

## **1. Development of the National Biosafety Framework for the Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on May 24, 2000, during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nairobi, Kenya, when it was open for signature for the first time. The Czech Republic belongs to the first Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity ratifying the Cartagena Protocol - on October 8, 2001. These acts were prerequisite for joining the first UNEP/GEF Project assisting in adoption of biosafety measures at national level.

The first Project was developed since July 2002 until March 2004, according to the UNEP/GEF rules. Activities were focused to five main areas:

- National biosafety policy.
- Regulatory regime.
- Handling of notifications or requests for authorisation of certain activities.
- Monitoring and enforcement.
- Public awareness, participation and education.

During the Project implementation the existing national capacity and role of responsible bodies were assessed. The activities resulted also in elaboration of several surveys on biodiversity and biosafety status in the country, organization of workshops for different groups of stakeholders – experts, environmental inspectors and public (including one Sub-regional Meeting of specialists in April 2003 in Prague) and several publications. The outcomes are summarised in the final Report “National Biosafety Framework for the Czech Republic” (Ministry of the Environment, Prague, March 2004).