SGP Country Programme Strategy for utilization of OP5 grant funds

Country: Moldova
Resources to be invested: US$ 1 500 000[1]

Country Programme Strategy (CPS) document establishes the framework for the country programme operations and provides a programmatic guidance for development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Moldova. CPS is developed in line with national priorities and circumstances, SGP activities being related to the overall GEF objective of contributing to the achievements of global environmental benefits in the GEF focal areas. The target audience addressed in this document is the project proponents (NGOs, CBOs and community groups), central, regional and local government bodies, bilateral and multilateral donors, private sector, National Steering Committee and the SGP country programme team.

1 The level of SGP OP5 resources is an estimated total of the GEF core grant allocation, as well as other sources of co-financing.

Table of contents

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AP ME	Action Plan for 2013 of the Ministry of Environment
ATU	Autonomous Territorial Unit
BC	Biodiversity Conservation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organization
CC	Climate Change
CNWRP	Concept of National Water Resources Policy
CPMT	Central Programme Management Team
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EU	European Union
GAP EIFDW	Government's Activity Program „European Integration: Freedom, Democracy, Welfare for 2009-2013
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOM	Government of Moldova
ICCA	Indigenous and Community Conserved Area
IFIs:	International financial institutions
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IW	International Waters
LEDS	Low Emissions Development Strategy
LPA	Local Public Authorities
MADCA	Moldova' s Association Document to Copenhagen Accord
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
MGAP	Moldovan Government's Action Plan for 2012-2015
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MAFI	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
ME	Ministry of Environment
MRDC	Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAP	National Action Plan
NC	National Coordinator
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NEEAP	National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2011-2020
NEN	National Ecological Network
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NPC	National Participation Council
NPCESF	National Programme for Conservation and Enhancement of Soil Fertility for 2011-2020
NPE NEN	National Programme for Establishing the National Ecological Network for the period 2008-2015
NPFE - GEF-5	GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise

NPSMC	National Programme on Sound Management of Chemicals
NSBC	National Strategy on Biodiversity Conservation
NSC	National Steering Committee
NSRD	National Strategy for Regional Development
NSSDAIS	National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Agro-Industrial Sector for the years 2008-2015
NSRE POPs	National Strategy for Reduction and Elimination of POPs
OP5	Operational Phase 5
PA	Programme Assistant
PAs	Protected Areas
PAN	Protect Areas Network
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyls
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRSP	World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
SAPs	Strategic Action Plans
SC	Stockholm Convention
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SNC UNFCCC	Second National Communication of the Republic of Moldova under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
SPA MAFI	Strategic priorities for the activities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova in the years 2011 – 2015
SSDFS	Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Forestry Sector
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
TCCSDDRB	Treaty on Cooperation on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
PDMRA	Prut and Danube Moldova-Romania Agreement
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change
WB	World Bank

1. SGP country programme - summary background

Since 1994, the GEF has invested about $21.72 million with about $23.44 million in co-financing in Moldova. When including financing for project preparation, GEF's contribution amounts to $22.54 million with $23.80 in co-financing.

One of the Recommendations stipulated in the Country Portfolio Evaluation Report (1994-2009) is that GEF should fully support introduction of the Small Grants Programme in Moldova. The country has expressed its interest to join the GEF SGP and its application was approved by the GEF SGP Steering Committee.

A start-up mission was conducted between October 31 – November 2, 2011. The start-up mission objective was to basically validate the "readiness" of the country for a UNDP implemented GEF SGP country programme, meaning that government and non-government stakeholders as well as potential donor partners see a need for such a programme and are willing to take on identified roles and responsibilities as per the GEF SGP Operational Guidelines.

Moldova has already had experience with small grants under regional international waters project as well as under the UNDP Small Grants Scheme component, which was designed according to the GEF SGP. These have been successful and have shown the potential for this new modality to help generate ownership at the local level. It would also provide much needed support to the Moldovan NGO community, which is very active but has limited means.

The grant-making process starts once Country Programme Strategy has been approved by the Central Programme Management Team (CPMT) in terms of alignment to the commitments to the GEF-5 strategic objectives.

The Republic of Moldova is a small country, favourably located in south-eastern Europe, which covers the area of 34.000 square kilometres. The country belongs to the group of states located in the Black Sea Basin and has an access to the Black Sea through the Danube River and Giurgiulesti Port.

The physical and geographical position of the Republic of Moldova has determined the specific features of its natural conditions. Northern part of country is more hilly if compare to the Southern one, which is distinguished by lakes, rivulets and other tanks. All rivers in Moldova belong to Black Sea basin. The biggest rivers are Dniester and Prut.

Moldova plays an important role in maintaining regional biodiversity. It lies at the intersection of three bio-geographic zones:

1. Central-European, oak forests, represented by Central Moldavian Heights (54% of the country's territory);
2. Euro-Asiatic, represented by the forest steppes and the steppes (30% of the country's territory);
3. Mediterranean, Black Sea, represented by the xerophyte forest steppes in the South of Moldova (16%) .

A total of 75 % of country's land is dedicated to agriculture. Agriculture employs an estimated 28 % of the workforce and produces about 15 % of GDP. Moldova's forest resources are limited, forests covering 374,5 thousand hectares in the Republic of Moldova, about 12% of its territory. The

state forest authority, Agency " Moldsilva", holds 336,6 thousand ha of forest fund (82,1 %), 54.5 thousand ha (1.3%) are administered by local governments and 2,6 thousand ha (0.6%) are private forests. The gap between the current forest area of about 12% and the optimal level of this indicator (25-30%) explains the ecological imbalance that the Republic of Moldova is facing. The consequences of this are climate, hydrologic and geomorphologic hazards (droughts, floods, landslides, erosion, etc.). The essential decrease of forestry ecosystems in the rivers' meadows caused not only essential reduction of biological diversity, but also the deficiency of socio-economic sustainable development.

Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in Europe despite recent progress from its small economic base. The economy depends heavily on agriculture, featuring fruits, vegetables, wine and tobacco. Moldova must import almost all of its energy supplies.

Environmental legislation is in a state of evolution, many environmental laws and legal acts are amended to reflect changing needs and the experience of implementation. Various aspects of environmental protection and management are addressed in long-term strategies and programmes: National Programme for Conservation and Enhancement of the Soils' Fertility for 2011-2020, National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Agro-Industrial Sector for the years 2008-2015, State Forestation Programme for the period 2003-2020 and National Programme on Sound Management of Chemicals. The Government of the Republic of Moldova has engaged in developing of the 2013-2023 National Environmental Strategy, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) to the year 2020 and National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation.

Country's economic and social development is underpinned by external assistance through a combination of technical/financial support and institutional strengthening activities. A number of external development partners are active in Moldova, with the largest donor being the EU. Other important external development partners include EBRD, World Bank, UN, USA Government, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Czech Republic, Turkey and others.

To attract co-financing for GEF SGP in Moldova, National Steering Committee members and National Coordinator will work closely with bilateral donors that can provide eligible funding to projects and national funds of Governmental Agencies, such as:

1. National Environmental Fund;
2. Energy Efficiency Fund;
3. National Fund for Regional Development;
4. Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture.

Co-financing will come from grantees and their partners – private sector, communities, government, local authorities, individuals, etc.

One of the requirements of OP5 is the raising at least 1:1 cash and in-kind co-financing. We do not expect the co-financing ratio of 1:1 to be met on every single project. Instead SGP Moldova will be aiming on an overall co-financing ratio of 1:1 for the entire OP5 period.

2. SGP country programme niche

The Republic of Moldova is a party to numerous global and regional environmental conventions and agreements. Ministry of Environment is responsible for implementation and enforcement efforts (in substantive and procedural terms) and teaming up with relevant ministries and institutions to ensure compliance with multilateral environmental agreements.

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	20.10.1995 (Rt)
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	27.04.2001
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	09.06.1995 (Rt)
UNFCCC National Communications (1st, 2nd, 3rd)	1st - 2000, 2nd -2009
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	under approval
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	23.07.1999 (Ac)
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Not available
Stockholm Convention (SC)	07.04.2004 (Rt)
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	20.10.2004
World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	Law nr. 398-XV, 2 December 2004
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2005
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	Not applicable*
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Water-courses and International Lakes; Convention on Co-operation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube

Bilateral agreements:

1. Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Moldova with Regard to the Cooperation in the Area of Protection of Fish Resources and the Regulating of Fishing in the Prut River and Stanca-Costesti Artificial Lake (2003);
2. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Ukraine on Joint Use and Protection on Transboundary Waters (1994);
3. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Romania on cooperation for the protection and sustainable use of the waters of Prut and Danube (2010);
4. Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on cooperation on conservation and sustainable development of the Dniester River basin (2012).

As many countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Moldova is confronted with such challenges as global economic crisis, unfavourable labour market and social situation with high unemployment and underemployment, widespread informal employment, low income/wages and poverty among rural communities. Approved strategies and actions plan as well as strategies and action plans under development establish objectives to protect environment and natural resources while contributing to country development. It is difficult to ensure economic development and social equity when the natural resource base is destroyed.

National priorities included in this Country Programme Strategy derive from environmental laws, approved, national programmes and reports, action plans, reports to Conventions, State of Environment Report 2007-2010, environmental magazines, literature review, data collected from consultations with several stakeholders representing various NGOs and discussions with professionals/projects implementing units in various fields. Analysis of aforementioned sources of information reveals the following:

Land degradation – The Republic of Moldova has a unique soil cover, which in the present time is used improperly. Soil potential can support more food productivity than is currently used. The economic and energy crisis, implementation of agricultural reforms, along with appearance of many small land owners that don't have the necessary agricultural equipment and specialized knowledge have led to intensified process of soil degradation. The main causes of land degradation are: (1) use of poor cultivation technologies; (2) land allocation taking insufficient account of the need for soil conservation; (3) insufficient crop rotation, (4) lack of financial resources at national, local, and individual landowner levels; (5) limited access to information on efficient land use; (6) unauthorized cutting on agricultural land; and (7) lack of adequate forest buffer zones. Soil degradation is estimated to cause Lei 3.1 billion in economic damage each year, including erosion losses; landslide and ravine losses; and agricultural production losses.

The main agents of desertification in the Republic of Moldova are: imbalance between natural and anthropical ecosystems caused by a high share of arable lands; soil erosion, including deflation; chemical dehumification and chemical degradation; active landslides; solonization and salinization; physical degradation; deterioration /destruction of wetlands; excessive pasturage, etc.

Despite the generally high level of soil fertility, agricultural productivity indicators in Moldova are very low. Development of agro-industrial sector is oriented to enhance the competitiveness of the country's agro-food sector by supporting the modernization of the food safety management system; facilitating market access for farmers; and mainstreaming agro-environmental and sustainable land management practices.

Water resources - The main water supply sources of the Republic of Moldova are Dniester and Prut Rivers, both of them being transboundary and ground water sources. The level of pollution differs in different river sectors, being at its highest immediately downstream of the inflow of tributaries and of urban water discharges. As for the small rivers, their water continues to remain intensely polluted, showing an alarming tendency for the quality to worsen with all subsequent perils for population's health. Surface water pollution is caused, in most cases, by the household sector facilities (wastewater treatment plants, waste water, discharges of untreated water from the communal system, inadequate solid waste management), agriculture (accumulated livestock manure, pesticide deposits, etc.), and energy such as oil deposits, petrol stations, and other sources of continuous pollution.

Serious sources of underground water pollution are the following: the waste disposal close to water sources, infiltrations from landfills, non-functioning of wastewater treatment plants, digging of holes for unauthorized disposal of household waste, drains along the roads, etc.

Moldova and Ukraine signed the bilateral Treaty on Cooperation on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin on 29 November 2012. The new Treaty identifies principles and provides a framework for cooperation on water pollution prevention and control, water flow regulation, conservation of biodiversity and protection of the Black Sea environment.

Chemicals –Waste, especially the industrial one, is a source of risk to health due to the content of toxic substances such as heavy metals (lead, cadmium), pesticides, solvents, waste oils, POPs, etc. The most difficult issue for management of waste containing chemicals is a lack of facilities for their treatment and disposal in the country. Hazardous materials (including pesticides, toxic sludge, petroleum products, paint residue and metallurgical slag) are stored along with municipal solid waste.

Taking into consideration the situation of the national economy and the historical past of the country, the following streams of hazardous waste have accumulated in the Republic of Moldova: waste with ferrocyanide content, banned and unusable pesticides, galvanic waste, petroleum products, batteries with heavy metal content, light tubes, etc. Vast majority of used tubes are accumulated on the territory of the businesses, and often are discarded in containers along with the household waste. Pesticide stocks have been stored under the open sky for many years, being exposed to large temperature fluctuations and other climatic factors, which have accelerated the deterioration of both packaging and pesticides, contributing to sites contamination.

Biodiversity - Natural landscapes and biodiversity in Moldova are limited and due to severe human impact (primarily land cultivation or improper/unsustainable management) they have been seriously degraded. Natural ecosystems cover no more than 20% of the country; they are very fragmented and are under degradation status. Forest ecosystems of Moldova are constantly under high anthropogenic pressure. High prices on energy sources along with low income of large portion of the population are the main reasons for illicit cutting of forest for firewood.

Efforts on extension of forest surface are important because of their contribution to soil protection, to prevention of diffuse pollution and biodiversity protection. The only reasonable potential for extension of the forest vegetation cover is the land managed by local communities, which still hold patches of either abandoned or out of use lands. CBOs in cooperation with NGOs and authorities can take the lead in afforestation programmes and become the final beneficiaries of such activities. Recent afforestation campaign (2002-2008) revealed the gaps in the dialogue between authorities and local communities as well as the urgent need in ensuring forests for communities in a sustainable perspective.

As a result of the anthropogenic pressure the majority of the natural ecosystems suffered essential changes. While the forests are the best preserved ecosystems in Moldova (this is due to a state sector/authority that manages the forest resources), the steppes (or/and meadows) and wetlands are those to suffer the most. Meeting the challenge of conserving wetlands of international importance requires comprehensive national policies to provide the basis for domestic action and a framework

for international and national cooperation. Disagreements on management plans, consequences of water pollution, overgrazing, illegal fishing, hunting, construction, in-stream mining and sand extraction, inefficient communication between local stakeholders and the parliament and lack of effective mechanisms to finance protected areas continue to contribute to wetland loss while policy-making is still underway.

The financial sustainability of national systems of protected areas (PAs) continues to be the most significant challenge in meeting conservation. A large number of threats exist related to PAs financing: inadequate investments, excessive dependence on international funding sources, lack of participation of key stakeholders (Ministry of Finance, private sector, communities, etc.), limited national capacity, and lack of tools for adequate financial planning. In spite of range of measures taken towards conservation and expanding of natural areas protected by state, their present state is generally poor, except natural reserves that are maintained more or less adequately.

Climate change - Moldova is highly vulnerable to climate variability and change. The impacts of climate change on agriculture are of particular concern – agriculture is a major source of income in Moldova, where more than half the population lives in rural areas and about one third of the labour force is employed. Increased risk of drought and water scarcity; increased irrigation requirements; soil erosion, salinisation, desertification and increased risk of agricultural pests, diseases, weeds are considered to be high priority.

The Republic of Moldova associated itself with the Copenhagen Accord and submitted an emission reduction target: a reduction of no less than 25% of the base year (1990) level total national GHG emissions have to be achieved by 2020. An array of financial, technological and institutional barriers constrains the effective, large scale deployment of low GHG emission technologies in key sectors (e.g., energy, transport and waste sectors). It is recognized that significant financial, technological and capacity building support will be needed to achieve this target.

All of the above-mentioned national environmental challenges to be addressed in the country, including through GEF SGP are consistent with GEF-5 Strategic Priorities and will complement the efforts to implement the obligations under global conventions.

SGP Moldova will encourage NGOs/CBOs[2] development and strengthening and as well as NGOs/CBO partnership with private sector, governmental agencies and local public authorities in implementation of CPS. The country programme will assist CSOs in project development and formulation; facilitate their access to resources of the SGP and its partners and cooperation with different beneficiaries of projects. Profit-driven or government subordinated organizations will not be eligible for the GEF/SGP funding. SGP will foster partnership and networking between NGOs, strong NGOs registered in Chisinau being requested to submit project proposal together with a local NGO, if possible.

During the projects' implementation, the information/training/education activities will present global environmental issues, the country priorities in this field and how local communities' actions can contribute to obtaining global environment benefits.

[2] National NGOs/CBOs registered and acting in accordance with Law on Public Associations No 837 as of 17.05.1996, Law on Foundations No 581 as of 30.07.1999, Law on Charity and Sponsorship No 185 as of 31.10.2002, Law on Volunteering No 121 as of the 18th of June, 2010

SGP Moldova will consider a comprehensive, integrated approach to addressing environmental issues, supporting the needs and urgent tasks of communities and civil society organizations.

Priority will be given to projects that will be implemented in more than one focal area, including those submitted by local people and vulnerable groups that aim at their active involvement in projects implementation. SGP project cannot be implemented in Chisinau, Balti, Tiraspol, Bender and Comrat municipalities.

The objective for the GEF SGP in Moldova is to enhance capacity of local communities and NGOs to address global environmental issue through direct involvement, interaction and cooperation with governmental authorities, institutions and international organizations.

Table 2 below, details the target OP5 global objectives of the SGP in relation to the national priorities and the country programme niche for grant-making.

Table 2. Consistency with national priorities

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions	**MGAP/ GAP EIFDW** - Extend and protect the state-protected natural areas based on the European experience in efficient management of natural resources. **GAP EIFDW** - Establishment of new forest reserves, protected areas and national parks in line with the European model. **AP ME** - Improvement of sustainable management and monitoring of multi-functional protected areas, including development of operational guidelines for PAs. **NPE NEN** - Comprehensive, ecologically representative and effectively managed networks of protected areas, including buffers, stepping stones, connectivity corridors, and other conserved areas. **NPE NEN** - Cooperation with neighbouring countries to establish an enabling environment for transboundary protected area. **NSBC** - Proper management of protected areas.	- Demonstrate community-based conservation approaches of natural habitats and ecosystems in and around conservation areas. - Expand participation and strengthen capacity of all key stakeholders involved in protected area management to secure livelihoods. - Enhance the role of non-governmental organizations and civil society in protected areas management. - Increase public and decision makers' awareness about the importance of protected areas and biodiversity conservation. - Increase awareness of, and appreciation for, the value of ecosystems, and the value of protected areas in maintaining eco-nomically significant ecosystem services. - Support activities on protected areas and NEN components management, involving local authorities and communities (public). - Develop methodological and informational tools on biodiversity conservation, incl. NEN and protected areas planning and awareness raising.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into	**GAP EIFDW** - Encouragement of conservation, perpetuation and protection of biodiversity. **NSBC**	- Improve stakeholders' participation in appropriate assessment of strategies, policies, plans and programs impacts on species and

production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions	- Integration of biodiversity conservation priorities into the sectoral policies. **NPE NEN** - Maintenance and restoration of biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health**,** conserve overall biological, landscape and geological diversity. **NPE NEN** - Mainstream biodiversity conservation and ecosystems stability into territorial planning, land use plans, forestry and agricultural policies taking into account NEN. **NSSDAIS (VC)** - Doubling Moldovan organic production and tripling certified farmed areas by 2015.	habitats. - Increase public awareness on protected areas and biodiversity conservation importance and bio-diversity-friendly production methods. - Restore degraded landscapes and encourage establishment of community forests. - Apply sustainable agricultural practices contributing to environmental protection.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level	**GAP EIFDW** - Ensure energy security and promote energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy. - Encourage and create biomass renewable energy units; encourage the use of solar and wind energy, closed-cycle water devices etc., expected to have a positive impact on country's ecology and to reduce dependence on certain traditional energy sources. **NEEAP** - Reducing the primary energy consumption by 20% until 2020. - Increase of the share of renewable energy sources in the country's energy balance up to 20% in 2020. - Increasing the share of biofuels to at least 10% in the total amount of fuels used in 2020. **SPA MAFI** -Implementation of biomass technologies.	- Promote utilization of the most efficient energy technologies and equipment which are economically viable and ecologically acceptable. - Implement energy efficient technologies, materials, equipment and other devices with increased energy efficiency. - Utilization of logging and agricultural waste for community heating, including improvement of heating devices, biogas production from stockbreeding and agricultural small farms. - Creation of cultivated biomass farms and promotion of utilization of cultivated biomass for individual and community heating. - Promote creation of consultation and audit services offering information on programs and technologies in energy efficiency and rendering technical assistance to private consumers and enterprises.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level	This specific Objective is not applicable in the context of the SGP	N/A
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry	**SSDFS** - Sustainable use of forest ecosystem, forest regeneration and expansion, restoration of ecological and bioproductivity potential of forests. - Planting about 130,000 ha lands with forest vegetation by year 2020 to ensure ecological balance and broader influence upon climate and hydrologic regime of the territory. **SNC UNFCCC** - Mainstreaming climate change and environmental protection issues in the forest sector development. **MADCA**	- Conserve, restore, enhance, and manage carbon stocks in forest and non-forest lands. - Promote good practice in forest fields, increasing their resilience to climate change effects. - Support community and civil society driven initiatives such as community-forestry, and the restoration of degraded lands through afforestation and other measures. - Assist in developing the capacity of NGOs, CBOs and community-level stakeholders to address land

	- A reduction of no less than 25% of the base year level total national GHG emissions by 2020. - Implementation of projects under CDM to reduce GHG emissions.	use, land use change and forestry issues through sharing of best practices and lessons learnt.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities	**NPCESF** - Maintaining long-term soil productivity and quality. - Soil conservation through improved tillage methods, crop rotations, irrigation, anti-erosion measures. - Stabilization of territories affected by landslide through afforestation. **SSDFS** - Protection and recovery of the natural biological and structural diversity of forests. - Development of agroforestry conception. **NSSDAIS** - Encourage growth of high value products and ecological crops, in order to use the productive potential of lands. **SPA MAFI** - Implementation of conservative agriculture. - Stopping the active forms of soil degradation by the end of the year 2020.	- Develop, promote and implement SLM. - Develop and implement communal action plans, including soil, water and biodiversity conservation.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)	**NPE NEN** - Develop legal framework and management mechanism of land use planning, urbanism, and landscape that design and incorporate the needs of various sectors in line with environmental protection. - Sustainable management in agricultural landscape. **SSDFS** - Conservation and strengthening of landforms through afforestation **NSSDAIS** - Development of special programmes on sustainable use of soil in terms of multifunctional planning and ecological balance at the national level taking into account natural and anthropic elements.	- Support local territorial development planning, including measures on implementation of the European landscape convention and NEN local sectors. - Support development of agri-environmental schemes and ecological farms through the landscape design measures (hedgerows, abutments, small-scale forestry, rehabilitation of streams and other small wetlands, etc.). - Restoration of grassland biodiversity resources and supporting sustainable use of grasslands. - Environmental education and training on reducing pressures from competing land uses.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives	**PDMRA/ TCCSDDRB** - Sustainable water resources management, water pollution prevention, protection /rehabilitation of ground/surface water. - Conservation of eco-systems and safeguarding ecological stability. - Participation in international/ bilateral cooperation on international water relations and water management. **CNWRP** - Implementation of integrated river basin management. - Participatory approach in planning and decision-making process related to water issues (users, local authorities and civil	- Support stakeholders in development and spatial planning work related to integrated water and fisheries management and transboundary water cooperation. - Support community-based initiatives on: application of water efficiency technologies; land-based pollution reduction and prevention; reforestation and afforestation in river basins.

	society). - Participation in international/ bilateral cooperation on international water relations and water management. - Prevention of water pollution by implementing low- and non-waste technologies.	
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level	**NSRE POPs** - Management and controlled storage of waste, dangerous chemical substances and POPs. - Destruction of POPs and dangerous chemicals. - Inventory of sites and equipment contaminated with POPs and their decontamination. - Training of farmers on pesticides and fertilizers application and threats to environment and health. - Application of the best available techniques and best environmental practices to prevent POPs effects to the environment and human health. **NPSMC** Development of a legal framework for chemical lifecycle management.	- Promote and demonstrate best practices examples of integrated pest management. - Increase public awareness on correct usage, storage and disposal of dangerous chemicals and wastes. - Support community-based activities on sites/equipment decontamination. - Support demonstration, piloting and testing of approaches to address issues related to POPs and other harmful chemicals.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate infor-mation flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends	**GAP EIFDW** - Develop the relevant legal framework to strengthen civil society as a mediator of citizens' interests and partner of public authorities in the policy process. - Develop the institutional framework required for efficient cooperation between the public authorities and the civil society. - Upgrade the legal framework on philanthropy, sponsorship and social entrepreneurship to ensure sustainability of non-governmental organizations and increase their independence.	- Capacity building of NGOs active in GEF focal areas to contribute to conventions guidelines implementation. - Promote community participation in consultative, dialogue and policy development process.
Cross-Cutting Results: Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender	**GAP EIFDW** - Reduce regional disparities, including by creating conditions for the development of non-agricultural business in rural areas (agro-tourism, services, handicrafts, small industries etc.). - Encourage investments in the development of public utilities infrastructure (water and sewage systems, sanitation, natural gas supply, environment protection, tourism development etc.); - Provide support to local public authorities in developing realistic community/rayon development policies and build the capacities of different local players for implementing such policies, including	- Promote and demonstrate alternative income generating activities to improve livelihoods, sustainable agriculture and agro-forestry and renewable energy technologies. - Encourage participation/ involvement of women, youth and vulnerable groups. - Mainstream gender considerations in community- based environmental initiatives.

	through experience-sharing with other localities and national methodological tools. - Increase the rate of participation of women in the decision making and in political and public entities. **NSRD** - Development or rural economies and increasing agricultural productivity. - Prevention of environment pollution and efficient use of natural recourses with the purpose to increase living standards.	

3. Capacity development, poverty reduction and gender results for SGP

The capacity of an individual, an organisation or a society changes over time, and is subject to both internal and external influences. Being designed to support local community actions that address global environmental concern, SGP will inevitably have a direct impact on civil society organizations and communities development. Along with other key external factors as politics and governance, societal norms and values, socio-economic dynamics legal and administrative structures, SGP will influence the effectiveness of civil society organizations. Collaboration of communities with of NGOs implementing SGP projects will enhance NGO's leadership, good governance, transparency and accountability to the people they serve.

Participation of NGOs/CBOs in SGP implementation will contribute to development of their functional capacity. This refers to:

- capacity to engage stakeholders (identification, motivation and involvement of stakeholders, creation of partnerships and networks, establishment of collaborative mechanisms);
- capacity to assess a situation (data/ information gathering and assessment, data/information analysis and synthesis);
- capacity to budget, manage and implement (formulate, plan, manage and implement projects and programmes, including the capacity to prepare a budget and to estimate capacity development costs; manage human and financial resources and procurement; set indicators for monitoring and monitor progress);
- capacity to evaluate (measure results and collect feedback to adjust policies; codify lessons and promote learning; ensure accountability to all relevant stakeholders);
- capacity to formulate policies and strategies (explore different perspectives; set objectives; elaborate sectoral and cross-sectoral policies).

Technical capacities associated with particular areas of expertise and practice in specific sectors or themes, such as climate change, forest ecosystem management, integrated water management, etc. can be developed through training programmes and the distribution of information.

Along with the environmental benefits, SGP will contribute to poverty eradication through improvement of sustainable land management (SLM) practices**,** as SLM is the foundation of sustainable agriculture and a strategic component of sustainable development, through biodiversity conservation and integrated watershed management and other activities proposed by communities. Individuals, organizations and communities with developed capacity can improve their livelihoods and transfer knowledge to growing generation.

Women's extensive experience makes them an invaluable source of knowledge and expertise on environmental management and appropriate actions. Participatory approach in project design and project management, needs assessment, monitoring and evaluation, teaching and training, community development and social development will support gender mainstreaming.

The capacity will be retained and enhanced in the process of applying for funds and project development submitted to regional development agencies, local organizations (in the framework of social responsibility) and governmental development initiatives and funds (environment, agriculture, energy efficiency, regional development, social development, etc.) as the Republic of Moldova is a country in transition and still need to achieve sound results in development with involvement of civil society organizations.

4. OP5 country outcomes, indicators and activities

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas (ICCAs) through community-based actions			
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Means of verification**	**Activities**
Outcome 1.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around protected areas, and indigenous and community conservation areas 1.2: Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas Outcome 1.4: Increased understanding and awareness at the community-level of the importance and value of biodiversity	Number and hectares of ICCAs and other Pas positively influenced through SGP support Number of community members with improved livelihoods related to benefits from protected areas Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status Number and hectares of significant ecosystems with maintained or improved conservation status.	SGP database; project reports and monitoring/visits results; experts/consultants opinions; training materials and evaluation sheets; participatory interviews; minutes and decisions of the local administration (rayon and community levels); reports of local administration.	at least 6 projects: a) to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around protected areas by development and implementation of community action plans and environmentally friendly technologies, thus ensuring benefits for community livelihoods; b) contribute to zoning and management planning for protected areas aiming at improved biodiversity conservation; c) provide better access and information about biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through enhanced information and communication technologies; d) contribute to protected areas and NEN components management, involving local authorities and communities by developing methodological and informational tools on biodiversity conservation.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions			
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Means of verification**	**Activities**
Outcome 2.1: Improved community-level sustainable use of biodiversity in	Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes	SGP SGP database; project reports and monitoring/visits results;	at least 6 projects to: a) support conservation of biological and landscape diversity through incorporation of

production landscapes / seascapes through community-based initiatives, frameworks and market mechanisms, including recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations Outcome 2.2: Increased understanding and awareness of sustainable use of biodiversity	under improved sustainable use practices, leading, where possible, to certification through recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations (supported by SGP) Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status Number and hectares of significant ecosystems with maintained or improved conservation status	experts/consultants opinions; training materials and evaluation sheets; participatory interviews; minutes and decisions of the local administration (rayon and community levels); reports of local administration.	sustainable biodiversity-friendly practices; b) support development of agri-environmental schemes and ecological farms through the landscape design measures other measures in favour of natural agribiodiversity; c) provide identification of ecological restoration zones and restoration of grassland biodiversity resources; d) enhance the role of NGOs and civil society in biodiversity conservation.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level			
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Means of verification**	**Activities**
Outcome 3.1: Innovative low-GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level Outcome 3.2: GHG emissions avoided	Number of communities with demonstrations addressing community level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies Number of low GHG emissions technologies applied at community level	SGP SGP database; project reports and monitoring/visits results; experts/consultants opinions; training materials and evaluation sheets; participatory interviews; minutes and decisions of the local administration (rayon and community levels); reports of local administration.	at least 6 projects to: a) promote low GHG technologies with direct application to community life; b) promote alternative and renewable energy (hydropower, wind and solar energy, heat pump systems, cultivated biomass plantations); c) support energy efficiency measures and energy efficiency technologies.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry			
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Means of verification**	**Activities**
Outcome 5.1: Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the	Hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices Hectares of forests	SGP database; project reports monitoring/visits results; experts/consultants opinions; training materials and	at least 4 projects to: a) demonstrate conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through afforestation, reforestation, agro-forestry and tree management on non-forested land;

community level for forest and non-forest land-use types Outcome 5.2: Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands, including peatland Outcome 5.3: GHG emissions avoided	and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement initiated	evaluation sheets; participatory interviews	b) support community level actions for adaption measures intended to offset the impact of climate phenomena (droughts, air frosts, heavy precipitation, etc) by sustainable land use, land use change, forestry management and climate proofing practices; c) improve capacities of local communities / CBOs, NGOs and community-level decision makers to address LULUCF issues.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities			
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Means of verification**	**Activities**
Outcome 6.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro-, and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality Outcome 6.2: Community based models of sustainable forestry management developed, and tested, linked to carbon sequestration for possible upscaling and replication where appropriate, to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sinks from land use, land use change, and forestry activities	Hectares under improved agricultural, land and water management practices (by management practice) Hectares of reforested lands Number of national and international agencies or partners are aware of successful SGP demonstrations and innovative approaches Number of local/national governments Policy making processes with SGP influence	SGP database; project reports and monitoring/visits results; experts/consultants opinions; training materials and evaluation sheets; participatory interviews	at least 6 projects to: a) promote organic agriculture in various natural and climatic conditions and forms of farming; b) implement SLM; c) capacity development to implement participatory decision-making in management of production landscapes.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)			
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Means of verification**	**Activities**
Outcome 7.1: Improved community -level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro- ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural/ urban, agriculture/forest)	Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses	SGP database; project reports and monitoring/visits results; experts/consultants opinions; training materials and evaluation sheets;	at least 4 projects to: a) support community and all stakeholders consultations for comprehensive land use planning in a participatory approach; b) establish partnerships with private sector for solving land use

		participatory interviews	conflicts and assure sustainable development; c) encourage collective management and sustainable use of shared natural resources.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives			
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Means of verification**	**Activities**
Outcome 8.1: Effective and climate resilient community- based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated *Outcome 8.2*: Synergistic partnerships developed between SGP stakeholders and transboundary water management institutions and structures supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions	Number of SAPs to which SGP is providing implementation support Number of regional transboundary water management processes to which SGP is contributing good practices and lessons	SGP database; project reports and monitoring/visits results; experts/consultants opinions; training materials and evaluation sheets; participatory interviews	at least 4 projects to: a) support community initiatives eliminating causes of land-based sources of pollution; b) promote wetland conservation/ restoration and protection initiatives providing benefits for both biodiversity protection and water quality improvement ; c) improve capacities of communities in application of IWRM; d) support public participation in activity of joint transboundary water management bodies and monitoring and protection of transboundary aquifers; e) support the implementation of regional Strategic Action Plan, i.e. community-based activities to address regionally identified and prioritized issues or areas in shared transboundary water systems f) develop partnership with and engage private sector to adopt more sustainable water practices and to co-sponsor community based small-scale water projects that involve community stakeholder and company employee volunteers
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level			
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Means of verification**	**Activities**
Outcome 9.1: Improved community-level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs, harmful chemicals and other	Tons of POPs waste avoided from burning Tons of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately	SGP database; project reports and monitoring/visits results; experts/consultants opinions;	at least 4 projects to: a) support community level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants;

pollutants, manage contaminated sites in an environmentally sound manner, and mitigate environmental contamination		training materials and evaluation sheets; participatory interviews	b) decontamination of site polluted with POPs; c) increase knowledge on pesticides and fertilizers application, and public awareness on correct usage, storage and disposal of dangerous chemicals and wastes .
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends			
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Means of verification**	**Activities**
Outcome 10.1: Active participation of NSCs and NFGs in GEF focal areas at the national level *Outcome 10.2*: Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs in SGP countries regarding good practices and lessons learned, and application of such practices *Outcome 10.3*: Increased public awareness and education at the community-level regarding global environmental issues *Outcome 10.4*: Capacity of CBOs and CSOs strengthened to support implementation of global conventions *Outcome 10.5*: Increased application of community- based environmental monitoring *Outcome 10.6:* Evaluation of SGP projects against expected results strengthened, including increased capacity of CBOs and CSOs to apply relevant	Number of SGP representatives participating in national GEF coordination meetings Quantity and quality of SGP knowledge base, and use of knowledge base; Quantity and quality of contributions to knowledge fairs, conferences, publications and research Number of demonstrations and piloted examples of community-based environmental monitoring systems used in SGP projects Quantity and quality of evaluation documentation of expected project results, and unexpected effects Number of CBOs and CSOs demonstrating understanding of the role of evaluation through application of relevant evaluation methodologies	SGP database; project reports and monitoring/visits results; experts/consultants opinions; training materials and evaluation sheets; participatory interviews	- 2 projects to promote learning and knowledge management, sharing of lessons learned among CBOs and NGOs. SGP projects will include capacity development activities related to: - trainings on development of participatory processes; - trainings on projects monitoring and evaluation methodologies; - community-based environmental monitoring.

evaluation methodologies			
Cross-Cutting Results: Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender			
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Means of verification**	**Activities**
SGP‟s Results Framework for OP5, as approved by the SGP Steering Committee, does not include specific objectives on livelihoods and gender. Nonetheless, SGP does produce positive results in these areas, which contribute to the overall achievement of Global Environmental Benefits through sustainable development. Generally, SGP seeks to improve livelihoods through increasing local benefits generated from environmental resources, and mainstream gender considerations in community- based environmental initiatives.	Percentage of projects that include gender analysis or incorporate gender relevant elements in a positive manner Percentage of projects with appropriate gender balance of participants and target beneficiaries Percentage of projects that include socioeconomic analysis Number of community members with sustained livelihood improvement resulting from SGP support	SGP database; project reports and monitoring/visits results; experts/consultants opinions; training materials and evaluation sheets; participatory interviews	SGP projects will include activities related to poverty reduction, livelihood and gender: -strengthening individual and collective capabilities to take advantage of new opportunities in the rural areas; - promotion and demonstration of alternative income generating activities to improve livelihoods; - encourage the participation/ involvement of disadvantaged groups. - mainstreaming gender considerations in community based environmental initiatives and stimulation of women's participation in all SGP projects' phases.

5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

Monitoring is an on-going activity that tracks the progress of the project during its lifetime when viewed against its goals and objectives, as outlined in the project proposal. Therefore, grantees will be asked to set up a M&E system based on GEF SGP requirements, key measurable indicators in the logframe, action plan, surveys and questionnaire results, budget and expenditures tables, etc.
Monitoring will serve as a tool to modify activities should it emerge that they are not achieving the desired results. In case of limited budget grantees will apply rapid appraisal methods which provide fast feedback and are not very expensive (key informant interview, focus group discussion, community group interview, direct observation, mini-survey, technical measurements, photographic records, etc.). Monitoring system should aim at:

- informing on how well the project is performing against the expected results, as outlined in the project proposal;
- providing regular feedback for an on-going learning process;
- improving the effectiveness of project interventions;
- enabling project staff to identify strengths and successes, and alerting them to actual and potential weaknesses and shortcomings.

Every grant beneficiary will submit two progress reports describing completed activities, encountered problems and difficulties, assessment of project achievements based on indicators,

expended resources, etc. National Coordinator and members of NSC will conduct at least once monitoring visit per site due to limited budget. Continual communication (via e-mail, phone calls, skype, etc.) is considered to be critical in monitoring of projects, especially of those in difficulties. Possibilities to organize joint monitoring visits will be discussed with donors (co-financing party) before projects are undertaken.

Project evaluation to be done towards the end of the project implementation should be directed to assessment of project performance and results in light of stated project objectives, what has been learnt from the project and how NGO/CBO are doing and how performance can be improved. However, the second progress report should highlight predicted final project effects and adjustments that are required to the project design. The report should answer the following main questions:

- To what extent do the activities correspond with those presented in the proposal?
- Did the project follow the timeline presented in the proposal?
- Have the personnel that carried out the activities out been suitable?
- To what extent is the project moving towards the anticipated goals and objectives?
- What challenges and obstacles have been identified? And how have they been dealt with?
- What are the main strengths and weaknesses of the project?

Final evaluation report should include lessons learned that can be applied to enhance future projects and improve the functioning of the organization, assessment of the potential sustainability of gains made through the programme, involvement of women and men in the project design, implementation and evaluation, etc.

NGO/CBO will bear substantive responsibility for achieving results in the project.

There is a growing interest in involvement of stakeholders in project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation as their participation improves the quality of projects and increases the sense of national and local ownership in them, while simultaneously helping to address local development needs. The starting point for grant's applicants is to identify and analyze the key stakeholders in a project and planning for their participation. Stakeholder analysis should be reviewed and refined from time to time as the elements of project design become more detailed and definite. Project proponents should consult with stakeholders and clarify expected project results, identify key activities, prioritize and sequence activities, indicating who is responsible for implementing and monitoring of each activity, establish baseline for project M&E and indicators to measure process and outputs.

The selection of the most appropriate participation methodology must derive directly from the purpose of the project or activity. Thus, staff should be clear about the objective of participation-what it is intended to achieve within the particular project environment. The following commonly used methods and techniques can be applied: participatory stakeholder analysis, participatory meetings and workshops, participatory planning**,** participatory research/data collection **(**participatory interviewing, mapping, diagramming, ranking/scoring, seasonal calendars, trend and time analysis, transect walks, etc.). Responsible people for monitoring and evaluation will keep copies of all of the material (e.g., agendas, attendance lists, meeting notes, maps, diagrams, interview notes). Much of this information will be used for progress and final reports as well as for annual evaluation of SGP CSP implementation.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	**Responsible Parties**	**Timeframe**
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project
Baseline Data Collection[3]	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports *(depending on agreed disbursement schedule)*	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit *(as necessary / cost effective[4])*	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit *(as necessary / cost effective)*	NC	On average once per year, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit *(as necessary / cost effective)*	NC	At end of project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report *(as necessary / cost effective)*	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate

Monitoring and analysis of projects and programme progress will be based on reports provided by grantees, site visits monitoring records, data entered in on-line database, information derived from consultations/ discussions with key SGP CSP stakeholders. In-depth desk review of the projects inputs, outputs and outcomes, lessons learned (in combination with filed-visits, if possible) will be undertaken by NC and members of NSC in order to assess progress against the planned objectives

[3] Capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings may be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies (i.e. GPS-enabled cameras, aerial photos, participatory GIS, etc.); as well as in response to guidelines for "climate proofing" of GEF focal area interventions; REDD+ standards; and/or other specific donor/co-financing requirements.

[4] To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

and against the indicators, factors needed to achieve project impact and review Country Programme Strategy.

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

SGP Country Programme Level		
M&E Activity	**Responsible Parties**	**Timeframe**
Country Programme Strategy Review	NSC, NC, CPMT	Start of OP5
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	NSC, NC	Once during OP5
NSC Meetings	NSC, NC, UNDP CO	Minimum twice per year
Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS	Once per year
Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report[5]	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

6. Knowledge Management Plan

During monitoring and evaluation, information that can improve projects or programmes is collected. Accurate monitoring results will be fed into the evaluation process and after the evaluation, the NGO, NC and NSC can identify best practices and lessons learnt. Sources of information used to generate lessons learned may include, but are not limited to, the following: personal experiences of implementing staff, partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders, field activities, project planning and evaluation results, performance improvement initiatives, communication with countries implementing SGP and experience of these countries, critiques, analyses, and investigations. It is important to capture both explicit and tacit knowledge even though the latter creates more difficulties. The following three major approaches to knowledge acquisition from individuals and groups are applicable to the capture of tacit knowledge: interviewing experts, learning by being told and learning by observation.

Gained lessons and knowledge will be used to create knowledge product to meet the needs of targets group and promote replication and up-scaling. Below are some examples of ways to share information:

- websites – GEF SGP Moldova web page will be developed and web pages of stakeholders;
- meeting with interested stakeholders;
- publications, such as annual reports, newsletters or bulletins, brochure, etc.
- articles in different journals and newspapers;
- participation in workshops, conferences and meetings.

[5] The annual Country Programme Review exercise should be carried out in consultation with the national Rio Convention focal points and the associated reporting requirements.

Since 2010 EcoContact, the successor to Milieukontakt International in Moldova, has been organizing annual CSO forums in order to improve cooperation between environmental CSOs and to support existing networks. The forums serve as an arena in which CSOs can exchange their experiences, information and knowledge; participate in discussions on the decision-making process; and plan activities taking into consideration national and global movements in the field of environmental protection.

Civil society has gained a more vocal role in governance issues in Moldova. Moldovan CSOs have succeeded in achieving significant legal reforms for the sector, increasing domestic funding, and improving their public image. At the local level CBOs/NGOs cooperate with local public authorities (LPA) as the need to involve CBOs and NGOs in development of communities is underpinned by donors through projects and on the other hand people understand that they have to engage themselves in various livelihoods diversifying and income generating activities and cooperate with LPA. In the framework of regional development the policy can be influenced by members of Regional Development Councils (North, Centre, South, ATU Gagauzia and Chisinau Municipality) represented by civil society (NGOs and private sector). In 2011, civil society advocacy efforts were strengthened as a result of the work of the National Participation Council (NPC), which was created in 2010 at the initiative of the Government of Moldova (GOM). The role of the NPC, which includes thirty CSO representatives, is to serve as a permanent platform for dialogue and consultation between CSOs and the GOM on the development of public policies.

The NSC members will have a valuable contribution in informing and influencing policies.

In order to replicate and up-scale good practices and lessons learned from SGP projects the following actions will be taken:

- Development of tools that would be useful guides for the replication process (best practice brochures, demonstration sites, twinning arrangements, publication/reports, etc.);
- Information and experience sharing (NC, NSC, grantees and beneficiaries will share information and their experience with community leaders, institutions, CSO and LPA across the country (articles, e-mails, newsletters, reports, workshops, etc. Representatives of the Regional Development Councils will be invited to attend workshops/meetings organized by grantees, NC and NSC).
- Identification and assessment of priorities and pre-conditions for successful replication, followed by matching interested sites and areas with appropriate, replicable mechanisms, technologies or practices that have been successfully demonstrated or tested.
- Partnership development - identification of on-going projects and interested partners in implementation of SGP projects in order to promote activities from a local initiative to regional/national dimensions.

Monitoring visits will be considered as a tool to discuss the replication and up scaling so grantees will be asked to facilitate meetings with interested people. Co-financing parties will be invited to bring their contribution.

7. Resource Mobilization Plan

Once the SGP country programme is approved, NC and NSC members will make every effort to attract substantial co-financing from a diversity of sources and assist project proponents in funds rising. The major potential donors in Moldova are UE, GEF, World Bank, EBRD, UNDP, UNEP

and governments of some developed countries – Austria, Germany, Japan, Romania, Netherlands, Norway, USA, Sweden, United Kingdom and Czech Republic.

Assistance provided under National Indicative Programme 2011-2013 financed under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) will focus on agreed priority areas and programmes, including environment&energy efficiency, renewable energy and diversification, regional and local development.

EBRD will focus on addressing the key identified transition challenges in line with the government's reform programme and in close coordination with bilateral donors and other IFIs: infrastructure and energy, industry, commerce and agribusiness and financial sector.

World Bank provides a broad range of support to the country, covering areas such as health, education, agriculture, energy, water supply and sanitation, e-governance, social protection, competitiveness and many others.

Main projects implemented by the US Embassy in Chisinau, USAID and MCC cover the following sectors: agriculture and rural development, health, governance and civil society, justice, private sector development, education, etc.

SGP Moldova will seek the opportunity to build partnership with these international organizations and bilateral agencies.

National Coordinator will interact with on-going projects and determine possibilities of projects implementation where SGP can act as a co-financing partner in order to achieve greater impact on environment, community and CSO development.

Resource mobilization efforts will target national funds of the Governmental Agencies (national environmental funds; regional development funds and different local funds) and private sector as a part of corporate social responsibility and business development.

Effective and efficient use of raised funds is necessary to attract and maintain donors.

In OP5, projects funded by SGP Moldova will tend to ensure 1:1 co-funding ratio (evenly divided between cash and in-kind). However, once adequate level of financial resources is mobilized at the country programme level, cash co-financing component can be reduced or not be applied for projects supporting initiatives/benefits of poor and vulnerable groups[6].

SGP Moldova will focus on partnership and co-funding opportunities from both traditional and non-traditional sources. Resource mobilization activities will be carried out through the following directions:

- Assessment of interests and priorities of international donor and development agencies and identification of opportunities for partnership and co-financing;
- Attraction of private sector in SGP projects co-financing, also as a part of corporate social responsibility;

[6] These groups will be determined in accordance with Law on Social Assistance No.547-XV of 25.12.2003

- Establishing partnership between SGP projects and EU, UN agencies and GEF-funded larger projects;
- Mainstreaming SGP projects with different national strategies related to GEF area and poverty reduction programmes for expanded co-financing;
- Exploring opportunities for complementarity and cost sharing with state-funded projects and initiatives at local level.

ANNEX 1: GEF SGP OP 5 PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS

SGP OP5 results indicators	
Biodiversity (BD)	
BD1	○ Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced ○ Hectares of protected areas influenced ○ Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status
BD2	○ Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes applying sustainable use practices ○ Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status ○ Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)
Climate Change (CC)	
CCM1	○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: ▪ Renewable energy measures (please specify) ▪ Energy efficiency measures (please specify) ▪ Other (please specify) ○ Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies ○ Total value of energy or technology services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM4	○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: ▪ Low carbon transport practices (please specify) ○ Total value of transport services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM5	○ Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices ○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices
Land degradation (LD) & Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)	
LD1	○ Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices ○ Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated
LD3	○ Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices
International Waters (IW)	
IW	○ Hectares of river/lake basins applying sustainable management practices and contributing to implementation of SAPs ○ Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed sustainably ○ Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided
Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	
POPS	○ Tons of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal ○ Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately ○ Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release
Capacity Development, Policy and Innovation (all focal areas)	
CD	○ Number of consultative mechanisms established for Rio convention frameworks (please specify) ○ Number of community-based monitoring systems demonstrated (please specify) ○ Number of new technologies developed /applied (please specify) ○ Number of local or regional policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) ○ Number of national policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) ○ Number of people trained on: project development, monitoring, evaluation etc. (to be

SGP OP5 results indicators	
	specified according to type of training)
Livelihoods, Sustainable Development, and Empowerment (all focal areas)	
Cross-cutting	**Livelihoods & Sustainable Development:** o Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated) (Note: mandatory for all projects) o Number of days of food shortage reduced o Number of increased student days participating in schools o Number of households who get access to clean drinking water o Increase in purchasing power by reduced spending, increased income, and/or other means (US dollar equivalent) o Total value of investments (e.g. infrastructure, equipment, supplies) in US Dollars (Note: estimated economic impact of investments to be determined by multiplying infrastructure investments by 5, all others by 3). **Empowerment:** o Number of NGOs/CBOs formed or registered o Number of indigenous peoples directly supported o Number of women-led projects supported o Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place

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