

R O M A N I A

MINISTRY OF WATERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION CONTROL PROJECT

WORLD BANK GEF TF 050327 – RO

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

(No. 1)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

JANUARY, 2003

CALARASI, ROMANIA

INTRODUCTION

The Grant Agreement, with the value of 4 million DST, between the Government of Romania, represented by the Ministry of Public Finance and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, acting as an Implementing Agency for the Global Environment Facility was signed on January 16, 2002 at Bucharest and was ratified through the Government Ordinance nr. 19 of March 4, 2002.

The official launch of the Project took place in the period March 4–5, 2002. A two days Launching Workshop including presentations, press conferences and meetings between important funding agencies (Government of Romania, World Bank, Local Authorities and USAID) was organized, both in Bucharest and Calarasi. The Launch Workshop was organized by the selected staff of the Project Management Unit.

The following activities, that are conditioning the Project effectivity, were performed in view to insure the Grant Agreement entering in force:

- The setting up of the Project Management Unit. The PMU was established through the Order no. 223 of 18.03.2003, issued by the Minister, Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection. With the same Order was approved the IRR establishing the internal rules and regulations for the PMU's staff.
- Selecting and hiring the PMU's staff. The selection was done using the World Bank's selection procedures. As a result of selection the PMU was completely staffed.
- Selection of the Auditing firm. The selection of the firm for Project accounts auditing was done using the World Bank procedure Least Cost Selection for consulting services and a contract was sign for auditing the Project Preparation Grant and for the first year of the Project.

These conditions being fulfilled, the Ministry of Public Finance (MPF) issued the Legal Opinion and the Project was declared effective starting with April 29, 2002.

In parallel with the above, the PMU has carried out different activities required for the initial implementation stage, as follows:

- The Subsidiary Grant Agreement (SGA) between the Grant recipient represented by the MOF and the implementing agency, MWEP, was jointly prepared by MPF and MWEP. The SGS was successfully negotiated and signed on June 4, 2002.
- Following a selection process, the Romanian Commercial Bank - Calarasi Branch (RCB) was selected to hold the Project Accounts. The selection was confirmed by the Bank and a Convention between the MWEP and the RCB was negotiated and signed on June 11, 2002. The Comfort Letter required by the World Bank was issued on June 13, 2002, this being the last condition imposed by the Bank before operating the Grant Account.
- The Project Accounts were opened and the first application of 300,000 US\$, representing the advance in the Special Account was sent to the Bank on June 14, 2002.
- As a result of the changes incurred in the boards of MWEP, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests (MAFF) and MPF, the membership of the Project Steering Committee was updated. This was done by issuing new Ministerial Orders for each member of the Steering Committee.

- Also, the initial Protocol regarding the Local Coordination Committee establishment was amended accordingly, with the new members nominated by the representatives of the local authorities.
- The Financial Management System, procured during the Project preparation phase, was installed and customized with the new tax structure.
- The accounts of the Project preparation Grant were audited and the Audit Report and the Management Letter were presented to the Bank.

The advance of 300,000 US\$ and the Local Contribution of 1,400,000 million were transferred into the corresponding accounts on July 1 and July 3, 2003, respectively.

Component 1: Manure Management Practices.

The key issues in this component relate to:

- a. Selecting locations of the two Platforms for Manure Storage and Management provided in the Project Implementation Plan to be constructed in the first Project Year (PY1).
- b. Preparing and signing conventions with the Communes and the County Council.
- c. Organizing selection and award the contract for the construction works (NCB) for two platforms (PY1).
- d. Tree planting as contribution to the platform.
- e. The procurement of the equipment for manure management (ICB)
- f. The procurement of the technical assistance (local and international) for adapting and checking of the technical documentation for manure platforms.
- g. Receiving the applications from individuals for household level manure platforms.
- h. Prepare designs for pre-built platforms
- i. Select suppliers for the pre-built manure facilities.
- j. Pilot manure storage facility – USAID financed.

The selection of the first two locations for commune level manure platforms was done according with the Project Operational Manual provisions. The first two locations were established in Ciocanesti and Vlad Tepes communes and the selection was confirmed by the Project Local Coordination Committee in the meeting held on July 12, 2003. The memo of this meeting was sent to the Bank and MWEP.

In order to assure the legal frame for financing the Part A1(d) of the Project – “Manure management practices” and to fulfill the provisions of Art. 2.5 of the Subsidiary Grant Agreement nr. 285/04.06.2002, signed between MPF and MWEP, a Co-financing Agreement was concluded between the PMU and Calarasi County Council, for the amount of 283,000 US\$, representing the Calarasi County Council contribution to the manure platforms.

Also, according with the Operational Manual provisions, Preliminary Agreements between the PMU and the two communes selected namely Ciocanesti and Vlad Tepes, regarding their duties and obligations for Manure Management component implementation, were prepared and signed.

The procurement arrangements for the construction works of the two commune level manure platforms were done using the NCB procedure.

Since, at the Project preparation, the design was prepared for an average size manure platform with the storage capacity of 3,200 tons, it was necessary to hire a local authorized consulting company to adapt the existing documentation to the actual conditions of each commune and in line with the new requirements of the existing legislation for construction works. In this respect, after receiving the Bank's "no objection", a CQ selection was organized and a consulting company contracted.

Also, in view to compel with the provisions of the Romanian legislation regarding the requirement that the construction technical project should be certified by an authorized expert, TOR's were prepared and an individual consultant was contracted using the CQ procedure.

Being the first NCB organized by the Project, the full package of the bidding documents was sent to the Bank for evaluation and "no objection".

The bid was advertised, both in two national newspapers and locally in Calarasi. It was a high interest among the prospective bidders, as measured by the number of firms (11 in total), which have requested the bidding documents. Due to the complexity of the documents, the bidders requested PMU to extent the deadline for receiving the offers so that they can prepare and present their offers in the requested format.

Finally, only four offers were received. It appears that, at the local level, only a few firms can meet the volume of the construction works and the financial guaranties required to qualify, unless they associate with other companies outside the Calarasi County.

The procurement procedure was finalized on November 28, 2002, when the Bank confirmed the selection made. The construction contract for the two commune level manure platforms was signed on December 3, 2002, with SC POHA SA, the awarded local constructing firm.

Having in view the delay in the procurement of the construction works, a slippage has occurred for some related activities. Therefore, the tree planting around the constructed manure platform, planned for the autumn of 2002, had to be postponed for the next spring, after the completion of the construction works.

For the same reason stated above, the ICB for the procurement of the equipment for manure management was postponed for the year 2003 (PY2). An additional reason for postponing the equipment procurement was the request addressed by communes to the Local Coordination Committee for an equipment fare more expensive than the one provided for in the Project. It was decided that the equipment issue, number and type, will be discussed by the Local Coordination Committee and a decision taken prior finishing the construction of the first commune level manure platforms.

Regarding the international technical assistance for designing manure platforms, using alternative solutions, it was established with the Bank's and MWEP accord, to postpone it. It was decided that a decision regarding the future needs for the international assistance will be taken during the next evaluation mission of the World Bank team.

Another important activity associated with the commune level manure platforms is the construction of the individual household manure pads and supplying of bins for segregating waste. In order to avoid the manure accumulation at the households, as long as the commune level manure platforms are not ready to be used, it was decided to delay the procurement of

individual platforms so that they are completed in the same time or immediately after the completion of the commune level manure platforms. The first action taken consisted in inviting the farmers from the communes Ciocanesti, Vlad Tepes and Alexandru Odobescu (the last being proposed for the construction of a pilot platform financed by USAID). The interest among individuals for receiving support for the construction of household level manure platforms was very low. It is not certain, at the moment of writing this report, what are the reasons why the farmers are reluctant to be involved into the project.

Despite the common efforts of the communes and PMU, only 150 applications for each commune were received. The PMU has organized the evaluation of the applications and a priority list accompanied by the processed evaluation forms were provided to the communes for implementation.

During the evaluation process it was observed that the majority of the applicants are aged persons and they are reluctant of being able to provide their labor contribution if the works to be done are very hard works, as the concrete preparing and pouring. This observation was discussed in a Project Local Coordination Committee meeting of July 8, 2002, and a decision was taken that the design of the individual platforms should be changed so that a pre-built platform to be supplied by the project and the farmers to provide their contribution in kind consisting in doing the location preparatory works, transport and installing of the effluent tank, providing the sand and gravel for the platform foundation etc. The commune will also contribute with technical assistance, and where necessary with an auto crane, during the construction works. The technical specifications of the pre-built manure platform approved by the Local Coordination Committee were included into the bidding documents and sent to the bank for evaluation and approval. The bidding documents were approved by the bank on December 16, 2002.

Due to the delay registered as a result of redesigning the individual platform, the procurement had to be rescheduled for the year 2003.

The slippage in procurement of the individual manure platforms is not currently critical, but will become if not solved in the immediate future.

Regarding the activities related to the parallel financing offered by USDA/USAID for construction of a pilot manure storage facility, the key issues are as follows:

- Technical assistance provided by USAID.
- Construction of the pilot manure storage facility.
- Soil and water monitoring program.

In the frame of the technical assistance program offered by USAID, it was established that a three days workshop on manure management and soil & water monitoring will be held in Calarasi in the period May 27-29, 2002 with the logistical support of the PMU.

The workshop agenda was jointly prepared by ISU and PMU in consultation with the local agencies in Calarasi. The workshop was organized in three Modules followed by a field visit in the Project area.

Regarding the construction of the pilot manure platform, the detailed design prepared by the PMU was revised by the ISU specialists and they proposed an alternative solution with a

roofed construction in order to avoid the need for an effluents tank. The ISU blueprints were submitted to the Calarasi County Council for their review and consideration. The conclusion was that the solution proposed by ISU is not suitable for the local conditions, with strong winds and heavy snow and, in the mean time, the design is too schematic and, unless it will be detailed by and authorized specialist or firm, does not comply with the Romanian regulation for construction works. Having in view that in the budget provided by the USAID there are no provisions for a detailed design based on the ISU proposed solution, it was established that the pilot will be constructed using the initial design, elaborated during the APCP preparation.

Also, in order to establish the collaboration terms between Calarasi County Council and ISU a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties was prepared, with the PMU's assistance. Finally a Subcontract between ISU and CJC was prepared by ISU. The Subcontract was signed by ISU on December 27, 2002, and sent to the Calarasi County Council for acceptance and signing. This Subcontract stipulates that the financial management of the contract will be assured by the APCP – PMU, who is entitled to open accounts and make payments to cover the construction works of the Pilot manure platform. Also the APCP – PMU will assist the Calarasi County Council to organize the bidding process for the construction works using the World Bank's NCB procurement procedures.

Due to the delays in preparation and signing the Subcontract, the activities related to the monitoring of the construction works by APCP – PMU and soil and water monitoring program, associated with the pilot platform, had to be rolled over in time for the year 2003 (PY2).

Component 2. Testing/Demonstrating of the Environmentally Friendly Agricultural Practices.

The main activities for this component in 2002 were:

- a. Support for strengthening the capacity of the local implementing agencies
 - laboratory rehabilitation for Local Soil and Agro chemistry Office (OJSPA)
 - vehicle for OJSPA
 - laboratory equipment for OJSPA and Environmental Protection Inspectorate (EPI)
 - office and field equipment for the General Directorate for Agriculture and Food Industry, Calarasi (DGAIA)
 - vehicle for DGAIA
 - small equipment for the Local Agricultural Consultancy Office (OJCA)
- b. Demonstrations
 - Well head protection
 - Equipment for demonstrations
 - Materials for demonstrations
 - Tree planting on degraded lands in terrace area
- c. Technical Assistance
 - International technical assistance for design of demonstration program
 - Local technical assistance for the design of demonstration program

- d. Training for OJCA
- e. Competitive Grant Scheme

Regarding the rehabilitation of the OJSPA laboratory, there were identified the needs for construction works based on the beneficiary request. After checking the actual state of the laboratory rooms and facilities the list of proposed works was submitted for evaluation and approval to the Project Local Coordination Committee. Based on the approved list of rehabilitation works the PMU prepared the bidding documents using the Minor Works procurement procedure. Having in view that the rehabilitation works could not be carried out during the winter season, the bid was postponed for the year 2003 (PY2).

In parallel with the assessment of the rehabilitation needs, several meetings were organized with the participation of OJSPA and EPI specialists in order to prepare the final list with the necessary equipment for monitoring the soil and water quality in accordance with the provisions of the Project Operational Manual for soil and water monitoring. It was envisaged to procure the whole lot of laboratory equipment in a single package using the ICB procurement procedure.

Concerning the soil quality monitoring it was established that OJSPA must start the sampling program as soon as possible. Having in view the shortage of transportation means, the PMU, with the Bank's approval, hired a second driver for the land vehicle and provided the transport for OJSPA team. Due to the costs incurred by this activity in the first three months increased the PMU's operational costs. It was decided that instead of purchasing a land vehicle for OJSPA, as provided, to transfer the existing PMU's land vehicle to OJSPA.

Since, due to the lack of clear provisions regarding the agency entitled to perform the monitoring of the ground and surface water quality between the EPI and the National Administration "Romanian Waters", during the Bank evaluation mission from December 1-5, 2002, it was established to postpone the procurement for the year 2003, until a clear decision was taken at Governmental level.

Also, having in view the changes in the structure and the number of OJCA personnel that became insufficient to fully support the Project activities, since an important part of it was transferred to DGAIA, the Local Coordination Committee recommended and the Bank approved the reallocation of the support provided for OJCA toward DGAIA.

Providing that the testing/demonstrations are related to the agricultural year and that before starting their implementation, the participating local agencies must be fully equipped, the whole task was rolled over in time for the spring of year 2003, when a local consultant firm will be selected and hired for the design and implementation of an 18 months program. Based on its recommendations, the equipment and materials for demonstrations will be purchased. The need for international consulting services for designing the demonstration program will be assessed after the selection of the local consulting firm.

Regarding the tree planting program on the degraded land belonging to the communes, several meetings were organized by the PMU with the local authorities and a detailed planting program for the year 2003 was prepared. The PMU received the commune's request for support the tree planting, along with the detailed maps of the selected areas. These requests were checked if complying with the Project agro-forestry program, in terms of land

ownership, location, species and planting schemes. It was also established the numbers of saplings of each specie to be procured by the Project.

In order to assure the legal frame of collaboration between MWEP and MAFF regarding the Competitive Grant Scheme for Calarasi county, a Co-financing Agreement was concluded and signed on August 30, 2002. The Co-financing Agreement contains provisions on the amounts that would be financed by the two parties for the eligible projects and the financial, technical and monitoring rules governing the collaboration between the two ministries.

The PMU – APCP, jointly with PMU – Agricultural Services Support Project (ASSP) started a series of meetings with the potential participants to the Competitive Grant Scheme (CGS) for Calarasi, with the aim of informing and training them for submission of project proposals. The first meeting, held on October 7, 2002, in the premises of the DGAIA Calarasi, was attended by about 50 participants. The large number of participants demonstrated the high interest among local farmers to participate in the CGS program.

Component 3. Integrated Management of Boianu-Sticleanu Polder

The main activities for this component in 2002 were related to:

- a. Preparation of Conservation Management Plan for Iezer-Calarasi Nature Reserve.
- b. Agro-forestry Planting Program for Boianu-Sticleanu Polder.
- c. Procure tree planting equipment.

The procurement of the consulting services for the preparation of the Conservation Management plan was conducted using the World Bank's Sole Source selection procedure. The TOR's for this assignment were approved by the MWEP and the Bank by June 10, 2002. The firm selected for providing the consulting services was the Danube Delta National Research Institute (DDNRI).

The contract with DDNRI was negotiated and signed on August 8, 2002.

The legal status of the land proposed for tree planting in Boianu-Sticleanu Polder has changed since the Project preparation. For this reason, starting with September 2002, the PMU exchanged letters and participate in several meetings with the board of the State Domain Agency and the National Forestry Authority. Following these meetings it was decided the establishment of a working group, with the participation of SDA Calarasi, NFA and PMU representatives. This working group will contact the concessionaire and work with them for finding a solution for implementing the tree planting program.

To establish the conditions of the collaboration between NFA and MWEP, as regards to the accomplishment of the afforestation within the Project, there was issued a Collaboration Agreement, between the two institutions, establishing the contribution and the responsibilities of the two parties. Also, the PMU has prepared a draft Governmental Decision, together with a Concept Note attached, referring to the transfer of some lands of the Boianu-Sticleanu polder, from the state private property and from the administration of SDA, to the forestry fund of state public property administered by NFA. Both draft legal documents have been analyzed by the juridical department of MWEP, after which were transmitted, for analysis and point of view, to SDA and NFA.

The procurement of the tree planting equipment was postponed for 2003 (PY2), when it is expected that the implementing arrangements will be clarified.

Component 4. Ecological restoration of Calarasi-Raul Polder

The key issue related to this component, entirely financed by the Romanian Government, was the procurement of the consulting services for preparing the initial study and design for the ecological restoration in a pilot area of about 3,000 ha identified by previous studies elaborated in the frame of the WWF “Green Corridor” Project.

The contract was awarded to DDNRI which proved a significant experience in designing similar restoration works in the Danube River Delta. The contract was signed on August 13, 2002.

Component 5. Soil and water quality monitoring

During this reporting period the Key activities were:

- a. Selecting a construction company and installing piezometers.
- b. Procure laboratory equipment for soil and water quality monitoring.
- c. Procure vehicle.
- d. Procurement of the technical assistance for testing program preparation.
- e. Training of staff performing the soil and water quality monitoring.

The bidding documents for piezometers construction works were prepared and submitted to the Bank for no objection by August 27, 2002. The no objection for bidding documents was received on August 28, 2002 and the construction of piezometers was advertised on October 1, 2002. The contract was awarded and the construction of piezometers started on November 11, 2002 and the works completed by December 11, 2002.

Regarding the laboratory equipment and vehicle the procurement was started on November 13, 2002 with the establishment of the technical specifications according with the last assessment of needs prepared by the beneficiary agencies. The procurement was delayed for the reasons explained at Component 2, above.

For the same reason, of not having a clear tasks establishment between the implementing agencies, the technical assistance and training have to be postponed for the second year of the Project implementation.

Component 6. Public Awareness and National and Regional Replication – Calarasi Awareness Campaign

The major activity for 2002 included selection and contracting an agency to design and implement the Public Awareness Campaign.

The Bank’s no objection for the bidding documents was received on August 1, 2002 and the bid was advertised on August 14, 2002. The expressions of interest were received until the deadline, September 5, 2002 and the short list was approved by the Bank on October 18, 2002. The short listed firms were invited to submit offers and the technical proposals were opened on October 29, 2002. The evaluation report prepared by the selection commission was submitted on December 2, 2002, for Bank’s review and approval. Until the end of the reported period the Bank’s approval for the technical evaluation report was not yet received.

Component 7. National Policy and Regulatory Capacity

The key issues for this component were as follows:

- a. Procure technical assistance for preparing a Code of Good Agricultural Practices.
- b. Procure services and print the Code.
- c. Provide material support for the Economic Policy Unit in MWEP and,
- d. Technical assistance for harmonizing nitrate Directive Legislation and Cost Assessment for EU accession.

Regarding the preparation of Code of Good Agricultural Practices, it was agreed with the Bank that, in the initial stage, only the local assistance will be procured. Therefore only the TORs for local assistance for preparing the Code were prepared and approved by the Bank on August 1, 2002. The request for services was advertised on August 14, 2002 and the proposals were received before the deadline of August 26, 2002. The contract was awarded on October 9, 2002 and the prepared Code was delivered by December 15, 2002.

The procurement of goods for EPU (office equipment and furniture) was carried out in the period between June 20, 2002 and December 3, 2002. In this period of time two packages of goods were procured following the Bank's National Shopping procurement procedure.

The procurement of technical assistance for harmonizing nitrate Directive Legislation and Cost Assessment for EU accession, the TORs prepared by the PMU were submitted for Bank's review and approval. The Bank's no objection was received on August 1, 2002 and the bid was advertised on August 14, 2002.

Since no offers were received before August 30, 2002, the deadline for offers submitting, the PMU asked and received the Bank's approval to repeat the bidding procedure and the bid was advertised, for the second time, on September 2, 2002. The deadline for receiving offers was October 11, 2002 and the contract awarded and signed on October 21, 2002.

At the time of writing this report the performance of the services is in development.

Component 8. The Project Management Unit.

The main activities related to the PMU were:

- a. Procurement of goods for logistic support of the PMU activities.
- b. Training of PMU's staff
- c. Auditing the Project accounts for the preparation Grant
- d. Meetings with the local representatives.

The main issue was the procurement of goods and technical services for the PMU. The procurement was organized based on the list approved by the Bank, in two procurement packages.

The training of the Financial Management Specialist and Accountant were postponed due to the cancellation of the training courses in ILO Turin. The training has to be rescheduled for the second year of the Project.

The Technical/Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist was trained in two workshops, organized by the Bank in Croatia and Poland, on monitoring and good practices on agricultural pollution control.

The audit of the accounts of the Project Preparation Grant was carried out by the firm Delloite and Touche and a Management Letter and the Audit Report were submitted to the MWEF and the World Bank by June 2002.

The PMU meet, on a regular basis, with the local representatives and farmers involved into the Project.

The main meetings were:

1. Meetings with mayors on manure management – first meeting held on November 28, 2002.
2. Meetings with mayors regarding agro-forestry activities – first meeting on November 26, 2002.
3. Meetings with farmers, agricultural associations, specialists from research institutes on the CGS Program
4. Meeting with the stakeholders regarding the rehabilitation of a Pilot area in Calarasi-Raul polder, held on November 28, 2002.

The conventions and agreements between PMU and communes or individuals, as provided by the Project Operational Manual, were prepared and signed.

Status of Implementation Progress

This project progress report aims to provide information on:

- a. Physical progress of the Project, in which information is given on procurement activities referring to bid invitations, contract awards, bidding in progress, TA progress, as presented by the tables on procurement packages, for consulting and for delivery of goods, already implemented or being implemented.

Alongside the procurement tables the physical progress of the project is also shown on the full planing of project activities, in a form of a GANTT diagram. The planing of project activities shows in details the breack down of project implementation activities and it is an update of the Project Implementation Plan approved for the year 2002. Several activities have rolled over in time as the initial plan envisaged that the Project will start on January 2002, although the Project is only effective since April 29, 2002.

- b. Financial progress of the project, which contains full financial and accounting information on status of contract payments, disbursements from the Grant Account, disbursements from the Special Account, overall Project payments, accounting on a contract by contract basis and by category of expenditures.
- c. The key actions for preparing the second year Project Implementation Plan (Annex 1)
- d. The proposed Project Implementation Plan for the next six months (first semester of 2003).

The key actions for preparing the second year Project Implementation Plan

Year 2003 represents the second implementation year of the Project and, at the same time, the first time period when the effects of it will start to become visible. For this to happen it is necessary that the following objectives to be achieved:

1. Ensuring the legal frame and the collaboration for the beginning of the afforestation activities within the terrace area and the Boianu-Sticleanu polder.

One of the main activities, established on mutual agreement with the World Bank to be accomplished in the spring of year 2003, refers to the afforestation of an area of 42 ha in Vlad Tepes commune. This first tree planting activity has as purpose the testing of the afforestation of the slope terrains, from around Galatui Lake, proposed through the Project: setting up anti-erosion shelterbelts by planting trees in a perimeter enclosed with a protection fence. The financing solution found for the accomplishment of such afforestation, involves a close collaboration between the Project, which finances the planting material and equipment, the beneficiary commune, which provides the necessary labor for planting and administration of the afforested areas, and NFA which provides the technical assistance.

With regards to the tree planting on the degraded lands, liable to degradation or with poor agricultural potential from Boianu – Sticleanu polder, the proposed solution consists of their transfer to NFA and performing the afforestation with the Project's support. Because, in the time passed from the Project preparation, in the land administration took place important changes, by land concessioning, or in the land property regime, by transfer from the state public property, administered by SDA, to the Calarasi Mayoralty, The University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine and The Romanian Academy, it is necessary to find alternative solutions.

Therefore, we are requesting for support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, whose collaboration is vital for the clarification of the juridical situation of the lands aimed for afforestation, as well as for finding solutions for financing the subsequent management of these areas, so that it may meet the deadline, agreed with the World Bank, for beginning the afforestation in the autumn of year 2003.

2. Construction and operating the first manure storage platforms.

During year 2003 there are scheduled to be constructed, a number of six commune manure storage platforms (from the total of 14). Afferent to these, there will be contracted, constructed and installed a number of approximately 750 (from the total of 2,100) individual manure storage platforms, for the households from the beneficiary localities of commune level manure storage platforms.

3. Demonstration activities.

Increasing the farmers' awareness regarding the importance and usefulness of the environmental protection from pollutant factors from agricultural sources, will be performed

by organizing demonstrations regarding the agricultural techniques and procedures with protection effect on the environment and, at the same time, efficient from economical point of view. These will be accomplished based on a demonstration program scientifically based, which will be finalized in the first half of year 2003. In the same context is the starting off, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, through the Competitive Grant Scheme, a program of awarding of sub-grants in the Calarasi County for projects in the area of development and extension of environmental friendly agricultural practices.

4. Contracting the works for the management of the Iezer-Calarasi nature reserve, respectively for the ecological reconstruction of a pilot area from the Calarasi-Raul polder.

To achieve the Project's global objective, it is necessary the ecological restoration of some areas from the southern part of the county and whom will act as natural filters for the reduction of nutrient discharge into the Danube and, from here, into the Black Sea. Therefore, after the detailed studies accomplished during year 2002, there were analyzed and identified the possibilities of ecological restoration of a pilot area from the Calarasi-Raul polder and for the conservation of the Iezer-Calarasi nature reserve, studies that will be placed in practice during year 2003, by the execution of the required works.

5. Obtaining the preliminary data regarding the quality of the underground and surface waters, from the Project area, and creating the conditions for their permanent monitoring.

The water monitoring program will continue, in the first half of this year, by establishing the reference indicators for the situation existing before the effects of the Project are taking place, as well as creating the conditions for a permanent monitoring. Such thing is possible after establishing the tasks for the agencies involved in this activity, the finalizing of the data collecting infrastructure (small and medium depth piezometers), as well as after providing the necessary equipment.

6. Public awareness campaign at the Calarasi county level.

For promoting the public awareness regarding the importance of their contribution or the pollution reduction, as well as creating the mechanisms for the application of some similar activities in other parts of the country, there will be performed a vast media campaign at local level. Also, for the dissemination of the Project results and for determining collaborators with similar projects from the region, in the second half of the year there will be organized an international workshop, which will constitute an excellent opportunity for meeting possible donors and attracting funds for Project's replication at national level.

7. Finalizing the commitments regarding the support of the regulation capacity at national level.

According to the Implementation Plan of the Nitrate Directive, in the first half of the year there will be edited and released, to the parts involved in its implementation, the "Code of Good Agricultural Practices". Also, it will be finalized the report regarding the evaluation of the costs for the implementation of the Nitrate Directive in Romania, so that it will be possible to go onto finding a strategy for identifying alternative sources for financing these costs.

Next steps:

Activity	Estimated completion date
Construction of the pilot platform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Signing the financing contract between ISU and Calarasi County Council (CCC); → Signing an administration convention between CCC and PMU; → Development of bid, construction works and reception 	January 2003 February 2003 Feb. – Aug. 2003
Reception of the first two manure storage platforms	June 2003
Construction of four more manure storage platforms, in packages of two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Organizing the bidding procedure; → Signing of contract; → Performing the construction works; → reception 	Jan. – May 2003 March, May 2003 March–Sept 2003 July, Sept. 2003
Procurement of equipment for the manure storage platforms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → organizing the bid; → reception 	March 2003 May 2003
Procurement and installation of 450 manure storage individual platforms	Jan.-July 2003
Starting the demonstrations of the ecological agricultural practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → issuing the demonstration plan; → procurement of the demonstration equipment; → beginning the demonstration activities 	May 2003
Tree planting on 42ha in the terrace area (Vlad Tepes commune)	March 2003
Finding solutions for implementing the study regarding the ecological restoration of the Boianu-Sticleanu polder	May - Oct. 2003
Starting the public awareness campaign	April 2003
Development of training programs for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → communes' mayors, by a demonstrative tour in Poland; → OJSPA and EPI staff, at local level; → PMU financial staff 	June 2003
Procurement of equipment for EPI, DGAIA, and OJSPA	April 2003
Printing and distributing, at national level, of the Code of Good Agricultural Practices	June 2003

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3. Bar Chart (GANTT) Project Planning for Semester I, 2003 (PY2)

1. PHYSICAL PROGRESS

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

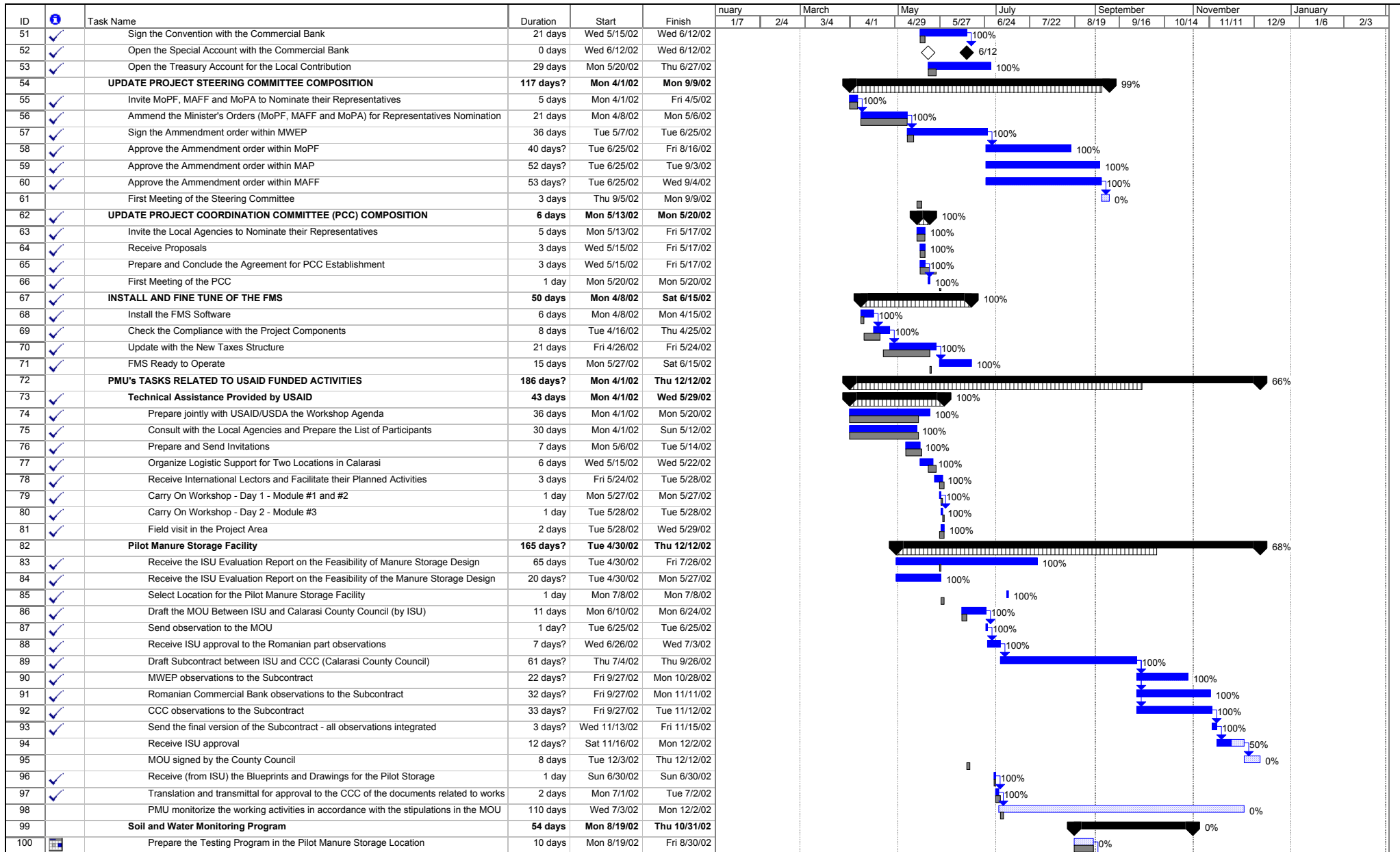
TRACKING GANTT DIAGRAM

Second Semester, 2002, (PY1)

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	January		March		May		July		September		November		January				
					1/7	2/4	3/4	4/1	4/29	5/27	6/24	7/22	8/19	9/16	10/14	11/11	12/9	1/6	2/3		
1	ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO EFFECTIVENESS	75 days	Wed 1/16/02	Mon 4/29/02																	
2	GOVERNMENT RATIFICATION	34 days	Wed 1/16/02	Mon 3/4/02																	
3	PROJECT LAUNCH WORKSHOP	35 days	Wed 1/16/02	Tue 3/5/02																	
4	Prepare Workshop Agenda and Presentations	23 days	Wed 1/16/02	Fri 2/15/02																	
5	Prepare and Send Invitations	3 days	Mon 2/18/02	Wed 2/20/02																	
6	Organize Logistic Support for Two Locations - Bucharest and Calarasi	7 days	Thu 2/21/02	Fri 3/1/02																	
7	Launch Workshop - Day 1 in Bucharest	1 day	Mon 3/4/02	Mon 3/4/02																	
8	Launch Workshop - Day 2 in Calarasi	1 day	Tue 3/5/02	Tue 3/5/02																	
9	GRANT EFFECTIVENESS	75 days	Wed 1/16/02	Mon 4/29/02																	
10	PREPARE FOR GRANT EFFECTIVENESS	75 days	Wed 1/16/02	Mon 4/29/02																	
11	ESTABLISH THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT	14 days	Fri 3/1/02	Tue 3/19/02																	
12	Prepare the PMU Rules and Regulations	6 days	Fri 3/1/02	Fri 3/8/02																	
13	Prepare and Issue the Minister's Order for PMU Establishment	8 days	Mon 3/11/02	Tue 3/19/02																	
14	SELECT AND HIRE PMU STAFF	22 days	Fri 3/1/02	Fri 3/29/02																	
15	Advertise Unoccupied Positions	1 day	Fri 3/15/02	Fri 3/15/02																	
16	Receive Applications	3 days	Mon 3/18/02	Wed 3/20/02																	
17	Establish the Selection Commission	7 days	Wed 3/13/02	Wed 3/20/02																	
18	Staff Selection	1 day	Fri 3/22/02	Fri 3/22/02																	
19	Selection Confirmed by the Minister	3 days	Mon 3/25/02	Wed 3/27/02																	
20	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection"	3 days	Wed 3/27/02	Fri 3/29/02																	
21	Issue the Transfer Letters for Staff	1 day	Fri 3/29/02	Fri 3/29/02																	
22	Issue the Minister's Order for Staff Nomination	2 days	Thu 3/28/02	Fri 3/29/02																	
23	Prepare Frame Staff Contracts	11 days	Fri 3/1/02	Fri 3/15/02																	
24	Receive Ministry Approval for the Frame Contract	5 days	Mon 3/18/02	Fri 3/22/02																	
25	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for the Frame Contract	5 days	Mon 3/25/02	Fri 3/29/02																	
26	Prepare and Sign the PMU Staff Contracts	1 day	Fri 3/29/02	Fri 3/29/02																	
27	PROJECT AUDIT	39 days	Wed 1/16/02	Mon 3/11/02																	
28	Complete Selection of the Auditing Firm	3 days	Wed 1/16/02	Fri 1/18/02																	
29	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for Selection	3 days	Mon 1/21/02	Wed 1/23/02																	
30	Selection Confirmed by the Minister	3 days	Thu 1/31/02	Mon 2/4/02																	
31	Negotiate Contract for Audit Services	16 days	Tue 2/5/02	Tue 2/26/02																	
32	Sign the Contract for Audit Services	1 day	Mon 3/11/02	Mon 3/11/02																	
33	MoPF PROCESSING	29 days	Wed 3/20/02	Mon 4/29/02																	
34	MoPF Informed that the Conditions for Effectiveness have been meet	1 day	Wed 3/20/02	Wed 3/20/02																	
35	Issue the Legal Opinion (MoPF) and Inform the Bank	10 days	Thu 3/21/02	Wed 4/3/02																	
36	GRANT DECLARED EFFECTIVE BY THE BANK	6 days	Mon 4/22/02	Mon 4/29/02																	
37	AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION CONTROL PROJECT - PROJECT YEAR 1	337 days?	Wed 1/16/02	Mon 4/28/03																	
38	CONCLUDE SUBSIDIARY GRANT AGREEMENT (BETWEEN MoPF AND MWEP)	101 days	Wed 1/16/02	Tue 6/4/02																	
39	Work with MoPF to Prepare Subsidiary Grant Agreement	80 days	Wed 1/16/02	Mon 5/6/02																	
40	Subsidiary Agreement Signed by MWEP	4 days	Tue 5/7/02	Fri 5/10/02																	
41	Subsidiary Agreement Signed by MoPF	17 days	Mon 5/13/02	Tue 6/4/02																	
42	Prepare and Issue the Letter with Authorized Signatures (AS) by the MWEP	33 days	Mon 4/15/02	Wed 5/29/02																	
43	AS Letter Approved by the Minister and Sent to the Bank (MoPF)	0 days	Wed 5/29/02	Wed 5/29/02																	
44	OPENING OF THE SPECIAL ACCOUNT	72 days	Tue 3/19/02	Thu 6/27/02																	
45	Prepare RFP and Invite Commercial Banks to Submit Offers	0 days	Tue 3/19/02	Tue 3/19/02																	
46	Establish the Selection Commission	0 days	Tue 3/19/02	Tue 3/19/02																	
47	Receive Offers	4 days	Wed 3/20/02	Mon 3/25/02																	
48	Evaluate Proposals and Select the Commercial Bank	5 days	Tue 3/26/02	Mon 4/1/02																	
49	Selection Confirmed by the Minister (MWEP)	0 days	Mon 4/1/02	Mon 4/1/02																	
50	Issue the Comfort Letter	53 days	Tue 4/2/02	Thu 6/13/02																	

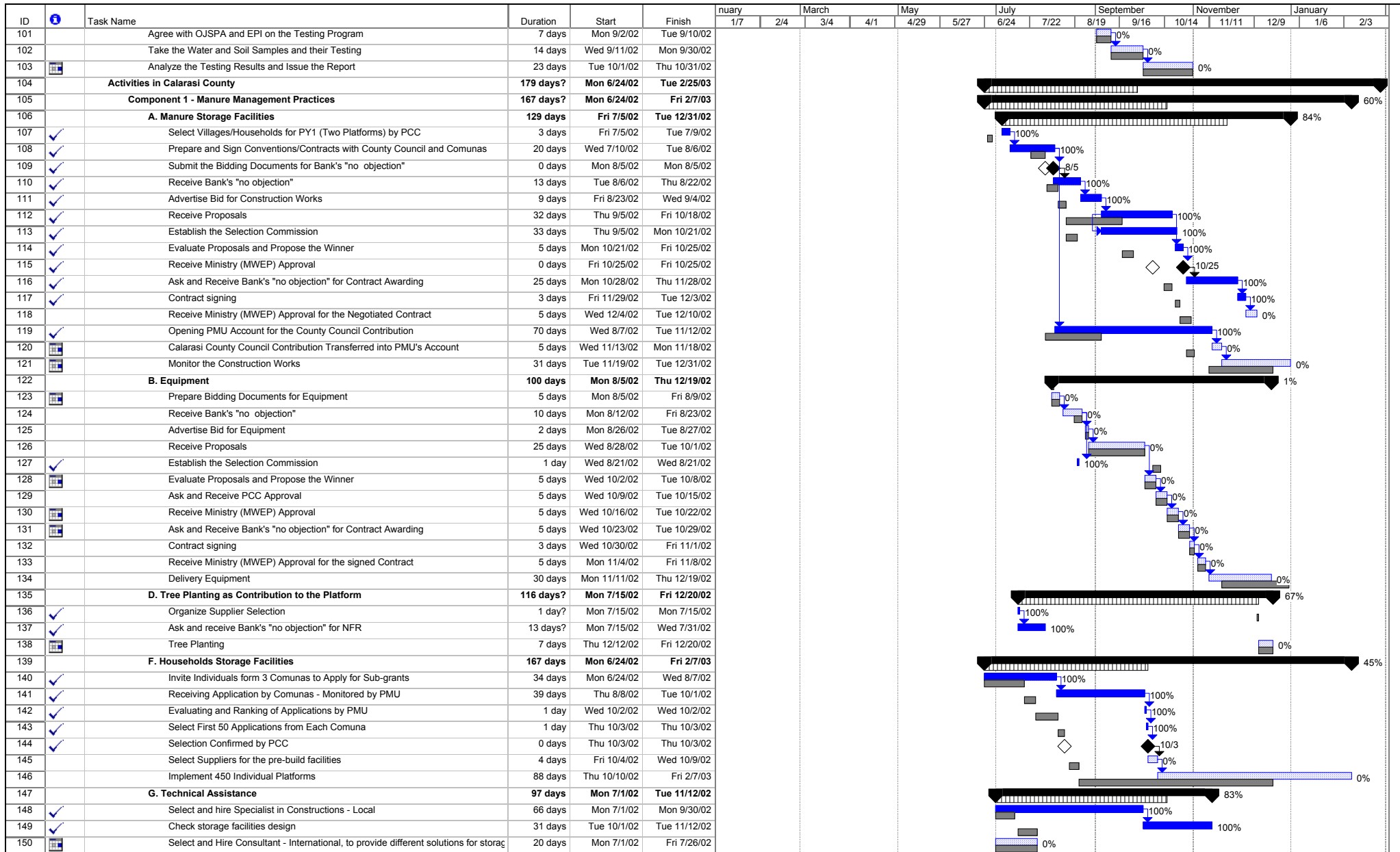
Project: APCP
Date: Mon 3/3/03

Critical		Task		Baseline		Milestone		Project Summary		Deadline	
Critical Split		Split		Baseline Split		Summary Progress		External Tasks			
Critical Progress		Task Progress		Baseline Milestone		Summary		External Milestone			

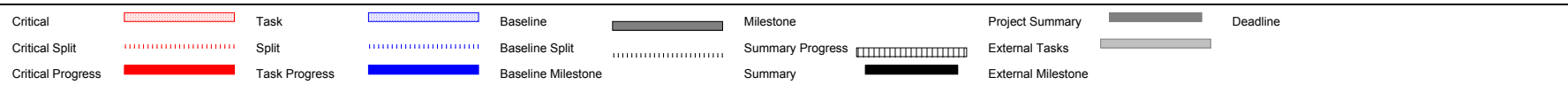


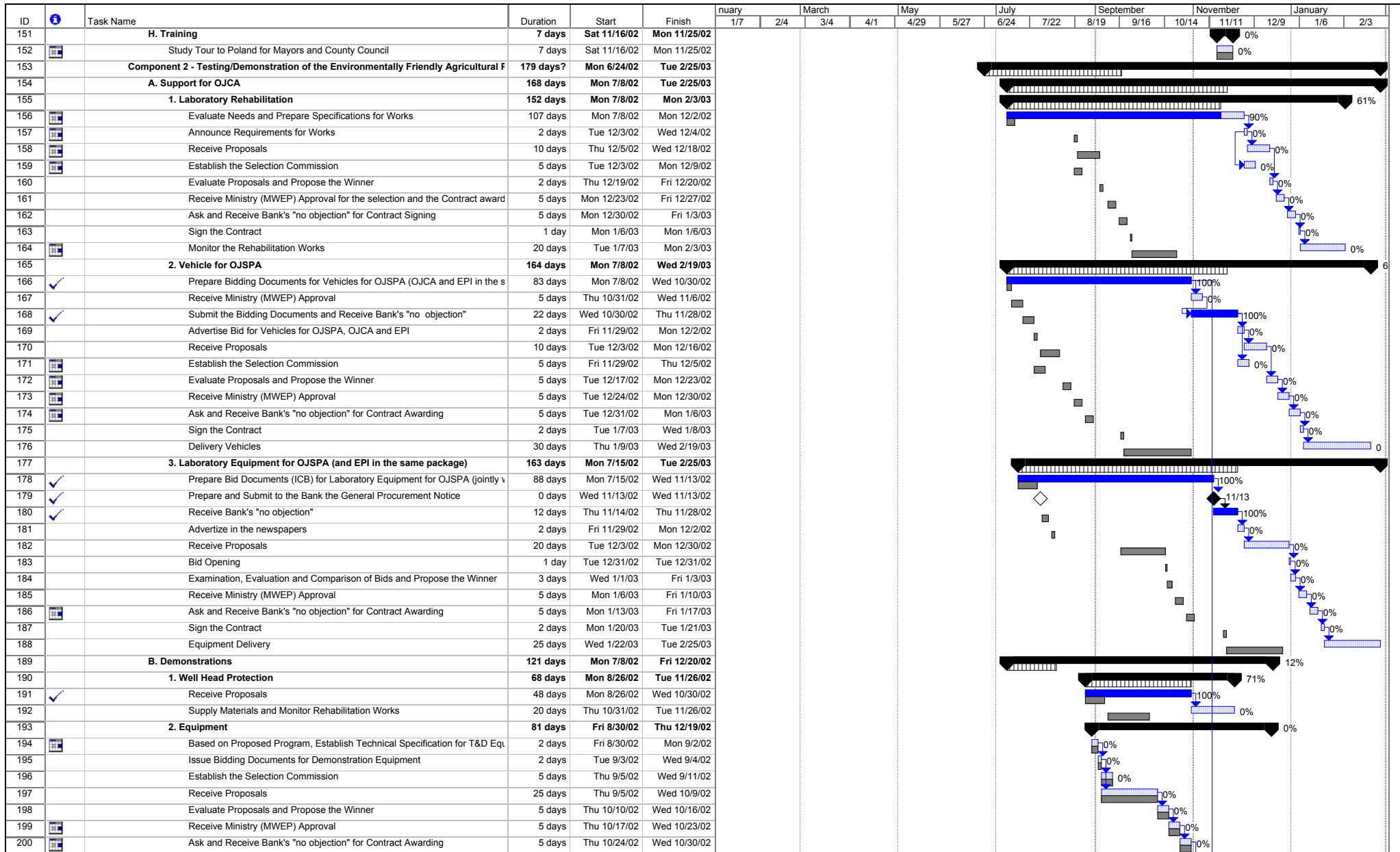
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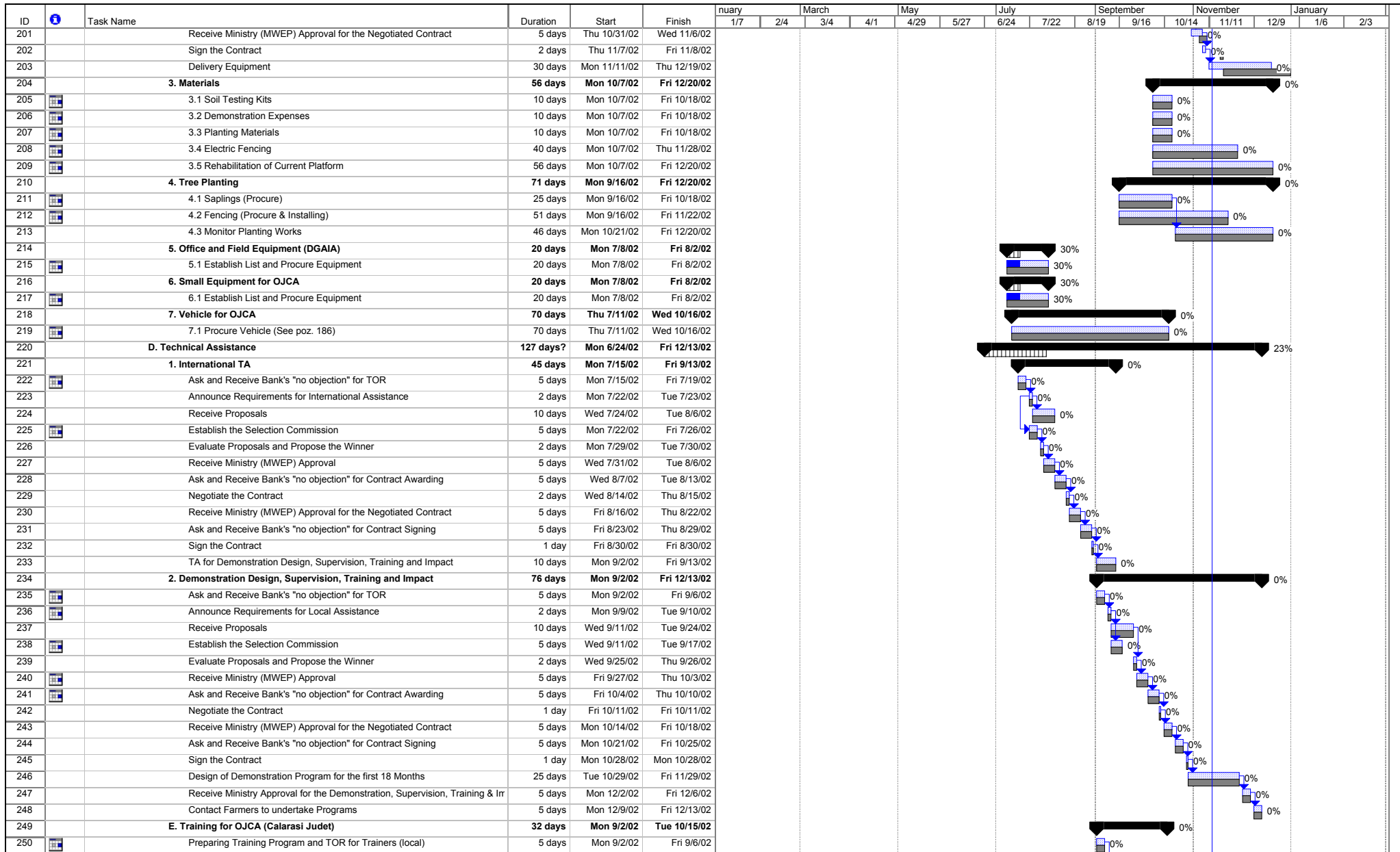
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ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	January		March		May		July		September		November		January	
					1/7	2/4	3/4	4/1	4/29	5/27	6/24	7/22	8/19	9/16	10/14	11/11	12/9	1/6
251	Training Program and TOR for Trainers Approved by the Bank	5 days	Mon 9/9/02	Fri 9/13/02														
252	Select and Contract Trainers	20 days	Mon 9/16/02	Fri 10/11/02														
253	Training Session	2 days	Mon 10/14/02	Tue 10/15/02														
254	F. Competitive Grant Scheme (ASSP) applied research and extension progr	77 days?	Mon 6/24/02	Mon 10/7/02														
255	Prepare and Sign Convention between MWEP and MAFF	51 days	Mon 6/24/02	Fri 8/30/02														
256	Meetings and Training of potential participants	1 day?	Mon 10/7/02	Mon 10/7/02														
257	Component 3 - Integrated Management of Boianu-Sticleanu Polder	225 days	Thu 6/20/02	Mon 4/28/03														
258	A. Management Plan for Iezer-Calarasi Nature Reserve	141 days	Thu 6/20/02	Tue 12/31/02														
259	1. Preparation of Conservation Management Plan	141 days	Thu 6/20/02	Tue 12/31/02														
260	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for TOR and Single Source Selection	1 day	Thu 6/20/02	Thu 6/20/02														
261	Procure Services DDNRI to Prepare Conservation Management Plan	36 days	Fri 6/21/02	Thu 8/8/02														
262	Preparation of Management Plan, Review and Approval	104 days	Fri 8/9/02	Tue 12/31/02														
263	B. Agro-Forestry Planting Program for Boianu-Sticleanu Polder	139 days	Mon 6/24/02	Tue 12/31/02														
264	Finalize Program design in Collaboration with the Stakeholders	86 days	Mon 6/24/02	Fri 10/18/02														
265	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for TOR and Single Source Selection	5 days	Mon 6/24/02	Fri 6/28/02														
266	Prepare Contract for Consultance Serviceswith ICAS	10 days	Mon 7/1/02	Fri 7/12/02														
267	Negotiate the Contract	1 day	Thu 8/1/02	Thu 8/1/02														
268	Receive Ministry (MWEP) Approval for the Negotiated Contract	5 days	Fri 8/2/02	Thu 8/8/02														
269	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for Contract Signing	5 days	Fri 8/9/02	Thu 8/15/02														
270	Sign the Contract	1 day	Fri 8/16/02	Fri 8/16/02														
271	Design of Agro-forestry Program for 18 Months, starting with October 2002	45 days	Mon 8/19/02	Fri 10/18/02														
272	Procure Services of National Forestry Regia	139 days	Mon 6/24/02	Tue 12/31/02														
273	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for Single Source Selection	5 days	Mon 6/24/02	Fri 6/28/02														
274	Prepare Contract for NFA Services	7 days	Mon 10/7/02	Tue 10/15/02														
275	Negotiate the Contract	1 day	Wed 10/16/02	Wed 10/16/02														
276	Receive Ministry (MWEP) Approval for the Negotiated Contract	5 days	Thu 10/17/02	Wed 10/23/02														
277	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for Contract Signing	5 days	Thu 10/24/02	Wed 10/30/02														
278	Sign the Contract	1 day	Thu 10/31/02	Thu 10/31/02														
279	Implement Agro-forestry Program for 2002	44 days	Fri 11/1/02	Tue 12/31/02														
280	1. Equipment	55 days	Mon 8/19/02	Fri 11/1/02														
281	Prepare Bidding Documents for Tractors and Planter	5 days	Mon 8/19/02	Fri 8/23/02														
282	Receive Ministry (MWEP) Approval	5 days	Mon 8/26/02	Fri 8/30/02														
283	Advertise Bid for Tractors and Planter	2 days	Mon 9/2/02	Tue 9/3/02														
284	Receive Proposals	10 days	Wed 9/4/02	Tue 9/17/02														
285	Establish the Selection Commission	5 days	Mon 9/2/02	Fri 9/6/02														
286	Evaluate Proposals and Propose the Winner	5 days	Wed 9/18/02	Tue 9/24/02														
287	Receive Ministry (MWEP) Approval	5 days	Wed 9/25/02	Tue 10/1/02														
288	Negotiate the Contract	1 day	Wed 10/2/02	Wed 10/2/02														
289	Receive Ministry (MWEP) Approval for the Negotiated Contract	5 days	Thu 10/3/02	Wed 10/9/02														
290	Sign the Contract	2 days	Thu 10/10/02	Fri 10/11/02														
291	Delivery Tractors and Planter	15 days	Mon 10/14/02	Fri 11/1/02														
292	Component 4 - Ecological Restoration of Calarasi-Raul Polder	152 days	Thu 6/20/02	Wed 1/15/03														
293	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for TOR and Single Source Selection	5 days	Thu 6/20/02	Wed 6/26/02														
294	Contract DDNRI to Undertake the Initial Study	5 days	Fri 8/2/02	Thu 8/8/02														
295	DDNRI Carry Out Study	98 days	Fri 8/9/02	Mon 12/23/02														
296	Review and Approval of Study Proposal by Stakeholders	17 days	Tue 12/24/02	Wed 1/15/03														
297	Component 5 - Soil and Water Quality Monitoring	212 days	Mon 7/8/02	Mon 4/28/03														
298	A. Soil and Water Monitoring Program	212 days	Mon 7/8/02	Mon 4/28/03														
299	1. Civil Works - Instalation of Piezometers	128 days	Mon 7/8/02	Tue 12/31/02														
300	Based on Testing Program Prepare Bidding Documents for Installing Piezon	31 days	Mon 7/8/02	Mon 8/19/02														

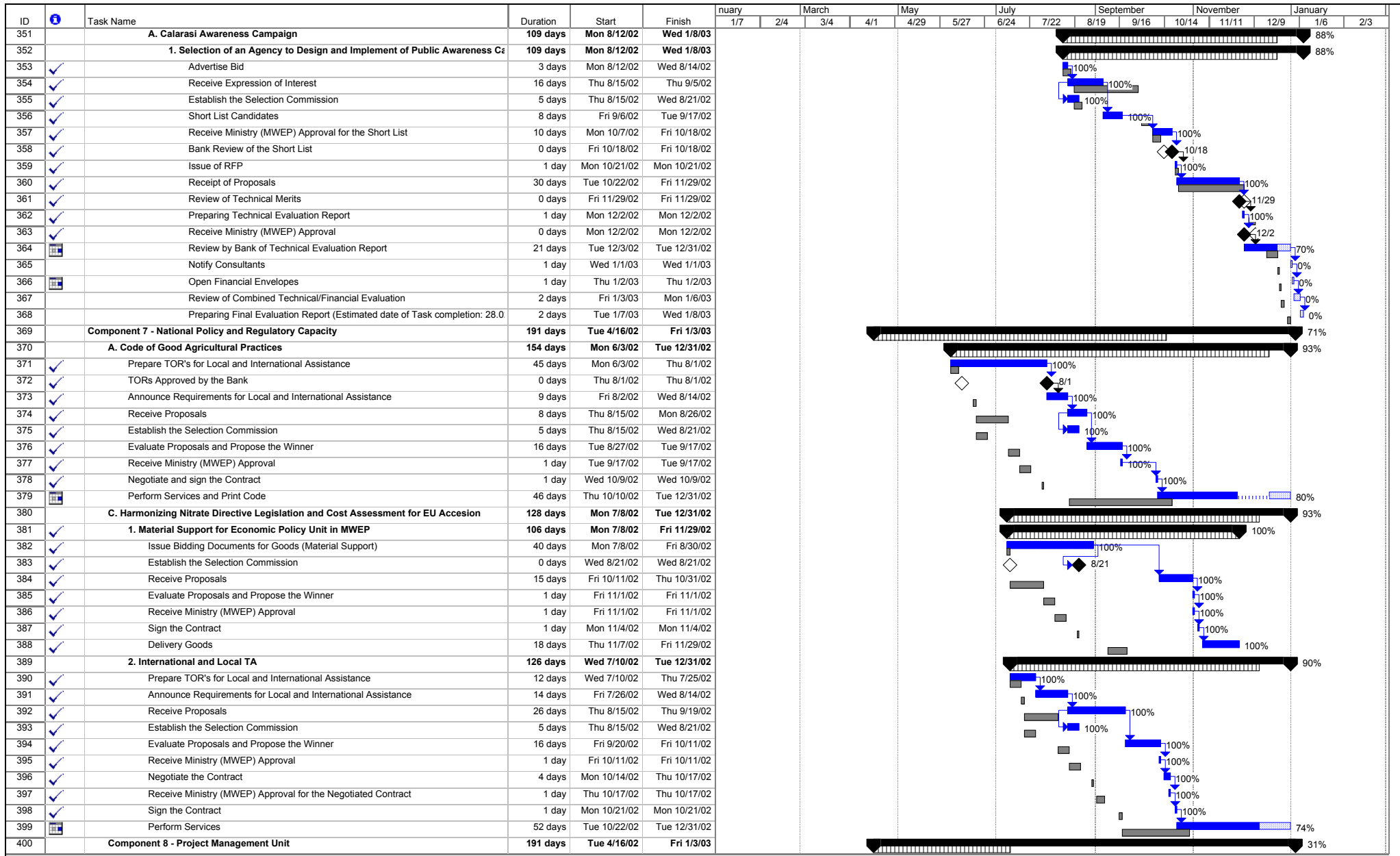
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301	Receive Ministry (MWEP) Approval	5 days	Tue 8/20/02	Mon 8/26/02																
302	Submit the Bidding Documents for Bank's "no objection"	1 day	Tue 8/27/02	Tue 8/27/02																
303	Receive Bank's "no objection"	1 day	Wed 8/28/02	Wed 8/28/02																
304	Advertise Bid for Piezometers Construction	2 days	Thu 8/29/02	Fri 8/30/02																
305	Receive Proposals	20 days	Wed 9/4/02	Tue 10/1/02																
306	Evaluate Proposals and Propose the Winner	2 days	Thu 10/3/02	Fri 10/4/02																
307	Receive Ministry (MWEP) Approval	5 days	Mon 10/7/02	Fri 10/11/02																
308	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for Contract Awarding	5 days	Mon 10/14/02	Fri 10/18/02																
309	Negotiate and sign the Contract	4 days	Mon 10/21/02	Thu 10/24/02																
310	Install Piezometers	36 days	Fri 10/25/02	Tue 12/31/02																
311	2. Equipment	120 days	Wed 11/13/02	Mon 4/28/03																
312	Procure Laboratory Equipment (See poz. 182 - 202)	120 days	Wed 11/13/02	Mon 4/28/03																
313	3. Vehicle (EPI)	70 days	Wed 11/13/02	Mon 2/17/03																
314	Procure Vehicle (See poz. 203 - 213)	70 days	Wed 11/13/02	Mon 2/17/03																
315	4. Technical Assistance	118 days	Mon 7/22/02	Tue 12/31/02																
316	4.1 International TA	50 days	Mon 7/22/02	Fri 9/27/02																
317	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for TOR	5 days	Mon 7/22/02	Fri 7/26/02																
318	Anounce Requirements for International TA	2 days	Mon 7/29/02	Tue 7/30/02																
319	Receive Proposals	10 days	Wed 7/31/02	Tue 8/13/02																
320	Establish the Selection Commission	5 days	Mon 7/29/02	Fri 8/2/02																
321	Evaluate Proposals and Propose the Winner	1 day	Wed 8/14/02	Wed 8/14/02																
322	Receive Ministry (MWEP) Approval	5 days	Thu 8/15/02	Wed 8/21/02																
323	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for Contract Awarding	5 days	Thu 8/22/02	Wed 8/28/02																
324	Negotiate the Contract	1 day	Thu 8/29/02	Thu 8/29/02																
325	Receive Ministry (MWEP) Approval for the Negotiated Contract	5 days	Fri 8/30/02	Thu 9/5/02																
326	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for Contract Signing	5 days	Fri 9/6/02	Thu 9/12/02																
327	Sign the Contract	1 day	Fri 9/13/02	Fri 9/13/02																
328	International TA for Testing Program Preparation	10 days	Mon 9/16/02	Fri 9/27/02																
329	4.2 Local TA	50 days	Mon 7/22/02	Fri 9/27/02																
330	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for TOR	5 days	Mon 7/22/02	Fri 7/26/02																
331	Anounce Requirements for Local TA	2 days	Mon 7/29/02	Tue 7/30/02																
332	Receive Proposals	10 days	Wed 7/31/02	Tue 8/13/02																
333	Establish the Selection Commission	5 days	Mon 7/29/02	Fri 8/2/02																
334	Evaluate Proposals and Propose the Winner	1 day	Wed 8/14/02	Wed 8/14/02																
335	Receive Ministry (MWEP) Approval	5 days	Thu 8/15/02	Wed 8/21/02																
336	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for Contract Awarding	5 days	Thu 8/22/02	Wed 8/28/02																
337	Negotiate the Contract	1 day	Thu 8/29/02	Thu 8/29/02																
338	Receive Ministry (MWEP) Approval for the Negotiated Contract	5 days	Fri 8/30/02	Thu 9/5/02																
339	Ask and Receive Bank's "no objection" for Contract Signing	5 days	Fri 9/6/02	Thu 9/12/02																
340	Sign the Contract	1 day	Fri 9/13/02	Fri 9/13/02																
341	Local TA for Testing Program Preparation	10 days	Mon 9/16/02	Fri 9/27/02																
342	4.3 Testing Program in the Project Area	73 days	Mon 9/23/02	Tue 12/31/02																
343	Agree with OJSPA, PHD and EPI on the Testing Program	5 days	Mon 9/23/02	Fri 9/27/02																
344	Receive Ministry (MWEP) Approval for the Testing Program	5 days	Mon 9/30/02	Fri 10/4/02																
345	Receive Bank's Approval for the Testing Program	5 days	Mon 10/7/02	Fri 10/11/02																
346	Carry On the Testing Program PY1	58 days	Mon 10/14/02	Tue 12/31/02																
347	5. Training EPI Staff	33 days	Mon 10/21/02	Tue 12/3/02																
348	International Training in Soil and Water Monitoring PY1	12 days	Mon 11/18/02	Tue 12/3/02																
349	Training Courses in Soil and Water Monitoring PY1	12 days	Mon 10/21/02	Tue 11/5/02																
350	Component 6 - Public Awareness and National and Regional Replication	109 days	Mon 8/12/02	Wed 1/8/03																

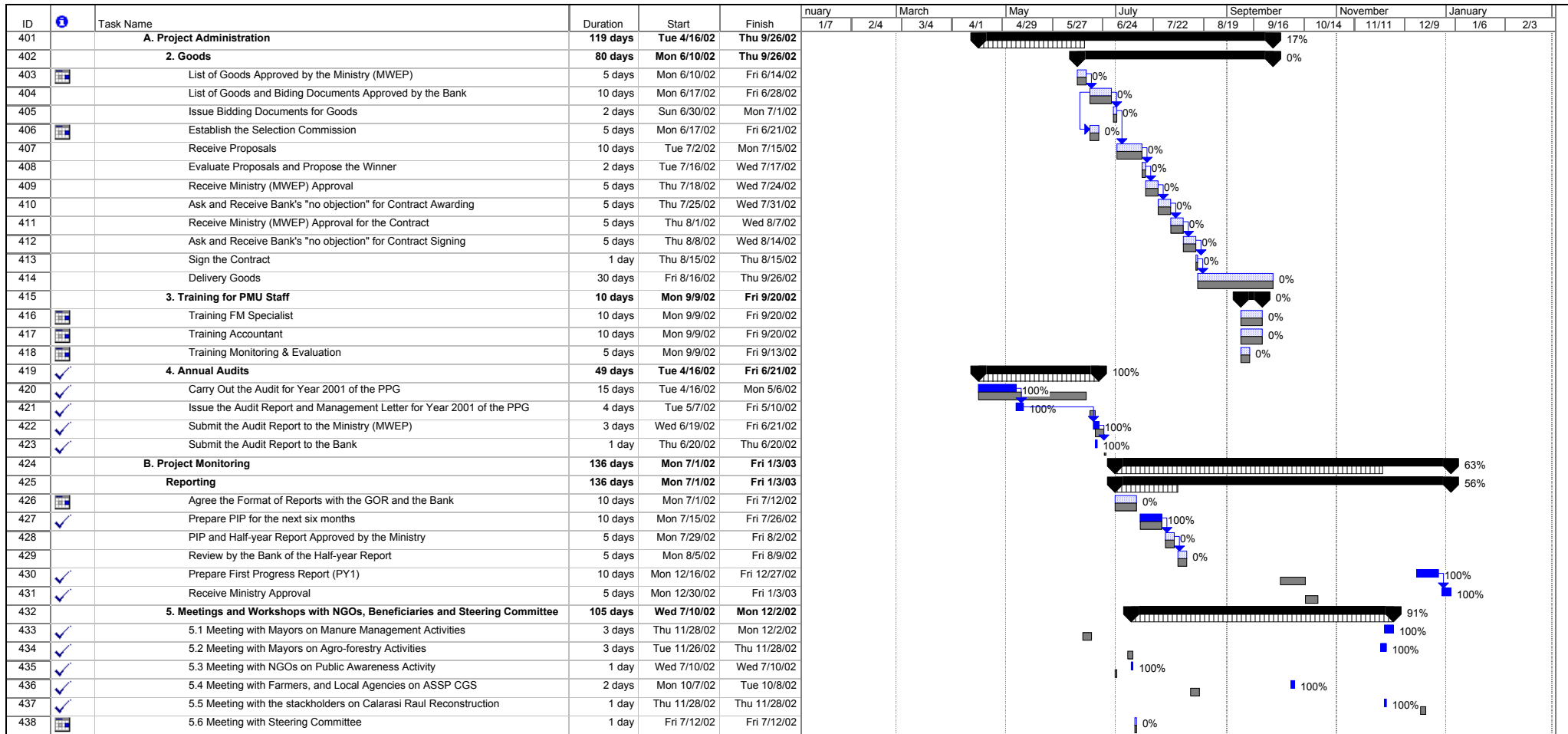
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PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
 AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION CONTROL PROJECT

PROCUREMENT PACKAGES
 Category 1.Works
 As at December 31, 2002

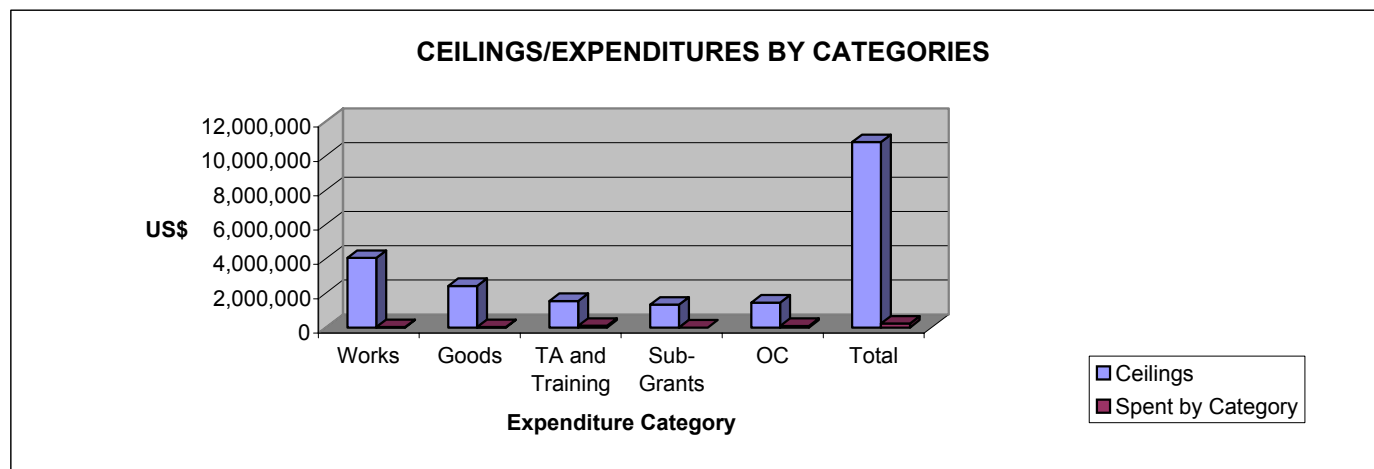
Crt. No	Contract Description	Proc. Method	Bidding Process Date																		Supplier/ Contractor Name	Contract No.		
			Prequalification Documents				Bid Documents				Bid Package Available		Bid Open		Contract No Objection		Contract Signature		Contract End					
			Sent		No Objection		Sent		No Objection		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual			Planned	Actual
			Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual														
1	2 communal platforms for Ciocanesti and Viad Tepes	NCB	no case	no case	no case	no case	08/21/2002	08/21/2002	08/22/2002	08/22/2002	09/05/2002	09/05/2002	10/18/2002	10/18/2002	10/23/2002	11/28/2002	10/24/2002	12/03/2002	04/15/2002	04/15/2002	SC POHA SA Calarasi	01/NCB/2002		
2	installation of 76 piezometers	MW	no case	no case	no case	no case	07/08/2002	08/27/2002	08/28/2002	08/28/2002	08/29/2002	08/29/2002	10/01/2002	10/01/2002	10/06/2002	10/18/2002	10/01/2002	12/27/2002	11/21/2002	02/21/2003	SC Aquaproiect SA Bucuresti	01/MW/2002		

**Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection
Agricultural Pollution Control Project
Project Management Unit**

CEILINGS/EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORIES

for the period 01.07.2002 - 31.12.2002

	Works	Goods	TA and Training	Sub-Grants	OC	Total
Ceilings	4,047,922	2,423,128	1,545,387	1,330,000	1,453,652	10,800,089
Spent by Category	21,755	26,988	94,444	0	88,054	231,241



Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection
Agricultural Pollution Control Project
Project Management Unit

CEILINGS/EXPENDITURES BY TYPE OF PROCUREMENT
for the period 01.07.2002 - 31.12.2002

	US\$											
	ICB	IS	QCBS	NCB	NS	MW	CQ	IND	LCS	Other	NBF	TOTAL
Ceiling	739,591	322,796	374,413	3,167,064	771,533	105,116	2,089,235	485,935	176,433	32,178	2,535,795	10,800,089
Expenditures	0	0	0	21,755	39,703	0	43,549	75,339	8,105	0	42,790	231,241

