



ANNEX C1: Twinning Fiche

Project title: Strengthened protection and sustainable use of biodiversity in Armenia in line with the European standards

Beneficiary administration: Designation of the Beneficiary administration in the Beneficiary country

Twining Reference: AM 19 ENI EN 01 19

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EU funded project

TWINNING TOOL

TABLE OF ACRONYMS

AR	Armenian Republic
Birds Directive	Directive 2009/147 on the conservation of wild birds
CBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CV	Curriculum Vitae
EC	European Commission
EMERALD network	A non-binding programme set under the Bern Convention, aiming at establishment of “areas of special conservation interest”
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation (to Armenia)
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
GoA	Government of Armenia
Habitats Directive	Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MS	Member States (of the EU)
NBSP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020
PL	Project Leader
RTA	Resident Twinning Adviser
RTA counterpart	A Beneficiary administration official designated as the counterpart of RTA to facilitate communication and exchange of information between the partners.
SO	State organization
SNCO	State non-commercial organization
SPNA	Special Nature Protected Area
SPNA SAP	Strategy and State Program of Conservation and Use of Specially Protected Nature Areas of the Republic of Armenia
STE	Short-term Expert
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1. PROGRAMME

Programme: ENI 2017/C(2017)8195/Annual Action Programme for Armenia; Financing Agreement: "Armenia Technical Cooperation Facility" 2017/040-523

Programme management mode is direct. It means Twinning Grant Contract is concluded directly by the Commission, represented by the EUD in the Beneficiary country, acting as Contracting Authority.

For British applicants: Please be aware that eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the grant. If the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU ensuring in particular that British applicants continue to be eligible, you will cease to receive EU funding (while continuing, where possible, to participate) or be required to leave the project on the basis of Article 12.2 of the General Conditions¹ to the grant agreement.

1.2. TWINNING SECTOR

Environment, (Environment and Climate Change)

1.3. EU FUNDED BUDGET

Euro 1,000,000

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To strengthen conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Armenia in line with international/EU standards.

2.2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to comply with the commitments taken under CEPA and its Roadmap in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

2.3. ELEMENTS TARGETED IN STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS:

The present Twinning fiche is in line with Armenia's strategic documents at national level and international agreements, namely:

- *The Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement between Armenia and the EU (CEPA)*¹ signed in November 2017 marks an important milestone in the EU-Armenia relations, providing a new framework for strengthened co-operation and in fostering of reforms. Under Article 46(1)(e) of the CEPA cooperation, Republic of Armenia shall aim at preserving, protecting, improving and rehabilitating the quality of the environment, protecting human health, utilising natural resources in a sustainable manner and promoting measures at international level to address regional or global environmental problems, including in the areas of nature protection, comprising forestry and conservation of biological diversity.

¹Available at: https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eu-armenia_comprehensive_and_enhanced_partnership_agreement_cep_a.pdf

Building upon this comprehensive agreement, the **CEPA Implementation Roadmap** has been adopted by the Armenian Government (GoA) and welcomed by the joint executive-level Partnership Council in June 2019 to outline and specify the scope, timelines and institutional responsibility with regards to the activities planned to fulfil CEPA-related commitments. According to the Roadmap, the Government of Armenia has committed to adopt by 2020 the regulations arising from the Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive), as well as Directive 92/43/EC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive);

- **2010-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**² is setting the country's long-term goals aimed at the prevention of biodiversity loss and degradation of the natural environment, ensuring the biological diversity and human wellbeing; **2016-2020 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)**³ adopted in 2015 is based on the CBD goals and targets, whereas the improvement of legislative and institutional frameworks related to biodiversity has been identified a priority direction of this Strategy. The new Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity is pending adoption by mid 2020.
- **Strategy and State Program of Conservation and Use of Specially Protected Nature Areas of the Republic of Armenia (SPNA SAP)**⁴ adopted in 2014 sets strategic objectives of development of SPNAs of Armenia by ensuring environmental sustainability and healthy and favourable environment for the population of the country through the development and enhancement of the SPNAs system;

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1 BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

3.1.1. Legal and institutional context

The protection and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Republic of Armenia is regulated primarily by the RA Law on Flora (1999)⁵, RA Law on Fauna (2000)⁶, RA Forest Code (2005)⁷ and RA Law on Protected Areas (2015)⁸. In addition, the Republic of Armenia is a Party of the main relevant international treaties such as UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)⁹, Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979)¹⁰, European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)¹¹, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn, 1979)¹², Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Washington, 1979)¹³, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1971)¹⁴.

In terms of the institutional framework, the biodiversity of Armenia is managed within the competences of authorized bodies, as stipulated by the Law on Flora, Law on Fauna, Law on Specially Protected Nature Areas and Forest Code.

²<https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>

³<https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/am/am-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>

⁴http://www.mnp.am/uploads/1/1551885719hatuk_pahpan_eng.pdf

⁵<https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/law-on-flora-1999-lex-faoc050260/>

⁶<https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/law-on-fauna-lex-faoc050257/>

⁷<http://www.nature-ic.am/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Forest-Code-of-RA.pdf>

⁸ Annex 7

⁹<https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf>

¹⁰<https://rm.coe.int/1680078aff>

¹¹<https://rm.coe.int/1680080621>

¹²<https://www.cms.int/en/convention-text>

¹³<https://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/disc/CITES-Convention-EN.pdf>

¹⁴https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/ram06e_all_greece.pdf

The competent authority for the development and implementation of the environmental protection policy is the Ministry of Environment (MoE), whereas the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body is responsible for environmental law enforcement. Protection of biodiversity is managed by the following units of the Ministry of Environment: Department of environmental protection policy, Department of Biodiversity and Forest Policy, the Bioresources Management Agency, the Committee of Forest, the Environmental Impact Expertise Centre, the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre, and Environmental Project implementation unit. In addition, the following SNCOs (state non-commercial organisations) are responsible for management of several Protected Areas:

- 3 state reserves: “Khosrov forest”, “Shikahogh” and “Erebuni”, which cover 35 439.6 ha territory or 1.19% of Armenia’s total area;
- 4 national parks: “Sevan”, “Dilijan”, “Lake Arpi” and “Arevik”, which cover 236802.1 ha territory or 7.96 % of Armenia’s total area.

3.1.2. Key challenges

While regulating a broad spectrum of issues, the existing legislation is not based on the modern approaches to the protection of threatened species outside of the protected areas. In fact, many habitats of the threatened species on the territory of Armenia are not covered by the protected areas and, therefore, remain not covered by the protection and management measures, which leads to loss of biodiversity and habitats degradation.

In addition, according to the latest Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) of Armenia (2016-2020), other key challenges in ensuring effective protection and sustainable use of biodiversity in the country include:

- Underestimation of the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem services, the value and benefits they provide, especially in economic development programs;
- Insufficient inventory and monitoring of biodiversity leading to poor information base for adequate management and conservation;
- Insufficient cooperation between various state structures and local self-government bodies; insufficient development of inter-sectoral relations and weak integration of biodiversity issues in respective sectoral policies; and
- Inadequate mechanisms and capacity to enforce environmental legislation.

In addition, the institutional and professional capacities for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity are not sufficient to comply with the modern practices and the European standards.

3.1.2. CEPA context

By signing CEPA, the Republic of Armenia agreed to undertake measures geared towards improved protection and sustainable use of biodiversity. Those, in particular, envisage review and alignment of the national legislation with the EU standards; preparing inventory of sites, designation of these sites and establishing priorities for their management; establishing measures required for the conservation of such sites; establishing a system to monitor conservation status of species; and establishing a mechanism to promote education and general information to the public.

Furthermore, the CEPA Implementation Roadmap envisages setting a system to monitor conservation status of species by 2025, as well as to establish a strict protection regime for species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive. More specifically, the Roadmap in its Title V, Other Cooperation areas, Chapter III Environment, Article 46 envisages the following:

- Adoption or making amendments of the relevant national legislation that shall apply provisions of the Birds Directive including designation of competent authorities by 2020¹⁵; and
- Adoption or making amendments of the relevant national legislation that shall apply provisions of the Habitats Directive, including designation of competent authorities by 2020¹⁶.

Justification

To support implementation of the commitments taken under the CEPA, this Twinning project will focus primarily on the development of new legal framework, allowing the MoE to set up systems and tools for the protection of threatened species habitats not only within the protected areas, but also outside of them. Thus, the MoE will be able to designate Special Areas for Conservation and conclude relevant conservation and management agreements with different land-owners. Special Areas for Conservation can be established within the Emerald network sites, IBAs, KBAs and ecological corridors, which are not covered by Protected Areas. To streamline implementation of the new primary legislation, several guidelines on designation and management of special areas for conservation, as well as other by-laws will be developed by the project.

Furthermore, the issues of institutional management will be addressed through a design of pertinent new institutional framework that will clarify lines of reporting and authority. Capacity of the Ministry to draft, implement and monitor the new biodiversity legislation will be enhanced and support will be provided to ensuring inclusiveness and transparency of the efforts through a series of public consultations and awareness events.

3.2. ONGOING REFORMS

A number of structural changes at the MoE are envisaged by the end of the year 2019. The most relevant ones include the planned merger of the several competent authorities, namely the Water Resources Management Agency, Bioresources Management Agency and Waste and Atmosphere Emissions Management Agency, into one Agency of the Ministry of Environment. The main purpose of the move is to streamline the existing complex permissions system on the basis of “one window” approach, for which corresponding legislative amendments will be adopted. Furthermore, the new Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity is pending adoption by mid 2020.

3.3. LINKED ACTIVITIES

By signing the CEPA, a wide range of opportunities for co-operation and synergy emerged in the area of the biodiversity, but a close coordination with other EU-funded projects is a necessity.

3.3.1. EU assistance

Assistance to Ministry of Justice in Legal Approximation in line with the EU Standards is a project supporting the Government in legal approximation and harmonization of national legislation to the EU standards in line with the CEPA commitments. The project will focus on development of approximation methodology guidelines and action plan (in a selected sector of CEPA), conducting training of the relevant staff in the Government on legal approximation as well as providing a study of the best models for EU approximation methodology that can be applied to Armenia;

Ensuring the completeness and enhancing the effectiveness of the legislative framework in protection of biodiversity is envisaged as a 5 days TAIEX-IPA/ENI project (confirmed date of event in the middle of December) with an aim to analyse and compare the correspondence and

¹⁵ Art. 46 (1 e): Nature Protection of the CEPA

¹⁶¹⁶ Art. 46 (1 e): Nature Protection of the CEPA

sufficiency of current RA Laws on flora and fauna with Birds and Habitats Directives for the effective management of the biodiversity field, thus the results of this project should be taken into the consideration at the commencement of this Twinning project; and

Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites, Phase II is a project funded by the EU and is implemented by the Environmental Project Implementation Unit State Organization of the MoE from 2013-2016. The overall objective of the project is to improve biodiversity protection - especially the long-term survival of threatened European species and habitats - through the implementation of Emerald sites in Armenia. Specifically, the project aims at achieving a launch of the fully operational Pan-European Emerald network of nature protection sites as established by the Bern Convention by 2020, thereby: supporting the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and its Aichi Targets on protected areas by the partner countries; aligning nature protection standards in this region with the standards of EU (and its Natura 2000 Network) and the Bern Convention; helping the target countries prepare for the future management of these areas. Currently, the Emerald Network optimization activities are in process in Armenia. As a result of the activities carried out in 2016, the country has 23 potential "Emerald" sites. These sites occupy 1033719,5 ha and make up 34,7% of the country's territory¹⁷. As a result of optimization activities done in 2019, 28 potential "Emerald" sites were created and they make up approximately 15,3% of the country's territory.

3.3.2. Other assistance

Given the interest and engagement of many international partners in the area, proactive coordination and cooperation with the on-going internationally funded activities would be necessary for the project to avoid duplication of efforts and to enhance impact.

Support Program for Protected Areas - Armenia is a project funded by the German Government via KfW development bank and is implemented by the MoE in the period of 2015 - 2020. This project aims to address two equally important objectives, which are the improvement of natural resources and protected area management in PAs of Southern Syunik Marz without negatively affecting the livelihoods of the rural population and the improvement of the socio-economic situation of adjacent local rural communities without depletion of the natural resource base and biodiversity;

Addressing climate change impact through enhanced capacity for wildfires management in Armenia is a project funded by the Russian Federation and is implemented by UNDP in the period of 2017-2020. The Project's efforts are aimed at: revision and updating of policy and legislation documents, normative acts and/or standards related to forest and wildfire management; developing forest and wildfire fighting community-based rescue team and regional administrative capacities (including the institute of volunteers) for prevention and mitigation of forest and wildfire risks; developing and supporting alternative entrepreneurship-based activities for the prevention and mitigation of wildfire risks; and establishing sustainable mechanism for the promotion of innovations and replication of technological solutions in Climate Change adaptation and mitigation activities related to agriculture and forestry sector;

"European Union for Climate" (EU4Climate) Action in Armenia will contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to the development towards a low-emissions and climate-resilient economy in line with the Paris Agreement in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It will assist the EaP countries to integrate the low-emissions and climate resilience objectives into development policies and plans, to improve and consolidate climate policies and legislative alignment;

"European Union for Environment" (EU4Environment) Action in Armenia is funded by the European Union and aims to help six Eastern Partner countries (the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) to preserve and better use their natural capital and stimulate economic growth by

¹⁷ The "Emerald network of the Republic of Armenia RA", <http://mnp.am/images/files/nyuter/2017/February/Emerald%20Arm.pdf>

supporting environment-related actions, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts;

European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+) project is a project funded by the European Union. It supports the development and implementation of pilot river basin management plans, building on the improved policy framework and ensuring a strong participation of local stakeholders. The objectives of the project are: 1) support to further reforms of water policies, establishment of an adequate governance framework, and development of institutional capacities in support of policy implementation, 2) support the transition from pilot basin to country scale timely implementation of EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) principles for integrated water resources management and River Basin Management Plan harmonisation in transboundary basins, 3) strengthening of the monitoring of the water bodies status and upgrade needed infrastructure and quality management, 4) institutional capacity building to insure sustainable results;

The Shared Environmental Information System (ENPI-SEIS) project is a project for improving environmental monitoring and information sharing in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries and the Russian Federation. The aim is to gradually extend the Shared Environment Information System (SEIS) principles. The project is funded by the European Union and is implemented by the European Environment Agency. The main outcomes of the ENPI-SEIS project will address the three SEIS components – cooperation, content and infrastructure – through enhanced networking with the national capacities on environmental information;

Mainstreaming Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Mountain Landscapes of North-Eastern Armenia is a project funded by the Global Environmental Fund, implemented by UNDP in the period of 2016-2020. The project is to facilitate the shift towards a sustainable practice of forest management in North-Eastern Armenia. To achieve this, the project objective is to ensure sustainable land and forest management to secure continued flow of multiple ecosystem services. This would be achieved through two main components: integration of sustainable forest and land management objectives into planning and management of forest ecosystems to reduce degradation and enhance ecosystem services in two marzes covering 0.65 million hectares; and sustainable Forest Management practices effectively demonstrating reduced pressure on high conservation forests and maintaining flow of ecosystem services;

Integrated Biodiversity Management, South Caucasus (IBiS) is a project funded by German Government and implemented by GIZ from 2015. Ending in 2019, the project aims at developing strategies to support the sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services. It helps to generate reliable data on biodiversity and ecosystem services. IBiS works across all sectors and administrative levels;

Promotion of Eco-Corridors in the Southern Caucasus is a project funded by German Government via KfW bank and is implemented by WWF in the period of 2015-2020. The project aims at supporting biodiversity conservation (outside protected areas) in the diverse landscapes of Southern Caucasus through contractual nature conservation. By funding ecologically sustainable land use in selected eco-corridors in the Caucasus the project is actively contributing to connecting protected areas and enhancing ecological sustainability while ensuring the socio-economic status of the community is not harmed and in many cases is improved;

Support programme for Biodiversity – Armenia is a project funded by German Government via KfW development bank to be implemented by MoE likely from 2020. The project aims to support biodiversity conservation in Armenia through the enforcement of forestry, protected areas and improvement of livelihoods of local communities located near forests and protected areas. The project will be also supporting institutional capacity building of the MoE and its units dealing with biodiversity conservation issues, thus, requiring special attention by the Twinning project in terms of co-ordination and seeking of potential synergies.

3.4. LIST OF APPLICABLE UNION ACQUIS AND STANDARDS

With the provisional entry into force of CEPA¹⁸ in the summer of 2018, a significant number of legal acts are envisaged to be brought in line with the European Parliament and the Council Directives/Regulations. Furthermore, capacities in planning, implementation, evaluation and oversight of the policies in accordance with legislation and best practices of the EU, are expected to be enhanced. The project will broadly contribute to the approximation process by developing amended or new set of legislation harmonised with the following EU Directives:

- Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds¹⁹; and
- Directive 92/43/EC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora²⁰.

3.5. COMPONENTS AND RESULTS PER COMPONENT

The project is designed around three interlinked components, encompassing legislative approximation, institutional capacity building and the enhancement of awareness of local stakeholders in order to address the complex area of approximation of the Armenian nature protection legislation to the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.

3.5.1. Component/ Mandatory Result 1: *Legal framework pertaining to biodiversity is approximated with the EU Directives*

The first component of the Twinning project will produce the most significant output of this project i.e. the draft(s) of amended/new law(s) brought in line with the EU Directives will be submitted to relevant authorities for adoption. The project will endeavour at organizing the process of legislative policy review and development in an inclusive and evidence-based manner. It will also ensure that activities under this result are thoroughly planned and well-informed by the preceding analysis of needs for approximation.

The mandatory result 1 is based on the achievement of the following intermediary results:

- ***Sub-result 1.1: Draft new/amended law(s) delivered in an inclusive and evidence-based manner for approval by the Government***

In order to assist the MoE in determining the scope and the sequence of the legislative changes, a detailed comparative legal analysis of the domestic legislation vis-à-vis the two EU Directives should be carried out. With support of the beneficiary staff, this legal review will primarily define the scope of the required changes in the laws on Flora and Fauna, as well as, subsequently, in other relevant law, such as the Forest Code, the Law on Hunting, the Law on Protected Areas, etc. This joint exercise, resulting in the development of the Table of Concordance as well as the capacity building of the MoE staff in terms of introduction of international experience and detailed explanation of proposed texts, will set the basis for transposition of the requirements arising from the Habitats and Birds Directives and will be followed by drafting, jointly with the specialists of the beneficiary institutions, of the new law(s) or amendments. A number of public consultations to be organized by the MoE are envisaged at the early stages of development of legislative drafts to ensure inclusiveness and transparency of the process.

- ***Sub-result 1.2: Secondary legislation developed in an inclusive and evidence-based manner for the approval by the Ministry of Environment or the Government***

In addition to aligning primary legislation, and based on the Table of Concordance described above, a set of relevant secondary legislation shall be deemed for amendment or elaboration. As

¹⁸https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eu-armenia_comprehensive_and_enhanced_partnership_agreement_cepapa.pdf

¹⁹<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147>

²⁰<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043&from=EN>

above, the work will closely involve beneficiary staff and require support of its legal experts. Stakeholders within the professional and civil society circles will be consulted on the changes in legislation through a number of public hearings held at the initial stages of legislative development.

3.5.2. Component/ Mandatory Result 2 - *Institutional and professional capacities of the competent authorities are enhanced to effectively implement the new legislative framework on biodiversity*

The second component focuses on the institutional changes for an effective compliance with the requirements of the Habitats and Bird Directive, as well as on building capacities of the national stakeholders for due implementation of the new/amended legislation, as developed under Component 1. Key beneficiaries of this work will include the following units of the Ministry of Environment: Department of Environmental Protection Policy, Department of Biodiversity and Forest Policy, the Bioresources Management Agency, the Committee of Forest, the Environmental Impact Expertise Centre, the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre, and Environmental Project implementation unit and 7 SNCOs (state non-commercial organisations) responsible for management of the Protected Areas, as well as the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body.

The mandatory result 2 shall be achieved through the following intermediary results:

- ***Sub-result 2.1: Institutional set up for effective implementation of the new legislative framework on biodiversity is designed in line with the intra-ministerial restructuring requirements .***

In order to enable an institutional set up which can streamline an effective implementation of new legal requirements, a detailed institutional (functional) analysis shall be produced, resulting, among other recommendations, in a proposal and further clarifications with regards to MoE new organogram, outlining mandates and reporting lines for and within the competent authorities.

- ***Sub-result 2.2: Professional capacities of the competent authorities are enhanced.***

Ensuring enhanced professional capacities of the competent authorities in the implementation of new legal requirements is crucial for the success of this project.

3.5.3. Component/ Mandatory Result 3 - *Raised awareness of the competent authorities at all levels and that of civil society on the scope and impact of legal approximation in the field of biodiversity*

The third Component shall support the MoE in establishing systematic approaches to raising awareness of the state competent authorities, regional administrations, local communities and civil society on the new legal/amended framework pertaining to biodiversity.

The mandatory result 3 includes the following two intermediary results:

- ***Sub-result 3.1: Strategic approach to communication on legislative changes is introduced***

A Communication Plan will be developed to support the Ministry in widely publicising and promoting the changes deriving from the Birds and Habitats' Directives. The targets of the communication shall be identified jointly with the Ministry and include, but be not limited to: relevant state and regional authorities dealing with the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, the Inspectorate for Nature Protection and Mineral Resources, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Police, Regional Administrations (10 provinces), local communities and CSOs.

- ***Sub-result 3.2: Stakeholders are sensitised of legal changes***

With the view to ensuring adequate awareness of the relevant stakeholders on the changes upcoming as a result of approximation, the finalised drafts of the new legislation on biodiversity will be shared and discussed with the competent state authorities. These discussions will not only prepare for implementation of the new legislation but will also help to inform Armenian partners on the importance and the impact of the approximation as a tool for furthering EU integration process. A series of events will be organized in 10 provinces of Armenia with involvement of the regional administrations, representatives of local communities and community-level SCOs.

3.6 MEANS/INPUT FROM THE EU MEMBER STATE PARTNER ADMINISTRATION(S):

The project will be implemented in the form of a Twinning contract between the final beneficiary country and EU Member State(s). The implementation of the project requires one Project Leader (PL) with responsibility for the overall coordination of project activities and one Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) to manage implementation of project activities, Component Leaders (CLs) and pool of short-term experts (STEs) within the limits of the budget. It is essential that the team has sufficiently broad expertise to cover all areas included in the project description.

Proposals submitted by Member State shall be concise and focussed on the strategy and methodology and an indicative timetable underpinning this, the administrative model suggested, the quality of the expertise to be mobilised and clearly show the administrative structure and capacity of the Member State entity/ies. Proposals shall be detailed enough to respond adequately to the Twinning Fiche, but are not expected to contain a fully elaborated project. They shall contain enough detail about the strategy and methodology and indicate the sequencing and mention key activities during the implementation of the project to ensure the achievement of overall and specific objectives and mandatory results/outputs.

The interested Member State(s) shall include in their proposal the CVs of the designated PL and the Resident Twinning Advisor, as well as the CVs of the potentially designated component Leaders-CLs.

The Twinning project will be implemented by close co-operation between the partners aiming to achieve the mandatory results in sustainable manner.

The set of proposed activities will be further developed with the Twinning partners when drafting the initial work plan and successive rolling work plan every three months, keeping in mind that the final list of activities will be decided in cooperation with the Twinning partner. The components are closely inter-linked and need to be sequenced accordingly

3.6.1 Profile and Tasks of the Project Leader (PL):

The profile of the PL shall comply with the following:

- Proven contractual relation to a public administration or mandated body;

- University degree²¹ in relevant discipline (law, political science, economics, etc.) or equivalent professional experience of 8 years;
- Minimum of 3 years of professional work experience in the field of nature protection in the EU MS:
- Good understanding of EU affairs and legal system;
- Excellent spoken and written English language skills;
- Strong analytical and report writing skills;
- Good communications, teamwork, and inter-personal skills.

The tasks of the PL shall include the following:

- Overall leadership over project implementation (MS side);
- Mobilization of the necessary expertise required for the implementation of project activities;
- Monitoring and steering the project implementation, and taking corrective measures when needed;
- Ensuring timely achievement of the project results;
- Preparation of project progress reports with support of RTA;
- Communicate with the beneficiary and EUD;
- Co-ordinate MS experts' work and availability;
- Co-chairing and participation in quarterly meetings of the Project Steering Committee.

3.6.2 Profile and Tasks of the Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA):

One Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) over a period of 24 months will be appointed and he/she will be located in the premises of the MoE in the Beneficiary country.

The RTA will be responsible for the direct implementation of the project under the overall supervision of the MS and BC Project Leaders.

The profile of the RTA shall comply with the following:

- Proven contractual relation to a public administration or mandated body;
- University degree preferably in field of environmental or nature law, or any other discipline related to this project or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in public administration;
- Minimum of 3 years of general working experience in biodiversity or relevant field and experience in EU approximation and knowledge;
- Familiarity with Emerald network, Natura 2000, IBA and KBA would be an asset; Proven knowledge of legislative and institutional requirements for working practices, internal procedures and main functions of national parliaments;
- Sound comparative knowledge of other relevant EU legislative and institutional requirements related to the various components of this project;
- Strong analytical and report writing skills;
- Good communications, team work, and inter-personal skills;
- Excellent spoken and written English language skills;
- Experience in similar technical assistance assignments in European Neighbourhood and/or IPA partner countries will be considered an asset;

The tasks of the RTA shall include the following:

- Overall day-to-day implementation of the Twinning project;
- Preparation, in close cooperation with all relevant actors, of the initial work plan and its regular updates to be transmitted to the Project Steering Committee under the authority of the

²¹ For reference on equivalent qualification see: EPSO website-Annex 1 (http://europa.eu.int/epso/on-line-applications/pdf/guide-1242-171104_en.doc)

Member State PL; Ensuring timely and correct implementation of the activities as outlined in the initial and updated work plans in cooperation with the RTA Counterpart;

- Contributing to achieving the outputs under all components of the Twinning project, as relevant;
- Overall coordination of the activities of the team members in line with the agreed work plan to enable timely completion of project outputs;
- Advice and technical assistance to the representatives of the Beneficiary administration;
- Keeping the Beneficiary PL informed about the implementation and report regularly to the Member State PL;
- Accountability to all stakeholders involved in project implementation;
- Jointly with the Beneficiary institution, liaising with other Armenian institutions and coordinating with programmes of the European Commission and other development partners.

3.6.3 Profile and tasks of Component Leaders:

The project team shall include 3 Component Leaders, one of which could also be the RTA. The profile of the Component Leaders shall comply with the following:

- University degree in relevant discipline (law, economics, law, political science, etc.) or equivalent professional experience of 8 years;
- Minimum of 3 years of relevant professional experience in parliamentary affairs in an EU MS, relevant to the scope of the Component;
- Experience in providing trainings and coaching;
- Excellent spoken and written English language skills;
- Strong analytical and report writing skills;
- Good communications, team work, and inter-personal skills;
- In particular for Leader of Component 1: University degree in law or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in developing of nature protection legislation;
- In particular for Leader of Component 2: University degree in public administration, law or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in developing new institutional solutions related to the approximation process;
- In particular for Leader of Component 3: University degree in relevant discipline (Communications, Journalism, or related field) or equivalent professional experience of 8 years.

The tasks of the Component Leaders shall include the following:

- Coordinating planning and implementation of the assigned project Component; in close cooperation with their Component Leaders Counterparts in the beneficiary administration; Providing technical input on the knowledge areas relevant to the assigned Component;
- Ensure the delivery of requested outputs per component;
- Provide needs assessment and inter-institutional relations as required per component;
- Contribute to effective monitoring and reporting;
- Proposing to the RTA corrective measures needed to achieve timely delivery according to work plan;
- Liaise with the beneficiary's RTA counterpart and relevant staff members of the Beneficiary administration on a regular basis.

3.6.4 Profile and tasks of other short-term experts:

The project shall also deploy additional short-term experts selected amongst civil servants and staff of approved mandated bodies to support the implementation of the four project Components, with the amount of input that will be agreed with the beneficiary as part of the

Twinning work plan. The MS may demonstrate availability of a pool of potential STEs sufficient to cover the project's main themes, whose profile shall comply with the following:

- University degree in a discipline relevant to the assignment or equivalent professional experience of 8 years;
- Minimum 3years of working experience in the respective field, relevant to the assignment;
- Good communication, team work, and inter-personal skills;
- Excellent spoken and written English language skills.
- For Component 2 – Institutional short-term expert: experience in policy analysis, legislative drafting and developing of the new institutional solutions related to the approximation process, including solid knowledge of the Birds and Habitats Directives and its practical application;
- For Component 3 – Communication short-term expert: experience in assisting the competent authorities in developing their communication plans and strategies in relation raising awareness and sensitising the public on new legal and institutional frameworks;

The tasks of the short-term experts shall depend on the type of inputs considered necessary to deliver the project's mandatory results. As a general rule, they will focus on producing or guaranteeing the quality and timeliness of activities' outputs, including contributions in the areas of legislative process, human resource management, human resource development, budget process, or communication and management of events. The exact profile and number of the short-term experts will be defined in the Twinning project's work plan.

4. BUDGET

The maximum budget available for the Grant will be EUR 1,000,000

5. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 IMPLEMENTING AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR TENDERING, CONTRACTING AND ACCOUNTING:

The European Union Delegation in Yerevan (Armenia) will be responsible for the tendering, contracting, payments and financial reporting, and will work in close co-operation with the Beneficiary. The person in charge of this project at the Delegation is:

Andrea Baggioli
International Aid/Cooperation Officer
Delegation of the EU to Armenia
21 Frik Street, Yerevan 0002, Armenia
Telephone: +374 (10) 54 64 94
E-mail: andrea.baggioli@eeas.europa.eu

5.2 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Environment, as the central body of executive power that elaborates and implements the state policy in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources, is the main beneficiary of the Twinning project. The MoE has several departments dealing with environmental policies including Department of environmental protection policy and Department of Biodiversity and Forest Policy. The Bioresources Management Agency under the MoE is responsible for implementation of the policy on biodiversity. It regulates all issues related to permission on flora and fauna use, transportation, trade etc. It also coordinates work of Protected Areas and Dendroparks. The Committee of Forest is responsible for forest management in the country.

In addition, there are several state non-commercial organizations (SNCOs) within the structure of the Ministry:

- “Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre” SNCO is responsible for monitoring of environment, including biodiversity,
- “Environmental Impact Expertise Centre” SNCO is responsible for assessment of EIAs developed and submitted by the business companies (in the field of mining, hydro-power, construction etc.),
- “Environmental project implementation unit” SO responsible for the projects’ implementation of the ministry.
- Seven SNCOs responsible for management of several Protected Areas.

All these units of the ministry will be involved in the Twinning project as beneficiaries within their mandates. Coordination will be ensured via one of the deputy ministers.

5.3 COUNTERPARTS IN THE BENEFICIARY ADMINISTRATION:

The PL and RTA counterparts will be staff of the Beneficiary administration and will be actively involved in the management and coordination of the project.

5.3.1 Contact person:

Narine Solomonyan, Advisor to the Minister of Environment of RA, (narine.solomonyan@mnp.am, +37411 818 511)

5.3.2 PL counterpart

Irina Ghaplanyan, Deputy Minister of Environment of RA, (first.deputy-minister@mnp.am, +37411 818 518)

5.3.3 RTA counterpart

Artur Petrosyan, Head of Biodiversity of Forest Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment of RA, (a.g.petrosyan@yandex.ru, +37411 818 534)

6. DURATION OF THE PROJECT

The intended duration of the project is 24 months.

7. MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

7.1 LANGUAGE

The official language of the project is the one used as contract language under the instrument (English). All formal communications regarding the project, including interim and final reports, shall be produced in the language of the contract.

7.2 PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

A Project Steering Committee shall be established to oversee the implementation of the project. The main duties of the Project Steering Committee include: verifying progress and achievements via-à-vis the mandatory results/outputs chain (from mandatory results/outputs per component to impact); ensuring good coordination among all relevant actors; finalising the interim reports; as well as discussing the updated work plan. Other details concerning the establishment and functioning of the Project Steering Committee are described in the Twinning Manual.

7.3 REPORTING

All reports shall have a narrative section and a financial section. They shall include as a minimum the information detailed in section 5.5.2 (interim reports) and 5.5.3 (final report) of the Twinning Manual. Reports need to go beyond activities and inputs. Two types of reports are foreseen: interim quarterly reports and final report. An interim quarterly report shall be presented for discussion at each meeting of the PSC. The narrative part shall primarily take stock of the

progress and achievements via-à-vis the mandatory results and provide precise recommendations and corrective measures to be decided by in order to ensure the further progress.

8. SUSTAINABILITY

The key prerequisites for the sustainability of the project are provided by its close relevance to the government's priorities in the field of environmental protection and the political commitment to the CEPA implementation. The Government's formal agreement to undertake close alignment of its legislation and practices with the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, as well as the Habitats Directive 92/43/EC is of particular relevance. Furthermore, the MoE is fully committed to ensuring the long-term impact of the Twinning project through support and close co-operation at all stages of its implementation.

The achievements of the Twinning project will have a lasting positive effect for the Beneficiary, primarily by setting and institutionalizing a long-term policy for effective protection of threatened species beyond the Protected Areas. At the same time, the improved capacities to develop the EU compliant legislation and regulations will have a wider positive impact on partnership of the Republic of Armenia with the EU.

Sustainability of the project will further be enhanced by the involvement of beneficiary staff in review and improvement of legislative framework. Staff benefiting from the capacity building work of the project will be encouraged to cascade the training to their colleagues.

Close co-ordination and co-operation with international partners will also contribute to the project's sustainability. Thus, most of activities related to the two Directives targeted by the project lay within the scope of the KfW-led project on Support Program for Biodiversity of Armenia. Close contact and coordination at all stages of the project – starting from planning, will ensure synergistic effect and additional opportunities in pursuing the common objectives.

Last, but not least, the advancements in the CEPA-related reforms and the awareness raised on the approximation benefits within the framework of the project, will have a positive long-term impact on fostering the overall EU-Armenia co-operation.

9. CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

Cross-cutting issues will be addressed in the project so as to comply with the best EU standards and practice in that area.

The project will directly contribute to the improvement of environmental and living conditions in Armenia by enhancing and strengthening the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Armenia. Furthermore, in the course of its implementation, the principles of equality shall be adhered to in accordance with the high standards set by the EU Equal Opportunity Directives and the Armenian legislation²². At the same time, the Ministry commits to ensuring non-discrimination in the workplace and equal opportunities throughout the project implementation.

The project is in line with the Gender Equality Policy Marker “to advance gender equality and women's empowerment or reduce discrimination and inequalities based on sex”.

10. CONDITIONALITY AND SEQUENCING

There is no precondition set for this Twinning project.

²²Law on Public Service, Art. 13 provides for equal opportunities of access, career and pay regardless of gender, ethnic origin, religion, political or other views or status

The Ministry of Environment commits itself to assigning dedicated staff, providing relevant information and documents (translated into English), as well as suitable venues and facilities for training sessions and meetings held under the project.

Sequencing of activities should be based on the logic of the intervention with the view to ensuring their maximum impact. The alignment of regulatory framework is likely to precede capacity building activities and the assessment of preparedness for the peer review (simulation exercise) would conclude the project. The project specific activities will be defined and prioritized in close coordination between the MS and BC partners based on the Logical Framework.

11. INDICATORS FOR PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

The indicators for measuring success of the project implementation are linked to the Mandatory Results Components that have been outlined above in the Section 3.5. The logical framework, including the indicators, will be revisited during the inception period of the project. The work plan which will be composed in collaboration between the MS and the MoE will further refine and specify the indicators.

The indicator of achievements of the Mandatory Result/ Component 1 - Legal framework pertaining to biodiversity is approximated with the EU Directives:

- Draft new/amended primary and secondary legislation approximated with the EU Directives (92/43/EC and 2009/147/EC) is put forward for adoption by the Government (2019: no; 2021: yes).

Measurable indicators for sub-result 1.1 - Draft new/amended law(s) delivered in an inclusive and evidence-based manner for approval by the Government:

- a) Detailed legal analysis (e.g. using Table of Concordance (ToC) of Armenian legislative framework vis-à-vis the EU Directives (2019: no; 2020: yes);
- b) Number of draft new laws transposing EU Directives 92/43/EC and 2009/147/EC delivered (2019: 0; 2022: 1);
- c) Number of draft amended laws necessary to support transposition delivered (2019: 0; 2022: as defined by legal analysis);
- d) Number of public consultations on drafts of new and amended legislation (2019: n/a; 2021: at least 2).

Measurable indicators for sub-result 1.2 -Secondary legislation developed in an inclusive and evidence-based manner for the approval by the Ministry of Environment or the Government:

- a) Number of new and amended pieces of secondary legislation (including specific guidelines on special areas of species conservation) delivered for adoption by the Government or Ministry of Environment (2019: 0; 2022: as defined by legal analysis under sub-result 1.1);
- b) Number of public consultations on draft secondary legislation (2019: n/a; 2021: at least 2).

The indicator of achievements of the Mandatory Result/ Component 2 - Institutional and professional capacities of the competent authorities are enhanced to effectively implement the new legislative framework on biodiversity:

- a) Number of competent authorities involved in capacity building activities (2019: 0; 2022 at least 10);
- b) Share of trainees who assess the capacity building activities as highly relevant (2019: n/a; 2022: 60%);
- c) Capacity building provided by the project (2019: n/a 2022: at least 3 types, i. a. study tour, on-job training and workshop).

Measurable indicators for sub-result 2.1 - Institutional set up for effective implementation of the new legislative framework on biodiversity is designed:

- a) Functional analysis with recommendations to enable effective implementation of the new legislation (2019: no; 2022: yes);
- b) New organogram outlining mandates of competent authorities delivered (2019: no; 2022: yes).

Measurable indicators for sub-result 2.2 - Professional capacities of the competent authorities are enhanced:

- a) Number of functional staff trained in application of the new legislation (2019: 0; 2022: at least 20);
- b) Number of functional staff involved in experience exchange visit to EU MS on implementation of the EU Nature Directives (2019: n/a; 2020 at least 10);
- c) Number of training manuals developed for capacity building activities (2019: n/a; 2020: at least 2).

The indicator of achievements of the Component/Result 3 - Raised awareness of the competent authorities at all levels and that of civil society on the scope and impact of legal approximation in the field of biodiversity:

- New Communication policy of the Ministry with regards to the scope of legal approximation and its impacts is improved (2019: n/a; 2022: yes).

Measurable indicators for sub-result 3.1 - Strategic approach to communication on legislative changes is introduced:

- a) Communication Plan on the scope and impact of the approximation process of new legislation adopted by the minister (2019: no; 2022: yes);
- b) Number of ministerial bodies involved in the development of the Plan (2019: n/a; 2022: at least 3).

Measurable indicators for sub-result 3.2 - Stakeholders are sensitised of legal changes:

- a) Number of competent authorities informed on legal changes (2019: n/a; 2022: at least 20);
- b) Share of communities informed on legal changes using regional channels (2019: 0; 2022: 60%);
- c) Number of CSO informed on legal changes (2019: 0; 2022: at least 10 regional and 20 national).

12. FACILITIES AVAILABLE

The NA commits itself to actively contribute to the success of the project, including by providing the project team with adequate facilities within its headquarters, including:

- Adequately furnished office space at its premises, sufficient for the RTA and the RTA assistants;
- Until hiring of assistants is possible, one of its staff members to be made available to cover project-related needs;
- Office accommodation at its premises for short-term experts (including with relevant NA counterparts);
- Normal access to the common telephone, internet connection, as well as photocopying facilities;
- Suitable and equipped venues for the training sessions and meetings organized by the Project;
- Security of premises by the standards and practices applicable for public institutions in Armenia.

Annex 1

SIMPLIFIED LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

	Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:
Overall objective	To strengthen conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Armenia in line with international/EU standards	<p>a) Alignment of systems, structures and tools for effective protection of habitats (i.e. Emerald sites, IBAs, KBAs) and conservation of species with the EU standards. (2019: no; 2023: yes)</p> <p>b) SDG 15 Indicator 15.1.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type (2017: 13%; 2025: 15%)</p> <p>c) EU Partnership Implementation Report assessment of conservation policy and practice in line with the EU standards (2019: na; 2023: positive)</p> <p>d) Coverage by special areas of conservation of the territory of Armenia (2019: n/a; 2025 at least 5%)</p>	<p>Latest available annual Government report; National Reports to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the UN Convention on Biological Diversity; - the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats; - the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. <p>Latest National Statistics Service data on SDG</p> <p>Official website of the EU</p>	Political exigencies resulting in slowed pace of reforms.	Government of Armenia is committed to enhancing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in line with the international/EU standards
Specific objective of the project	To strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Environment (MoE)	a) Share of implemented actions of CEPA Roadmap (actions pertaining to biodiversity Directives 92/43/EC and 2009/147/EC) (2019: 0%; 2022: 50%)	Government Report on CEPA Roadmap implementation	Delays in approval of new legislation and in	Government of Armenia is committed to implementation of

	Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:
	to comply with the commitments taken under CEPA and its Roadmap in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	b) Eastern Partnership Index: Approximation, EU Integration and Convergence, Environment and Climate Policy (2017: 0.7; 2022: 0.73)	Latest report on Eastern Partnership Index	implementation of capacity building and awareness activities	the EU-Armenia CEPA.
Mandatory results for Component 1	Result 1: Legal framework pertaining to biodiversity is approximated with the EU Directives.	Draft new/amended primary and secondary legislation approximated with the EU Directives (92/43/EC and 2009/147/EC) is put forward for adoption by the Government (2019: no; 2021: yes).	Government registry of draft new/amended laws. Government registry for draft new/amended secondary legislation.	Political and institutional changes resulting in delays in the approximation process Lack of substantive engagement of national counterparts	The Ministry of Environment supports legal approximation process.
Sub-results per Component 1	Sub-result 1.1: Draft new/amended law(s) delivered in an inclusive and	a) Detailed legal analysis (e.g. using Table of Concordance (ToC) of Armenian legislative framework vis-à-vis the EU Directives (2019: no; 2020: yes).	Legal analysis report (including ToCs) as part of Project report. Electronic platform for	Institutional changes resulting in delays in	Active engagement of MoE in support to legal approximation exercise

Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:
evidence-based manner for approval by the Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Number of draft new laws transposing EU Directives 92/43/EC and 2009/147/EC delivered (2019: 0; 2022: 1). c) Number of draft amended laws necessary to support transposition delivered (2019: 0; 2022: as defined by legal analysis). d) Number of public consultations on drafts of new and amended legislation (2019: n/a; 2021: at least 2). 	<p>publication of government sponsored legislative drafts (e-draft.am.)</p> <p>Government registry of legislative proposals submitted by line Ministries.</p> <p>Project documents and reports</p>	<p>analysis and development of drafts</p> <p>Delays in approving proposed drafts on the level of the Ministry of Environment.</p>	<p>Involvement of relevant stakeholders and national experts in the drafting process.</p> <p>Interest on the side of the civil society in discussions on legislative changes</p>
Sub-result 1.2: Secondary legislation developed in an inclusive and evidence-based manner for the approval by the Ministry of Environment or the Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Number of new and amended pieces of secondary legislation (including specific guidelines on special areas of species conservation) delivered for adoption by the Government or Ministry of Environment (2019: 0; 2022: as defined by legal analysis under sub-result 1.1). b) Number of public consultations on draft secondary legislation (2019: n/a; 2021: at least 2) 	<p>Document registry of the ministry</p> <p>Government registry of legislative proposals submitted by line Ministries.</p> <p>Project documents and reports</p> <p>MoE website.</p>	<p>Institutional changes resulting in delays in analysis and development of drafts</p> <p>Delays in approving proposed drafts on the level of the Ministry of Environment.</p>	<p>Active engagement of MoE in support to legal approximation exercise</p> <p>Involvement of relevant stakeholders and national experts in the drafting process.</p> <p>Interest on the side of the civil society in discussion of legislative changes</p>

	Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:
Mandatory results for Component 2	Result 2: Institutional and professional capacities of the competent authorities are enhanced to effectively implement the new legislative framework on biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Number of competent authorities²³ involved in capacity building activities (2019: 0; 2022 at least 10). b) Share of trainees who assess the capacity building activities as highly relevant (2019: n/a; 2022: 60%). c) Capacity building provided by the project (2019: n/a 2022: at least 3 types, i. a. study tour, on-job training and workshop). 	<p>Project documentation and reports related to the capacity building activities.</p> <p>Document registry of the Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Political and institutional changes resulting in delays in the approximation process</p> <p>Lack of substantive engagement of national counterparts</p>	<p>The Ministry of Environment supports strengthening institutional capacities for implementation of new legislation</p>
Sub-results per Component 2	Sub-result 2.1: Institutional set up for effective implementation of the new legislative framework on biodiversity is designed in line with the intra-ministerial restructuring requirements .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Functional analysis with recommendations to enable effective implementation of the new legislation (2019: no; 2022: yes). b) New organigram outlining mandates of competent authorities delivered (2019: no; 2022: yes). 	<p>Project documentation and reports</p> <p>Government/Ministry registry of approved decrees (i.e. approved new organigram.)</p> <p>Website of the Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Delays in adopting new structural set-up.</p> <p>Lack of substantive engagement and cooperation of national counterparts</p>	<p>Interest of the Ministry to establish new institutional set up in compliance with new legislation.</p>

²³ Competent

	Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:
	Sub-result 2.2: Professional capacities of the competent authorities are enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Number of functional staff trained in application of the new legislation (2019: 0; 2022: at least 20). b) Number of functional staff involved in experience exchange visit to EU MS on implementation of the EU Nature Directives (2019: n/a; 2020 at least 10). c) Number of training manuals developed for capacity building activities (2019: n/a; 2020: at least 2) 	Project documentation and reports, including training materials	<p>Lack of effective engagement and participation in training.</p> <p>Lack of adequate expertise on the side of training participants resulting in limited motivation or capacity to absorb new knowledge.</p>	<p>Motivation of the Ministry to enhance capacities of staff.</p> <p>Pro-active and effective coordination of all capacity building activities by the MoE</p>
Mandatory results for Component 3	Result 3: Raised awareness of the competent authorities at all levels and that of civil society on the scope and impact of legal approximation in the field of biodiversity.	New Communication policy of the Ministry (2019: n/a; 2022: yes).	Approved Communication Plan. Project documentation and reports attesting conduct of awareness events	<p>Political and institutional changes affecting the pace of development and adoption of communication policy</p> <p>Lack of substantive engagement of</p>	<p>Interest of the Ministry to raise awareness of relevant stakeholders of the new legislative framework through an effective communication policy.</p> <p>Pro-active</p>

Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:
			<p>national counterparts in development of communication policy</p> <p>Lack of interest and/or expertise on the side of communities and civils society in absorbing new information</p>	<p>coordination and facilitation of the MoE of the communication workshops.</p>
<p>Sub-result 3.1: Strategic approach to communication on legislative changes is introduced.</p>	<p>a) Communication Plan on the scope and impact of the approximation process of new legislation adopted by the minister (2019: no; 2022: yes).</p> <p>b) Number of ministerial bodies involved in the development of the Plan (2019: n/a; 2022: at least 3)</p>	<p>Ministers' decree on approval of the Communication Plan</p> <p>Project documentation and reports, i. a. verifying engagement of ministerial bodies</p>	<p>Delays in delivering Communication Plan.</p> <p>Lack of substantive engagement of staff in development of the Communication Plan.</p>	<p>Interest of the Ministry develop and adopt a Communication Plan on new legislative framework.</p>

Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:	
	Sub-result 3.2: Stakeholders are sensitised of legal changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Number of competent authorities informed on legal changes (2019: n/a; 2022: at least 20). b) Share of communities informed on legal changes using regional channels (2019: 0; 2022: 60%) c) Number of CSO informed on legal changes (2019: 0; 2022: at least 10 regional and 20 national) 	Project documentation and reports Media publications	Lack of interest among stakeholders to participate at the awareness events. Lack of motivation or expertise to absorb new knowledge	Pro-active and effective coordination of the awareness events by the MoE