

Regional Adaptations to Issue Based Modules

Terms of Reference for European Pilot Countries

1. Background

In 2002, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the world community adopted the 2010 target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss. With a range of environmental agreements being in place at the regional and global levels, tools exist to address the challenge that the 2010 target constitutes.

For a variety of reasons, in particular limited financial and technical resources, the national implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs remains a major challenge. In order to improve that implementation, it is necessary to make more efficient use of available resources and to coordinate efforts. This makes the efforts on synergy and harmonization among biodiversity-related agreements important and urgent.

The implementation of different MEAs often relates to issues of common concern and a more coherent approach towards implementation would be enhanced if national focal points and other actors involved in national, regional and international implementation of different MEAs, received more structured information on such issues.

With the assistance of the Belgian Development Cooperation, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in cooperation with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), is therefore developing practical tools in the form of Issue-Based Modules.

Four priority cross-cutting issues were identified in consultation with the Secretariats of the five global biodiversity-related conventions (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), World Heritage Convention (WHC), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)) as issues of common concern to all five conventions. Those are: **Climate Change (CC), Inland Water (IW), Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and Sustainable Use (SU)**.

The modules will provide structured information on those four issues by identifying and grouping implementation requirements under different agreements. They are based on existing articles, decisions, recommendations and resolutions and do not impose extra requirements on Parties. They will be updated regularly to reflect relevant decisions taken at the governing bodies of the conventions.

The project is being implemented through three phases: 1) preparation of the first draft of the modules, 2) preparation of the second draft, and 3) implementation of the activities listed in the modules in the pilot countries..

In the first phase, a first draft of the modules has been developed on the basis of the analysis of relevant global biodiversity-related agreements. The peer review of these first draft modules indicates the end of the first phase.

Following the first peer review, the second phase will see the development of revised drafts of the four modules, based on comments provided during the first peer review as well as on the analysis of relevant regional biodiversity-related agreements. The second drafts will also be submitted to peer review.

Finally, the third phase will focus on implementation of the final modules in the Pilot Countries. Two regional meetings will evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the final modules, and identify

implementation needs for the Pilot Countries. The proceedings of the regional meetings will provide the basis for implementation plans for the modules per Pilot Country.

Both UNEP-WCMC and IUCN collaborated with UNEP to develop the global issue-based modules during the first phase of the project. IUCN has developed the two modules on climate change and sustainable use, while UNEP-WCMC developed the two modules on inland water and invasive alien species.

To provide easy access to a large amount of information and to facilitate the distribution and use of the modules, the four modules, as well as the text of the articles, decisions, recommendations and resolutions that are referred to in the modules have been integrated into a website (www.svs-unepibmdb.net). This website also provides users with some background information on the reviewed agreements to increase mutual understanding among experts of the different agreements.

It is now necessary to prepare the regional adaptations to the global modules to reflect regional commitments of the 4 European Pilot Countries relating to the four issues. The UNEP ROE consultant will therefore identify and group implementation requirements on climate change and biodiversity, inland waters, invasive alien species and sustainable use contained in regional agreements relevant to Belgium, Hungary, Norway and Russia. The analysis of the relevant regional agreements will be based on the structure of the global modules already available on the website.

2. Tasks to be performed

The consultant will perform the following tasks in close collaboration with the UNEP task manager:

- Identification of regional biodiversity-related treaties dealing with climate change, inland water, invasive alien species and sustainable use that Belgium, Hungary, Norway and Russia are party to.
- Identification and analysis of relevant decisions of those regional treaties according to the approach and structure used for the global modules (www.svs-unepibmdb.net)
- Preparation of draft text with regional amendments to the four existing modules to reflect all relevant regional requirements for the 4 countries mentioned above
- Identify necessary adaptations to the existing structure to accommodate regional aspects
- Identification of potential overlaps/gaps/inconsistencies
- Maintain regular communication with the authors of the 4 global modules throughout the consultancy.
- Facilitate upload of the regional adaptations into the database among others by communicating with data input team to create continuous flow for upload to work time-efficiently (e.g. provide screened decisions, agreements as soon as they are known so upload of that can start before upload of analyzed text)
- Meet with the Coordination Group after upload but before start of 2nd Peer Review to ensure consistency between global and regional parts of the modules.
- Participation in the 2 meetings of the Steering Committee, as well as in the Regional Workshop for Europe.

3. Tasks and Activities to be Undertaken in Accordance with the following dates:

	Activity	Timeframe 2005-2006

1.	Identification of regional biodiversity-related treaties	October
2.	Identification and analysis of relevant decisions	October-November
3.	Facilitate upload of the regional adaptations into the database	October-December
4.	Preparation of draft text with regional amendments to the four existing modules	November-Early December
5.	Identify necessary adaptations to the existing structure	November
6.	Identification of potential overlaps/gaps/inconsistencies	November
7.	Meet with Coordination Group before start of 2 nd Peer Review	2 days early January
8.	Participation in the 1 st and 2 nd meetings of the Steering Committee, as well as in the Regional Workshop for Europe	Nairobi: 17-18 Nov.; Europe: 2 days early Febr.; Croatie: 2 days end Febr.

3. Duration of contract

The contract duration is set from the date of signature until the end of February, with possible extension. The contract is a consultancy agreement, and based on the products to be delivered.

4. Remuneration

The consultancy fee for the above mentioned work will be a lump sum of US Dollars 25.000 (representing 40 person days of work + 10 days of meetings). The consultant shall be responsible for the due payment of all taxes, social security, health care and other necessary insurance costs as well as all other expenses incurred during the consultancy. UNEP shall pay the contractee the fee upon satisfactory and timely completion of the tasks to be performed.