1. Basic Information
1.1. Desiree Number: PL01.05.02 Twinning number: PL/IB/2001/EN/02
1.2. Title: European Natura 2000 Network
1.3. Sector: Environment
1.4. Location: Poland

2. Objectives
2.1. Wider Objectives

2.2. Immediate Objectives
Carry out a diagnosis of the state of the objects (habitats) selected and indicated for the Natura 2000 Network, evaluation of their protection conditions, assessment of external and internal risks; Establish criteria for creating plans of protecting of habitats, which will be the basis for Natura 2000 Network; Elaborate the most appropriate methods and formal procedures to develop protection plans of selected objects of Natura 2000 Network, for which the above mentioned plans are indispensable in order to protect habitats and species; Determine national forms of nature protection through which the objects selected for Natura 2000 Network will be covered; Develop methods of management of objects covered by Natura 2000 Network; Establish organisational basis for managing Natura 2000 Network: set up managing units, create databases, determine monitoring scope, supervision and control systems, reporting.

2.3. Accession Partnership and NPAA Priority
NPAA Priority 22.5: Development of Natura 2000 Network in accordance with the Habitat and Birds Directives requirements. In the process of harmonising Polish law with the European law in the area of nature protection, preparing the documentation for creating Natura 2000 Network and implementing this system of protected areas is considered a priority. For this reason, appropriate actions have been taken in relation to law approximation: preliminary selection of areas and species for Natura 2000 Network, determination and setting conditions for the system. Further on, the Network will be established by law.

3. Description
3.1. Background and justification
The main goal in harmonising Polish law with the European Union legislation in the field of nature conservation is to develop the necessary documentation and to implement the Natura 2000 Network as required by the Habitat Directive and the Bird Directive. The national nature protection system that exists in Poland on the grounds of the Law on Nature Conservation of 16 October 1991 differs from the provisions stated in Article 3 of the Habitat Directive with respect to the establishment of the protected areas system. On the basis of Art. 35 of the above mentioned Law, the determination of the area which is a subject of protection derives from the national nature conservation strategy approved by the (former) Minister for Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry (now: Minister of the Environment). Poland has a well developed nature protection system which consists of 9 forms of conserving nature and covers about ¼ of Poland’s territory. However, the target protected areas network has not been defined under these regulations. Poland committed itself to harmonise Polish law concerning the nature conservation with the European Union requirements by the end of 2002, without any transition periods. The process of creating the Natura 2000 Network is a task that is stretched over years, during which different countries are obliged to undertake gradual preliminary activities in order to create the Natura 2000 Network. The Polish side is to submit a draft of the protected areas under Natura 2000 Network in Poland to the European Commission and to undertake actions to implement the timetable of creating the Network. To this effect, a project that is currently being implemented in Poland, supported by Phare 1996 funds, is aimed at developing a list of habitats to be proposed to the Natura 2000 Network. This project will be completed by March 2001. It will constitute the starting point for the implementation phase of the Network, which is the subject of the project proposed for Phare 2001.
3.2. Linked Activities
In January 2000 the project “Preparation of a concept of the Natura 2000 Network in compliance with the requirements of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna (Habitat Directive) and of the Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (Bird Directive) and the Commission Decision of 18 December 1996 concerning a site information format for proposed Natura 2000 sites (97/266/EC)” (mentioned above, supported by Phare’96) was commenced. The aim of this project is to select the appropriate areas for the Natura 2000 Network on at the territory of Poland and to analyse their development conditions as well as results of establishing such areas. It is estimated that about 1200 objects will be selected. Under this project the sites which should be incorporated into the Natura 2000 Network have already been indicated, on the basis of the data collected more than ten years ago. Currently, each of these areas requires up-to-date validation in-site.

Our present knowledge on sites designated to be connected to the Natura 2000 system is not full. This refers mostly to the part of former agricultural estates, belonging previously to the State Farms. Due to the abandonment of farming practices and particularly drainage works these estates, have been for the last 10 years under a strong process of re-naturalisation (revitalisation). It is certain that many of these sites have now acquired quite significant value from the nature protection point of view and that this value will increase in time, especially in relation to the sanctuaries for wetland bird species. Therefore, the need has arisen to study and assess this situation, in order to incorporate the selected sites to the Natura 2000 Network. Otherwise some of them may be re-cultivated.

3.3. Results
Methods of conserving all components of Natura 2000 Network determined; Basis for proper functioning of the Network and managing it created; Completed implementation of Habitats and Birds directives. In the long run it is expected that adopted practices needed for implementation of the Natura 2000 Network will comply with those adopted by the EU, thanks to the realization of this project with the support of the EU experts. This will ensure proper functioning of the Network after Poland joined the EU and contribution of the most valuable nature components to the European nature resources, which are often of unique value. Poland is situated on the border of areas under the influence of atlantic and continental climate, which is why on it’s territory many natural boundary limits of different plant and animal species can be found.

3.4. Activities
The following activities are to be scheduled in assistance with the twinning partner:
1/ prepare diagnosis of the state of the objects (habitats) which have been selected and indicated for the Natura 2000 Network, evaluation of their protection conditions, assessment of external and internal risks,
2/ decide upon the scope and content of the conservation plans for given types of nature habitats and for flora and fauna species and their habitats,
3/ draw up the plans for protecting approximately 400 most valuable habitats which are to be chosen from various types of nature habitats as well as from flora and fauna species and their habitats mentioned in the annexes to the Directives and which are to be found on the territory of Poland,
4/ make a survey of the selected nature components, which have been main criterion for designing objects for Natura 2000 Network,
5/ prepare a draft of the ecological corridors, which will connect main objects of the Natura 2000 Network,
6/ establish the scope and organisation of monitoring of the selected objects for the Natura 2000 Network,
7/ determine methods of re-naturalisation of objects which will be covered by Natura 2000 Network, in particular for bringing back the wetland birds sanctuaries,
8/ indicate the species that should be regenerated and prepare a program of their regeneration,
9/ establish an electronic information program about the Natura 2000 Network for national and international needs in accordance with the Commission Decision of 18 December 1996 concerning a site information format for proposed Natura 2000 sites (97/266/EC),
10/ prepare information and publicity materials concerning the Natura 2000 Network,
11/ prepare reporting instruction for management of the Natura 2000 Network,
12/ prepare a draft of the structure and operation of the body that will manage the Natura 2000 Network in Poland, taking the following into consideration: type of the body, organisational structure, qualifications of the employees, scope of work, technical equipment, operation costs.

13/ establish a control system for functioning of the Natura 2000 Network.

3.5. Inputs

As a part of the Twinning Covenant, appropriate assignments will concern conceptual work and investments. It is planned that in the scope of conceptual work contracts will be signed with the EU experts who will perform the duties of advisers and co-ordinators. Furthermore, because of the wide range of topics, it is expected that Polish experts will be also involved. It is assumed that long, medium and short term experts will be necessary. The selected Pre-Accession Advisor (PAA) will be advising on executing all tasks envisaged in this project to secure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives. All of the experts should be educated in natural sciences and should have scientific and practical achievements in fauna, flora, ecosystems and habitat conservation. It will be also necessary to employ experts experienced in organisation and management of the protected areas, for preparing a draft of setting up and launching of the body (agency-type) that will manage the Natura 2000 Network. The fundamental work of the project will be carried out by the Polish experts from different research centres and other specialised bodies. It is planned that a particular unit will be appointed to act as a co-ordinator of the project.

The investment contract concerns the purchase of computers for running the database and the purchase of the equipment and software for the needs of nature monitoring of the Natura 2000 Network.

The Polish part expenses on the Natura 2000 Network will be drawn from the state budget for nature conservation. Quite probably problems will appear in financing the suggested objects because their number and total area of the Natura 2000 Net in Poland will be significant. For that reason obtaining Phare funds for implementing this project is of vital importance. For the time being is not possible to calculate the overall costs of managing the Network.

4. Institutional Framework

The Ministry of the Environment will supervise the project. It is expected that the supervisor will cooperate with other central government units, especially with the: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Transport and Maritime Economy, State Office for Housing and Urban Development as well as Government Centre for Strategic Studies. The essential work of the project will be carried out only by institutions with appropriate qualifications and appropriate human resources, especially: Institute of Environmental Protection, Institute of Nature Conservation, Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, Polish Academy of Sciences, Forest Research Institute, Institute of Ecology, Polish Academy of Sciences, National Foundation for Environmental Protection. The organisations indicated above have important advantages such as: the Institute of Nature Conservation specialises in species protection, the Institute of Ecology specialises in water ecosystems and birds protection, the Forest Research Institute deals with forest ecosystems and the National Foundation for Environmental Protection deals with different forms of nature conservation.

There will be a project co-ordinator assigned from among the mentioned bodies. For the needs of consultancy and advice it is expected that the Ministry of Environment will appoint a Steering Committee composed of members representing different governmental institutions, municipalities, research centres and NGO's.

5. Budget (MEUR)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Phare Support MEUR</th>
<th>National financing</th>
<th>Co-financing</th>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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The co-financing funds for the project implementation will be available
6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Implementing Agency
PAO: Mr Pawel Samecki, Under-Secretary of State, Office of Committee of European Integration (OCEI), Al. Ujazdowskie 9, 00-918 Warsaw, Poland, Tel/fax (+48 22 455 52 41).
CFCU: Mr Wojciech Paciorkiewicz, Director of CFCU, 00-400 Warsaw, Poland, 6/12 Nowy Swiat St., Tel.: (+48 22) 661 79 27, Fax: (+48 22) 661 72 26, E-mail: cfcu@cofund.org.pl

6.2. Twinning
The leading and responsible body for the project is the Ministry of the Environment. Implementation of this project will require co-operation of various central governmental authorities and governmental administration at the level of voivodship. The project will be enforced by research institutes, research centres and other specialised units.

The subject of the project will be the technical assistance (through the Twinning Covenant) provided by one Pre-Accession Adviser with the experience in the field of the Natura 2000 Network, for a period 24 months. He will be assisted by of short and medium term experts who will ensure the implementation of the project and achievement of the formulated goals. He will stay at the Ministry of the Environment, Department of Forestry, Nature Conservation and Landscape.

Specific requirements for the twinning experts: knowledge of active protection of fauna and flora habitats, knowledge of developing protection plants of nature conservation areas, especially fauna and flora habitats, knowledge of methods of revitalisation, especially former agricultural areas, knowledge of legal issues on assuming protection on private-owned areas, knowledge of methods and scope of monitoring of protected areas and species, knowledge of developing and using computer data base for sites and objects covered by Natura 2000 system, knowledge of reporting system for Natura 2000 Network, knowledge of managing Natura 2000 Network.

Contact persons: Ms Helena Kaminska – chief specialist, Department of Forestry, Nature Conservation and Landscape, Ministry of the Environment, Address: 52/54 Wawelska St., 00-922 Warsaw, Poland, Tel. (+48 22) 5792456, Fax (+48 22) 5792555, e-mail: Helena.kaminska@mos.gov.pl
Ms Ewa Wesolowska – deputy Director, Department of Foreign Funds Management, Ministry of the Environment, Address: 52/54 Wawelska St., 00-922 Warsaw, Poland, Tel/fax: (+48 22) 5792790, e-mail: Ewesolow@mos.gov.pl

6.3. Contracts
Twinning covenant 1.80M€ is envisaged (Phare Support 1.60 MEUR, National Co-financing 0.20 MEUR) Equipment 1.15 MEUR (Phare Support 1.10 MEUR, National Co-financing 0.05 MEUR)

6.4 Non-standard aspects
No non-standard tender procedures are foreseen. DIS manual will be followed.

7. Implementation Schedule
7.2. Start of project activities – 1 July 2002
7.3. Completion of project – 30 June 2004

8. Equal Opportunity
It is planned that both men and women will be equally treated in the project implementation. Qualification, specialisation and previous work achievements will be the only criteria for choosing staff.

9. Environment
This project directly falls within the scope of the environmental protection and will considerably contribute to conservation of natural environment.

10. Rates of return
n/a

11. Investment criteria
n/a

12. Conditionality and sequencing
Conditionality: Adoption of the new Act on Nature Protection

Milestones:

1. As a precondition - preparation of the final report containing the preliminary list of the areas selected under PHARE’96 project for the Natura 2000 Network (by the end of March 2001).
2. Elaboration the preservation plans for 50 selected habitats (differing according to nature features) marked for Natura 2000 Network (July 2002 – June 2004).
3. Designing structure and functioning of the national authority responsible for the management of the Natura 2000 Network which will be modelled on experience and institutional arrangements in the EU Member States (July 2002 – June 2004).
4. Preparation the project computer database for the needs of Natura 2000 Network management, compatible with other EU countries systems (July 2002 – June 2004).
**European Natura 2000 Network**

**End Contracting:** 15/12/2003 - **End Disbursement:** 15/12/2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wider objective</th>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</th>
<th>Source of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening of institutions and preparation of the management system of the European Natura 2000 Network according the requirements of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and (Habitat Directive) and of Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Bird Directive) and the Commission Decision of 18 December 1996 concerning a site information format for proposed Natura 2000 sites (97/266/EC).</td>
<td>Necessary administrative units established within this project. The elaborated methods of management of the Natura 2000 Network in Poland</td>
<td>Polish law; Periodic and final reports on the project progress; Other reports concerning projects linked with proposed project</td>
<td>Adoption of preliminary list concerning the object selected; Preparation of the preliminary list of the selected areas; Reliable access to information</td>
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</table>

**Project purpose**

- carry out diagnosis of the habitats state selected for Natura 2000 Net; establish criteria for creating plans of protecting habitats; evaluate condition of protection and internal and external risks of objects; determine national forms of nature protection through which the objects will be covered; develop methods of management of objects; elaborate the methods and formal scheme of preparing protection plans for selected objects, for which such plans are indispensable in order to protect habitats and species; establish organisational basis for managing Natura 2000 Net (organising managing units, creating databases, monitoring scope, supervision and control systems, reporting).

**Objectively Verifiable Indicators**

- documentation on the diagnosis of the habitats states and on protection plans; electronic information program fully implemented; Draft structure and operation of competent managing body ready, methods and formal procedures related to EU law and programmes on the European Nature 2000 Net areas

**Sources of Verification**

- Periodic and final reports on the project progress; Commission regular report; Common Position; law in force; NPAA and other documentation

**Assumptions**

- proper co-operation with regional and local authorities, between different institutions involved in implementation; access to reliable information; good and appropriate qualifications of the experts responsible for the project.

**Results**

- methods of conserving all components of Natura 2000 Network; basis for proper functioning of Network and managing it; the Habitats and Birds directive implemented; adopted solutions needed for implementation of the Natura 2000 Network in compliance with those adopted by the EU; proper functioning of the network after the accession; contribution of the most valuable nature components to the European nature resources.

**Objectively Verifiable Indicators**

- creation of the Natura 2000 Network conservation plans; their enforcement and monitoring; proper functioning Network after the accession; staff understand requirements of relevant directives

**Sources of Verification**

- PAA and technical assistance reports; Legal acts; Plans and programmes; Reports on enforcement of conservation and monitoring; NPAA and other documentation

**Assumptions**

- Available sources of financing; Support from other relevant institutions

**Activities**

- Diagnosis of state of habitats selected and indicated for Natura 2000 Network, evaluation of protection conditions, assessment of external and internal risks: Decide upon the scope and content of the conservation plans for given types of nature habitats and for flora and fauna species and their habitats. Draw up the plans for protecting appr. 400 habitats to be chosen from various types of nature habitats and from flora and fauna species and their habitats mentioned in annexes to Directives and to be found in Poland. Survey of selected nature components, which have been major criterion for designing objects for Natura 2000 Network. Prepare a draft of the ecological corridors to connect main objects of Network. Establish scope and organisation of monitoring of selected objects. Determine methods of re-naturalisation of objects, in particular for bringing back the wetland birds sanctuaries. Indicate species that should be regenerated and prepare a program for regeneration. Establish an electronic information program for national and international needs in accordance with the Commission Decision concerning a site information format for proposed Natura 2000 sites (97/266/EC). Prepare information and publicity materials. Prepare reporting instruction for management. Prepare a draft of structure and operation of managing body. Establish a control system for functioning of the Natura 2000 Net

**Means**

- The Polish part of expenses will be drawn from the state budget; PAA, long and short term experts; Reports, documentation, guidelines, handbooks; Hardware, software and database.

**Assumptions**

- Both organisations recruit adequate staff; Effective co-operation with other institution who set and use formal procedures related to EU law; KPAA and other documentation

**Total budget:** 2.95 MEUR  
**Phare EUR:** 2.70 MEUR
Annex 2-4. Implementation, contracting and disbursement schedules

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D = design of sub-project / C = tendering and contracting / I = contract implementation and payment