



MINISTRY OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND WATER



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
FACILITY



UN DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME

**Bulgarian National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental Management**

## THEMATIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

# BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

## SUMMARY

2004

The Bulgarian National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management Project is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Water and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and started in December 2002.. Its aims are to define capacity building needs in view of meeting Bulgaria's obligations under the United Nations Conventions on Climate Change, Biological Diversity and Combating Desertification and develop a Strategic Action Plan, to be adopted as an official document.

The present report was elaborated during the June – December, 2003 period as part of Thematic Studies phase by the following team:

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### **Acknowledgements**

The team expresses its gratitude to all individuals who participated in the work of the thematic working group on biodiversity and ensured the elaboration of the present report<sup>1</sup>.

Special gratitude is expressed to Mrs. Fatme Iliaz, Deputy Minister of Environment and Water, Mrs. Maria Karadimova, National Project Director and National Focal Point for the Cartagena Protocol and Mr. Hristo Bozhinov – National Focal Point for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 4: List of members of the biodiversity thematic group, in the complete text of the report.

## List of acronyms used

AMP – Act on Medicinal Plants  
BAS – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
BCM – Biosafety Clearing-house Mechanism  
BDA – Biodiversity Act  
CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity  
CHM – Clearing-house Mechanism for the Biological Diversity  
CP – Cartagena Protocol on biosafety under CBD  
EAPVTASC - Executive Agency Plant Variety Testing, Approbation and Seed Control  
EEA – Executive Environmental Agency  
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment  
EMEPA – Enterprise for Management of Environmental Protection Activities  
EP – Environment Protection  
EPA – Act on the Protection of the Environment  
EU – European Union  
FA – Forests Act  
FAA – Fisheries and Aquacultures Act  
GMO – Genetically Modified Organism  
GMOA – Genetically Modified Organisms Act  
HEF – Higher Education Facility  
HGPA – Hunting and Game Protection Act  
MAF – Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
ME – Ministry of Economy  
MF – Ministry of Finance  
MFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
MOEW – Ministry of Environment and Water  
MRDPW – Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works  
MSE – Ministry of Science and Education  
NBCAP – National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan  
NBCS – National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy  
NCAS – National Center of Agrarian Science  
NEN – National Ecological Network  
NGO – Non-governmental Organization  
PA – Protected Area  
PAA – Protected Areas Act  
SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats Analysis  
UNCCD – United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification  
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme  
UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme  
UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
WA – Water Act.

## **Introduction**

This thematic assessment report is a result of the second stage of the process of National Capacity Self-Assessment of Bulgaria for participation in the management of human impact on the global environment. This process is implemented through the joint project of the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), funded by the Global Environment Facility.

The objective of the Thematic Assessment Report on Biological Diversity is to enlighten the problems concerning the capacity of the country to carry out its obligations under the Biological Diversity Convention and the Cartagena Protocol and to outline the specific objectives and tasks to be implemented to overcome them. The report also highlights the assets which could directly or indirectly contribute to the achievement of the formulated objectives.

A leading principle in the process of the national self-assessment is the broad and comprehensive participation of the stakeholders in the analysis of the capacity of Bulgaria to implement its obligations under the Convention. This report is produced by the Biological Diversity Thematic Working Group including representatives of the executive authorities (16 people), the local authorities (2 people), the scientific community (6 people) and the non-governmental organizations (4 people). The group had three meetings to approve the current document. Its work is based on the information, compiled and summarized at the first stage of the project<sup>2</sup>, and was supported by a group of experts, who carried out detailed studies and developed proposals to be discussed during the meetings. Draft thematic report is discussed with a wide group of stakeholders at a workshop organized in Sofia on February 18, 2004. Proposals for changes in the report are discussed among the Thematic Working Group members and text revisions are made resulting into the final version of the Thematic Assessment Report on Biodiversity.

The methodology of this thematic report includes several analytical steps and methods.

### **1. Selection of priority themes for capacity analysis in the field of biodiversity**

The analysis of the information on the current state allowed to identify a number of achievements and constrains concerning the implementation of the obligations under the Convention. The diversity of activities needed to implement the obligations under the CBD and the CP and the guidelines for carrying out the process of national self-assessment required focusing the attention on a limited number of themes for the further review of the capacity. The themes for analysis of the capacity were identified by the expert group that elaborated the Baseline Report, with the participation of the National Focal Point for the Convention and the leaders of the expert groups under the other two themes (the climate change and combating desertification), based on the following criteria: scope of the problem, level of concern, priority level and needs for capacity building in four aspects - human resources (number, involvement, qualification, experience, etc.), administrative resources (specialized structures, management of activities, exchange of information, etc.), financial resources, technical resources (capital equipment, infrastructure, technical equipment, etc.).

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<sup>2 2</sup> Baseline Report on Biodiversity (<http://chm.moew.government.bg/nlsa>)

The ultimate set of themes proposed for further capacity analysis in the field of the biological diversity is as follows:

1. Identifying (biological indicators), monitoring and economic valuation of components of the biological diversity
2. Live genetically modified organisms and biosafety; use of biotechnology and sharing benefits of them; access to and transfer of technologies
3. Access to genetic resources and ensuring benefits sharing; ex situ conservation
4. Sustainable use; coastal biological diversity; medicinal plants and wild fruits and mushrooms; forest biological diversity; ecotourism
5. Incentive measures and financial resources: ensuring access to; management; providing; using
6. Research and training; effective use of the scientific potential; exchange of information; technical and scientific cooperation
7. Developing common policy; developing sectoral policies and mainstreaming biological diversity issues in sectoral policies; approval of strategies, plans and programmes
8. Informing and training of the public and ensuring political and public support.

## **2. SWOT analysis**

The national capacity self-assessment project team selected the SWOT method (strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats) for the analysis of Bulgaria's capacity to meet its CBD and CP commitments. The main argument for this choice is that the identification of weaknesses defines the problems/gaps in the capacity required to fulfill the commitments, while the identification of strengths could help determine existing or potential capacity that could be used or further developed. On the other hand, both opportunities and threats are elements of the external environment and could support /encourage or obstruct/hinder this development.

The SWOT analysis was organized through carrying out two workshops of the Thematic Working Group. The first workshop resulted in identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats from the point of view of the capacity at the system, institutional and individual levels by each of the above-mentioned eight priority themes. At each of the levels the analyzed capacity includes the following elements:

- system level – political framework; legislative framework; economic framework; resources at system level; public support; coordination;
- institutional level – structure; human resources; financial resources; information resources; technical resources;
- individual level – qualification of staff, working motivation of staff; training motivation of staff; interaction/cooperation among staff;

Further on the project team clustered the respective entries under the eight themes, by elements of each of the capacity levels. The result was discussed at the second workshop of the Thematic Working Group, where the SWOT analysis records were further clarified, unified, added or removed .

### **3. Identification of priority problem areas of the capacity to fulfill the Convention commitments**

The further elaboration on the SWOT analysis results indicated the occurrence of cause-effect interrelations between the weaknesses identified. At the second workshop the thematic group members clustered the respective statements as a result of which ten capacity problem areas were identified.

1. Gaps in legislation and ineffective enforcement of existing laws;
2. Insufficient financial resources;
3. Management problems in administration;
4. Management problems in science;
5. Delayed processes;
6. Insufficient staffing capacity;
7. Insufficient public support and lack of awareness;
8. Business and biodiversity;
9. Corruption;
10. Unrealized opportunities;

These problem areas were prioritized based on the following four criteria, of different weight, determined by the thematic group:

- importance for the biodiversity conservation (global, regional, national) – with weight coefficient 4;
- need for urgent resolving – with weight coefficient 3;
- possibility to resolve the problem with the available resources – with weight coefficient 2;
- benefit for Bulgaria: environment forming functions – with weight coefficient 1.

### **4. Cause-effect analysis of the key problems in terms of capacity for implementing the obligations under the Biological Diversity Convention**

The SWOT analysis results proved insufficient to formulate the specific objectives and tasks for building or improving the capacity, due to the fact that the weaknesses include both problems and the reasons for these problems, without making an attempt to clarify links and relations between them. Besides this, the strengths of the existing capacity are clustered most generally and more concrete assessment of their influence or the potential use for building and improving the capacity are lacking.

The cause-effect analysis allowed identifying:

- the central problems, which result directly in failure to implement obligations under the Convention and/or lead to undesired consequences or unfavorable effects;
- the problems, which cause and sustain the central problem (causes).
- problems, which characterize the consequences and unfavorable effects of lacking or insufficient capacity to implement obligations under the Convention;

Based on the ten priority problem areas concerning the Convention, four central problems were formulated:

**A. Insufficiently consistent state policy for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, access to genetic resources and international cooperation;**

**B. Gaps in the current legislation and weaknesses due to inaccurate definitions, which obstruct the effective implementation of the obligations of Bulgaria under the CBD and CP;**

**C. Insufficient effectiveness of the state administration in terms of the implementation of obligations under CBD;**

**D. Insufficient public support for the different initiatives for conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity components.**

**5. Formulating specific objectives and tasks for building and/or strengthening the capacity for implementing obligations under CBD and CP. Assets for achieving the specific objectives.**

The carried out detailed cause-effect analysis of the problem areas resulted in defining the “problems tree”, which was logically transformed into “**objectives tree**”. It outlines the desired outputs, the strategic objectives, the specific objectives and tasks, which should be achieved for building or strengthening the capacity for implementing obligations under the Convention. There is a direct relation between consequences/ undesired effects and desired ultimate outputs; between the central problems and the strategic objectives; between the causes and the specific objectives and tasks.

The overcoming of the central problem “Insufficiently consistent state policy for implementing the obligations of Bulgaria and achieving the objectives of CBD and CP – conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable benefit sharing” requires achievement of **strategic objective I: “Holistic and consistent state policy for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, access to genetic resources and international cooperation”**. The achieving of the above formulated strategic objective will result in **implementing obligations under CBD and CP and realizing potential benefits and uses**, which characterizes the ultimate desired output.

The specific objectives for achievement of the strategic objective correspond to the causes for the central problem and are the following:

*I. 1. Specific objective: The recommendations of the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy are implemented*

**The tasks** for achievement of the first goal are:

I. 1.1. Further development of NEN concerned with NATURA 2000 (15% of the territory if Bulgaria to be covered by special protected areas and zones by 2007);

I. 1.2. Comprehensive review and evaluation of the implementation of the National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (NBCAP) (1999-2003) with the stakeholders;

I. 1.3. The annual reports on implementation of the National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan are elaborated and discussed with all categories of stakeholders and the

results are available for the large public (the MOEW web page, Biodiversity Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM), Bulgarian Biodiversity Platform);

I. 1.4. The new National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan 2004-2008 should include a system of indicators, allowing for reporting achievement of activities resulting in implementation of the recommendations of NBCS (for example: the annual increase of the size of protected areas);

I. 1.5. Specific measures for conservation of the biological diversity in the forests should be included in the Action Plan under the National Forest Policy and Strategy for sustainable development of the forest sector;

I. 1.6. Better harmonization of the sectoral policies and strategies (the National Plan for Development of Agriculture and Rural Regions, the National Forest Policy and Strategy Implementation Plan, the National Ecotourism Strategy Implementation Plan) and the NBCS and its Action Plan;

I. 1.7. To accelerate the implementing of measures under the National Plan for Development of Agriculture and Rural Regions concerned with biodiversity conservation – the protection of local and traditional breeds and varieties; preservation of traditional local practices, compatible with the sustainable use of biological resources; increase the environment preservation awareness among the agricultural producers;

I. 1.8. To develop urgently a national programme/plan for integral management of the Black Sea coastline with a specific accent on the biodiversity conservation.

I.1.9. Approval of state policy for development of science and technologies in the field of the biodiversity, included in the Act for stimulating the Scientific Studies

I. 1.10. Development of a National Programme for Applied Studies and priority development of the research in the field of biodiversity components valorizing.

I. 1.11. Systemizing the elements of the environmental education and elaborating a strategic programme document for development of environmental education and awareness;

I. 1.12. Review the delegation of authorities of state institutions, responsible for implementing the tasks concerned with conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity components in view of enhancing the effectiveness of their activities and providing supervisory control;

I. 1.13. Effectively operating National Biological Diversity Council, which should optimize the system for coordination between the different steering, consultative, organizational and/or coordination bodies.

I. 1.14. Creating operational mechanisms for actual consideration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use concerns into the sectoral policies and the programme documents bound with them with the objective of ensuring sustainable development;

I. 1.15. Approve programme for incentive measures and financial mechanisms concerning the biodiversity conservation in Bulgaria (elements/measures: stimulate private business initiatives to invest in activities with proved positive impact on the biodiversity components and especially on recovery of habitats and populations of rare and endangered species, through tax exemptions, no-interest and low-interest loans, etc.; study the possibilities for introducing entry fees at the National and Nature Parks).

I.1.16. Review and up-date the structure, functions and management of the biosphere reserves, according to the 1995 Seville Strategy requirements.

I.1.17. Biodiversity state indicators of the National Monitoring System are elements of a national indicator system on sustainable development. They should be user-friendly and easy to follow.

*I. 2. Specific objective: The state policy for active international cooperation (concerning the access to genetic resources and benefits sharing, international exchange of information, joint research and exchange of technologies) is consistent and qualified staff to implement the policy is available.*

To achieve this specific objective the following set of **tasks** is recommended:

- I. 2.1. Integrating Bulgaria into the European scientific environment through establishment and maintenance of the Bulgarian Biodiversity Platform;
- I. 2.2. Enhance the cooperation/ lobbying with neighboring countries for joint fund raising, attraction of investments and donors.
- I. 2.3. Better utilizing of funds under international projects, as well as of pre-accession and other EU funds, using the capacity of the existing structures and improving the operation organization.
- I. 2.4. Develop and implement training programme for international negotiations and projects preparation, for the staff of the institutions concerned with biodiversity.

In terms of the central problem: “Gaps in the current legislation and weaknesses due to inaccurate definitions, which frustrate the effective obligations of Bulgaria under the CBD and CP” the **strategic objective II** is: “**Holistic and comprehensive legislative basis in the field of the biological diversity harmonized with the CBD and CP**”.

The ultimate desired output or state after achieving this strategic objective is: **Legislation, providing for effective conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources, in accordance with the obligations of Bulgaria, arising from ratifying the CBD and CP. Reduce the possibilities for violations, illegal administrative discretion, arbitrariness and corruption and increase the public trust in law and juridical authorities.**

*Specific objectives:*

- II. 1. The gaps and weaknesses of the active legislation are eliminated through harmonizing the legislative policy between the responsible institutions;*
- II. 2. Experts are involved in the development of the legal basis, to consult specific characteristics of biological diversity, yet the leading role in elaborating legislative documents should remain with competent lawyers.*
- II. 3. Legislative basis considering the interests of all stakeholders, as well as the biodiversity conservation priorities is developed.*

A set of **7 tasks** is proposed, the achievement of which will result in accomplishment of the above formulated three specific objectives and respectively of the strategic objective:

- II. (1.-3.).1. Adopt an Act on GMO and timely development and adoption of the related regulations;
- II. (1.-3.).2. Elaborate and adopt an Act on Black Sea Coastline, providing for integrated management and conservation of biological resources;
- II. (1.-3.).3. Elaborate and adopt an Act on Caves;
- II. (1.-3.).4. Review and evaluate the acting legislation in view of the effective implementation of international commitments of Bulgaria, as well as of harmonizing individual laws to guarantee the priority of the conservation principles;
- II. (1.-3.).5. Amend the acting legislation and develop by-laws in view of eliminating existing gaps and controversies with some international requirements;

- II. (1.-3.).6. Elaborating and consistent implementing of practices for development of legislative documents in multidisciplinary teams including all stakeholders and participation of lawyers from the very beginning and at any stage of the laws drafting;
- II. (1.-3.).7. Legal provisions for the functioning of the EIA tool for the cause of protection of biological diversity and natural resources (limit the “operational independence” of a minister or director in order to avoid “on man” decision making on the need to undertake the respective procedures; introduce objectively verifiable criteria for evaluating the scale of the impact; in issuing EIA decisions and permits ensure and require a guarantee for informing and involving not only the stakeholders but also the people affected by the change – citizens and NGOs; define the term “independent” expert; objectively verifiable criteria or coefficient for defining the scale of payment for preparing a report or statement; expert team should be formed through a competition according to the Public Procurement Act or another democratic way and not by the investor; penalties for the consequences from illegal actions on behalf of an expert or investor or others).
- II.(1.-3.).8. Legal provisions for financial and economic mechanisms to encourage and sponsor the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources;
- II.(1.3.).9. Exclusion from the EPA of the general provisions for public access to information and introduce amendments to envisage mechanisms adequate to the specific requirements on environmental information;
- I.(1.-3.).10. Development and adoption of Rivers and Freshwater Bodies Act ensuring integrated management and protection of natural resources.

In terms of the central problem “Insufficient efficiency and effectiveness of the state administration in terms of the implementation of obligations under CBD” **strategic objective III** is formulated: **“Effective state management for biological diversity conservation and sustainable use”**. The ultimate desired output is achievement of **conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in consent with the CBD and CP requirements**.

To achieve the strategic objective and reach the desired ultimate state 11 specific objectives are formulated.

*III. 1. Specific objective: Legislation is effectively enforced.*

**Tasks:**

- III. 1.1. Amend the acting legislation through elaboration on texts concerning timeframes and control, and in view of effectiveness enhancing;
- III. 1.2. Strengthen the institutions responsible for conservation, control and guarding of biological diversity and biological resources and raising the requirements towards them;
- III. 1.3. Enhance the control on compliance of decisions under EIA and permits issued;
- III. 1.4. Increase awareness among magistrates, police and customs officers in view of the effective enforcement of nature conservation legislation for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

*III. 2. Specific objective: Improved coordination and interaction between state institutions and local authorities for a more effective implementation of obligations under CBD and CP.*

**Tasks:**

- III. 2.1. Optimizing the forms of inter-institutional interactions through strengthening the capacity of existing administrative structures; and/or establishing administrative structure with decisive functions on biodiversity issues;

III. 2.2. Optimizing the internal institutional coordination and control in terms of implementing activities concerned with CBD and CP

*III. 3. Specific objective: Sufficient qualified staff and funds for activities and control are secured.*

**Tasks:**

III. 3.1. Enhance the capacity of departments with the Ministries (MRDPW, ME, MES, MOEW, MAF/NFB), Customs Agency, District and Municipal Administrations whose scope of work includes the biological diversity;

III. 3.2. Develop and apply methodology for economic valuation of biodiversity and train people in the field of economic valuation so that Bulgaria could provide assessment of the biological diversity loss by 2010.

*III. 4. Specific objective: Optimum capacity of the state administration at national, district and local level for implementing obligations under CBD and CP is built.*

**Tasks:**

III. 4.1. Create specialized administrative units for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources at district and municipal level, as well as with the RIEW and RFB;

III. 4.2. Create administrative structure in the frames of the legal basis of the GMOA;

III. 4.3. Staff continuity and team work of the state administration;

III. 4.4. Provide foreign language training for the staff of the state administration.

*III. 5. Specific objective: The lawyers recruited by the institutions are directly involved in the specialized legal activities of the respective institutions.*

**Tasks:**

III. 5.1. Enhance the role of the lawyers recruited by the institutions in implementing the legislative basis in the sector;

III. 5.2. Increase the specialized (in biodiversity) training of lawyers recruited by the institutions.

*III. 6. Specific objective: Practice is established for involving of all stakeholders into the management process.*

**Tasks:**

III. 6.1. Increase the awareness among the stakeholders about the existing legislatively postulated possibilities for participation in the processes of managerial decisions taking concerning the conservation and use of biological diversity;

III. 6.2. Enhance the coordination between state institutions and international programmes and NGOs concerning management of protected areas, conservation of species and habitats.

III.6.3. Involve NGOs and the business, including outsourcing, in the solution of biodiversity related problems;

III.6.4. Raise the activism and role of NGOs in the biodiversity field by improving their financial self-sustainability;

III.6.5. Strengthen the human capacity of NGOs by exploring the possibilities for alternative military service at NGOs or National Parks.

III. 7. Specific objective: Functioning mechanism is established for enriching and exchanging information between the stakeholders.

**Tasks:**

- III. 7.1. Develop rules clarifying the status (ownership, confidentiality clauses) and determining the access to and the possible use of the specific information, concerning the issues and activities for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in the state institutions, the scientific organizations, NGOs and private persons;
- III. 7.2. Develop mechanisms for the effective operation of the Biological Diversity Clearing-house mechanism (CHM), the biosafety Clearing-house mechanism (BCH) and Bulgarian Biodiversity Platform;
- III. 7.3. The biodiversity projects should become basis for permanently operating mechanism for enriching and exchanging information.
- III.7.4. Utilize the local authorities' capacity to enrich and exchange information on the available biological resources.

III. 8. Specific objective: Methods and approaches for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, based upon adequate and effective scientific research are developed.

**Tasks:**

- III. 8.1. Establishment and maintenance of the national Bulgarian Biodiversity Platform;
- III. 8.2. Encourage research in conservation biology and adopt multidisciplinary approach;
- III. 8.3. Update the management of the scientific and academic organizations;
- III. 8.4. Improve the infrastructure, technical equipment and information securing of the scientific and academic organizations;
- III. 8.5. Encourage the research for preservation and maintenance of the local breeds and varieties.
- III.8.6. Develop and apply methodology for economic valuation of biodiversity and train people in the field of economic valuation so that Bulgaria could provide assessment of the biological diversity loss by 2010

III. 9. Specific objective: The economic and political pressure is reduced.

**Tasks:**

- III. 9.1. Update and make more precise the legislative basis concerning the penalty measures and sanctions, as a tool to limit the illegal activities affecting biodiversity, including those of the civil servants;
- III. 9.2. Strengthen the institutions responsible for control and guarding of biological diversity and biological resources and raising the requirements towards them;
- III. 9.3. Increase the public intolerance to the illegal economic pressure through initiatives of the institutions, media and NGOs;
- III. 9.4. Develop and introduce financial and economic mechanisms to encourage the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- III. 9.5. Improve the coordination between controlling authorities of different institutions to reduce the economic pressure;
- III. 9.6. Develop and adopt Lobbying Act

*III. 10. Specific objective: Financial resource is ensured through the state budget and innovative forms of fund raising.*

**Tasks:**

- III. 10.1. Funding of the activities concerned with conservation and sustainable use of the biological resources in accordance with the programme budgeting;
- III. 10.2. Development of a National Programme for scientific research in the field of the biological diversity and biosafety and preservation of the genetic resources;
- III. 10.3. Establishment and maintenance of the Bulgarian Biodiversity Platform;
- III. 10.4. Participation of Bulgaria into the EU LIFE programme upon judging the economic expedience of this;
- III. 10.5. Increase the financial resources made available for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and biosafety activities within the frames of the existing operational funds to;
- III. 10.6. Envisage earmarked financial resources for the maintenance and creation of collections for ex situ conservation, preservation and propagation breeding of species, varieties, breeds, gene banks and development of data bases through programme budgeting;
- III. 10.7. Ensure the prerequisites to use funds of NATURA 2000 by establishing NEN on 15% of the territory of the country;
- III. 10.8. Regulate legislatively the opportunity for sponsoring the activities for conservation and sustainable use of the biological resources.
- III.10.9 Study the legislative possibilities and design a mechanism for public-private co-financing of problem solving in the field of biodiversity.
- III.10.10. Allocate at least 20% of the support for the development of rural areas for agri-environment schemes.
- III.10.11. Ensure timely financing of the Protected Areas Fund through the MOEW's budget according to the principles of the programme budgeting.
- III.10.12. Ensure financing (through a competition or another way) for publications of importance to biodiversity (e.g. The Red Book of Bulgaria, series Biodiversity of Bulgaria, etc.)

*III. 11. Specific objective: Precise legislative basis exists, distributing the obligations between the institutions involved with management of the biological diversity and their authorities.*

**Tasks:**

- III. 11.1. Revise the acting legislation in view of clarifying of the authorities of the responsible institutions and their bodies, eliminating the contradictions and ensuring better institutional coordination;
- III. 11.2. Improvement of the coordination between the departments of MOEW through institutional rules and orders of the Minister.

Regarding the central problem “Insufficient public support for the different initiatives for conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity components” the **strategic objective IV** is formulated: “**Awareness among and training of the Bulgarian public about the significance of the biological diversity conservation and sustainable use**”, and the ultimate desired output is **the civil society is informed and active in terms of the biological diversity protection and sustainable use.**

**Specific objectives:**

- IV. 1. The information departments and the press-services of the competent state institutions are active;*
- IV. 2. The public is informed;*
- IV. 3. The journalists are competent concerning the biological diversity themes;*
- IV. 4. National strategic programme document for environmental education exists.*

A set of **tasks** is proposed for the achievement of the four specific objectives formulated:

- IV. (1.-4.).1. Strengthen the skills/qualification of the staff of the information departments and the press-services of MOEW and MAF towards the establishment of a long-term interest among the media on biodiversity by fully utilizing the potential of NGOs and scientific institutes;
- IV. (1.-4.).2. To initiate process for elaboration and approval of a National Strategy for environmental education, which should cover all education grades (from the kindergartens to the HEF);
- IV. (1.-4.).3. Develop and disseminate information and educational materials to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and conservation of the biological diversity among the public;
- IV. (1.-4.).4. Develop lecturing curriculum to train municipal authorities, NGOs and local media how to work for enhancing the public involvement on issues of the protection and sustainable use of the components of the biological diversity and getting them acquainted with the legislative basis (EIA, permits, plans , etc.);
- IV. (1.-4.).5. Further developing of the existing extension service system (National Agriculture Extension Service, SAPARD Agency, Bioselena Foundation and others) for sustainable agriculture activities in the forested areas outside protected areas and in NATURA 2000;
- IV. (1.-4.).6. Establishment and maintenance of the Bulgarian Biodiversity Platform, which should facilitate the contacts between the stakeholders through forums, workshops, information materials, web page;
- IV. (1.-4.).7. Attract donors and funds from international organizations and the tourism to stimulate and further develop the public support (sociological surveys, national media events, etc.);
- IV. (1.-4.).8. Provide earmarked funds from the budgets and funds under MOEW, MAF and MES, (% charges) for media and education campaigns for biodiversity and biosafety.

The strengths and the capacity available to implement the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol are analyzed in the light of how they could contribute to the achievement of the objectives and are divided to direct and indirect asset. The direct assets contribute immediately to the achievement of the specific or the strategic objective. The indirect assets do not directly result in achievement of a concrete objective, but favor the replication and action of the direct assets. These are the attendant factors, which should be mobilized for the achievement of the objective. Complete list of the direct and indirect assets is given in Chapter 8 and Appendix 8.

The inventory of assets demonstrated in a synthesized form the tremendous effort contributed so far to implementing the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol. They are a convincing evidence that the capacity needed at all the three levels exists and the tasks formulated aim above all its further strengthening and enhancement. They testify that Bulgaria strictly and willingly implements its commitments under the Convention and the Protocol, thus ensuring the necessary conditions for the protection and sustainable use of the biological diversity.