STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Désirée Number: ES01.06
   Twinning number: ES2001/IB/EN/01

1.2 Title: Nature Conservation Accession: Establishment of the Natura 2000 network under the Habitats Directive in Estonia

1.3 Sector: Environment

1.4 Location: Estonia

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 Overall objective(s):
The development of the nature conservation system in Estonia in accordance to the EU requirements

2.2 Project purpose:
Natura 2000 network established under the Habitats Directive in Estonia

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority

Estonia 1999 Accession Partnership: Environment

Short Term Objectives:
Continue transposition, in particular in the water and waste management, air pollution, and nature protection sector. Develop a plan for financing investments, based on estimations of costs of alignment and realistic sources of public and private finance year-by-year.

Medium Term Objectives:
Complete transposition of the acquis and reinforce implementation; Ensure institutional strengthening in the area of environment, in particular at the local level; Integrate sustainable development principles into the definition and implementation of all policies.

Estonian NPAA1 2000: 7.1.5 Nature Conservation

Natura 2000 is the most labour-consuming sector of nature conservation in the European Union. According to the Habitats Directive, establishment of the Natura 2000 network is to be carried out in two stages. The aim of stage I is to draw up and submit to the European Commission the list of Estonian Natura 2000 sites along with the relevant database conforming to the EU requirements and maps of the sites. The aim of stage II is to legitimise and manage the conservation of the aforementioned sites in compliance with the European Union requirements. This will

1 NPAA – Estonian National Program for Adaption of the Acquis
consist in establishment of protected areas, conclusion of contracts with land owners or application of other measures for ensuring adequate protection of the sites, including, where necessary, the drawing up of management plans.

Nature Protection
Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Wild Birds (79/409/EEC)

Transposition
Scientific justification related to the amendments to the annexes to the Birds and Habitats Directives proposed by Estonia have been prepared using the data sheets provided by the Commission services. The data was submitted to the Commission by the end of March 2000.

Transposition of the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives into Estonian legislation will be carried out in 2001. An Act on Nature Conservation, which considers all the requirements of the EU directives in the field of nature protection, is being drafted and will be adopted in 2001. By this Act both of the above Directives will be transposed in 2001.

Implementation
The initiation of The National Program for the Implementation of NATURA 2000 Network has been approved by the Government on March 14, 2000. The detailed description of the program, including administrative arrangements, a list of required activities and estimates of the need for investments will be finalised in May 2000.

Estonia will submit to the Commission by the end of 2002:
- a national list of sites eligible for identification as Sites of Community Importance (under the Habitats Directive),
- a national list of Special Areas of Conservation (under the Birds Directive)
- NATURA 2000 database, which contains all the relevant scientific information about the afore-mentioned, sites according to Article 4 (1) of the Habitats Directive.

An Interpretation Manual of the EU habitats types (Annex I of the Habitats Directive) for Estonia is under construction and the first draft of the manual is to be finalised in July 2000.

Preparation of the implementation of NATURA 2000 network has already begun via several prior and ongoing projects and inventories listed below:
- 212 sites of EU importance were selected and a database was compiled during Estonian CORINE Biotopes project.
- The list of Important Bird Areas in Estonia, which includes 43 areas, has been prepared.
- The wetland database, which includes areas outside the currently protected territories, has been compiled.
- The inventories of old forests and coastal and floodplain meadows have been carried out. The inventories of other grasslands and forests are underway.
- The Estonian-Danish co-operation project on National Inventories of Internationally Important Species and Habitats in Relation to International Conventions and Directives in Estonia will be completed in 2000. Within the framework of this project all the sites hosting relevant species of Birds and Habitats directives will be mapped and distribution maps of the relevant habitats types will be prepared.
- The Estonian-Danish co-operation project on Regional Implementation of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (79/409) in Lääne and Rapla Counties was started in 2000. The aim of the project is to prepare a
basis for implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives in two counties, as well as create a basis for the management of the proposed sites selected under the Birds and Habitats Directives in the region on a long-term basis. All the afore-mentioned projects and inventories form a good basis for the designation of Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive and for the preparation of the list of sites eligible for identification as Sites of Community Importance under the Habitats Directive. The data collected during these projects and inventories will be used for the compilation of NATURA 2000 database.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Background and justification


National Program “Estonian Natura 2000” was approved by Estonian Government in July 2000. According to this, the implementation of Natura 2000 network will be carried out in two stages. The first one will be performed from 2000 to 2002 and the aim of this stage is to prepare and submit to the European Commission the list of Estonian proposed Natura 2000 sites along with the relevant database and maps of the sites. The list of required activities, administrative arrangements, investment needs from state budget and from foreign donors will be provided during the first stage of the National Program. The second stage will be carried out from 2003 to 2007 and the aim is to legitimise and manage the conservation of the afore-mentioned sites in compliance with the European Union requirements. List of detailed activities will be worked out during the first stage of the Program.

Several relevant projects and inventories have been carried out during past years (see EU Progress Report). All these data will be gathered and processed to identify the need for additional inventories for Natura 2000 site selection by spring 2001 according to the National Program. Inventories for preparation of national list of proposed Sites of Community Importance (according to the Habitats Directive) will be carried out in summer 2001 and will be covered by state budget. Interpretation of site selection criteria and co-ordination of final site selection for compilation of national list of sites shall be carried out via current project to use similar experience of Member State.

Selection of Special Protection Areas (SPA) and data collection for Natura 2000 database about SPA-s according to the Birds Directive will be carried out via Dutch Bilateral Assistance Program – Matra, which started in 2001.

The main nature conservation database in Estonia - Nature Conservation Register consists of general data about protected areas including boundaries of these areas and borders of protection zones. Different nature databases have been compiled during the several projects, which data can be partly used for compilation of Natura 2000 database. A compilation of EMERALD database about currently protected areas
started in autumn 2000. The EMERALD (a network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest for Europe) is a network of protected areas established for more efficient application of the Berne Convention (Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats, 1979). As data fields of EMERALD database are similar to the data fields of Natura database, the EMERALD database can be used for compilation of Natura 2000 database as much as proposed Natura sites will overlap currently protected areas.

The first draft of Interpretation Manual of EU Habitats for Estonia was prepared during the Nordic Council of Ministers project. The first draft was compiled using scientific criteria for interpretation of EU habitats and contains too detailed information. The draft will be available for comments via Internet and it will be tested during the field works. Considering all coming remarks and comments, and field works experience more users-friendly Interpretation Manual of EU Habitats for Estonia shall be prepared and published.

3.2 Linked activities

Phare:
EU Integration Projects (ES-9620):
- Assistance in drafting new Nature Conservation Law. The aim of this project is drafting the first version of Nature Conservation Law, which considers all the requirements of the EU directives in the field of nature protection for discussion and opinion (duration: 25 man-day).
- Evaluation of the administrative capacity to meet the requirements of EU Birds and Habitats Directives. The aim of the project is to analyse current protected area system and management in the context of implementation of EU Birds and Habitats Directives (duration: 45 man-day).

Others:
- National Inventories of Internationally Important Species and Habitats in Relation to International Conventions and Directives in Estonia (underway, Danish Bilateral Assistance Project). Within the framework of this project all the sites hosting relevant species of Birds and Habitats Directives will be mapped and general distribution maps of the relevant habitats types will be compiled.
- Regional Implementation of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (79/409) in Lääne and Rapla Counties (underway, Danish Bilateral Assistance Program). The aim of the project is to prepare a basis for implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives in two counties as well as create a basis for management of the proposed sites selected under these directives in the region on a long-term basis.
- Preparation of National Interpretation Manual of EU Habitats for Estonia (underway, Nordic Council of Ministers). The first draft of the interpretation manual will be prepared during this project.
- Baltic States Regional Preparation for NATURA 2000 (underway, Baltic Environmental Forum). The main activities during this project are training civil servants, raising public awareness and informing different stakeholders on Natura 2000.
- Establishment NATURA 2000 network under the Birds Directive (Dutch Bilateral Assistance Program - Matra) started in 2001. The aim of this project (in close co-operation with current project) is to select Special Protection Areas
accompanying the Birds Directive in Estonia, compile a database and develop management plans about selected sites.

### 3.3. Results:

1. National list of proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCI) according to the Habitats Directive is elaborated. The sites are selected in most suitable places to protect habitat types (Annex I) and species (Annex II) habitats at a favourable conservation status, which is a first step of elaboration of the Natura 2000 network and which contributes significantly to the implementation of the Habitats Directive.

2. Natura 2000 database, which contains all the required information (e.g. habitats, species) about pSCI according to the Natura 2000 Standard Data Form (97/266/EC) is compiled and the aim of this database is to enable the Commission to evaluate sufficiency of Estonian national list of proposed sites.

3. Digitised sites (pSCI) boundaries. The boundaries of all selected sites are digitised (in scale 1 : 10 000) and Geographic Information System (GIS) about Estonian Natura 2000 is elaborated.


5. Published manual for “Managing Natura 2000 Sites”, which is an interpretation guide for Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and describes the management requirements of Natura 2000 sites.

6. Trained public officers and relevant experts. 75 public officials and relevant expert trained during 5 seminars and 2 study visits, which aim is to increase administrative capacity for implementation of EU nature conservation policy.

7. Raised public awareness. 5 booklets, 10 articles are published about different aspects of Natura 2000, TV broadcast is prepared, information on Natura 2000 is available on Natura 2000 Homepage

### 3.4. Required inputs and activities:

**A) One long-term Pre-Accession Advisor (PAA) for 12 consecutive man-month over first year plus 3 month over second year.**

**Activities:**
- Co-ordination of the whole project and input of short term experts
- Analysis of relevant EU documents and consultation about their interpretation
- Comparison of experience concerning implementation of Natura 2000 network (according to the Habitats Directive) in EU Member States
- Interpretation of criteria for compilation of national list of proposed Natura sites according to the Habitats Directive
- Co-ordination of site selection
- Organisation of training course for implementation of Natura 2000 network under the Habitats Directive
- Organisation of three study visits

**Profile:**
Long-term foreign expert/civil servant (from an EU Member State with similar natural conditions) with experience in the implementation of the Habitats Directives in the boreal zone.

**B) Short-term experts (9 experts for 14 man months over 17 calendar months).**

1. Short-term experts for site selection (2 experts, total of 3 man-months)

**Activities:**
- Interpretation of criteria for compilation of national list of proposed Natura sites
– Co-ordination of Natura 2000 site selection under the Habitats Directive
– Organisation of training course for site selection criteria

Profile:
Short-term experts, with following experience:
– Implementation of the Habitats Directives in the boreal zone
– Natura 2000 site selection according to the Habitats Directive

2. Short-term experts for database compilation (2 experts, total of 4 man-months)
Activities:
– Development of unified format for description of proposed Natura sites
– Adjustment of the Natura 2000 database for Estonia
– Collection and analysis of data on proposed Natura sites
– Organisation of training course for collecting and processing the data
Profile:
Short-term experts with following experience:
– Database management
– Data collection and handling
– Field-work of nature conservation
– General knowledge about Estonian nature

3. Short-term experts for mapping (1 expert, 1.5 man-months)
Activities:
– Development of unified format for mapping the sites boundaries
– Mapping the selected sites boundaries
– Organisation of training course for preparation of maps for digitalisation
Profile:
Short-term expert with following experience
– Mapping sites boundaries
– Digitalisation (GIS)
– Field-work of nature conservation

4. Short-term experts for publication of “Interpretation Manual of EU Habitats for Estonia” (1 expert, 2 man-months)
Activities:
– Adoption of the first version of the Interpretation Manual of EU habitats for Estonia using feedback and comments from relevant experts
– Publication of the Interpretation Manual of EU habitats for Estonia
Profile:
Short-term expert with following experience:
– Classification of habitats types
– Interpretation of EU Habitats for Estonia

5. Short-term experts for publication of manual for “Management of Natura 2000 Sites” (1 expert, 1 man-months)
Activities:
– Preparation of manual for “Management of Natura 2000 Sites”, development of final draft using feedback and comments from relevant experts and future users
– Publication of manual “Management of Natura 2000 sites”
– Organisation of training course for cost-estimation of implementation activities
Profile:
Short-term expert with following experience:
– Management of nature sites
– Cost-estimation of management activities

6. Short-term expert for raising public awareness (1 expert, 2 man-months)

**Activities:**
– Preparation of relevant booklets to different stakeholder
– Using mass media channels for informing the public concerning the Natura 2000 issues

**Profile:**
Short-term experts with following experience:
– Preparation of printing matters on nature conservation, e.g. Natura 2000 issues

C) Local Interpreter and Assistant for 12 man months over 18 calendar months

Local Interpreter will be responsible for the translation of Estonian legal texts for the needs of foreign experts as well to provide simultaneous translation during seminars. Besides knowledge of English she/he must have a general knowledge of environmental legal issues.

D) Other components

**Seminars:**
– training seminars on
  1. implementation of NATURA 2000 network under the Habitats Directive, 1 day, 60 persons
  2. cost-estimation of implementation activities, 1 day, 45 persons
  3. site selection criteria, 1 day, 50 persons
  4. collecting and processing the data, 2 days, 35 persons
  5. preparation of maps for digitalisation, 1 day, 20 persons
– Related translation (at 80 pages/seminar) and interpretation (24 hours/seminars)

**Study visits:**
– Three study visits of Estonian officials and relevant scientists to Nature Conservation Topic Centre (Paris) (3 days, 6 person max) and two Member States of EU (a 5 days, 8 persons max),

**Translation and Publications:**
– Publication of Manual for Natura 2000 sites management
– Publication of Interpretation Manual of EU habitats for Estonia
– Publication of 5 booklets (a 30 pages) to different stakeholder (land-owners, farmers, forestry experts, hunters, fishermen)
– TV broadcast

4. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Apart from the Ministry of Environment, the County Environmental Departments, Nature Reserves and National Parks Administrations will be involved in this project.

For the project management and co-ordination, the Minister of the Environment will appoint a responsible high-ranking civil servant, who will ensure involvement of
officials of the Ministry as well as County Environmental Departments and Nature Reserves, National Parks.

A Nature Conservation Department of the Ministry of Environment is responsible for the implementation of the nature conservation policy. At the present moment one civil servant has been employed full-time responsible for Natura 2000 implementation in Estonia and two civil servants are working partly in this issue at the Nature Conservation Department. Two more officers will be employed full-time from the beginning of 2001. These two officers will be responsible for Natura 2000 database compilation, digitalisation and development of GIS on Estonian Natura 2000.

The County Environmental Departments are installed by the Ministry of Environment and are assigned to carry out nature management in their administrative region. One to two nature conservation officers are working at each County Environmental Department. Administered Nature Reserves are also responsible for the management of respective protected areas. These institutions will have a share in site selection, database compilation and site management.

As the beneficiary lacks enough experience and skills in implementation of EU requirements, there is a need for additional input, provided through twinning, of international experience concerning the problems likely to be encountered in Natura 2000 implementation; the beneficiary, in particular, lacks experience regarding costing of activities and assessment of institutional capacity needs.

5. DETAILED BUDGET

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*In cases of co-financing only

Note: expenditure for equipment should be put under Investment

The Ministry of Environment will provide furnished office accommodation with telephone connection and E-mail connection for the foreign experts for the full duration of the project.

MoE will cover all travel costs of local experts and travel costs of study tours for local experts.

Field works necessary for site selection, database compilation and site demarcation, as well as data input into the database will be covered by national state budget. (indicated as national expertise).

6. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

6.3 Implementing Agency

Implementing agency: Central Financing and Contracting Unit (CFCU) Ministry of Finance

Programming Authorising Officer:

Name: Mr Renaldo Mändmets
Title: Deputy Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs
Institution: Ministry of Finance
Address: Suur-Ameerika 1
Phone: +372 6113545
Fax: +372 6966810
6.2 Twinning
Beneficiary institution:
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, DEPARTMENT OF NATURE CONSERVATION

Estonian Project Leader:
Name: Hanno Zingel
Title: Head of the Nature Conservation Department
Institution: Ministry of Environment
Address: Toompuiestee 24, 15172 Tallinn
Phone: +372 6262 872
Fax: +372 6262 901
E-mail: Hanno.Zingel@ekm.envir.ee

6.3 Non-standard aspects: Twinning manual will be strictly followed

6.4 Contract: Twinning covenant (800 000 EUR)

Nature Conservation Department will elaborate the Twinning Covenant in co-
operation with EU Member State. Three Nature Conservation Department officers
will be involved full-time and two officers part-time in the implementation of this
project.

Twinning Covenants will be endorsed by the EC. The implementation activities
will be monitored by the EC Delegation.

A Project Steering Committee will be established with representatives from
Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance, EC Delegation, Office of
European Integration. The Project Steering Committee will have the overall
managerial responsibility as well as the co-ordinating functions between the
project and different institutions. The Steering Committee will meet at least
quarterly or as needed to fulfil its obligations.

7. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals
April 2001
7.2 Start of project activity
September 2001
7.3 Project completion
January 2003
8. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**
   Equal participation in project by woman and men will be assured.

9. **ENVIRONMENT**
   N.A.

10. **RATES OF RETURN**
    N.A.

11. **INVESTMENT CRITERIA**
    N.A.

12. **CONDITIONALITY AND SEQUENCING**
    **Conditionality:**
    - Overview of present status and knowledge about the Habitats Directive Annex II species and general distribution maps of Annex I habitats types are prepared by the beginning of current project. This shall be done during the Danish bilateral project “National Inventories of Internationally Important Species and Habitats in Relation to International Conventions and Directives in Estonia”.
    - Natura 2000 database software will be available by the beginning of this project. For that Estonian NUTS codes shall be elaborated by Estonian Statistic Office, and Natura 2000-database software shall be adjusted for Estonia by European Environmental Agency.
    - The first draft of the Interpretation Manual of EU Habitats for Estonia will be ready by the beginning of this project. It shall be done during the Nordic Council of Ministers project “Preparation of National Interpretation Manual of EU Habitats for Estonia”.

    **Sequencing**
    1. Site selection
    2. Database compilation
    3. Sites boundaries digitalisation
    4. Manuals preparation
    5. Booklets preparation
## LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Number</th>
<th>ES 00.xx</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme name: No:</td>
<td>ES01.05.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of drafting:</td>
<td>01.04.2001</td>
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<td>Contracting period expires:</td>
<td>31/12/2003</td>
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<td>Disbursement period expires:</td>
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<td>Total Budget:</td>
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<td>Phare contribution:</td>
<td>MEUR 0.8</td>
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### Overall Objective
The development of the nature conservation system in Estonia in accordance to the EU requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finnish nature conservation policy coherent with EU nature conservation policy</td>
<td>EU progress reports</td>
<td></td>
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### Project purpose
Natura 2000 network established under the Habitats Directive in Estonia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natura 2000 network established according to EU Habitats Directive in Estonia and approved by the Estonian Government</td>
<td>Estonian Progress report 2003</td>
<td>Natura 2000 network established according to EU Birds Directive in Estonia</td>
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### Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
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<th>Assumptions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Monitored by the project steering committee based on the project reports. 2. The database assessed by EEA Topic Link on Nature Conservation experts 3.-7.1. Monitored by the project steering committee based on the project reports.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
6. Trained public officials and relevant experts

7. Raised public awareness

6. 75 public officials and relevant experts trained during 5 seminars and 2 study visits.

7.1 5 booklets, 10 articles published, TV broadcast prepared.

7.2. Information on Natura 2000 available to public on Ministry of Environment Homepage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Site selection</td>
<td>Twinning covenant</td>
<td>Phare 0.8 MEUR</td>
<td>1. Project will start according to the implementation chart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Database compilation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Public officials attend training seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Sites boundaries digitalisation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Officials of the Ministry of Environment are committed to the implementation of the project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Interpretation Manual preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Public officials training</td>
<td></td>
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<td>7. Public awareness raising</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Preconditions</th>
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<tr>
<td>o Natura 2000 database software available.</td>
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<tr>
<td>o The first draft of the Interpretation Manual of EU</td>
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Habitats for Estonia ready.
**TIME IMPLEMENTATION CHART**

Project N°: ES
Project Title: Nature Conservation Accession: Establishment of Natura 2000 network under the Habitats Directive in Estonia

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<th>2003</th>
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<tr>
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<td>X</td>
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</table>

**Result 1: National list of proposed sites**
- Comparison of experience: X
- Interpretation of criteria: X
- Co-ordination of site selection: X X X

**Result 2: Natura 2000 database**
- Development of format for data collection: X
- Adjustment of database: X
- Collection of data: X X X X

**Result 3: Digitised sites boundaries**
- Development of format for mapping: X
- Mapping of sites boundaries: X X

**Result 4: Publication of Interpretation manual**
- Adoption of the first draft: X
- Publication of interpretation manual: X

**Result 5: Publication of Management Manual**
- Preparation of Manual: X
- Publication of Manual: X

**Result 6: Trained public officers**
- Training courses: X X X X X X X X X
- Study visits: X X

**Result 7: Raised public awareness**
- Preparation of booklets: X X
- Preparation of TV broadcast: X
- Final reporting: X
**CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING SCHEDULE (by quarters)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>2002</th>
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<td>II</td>
<td>III</td>
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**CUMULATIVE DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (by quarters)**

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