1. **Basic Information**

1.1 CRIS Number: BG 2005/017-455.01.02

1.2 Title: Sustainable Development in the Bulgarian-Romanian Border Region

1.3 Sectors: 25010: Economic and Social Development & Environment

1.4 Location: Bulgarian-Romanian Border Region

1.5 Duration 18 months

2. **Objectives**

2.1 Overall Objective

Promotion of sustainable development of the cross-border region through effective use of the economic potential in synergy with friendly and appropriate use of the natural resources and preservation of the biodiversity.

2.2 Project purpose

To achieve economic and social cohesion by promoting the competitiveness in the eligible area as well as to improve and protect the environment well-being of the eligible region through coordinated environmentally friendly joint actions.

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority

With reference to the Accession Partnership, this project aims to support an integrated approach for addressing regional disparities in the border region. By strengthening and development of joint initiatives across the border, the project stimulates real cross-border co-operation in the regions, seen as one single unit.

The project falls to a different extent within several NPAA priorities:

Chapter 16: Small and medium-sized enterprises

Chapter 17: Science and research

Chapter 18: Education and training

Chapter 21: Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments

Chapter 22: Environment

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan

The Bulgarian Government has planned to actively support and complement the EC initiatives and programmes for cross-border cooperation, while seeking to incorporate the latter into the national framework for regional development planning and programming. The NEDP aims at achieving sustainable development of the entire border region rather than of some individual border areas. The main goal pursued under the above mentioned priority area refers to opening up new horizons, fostering the socio-economic development of the border areas and gradually overcoming the problems resulting from their isolated position at the country’s periphery.
The project will contribute for the achievement of the following objectives goals identified in the NDP:

- Attainment of balanced and sustainable development of Bulgaria’s regions;
- Establishment of appropriate environment for economic growth and high employment on the basis of a more efficient use of the regions’ development potential;
- Strengthening the socio-economic cohesion of the regions in the process of the country’s European integration.

It also fits the following specific targets of the NDP:

- Draw the map of the future development of tourism in the country with the aim to popularise and better utilise the country’s rich nature resources and cultural and historic heritage, particularly in the countryside;
- Preserve, strengthen and restore key eco-systems, habitats, species and their genetic resources.
- Set up conditions for sustainable exploitation of biological resources.
- Improve the condition of forests.
- Conservation of the environment in areas of intensive tourism.
- Integrating the principles of sustainable development into the production landscape and the evolving market economy.

CBC regions, part of which is the area of the project, are treated in the NDP as a high priority target. The proposed project fully complies with the objectives defined in the NDP, which classifies CBC regions in a separate target group.

2.5 Cross Border Impact

The project sets out the necessary background for effective cross-border cooperation and efficient absorption of the EC-funds in compliance with the measures under Priority 2 Economic Development and Priority 3 Environmental protection and management of the BG-RO Joint Programming Document (JPD) Phare CBC 2003-2006, namely Measure 2.1: Business co-operation and business infrastructure development including business information and SME marketing actions and tourism activities, Measure 3.1: Nature protection management, and Measure 3.2: Flood management and erosion control. These measures aim both to create opportunities stimulating the economic development in the peripheral border region and to promote protection, management and sustainable use of natural resources across the border, and better the co-ordination of the relevant institutions.

Measure 3.1 focuses on biodiversity conservation including conservation of genetic resources in the border region, habitat & landscape protection, establishment of trans-boundary eco-corridors, shared green corridors, and management and awareness raising with regard to natural resources. That means conservation and protection of natural heritage by providing assistance to a number of sensitive areas of considerable environmental value, particular in the ecosystem along the Danube. It encompass also cross border activities for the development and upgrading of special protected areas (nature parks, etc.), special areas of conservation, proposed sites of Community importance in fields of planning, management, visitor information systems, exchange programmes, development of information systems, implementation of public private partnerships in nature protection (in compliance with requirements of NATURA 2000 EU network, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Bird Directive 79/409/EEC).
The project is a mirror one to large part of the Romanian multi-annual grant scheme for 2005 that covers Priorities 2 and 3 of the JPD 2003-2006.

3. **Description**

3.1 Background and justification:

The sustainable development implies economic growth together with the protection of environmental quality, each reinforcing the other. The essence of this form of development is a stable relationship between human activities and the natural world.

Meeting the needs of the future depends on how well balanced are the social, economic, and environmental objectives. All the possible measures undertaken should be seriously considered to bring about a society where "… environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it".

The cross-border region is rich in environmental resources notably un-spoilt countryside and rich diversity of wildlife. It is imperative that effective strategies and structures are put in place to manage these assets, an aspect that is crucial to sustainable economic success and quality of life in the eligible region. It recognises that the landscape of the region is a unique resource, in terms of the economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits and opportunities provided by it and seeks to provide for their continued enjoyment by existing and future generations.

It has exceptional biological diversity and there are a number of protected areas located in this area. These resources are not sufficiently used for the development of the tourism in the region. Due to that reason “the sparing use of these resources” is a main priority in many of the strategic documents at the regional and municipal level.

The protection of the environment is crucial to the sustainable and economic success of the eligible region. There is a need to support activities aimed at ensuring that the management and development of the region’s inland and coastal resources are carried out in an environmentally sustainable way. The priority recognises that the sea, coast and landscape are unique resources, in terms of the economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits and opportunities provided by them and seeks to provide for their continued enjoyment by existing and future generations.

Environmental protection and the preservation of natural resources are clearly fields, which are to be dealt with in an integrated way. Joint and co-ordinated actions in the border region contribute to the creation of synergetic effects in environmental protection and resource management.

The present project aims to enhance the sustainable development in the border area by using an integrated grant scheme covering two main spheres: *Economic development in the BG-RO border region* and *Nature protection management in the BG-RO border region*. The *integrated approach* is a prerequisite for ensuring sustainable development in the border area by promoting economic measures to be implemented in a friendly manner towards the rich natural biodiversity heritage, which also needs special protection and management initiatives.

This project will also follow the *priorities* identified by the project PHARE 2003/005-631.04 Promotion of Sustainable Development and Conservation of Biodiversity in Bulgarian-Romanian Cross Border Region.

3.2 Sector rationale
3.3 Results:

The overall result of the project will be a fully operational grant scheme aimed at establishment of sustainable co-operation networks between local and regional actors in the border region. The grant scheme will support joint projects in order to reach synergies in the cross-border cooperation development, thus providing for achieving the following specific results:

**Window 1 – Sustainable development, including economic development**

- Newly established cross-border networks or partnerships;
- Strategic sustainable development actions covering protected areas, buffer zones, and adjacent territories carried out;
- More harmonised training systems related to sustainable development, including economic development introduced;
- Environmental friendly / “green” technologies promoted;
- Eco- and rural tourism strategy initiatives and measures developed;
- Absorption capacity of public institutions for small-scale tourism infrastructure projects tested;
- Common tourism package/s for the area developed;
- Investment activities supervised;
- Specific equipment supplied.

**Window 2 – Biodiversity conservation**

- Intensified partner searches, development and creation of co-operation projects and networks at the environment protection and biodiversity preservation level and across enterprises;
- Joint established bodies/organisations/associations in the environmental sector;
- Institutional and human resources capacity strengthened;
- Nature/biodiversity protection investments implemented;
- Ecologically important habitats restored and corridors settled;
- Larger natural areas, groundwater tables, rivers, and wet zones protected;
- Environmental information and awareness raising programmes implemented;
- Local programmes for sustainable development and/or sustainable use of nature resources developed;
- New management and development plans prepared, existing site management plans amended, improved and implemented in line with EU requirements;
- Some pressures on natural resources, protecting biodiversity and habitats removed;
- Interdependence of conservation, environmental management, and development demonstrated;
- Investment activities supervised;
- Specific equipment supplied.

3.4 Activities:

The Grant Scheme covers two priorities set in the Joint Programming Document (JPD) 2003-2006 further developed in the Programme Complement (PC) 2005-2006: **Priority 2 Economic Development** and **Priority 3 Environmental protection and management**. For practical reasons, promotion of cooperative initiatives under Priority 2 will be accomplished by combining
measures 1 and 2 by an integrated, two-fold approach. This will be an important element in creating a joint environment attitude in the two border regions, in order to enable them to function as one single unit after the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the European Union.

The activities under the project are divided in two main windows corresponding to the two priorities. On the other hand, the windows are split in two sub-windows each of them. The sub-windows cover two main natures of interventions: a) soft measures for procurement of services to assist joint initiatives and b) investment for works, supplies and related services targeting creation/development/extension of business infrastructure and nature preservation facilities of common interest.

It is important to emphasize that the soft measures under sub-window 2.a) would be of limited amount because most of them will be defined by the project PHARE 2003/005-631.04 Promotion of Sustainable Development and Conservation of Biodiversity in Bulgarian-Romanian Cross Border Region. The results from the above project will provide the priorities for the development of this grant scheme. These priorities will be specified in details in the Guidelines for Applicants.

Window 1 – Sustainable development, including economic development

a) Business support cooperation and services
This sub-window shall provide grants for the procurement of services to assist joint working initiatives in the following eligible activities:
- Development of strategic development actions covering protected areas, buffer zones, and adjacent territories;
- Support for cross-border business events related to the sustainable development of the border area;
- Promotion of environmental friendly / “green” technologies;
- Support for the establishment of new partnerships, collaboration between research institutes or universities in the field of research and development activities;
- Development of eco- and rural tourism management strategy and related initiatives;
- Cross-border spatial planning in existing protected areas buffer zones and the adjacent territories;
- Improving the capacity of public institutions for providing small-scale tourism infrastructure projects;
- Support for cooperation in projects preparation with regard to sustainable development activities;
- Supervision of works undertaken under component b).

b) Support for development of business infrastructure, in the area where greater benefits are as a result of joint co-operation. This window shall provide grants for works and/or supplies and related services targeting creation/development/extension of business infrastructure facilities of common interest related that support the sustainable development of the border area:
- Upgrading and rehabilitation of related research, technology and development centres in the field of;
- Arrangement and upgrading of facilities and infrastructure which enable the coordinated development of cross border leisure activities including those of special interest like: cycling, walking, equestrian facilities, gardens, outdoor pursuits, water sports, inland cruising and marine and health tourism;
- Development, extension and refurbishment of existing business infrastructure facilities of clear cross-border nature that contribute to the development of new common tourist products and
related joint “green” technologies by R&D institutions and businesses in the regions on both sides of the border;
• Purchase of equipment necessary for development of new common tourist products and related joint “green” technologies by R&D institutions and businesses in the regions on both sides of the border.

Window 2 - Biodiversity conservation

a) Studies, programmes and action plans
• Promote environmental education and awareness, including preparation of public awareness and communication (in-situ and ex-situ protection);
• Support for promotion of an efficient use and wise management of the cross border area natural resources (e.g. fish production, water transportation and boat tourism), without endangering a necessary transformation of the economy of respective areas;
• Support and synergy with ecotourism initiatives;
• Support for developing methods for preserving, development and promotion of “green corridors”, stimulating the exchange of organisms (biodiversity) and creating a green infrastructure for social recreation and tourism;
• Environment protection related information and promotion campaigns;
• Strengthen institutional and human resources capacity;
• Supervision of works undertaken under component b).

b) Investment actions for development of joint initiatives.
The sub-window shall provide grants for the procurement of works, supplies and services. Eligible activities are the following:
• Conservation and sustainable development of exceptional landscapes;
• Restoration of habitats and set up of corridors without infrastructure;
• Construction or rehabilitation of buildings and other facilities directly related to biodiversity conservation;
• Construction or rehabilitation of accessibility to the objects constructed and development of appropriate environment;
• Afforestation activities;
• Creation of green and thematic eco-paths;
• Implementation of information and awareness raising campaign related to the above mentioned activities.

Eligibility and selection criteria

The following eligibility and selection criteria will be incorporated in the Guidelines for applicants:

Eligibility criteria, eligibility of area, applicants and partners

Eligible regions:
The Grant Scheme is applicable for the following cross-border districts: Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Ruse, Silistra and Dobrich.

Eligibility of applicants and partners
Organisations eligible for support will be non-profit organisations:
• public authorities in the field of economic development and environment,
• local authorities, municipalities,
• business-support and organizations for nature protection and economic/regional
development (local enterprise agencies, development agencies and chambers, NGO’s,
tourism associations) and associations;
• vocational training organisations,
• regional/local managing bodies of the protected areas and eco-networks, and others.

The project partners have to fulfill the same eligibility criteria as project applicants.

**Eligibility of projects**

**Size of projects:** The minimum grant for a single application to be contracted is **€ 50 000** while the maximum one is **€ 200 000**.

There is no limit to the overall size of the project but the grant amount cannot exceed 90% of the total project costs, respectively Phare contribution cannot exceed 75% of the grant for investment measures.

The applications should contain obligatory soft measures. If the applicants apply with proposal including both soft and investment measures the later cannot exceed 70% of the total budget.

**Duration of the project:** Activities covered under the Grant Scheme have to be in line with the national legislation and the EU requirements for Phare CBC. The maximum project duration is **18 months** (for both soft and hard measures), but the implementation of the investment activities should not exceed **12 months**.

**Co-financing:** The necessary minimum 25% co-financing of the total grant amount for investment measures will be provided from the Bulgarian national budget.

The applicants should provide minimum 10% of the total project budget as own financial contribution.

Detailed eligibility criteria for participation in the grant scheme will be given within the Guidelines for Applicants. The applicant organisations or their branches must be registered in the eligible border region.

3.5 **Linked activities**

• Phare joint project BG 2003/005-631.02 / RO 2003/005-701-05 Sustainable Economic Development of the Bulgarian-Romanian Border Region
• Phare joint project BG 2003/005-631.04 / RO PHARE 2003/005-701.04 Promotion of Sustainable Development and Conservation of Biodiversity in Bulgarian-Romanian Cross Border Region
• WWF-International Danube-Carpathian Programme: Development of GIS forestry maps of the Danube islands in Romania.
• Project preparation phase of the Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management Project (PE-P033964) supported by the World Bank.
• Phare CBC 2001 project in Environment Priority in RO Dobrogea Region (Romanian National Administration of Waters, but all activities were in line with monitoring of Black Sea water quality)
• Life Natura Project in marine domain, by Romanian Institute of Marine Research (related to Black Sea Coast)
• Romanian National Forest Administration reforested in the last 2 years, 2001-2002 approx. 1200 ha in forest domain, with own funds in all Constanta County.
• Track Tourism Development along Roussenski Lom River in Ivanovo Municipality, District of Rousse, 2001. Part of the activities directly affect the Municipality of Rousse and most of the municipalities along the Danube in East Bulgaria
• Protection and conservation of species and habitats in Bulgaria. Harmonisation with EU, financed by DANCEE, Denmark
• Biodiversity protection and economic growth, Bulgaria, financed by USAID

3.6 Lessons learned

Since the start of the Phare CBC programme between Bulgaria and Romania, this is the first time projects in the field of economic development to apply for funding. Furthermore, only stand-alone environmental projects have been financed under the programme so far.

Both Bulgarian and Romanian counterparts consider the necessity of developing a new approach to the programming and the implementation of the Phare CBC programme in its final stage 2005-2006. The use of Grant Schemes will stimulate the direct contacts between partners from each side of the border, will increase the number of proposed projects and will significantly improve their quality in terms of definite cross-border impact. The experience gained is expected to be a prerequisite basis for efficient absorption of the European Structural Funds following the expected accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union in 2007.

4. Institutional Framework

The Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works will be acting as a Contracting Authority with the overall responsibility for the programme implementation, administrative, technical and financial management of the grant scheme. MRDPW as a co-ordinator for CBC programme is obliged to monitor physical and financial implementation of this project including Phare and co-financing payments, and report to the EC in regularly reports.

The MRDPW will ensure necessary human resources for the technical management of the Grant Scheme and may delegate specific tasks to the Joint Technical Secretariat to be established.

A Joint Steering Committee for the Grant Scheme of representatives from institutions of both countries will be established as follows: two members of each Technical Advisory Group (TAG) - one Bulgarian and one Romanian - together with one representative from each central IA (Romanian and Bulgarian)

Other institutions involved in project implementation would be:
• Regional Environmental Inspectorates of cross-border districts, which have control and enforcement functions for the Protected Areas;
• Nature Park Administrations;
• Regional Agriculture and Forestry Directorates and Local State Forestry Units – committed to supplying staff for security guarding and responsible for the management of all forests on the territory of the Protected Areas.

Beneficiaries for the grant scheme are: local authorities, associations, organizations for nature protection and economic/regional development, Regional/Local Forestry Boards, different stakeholders in economic development (chambers of commerce, RDAs, etc.), regional/local managing bodies of the protected areas and eco-networks, and others.

5. Detailed Budget
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>€M</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investment Grant scheme</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investment –total</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% of total public funds</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grant scheme</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IB – total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total project 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) For investment measures a minimum 25% co-financing will be provided from the Bulgarian national budget through the Ministry of Finance

(**) Minimum 10% co-financing of the total project’s costs will be provided by the beneficiaries (not by the National Fund). The grant amount as a maximum is 90% of the total projects’ costs. The ratio between the support from Phare and national funds co-financing and beneficiaries’ contributions has to be applied to the final grant contract value.

6. **Implementation Arrangements**

6.1 Implementing Agency

The Implementing Agency will be the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
Address: 17-19 Cyril and Methodius St. 1202 Sofia
Director: Tsvetomira Lacheva – Deputy PAO
Contact Person: Hristo Medarov, Head of Phare CBC Department
Phone: +359 2 9405-237,
Fax: +359 2 987 0737
E-mail: hmedarov@mrrb.government.bg

6.2 Twinning

N/A

6.3 Non-standard aspects

There are no non-standard contracts or tender procedures envisaged within this project.

6.4 Contracts
Grant scheme 2.220 MEUR (including 1.800 EC support and 0.420 national co-financing)
Any sub-contracting will be implemented as per Practical Guide to contract procedures financed from the General Budget of the European Communities in the context of external actions.

7. Implementation Schedule

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals
January 2006

7.2 Start of project activity
August 2006

7.3 Project Completion
January 2008

8. Equal Opportunity
The project will stimulate the process building the partnership between the national, regional and local partners in terms of responsibilities taken, decision making and priorities setting and will be in no way discriminatory in terms of gender, life-style, religion or politics. It will contribute to the equal opportunities referring to gender.

9. Environment
The present project stresses on the sustainable development in the cross-border region. It will contribute to overcome specific development problems together with and the long-term biodiversity conservation and Natura 2000 site protection in the area.

Actions under this project shall in particular be coherent with the Danube Basin Flood Prevention Strategy and the draft EU Flood Prevention Strategy.

10. Rates of return
N/A

11. Investment criteria

11.1 Catalytic effect

Expected catalytic are:
- Establishment of cross-border business networks;
- Joint research, technological development and technology transfer
- Joint tourism products development and area based marketing initiatives
- Improvement of biodiversity conservation effectiveness of the region;
- Inflow of know-how through project co-operations;
- Strengthening cross-border links between institutions;
• Creation of job opportunities;
• Improving quality of life;
• Strengthening cross-sectoral environmental approaches.

11.2 Co-financing

The necessary minimum 25% co-financing of the total grant amount for investment measures will be provided from Bulgarian national resources. The applicants should provide minimum 10% of the total project budget as own financial contribution. The ratio between the Phare, the national co-financing and beneficiaries’ contribution has to be applied to the final contract price. For the Technical Assistance component of the project co-financing is not required.

11.3 ADDITIONALITY

The grants awarded under this scheme will not displace any other financial sources. Supported investments and programmes will not displace private financial sources, as they do not generate financial profit.

It is specifically noted that all grant proposals shall, wherever applicable, be required to demonstrate their additionality to the results of other related actions financed from other sources, notably earlier CBC programmes.

Also, the Managing Authority and subordinate agencies shall take particular care to ensure that all actions under this programme shall be recorded, for example in PERSEUS, in such away as to make readily identifiable the specific sub-measure and budget year under which they are contracted.

Moreover, that specific registration shall be organised in such a way as to facilitate a readily traceable connection with the results of each contract, including notably the demonstration in terms of results of the abovementioned additionality.

National co-financing may be made by contributions from National, Regional, Local, Municipal authorities, IFIs loans to public entities or funds from public enterprises. This shall not include those cases where the public organisation providing funds is also the beneficiary of the specific project concerned. This is to say that the beneficiary contribution shall be a separate – and in any case additional - amount.

11.4 PROJECT READINESS AND SIZE

The grant amount awarded to eligible projects will be between €50,000 – 200,000.

11.5 Sustainability

Long-term sustainability will be one of the selection criteria for projects. Only organizations being able to prove the sustainability of results achieved (financially, institutionally) will be supported.

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions

All actions financed by Phare will respect the state aid and competition provisions of the Europe Agreement.

12. CONDITIONALITY AND SEQUENCING
The project will be implemented following the priorities identified by the project PHARE 2003/005-631.04 Promotion of Sustainable Development and Conservation of Biodiversity in Bulgarian-Romanian Cross Border Region.

The project will start after signing of the Financial Memorandum between Bulgaria and the European Union for 2005. All documentation required for launching joint Call for Proposals (Application Pack) will be prepared by the December 2005 and will be submitted to the EC Delegation for approval. After obtaining the formal endorsement of the Application Pack the grant scheme implementation will start in accordance with the provision of item 6.1 of the project fiche.
ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE
1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of programme
Phare log frame

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR</th>
<th>Programme name and number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project: Sustainable Development in the Bulgarian-Romanian Border Region</td>
<td>2005/xxx.xxx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contracting period expires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 November 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disbursement period expires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 November 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total budget : M€ 2.220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phare budget : M€ 1.800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall objective</th>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of sustainable development of the cross-border region through effective use of the economic potential in synergy with friendly and appropriate use of the natural resources and preservation of the biodiversity.</td>
<td>Economic development enhanced and environment preserved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project purpose</th>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To achieve economic and social cohesion by promoting the competitiveness in the eligible area as well as to improve and protect the environment well-being of the eligible region through coordinated environmentally friendly joint actions.</td>
<td>• Number of fairs/exhibitions prepared</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Number. of joint workshops held</td>
<td>Annual Reports of the National Parks/Protected Areas Authorities; Chambers of commerce, RDAs, etc.</td>
<td>Local economic development and environment management and preservation actors have the necessary information and resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Number of joint seminars prepared</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Number of experts exchanged</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</td>
<td>Sources of Verification</td>
<td>Assumptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Window 1 – Sustainable development, including economic development</strong></td>
<td>• Number of cross-border linkages created;                                                       • Reports on monitoring and implementation of Grant Scheme on monthly basis;         • Support from other relevant institutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Newly established cross-border networks or partnerships;             • Number of cooperation networks created;                                                       • NGO reports,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Strategic sustainable development actions covering protected areas,  • Number of partners involved in cooperation networks;      • Articles in newspapers, spots on TV, Internet advertisement,                • Adequate provision from state budget</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buffer zones, and adjacent territories carried out;                   • Number of projects providing business advisory services;                                    • Regional and national statistics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More harmonised training systems related to sustainable development,  • Number of environmental impact assessments;                  • Additional reports on compliance with the economic development requirements – audit, supervision, evaluation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including economic development introduced;                            • Number of promotion strategies;</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Output relevant to economic development needs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Environmental friendly / “green” technologies promoted;             • Number of training programmes;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Eco- and rural tourism strategy initiatives and measures developed;  • Number of technology transfers;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Absorption capacity of public institutions for small-scale tourism   • Number of information products (such as Web-sites, brochures, presentations and lectures, leaflets);</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infrastructure projects tested;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Common tourism package/s for the area developed;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Investment activities supervised;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Specific equipment supplied.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Window 2 – Biodiversity conservation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Intensified partner searches, development and creation of co-operation projects and networks at the environment protection and biodiversity preservation level and across enterprises;</td>
<td>• Number of newly established partnerships and networks;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Joint established bodies/organisations/associations in the          • Number of events targeting environmental consciousness and degree of satisfaction of participants;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>environmental sector;                                                 • Number of projects prepared for implementation;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Institutional and human resources capacity                           • Number of models of work organisation in nature protected areas implemented;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of joint environmental</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
strengthened;
• Nature/biodiversity protection investments implemented;
• Ecologically important habitats restored and corridors settled;
• Larger natural areas, groundwater tables, rivers, and wet zones protected;
• Environmental information and awareness raising programmes implemented;
• Local programmes for sustainable development and/or sustainable use of nature resources developed;
• New management and development plans prepared, existing site management plans amended, improved and implemented in line with EU requirements;
• Some pressures on natural resources, protecting biodiversity and habitats removed;
• Interdependence of conservation, environmental management, and development demonstrated;
• Investment activities supervised;
• Specific equipment supplied.

- Protection and nature conservation monitoring systems set up in the border region;
- Number of trained environmental experts;
- Number of environmental educational programmes developed and implemented;
- Number of studies, assessments and other relevant preparatory documents for environmental investment actions done;
- Number of plans and strategies produced;
- Number of prepared investment projects;
- Number of management plans prepared/harmonised and implemented;
- Number of ecologically important habitats restored and corridors settled;
- Number of information centres functioning/equipped/modernised.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Window 1 – Sustainable development, including economic development** | Grant scheme (Window 1 + Window 2) for min 2.340 MEUR, including:  
• 1.750 MEUR Phare contribution;  
• 0.590 MEUR national co-financing | • Co-ordination between the activities of the respective authorities in the implementation of the planned activities;  
• Linked activities of other donors’ programmes in the field of economic development;  
• The methodology to |
- Support for cross-border business events related to the sustainable development of the border area;
- Promotion of environmental friendly / “green” technologies;
- Support for the establishment of new partnerships, collaboration between research institutes or universities in the field of research and development activities;
- Development of eco- and rural tourism management strategy and related initiatives;
- Cross-border spatial planning in existing protected areas buffer zones and the adjacent territories;
- Improving the capacity of public institutions for providing small-scale tourism infrastructure projects;
- Support for cooperation in projects preparation with regard to sustainable development activities;
- Supervision of works undertaken under component b).

**b) Support for development of business infrastructure**, in the area where greater benefits are as a result of joint co-operation. This window shall provide grants for works and/or supplies and related services targeting creation/development/extension of business infrastructure facilities of common interest related that support the sustainable development of the border area:
- Arrangement and upgrading of facilities and infrastructure which enable the coordinated development of cross border leisure activities including those of special interest like: cycling, walking, equestrian facilities, gardens, outdoor pursuits, water sports, inland cruising and marine and health tourism;
- Development, extension and refurbishment of...
existing business infrastructure facilities of clear cross-border nature that contribute to the development of new common tourist products and related joint “green” technologies by R&D institutions and businesses in the regions on both sides of the border;

- Purchase of equipment necessary for development of new common tourist products and related joint “green” technologies by R&D institutions and businesses in the regions on both sides of the border.

**Window 2 - Biodiversity conservation**

*a) Studies, programmes and action plans*

- Promote environmental education and awareness, including preparation of public awareness and communication (in-situ and ex-situ protection);
- Support for promotion of an efficient use and wise management of the cross border area natural resources (e.g. fish production, water transportation and boat tourism), without endangering a necessary transformation of the economy of respective areas;
- Support and synergy with ecotourism initiatives;
- Support for developing methods for preserving, development and promotion of “green corridors”, stimulating the exchange of organisms (biodiversity) and creating a green infrastructure for social recreation and tourism;
- Environment protection related information and promotion campaigns;
- Strengthen institutional and human resources capacity;
- Supervision of works undertaken under component b).

**Grant scheme (Window 1 + Window 2) for min 2.340 MEUR, including:**

- 1.750 MEUR Phare contribution;
- 0.590 MEUR national co-financing

**• Co-ordination between the activities of the respective authorities in the implementation of the planned activities;**

**• Linked activities of other donors’ programmes in the field of environmental protection;**

**• The methodology to assure the sustainability of the project results to be described and provided by the applicants of the Grant scheme**
b) Investment actions for development of joint initiatives.
The sub-window shall provide grants for the procurement of works, supplies and services. Eligible activities are the following:
- Conservation and sustainable development of exceptional landscapes;
- Restoration of habitats and set up of corridors without infrastructure;
- Construction or rehabilitation of buildings and other facilities directly related to biodiversity conservation;
- Construction or rehabilitation of accessibility to the objects constructed and development of appropriate environment;
- Afforestation activities;
- Creation of green and thematic eco-paths;
Implementation of information and awareness raising campaign related to the above mentioned activities.
**ANNEX 2:** Detailed implementation chart

*Project title: Sustainable Development in the Bulgarian-Romanian Border Region*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracting</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Grant Scheme</td>
<td></td>
<td>T T T T T C I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX 3: Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter

*Project title: Sustainable Development in the Bulgarian-Romanian Border Region*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracting</th>
<th>Cumulative contracting schedule by quarter in MEUR (provisional)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>III</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHARE contribution</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Scheme – Phare</td>
<td>1.800</td>
<td>1.800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total PHARE</strong></td>
<td>1.800</td>
<td>1.800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National contribution</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Scheme - National co-financing</td>
<td>0.420</td>
<td>0.420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total National co-financing</strong></td>
<td>0.420</td>
<td>0.420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursement</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>III</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHARE contribution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Scheme - Phare</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.440</td>
<td>1.440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total PHARE</td>
<td>1.440</td>
<td>1.440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National contribution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Scheme - National co-financing</td>
<td>0.336</td>
<td>0.336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total National co-financing</td>
<td>0.336</td>
<td>0.336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total disbursement:</td>
<td>1.776</td>
<td>1.776</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cumulative disbursement schedule by quarter in MEUR (provisional)