

# INTEGRATING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INTO BULGARIA'S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

## WORKING TITLE: RIO CONVENTIONS PROJECT

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project **Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Process** is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW) and the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW), financed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The project will support the integration of three UN conventions – UN Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), or otherwise known as the Rio Conventions - into regional development and spatial planning processes in Bulgaria.

### OBJECTIVES

The project objective is to build capacities of MRDPW and MoEW for mainstreaming global environment into the formulation and implementation of regional and local development and spatial planning policies.

### BENEFITS

- Practical skills necessary for effective mainstreaming of global environmental issues into regional development policies acquired by key official at MRDPW and MoEW.
- Appropriate systems of training, mentoring, and learning are in place to maintain a continuous skills upgrade of employees at state institutions, municipalities, district administrations and other experts.
- A comprehensive set of indicators that can be used to assess impact of development and spatial planning at regional, district and municipal levels on the achievement of three Conventions' objectives.
- Institutions have the information they need to develop, implement and monitor regional development strategies/ plans that integrate global environment issues.
- Established models for update of regional development and spatial planning documents.

### PROJECT STATUS IN 2007

- Inception Workshop, Sofia, 21 February, 2007
- Project web site developed and launched on 30 June, 2007
- 1st Project Implementation Review completed by 30 June, 2007
- Central European University contracted for the development of a training program, 27 July, 2007
- Sofia University contracted for the development of training program, 5 October, 2007
- Training needs survey conducted among 60 public officials from MRDPW, MoEW, district and local administrations, September – October, 2007
- A Study Trip to Cornwall, UK successfully conducted in the period 5-9 November, 2007
- National data sources and GIS best practices relevant to the implementation of the Rio Conventions reviewed, 15 December, 2007.

## FORTHCOMING PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN 2008

- 1st project Advisory Board Meeting held, 29 Feb, 2008
- Consultation seminar on the indicators for regional development held in April, 2008
- Development of a Training Program for public officials from MRDPW and MoEW, April-June, 2008
- Workshop Public Private Partnerships for Sustainable Utilization of EU Funds, June, 2008
- Pilot testing of the Training Program, April-June, 2008
- 2nd Project Implementation Review completed, 30 June 2008
- Review of job descriptions and staff evaluation at the MRDPW, July, 2008
- Methodology for integration of global environmental concerns into regional development and municipal plans, September, 2008
- Establishment of an inter-ministerial Task Force on cross-sector integration of global environmental concerns, September, 2008
- Guidelines for public participation in the update of regional development and spatial plans, October, 2008
- Guidelines on Indicators Use in Regional Development and Municipal Planning, November, 2008
- Midterm Evaluation Review successfully completed, 30 November, 2008.

### PROGRAMME AREA

Energy & Environment

### PROJECT NUMBER

00051783

### DURATION

November 2006 – October 2010

### IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

Ministry of Regional Development  
and Public Works

### PARTNERS

Ministry of Environment and Waters

### BUDGET

USD 499,000, GEF  
USD 1,029,000, Government of Bulgaria

### DONORS

Global Environment Facility

### CONTACT DETAILS

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