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CB2 Project Document

**PIMS 3069 - Strengthening Capacity to Integrate Environment and Natural Resource Management, for Global Environmental Benefits/
UNDP-GEF Medium-Size Project (MSP) assisting the
Government of Romania**
United Nations Development Programme

Brief description

The proposed CB-2 project aims to expand Romania's capacity to generate global environmental benefits through mainstreaming the Rio Conventions into national, regional and local decision-making. It will do this, *firstly*, by enhancing the enabling environment for conventions implementation, including modifying institutional, legislative, policy and reporting frameworks to reflect convention commitments and, *secondly*, by improving institutional and individual capacity within the lead agencies for conventions implementation (ME and MAFRD). The latter component will strengthen mechanisms, tools and training to support the use of Integrated Resource Management, to mainstream conventions themes into sectoral plans and programmes. The project also addresses the objectives of the three GEF focal areas and three of the four interim programming priorities under GEF Strategic Priority CB-2, *Cross-cutting Capacity Development*: (1) Improve national convention institutional structures and mechanisms; (2) Strengthen policy, legislative and regulative framework; and (3) Mainstream global environmental priorities into national policies and programmes. The project is consistent with a key UNDP programme objective for Romania: to enhance environmental governance at national and local levels for better compliance with EU standards and international conventions, through policy development and integration of environment into other sectors.

Acronyms: NCSA – National Capacity Self Assessment); **CB2** – Capacity Building 2; **CBD** – Convention on Biological Diversity); **CCD** – Convention to Combat Desertification; **EPA** – Environmental Protection Agency; **FCCC** – Framework Convention on Climate Change; **GEF** – Global Environment Facility; **IRM** – Integrated Resource Management; **MAFRD** – Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development; **ME** – Ministry of the Environment; **MSP** – Medium Size Project; **PIR** – Peer Internal Review; **RCM** – Regional Coordination Mechanisms; **SOE** – State of the Environment; **UNDP** – United Nations Development Program

Romania has ratified over 20 Multinational Environmental Agreements since 1992, including the “Rio Conventions” on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation (CBD, FCCC, CCD), and prepared related Action Plans. Romania's accession to the EU in January 2007 has triggered improvements to the institutional, legal and policy framework for environmental management, and led to the preparation of numerous environmental and sectoral plans, strategies and programmes. However, Rio Conventions management has continued to be fragmented and uncoordinated, and conventions implementation has been weak, due, in part, to poor integration of convention themes into EU-related reforms in policy-making, environmental and natural resource management, public administration, decentralization and regional and local planning.

Project Fact Sheet

Project Logic Model	
Goal	
To expand Romania's capacity to generate global environmental benefits through mainstreaming the Rio Conventions into national decision-making.	
Objective	
To strengthen systemic, institutional and individual capacity to integrate Rio Convention themes into national, regional and local decision-making.	
<p>Outcome 1: Enhanced institutional, legislative, policy and planning framework for implementing Rio Convention commitments.</p> <p><i>Output 1.1: Institutional framework and processes for coordinated management and implementation of the Rio Convention established</i></p> <p><i>Output 1.2: Legislation and norms amended to better enable mainstreaming of Rio Convention themes into policies, plans and programmes.</i></p> <p><i>Output 1.3: Environmental screening is part of the national policy-making process, and officials within the Public Policies Unit and two Inter-ministerial Councils 19 are able to use it to integrate conventions into sectoral policies</i></p> <p><i>Output 1.4: A convention monitoring system is part of national State of the Environment reporting, with targets and indicators to assess progress on implementing the Rio Conventions</i></p>	<p>Outcome 2: Improved capacity of ME and MAFRD to integrate environmental and sectoral resource management.</p> <p><i>Output 2.1: Enhanced technical and managerial capacity of MESD and MARD staff to integrate environmental and sectoral resource management, using Integrated Resource Management techniques</i></p> <p><i>Output 2.2: Codes of good practice, checklists and training established to strengthen Integrated Resource Management tools for integrating environment into sectoral programmes and projects</i></p> <p><i>Output 2.3: Regional Coordinating Mechanisms (RCMs) are established as demonstration models in two of Romania's eight Development Regions, then expanded to the remaining six regions, based on lessons learned</i></p> <p><i>Output 2.4: Each of the two model Regional Coordinating Mechanisms implements a demonstration activity which shows how Integrated Resource Management tools can be used to address priority regional issues and the results are disseminated to all eight Development Regions</i></p> <p><i>Output 2.5: A peer training network and database to support integrated resource management is established to serve regional and local environmental and resource management staff.</i></p>
Outcome 3: An efficient project management unit is in place providing the management support for the implementation of the project.	

Key Facts

<i>GEF Implementing Agency:</i>	UNDP
<i>National Executing Agency:</i>	Ministry of Environment (ME) and Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development (MAFRD)
<i>Executing Agency:</i>	University of Bucharest
<i>National Project Manager:</i>	Prof. dr. Dan Gabriel Manoleli
<i>Starting Date:</i>	June 2008
<i>Closing Date:</i>	June 2011 (3 years)
<i>Budget:</i>	GEF: USD 470,000 (+30,000 PPG) Co-financing: USD 730,000 (+10,000 PPG)
<i>Main Stakeholders:</i>	Ministry of Environment (ME) & Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development (MAFRD)

Baseline and Targets Values

	Proposed Indicator	Baseline	Target by End of Project	Sources of verification
Objective: To strengthen systemic, institutional and individual capacity to integrate Rio Convention themes into national, regional and local decision-making	1. Alignment of institutional, legislative and policy frameworks with the objectives and obligations of the global environmental conventions signed by Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romania is committed to meet its conventions obligations; however, some critical gaps in institutional, legal and policy frameworks exist; including an uneven capacity within key ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conventions obligations are well integrated into national institutional, legal and policy frameworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCSA reports for baseline information Project progress Evaluation reports National, regional and local plans, strategies and programmes
	2. Quality of national monitoring reports and communications integrating conventions obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National reports and communications for meeting conventions obligations are produced but reflect a non-integrated approach within the national frameworks for environmental management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOE and other national reports/communications include quality information on the state of implementation of the Conventions in Romania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports to conventions secretariats National State of Environment Reports
	3. Capacity development monitoring scorecard rating	Capacity for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement: Generate, access and use information and knowledge: Policy and legislation development: specific provisions Management and implementation (total targeted score: ??/45) 	Capacity for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement: Generate, access and use information and knowledge Policy and legislation development: Management and implementation: Monitor and evaluate: (total targeted score: ??/45) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-term and final evaluation reports Annual PIRs Capacity assessment reports
Outcome 1: Enhanced institutional, legislative, policy and planning framework for implementing Rio Convention commitments	4. Responsibilities for conventions obligations assigned to institutions mandates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convention units in place, but institutional framework is fragmented and convention implementation is uneven National focal points report independently to Conventions, with little collaboration; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All conventions obligations are clearly assigned to key institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCSA reports for baseline information Project reports Mandates of agencies and sub-units Organigrammes

	Proposed Indicator	Baseline	Target by End of Project	Sources of verification
		decisions sometimes conflict		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New/revised laws and norms • Government Decisions, Ministerial Orders, etc.
	5. Effective multi-agency conventions coordination mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conventions fall under two National Councils, but there is no provision to address them • No formal inter-agency coordination mechanisms • No regional or local agency involvement in conventions • ME is not on Council #8 on Territorial Planning, Energy and Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination mechanisms established among convention units, and between these units and other relevant Ministries and units • Convention management units are rationalized to be more efficient and effective • Membership of Inter-ministerial Councils permits integration of convention obligations into sectoral policy-making and planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organigrammes and normative documents • Work plans and progress reports, financial reports • Convention reports • Ministry annual reports • Staff interviews and focus groups • Government Decrees setting out composition and operational rules for key policy councils (#8 and #9)
	6. Conventions obligations integrated in related legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws in place to ratify Rio conventions, but “secondary” laws and norms not revised to be consistent with obligations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key laws and norms revised to be consistent with convention obligations • “Secondary” legislation and norms in place to enable integration of conventions into sectoral policy-making and planning processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary (enabling) legislation and norms • Government Documents • Government and Minister’s Orders, Decrees and regulations
	7. Conventions obligations integrated in related policies, national plans, strategies and programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rio convention action plans not mainstreamed into national and regional policies and planning • ME and MAFRD programmes and activities are sector-oriented, with little collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related national policy-making and planning processes incorporate convention obligations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agendas and minutes of Councils • Environmental and sectoral programme and project documents • Environmental screening documents (e.g., checklists) • Training evaluations

	Proposed Indicator	Baseline	Target by End of Project	Sources of verification
	8. Conventions obligations embedded into effective environmental screening process of policy making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New policy processes require environmental screening of policies, but conventions are not addressed and there are no technical tools or expertise to help policy proponents do screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental screening tools (e.g., checklists) incorporating conventions obligations are part of policy-making processes • Key officials trained on environmental screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOE reports • Control Staff Reports • Internal ministry reports • Registers • Training records and evaluations • Media coverage of SOE
Outcome 2: Improved capacity of ME and MAFRD to integrate environment and natural resource management into sectoral policies	9. Roles and responsibilities for implementing conventions obligations assigned in job descriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities for implementing conventions obligations are not well assigned to staffs and key ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities for implementing conventions obligations clearly assigned to key job descriptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job descriptions • NCSA reports • Project reports • Convention reports • Ministry policies and reports
	10. Implementation of conventions monitored effectively and information included in SOE reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual State of Environment (SOE) reporting system in place, but no mechanism to track performance on convention implementation and synergies • Ministry knowledge of SOE and how to use it to design programmes is weak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators to monitor conventions obligations identified and are part of SOE reporting • Database of convention activities established and integrated into related ministry's databases • Key staff trained to monitor and report on SOE indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOE reports • Databases
	11. ME and MAFRD staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to address conventions obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uneven capacity of focal points and convention units to manage and implement conventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff trained and apply skills and knowledge to the implementation of conventions obligations • Staff trained in key IRM techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training evaluations
	12. Effective code of practice, guidelines, checklists to address conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-government stakeholders are using some IRM technique, but government-non- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRM tools strengthened through additional guidelines, codes of good practice, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines, codes of practice and checklists

	Proposed Indicator	Baseline	Target by End of Project	Sources of verification
	obligations	governmental organizations collaboration is rare	checklists, etc.	
	13. Effective participation of stakeholders in the implementation of conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal stakeholder involvement in conventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All relevant stakeholders involved in convention implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership of participative processes Media coverage
	14. A model for regional coordination mechanism (RCM) is developed and adopted by two Development Regions using integrated resource management (IRM) tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no collaborative mechanisms across units and ministries at regional and local levels to implement national environmental and sectoral policies and plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal Regional Collaborative Mechanisms involving national, regional and local authorities developed and tested in two regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normative documents setting out RCM composition, terms of reference and operating procedures Minutes of RCM meetings Surveys, interviews and focus groups with RCM members
	15. The RCM model and IRM tools are replicated to all regions in Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conventions and integrated resource management not addressed at regional and local levels, including Agenda 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCM Model adopted by ME and MAFRD for all eight regions, with possible expansion to include regional office of other ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministries' decisions and orders
	16. An IRM peer training network used by participants throughout Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no formal network but some local authorities and staff in regional and local agencies use some IRM techniques ME and MAFRD and EPAs have a database to which the IRM database could be linked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer training network established and functioning with members the two pilot regions and other regions Database established with IRM references and contacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer network documents Database Staff surveys, interview and focus groups National and regional workshop proceedings
Outcome 3: An efficient project management unit is in place providing the management support for the implementation of the project	17. Progress reports summarizing the performance of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management procedures are put in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project implementation well documented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reports
	18. Project information readily available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No project web site available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project information is readily available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project web site and project reports