1. **Basic Information**

1.1 CRIS Number: 2005/017-453.01.02

1.2 Title: Promotion of sustainable development in the Strandja/Yıldız Mountain area

1.3 Sector: Environment

1.4 Location: Bulgaria – Turkey cross-border region

1.5 Duration: *18 months*

2. **Objectives**

2.1 **Overall Objective:**

Strengthen the cross-border co-operation between Bulgaria and Turkey by protection and coordinated management of the unique environment and the natural resources in the Strandja/Yıldız Mountain area.

2.2 **Project purpose:**

The project purpose is to promote sustainable development in Strandja/Yıldız Mountain through protecting natural resources, creation of “green networks” and “green activities”, and thus contributing to the region’s sustainable economic growth. It aims to raise the public awareness with respect to long-term management of natural and cultural resources.

2.3 **Accession Partnership (AP) and NPAA priority**

The project falls within the following NPAA priorities in Chapter 22 Environment, sector 22.5 Nature Protection:

- 22.5.1. Adoption and implementation of the *acquis* in the field of conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna, as well as conservation of wild birds for the Bulgarian side;
- 22.5.1.3. Training of staff in Protected Areas management;
- 22.5.1.4. Implementation of priority actions from Protected Areas Management Plans, including wetlands for the Bulgarian side;
- 22.5.1.9. Development and adoption of Protected Areas Management Plans;
- 22.5.1.11. Expanding the Protected Areas network to include habitats of Directive 92/43/EEC for the Bulgarian side;
- 22.5.1.17. Implementation of measures incorporated in the Protected Areas Management Plans.
The project also falls within the NPAA priority in sector Regional Policy and Cohesion for institutional strengthening, interdepartmental coordination and the improvement of the administrative capacities on the national, regional and local levels.

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan

The Project fits within the Environmental Priorities of the 4th NDP Programme of Bulgaria:

- Nature conservation: conservation and restoration of key ecosystems, habitats, species, and landscape characteristics (Sub-programme 8). Priority measures to be implemented include extending and strengthening of the Protected Areas management and contributing to a national network of Protected Areas;
- Sewerage: Improving local environments through the improvement of agricultural waste and wastewater

The Project’s objectives also parallel the recommendations of the Bulgarian National Economic Development Plan:

- Local level implementation of legislative programmes and plans;
- Institutional strengthening for Protected Areas and biodiversity conservation;
- Expanding monitoring capacity for biodiversity in Protected Areas;
- Integrating the principles of sustainable development into the production landscape and the evolving market economy; and
- Improving public understanding and involvement in processes to improve environmental performance, and resolving potential conflicts between environmental and economic development goals.

2.5 Cross Border Impact

The project aims to implement one single measure of BG-TR Joint Programming Document Phare CBC (2004-2006) under the PRIORITY 2: “Protection, improvement and management of the Environment” Measure 2.2: “Protection and Sustainable Development of Natural Resources and Biodiversity”. This measure aims to safeguard, improve and manage in a sustainable way natural resources and biodiversity for the benefit of those who live, work or visit the region.

The project will co-ordinate the efforts of the communities on both sides of the border for carrying out activities within cooperation related to sustainable development of the region, including specific initiatives for the safeguard, conservation and reproduction of natural resources and biodiversity typical of the border region with special attention to the ecosystems in the protected natural areas. The project will also include measures on coordinated management of forest resources, preservation of cultural heritage of the region and will support environmentally friendly agriculture, farming, and tourism.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

Bulgaria holds a unique position on the European Continent with respect to biodiversity and natural resources and what they signify for the country’s future. It ranks third in Europe in
terms of biodiversity and has many species only found in Bulgaria (Biodiversity Support Programme, 1994).

The country’s highly varied climatic, topographic and hydrologic conditions have allowed Bulgaria to support a wide variety of plant and animal communities. Most importantly, Bulgaria’s history of rural land use patterns have helped preserve many different types of ecosystems. Bulgaria is considered regionally important for biodiversity.

Strandja Mountain fails into the Euxin botanic-geographic province laying in Europe only to the seaside of Bulgaria and Turkey. Strandja Nature Park is the largest protected area in the country. Establishment of the Strandja Nature Park aims both long term preservation of natural resources and sustainable socio-economic growth of the region. It is situated in the south-east part of Bulgaria. According to the Bulgarian legislation, on the territory of the park are established five strict preserves one of which “Uzunbucak” is a biosphere preserve and another – “Silkosia” is the first announced preserve in Bulgaria. The particular situation of Strandja Mountain on the approach of Europe to Asia makes it unique in regard to the European biodiversity.

The region contains a number of sites of tourist’s importance, such as archaeological and natural monuments. It is the only spot where an indigenous tradition – fire dancing is preserved in its ancient form: a major yearly event, unique for Europe, is the fire dancing ceremony in village Bulgary taking place in June in the honour of Saints Konstantin and Helena.

The natural and cultural resources of Strandja Mountain are of key importance to the economic growth and the quality of life of both Bulgarian and Turkish people living in this border area. Conversely, the destruction or degradation of these resources has high costs to human health and private sector productivity. Protecting the environment and conserving natural and cultural resources are important to Bulgarians and their government. A significant challenge for the management of rich biodiversity areas is the harmonization of stakeholder interests and management goals into a coherent, comprehensive management plans, integrating nature conservation objectives with sustainable local socio-economic development, social affordability, and tangible benefits for the local people. Bulgaria is currently building up the experience for such integrated management, for the benefit of both the people and the nature.

This project will contribute to the promotion of practices for a sustainable economic growth and management of nature on the territory of Strandja/Yıldız Mountain. It intends to demonstrate how environmental activities for development of rural regions could improve the quality of life of local communities. A global aim of the project is to improve the nature and economic status in the border region through preserving key threaten species in the protected areas, restoring wet zones on Bulgarian territory, preparing programmes for monitoring and management of threaten and protected areas, promoting “green” agriculture, tourism, etc. It also intents to involve in the implementation maximum number of stakeholders, and to encourage the alliance of different groups of institutions in the cross border area behind the concept of sustainable development.

For the purposes of the project the concept of “green networks” was adopted. The core of the concept, as it is foreseen in the project, comprises the following components:

- existing “protected areas”, designated according to the Bulgarian legislation, namely Protected Areas Act, as well as buffer zones surrounding the Strict reserves and Managed reserves;
potential “protected areas” according to the Protected Areas Act, potential areas for natural restoration (for example wetlands falling on the Bulgarian side, which are not designated as protected areas) as well as potential Natura 2000 sites according to the Bird and habitat Directive of the European Union, which are being designated according to the Biodiversity Conservation Act;

- **cultural spots, natural monuments, and areas designated for environmentally friendly human activities (eco-agriculture, farming, aquaculture, etc.)** – existing or identified as a result of project activities;

- **corridors**: establishment of tourist eco-path and eco-roads between important areas (green zones, cultural spots) promoting eco tourism products within cooperation;

- **encouraging and establishment of bilateral and multilateral relations** among authorities, institutions, communities, groups, etc. aimed at monitoring, protection and sustainable use of local natural resources within cooperation;

- **exchange of experience and good practices**, rising public awareness and education of society as a whole about coexistence between human and nature.

Thus “green networks” and the project as a whole contribute for the economic and social growth of the region paving a path to a particular and important “symbiosis” between human and nature communities. On the Bulgarian side, many of existing protected areas will become part of the NATURA 2000 network upon EU accession. It can be expected that the future expansion of the Protected Areas network of the country as a whole will be oriented toward the establishment of new protected areas and special areas of conservation and promote sustainable resource use and local economic development along with the conservation and restoration of nature.

The present project will implement a number of pilot innovative approaches for selected rich biodiversity areas within the programme region: it will develop and test economic and financial mechanisms for the self-sustaining and will also support the development of co-ordinated management plan. In particular, the implementation of the Grant Scheme envisaged in this Project Fiche, will be a significant stimulating mechanism and resource and will have a key importance in influencing local practices to achieve sustainable development. In the sense of the concept of sustainability, implementation of the present project will contribute to the economic and social growth of the region by combining efforts of authorities, government and non-government organizations, institutions, business and communities in the process of long term preservation, development and sustainable use of local natural resources.

### 3.2 Sectoral rationale

N/A

### 3.3 Results

- Public awareness campaigns for promotion of sustainable nature development, preservation of cultural traditions and heritage, and the ways to incorporate these activities in the process of sustainable economic growth of the region.

- Structures, management and operation of the green networks in cross border area established on BG territory.

- Developed and established partnership between Bulgarian and Turkish authorities and institutions responsible for environmental management, eco-monitoring, tourist and cultural development of the Strandja/Yıldız Mountain area, including strengthened horizontal coordination between neighbouring groups and units, businesses and other associations of stakeholders.
- Green networks established on BG territory;
- Prepared review and analysis of the present status, institutional and human capacities, and needs for carrying out observations, for establishment of an information exchanging system and necessary equipment;
- Prepared review and analysis on the possibilities and ways for development of organic farming;
- Elaborated and implemented detailed programmes and systems for observations, data gathering, exchanging data storage and data dissemination;
- Ready-to-work information and communication systems (for data gathering, data storage and dissemination) on BG side;
- Equipment for data exchange and information and monitoring systems put in operation;
- Supporting measures for sustainable development of the BG part through a Grant scheme focussing on culture and environment measures;
- Support in the Grant Scheme preparation and implementation provided;
- Detailed technical specifications for the supply of equipment prepared.

3.4 Activities (including Means)

The project will contain three components: a Technical Assistance component, a Grant Scheme component and Supply component.

Component 1: Technical Assistance

- **Design and implementation of a Stakeholder Involvement Plan**, elaboration and implementation of public awareness (PA) campaigns aimed at promotion of sustainable development of natural resources (including rising public awareness on national and international legislative framework), preservation of cultural traditions and heritage, and the ways of incorporating of these activities in the process of sustainable economic growth of the region.

  Establishment of partnership and strengthening horizontal coordination between Bulgarian and Turkish authorities/institutions neighbouring groups, businesses and other associations of stakeholders responsible for environmental management, eco-monitoring, tourist and cultural development, including establishing of networks on BG territory. Different scenarios will be developed, analysed and the “best scenario” then be selected. This activity covers the following steps:

  - The design of different scenarios using selected examples of good practices in nature conservation, sustainable development and cross-border cooperation.;
  - An analysis of the different scenarios in terms of their legal, technical, institutional, and financial feasibility and the long-term sustainability, using appropriate tools, e.g. SWOT (Strengths – Weaknesses – Opportunities – Threats);

  **Preparation of reviews and analyses** for the present institutional status, capacities and needs to carry out observation activities, plan for administrative capacity building, training programme for BG and TR sites;

  **Implementation of training programme** for BG and TR involved stakeholders;

  **Development of sustainable development plan** for the green network. The Sustainable Development Plan shall include all elements of a strategic planning process, including an action plan with goals and objectives, defined responsibilities, priority measures, financial assessments, monitoring requirements, time schedules, etc. This Plan shall lead to future CBC biodiversity conservation activities with activities on both
sides with a high replication potential. The plan will be a base for future cooperation in this field.

- **Support in the Grant Scheme** preparation and implementation;
- **Preparation of detailed specifications** for the supply of equipment.

**Component 2: Grant Scheme**

**Window 1: Environmental Agriculture and Farming**

- Elaboration and implementation of soft measures and small investment measures aimed at:
  - development of sustainable nature-friendly organic farming, agriculture and fruit-culture, including production of herbs, nuts, vegetables, animal products, preservation/restoration of indigenous gene fond, etc;
  - training of identified rural communities in eco-organic-farming;
  - preparation of farms for adoption (or conversion to) of organic farming and stock breeding;
- Small investment measures aimed at improving infrastructure for agriculture waste disposal, pasture management, agricultural waste water treatment, etc.

**Window 2: Forestry, species and habitats conservation**

- Establishing CBC cooperation and improving institutional and technical capacity for research and monitoring of ecologically important areas and species
- Implementation of measures for prevention, restoration and conservation of important areas, species and habitats (remediation of impacted areas, including destroyed by fires, replanting, wetland restoration, revitalization of populations of endemic species, enrichment planting, etc.).
- Identification and mapping out of potential areas for restoration (wet zones, nature monuments, corridors, against habitat fragmentation, etc).
- Implementation of programmes and systems for observations, data gathering, data storage and dissemination, including institutional capacity building.
- Implementation of measures for improvement of forest management and usage of local natural resources, including collection of non-forest products (herbs, mushrooms) ensuring sustainable use of those and PA campaigns for promotion of nature protection.
- Elaboration and implementation of rising public awareness campaigns on both sides of the border aimed at promotion of nature/biodiversity protection, sustainable use of natural resources and popularization of regulations for collection of non-forest products.

**Window 3: Promotion of natural ‘green’ tourism**

- Establishment of CBC cooperation and identification of units/groups for eco-networks operation and maintenance including the administrative mechanism of tackling problems of maintenance.
- Implementation of small measures aimed at preparation of local communities for adoption of tourism practices and training in eco-tourism management, service offering, and marketing and advertisement skills, sharing information and experience.
• Implementation of measures encouraging “cultural tourism” (restoration of old cultural traditions, promotion of national heritage, small measures for improving cultural and old-craft centres, etc.).
• Implementation of plans and small investment measures for improving small tourist infrastructure (including natural, cultural and rural tourism).
• Identification (if necessary) of significant spots related to cultural traditions and national heritage and protected by incorporating them into the programmes of improving small tourist infrastructure.

Activities covered under the Grant Scheme have to be in line with the national legislation and the EU requirements for Phare CBC.

**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: Bourgas, Yambol and Haskovo.

**Eligibility of applicants and partners**

**Potential applicants are:**
- public organisations responsible for management of natural parks and protected areas;
- Local authorities;
- Local Branches of Central and regional authorities;
- Local communities, local NGOs and Non-profit organisations;
- Cultural and educational institutions and vocational training organizations;
- Associations of the above organisations, within the border region.

The offices of the District Governors are not eligible for the present project.

The project will provide capacity building for the institutions involved in the management of the area, such as the local authorities, Regional and Local Forestry Boards, Regional Inspectorates for Environment and Water, as well as the Protected Areas Administrations. *The applicants (or their branches) must be registered in the eligible border region.*

**Eligibility of projects**

**Size of projects:**
The grant for a single application to be contracted is within € 50 000 - 150 000. Phare contribution cannot exceed 75% of the grant.

**Duration of the project:**
The maximum project duration under Grant Scheme is 12 months.

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

Detailed eligibility criteria for participation in the grant scheme and activities will be given within the Guidelines for Applicants.

Component 3: Supply

- Delivery of equipment;

In general terms, the equipment can be listed as follows:
  - Equipment for the environmental monitoring/observing systems;
  - Equipment for the environmental information system;
  - Special software/hardware equipment for data storage and data dissemination.

3.5 Linked Activities

National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (April, 1995)

- Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Programme, (i) Burgas Wetlands Project – Building local capacities for the management of the complex of wetlands. Development of Management plan for Atanasovsko lake Managed Reserve; (ii) Dobrudja Wetlands Project – Building local capacities for the management of the complex of wetlands. Development of Management plan for Durankulak lake Protected Site; (iii) East Rhodope Project – Conservation of biological diversity through a complex of protected areas, designation of East Rhodope Nature Park, supporting the biodiversity conservation, the effective management of the protected territories and the sustainable use of natural resources; (iv) Pirin National Park Management Plan; (v) Strandja Nature Park Management Plan


- GEF/World Bank-financed Bulgaria Forest Development Project, to be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, started 2003 (ongoing)

- Strategies for development of the municipalities – Developed and approved in accordance with the demands of the National plan for regional development for the 2000-2006 period

- National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan for Bulgaria (NETSAP)

- Management Planning of Five Protected Areas in Rhodopi Mountains Region, Bulgaria (MoEW, 2003-2004 ongoing) – Momchilowski dol, Shabaniza, Soskovcheto, Kasanite and Kastraklii


- The GEF/World Bank grant was obtained by the Ministry of Environment for preparation of technical design for wetlands restoration; social and environmental impact assessment; as well as for the preparation of TOR for Protected Areas Management Planning according to the Protected Areas Law of Bulgaria (1998)
• Ministry of Environment and Water, financed through a GEF/World Bank grant: Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project: Project Implementation Phase.
• DANCEE/Ministry of Environment and Water: Conservation of Species and Habitats in Bulgaria: EU Approximation.

3.6 Lessons learned

In Regular Reports on Bulgaria, the European Commission concludes that the country has reached a fairly good level of alignment with the *acquis*. However the report points to the necessity of strengthening the efforts for transposition of *acquis* related to nature protection. On the Bulgarian side, special emphasis is made on the necessity for further transposition of the Habitats Directive and certain aspect of the Birds Directive, as well as for concrete implementation measures. Last but not least, the Regular Reports state the necessity of strengthening the administration at the national, regional and local levels, as well as the need for training and awareness rising related to nature protection.

In the programming period up to now, the environmental Phare CBC BG/TR projects were funded only under the Small Project Fund. This is first time that for the Environment sector is allowed Grant Scheme. The experiences are showing, that there is a need for more focused approach on both sides, striving to reach synergies from activities implemented and results achieved so that there will be shared benefits within cross-border region.

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 a **Secretariat** to be established for the Grant Scheme implementation in accordance with PRAG rules. This Secretariat will be established following a mutual Bulgarian-Turkish agreement reached after relevant negotiations.

The **Steering Committee** of the Grant Scheme will be composed of representatives from the following institutions:
• The Ministry of Regional Development and Public works will manage this project.
• National Nature Protection Service, Ministry of Environment and Water;
• National Forestry Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry;
• Districts Governors’ administrations;
• EC Delegation as observer.

Other institutions involved in project implementation will be:
• Regional Environmental Inspectorates of cross-border districts, which have control and enforcement functions for the “green zone” boarding areas;
• Nature Park Administrations;
• Local municipalities and NGOs.
Beneficiaries of the project will be:

Component 1: The administrative bodies to the Ministry of Environment and Water dealing with the specifics of the project, including its Regional Inspectorates for Environment and Water; the administrative bodies to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry dealing with the specifics of the project, including the Strandja Natural Park Administration and the regional structures of the National Forestry Board.

Component 2: as specified in item 3.4 Activities.

Component 3: The administrative bodies to the Ministry of Environment and Water dealing with the specifics of the project, including its Regional Inspectorates for Environment and Water; the administrative bodies to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry dealing with the specifics of the project, including the Strandja Natural Park Administration and the regional structures of the National Forestry Board

5. Detailed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Phare support</th>
<th>Co-financing</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Public Funds (*)</td>
<td>Other Sources (**)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant scheme</td>
<td>1.200</td>
<td>0.400</td>
<td>0.400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply</td>
<td>0.150</td>
<td>0.050</td>
<td>0.050</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment support - total</td>
<td>1.350</td>
<td>0.450</td>
<td>0.450</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

% of total public funds: 75 % 25 %

Year 2005 Institution Building support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2005 Institution Building support</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TA</td>
<td>0.650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IB support</td>
<td>0.650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total project 2005

| Total project 2005 | 2.000 | 0.450 | 0.450 | 2.450 |

(*) contributions form National, Regional, Local, Municipal authorities, FIs loans to public entities, funds from public enterprises. Minimum 25 % co-financing of investment components is provided from the Bulgarian national budget through the Ministry of Finance

(**) private funds, FIs loans to private entities

6. Implementation Arrangements

Implementing Agency

The Implementing Agency will be the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, through its Directorate IA Programme Phare (Cross Border Co-operation Department), which will retain overall responsibility for the implementation of the programme, including: approval
of tender documents, evaluation criteria, evaluation of offers, signature of contracts, authorisation of invoices. The Payments Directorate within the same ministry will make the payments of invoices.

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
Address: 17-19 Cyril and Methodius St. 1202 Sofia
Belin Mollov – 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

Twinning
N / A

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

Contracts

| Service contract (Technical Assistance) | 0.650 MEUR |
| Supply | 0.200 MEUR (including 0.150 EU support and 0.050 national co-financing) |
| Grant scheme | 1.600 MEUR (including 1.200 EU support and 0.400 national co-financing) |

7. Implementation Schedule

| 7.2. Start of project activity | 02.2007 | 07.2007 | 10.2007 |
| 7.3. Project completion | 07.2008 | 06.2008 | 01.2008 |

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. Equal opportunity principles in relation to participation in the project will be guaranteed.

9. Environment

The project emphasis is on creating a biosphere reserve and sustainable development of natural resources and biodiversity in the CBC region. It will have positive impact on long-term biodiversity conservation.

10. Rates of return
N / A
11. **Investment criteria** (applicable to all investments)

11.1. **Catalytic effect**

The following catalytic effects are foreseen:
- Improvement of nature conservation efficiency in the region;
- Inflow of know-how through project co-operations;
- Strengthening cross-border links between conservation institutions;
- Creation of job opportunities;
- Improving social and cultural welfare.

The implementation of projects will stimulate and create a positive business environment for further cooperation.

11.2. **Co-financing**

The National co-financing amounting to minimum 25% of the investment components will be provided by the Bulgarian National Budget through the National Fund Directorate in the Ministry of Finance.

11.3. **Additionality**

The grants awarded under this scheme do not displace any other financial sources.

11.4. **Project readiness and size**

The grant amount awarded to eligible projects will be between € 50 000 – 150 000.

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**

12. **Conditionality and sequencing**

N/A.

**ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE**

1. Logframe in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule
# ANNEX 1: LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR
Promotion of sustainable development in the Strandja/Yıldız Mountain Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name and number</th>
<th>BG-TR 2005/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contracting period expires</td>
<td>30 November 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursement period expires</td>
<td>30 November 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total budget:</td>
<td>2.450 MEUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phare budget:</td>
<td>2.000 MEUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overall objective
Strengthen the cross-border co-operation between Bulgaria and Turkey by protection and coordinated management of the unique environment and the natural resources in the Strandja/Yıldız Mountain area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity preserved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Project purpose
The project purpose is to promote sustainable development in Strandja/Yıldız Mountain through protecting natural resources, creation of “green networks” and “green activities”, and thus contributing to the region’s sustainable economic growth. It aims to raise the public awareness with respect to long-term management of natural and cultural resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Annual Reports of the National Parks/Protected Areas Authorities</td>
<td>• Financial resources are available for co-financing from the national budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Co-operation with other institutions concerned and involved in project implementation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Results

- Developed and established partnership Public awareness campaigns for promotion of sustainable nature development, preservation of cultural traditions and heritage, and the ways to incorporate these activities in the process of sustainable economic growth of the region;
- Structures, management and operation of the green networks in cross-border area established on BG territory;
- Developed and established partnership between Bulgarian and Turkish authorities and institutions responsible for environmental management, eco-monitoring, tourist and cultural development of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Environmental management plan for eco-monitoring, tourist and cultural development;</td>
<td>• Reports on monitoring and implementation of Grant Scheme on monthly basis;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A number of agriculture and stock-breeding farms prepared for adoption (or conversion to) of organic farming;</td>
<td>• Park authorities report,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Implemented small investment measures aimed at improved pasture management, agriculture waste disposal, improved waste water</td>
<td>• NGO reports,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Regional and national</td>
<td>• Articles in newspapers, spots on TV, Internet advertisement,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strandja/Yıldız Mountain area, including strengthened horizontal coordination between neighbouring groups and units, business and other association of stakeholders;
• Green networks established on BG territory;
• Prepared review and analysis of the present status, institutional and human capacities and needs for carrying out observations, for establishment of an information system and necessary equipment;
• Prepared review and analysis on the possibilities and ways for development of organic farming.
• Elaborated and implemented detailed programmes and systems for observations, data gathering, data storage and data dissemination.
• Ready-to-work information an communication systems (for data gathering, data storage and dissemination) on BG part.

Equipment for data exchange and information and monitoring systems put in operation;
• Supporting measures for sustainable development of the BG part through a Grant scheme focussing on culture and environment measures;
• Support in the Grant Scheme preparation and implementation provided;
• Detailed technical specifications for the supply of equipment prepared.

Activities | Means | Sources of Verification | Assumptions
--- | --- | --- | ---
The project will contain three components: a Technical Assistance component, a Grant scheme component, and a Supply component.

**Component 1 – Technical Assistance:**
• Design and implementation of a Stakeholder Involvement Plan;
• Preparation of reviews and analyses for the present

treatment, development of rural infrastructure, etc.;
• Reports of trainings and conducted activities;
• Priorities and measures for pilot grant scheme future projects defined;
• Materials for public awareness raising published during the project;
• functioning information offices;
• An information centre built and equipped and information packages printed;
• Promotion campaigns carried out;
• Premises for keeping of wild animals in border control posts by the end of the project established and equipped;
• Increased number of local and foreign tourists in the area;
• Additional reports on compliance with the environmental requirements – audit, supervision, evaluation.

Service contract: 0.650 MEUR

- Project implementation team
- Steering Committee
- Project reports
- Ministry of Environment and Water

Coordination of strategies and activities for an integrated management of natural reserves, national parks, protected sites, “green zones” and biodiversity;
institutional status;
• Implementation of training programme for BG and TR involved stakeholders;
• Development of sustainable development plan for the green network;
• Support in the Grant Scheme preparation and implementation;
• Preparation of detailed specifications for the supply of equipment

**Component 2 – Grant Scheme:**

**Window 1: Environmental Agriculture and Farming**

- Elaboration and implementation of soft measures and small investment measures aimed at:
  
  Small investment measures aimed at improving infrastructure for agriculture waste disposal, pasture management, agricultural waste water treatment, etc.  

**Window 2: Forestry, species and habitats conservation**

- Establishing CBC cooperation and improving institutional and technical capacity for research and monitoring of ecologically important areas and species
- Implementation of measures for prevention, restoration and conservation of important areas, species and habitats (remediation of impacted areas, including destroyed by fires, replanting, wetland restoration, revitalization of populations of endemic species, enrichment planting, etc.).
- Identification and mapping out of potential areas for restoration (wet zones, nature monuments, corridors, against habitat fragmentation, etc).
- Implementation of programmes and systems for observations, data gathering, data storage and dissemination, including institutional capacity building.
- Implementation of measures for improvement of forest

**Grant scheme for 1.600 MEUR including:**

- 1.200 EU support
- 0.400 national co-financing

**Supply for 0.200 MEUR including:**

- 0.150 MEUR EU support
- 0.050 MEUR national co-financing
management and usage of local natural resources, including collection of non-forest products (herbs, mushrooms) ensuring sustainable use of those and PA campaigns for promotion of nature protection.

- Elaboration and implementation of rising public awareness campaigns on both sides of the border aimed at promotion of nature/biodiversity protection, sustainable use of natural resources and popularization of regulations for collection of non-forest products

**Window 3: Promotion of natural “green” tourism**

- Establishment of CBC cooperation and identification of units/groups for eco-networks operation and maintenance including the administrative mechanism of tackling problems of maintenance.
- Implementation of small measures aimed at preparation of local communities for adoption of tourism practices and training in eco-tourism management, service offering, and marketing and advertisement skills, sharing information and experience.
- Implementation of measures encouraging “cultural tourism” (restoration of old cultural traditions, promotion of national heritage, small measures for improving cultural and old-craft centres, etc.).
- Implementation of plans and small investment measures for improving small tourist infrastructure (including natural, cultural and rural tourism).

Identification (if necessary) of significant spots related to cultural traditions and national heritage and protected by incorporating them into the programmes of improving small tourist infrastructure.

**Component 3 – Supply:**
The equipment that will be necessary for the successful implementation of this project in general could be listed as follows:

- Monitoring equipment;
- Equipment for premises of keeping animals in border control posts;
- Observatory fire-towers;
- Equipment for marking and registration of specimens and habitats management;
- Special software/hardware equipment for the establishment of data base;
- Transport equipment;
- Equipment for ecological stations.
ANNEX 2: Detailed implementation chart

*Project title:* Promotion of sustainable development of natural resources through creation of “green zones” in the Strandja/Yıldız Mountain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracting</th>
<th>2005</th>
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<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<td>2  Grant Scheme</td>
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<td>3  Supply contract</td>
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ANNEX 3: Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter

Project title:
Promotion of sustainable development of natural resources through creation of “green zones” in the Strandja/Yıldız Mountains

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