analysis were forwared to the Ministry of Environment for undertaking respective actions	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Development of a sustainable land management model (draft of a in-house land management) JSC "Pinskagroservice" (Pinsk district), bordering the natural reserve "Middle Pripyat"	The Model of sustainable land management (the draft of in-house land management) JSC "Pinskagroservice" is developed and approved by the Pinsk District Executive Committee in accordance with the established procedure.	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Preparation of the integrated digital map of “Mid Pripyat” reserve with topical layers on biodiversity	The integrated digital map of “Middle Pripyat” reserve (scale 1:25 000) with thematic layers on biodiversity (flora, fauna) prepared and presented to the Ministry of Environment	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Output 2.2. Impact of melioration systems on the project territories is mitigated		
Measurement of ground water levels in the "Zvanets" reserve	Data of measurement of the groundwater level in the “Zvanets” reserve collected and submitted to Zvanets PAMU and Ministry of Environment.	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Preparation of documentation for receiving of permissions for planning and surveying activities (acts of sites selection and other necessary documents) for optimisation of “Zvanets” reserve hydrological regime and preparing respective engineering project	The documentation, required for conduction of planning and surveying activities necessary for optimisation of “Zvanets” reserve hydrological regime prepared and used during preparing of the respective engineering project	Conclusion of acceptance by the Main Building State Expertise office from 2009-05-04
Optimisation of the hydrological regime of "Zvanets" reserve by implementing engeneering	Hydroregime of the Zvanets reserve optimized in the territory 16 000 ha through implementation of the developed engineering project	Act of works acceptance from 2010-03-30

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
project in accordance with the regulations of the reserve's management plan		
Output 2.3.Expediency of sustainable heymowing as an alternative method of land management is demonstrated		
Ecological rehabilitation of floodplain meadows – habitats of globally threatened bird species (Pogostsky meadow, Zhitkovichy district) in accordance with “Mid Pripyat” reserve management plan	Ecological rehabilitation of floodplain meadows – habitats of globally threatened bird species (Pogostsky meadow, Zhitkovichy district, Pripyat flood plain in Pins district) was conducted on 151 ha in accordance with “Middle Pripyat” reserve management plan and in the area of 582 ha of fens in Berezai ditrict in accordance with “Sporovski” reserve management plan	Reports of respective Reserves Management Units
Output 2.4.Negative impact of fisheries water management is diminished		
Level measurment of Yaselda river is conducted as well as evaluation of the condition of the water-regulating facility at the river in "Sporovsky" reserve	Data received on the condition of water-regulating facility and its impact on the hydrological level at the Yaselda river in "Sporovsky" reserve	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Conduction of analysis of changes in hydrological level of the Yaselda River during the period of last three years, assessment of the water regulating facility condition and the forecast of the possible change of hydrological level at the Yaselda River ("Sporovsky" Reserve)	Report, which contains analysis of changes in hydrological level of the Yaselda River during the period of last three years, assessed condition of the water regulating facility, provided the forecast of the possible change of hydrological level at the Yaselda River ("Sporovsky" Reserve) prepared and forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and reserve's administration	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Outcome 3 Tools and methods developed within the project for individual wetland reserves integrated into the national regulatory frames and plans, allowing their use in other similar facilities of the national SPNA system		
Output 3.1.Forest management plans are revised to integrate biodiversity conservation objectives		
Integration of requirements on ecologisation of forestry activities, in accordance with regulations of “Middle Pripyat” reserve management plan, into projects on organisation and conduction of forestry activities for Pinsk, Luninets and Stolin forestries of the Brest production forestry unit, Zhitkovichy forestry of the Gomel production forestry unit and	Recommendations on ecologisation of forestry activities, in accordance with regulations of “Middle Pripyat” are refined in co-operation with the specialised project organisation “Belgosles” and presented to the Ministry of Forestry for consideration. These recommendations integrated into 10-years forestry plans for specific forestries	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment, decisions by the Brest # 482, 2009-06-18 and Gomel Regional Eexecutive Committees #762, 2009-08-14

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
"Lyaskovichy" forestry		
Targeted adaptatuin of industrial forestry GIS "Forest Resourses" for Pinsk, Stolin, Zhitkovichi	Updated industrial forestry GIS "Forest Resourses", containing proposed measures for ecologization of forestry, introduced into practice of corresponding forestries. Respective acts were obtained.	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Insert of data on biodiversity condition into branch of the GIS "Forest Resources" for forestries located at the territories in close vicinity to the project areas and involved into the process of forest certification in the region: Drogochen, Ibatsevichy, Brest, Telekhany, Baranovichy, Pruzhany forestries	Geoinformation systems "Forest Resources" for Drogochen, Ibatsevichy, Brest, Telekhany, Baranovichy, Pruzhany forestries are filled up with data on biodiversity condition	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Output 3.2.Certification in line with national standards (6 forestry enterprises) & international standards (2 forestry enterprises) on forest certification is completed, with guidelines for replication		
Organization of the regional training centre in Luninets forestry enterprise for forest certification and forest and environmental education (model of the training class)	Local Educational Centre on Forest Certification and Forest Ecological Education established and operates in the Luninets forestry (furniture, office equipment, study materials, subscription to periodicals provided)	Letter of Property Transfer
Development, production and maintaining of a complex of educational and methodological, informational and demonstrative materials for Local Educational Centre on forest certification and forest ecological education in PMG "Luninets Forestry" of the Brest production forestry unit	The Centre equipped with educational and demonstrative expositions on nature protection topics: scientific and methodological assets for special purposes (oriented at forestries staff and specialists of State environmental protection establishments); scientific and methodological assets for general application (oriented at students, local communities, tourists)	
Outcome 4 Flood protection program in and around the reserves is modified to diminish threats to biodiversity harboured in reserves		
Output 4.1. Flood protection program in and around the reserves is modified		
Development of recommendations on optimization of hydrological regime of "Middle Pripyat" reserve in accordance with the reserve's management plan and action plan for reaching target values of the	Detailed information on flood protection objects in the region, which define values of the project's logical matrix, is presented; Action plan on reaching target values of the project's logical matrix in the sphere of flood protection in the target district, is developed; Proposals on optimization of hydrological	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
project's logical matrix in the sphere of flood protection	regime of "Middle Pripyat" reserve in accordance with the reserve's management plan are developed	
Preparation of project documentation for reconstruction of meliorative system "Rakitno" (Luninets district), Brest region with the objective of its sustainable usage	Engineering project for reconstruction of meliorative system "Rakitno" (Luninets district) (320 ha) developed	Conclusion of acceptance by the Main Building State Expertise office from 2010-10-29
Reconstruction of meliorative facilitiy "Rakitno" (Luninets district) Brest region with the objective of its sustainable management	Sustainable management of "Rakitno" meliorative facility ensured; spawning grounds restored.	Act of works completion and acceptance
Preparation of project documents for reconstruction of natural river bed and spawning grounds of Tsna River (Luninets District)	Allocation act and ecological conditions received, "zero case" prepared for design and survey works for reconstruction of natural river bed and spawning grounds of Tsna River (Luninets District) and used during preparing respective engineering project	Conclusion of acceptance by the Main Building State Expertise, Brest office from 2011-01-17
Conduction of works on reconstruction of natural river bed and spawning grounds of Tsna River (Luninets District)	Construction and assembly works on reconstruction of natural river bed and spawning grounds of Tsna River (Luninets District) completed in accordance with developed engineering project (total are - 1,64 ha, erasure of old river bed -1,6 ha, removal of topsoil - about 1400 q.m, deepening of river bed with assumed volume of excavation - 6700 q.m.)	Act of works completion and acceptance, 2011-10-26
Preparation of project documentation for restoring natural spawning area in Volyanskie Mosty site	Engineering project fro restoring natural spawning area in Volyanskie Mosty site developed	Conclusion of acceptance by the Main Building State Expertise, Brest office from 2011-01-25
Creation of conditions for restoration of population of valuable fish species (rehabilitation of spawning grounds) in Volyanskie Mosty (Luninets District, Brest Region)	Favourable conditios for restoration of population of valuable fish species (rehabilitation of spawning grounds) in Volyanskie Mosty (Luninets District, Brest Region) conducted through implementation of developed engineering project (total area - 0,93 ha, from which deepening of spawning ground - 0,52 ha, removal of topsoil -about 1590 q.m, deepening of waterpass to the river Pripyat, volume of excavation is about 9500 q.m)	Act of works completion and acceptance, 2011-10-26
Preparation of project documentation for reconstruction of meliorative system "Berezhtsy" (Luninets district), Brest region with the objective	Engineering project for reconstruction of meliorative system "Berezhtsy" (Luninets district) developed	Conclusion of acceptance by the Main Building State Expertise office

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
of its sustainable usage		from 2010-10-29
Reconstruction of the ameliorative system "Berezhtsy" (Pinsk District) with the objective of its sustainable management	Natural hydroregime of the "Berezhtsy" ameliorative system is restored in accordance with developed engineering project; natural spawning grounds renaturalised (total affected area - 2800 ha; building of 2 breaks in dam with total width at bottom - 40 m)	Act of works completion and acceptance, 2011-06-12
Analysis of implementation of flood protection programme in and around the reserves with the objective to diminish threats to biodiversity in the Pripyat River bottom-land	A report with analysis of planned activities for the implementation of flood protection programme in and around the reserves with the objective to diminish threats to biodiversity in the Pripyat River bottom-land developed, as well as recommendations on biodiversity conservation interests consideration in the course of the programme's further implementation. These documents forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and specialized projecting organization "Belgiprovodkhoz"	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Outcome 5 Tools and methodologies generated by the project in selected wetland reserves are institutionalised, enabling replication in other similar areas within the national protected areas system		
Output 5.1.Management capacity of the national network of wetland reserves is strengthened		
Development of the national strategy for SPNA development and management according to the national priorities and international commitments	Perspective national strategy for SPNA system development and management till 2015 and the state programme of SPNA system developed and duly agreed by the Ministry of Environment. These documents approved by respective Presidential decree.	Decision of Council of Ministers #1920, 2007-12-29, Presidential Decree #146, 2008-03-6
Development of strategy and action plan on conservation of wetlands in Belarus	Strategy and action plan on conservation of wetlands in Belarus approved according to the to the established procedure by the Ministry of Environment and Decision of Council of Ministers	Decision of Council of Ministers #177, 2009-02-10
Publication of the Strategy on Ramsar Convention Implementation in the Republic of Belarus in the Russian and English languages	The Strategy on Ramsar Convention Implementation in the Republic of Belarus published in the Russian and English languages and disseminated among stakeholders	Copy presented
Development of Manual on SPNAs management plans preparation	Manual on SPNAs management plans preparation approved by the Ministry of Environment according to the established procedure, published and disseminated among interesetd parties	Decisions of Ministry of Environment # 63, 2009-10-13, copy presented

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
Development of methodology on identification of maximum allowed anthropogenic loads on specially protected natural areas and aprobation of the given methodology on the basis of "Zvanets" reserve	Methodology on identification of maximum allowed anthropogenic loads on specially protected natural areas developed, tested at "Zvanets" reserve and than approved by the Ministry of Environment	Decisions of Ministry of Environment # 129, 2008-12-30
Analysis of the international experience on conduction of cost estimate of ecosystem services of specially protected areas and design of relevant recommendations for application in Belarus	Based on the comducted analysis of the international experience on undertaking of cost estimate of ecosystem services of specially protected areas relevant recommendations worked, tested at the Zvanets reserve and approved by the Ministry of Environment	Act of works acceptance by the Ministry of Environment
Development and printing of a publication (almanac) on contribution of international initiatives into preservation of biological diversity in the region of Belarusian Polesie	Publication (almanac) on contribution of international initiatives into preservation of biological diversity in the region of Belarusian Polesie (co-financing) printed out and disseminated among interested	Cope presented
Development and printing of a joint Belarusian-Ukrainian publication (brochure) "Polesie"	Joint Belarusian-Ukrainian publication (brochure) "Polesie" on joint activities in the sphere of biological diversity preservation in the region of Belarusian Polesie developed, printed out in 3 languages (Belarussian, Ukranian and English) and disseminated among interested	Copy presented
Creation of documentary "Belarusian Polesie"	A documentary film on the project implementation results and on co-operation of Republic of Belarus with international organisations in the sphere of natural resources sustainable management in the region of Belarusian Polesie made and shown on national TV	Copy presented
Output 5.2. Conduction of sustainable agricultural policy is strengthned at the national level		
Conduction of educational seminars for the staff of territorial units of the Property Committee on the issues of ecology and economic optimisation of land management	The staff of territorial units of the Property Committee (more that 80 people from the whole country) trained in the methods of ecology and economic optimisation of land management in a set of educational seminars (3)	Workshops agendas
Preparation of methodological guidance for calculation of reimbursement for damage caused to ecosystems by human activities, as well as for determination of damage caused by land	Methodological guidance for calculation of reimbursement for damage caused to ecosystems by human activities, as well as for determination of damage caused by land degradation with the corresponding grounding are approved according to the established procedure by the Ministry of Environment and	Presidential Decree #348, 2008-06-24

Aim	Result	Means of Verification
degradation with the corresponding grounding	respective Presidential Decree	
Output 5.3.Integration of biodiversity principles in forest management plans at a national level		
Conduction of a seminar on the issues of ecologisation of forest management	Project's positive results and action plan on shift of Belarusian forestries to the principles of sustainable ecologically oriented forest management and activities presented to the Ministry of Forestry structures during the seminar in Luninets forestry (about 40 attendees)	Workshop agenda

Annex 6 Completed and final METT forms for the four target protected areas

Data Sheet 1: Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites	Please indicate your answer here	Notes
Name, affiliation and contact details for person responsible for completing the METT (email etc.)	A. Artushevsky, Polesie Project manager , artushevsky@bk.ru	
Date assessment carried out	February 1, 2012	Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
Name of protected area	**Landscape Reserve "Mid Pripyat"**	
WDPA site code (these codes can be found on www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)		
Designations(please choose 1-3)	3	1: National 2: IUCN Category 3: International (please complete lines 35-69 as necessary)
Country	Belarus	
Location of protected area (province and if possible map reference)	Brest and Gomel regions	
Date of establishment	July 19, 1999	
Ownership details (please choose 1-4)	1	1: State 2: Private 3: Community 4: Other
Management Authority	Reserve Management Units “Mid Pripyat” for Stolin, Pinsk and Luninets administrative districts	
Size of protected area (ha)	90,447	
Number of Permanent staff	15	
Number of Temporary staff	-	
Annual budget (US$) for recurrent (operational) funds – excluding staff salary costs	5,600	
Annual budget (US$) for project or other supplementary funds – excluding staff salary costs	53,700	
What are the main values for which the area is designated	Pripyat river flood plain	
List the two primary protected area management objectives in below:		
Management objective 1	Established on the European largest natural river flood bed with its typical sceneries	
Management objective 2	Conservation of the Red Book species.	
No. of people involved in completing assessment	3	

Including: (please choose 1-8)	1	1: PA manager 2: PA staff 3: Other PA agency staff 4: Donors 5: NGOs
Information on International Designations		
UNESCO World Heritage site (see: whc.unesco.org/en/list)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		(i.e. criteria i to x)
Statement of Outstanding Universal Value		
Ramsar site (see: www.wetlands.org/RSDB/)		
Date Listed	August 10, 2001	
Site name	Mid Pripyat Landscape zakaznik	
Site area	90,447	
Geographical number	3BY002	
Reason for Designation (see Ramsar Information Sheet)		
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves (see: www.unesco.org/mab/wnbrs.shtml)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		Total, Core, Buffe, and Transition
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		
Fulfilment of three functions of MAB		conservation, development and logistic support
Please list other designations (i.e. ASEAN Heritage, Natura 2000) and any supporting information below		
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail

Data Sheet 2: Protected Areas Threats

Please choose all relevant existing threats as either of high, medium or low significance. Threats ranked as of high significance are those which are seriously degrading values; medium are those threats having some negative impact and those characterised

1. Residential and commercial development within a protected area		
Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint		
1.1 Housing and settlement	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2. Agriculture and aquaculture within a protected area		
Threats from farming and grazing as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, agriculture and aquaculture		
2.1 Annual and perennial non-timber crop cultivation	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.1a Drug cultivation	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.2 Wood and pulp plantations	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.3 Livestock farming and grazing	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3. Energy production and mining within a protected area		
Threats from production of non-biological resources		
3.1 Oil and gas drilling	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3.2 Mining and quarrying	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3.3 Energy generation, including from hydropower dams	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4. Transportation and service corridors within a protected area		
Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them including associated wildlife mortality		
4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines,)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.3 Shipping lanes and canals	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.4 Flight paths	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5. Biological resource use and harm within a protected area		
Threats from consumptive use of "wild" biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species (note this includes hunting and killing of animals)		
5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.3 Logging and wood harvesting	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.4 Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6. Human intrusions and disturbance within a protected area		
Threats from human activities that alter, destroy or disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources		
6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in protected areas	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.4 Activities of protected area managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use, artificial watering points and dams)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7. Natural system modifications		
Threats from other actions that convert or degrade habitat or change the way the ecosystem functions		

7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3a Increased fragmentation within protected area	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8. Invasive and other problematic species and genes		
Threats from terrestrial and aquatic non-native and native plants, animals, pathogens/microbes or genetic materials that have or are predicted to have harmful effects on biodiversity following introduction, spread and/or increase		
8.1 Invasive non-native/alien plants (weeds)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.1a Invasive non-native/alien animals	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.1b Pathogens (non-native or native but creating new/increased problems)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.2 Introduced genetic material (e.g. genetically modified organisms)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9. Pollution entering or generated within protected area		
Threats from introduction of exotic and/or excess materials or energy from point and non-point sources		
9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.1a Sewage and waste water from protected area facilities (e.g. toilets, hotels etc)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents and discharges (e.g. poor water quality discharge from dams, e.g. unnatural temperatures, de-oxygenated, other pollution)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

9.3 Agricultural and forestry effluents (e.g. excess fertilizers or pesticides)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.4 Garbage and solid waste	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.5 Air-borne pollutants	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10. Geological events		
Geological events may be part of natural disturbance regimes in many ecosystems. But they can be a threat if a species or habitat is damaged and has lost its resilience and is vulnerable to disturbance. Management capacity to respond to some of these chan		
10.1 Volcanoes	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.3 Avalanches/ Landslides	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.4 Erosion and siltation/ deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11. Climate change and severe weather		
Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events outside of the natural range of variation		
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.2 Droughts	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.3 Temperature extremes	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.4 Storms and flooding	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

12. Specific cultural and social threats		
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
Assessment Form		
1. Legal status: Does the protected area have legal status (or in the case of private reserves is covered by a covenant or similar)?	3	0: The protected area is not gazetted/covenanted 1: There is agreement that the protected area should be gazetted/covenanted but the process has not yet begun 2: The protected area is
Comments and Next Steps		
2. Protected area regulations: Are appropriate regulations in place to control land use and activities (e.g. hunting)?	3	0: There are no regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area 1: Some regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area exist but these are major weaknesses 2: Regulations for controlling land use and a
Comments and Next Steps		
3. Law Enforcement: Can staff (i.e. those with responsibility for managing the site) enforce protected area rules well enough?	2	0: The staff have no effective capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations 1: There are major deficiencies in staff capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations (e.g. lack of skills, no patrol budg
Comments and Next Steps		
4. Protected area objectives: Is management undertaken according to agreed objectives?	3	0: No firm objectives have been agreed for the protected area 1: The protected area has agreed objectives, but is not managed according to these objectives 2: The protected area has agreed objectives, but is only partially managed according to these obje
Comments and Next Steps		
5. Protected area design: Is the protected area the right size and shape to protect species, habitats, ecological processes and water catchments of key conservation concern?	2	0: Inadequacies in protected area design mean achieving the major objectives of the protected area is very difficult 1: Inadequacies in protected area design mean that achievement of major objectives is difficult but some mitigating actions are being take

Comments and Next Steps		
6. Protected area boundary demarcation: Is the boundary known and demarcated?	3	0: The boundary of the protected area is not known by the management authority or local residents/neighbouring land users 1: The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority but is not known by local residents/neighbouring land user
Comments and Next Steps		
7. Management plan: Is there a management plan and is it being implemented?	3	0: There is no management plan for the protected area 1: A management plan is being prepared or has been prepared but is not being implemented 2: A management plan exists but it is only being partially implemented because of funding constraints or other p
Comments and Next Steps		
7.a Planning process: The planning process allows adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence the management plan	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
7.b Planning process: There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
7.c Planning process: The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
8. Regular work plan: Is there a regular work plan and is it being implemented	2	0: No regular work plan exists 1: A regular work plan exists but few of the activities are implemented 2: A regular work plan exists and many activities are implemented 3: A regular work plan exists and all activities are implemented
Comments and Next Steps		
9. Resource inventory: Do you have enough information to manage the area?	3	0: There is little or no information available on the critical habitats, species and cultural values of the protected area 1: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is not sufficient
Comments and Next Steps		
10. Protection systems: Are systems in place to control access/resource use in the protected area?	2	0: Protection systems (patrols, permits etc) do not exist or are not effective in controlling access/resource use 1: Protection systems are only partially effective in controlling access/resource use 2: Protection systems are moderately effective in contr
Comments and Next Steps		
11. Research: Is there a programme of management-orientated survey and research work?	3	0: There is no survey or research work taking place in the protected area 1: There is a small amount of survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of protected area management 2: There is considerable survey and research work but it

Comments and Next Steps		
12. Resource management: Is active resource management being undertaken?	2	0: Active resource management is not being undertaken 1: Very few of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values are being implemented 2: Many of the requirements for active management o
Comments and Next Steps		
13. Staff numbers: Are there enough people employed to manage the protected area?	3	0: There are no staff 1: Staff numbers are inadequate for critical management activities 2: Staff numbers are below optimum level for critical management activities 3: Staff numbers are adequate for the management needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps		
14. Staff training: Are staff adequately trained to fulfill management objectives?	2	0: Staff lack the skills needed for protected area management 1: Staff training and skills are low relative to the needs of the protected area 2: Staff training and skills are adequate, but could be further improved to fully achieve the objectives of mana
Comments and Next Steps		
15. Current budget: Is the current budget sufficient?	2	0: There is no budget for management of the protected area 1: The available budget is inadequate for basic management needs and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage 2: The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to
Comments and Next Steps		
16. Security of budget: Is the budget secure?	2	0: There is no secure budget for the protected area and management is wholly reliant on outside or highly variable funding 1: There is very little secure budget and the protected area could not function adequately without outside funding 2: There is a
Comments and Next Steps		
17. Management of budget: Is the budget managed to meet critical management needs?	2	0: Budget management is very poor and significantly undermines effectiveness (e.g. late release of budget in financial year) 1: Budget management is poor and constrains effectiveness 2: Budget management is adequate but could be improved 3: Budget managem
Comments and Next Steps		
18. Equipment: Is equipment sufficient for management needs?	2	0: There are little or no equipment and facilities for management needs 1: There are some equipment and facilities but these are inadequate for most management needs 2: There are equipment and facilities, but still some gaps that constrain management 3: T
Comments and Next Steps		

19. Maintenance of equipment: Is equipment adequately maintained?	3	0: There is little or no maintenance of equipment and facilities 1: There is some ad hoc maintenance of equipment and facilities 2: There is basic maintenance of equipment and facilities 3: Equipment and facilities are well maintained
Comments and Next Steps		
20. Education and awareness: Is there a planned education programme linked to the objectives and needs?	2	0: There is no education and awareness programme 1: There is a limited and ad hoc education and awareness programme 2: There is an education and awareness programme but it only partly meets needs and could be improved 3: There is an appropriate and fully
Comments and Next Steps		
21. Planning for land and water use: Does land and water use planning recognise the protected area and aid the achievement of objectives?	3	0: Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the needs of the protected area and activities/policies are detrimental to the survival of the area 1: Adjacent land and water use planning does not takes into account the long term need
Comments and Next Steps		
21a. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Planning and management in the catchment or landscape containing the protected area incorporates provision for adequate environmental conditions (e.g. volume, quality and timing of water flow, air pol	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
21b. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Management of corridors linking the protected area provides for wildlife passage to key habitats outside the protected area (e.g. to allow migratory fish to travel between freshwater spawning sites an	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
21c. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: "Planning adresses ecosystem-specific needs and/or the needs of particular species of concern at an ecosystem scale (e.g. volume, quality and timing of freshwater flow to sustain particular species,	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
22. State and commercial neighbours:Is there co-operation with adjacent land and water users?	3	0: There is no contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users 1: There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users but little or no cooperation 2: There is contact between m
Comments and Next Steps		
23. Indigenous people: Do indigenous and traditional peoples resident or regularly using the protected area have input to management decisions?	2	0: Indigenous and traditional peoples have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Indigenous and traditional peoples have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management

		2: Indigenou
Comments and Next Steps		
24. Local communities: Do local communities resident or near the protected area have input to management decisions?	2	0: Local communities have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Local communities have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Local communities directly contribute to so
Comments and Next Steps		
24 a. Impact on communities: There is open communication and trust between local and/or indigenous people, stakeholders and protected area managers	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
24 b. Impact on communities: Programmes to enhance community welfare, while conserving protected area resources, are being implemented	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
24 c. Impact on communities: Local and/or indigenous people actively support the protected area	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
25. Economic benefit: Is the protected area providing economic benefits to local communities, e.g. income, employment, payment for environmental services?	2	0: The protected area does not deliver any economic benefits to local communities 1: Potential economic benefits are recognised and plans to realise these are being developed 2: There is some flow of economic benefits to local communities 3: There is a
Comments and Next Steps		
26. Monitoring and evaluation: Are management activities monitored against performance?	2	0: There is no monitoring and evaluation in the protected area 1: There is some ad hoc monitoring and evaluation, but no overall strategy and/or no regular collection of results 2: There is an agreed and implemented monitoring and evaluation system but re
Comments and Next Steps		
27. Visitor facilities: Are visitor facilities adequate?	2	0: There are no visitor facilities and services despite an identified need 1: Visitor facilities and services are inappropriate for current levels of visitation 2: Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation but could be
Comments and Next Steps		
28. Commercial tourism operators: Do commercial tour operators contribute to protected area management?	2	0: There is little or no contact between managers and tourism operators using the protected area 1: There is contact between managers and tourism operators but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters 2: There is limited co-operati
Comments and Next Steps		

29. Fees: If fees (i.e. entry fees or fines) are applied, do they help protected area management?	2	0: Although fees are theoretically applied, they are not collected 1: Fees are collected, but make no contribution to the protected area or its environs 2: Fees are collected, and make some contribution to the protected area and its environs 3: Fees are c
Comments and Next Steps		
30. Condition of values: What is the condition of the important values of the protected area as compared to when it was first designated?	2	0: Many important biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 1: Some biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 2: Some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded b
Comments and Next Steps		
30a: Condition of values: The assessment of the condition of values is based on research and/or monitoring	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
30b: Condition of values Specific management programmes are being implemented to address threats to biodiversity, ecological and cultural values	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
30c: Condition of values: Activities to maintain key biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are a routine part of park management	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
TOTAL SCORE	**83**	**Pls add up numbers from assessment form (questions 1 to 30)**
Data Sheet 1: Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites	**Please indicate your answer here**	**Notes**
Name, affiliation and contact details for person responsible for completing the METT (email etc.)	A. Artushevsky, Polesie Project manager , artushevsky@bk.ru	
Date assessment carried out	February 1, 2012	Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
Name of protected area	**Landscape Reserve "Sporovski"**	
WDPA site code (these codes can be found on www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)		
Designations(please choose 1-3)	3	1: National 2: IUCN Category 3: International (please complete lines 35-69 as necessary)
Country	Belarus	
Location of protected area (province and if possible map reference)	Brest region	
Date of establishment	August 15, 1991	

Ownership details (please choose 1-4)	1	1: State 2: Private 3: Community 4: Other
Management Authority	Reserve Management Units “Sporovski reserve"	
Size of protected area (ha)	19,384	
Number of Permanent staff	7	
Number of Temporary staff	-	
Annual budget (US$) for recurrent (operational) funds – excluding staff salary costs	10,500	
Annual budget (US$) for project or other supplementary funds – excluding staff salary costs	31,300	
What are the main values for which the area is designated	Fen mires in the Yaselda river flood plain	
List the two primary protected area management objectives in below:		
Management objective 1	To secure optimal sustainable hydrological regime for the Sporovsky fen mire as akey habitat of the globally threatened aquatic warbler	
Management objective 2	To develop and implement measures to control vegetation over the mire prevent further scrub encroachment.	
No. of people involved in completing assessment	3	
Including: (please choose 1-8)	1	1: PA manager 2: PA staff 3: Other PA agency staff 4: Donors 5: NGOs
Information on International Designations		
UNESCO World Heritage site (see: whc.unesco.org/en/list)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		(i.e. criteria i to x)

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value		
Ramsar site (see: www.wetlands.org/RSDB/)		
Date Listed	November 17, 1999	
Site name	Sporovski Biological reserve	
Site area	19,384	
Geographical number	3BY001	
Reason for Designation (see Ramsar Information Sheet)		
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves (see: www.unesco.org/mab/wnbrs.shtml)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		Total, Core, Buffe, and Transition
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		
Fulfilment of three functions of MAB		conservation, development and logistic support
Please list other designations (i.e. ASEAN Heritage, Natura 2000) and any supporting information below		
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail

Data Sheet 2: Protected Areas Threats		
Please choose all relevant existing threats as either of high, medium or low significance. Threats ranked as of high significance are those which are seriously degrading values; medium are those threats having some negative impact and those characterised		
1. Residential and commercial development within a protected area		
Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint		
1.1 Housing and settlement	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2. Agriculture and aquaculture within a protected area		
Threats from farming and grazing as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture		
2.1 Annual and perennial non-timber crop cultivation	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.1a Drug cultivation	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.2 Wood and pulp plantations	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.3 Livestock farming and grazing	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3. Energy production and mining within a protected area		
Threats from production of non-biological resources		
3.1 Oil and gas drilling	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3.2 Mining and quarrying	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3.3 Energy generation, including from hydropower dams	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4. Transportation and service corridors within a protected area		
Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them including associated wildlife mortality		
4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines,)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.3 Shipping lanes and canals	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

4.4 Flight paths	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5. Biological resource use and harm within a protected area		
Threats from consumptive use of "wild" biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species (note this includes hunting and killing of animals)		
5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.3 Logging and wood harvesting	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.4 Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6. Human intrusions and disturbance within a protected area		
Threats from human activities that alter, destroy or disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources		
6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in protected areas	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.4 Activities of protected area managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use, artificial watering points and dams)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7. Natural system modifications		
Threats from other actions that convert or degrade habitat or change the way the ecosystem functions		
7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

7.3a Increased fragmentation within protected area	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8. Invasive and other problematic species and genes		
Threats from terrestrial and aquatic non-native and native plants, animals, pathogens/microbes or genetic materials that have or are predicted to have harmful effects on biodiversity following introduction, spread and/or increase		
8.1 Invasive non-native/alien plants (weeds)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.1a Invasive non-native/alien animals	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.1b Pathogens (non-native or native but creating new/increased problems)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.2 Introduced genetic material (e.g. genetically modified organisms)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9. Pollution entering or generated within protected area		
Threats from introduction of exotic and/or excess materials or energy from point and non-point sources		
9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.1a Sewage and waste water from protected area facilities (e.g. toilets, hotels etc)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents and discharges (e.g. poor water quality discharge from dams, e.g. unnatural temperatures, de-oxygenated, other pollution)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.3 Agricultural and forestry effluents (e.g. excess fertilizers or pesticides)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.4 Garbage and solid waste	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

9.5 Air-borne pollutants	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10. Geological events		
Geological events may be part of natural disturbance regimes in many ecosystems. But they can be a threat if a species or habitat is damaged and has lost its resilience and is vulnerable to disturbance. Management capacity to respond to some of these chan		
10.1 Volcanoes	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.3 Avalanches/ Landslides	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.4 Erosion and siltation/ deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11. Climate change and severe weather		
Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events outside of the natural range of variation		
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.2 Droughts	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.3 Temperature extremes	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.4 Storms and flooding	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12. Specific cultural and social threats		
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
Assessment Form		
1. Legal status: Does the protected area have legal status (or in the case of private reserves is covered by a covenant or similar)?	3	0: The protected area is not gazetted/covenanted 1: There is agreement that the protected area should be gazetted/covenanted but the process has not yet begun 2: The protected area is
Comments and Next Steps		
2. Protected area regulations: Are appropriate regulations in place to control land use and activities (e.g. hunting)?	3	0: There are no regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area 1: Some regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area exist but these are major weaknesses 2: Regulations for controlling land use and a
Comments and Next Steps		
3. Law Enforcement: Can staff (i.e. those with responsibility for managing the site) enforce protected area rules well enough?	3	0: The staff have no effective capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations 1: There are major deficiencies in staff capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations (e.g. lack of skills, no patrol budg
Comments and Next Steps		
4. Protected area objectives: Is management undertaken according to agreed objectives?	3	0: No firm objectives have been agreed for the protected area 1: The protected area has agreed objectives, but is not managed according to these objectives 2: The protected area has agreed objectives, but is only partially managed according to these obje
Comments and Next Steps		
5. Protected area design: Is the protected area the right size and shape to protect species, habitats, ecological processes and water catchments of key conservation concern?	3	0: Inadequacies in protected area design mean achieving the major objectives of the protected area is very difficult 1: Inadequacies in protected area design mean that achievement of major objectives is difficult but some mitigating actions are being take
Comments and Next Steps		
6. Protected area boundary demarcation: Is the boundary known and demarcated?	3	0: The boundary of the protected area is not known by the management authority or local residents/neighbouring land users 1: The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority but is not known by local residents/neighbouring land user

Comments and Next Steps		
7. Management plan: Is there a management plan and is it being implemented?	3	0: There is no management plan for the protected area 1: A management plan is being prepared or has been prepared but is not being implemented 2: A management plan exists but it is only being partially implemented because of funding constraints or other p
Comments and Next Steps		
7.a Planning process: The planning process allows adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence the management plan	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
7.b Planning process: There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
7.c Planning process: The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
8. Regular work plan: Is there a regular work plan and is it being implemented	2	0: No regular work plan exists 1: A regular work plan exists but few of the activities are implemented 2: A regular work plan exists and many activities are implemented 3: A regular work plan exists and all activities are implemented
Comments and Next Steps		
9. Resource inventory: Do you have enough information to manage the area?	3	0: There is little or no information available on the critical habitats, species and cultural values of the protected area 1: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is not sufficient
Comments and Next Steps		
10. Protection systems: Are systems in place to control access/resource use in the protected area?	2	0: Protection systems (patrols, permits etc) do not exist or are not effective in controlling access/resource use 1: Protection systems are only partially effective in controlling access/resource use 2: Protection systems are moderately effective in contr
Comments and Next Steps		
11. Research: Is there a programme of management-orientated survey and research work?	3	0: There is no survey or research work taking place in the protected area 1: There is a small amount of survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of protected area management 2: There is considerable survey and research work but it
Comments and Next Steps		
12. Resource management: Is active resource management being undertaken?	3	0: Active resource management is not being undertaken 1: Very few of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values are being implemented 2: Many of the requirements for active management

		o
Comments and Next Steps		
13. Staff numbers: Are there enough people employed to manage the protected area?	3	0: There are no staff 1: Staff numbers are inadequate for critical management activities 2: Staff numbers are below optimum level for critical management activities 3: Staff numbers are adequate for the management needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps		
14. Staff training: Are staff adequately trained to fulfill management objectives?	3	0: Staff lack the skills needed for protected area management 1: Staff training and skills are low relative to the needs of the protected area 2: Staff training and skills are adequate, but could be further improved to fully achieve the objectives of mana
Comments and Next Steps		
15. Current budget: Is the current budget sufficient?	2	0: There is no budget for management of the protected area 1: The available budget is inadequate for basic management needs and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage 2: The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to
Comments and Next Steps		
16. Security of budget: Is the budget secure?	2	0: There is no secure budget for the protected area and management is wholly reliant on outside or highly variable funding 1: There is very little secure budget and the protected area could not function adequately without outside funding 2: There is a
Comments and Next Steps		
17. Management of budget: Is the budget managed to meet critical management needs?	2	0: Budget management is very poor and significantly undermines effectiveness (e.g. late release of budget in financial year) 1: Budget management is poor and constrains effectiveness 2: Budget management is adequate but could be improved 3: Budget managem
Comments and Next Steps		
18. Equipment: Is equipment sufficient for management needs?	2	0: There are little or no equipment and facilities for management needs 1: There are some equipment and facilities but these are inadequate for most management needs 2: There are equipment and facilities, but still some gaps that constrain management 3: T
Comments and Next Steps		
19. Maintenance of equipment: Is equipment adequately maintained?	3	0: There is little or no maintenance of equipment and facilities 1: There is some ad hoc maintenance of equipment and facilities 2: There is basic maintenance of equipment and facilities

		3: Equipment and facilities are well maintained
Comments and Next Steps		
20. Education and awareness: Is there a planned education programme linked to the objectives and needs?	3	0: There is no education and awareness programme 1: There is a limited and ad hoc education and awareness programme 2: There is an education and awareness programme but it only partly meets needs and could be improved 3: There is an appropriate and fully
Comments and Next Steps		
21. Planning for land and water use: Does land and water use planning recognise the protected area and aid the achievement of objectives?	3	0: Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the needs of the protected area and activities/policies are detrimental to the survival of the area 1: Adjacent land and water use planning does not takes into account the long term need
Comments and Next Steps		
21a. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Planning and management in the catchment or landscape containing the protected area incorporates provision for adequate environmental conditions (e.g. volume, quality and timing of water flow, air pol	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
21b. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Management of corridors linking the protected area provides for wildlife passage to key habitats outside the protected area (e.g. to allow migratory fish to travel between freshwater spawning sites an	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
21c. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: "Planning adresses ecosystem-specific needs and/or the needs of particular species of concern at an ecosystem scale (e.g. volume, quality and timing of freshwater flow to sustain particular species,	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
22. State and commercial neighbours:Is there co-operation with adjacent land and water users?	3	0: There is no contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users 1: There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users but little or no cooperation 2: There is contact between m
Comments and Next Steps		
23. Indigenous people: Do indigenous and traditional peoples resident or regularly using the protected area have input to management decisions?	2	0: Indigenous and traditional peoples have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Indigenous and traditional peoples have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Indigenou

Comments and Next Steps		
24. Local communities: Do local communities resident or near the protected area have input to management decisions?	2	0: Local communities have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Local communities have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Local communities directly contribute to so
Comments and Next Steps		
24 a. Impact on communities: There is open communication and trust between local and/or indigenous people, stakeholders and protected area managers	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
24 b. Impact on communities: Programmes to enhance community welfare, while conserving protected area resources, are being implemented	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
24 c. Impact on communities: Local and/or indigenous people actively support the protected area	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
25. Economic benefit: Is the protected area providing economic benefits to local communities, e.g. income, employment, payment for environmental services?	2	0: The protected area does not deliver any economic benefits to local communities 1: Potential economic benefits are recognised and plans to realise these are being developed 2: There is some flow of economic benefits to local communities 3: There is a
Comments and Next Steps		
26. Monitoring and evaluation: Are management activities monitored against performance?	2	0: There is no monitoring and evaluation in the protected area 1: There is some ad hoc monitoring and evaluation, but no overall strategy and/or no regular collection of results 2: There is an agreed and implemented monitoring and evaluation system but re
Comments and Next Steps		
27. Visitor facilities: Are visitor facilities adequate?	3	0: There are no visitor facilities and services despite an identified need 1: Visitor facilities and services are inappropriate for current levels of visitation 2: Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation but could be
Comments and Next Steps		
28. Commercial tourism operators: Do commercial tour operators contribute to protected area management?	3	0: There is little or no contact between managers and tourism operators using the protected area 1: There is contact between managers and tourism operators but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters 2: There is limited co-operati
Comments and Next Steps		
29. Fees: If fees (i.e. entry fees or fines) are applied, do they help protected area management?	2	0: Although fees are theoretically applied, they are not collected 1: Fees are collected, but make no contribution to the protected area or its environs 2: Fees are collected, and make some contribution to the protected area and its environs

		3: Fees are c
Comments and Next Steps		
30. Condition of values: What is the condition of the important values of the protected area as compared to when it was first designated?	2	0: Many important biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 1: Some biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 2: Some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded b
Comments and Next Steps		
30a: Condition of values: The assessment of the condition of values is based on research and/or monitoring	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
30b: Condition of values Specific management programmes are being implemented to address threats to biodiversity, ecological and cultural values	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
30c: Condition of values: Activities to maintain key biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are a routine part of park management	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
TOTAL SCORE	**90**	**Pls add up numbers from assessment form (questions 1 to 30)**
Data Sheet 1: Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites	**Please indicate your answer here**	**Notes**
Name, affiliation and contact details for person responsible for completing the METT (email etc.)	A. Artushevsky, Polesie Project manager , artushevsky@bk.ru	
Date assessment carried out	February 1, 2012	Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
Name of protected area	**Landscape Reserve "Zvanetsi"**	
WDPA site code (these codes can be found on www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)		
Designations(please choose 1-3)	3	1: National 2: IUCN Category 3: International (please complete lines 35-69 as necessary)
Country	Belarus	
Location of protected area (province and if possible map reference)	Brest region	
Date of establishment	April 11, 1996	
Ownership details (please choose 1-4)	1	1: State 2: Private 3: Community 4: Other

Management Authority	Reserve Management Units “Zvanets reserve"	
Size of protected area (ha)	16,227	
Number of Permanent staff	4	
Number of Temporary staff	-	
Annual budget (US$) for recurrent (operational) funds – excluding staff salary costs	1,500	
Annual budget (US$) for project or other supplementary funds – excluding staff salary costs	3,000	
What are the main values for which the area is designated	Largest sedge fens of Belarus and Europe	
List the two primary protected area management objectives in below:		
Management objective 1	Establishment an optimal sustainable hydrological regime for the Zvanets fen mire as a key habitat of the globally threatened aquatic warbler	
Management objective 2	To develop and implement measures to control vegetation over the mire prevent further scrub encroachment.	
No. of people involved in completing assessment	3	
Including: (please choose 1-8)	1	1: PA manager 2: PA staff 3: Other PA agency staff 4: Donors 5: NGOs
Information on International Designations		
UNESCO World Heritage site (see: whc.unesco.org/en/list)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		(i.e. criteria i to x)
Statement of Outstanding Universal Value		
Ramsar site (see: www.wetlands.org/RSDB/)		
Date Listed	October 21, 2002	
Site name	Zvanets	
Site area	16,227	

Geographical number	3BY007	
Reason for Designation (see Ramsar Information Sheet)		
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves (see: www.unesco.org/mab/wnbrs.shtml)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		Total, Core, Buffe, and Transition
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		
Fulfilment of three functions of MAB		conservation, development and logistic support
Please list other designations (i.e. ASEAN Heritage, Natura 2000) and any supporting information below		
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail

Data Sheet 2: Protected Areas Threats		
Please choose all relevant existing threats as either of high, medium or low significance. Threats ranked as of high significance are those which are seriously degrading values; medium are those threats having some negative impact and those characterised		
1. Residential and commercial development within a protected area		
Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint		
1.1 Housing and settlement	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2. Agriculture and aquaculture within a protected area		
Threats from farming and grazing as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture		

2.1 Annual and perennial non-timber crop cultivation	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.1a Drug cultivation	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.2 Wood and pulp plantations	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.3 Livestock farming and grazing	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1		
Threats from production of non-biological resources		
3.1 Oil and gas drilling	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3.2 Mining and quarrying	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3.3 Energy generation, including from hydropower dams	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4. Transportation and service corridors within a protected area		
Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them including associated wildlife mortality		
4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines,)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.3 Shipping lanes and canals	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.4 Flight paths	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5. Biological resource use and harm within a protected area		
Threats from consumptive use of "wild" biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species (note this includes hunting and killing of animals)		

5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.3 Logging and wood harvesting	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.4 Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6. Human intrusions and disturbance within a protected area		
Threats from human activities that alter, destroy or disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources		
6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in protected areas	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.4 Activities of protected area managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use, artificial watering points and dams)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7. Natural system modifications		
Threats from other actions that convert or degrade habitat or change the way the ecosystem functions		
7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3a Increased fragmentation within protected area	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8. Invasive and other problematic species and genes		
Threats from terrestrial and aquatic non-native and native plants, animals, pathogens/microbes or genetic materials that have or are predicted to have harmful effects on biodiversity following introduction, spread and/or increase		
8.1 Invasive non-native/alien plants (weeds)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.1a Invasive non-native/alien animals	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.1b Pathogens (non-native or native but creating new/increased problems)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.2 Introduced genetic material (e.g. genetically modified organisms)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9. Pollution entering or generated within protected area		
Threats from introduction of exotic and/or excess materials or energy from point and non-point sources		
9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.1a Sewage and waste water from protected area facilities (e.g. toilets, hotels etc)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents and discharges (e.g. poor water quality discharge from dams, e.g. unnatural temperatures, de-oxygenated, other pollution)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.3 Agricultural and forestry effluents (e.g. excess fertilizers or pesticides)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.4 Garbage and solid waste	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.5 Air-borne pollutants	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

10. Geological events		
Geological events may be part of natural disturbance regimes in many ecosystems. But they can be a threat if a species or habitat is damaged and has lost its resilience and is vulnerable to disturbance. Management capacity to respond to some of these chan		
10.1 Volcanoes	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.3 Avalanches/ Landslides	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.4 Erosion and siltation/ deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11. Climate change and severe weather		
Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events outside of the natural range of variation		
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.2 Droughts	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.3 Temperature extremes	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.4 Storms and flooding	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12. Specific cultural and social threats		
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

Assessment Form		
1. Legal status: Does the protected area have legal status (or in the case of private reserves is covered by a covenant or similar)?	3	0: The protected area is not gazetted/covenanted 1: There is agreement that the protected area should be gazetted/covenanted but the process has not yet begun 2: The protected area is
Comments and Next Steps		
2. Protected area regulations: Are appropriate regulations in place to control land use and activities (e.g. hunting)?	3	0: There are no regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area 1: Some regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area exist but these are major weaknesses 2: Regulations for controlling land use and a
Comments and Next Steps		
3. Law Enforcement: Can staff (i.e. those with responsibility for managing the site) enforce protected area rules well enough?	2	0: The staff have no effective capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations 1: There are major deficiencies in staff capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations (e.g. lack of skills, no patrol budg
Comments and Next Steps		
4. Protected area objectives: Is management undertaken according to agreed objectives?	2	0: No firm objectives have been agreed for the protected area 1: The protected area has agreed objectives, but is not managed according to these objectives 2: The protected area has agreed objectives, but is only partially managed according to these obje
Comments and Next Steps		
5. Protected area design: Is the protected area the right size and shape to protect species, habitats, ecological processes and water catchments of key conservation concern?	3	0: Inadequacies in protected area design mean achieving the major objectives of the protected area is very difficult 1: Inadequacies in protected area design mean that achievement of major objectives is difficult but some mitigating actions are being take
Comments and Next Steps		
6. Protected area boundary demarcation: Is the boundary known and demarcated?	3	0: The boundary of the protected area is not known by the management authority or local residents/neighbouring land users 1: The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority but is not known by local residents/neighbouring land user
Comments and Next Steps		
7. Management plan: Is there a management plan and is it being implemented?	2	0: There is no management plan for the protected area 1: A management plan is being prepared or has been prepared but is not being implemented 2: A management plan exists but it is only being partially implemented because of funding constraints or other p

Comments and Next Steps		
7.a Planning process: The planning process allows adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence the management plan	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
7.b Planning process: There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
7.c Planning process: The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
8. Regular work plan: Is there a regular work plan and is it being implemented	1	0: No regular work plan exists 1: A regular work plan exists but few of the activities are implemented 2: A regular work plan exists and many activities are implemented 3: A regular work plan exists and all activities are implemented
Comments and Next Steps		
9. Resource inventory: Do you have enough information to manage the area?	3	0: There is little or no information available on the critical habitats, species and cultural values of the protected area 1: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is not sufficient
Comments and Next Steps		
10. Protection systems: Are systems in place to control access/resource use in the protected area?	2	0: Protection systems (patrols, permits etc) do not exist or are not effective in controlling access/resource use 1: Protection systems are only partially effective in controlling access/resource use 2: Protection systems are moderately effective in contr
Comments and Next Steps		
11. Research: Is there a programme of management-orientated survey and research work?	3	0: There is no survey or research work taking place in the protected area 1: There is a small amount of survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of protected area management 2: There is considerable survey and research work but it
Comments and Next Steps		
12. Resource management: Is active resource management being undertaken?	2	0: Active resource management is not being undertaken 1: Very few of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values are being implemented 2: Many of the requirements for active management o
Comments and Next Steps		
13. Staff numbers: Are there enough people employed to manage the protected area?	2	0: There are no staff 1: Staff numbers are inadequate for critical management activities 2: Staff numbers are below optimum level for critical management activities 3: Staff numbers are adequate for the management

		needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps		
14. Staff training: Are staff adequately trained to fulfill management objectives?	2	0: Staff lack the skills needed for protected area management 1: Staff training and skills are low relative to the needs of the protected area 2: Staff training and skills are adequate, but could be further improved to fully achieve the objectives of mana
Comments and Next Steps		
15. Current budget: Is the current budget sufficient?	2	0: There is no budget for management of the protected area 1: The available budget is inadequate for basic management needs and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage 2: The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to
Comments and Next Steps		
16. Security of budget: Is the budget secure?	2	0: There is no secure budget for the protected area and management is wholly reliant on outside or highly variable funding 1: There is very little secure budget and the protected area could not function adequately without outside funding 2: There is a
Comments and Next Steps		
17. Management of budget: Is the budget managed to meet critical management needs?	2	0: Budget management is very poor and significantly undermines effectiveness (e.g. late release of budget in financial year) 1: Budget management is poor and constrains effectiveness 2: Budget management is adequate but could be improved 3: Budget managem
Comments and Next Steps		
18. Equipment: Is equipment sufficient for management needs?	2	0: There are little or no equipment and facilities for management needs 1: There are some equipment and facilities but these are inadequate for most management needs 2: There are equipment and facilities, but still some gaps that constrain management 3: T
Comments and Next Steps		
19. Maintenance of equipment: Is equipment adequately maintained?	2	0: There is little or no maintenance of equipment and facilities 1: There is some ad hoc maintenance of equipment and facilities 2: There is basic maintenance of equipment and facilities 3: Equipment and facilities are well maintained
Comments and Next Steps		
20. Education and awareness: Is there a planned education programme linked to the objectives and needs?	2	0: There is no education and awareness programme 1: There is a limited and ad hoc education and awareness programme 2: There is an education and awareness programme but it only partly meets needs and could be improved

		3: There is an appropriate and fully
Comments and Next Steps		
21. Planning for land and water use: Does land and water use planning recognise the protected area and aid the achievement of objectives?	2	0: Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the needs of the protected area and activities/policies are detrimental to the survival of the area 1: Adjacent land and water use planning does not takes into account the long term need
Comments and Next Steps		
21a. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Planning and management in the catchment or landscape containing the protected area incorporates provision for adequate environmental conditions (e.g. volume, quality and timing of water flow, air pol	-	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
21b. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Management of corridors linking the protected area provides for wildlife passage to key habitats outside the protected area (e.g. to allow migratory fish to travel between freshwater spawning sites an	-	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
21c. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: "Planning adresses ecosystem-specific needs and/or the needs of particular species of concern at an ecosystem scale (e.g. volume, quality and timing of freshwater flow to sustain particular species,	-	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
22. State and commercial neighbours:Is there co-operation with adjacent land and water users?	3	0: There is no contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users 1: There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users but little or no cooperation 2: There is contact between m
Comments and Next Steps		
23. Indigenous people: Do indigenous and traditional peoples resident or regularly using the protected area have input to management decisions?	2	0: Indigenous and traditional peoples have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Indigenous and traditional peoples have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Indigenou
Comments and Next Steps		
24. Local communities: Do local communities resident or near the protected area have input to management decisions?	2	0: Local communities have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Local communities have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Local communities directly contribute to so

Comments and Next Steps		
24 a. Impact on communities: There is open communication and trust between local and/or indigenous people, stakeholders and protected area managers	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
24 b. Impact on communities: Programmes to enhance community welfare, while conserving protected area resources, are being implemented	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
24 c. Impact on communities: Local and/or indigenous people actively support the protected area	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
25. Economic benefit: Is the protected area providing economic benefits to local communities, e.g. income, employment, payment for environmental services?	2	0: The protected area does not deliver any economic benefits to local communities 1: Potential economic benefits are recognised and plans to realise these are being developed 2: There is some flow of economic benefits to local communities 3: There is a
Comments and Next Steps		
26. Monitoring and evaluation: Are management activities monitored against performance?	2	0: There is no monitoring and evaluation in the protected area 1: There is some ad hoc monitoring and evaluation, but no overall strategy and/or no regular collection of results 2: There is an agreed and implemented monitoring and evaluation system but re
Comments and Next Steps		
27. Visitor facilities: Are visitor facilities adequate?	3	0: There are no visitor facilities and services despite an identified need 1: Visitor facilities and services are inappropriate for current levels of visitation 2: Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation but could be
Comments and Next Steps		
28. Commercial tourism operators: Do commercial tour operators contribute to protected area management?	2	0: There is little or no contact between managers and tourism operators using the protected area 1: There is contact between managers and tourism operators but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters 2: There is limited co-operati
Comments and Next Steps		
29. Fees: If fees (i.e. entry fees or fines) are applied, do they help protected area management?	2	0: Although fees are theoretically applied, they are not collected 1: Fees are collected, but make no contribution to the protected area or its environs 2: Fees are collected, and make some contribution to the protected area and its environs 3: Fees are c
Comments and Next Steps		

30. Condition of values: What is the condition of the important values of the protected area as compared to when it was first designated?	2	0: Many important biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 1: Some biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 2: Some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded b
Comments and Next Steps		
30a: Condition of values: The assessment of the condition of values is based on research and/or monitoring	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
30b: Condition of values Specific management programmes are being implemented to address threats to biodiversity, ecological and cultural values	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
30c: Condition of values: Activities to maintain key biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are a routine part of park management	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
TOTAL SCORE	**76**	**Pls add up numbers from assessment form (questions 1 to 30)**
Data Sheet 1: Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites	**Please indicate your answer here**	**Notes**
Name, affiliation and contact details for person responsible for completing the METT (email etc.)	A. Artushevsky, Polesie Project manager , artushevsky@bk.ru	
Date assessment carried out	February 1, 2012	Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
Name of protected area	**Landscape Reserve "Prostyr"**	
WDPA site code (these codes can be found on www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)		
Designations(please choose 1-3)	3	1: National 2: IUCN Category 3: International (please complete lines 35-69 as necessary)
Country	Belarus	
Location of protected area (province and if possible map reference)	Brest region	
Date of establishment	February 28, 1994	
Ownership details (please choose 1-4)	1	1: State 2: Private 3: Community 4: Other
Management Authority	Reserve Management Units “Prostyr reserve"	
Size of protected area (ha)	9,445	
Number of Permanent staff	Staff is common with Mid Prypiat reserve	
Number of Temporary staff	-	

Annual budget (US$) for recurrent (operational) funds – excluding staff salary costs	is common with Mid Pripyat reserve	
Annual budget (US$) for project or other supplementary funds – excluding staff salary costs	is common with Mid Pripyat reserve	
What are the main values for which the area is designated	Established on the European largest natural river flood bed with its typical sceneries.	
List the two primary protected area management objectives in below:		
Management objective 1	To organize sustainable haymaking and livestock pasture to present overgrowth of meadows with bush.	
Management objective 2	To have inventory of biodiversity; to develop and use in economic activities recommendations for conservation of rare flow and fauns species habitats	
No. of people involved in completing assessment	3	
Including: (please choose 1-8)	1	1: PA manager 2: PA staff 3: Other PA agency staff 4: Donors 5: NGOs

Information on International Designations		
UNESCO World Heritage site (see: whc.unesco.org/en/list)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		(i.e. criteria i to x)
Statement of Outstanding Universal Value		
Ramsar site (see: www.wetlands.org/RSDB/)		
Date Listed	November 18, 2005	
Site name	Prostyr	
Site area	9,445	

Geographical number	3BY008	
Reason for Designation (see Ramsar Information Sheet)		
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves (see: www.unesco.org/mab/wnbrs.shtml)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		Total, Core, Buffe, and Transition
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		
Fulfilment of three functions of MAB		conservation, development and logistic support
Please list other designations (i.e. ASEAN Heritage, Natura 2000) and any supporting information below		
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail

Data Sheet 2: Protected Areas Threats		
Please choose all relevant existing threats as either of high, medium or low significance. Threats ranked as of high significance are those which are seriously degrading values; medium are those threats having some negative impact and those characterised		
1. Residential and commercial development within a protected area		
Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint		
1.1 Housing and settlement	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2. Agriculture and aquaculture within a protected area		
Threats from farming and grazing as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture		

2.1 Annual and perennial non-timber crop cultivation	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.1a Drug cultivation	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.2 Wood and pulp plantations	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.3 Livestock farming and grazing	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1		
Threats from production of non-biological resources		
3.1 Oil and gas drilling	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3.2 Mining and quarrying	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3.3 Energy generation, including from hydropower dams	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4. Transportation and service corridors within a protected area		
Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them including associated wildlife mortality		
4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines,)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.3 Shipping lanes and canals	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.4 Flight paths	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5. Biological resource use and harm within a protected area		
Threats from consumptive use of "wild" biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species (note this includes hunting and killing of animals)		

5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
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6. Human intrusions and disturbance within a protected area		
Threats from human activities that alter, destroy or disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources		
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6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in protected areas	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.4 Activities of protected area managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use, artificial watering points and dams)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7. Natural system modifications		
Threats from other actions that convert or degrade habitat or change the way the ecosystem functions		
7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3a Increased fragmentation within protected area	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
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8.1 Invasive non-native/alien plants (weeds)	-	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
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Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events outside of the natural range of variation		
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Comments and Next Steps		
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Comments and Next Steps		
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Comments and Next Steps		
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Comments and Next Steps		
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Comments and Next Steps		
7. Management plan: Is there a management plan and is it being implemented?	3	0: There is no management plan for the protected area 1: A management plan is being prepared or has been prepared but is not being implemented 2: A management plan exists but it is only being partially implemented because of funding constraints or other p

Comments and Next Steps		
7.a Planning process: The planning process allows adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence the management plan	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
7.b Planning process: There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
7.c Planning process: The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
8. Regular work plan: Is there a regular work plan and is it being implemented	2	0: No regular work plan exists 1: A regular work plan exists but few of the activities are implemented 2: A regular work plan exists and many activities are implemented 3: A regular work plan exists and all activities are implemented
Comments and Next Steps		
9. Resource inventory: Do you have enough information to manage the area?	3	0: There is little or no information available on the critical habitats, species and cultural values of the protected area 1: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is not sufficient
Comments and Next Steps		
10. Protection systems: Are systems in place to control access/resource use in the protected area?	3	0: Protection systems (patrols, permits etc) do not exist or are not effective in controlling access/resource use 1: Protection systems are only partially effective in controlling access/resource use 2: Protection systems are moderately effective in contr
Comments and Next Steps		
11. Research: Is there a programme of management-orientated survey and research work?	3	0: There is no survey or research work taking place in the protected area 1: There is a small amount of survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of protected area management 2: There is considerable survey and research work but it
Comments and Next Steps		
12. Resource management: Is active resource management being undertaken?	2	0: Active resource management is not being undertaken 1: Very few of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values are being implemented 2: Many of the requirements for active management o
Comments and Next Steps		
13. Staff numbers: Are there enough people employed to manage the protected area?	2	0: There are no staff 1: Staff numbers are inadequate for critical management activities 2: Staff numbers are below optimum level for critical management activities 3: Staff numbers are adequate for the management

		needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps		
14. Staff training: Are staff adequately trained to fulfill management objectives?	2	0: Staff lack the skills needed for protected area management 1: Staff training and skills are low relative to the needs of the protected area 2: Staff training and skills are adequate, but could be further improved to fully achieve the objectives of mana
Comments and Next Steps		
15. Current budget: Is the current budget sufficient?	2	0: There is no budget for management of the protected area 1: The available budget is inadequate for basic management needs and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage 2: The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to
Comments and Next Steps		
16. Security of budget: Is the budget secure?	2	0: There is no secure budget for the protected area and management is wholly reliant on outside or highly variable funding 1: There is very little secure budget and the protected area could not function adequately without outside funding 2: There is a
Comments and Next Steps		
17. Management of budget: Is the budget managed to meet critical management needs?	2	0: Budget management is very poor and significantly undermines effectiveness (e.g. late release of budget in financial year) 1: Budget management is poor and constrains effectiveness 2: Budget management is adequate but could be improved 3: Budget managem
Comments and Next Steps		
18. Equipment: Is equipment sufficient for management needs?	2	0: There are little or no equipment and facilities for management needs 1: There are some equipment and facilities but these are inadequate for most management needs 2: There are equipment and facilities, but still some gaps that constrain management 3: T
Comments and Next Steps		
19. Maintenance of equipment: Is equipment adequately maintained?	2	0: There is little or no maintenance of equipment and facilities 1: There is some ad hoc maintenance of equipment and facilities 2: There is basic maintenance of equipment and facilities 3: Equipment and facilities are well maintained
Comments and Next Steps		
20. Education and awareness: Is there a planned education programme linked to the objectives and needs?	1	0: There is no education and awareness programme 1: There is a limited and ad hoc education and awareness programme 2: There is an education and awareness programme but it only partly meets needs and could be improved

		3: There is an appropriate and fully
Comments and Next Steps		
21. Planning for land and water use: Does land and water use planning recognise the protected area and aid the achievement of objectives?	3	0: Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the needs of the protected area and activities/policies are detrimental to the survival of the area 1: Adjacent land and water use planning does not takes into account the long term need
Comments and Next Steps		
21a. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Planning and management in the catchment or landscape containing the protected area incorporates provision for adequate environmental conditions (e.g. volume, quality and timing of water flow, air pol	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
21b. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Management of corridors linking the protected area provides for wildlife passage to key habitats outside the protected area (e.g. to allow migratory fish to travel between freshwater spawning sites an	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
21c. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: "Planning adresses ecosystem-specific needs and/or the needs of particular species of concern at an ecosystem scale (e.g. volume, quality and timing of freshwater flow to sustain particular species,	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
22. State and commercial neighbours:Is there co-operation with adjacent land and water users?	3	0: There is no contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users 1: There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users but little or no cooperation 2: There is contact between m
Comments and Next Steps		
23. Indigenous people: Do indigenous and traditional peoples resident or regularly using the protected area have input to management decisions?	1	0: Indigenous and traditional peoples have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Indigenous and traditional peoples have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Indigenou
Comments and Next Steps		
24. Local communities: Do local communities resident or near the protected area have input to management decisions?	2	0: Local communities have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Local communities have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Local communities directly contribute to so

Comments and Next Steps		
24 a. Impact on communities: There is open communication and trust between local and/or indigenous people, stakeholders and protected area managers	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
24 b. Impact on communities: Programmes to enhance community welfare, while conserving protected area resources, are being implemented	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
24 c. Impact on communities: Local and/or indigenous people actively support the protected area	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
25. Economic benefit: Is the protected area providing economic benefits to local communities, e.g. income, employment, payment for environmental services?	2	0: The protected area does not deliver any economic benefits to local communities 1: Potential economic benefits are recognised and plans to realise these are being developed 2: There is some flow of economic benefits to local communities 3: There is a
Comments and Next Steps		
26. Monitoring and evaluation: Are management activities monitored against performance?	3	0: There is no monitoring and evaluation in the protected area 1: There is some ad hoc monitoring and evaluation, but no overall strategy and/or no regular collection of results 2: There is an agreed and implemented monitoring and evaluation system but re
Comments and Next Steps		
27. Visitor facilities: Are visitor facilities adequate?	1	0: There are no visitor facilities and services despite an identified need 1: Visitor facilities and services are inappropriate for current levels of visitation 2: Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation but could be
Comments and Next Steps		
28. Commercial tourism operators: Do commercial tour operators contribute to protected area management?	2	0: There is little or no contact between managers and tourism operators using the protected area 1: There is contact between managers and tourism operators but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters 2: There is limited co-operati
Comments and Next Steps		
29. Fees: If fees (i.e. entry fees or fines) are applied, do they help protected area management?	2	0: Although fees are theoretically applied, they are not collected 1: Fees are collected, but make no contribution to the protected area or its environs 2: Fees are collected, and make some contribution to the protected area and its environs 3: Fees are c
Comments and Next Steps		

30. Condition of values: What is the condition of the important values of the protected area as compared to when it was first designated?	3	0: Many important biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 1: Some biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 2: Some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded b
Comments and Next Steps		
30a: Condition of values: The assessment of the condition of values is based on research and/or monitoring	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
30b: Condition of values Specific management programmes are being implemented to address threats to biodiversity, ecological and cultural values	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
30c: Condition of values: Activities to maintain key biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are a routine part of park management	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
TOTAL SCORE	**81**	**Pls add up numbers from assessment form (questions 1 to 30)**

Annex 7 Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form

Evaluators:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and: respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System

Name of Consultant	Stuart Williams
Name of Consultancy Organization (if relevant	-

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at: Kampala, Uganda On: 30 January 2012

Signature 

Name of Consultant	Sergei Gotin
Name of Consultancy Organization (if relevant	N/A

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at: Minsk, Belarus On: 30 January 2012

Signature