**Annex I**

Milestones, targets and related indicators – non-repayable support

| **#** | **Related measure (reform or investment)** | **M/T** | **Name** | **Qualitative indicators (for milestones)** | **Quantitative indicators (for targets)** | | | | **Date for completion** | | | **Responsibility for reporting and implementation** | **Further specification (if necessary)** | **Verification mechanism** | | | | **Possible early warning indicators** | | **On-the-spot check** | | **Relevant common indicators** | | **Comment (if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Unit** | **Base-line** | **Goal** | **Q** | | **Year** |  | |  | **A. Evidence provided** | **B. Detailed justification** | **C. Contribution to achievement of the objectives (link)** |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 126 | C5.R1: Establishment of the governance structure of Natural 2000 Network | Milestone | Amendments to the Biodiversity Act | Entry into force |  |  |  | Q3 | | 2022 | Ministry of Environment and Water | |  | 1. Copy of the publication in the State Gazette of the legislative amendments to the Biodiversity Act 2. Reference to the relevant provisions indicating the entry into force and to the provisions which fulfil the relevant elements of the milestone, as listed in the description of milestone and the corresponding measure in the CID annex, with appropriate links to or copies of the document(s) mentioned in the summary document | Institution/s: Ministry of Environment and Water  What: Amendments to the Biodiversity Act  How: entry into force (evidenced by a), reporting (b)  Why: The amendments to the Biodiversity Act shall introduce the requirement to create structures for the management of the Natura 2000 network at national and regional level and to develop network management plans. The amendments shall also introduce the requirement that all protected areas are managed on the basis of planning documents, which shall define site-specific conservation objectives and measures. [provide references to the plan that acknowledge these objectives]  When: specify the dates of development and entry into force | The objective of the measure is to build effective Natura 2000 management structures.  The measure consists of legislative changes, which set up structures for managing the Natura 2000 network at national and regional level and introduce requirements for developing network management plans. The legislative changes shall also introduce the requirement that all protected areas are managed on the basis of planning documents, which shall define site-specific conservation objectives and measures. | - | | None | | - | | - | |
| 127 | C5.I1: Integrating the ecosystem approach and applying nature-based solutions into the protection of Natura 2000 sites | Target | Development of site-specific conservation objectives and measures for Natura 2000 sites |  | Number | 0 | 341 | Q4 | | 2023 | Ministry of Environment and Water | |  | 1. List of 255 protected sites for which the site-specific conservation objectives and measures were developed as well as copy of those measures 2. List of 86 protected sites for which the conservation measures were developed and for which the site-specific objectives are already under development as well as copy of the conversation measures 3. Copy of the ordinances for designation of Sites of Community Importance as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in line with the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992) 4. Justification by a competent body that all 341 Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria have been designated | Institution/s: Ministry of Environment and Water  What: Development of site-specific conservation objectives and measures for Natura 2000 sites  How: identification of protected sites (a, b), entry into force (c), reporting (d)  Why: All 341 Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria shall have site-specific conservation objectives and measures in line with the EU Nature Directives (Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 and Birds Directive 2009/147/EC of 30 November 2009). This includes developing site-specific conservation objectives and measures for 255 protected sites and conservation measures for additional 86 protected sites, for which the site-specific objectives are already under development. In parallel to this investment, the outstanding designation of Sites of Community Importance as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in line with the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992) shall be completed. As a result, all 341 Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria shall be designated. [provide references to the plan that acknowledge these objectives]  When: specify the dates of development | The objective of the measure is to ensure high quality management of biodiversity and the Natura 2000 network in Bulgaria.  The measure consists of a series of actions, which include, inter alia, the development of site-specific conservation objectives and measures for Natura 2000 sites and the restoration of climate-related ecosystems through nature-based solutions as part of the management of Natura 2000. | - | | None | | - | | A monitoring step: Site-specific conservation objectives and measures for Natura 2000 sites developed (Q1 2023) | |
| 128 | C5.I1: Integrating the ecosystem approach and applying nature-based solutions into the protection of Natura 2000 sites | Target | Restoring climate-related ecosystems through nature-based solutions |  | Hectares | 0 | 150 | Q2 | | 2025 | Ministry of Environment and Water | | Nature based solutions are solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions. | 1. Validation report from independent organization of completion for all the restoration interventions providing evidence of the restoration through nature-based solutions of at least 150 hectares 2. Report by an independent engineer according to national law, including justification that the technical specifications of the project(s) are aligned with the description of the milestone/target and of the description of the investment in the CID annex and with approved technical plans for afforestation | Institution/s: Ministry of Environment and Water  What: Restoring climate-related ecosystems through nature-based solutions  How: reporting (a, b)  Why: Restoration of 150 hectares of habitats through nature-based solutions in line with approved technical plans for afforestation. [provide references to the plan that acknowledge these objectives]  When: after completion of the project(s) | As above | Delays in the implementation of the project(s) | | Yes, after the receipt of documents for completion of the activities (Q2 2025, or earlier if completed before that date) | | - | | - | |
| 129 | C5.I2: Restoring climate key ecosystems in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the objectives of the European Green Deal | Target | Restoring wetlands |  | Number | 0 | 6 | Q3 | | 2024 | Ministry of Environment and Water | |  | 1. List of conservation activities completed in line with the description from the CID annex for all of the six protected areas (indicating in which protected area each activity was performed) 2. Validation report from independent organization/acceptance at end-of-works, or equivalent supporting evidence issued in accordance with the national legislation | Institution/s: Ministry of Environment and Water  What: Restoring wetlands  How: reporting of the works done (evidence by a and b)  Why: Habitat Management conservation activities shall consist of improvements of water flow, restoration of habitats, reducing fragmentation and clearing vegetation in 6 protected areas (Protected area Hadji Dimitrovo Fishpond, Dragoman Protected Site, Vardim Island, Choklyovo Blato Protected Site, Kamimok Brash Protected Area, peatlands in Vitosha National Park) in line with the National Plan for Conservation of Bulgaria's Most Significant Wetlands 2013-2022 and the management plans for the respective wetlands. [provide references to the plan that acknowledge these objectives]  When: after completion of the project(s) | The objective of the measure is to restore the carbon capture potential of ecosystems and to generate more ecosystem goods and services in Bulgaria.  The measure consists of a series of activities divided into the following strands: Ensuring the connectivity of the Natura 2000 network through the restoration of traditional landscapes and the creation of ecological corridors; Restoration of wetlands and connectivity to rivers (rivers, wetlands, floodplains, peatlands and marshes); Increasing the percentage of protected areas, in line with the 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy; Integration of conservation and educational measures for the conservation of native protected species and the sustainable development of zoos. | Delays in the implementation of the project(s) | | Yes, at 2-3 sites, after the receipt of documents for completion of the activities (Q3 2024, or earlier if completed before that date) | | - | | A monitoring step: Launch of calls /or selection of partners for the restoration of wetlands in the six protected areas referred to in target 129 and / for the transformation of the coniferous (evergreen) plantations (Q1 2023) | |
| 130 | C5.I2: Restoring climate key ecosystems in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the objectives of the European Green Deal | Target | Transforming coniferous (evergreen) plantations |  | Hectares | 0 | 30000 | Q4 | | 2025 | Ministry of Environment and Water | |  | 1. A list of certificates of completion for all the restoration interventions providing evidence of the restoration of at least 30000 hectares 2. Report by an independent engineer endorsed by the relevant ministry, providing justification that the technical specifications of the restorations are aligned with the description of the target and of the description of the investment in the CID annex | Institution/s: Ministry of Environment and Water  What: Transforming coniferous (evergreen) plantations  How: certification (a), reporting (b)  Why: Transformation of 30 000 hectares of coniferous (evergreen) plantations by turning them into deciduous (broadleaf) forests of indigenous species as part of the restoration of traditional landscapes. [provide references to the plan that acknowledge these objectives]  When: after completion of the project(s) | As above | Delays in the implementation of the project(s) | | Yes, after the receipt of documents for completion of the activities (Q4 2025, or earlier if completed before that date) | | - | | - | |