

# GEF SGP Country Programme Strategy for Operational Phase 6 2015-2018

Country: Moldova



SGP organized two trainings on Project Proposals writing for CSOs and NGOs



Awarding of Environmental Journalists



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AEE	Agency of Energy Efficiency
LPA	Local Public Authorities
TEP	Thermo-electric plant
CCF	Forum on Climate Change in the Eastern region Partnership
NC	National Coordinator
NSC	National Steering Committee
WEEE	Waste of electrical and electronic equipment
OP	Operational Phase
EUR	Euro
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
FAO	United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture
EEF	Energy Efficiency Fund
NEF	National Ecologic Fund
SIFM	Social Investments Fund of Moldova
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
QE / QA	Questionnaire for self-evaluation ex-ante of the NGO and questionnaire for self-evaluation ex-post
SRE	Source of Renewable Energy
SGP	Small Grants Programme
USA	United States of America
EU	European Union
USD	USA Dollar

## OP6 RESOURCES

- a. Basic financing: 400.000 USD
- b. Remaining balance of OP5: 850.000 USD

## CONTEXT

As a corporate program of GEF, SGP coordinates its strategies for the operational stage with those of GEF and offers a number of demonstrative projects for amplification, replication and further integration. At the local level, actions taken by the civil society and local community are considered a vital component of the 20/20 Strategy of GEF (example: partnerships formed of various stakeholders to achieve the overall benefits for the environment and contributing to UNDP strategic plan, with a focus on sustainable development).<sup>1</sup> At the global level, the aim of SGP at OP6 is to „support the creation of global environmental benefits and protect the environment through local and community solutions, which bring added value to actions at national and global level”.

### 1. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME - SUMMARY BACKGROUND

During the period of 2012-2015, SGP of GEF implemented the 5<sup>th</sup> Operational Phase in Moldova, this phase generated 12 projects implemented by NGOs. These projects were implemented in the following fields, as stipulated in the Country Strategy: Biodiversity, Climate Changes, International Waters and Chemicals. Projects included capacity-building activities of different stakeholders in the process of global environment problem solving, which are priorities of Global Environment Facility. The majority of the projects covered the central and the northern part of the country, although two NGOs implemented projects at the national scale, and other projects were implemented in the South-East of the country. The implemented projects have contributed to the achievement of indicators listed in the Country Programme of SGP OP5. Below there are several examples that speak about the results:

Ecological society BIOTICA implemented the project: “National Ecological Network - local and national contribution”. In the frame of this project criteria for identification of the core areas in the National Ecological Network were developed. BIOTICA identified and described 10 sectors that correspond to the classification proposed by NATURA 2000. The total area covered by the project was 6234,7 ha. In collaboration with local public authorities, the NGO created 3 nurseries for seedling material (6,06 ha) and started to create the corridors of the National Ecological Network by planting 18 ha of corridors in 2013-2014. Due to this activity, total surface of the Ramsar Zone “Nistrul de Jos”(60.000 ha) obtained the status of “improved” (according to the Country Strategy of SGP for OP5 based on number of hectares of the important ecosystems with the same conservation levels or with advanced level of conservation).

Another project “Our rivers - challenge for international waters” implemented by Public Association “National Environmental Center”, contributed to the promotion of the integrated water resources management of Bic river basin - one of the most important tributaries of Nistru river which crosses 4 territorial-administrative units and the capital of the country. The Bic river suffers from excessive pollution and pollutes severely in the end the Nistru river and leads to total loss of aquatic ecosystems. In order to reduce this disaster, the project contributed to

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<sup>1</sup> Initial concept of the SGP at OS6 was integrated in in strategic directions for global refinancing GEF-6 and further, was approved by the GEF Council in „Program of small grants GEF: imolementing commitments for GEF-6” (GEF/C.46/13) in May 2014.

building capacities of the communities located in the Bic River basin. Additionally, around 3.6 ha of the shelter belts were created along the river, with the participation of 700 youngsters; 3 springs were arranged to increase the flow of water in the river with about 28 m<sup>3</sup>/day; 4 voluntary water monitoring centres have been created, all the schools have been involved in river water quality monitoring (63 schools from 63 communities in the basin of the river, involving more than 1000 youngsters in these activities); in one school a reservoir to collect waste waters was built, etc.

Another project “First Ecological Regional Centre for Social Innovations” implemented by the Public Association ORMAX, was dedicated for building the Eco-technologies Centre, construction of 108 installations - 70 of them being solar water heating panels, 12 collectors for air heating, 12 photovoltaic panels for electricity generation, one station powered by biofuel and others. This project promoted alternative sources of energy with low carbon emissions in different localities. SGP has registered even wider successes. In 2013, the SGP project implemented by Public Association “First Aid Centre” was awarded at international contest “Energy Globe Award”.

All these projects supported by OP5 contributed to solving ecological problems that are included in the priorities of Global Environmental Facility. The problems were solved through improving the quality of transboundary waters, carbon emissions reduction, and elimination of the causes of biodiversity loss and promotion of its conservation. As a result, SGP granted 478.600\$ as small grants for public associations, in the frame of OP5. The total number of beneficiaries was 116.470 persons, out of which 734 women participated in the projects implementation. The public associations which implemented the projects managed to attract co-financing in amount of 580.694\$, including 172.606\$ as an in-kind contribution. Due to the implemented projects, Moldova succeeded to prevent the formation of 192,8 tones of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, to apply 14 types of innovations and develop 3 local policies aiming at environmental protection. The listed results are not the final ones, since 4 projects financed by OP5 will be finished at the end of December 2017.

Also, it is important to point out that, during the last years, several fulfilled projects created some bases for implementation of the future projects supported by SGP of GEF. Among these projects, we can mention: [Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System in Moldova](#), [Clima East](#), Environment fiscal reform in Moldova, [Inclusive Rural Economic & Climate Resilience Programme \(IFAD VI\)](#), [Energy and biomass](#), which were implemented by UNDP Moldova.

## 2. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME NICHE

### 2.1. *Alignment with national priorities.*

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

Name	Status, date
<a href="#">Convention on biological diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1992)</a>	Approved at 23.06.1993
<a href="#">Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats</a>	Approved at 23.06.1993
<a href="#">United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New-York, 1992)</a>	Approved at 16.03.1995
<a href="#">Convention for the protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna, 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1985)</a>	Aderat la 24.07.1996
<a href="#">United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification (Paris, 17<sup>th</sup> of June 1994)</a>	Aderat la 24.12.1998
<a href="#">Convention on informational access, justice and public participation at environmental decisions</a>	Approved at 07.04.1999

<a href="#">The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</a>	Approved at 14.07.1999
<a href="#">Danube river protection convention</a>	Approved at 29.08.1999
<a href="#">Bonn convention</a>	Approved at 01.04.2001
<a href="#">Convention on international trade with wild endangered species of fauna and flora</a>	Approved at 27.06.2001
<a href="#">The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stocholm, Sweden 2001)</a>	Approved at 19.02.2004
<a href="#">Minamata convention on mercury</a>	Signed at 04.10.2013
<a href="#">Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution</a>	Approved at 03.12.2015
<a href="#">The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal, 16<sup>th</sup> of September 1987)</a>	Approved at 24.07.1996
<a href="#">The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (New York, USA 2001)</a>	Approved at 11.10.2002
<a href="#">Kyoto Protocol (Kyoto, 11<sup>th</sup> of December 1997)</a>	Approved at 13.02.2003
<a href="#">The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (APB)</a>	Signed at 06.12.2011
<a href="#">Strategy of Forest Sustainable Development in Republic of Moldova</a>	Approved at 12.07.2001
<a href="#">National Strategy on reducing and elimination of the persistent organic pollutants and National Plan of Stockholm Convention implementation</a>	Approved on 20.10.2004
<a href="#">Strategy of developing rural extension services for 2012-2022</a>	Approved on 04.07.2012
<a href="#">National Development Strategy „Moldova 2020”</a>	Approved on 11.07.2012
<a href="#">Energy Strategy of Republic of Moldova until 2030</a>	Approved on 05.02.2013
<a href="#">Environment Strategy for 2014-2023 and Action Plan for the Strategy implementation</a>	Approved on 24.04.2014
<a href="#">National Strategy for agricultural and rural development for 2014-2020</a>	Approved on 04.06.2014
<a href="#">Strategy for accommodation to the climate change of Republic of Moldova until 202 and Action Plan for the strategy implementation</a>	Approved on 10.12.2014
<a href="#">Strategy of biological diversity of the Republic of Moldova for 2015-2020 and Action plan for the strategy implementation</a>	Approved on 18.05.2015
<a href="#">Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds</a>	Approved on 28.09.2000
<a href="#">Agreement on conservation of flittermouses in Europe</a>	Approved on 28.09.2000
<a href="#">National program on chemicals sustainable management in Republic of Moldova</a>	Approved on 18.10.2010
<a href="#">National energy efficiency plan 2011-2020</a>	Approved on 10.11.2011
<a href="#">Medium term program for developing urban plans on the settlements level 2013-2016</a>	Approved on 04.07.2013
<a href="#">National Action Plan on renewables 2013-2020</a>	Approved on 27.12.2013
<a href="#">National Plan for forests extensions for 2014-2018</a>	Approved on 10.02.2014

## **2.2. Opportunities for community and civil society organizations involvement for implementing national environmental priorities.**

On 27<sup>th</sup> of June, 2014 the Association Agreement between Moldova and EU and the Free Trade Agreement were signed, being ratified on 2 July 2014.

Analising the SGP Program priority areas, considering the Association Agreement and Environment strategies and programs under elaboration, the NGOs have the following opportunities:

### **Terrestrial landscape conservation:**

- *Involvement in the development, promotion and consulting processes of draft laws and regulations* through working groups, expertise, consulting services, awareness campaigns, training and interpretation of regulatory framework;
- *Involvement in activities that contribute to reducing of the pressure on biodiversity to ensure sustainable development* (expanding protected areas, creating ecological network, development of managerial capacities, creation of constructed wetlands, creation of „Emerald” network, collection, analysis and relevant data processing for creation of natural areas cadastre, participation in management plans development);

- *measures to ensure conservation of rare, vulnerable and endangered species; involvement in the activities for implementation of measures of stopping threats for biodiversity (stopping land degradation and mitigating the effects of climate change, rehabilitating of shelter belts for agricultural fields, promotion of ecological agriculture elements and environmentally friendly practices, etc.);*
- *providing measures to minimize degradation of water resources and aquatic biodiversity (participation at the elaboration of management plans for districts of hydrographic basins of Nistru river and Danube-Prut-Black Sea basin, rehabilitation of shelter belts in the riparian buffer zones, participation in the establishing of the Sub-Basin Committees, elaboration and implementation of Management Plans for sub-basins);*
- *providing measures to mitigate negative impacts of invasive species, to minimize the anthropic pressure on natural vulnerable ecosystems (develop guidelines, training materials and organizing training for landowners, local communities, develop projects based on sustainable management of different types of plants (energetic, medicinal, fodder, essential plants etc.));*
- *promotion of modern technologies with low carbon emissions and implication in awareness activities, and others which could be found in the Strategy for biological diversity of the Republic of Moldova for 2015-2020.*

Besides the above-mentioned opportunities, additional ones could be found in the National Plan for expansion of forest vegetation areas for 2014-2018 such as: participation in the ensuring of forest vegetation extending over an area of 13.041 ha; public awareness and informing; implication in the monitoring process; evaluation and reporting. Moreover, according to the Strategy of Sustainable Development of Forestry sector of the Republic of Moldova, there are activities that could serve as opportunities for NGOs: contribution to improving the efficiency of protection and guard activities for forestry fund, involvement in activities to increase the forest sector contribution to solve socio-economic problems and promote national countryside conservation. The National Program for ecological network creation for 2011-2018 adopted by the Republic of Moldova, indicates that planned actions include technical measures, public information and awareness, as well as economic, legislative and organizational measures. The objectives that should be accomplished require a set of actions designed to guide financial efforts and access funding sources for solving the problems related to the establishment of ecological network and biodiversity conservation, which could also serve as opportunities for NGOs. As part of the preliminary assessment, the National Strategy for agricultural and rural development for 2014-2020 was analysed too. Besides specific provisions, the strategy includes also possible opportunities for associative sector to reach biological diversity objectives such as: promotion of environmentally friendly technologies and ecological products; supporting adaption to and decrease of climate change effects on agriculture, stimulating local community involvement in rural development and other fields that may be connected to biological diversity sector.

**Low-Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits.** The Strategy for adaptation to climate change of the Republic of Moldova until 2020 and the Action Plan for implementing the strategy set objectives and activities for all targets groups. From those activities, the national NGOs have the following opportunities:

- contributing to integration of climate change adaptation policies in sectoral policies of national economy;
- participation in the development and implementation of adequate communication and institutional cooperation in order to implement adaptation policies;
- contribution to monitoring and ongoing research of climate changes impact, of the related social and economical vulnerability and periodical updating climate changes models, carrying out awareness of all stakeholders, especially the population, regarding risks of climate change and adaptation to these in sectors of agriculture, water, health, forests, energy and transport.

Another national document which refers to the analysed field is the National Program for Energy Efficiency 2011-2020 and the National Action Plan for the renewable energy for 2013-2020. These documents offer the following opportunities to the associative sector: promotion of energy efficiency aspects and renewable energy sources, outreach of the target-groups about energy efficiency, using renewable energy and others.

**Local and global chemicals management coalitions.** According to the National Program for sustainable management of chemicals in the Republic of Moldova, several opportunities can apply for associative sector:

- contribution for development of the environmental informational system;
- contribution to research and monitoring, capacity building;
- involvement in the harmonisation process of the national environment standards with international requirements;
- contribution to promotion and capacities development to eliminate chemicals, including waste and the decontamination of the infected fields and equipment;
- training of general public, information and sensibilisation for chemicals sustainable management, including diminishing of risks of their use.

**Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology.** This is a crosscutting area that offers many opportunities for NGOs, pointed in the National Strategy on agriculture and rural development for 2014-2020. This would offer involvement in promotion and support of the management practices of agricultural land and water, promotion and application of the environmental production technologies, organic products, including biodiversity, adaptation and mitigation of climate change effects on agricultural production, implementation of physical infrastructure and services to adapt to climate change in rural areas; stimulation of local communities' involvement in agri-rural development.

There is also the Programme for the conservation and improvement of soil fertility for 2011-2020 - another policy document that is being referred to - offering the following opportunities to the third sector: stopping the active forms of degradation of soil cover on an area of 877k ha of arable land, by 2020; promoting and applying of soil fertility conservation and improvement measures on an area of 1.7 mln. ha by 2020.

The Environment Strategy for 2014-2023 is the main national policy document that defines the frame and the vision upon the environment protection actions for the next period. The main objective of the Strategy is to create an efficient environmental management system that will contribute to increasing the quality of environmental state and will ensure the population's right for clean, healthy and sustainable environment. From the fields considered by the Environmental Strategy 2014-2023 and of interest for GEF SGP OP6, the following are reflected:

- participation at integration of the environmental protection principles, sustainable development and green economy development principles, as well as adaptation to the climate changes issues in all the sectors of the national economy;
- increasing the level of knowledge on environmental protection of the following categories: pupils, students and employees by at least 50% till the end of 2023, and ensure the access to environmental information;
- contribution to decreasing the negative impact of the economical activity on environment and improving the measures for prevention of environment pollution;
- supporting the process of an integrated monitoring system and environmental control system;
- ensuring the rational use, pretection and conservation of natural resources of surface waters, improvement of soil quality and ecological reconstruction of degraded lands affected by soil erosions, reconstruction of shelter belts of agricultural fields up to 100%;
- sustainable management and protection of useful mineral resources;

- extension of forest surface up to 15% from the territory of the country and of the state protected natural areas up to 8% from the territory of the country;
- ensuring a sustainable and efficient management of natural ecosystems;
- contribution to the establishment of the air quality integrated management system, decreasing of pollutants emission into atmosphere with about 30% till 2023 and of greenhouse gases with at least 20% till 2020 in comparison with the baseline scenario;
- participation in the creation of integrated system for waste management and chemicals which will contribute to decreasing with 30% of the quantity of stored waste and increasing with 20% of waste recycling rate till 2023.

All the opportunities and challenges mentioned above are embedded in the strategical documents developed by the Republic of Moldova during the last several years and are planned to be implemented until 2020-2023. The projects financed in the framework of GEF SGP OP6 will be aligned to national objectives provided by these strategic documents in order to improve the environment quality in the Republic of Moldova.

The activity of GEF SGP OP6 will bring added value to national and global efforts in the field of environment protection.

For the successful realisation of SGP OP6, a supporting mechanism based on previous experience of SGP will be created. This mechanism supposes that the implemented projects do not have an individual purpose, but an extended one - to obtain a more sustainable impact, when the cumulative and synergy effects could be transformed into institutional consolidation, learning networks, policies and advocacy. The Small Grants Program will offer additional services through the following supporting mechanism:

- „**Consultanți desculți**” (**Barefoot Consultants**) - Assisting communities and CSOs in developing of the relevant projects, especially with direct access to new funding method;
- „**Grassroots Reach**” - communication channel used to promote sustainable products, obtained not only by SGP, but also by the authorities, GEF, other donors, the private sector;
- Creation and/or maintaining *the dialogue between Government and CSOs*, relying on built confidence and common work relationship between civil society and government in the frame of National Steering Committee of GEF SGP;
- Extending the support for gender equality by promoting pro-active projects run by women, the integration of women in all relevant projects and communication, exchange of experiences and advocacy at national and global levels between women-beneficiaries of grants in SGP.

Beside supporting mechanisms at national level, at the global level, in the frame of the programme „*Global Reach for Citizens Practice-Based Knowledge program*”, GEF SGP will create the following knowledge platforms: (a) digital library for community innovations for the global environment and (b) exchange experiences platform between communities South-South.

### 2.3. The potential for synergy of selected OP6 strategic initiatives with full size projects and programmes

**Table 2. SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results**

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche <sup>2</sup> relevant to national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society</i>	<p><b>Forestry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Developing a National Action Plan to implement the strategy of sustainable development of the forestry sector in Republic of Moldova;</li> <li>b) Developing technologies to ensure the adaptability of forest ecosystems to climate change;</li> <li>c) Use of local genotypes to improve forest ecosystems;</li> <li>d) Establishment of forest plantations on degraded lands, with promoting of local species;</li> <li>e) Working for forest management of land covered by forest to prevent illegal logging and increasing forest benefits;</li> <li>f) Expansion of the forest surfaces;</li> <li>g) Extension of the areas and strengthening the network of protected areas and territories in the community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Water management:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Restoration of protective bands of the rivers and water basin;</li> <li>b) Surface water conservation;</li> </ul> <p><b>Landscape planning and tourism:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Participation in the development of management plans for ecosystems, flora and fauna species of community interest;</li> <li>b) Development of the guideline for organization of cultural, sports, tourism and recreation activities to prevent the action that may affect the status of ecosystems and biodiversity;</li> <li>c) Delimitation of touristic zones for touristic destinations;</li> <li>d) Arranging locations for ecotourims (short stops, parking places for tourists, accommodation, food etc.);</li> <li>e) Setting and marking of walking ecotouristic trails;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• offering the support for central and local authorities for environment and natural resources management, in all the domains;</li> <li>• Support for a better environmental education and awareness;</li> <li>• contribuirea la creșterea economică durabilă și creșterea calității vieții;</li> <li>• institutional building, implementation and capacity application on local and central levels;</li> <li>• Quality support and access to information, effective public participation and behaviour change.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> “Niche” refers to the role or contribution that the Country Programme is best fitted to perform and for which the other stakeholders agree with

<sup>3</sup> Describe only for those OP6 strategic initiatives which will be programmed by the SGP country programme.

		f) Stimulation of PPP practices to apply clean practices for serving the visitors in protected areas.	
Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</i>	<p><b>Agriculture:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Development and promotion of the draft law on protection of agricultural fields shelter belts;</li> <li>b) Promotion of the ecological agriculture elements and environment friendly practices (agro-terraces, wattle fences, anti-erosion strips or waves etc.);</li> <li>c) Promotion of good agricultural practices;</li> <li>d) Encouraging activities for maintaining local genetic fund of breeding stock;</li> <li>e) Develop guidelines on best practices for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for farmers;</li> <li>f) Promoting valuable genotypes of plants in purpose of building industrial plantations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Management practices in agriculture fields and water:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Promotion and using of modern practices for agricultural fields and water management;</li> <li>b) Consolidation of the fields and appliance of modern practices of cultivation of the fields using crop rotation and diversification of the agricultural products;</li> <li>c) Better acces to the irrigation infrastructure and modern equipments, development of irrigation services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Environmental friendly production technologies, organic products, including biodiversity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Providing technologies of organic production and organic products;</li> <li>b) Supporting organic products on national and international markets;</li> <li>c) Supporting the development of agricultural energy sources;</li> <li>d) Forestation in order to increase biodivestity and reduce erosion, also contributing to the water resources conservation and protection.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adaptation and mitigation of climate change on agricultural production:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Supporting the risk management tools;</li> <li>b) Reducing exposure to climate risks and negative effects of natural disasters on agricultural production and agricultural competitiveness.</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk mitigation and adaptation to climate change in agriculture:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Effective water conservation in soil during winter-time to keep the water supply in summer;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving socio-economic conditions at local and regional levels;</li> <li>• developing integrated programs to support agriculture promoting local and regional fairer development, increasing the opportunities for decent employment and well-paid, especially for young people and vulnerable socials groups with exclusion risks;</li> <li>• creation of new jobs in agricultural, environmental and cultural tourism and sustainable management of national and local cultural heritage;</li> <li>• facilitating of good practice and international and European standards;</li> <li>• promoting food safety rewuirements among the entire food chain;</li> <li>• facilitating the acces of Moldovan producers to valuable export markets;</li> <li>• conservation of the biodiversity and eco-systems;</li> <li>• preparing for better answering to new challenges such as climate changes, natural caused by human disasters;</li> <li>• capacity building at national and local levels to assess, reduce and adapt to climate changes and disaster risks;</li> <li>• integrating disaster risk and climate management in local, sectorial and national planification processes;</li> <li>• ensuring adequate preparedness and response in vulnerable setors such as food, agriculture and health;</li> <li>• application of risk monitoring and early warning systems;</li> <li>• assisting vulnerable communities to</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) Action to fight against predicted water shortages;</li> <li>c) Introduction of new varieties and hybrids with better resistance to drought and heat;</li> <li>d) Elaboration of policies and practices for increasing the flexibility of the agricultural systems.</li> </ul> <p><i>National:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensuring the investments increasing regarding irrigation infrastructure efficiency, water technologies and improving water resources management;</li> <li>b) Elaboration of the irrigation plans based on careful assessment of their impact, future availability of water and meet the needs of water, taking into account the balance between supply and demand;</li> <li>c) Create tools for risk and crisis management, to deal with the economic consequences caused by climate events.</li> </ul>	increase resilience to climate change and natural disasters.
Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services</i>	<p><i>Water management:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) rehabilitation of the shelter belts of riparian buffer zone of the rivers and water basins;</li> <li>b) support the implementation of management practices of agricultural fields and water;</li> <li>c) use the modern management practices of agricultural fields and water;</li> <li>d) better access to the irrigation infrastructure and modern equipment, development of the irrigation services;</li> <li>e) providing measures to minimize the degradation of water resources and aquatic biological diversity;</li> <li>f) identify measures for their protection;</li> <li>g) drawing of two management plans of river basin districts;</li> <li>h) creating wetland of international importance (Ramsar) "Domneasca" in the basin of the Middle Prut River;</li> <li>i) establishing of National Park "Lower Nistru";</li> <li>j) water resources and water and sanitation supply management;</li> <li>k) improving the quality of surface water by implementing integrated hydrographic basins management;</li> <li>l) ensuring public access to sewage networks and services and wastewater treatment.</li> </ul>	
Energy access co-benefits	<i>Support to transformational shifts towards a</i>	<p><i>Electricity sector:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) promotion of electricity produced from renewable sources;</li> <li>b) promotion of household appliances and energy-related products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promoting replicable models for energy efficiency and resources in production and consumption and access to clean and</li> </ul>

	<i>low-emission and resilient development path</i>	<p>which correspond to the energy efficiency standards of the EU.</p> <p><i>Thermal energy sector:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) promotion of renewable energy heating purposes;</li> <li>b) promotion of the reduction and optimization of thermal energy consumption to final customers;</li> <li>c) diversification of energy for hot water preparation, heating and cooling;</li> <li>d) promotion of new efficient technologies and equipment designed to help reducing energy consumption.</li> </ul> <p><i>The transport sector:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) promoting biofuels as a blending component for traditional fuels.</li> </ul> <p><i>Public sector:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) informing persons and business sector about best practices, costs and benefits of efficient equipment and tools renewable energy etc.;</li> <li>b) launching programs to improve street lighting, rehabilitation of public buildings and social facilities, construction of passive or low energy consumption or close to zero, use of renewable energy for heating social objects etc.</li> </ul>	<p>affordable energy as the basis for creation of sustainable markets for renewable energy and eco-technologies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promoting sustainable development by green economic development;</li> <li>• support to reduce overall energy consumption and gas emissions with greenhouse effect, increasing energy efficiency and the share of renewables;</li> <li>• contributing to the efficiency of major energy and resources;</li> <li>• adoption of clean technologies in production and consumption;</li> <li>• promoting development for reducing emissions and climate resilience;</li> <li>• developing policy frameworks;</li> <li>• capacity building for investment in low carbon and environment-friendly technologies, in infrastructure and other sectors;</li> <li>• contribution to sustainable consumption and production and the creation of green jobs;</li> <li>• extending energy efficiency measures, particularly in the household sector;</li> <li>• promotion of the use of renewable energy.</li> </ul>
Local to global chemicals coalitions	<i>Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) amending and supplementing the regulatory framework on chemicals management through its harmonization with EU legislation and practices and international acceptance of the new amendments to the Conventions to which Republic of Moldova is part, developing the concept of Chemicals register and accreditation laboratory potential according to the international system of best laboratory practices etc.;</li> <li>b) completing the regulatory framework with specific rules of chemicals management;</li> <li>c) ensure the functioning of an integrated institutional management system of chemicals;</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) monitoring building capacities;</li> <li>e) harmonization of national standards with international environment standards;</li> <li>f) building capacities for the disposal of chemicals, including waste and decontamination of fields and contaminated equipment;</li> <li>g) training, information and public awareness on sustainable chemicals management, including reducing the risk associated with their use;</li> <li>h) evaluation of the risk related to the use of some chemicals at national level.</li> </ul>	
CSO-Government dialogue platforms	<i>Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) strengthening the participation of civil society in drafting and monitoring the implementation of public policies;</li> <li>b) strengthening the capacity of state officials and CSO to collaborate in elaboration and monitoring the implementation of public policies;</li> <li>c) improving existing mechanisms and the adoption of new measures to ensure transparency of both the legislative branch and the executive of all levels, from government and Parliament to district councils and local municipalities;</li> <li>d) encourage the participation of citizens and the private sector in supporting civil society;</li> <li>e) enhance access and participation of civil society in the implementation of state policies through social contracting;</li> <li>f) promote transparency and accountability of civil society;</li> <li>g) promote volunteerism through the main national structures of the volunteering infrastructure;</li> <li>h) promoting civic education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving quality and access to information that will enable better monitoring, public participation and awareness as a vector of behaviour change;</li> <li>• Providing support to the Government to strengthen the communication.</li> </ul>
Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)	<i>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) diversification of social services for people with disabilities;</li> <li>b) adaptation of educational programs to the special needs of children with disabilities;</li> <li>c) social infrastructure adaptation to the needs of persons with disabilities;</li> <li>d) adaptation of the trainings to the needs of young people and women;</li> <li>e) youth development and gender equality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promoting gender equality, with particular attention to the most vulnerable groups;</li> <li>• Extension confidence building measures in the Transnistrian region;</li> <li>• improving the quality of education, from preschool to professional training;</li> <li>• development of didactic resources, improved education based on TIC, vocational technical education and training in the areas of interests of GEF;</li> <li>• Increase opportunities for decent employment and income generation,</li> </ul>

			especially for young people and vulnerable social groups with risk of exclusion.
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	<i>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ensuring the relevance of education for life, active citizenship and career success;</li> <li>b) development and continuous training in the public and private sectors on issues of biodiversity conservation;</li> <li>c) updating curricula in primary and secondary modules to introduce educational programs on biodiversity in natural sciences;</li> <li>d) conducting ecological classes and environmental Olympiads on biodiversity;</li> <li>e) awareness of all stakeholders, especially the population regarding the risks of climate change and adaptation measures</li> </ul>	

### 3. OP6 STRATEGIES

#### 3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

The scope of this chapter is to identify crosscutting issues that cover the entire spectrum of the activities necessary to achieve a successful project. The objective of the projects based on crosscutting issues is to meet the necessary skills requirements that will enhance the potential of the Republic of Moldova to fulfil its obligations resulted from Conventions to which it is part, by creating synergies, while catalysing the integration of multilateral environmental agreements in national politics, management, or financial and legislative network. In the frame of OP6, 24% from the program budget are reserved for crosscutting strategies, being divided as following: 10% for activities oriented for capacity building and knowledge management; up to 7% for good governance and public implication for consolidation of dialog between the Government and CSO; and up to 7% for activities dedicated to gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women and youth involvement in environmental activities. Proposed crosscutting issues are the following:

**Good governance** is fundamental to the development process of the Republic of Moldova, and hence it shall inherently be linked to the objectives of the SGP OP6. Good governance has 6 main principles; *it is participatory and inclusive, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, and follows the rule of law*. These principles of good governance shall be equally applied within the program at all levels of the project.

**Public participation** - The need for stakeholder engagement, including information dissemination, consultation, and stakeholder participation, is a cornerstone feature of the work of the implementation of the SGP GEF OP 6. The project proposals offered under the OP6 should be focused on the following: *Public involvement activities must be applied at the development phase of the project proposals and implemented in a flexible way throughout the project lifecycle. Methods and tools for engagement and public information must be flexible, adjusted for the target group and respond to national requirements and / or local and project requirements*. The implementation of activities for public involvement and information should be based on the principles of national legislation and the Aarhus Convention.

**Capacity building and knowledge management.** The project initiatives oriented to facilitate the exchange and use of knowledge, skills, good practices, necessary to shape and influence national planning and implementation processes, are supported by the SGP OP6. GEF SGP OP6 is interested in developing and distribution of the knowledge related to harder systemic transformations in which project implementation team learn from the past relevant experiences of GEF partnership, engaging locally in all the aspects of knowledge management.

GEF-6 supports projects that are geared toward achieving impact obtained in a longer term and systemic pilot projects with innovative approaches to accomplish and maintain the environmental protection results. Following the priority areas of SGP GEF-6, they are quite specific and extensive. Due to the fact that only few NGOs in the country have such profiles in their activity, the Program will target up to 10% of the OP6 budget for increasing knowledge on priority areas, on possible intervention measures, on project proposals writing and on the project implementation process. Subsequently, there is need to increase the level of knowledge and skills among the environment associative sector to develop project proposals, implement projects and report on project results, as well as on the mechanisms of monitoring, evaluation and promotion of results at local, national and global levels according to the GEF requirements.

**Gender mainstreaming and women empowerment.** SGP will be interested in projects that are based on:

- effective crosscutting references in efficient generation of knowledge on gender and environment;
- facilitating the exchange of best practices, approaches and tools;

- establishing clear accountability mechanisms and system of gender equality among management and project staff, team of experts and stakeholders.

**Youth implication in environmental activities.** The environment is an important topic for young people, because they are the decision makers of tomorrow. Through SGP projects, young people will be trained to understand the environmental changes that can affect them and the way they can be involved in making decisions on issues that can affect them. Young people will be involved in activities for improving and maintenance of quality of the environment in communities, development and implication of the youngsters in associative sector activities, developing communication and opinion exchange platforms. Youngsters will be involved in in-depth exploration of topics highly specific for environmental sector, generating and implementing community-based solutions.

### 3.2. *Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies*

In order to identify the implementation landscape of projects supported by SGP in OP6 and to identify priority initiatives of GEF that will be addressed by SGP Moldova at OP6, a public consultation event for initiation of strategy elaboration procedure took place in Chisinau on 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2016. The announcement for participation at the event was posted on several web portals and distributed through social networks. The invitation for participation was sent via e-mail to 150 representatives of CSOs, scientific institutions, Ministry of Environment, and other stakeholders. Thus, 54 persons attended the event, mostly representatives of CSOs, farmers associations, experts, scientists, representatives of Ministry of Environment. During the event, the SGP GEF-6 landmarks were presented and were requested the opinions regarding region selection and implementation of priority initiatives under which projects of SGP will be founded in the period 2016-2018.

Additionally, an online consultation was organised, and a number of development partners and national funds operating in Republic of Moldova were consulted through individual interviews. The partners and funds have the relevant environment projects and priority initiatives of SGP GEF OP6 as funding objectives.

In order to identify the landscape, beside public and individual consultations, a number of reports, national and international strategies about state of environment in Republic of Moldova were consulted. Using these reports, a comprehensive analysis of state of environment in Moldova was done, taking into account the GEF priorities (international waters, chemicals, biodiversity, climate change, soil) and the strategic initiatives.

Following the consultations, it was decided that the area of project implementation of SGP EO6 will be the entire territory of Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region. Respectively, under the SGP OP6 in Moldova, projects that will be assigned to all four strategic initiatives will be supported:

- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation;
- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology;
- Low-Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits;
- Local to global chemicals coalitions.

In the elaboration of the projects, CSO should take into account the stipulation of this Strategy, national priorities reflected in national strategic documents and international commitments that Moldova has undertaken by joining the conventions listed in table 1 of this Strategy.

National strategies relevant for priority domains of GEF and different national and international reports were consulted to



Fig. 1. Arealul de implementare a proiectelor SGP în EO6

elaborate the situation evaluation. In addition, for the same purpose, experts from relevant institutions as Agency „Apele Moldovei”, State Ecological Inspectorate, Agency „Moldsilva”, Ministry of Environment, and others were consulted.

CSO projects implemented under SGP needs to be co-financed up to 50% from the total value of the project. Thus, a resource mobilization plan is described in chapter 6 in the Strategy, also in the annex 2. Co-financing opportunities suggested remain at the discretion of the CSO, they are encouraged to seek other ways of attracting resources to meet this condition.

### **3.3. Grant-maker+ Strategies**

#### **3.3.1. CSO-Government dialog platform**

Constant changes occurring in the environment, generating new social needs or worsening the already existing ones, require continuous evaluation and reorientation of community activities to the priorities of the main actors of the moment. The NGOs are a kind of “barometer” of the community. Their dynamic is relevant in terms of the community’s capacity to react quickly to its own needs, catalyzing resources that are not available at the government level. In the same time, the analysis of the organisations’ activity directions can generate important signals to public administrations about problems that will need to be solved in the near future. CSOs could play a key role in identifying issues that may be overlooked by public authorities and by using human resources, local data and their organizational ability. CSOs can monitor the work of public agencies and can assist them in achieving their goals. NGO sector can influence community development by using the following means:<sup>4</sup>

- encouraging public institutions to adopt solutions developed and successfully used in the sector;
- educating and sensibilizing the public about the rights provided by law;
- participating in adaptation of the government programs to the public needs, expressing public opinion and highlighting the local experiences;
- collaborating with public institutions;
- influencing the local development policies of national and international institutions;
- helping the public administration and donors to elaborate a more effective development strategy by strengthening of institutions, improving staff qualification through specific training and strengthening their managerial capacity.

Considering the specifics of the SGP program, it is recommended to cooperate with central authorities from the key sectors, including priority domains, such as: Ministry of Environment and its subordinated structures (Agency “Apele Moldovei”, Agency “Moldsilva”, State Ecological Inspectorate, State Hydrometeorologic Service and others), Ministry of Regional Development and Construction with subordinated Agencies for Regional Development Center, North and South of Moldova (ADR Nord, ADR Centru and ADR Sud), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economy and the subordinated Energy Efficiency Agency, Tourism Agency. In these authorities, there are people who are empowered to maintain relationships with association sector that may be an entry point for communication. It is also recommended to involve thematic departments of the Ministry of Environment (Department of environmental pollution prevention, biodiversity department, Climate change Office and POPs Office etc). For strengthening the dialogue between the Government and civil society, existing instruments could be used such as National NGO Council, National Participation Council, National Council of Environmental NGOs, Regional Development Councils of the Agencies of Regional Development for North, Center and South of Moldova, the Sector Councils of External Assistance of the Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions and the Ministry of Environment of Moldova.

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<sup>4</sup> White book at the National NGO Forum, 1998: “NGOs and the concept of partnership”, authors Mihai Lisețchi, Ion Olteanu

At the same time the NC and NSC will promote the dialog with the local and central public authorities mainstreaming and providing lobby and advocacy on the GEF SGP OP6 strategic initiatives. The SGP PA trimestrially will gather the timesheets on the grantmaking+ activities.

### ***3.3.2. Policy influences***

Public policy is a network of interrelated decisions concerning the choice of objectives, means and resources used to achieve their specific situation and on specific areas. All policy papers are elaborated in a dependency and hierarchy. In environmental domain, policy papers are based on the National Environment Strategy, others that are related to the environmental domain and are relevant for SGP OP6 are analysed in ad 2.2 and 2.3 of this Strategy.

Policy papers should be considered in the project proposals elaboration process, indicating precisely the objectives and measures that should be achieved. At the same time, the relevant policy papers created at regional, district and local levels should be considered.

Policy papers will be taken into consideration in the evaluation of the proposals, the experts will consider if measures, methodology or approach proposed by the applicant is relevant to stipulations/objectives pre-established by the approved policy papers.

### ***3.3.3. Promoting social inclusion***

Currently, more people in the Republic of Moldova feel socially excluded for various reasons, such as: poverty, low education level, ethnicity or personal visions. The GEF SGP will strongly recommend and prioritize projects, which targets or promote involvement of the social excluded groups. In order to reduce barriers for social inclusion, it is recommended to include in the SGP projects the following actions:

- promoting social inclusion, social cohesion, promoting equality between women and men;
- ensuring equal opportunities for all;
- access for everyone to rights and services that are necessary for a real participation in the society;
- preventing social exclusion, eliminating all forms of discrimination;
- recognition and respect for the dignity of each individual person.

### ***3.3.4. Knowledge management plan***

In order to ensure a synergy in implementation of the GEF SGP OP6, National Coordinator, Programme Assistant and NSC assist NGOs in project proposals development and implementation, in capacity development of NGOs, through organisation of the workshops, peer-to-peer consultations, development of instructions and guidelines. The SGP country team will regularly inform the NGOs network on the planned activities, and will disseminate the information and promotion materials developed within the funded projects. At the same time the NSC will be actively involved in implementation of the GEF SGP OP6, by offering consultations, share of experience and knowledge. The NSC will assure the technical content of the project proposals, will offer strategical guidance in knowledge management, so that the country projects could be extended to regional projects, or replicated at the national level.

SGP projects and activities provides to the national stakeholders, an enormous opportunity for learning and knowledge management in the field of thematic priorities. The project proposals are expected to foresee a knowledge learning and management plan, which will include models, tools and approaches that should be applied to promote education and share of knowledge. This will require setting a monitoring plan for project activities.

QE/QA process for all the project proposals will focus explicitly on the agenda for learning and knowledge management proposed in the project. The questionnaires will review whether learning results, knowledge management and related activities were clearly identified, if resources were available and if mechanisms were explicitly defined for learning and knowledge sharing and dissemination during implementation and at the final line of the project.

Where is possible, project financing supports learning events and knowledge sharing. The final report of the project includes an evaluation of the learning results and knowledge generated and shared. The report indicates also how knowledge has been or will be disseminated in the frame of projects, including the period after the projects finalisation. The accumulation of knowledge, exchange and dissemination of the SGP results could be supported using different tools. Webpages, on-line thematic forums, libraries etc. plays a key role in information, knowledge transfer and promotion of communication between colleagues.

### **3.3.5. Communication Strategy**

In OP6, SGP will be focused on projects visibility improve transparency, external communication, communication with CSOs and international relations. To ensure a coherent process in communication between SGP, grantees and general public, the responsibilities are divided between SGP NC, PA, NSC and grantees.

The GEF SGP will continue to practice of organizing direct meetings, workshops for potential partners NGO's. During the events the NGOs will be taught how to prepare project proposals, ask questions related to project implementation and management, and financial management. After these events NGOs will have a clear vision of who, when and how activities will be performed and results achieved.

The SGP grantees will maintain media relations on their activity sector and on implementation of the projects process by preparing articles, publications, periodicals, video-spots and factsheets on the results and impact obtained on the project level; to disseminate success stories , lessons learned in the frame of projects financed by SGP, using publications realized respecting the visibility rules of SGP; organizing and participation at the information fairs, exhibitions, local contests, regional and international achievements and the program image, dissemination of informational and promotional materials. The reports from the process of activity implementation and results achieved from every grantee continually will be disseminated and published as a tool for promoting SGP contribution to the national priorities, GEF programming, and UNDP strategies.

#### 4. EXPECTED RESULTS FRAMEWORK

**Table 3.** Consistency with global program SGP OP6 components

OP6 project components	Strategy targets	Activities	Indicators	Evaluation tools
<p><b>SGP OP6 Component 1:</b>  <b>1.1 Community Landscape Conservation:</b>  <b>1.2 Biological diversity</b></p>	<p>1.1.1 High value areas conservation multi-focal approach linking environmental issues, biodiversity conservation with sustainable development and social aspects.</p> <p>1.1.2 Promotes approaches for conservation and preserve the endangered and threatened species within their habitats</p> <p><i>Protection of most threatened species/breeds</i></p> <p><i>Promoting protected areas transferred for management to NGO's.</i></p> <p><i>Conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use in sectors through community Initiatives and actions</i></p>	<p><i>Aprox.3 projects</i></p>	<p>At least 1 draft of the legal act or draft of the public policy, where the stipulations regarding biodiversity conservation are integrated or at least 1 water basin management plan elaborated;</p> <p>At least 1 tourist route marked or a touristic zone arranged..</p> <p>At least 20 ha of shelter belts created;</p> <p>At least 5 ha of forestry plantations created;</p> <p>At least 10 ha of shelter belts rehabilitated (planified at national level);</p> <p>At least 1 local species promoted and reproductive material created;</p> <p>At least 3 education workshops organised, 75 educated persons (50% W- 50%M), promotion materials prepared;</p> <p>At least 2 informing events organised;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</li> <li>• Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate)</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</li> <li>• Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</li> </ul>

<p><b>SGP OP6 Component 2:</b> <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</i> 2.1 The Smart climate and agro-ecology systems</p>	<p>2.1.1. Demonstration, development and knowledge transfer of agro-ecology practices</p> <p><i>Protection of most threatened species/breeds</i></p> <p><i>Development and adoption of the best agricultural practices</i></p> <p>2.1.2 New approaches in adaptation of agriculture to climate change</p> <p><i>Integrated pests management and reduction/elimination of the pesticides in agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Integrated nutrient management systems and reduction/elimination of the fertilizers use</i></p> <p><i>Optimized irrigation scheduling on farm level and improved soil water conservation</i></p>	<p><i>Aprox.4 projects</i></p>	<p>At least 2 practices that provide measures for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> remissions;</p> <p>At least 2 farmers who practice multi-cropping;</p> <p>Good agricultural practices adapted to climate changes, implemented on 5 ha or at least 5 ha with sustainable management practices on agricultural land</p> <p>At least 2 developed and published guidelines;</p> <p>At least 2 ecological lessons organised;</p> <p>At least 1 continuous training program developed;</p> <p>At least 60 households informed about good agricultural practices adapted to climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</li> <li>• Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</li> <li>• Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</li> </ul>
<p><b>SGP OP6 Component 3:</b> <i>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</i> 3.1 Energy saving, efficiency and renewable sources</p>	<p>3.1.1. Ensure affordable access to different forms of energy, through models that appreciate environmental and ecological aspects</p> <p><i>Capacity development efforts enabling the community to develop and use innovative technologies</i></p> <p><i>Development and adoption of new technologies for low-carbon energy generating and storage</i></p>	<p><i>Aprox.3 projects</i></p>	<p>At least 2 innovative solutions of locally adopted solutions, demonstrated and documented;</p> <p>At least 20 households with access to electricity or heat from renewable sources;</p> <p>At least 10 ha of viable energetic plantations created</p> <p>At least 1 project which uses biomass to produce energy is</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMR, country reports</li> <li>• AMR, global database, country reports</li> <li>• Special country studies</li> <li>• Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</li> </ul>

	<i>Promote the adoption of renewable energy, focus on access to quality low carbon energy (including usage of solar energy, biomass, bioenergy, biogas, small hydropower, geothermal energy, etc.)</i>		implemented	
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 4:</u> <i>Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions:</i> 4.1 Management of chemicals</p>	<p>4.1.1 Innovative community-based tools, approaches and piloting/testing of small-scale practices for management of the chemicals</p> <p><i>Non toxic domestic e-waste - selection, collection and recycling, innovative approach for partnership of NGOs with business sector.</i></p> <p><i>Develop or establish innovative community-based systems and approaches for reduction, collection, selection and recycling of the potential pollutants of the soil, water and air, with special emphasis on the elimination of the use and reduction of the POPs</i></p> <p><i>Management of chemicals and organic waste and systems for preservation of agricultural areas</i></p>	Aprox.3 projects	<p>At least 60 households trained on proper management of chemical substances;</p> <p>At least 60 households trained in integrated pests management;</p> <p>At least 60 households collect separately non-toxic domestic e-waste;</p> <p>Waste management system is upgraded with collection of non-toxic domestic e-waste for a population of at least 2000 inhabitants;</p> <p>At least 1 strengthened nationwide network in safe use of chemicals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</li> <li>• Strategic partnership with IPEN country partners</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</li> <li>• Country Programme Strategy Review</li> </ul>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 5:</u> <i>CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):</i> 5.1 SGP supports establishment of “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms”, leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries</p>	<p>5.1.1 NGO-government dialogue platforms and empowering NGO voice</p> <p><i>Strengthening human and technical capacities of NGO for environmental control, impact on the work of the local and national environmental bodies and influence policies planning</i></p>	<p><i>Global level OP6 priority</i> <i>Cross-cutting priority for the CPS at the national level</i> <i>All four GEF of OP6 components</i></p>	<p>At least 20 projects contributed to developing and maintaining the dialogue;</p> <p>At least 4 strengthened thematic platforms of communication and dialogue;</p> <p>Environmental NGOs Network extended: 5 NGOs in environmental related fields working with members of environmental NGO Network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</li> <li>• SGP Global Database</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</li> <li>• Country Programme Strategy Review</li> </ul>

<p><b>SGP OP6 Component 6:</b> <i>Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):</i> 6.1 Promoting social inclusion</p>	<p>6.1.1 Transpose of the knowledge for accessibility for the socially excluded groups</p> <p><i>Youth and children awareness and knowledge exchange.</i></p> <p><i>Promoting gender equality</i></p> <p><i>Promoting inclusion of vulnerable groups.</i></p>	<p><i>Global level OP6 priority</i> <i>Cross-cutting priority for the CPS at the national level</i> <i>All four GEP of OP6 components</i> <i>Aprox. 2 projects</i></p>	<p>At least 20 projects oriented in social inclusion;</p> <p>All projects assure gender equality;</p> <p>At least 5 projects include activities directly involving young people and children;</p> <p>At least 2 projects include work on inclusion of vulnerable groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</li> <li>• SGP Global Database</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</li> <li>• Country Programme Strategy Review</li> </ul>
<p><b>SGP OP6 Component 7:</b> <i>Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):</i></p>	<p>7.1.1. Promoting knowledge exchange, share of lessons learned through global digital library</p>	<p><i>Global level OP6 priority</i> <i>SGP country teams (NC and PA)</i> <i>global database inputs</i> <i>All four GEP of OP6 components</i></p>	<p>All publications will be published in global digital library <a href="http://data.communitiesconnect.net">data.communitiesconnect.net</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SGP Global Database</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</li> <li>• Country Programme Strategy Review</li> </ul>

## 5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is a permanent basic component of the SGP program and aims to measure progress and achievements at country level. Under the program, M&E is realised at the planning, implementation, and finalisation stages. M&E will identify implementation difficulties and will help to identify and evaluate the achievement of proposed objectives. M&E activities are represented by different types of reports that help to maintain the program accountability, sustainability, allow replication and provides an opportunity to identify and to communicate the learned lessons.

Monitoring focuses on tracking the progress of project activities and achieve planned results. This allows keeping track of activities under the project, to determine whether project objectives are met and to make the changes necessary to improve project performance. The evaluation refers to a periodic activity aimed at assessing the relevance, performance, effects, and impacts of a project vis-a-vis the project objectives.

One of the principles of the SGP program is involvement of stakeholders in the assessment and self-monitoring. Involving beneficiaries in the project M&E will promote mutual understanding on project approach and will allow capacity building and transfer of lessons learned within the program.

The GEF SGP Moldova has established the M&E system on project and programme level. GEF SGP M&E activities are conducting on two levels:

1. Programme level - M&E of the National programme and its country project portfolio
2. Project level - M&E during the project proposal preparation, its implementation and after its conclusion

On the project level, the M&E system consists of various types of reports to evident projects progress, accountability and impact, regular communication and coaching of the NGO's through the whole process of project development, implementation and post project period and projects site visits and on-spot checks.

During the project preparation, GEF SGP will request grantees to set realistic and achievable indicators as a part of the project proposals and project work plan, upon which the successes of the project activities will be measured. GEF SGP Moldova recommends setting one (maximum two) indicators in each of thematic focuses. During the project implementation, project site visits, meetings with grantee and relevant project stakeholders are performed by the NC to observe the actual implementation of the project and to confirm the information contained in the project progress reports. A final site visit is conducted upon receipt of the final project report. Each site visit results with Monitoring Record, shared with grantee, which indicates the objective of the visit, observations, recommendations and actions to be taken. The grantees are responsible to submit regular interim and final Project Narrative and Financial Reports, Project Monitoring. An Audit report by independent consultant as well as company audit report are recommended for each project. After the project conclusion, post project visits with post project reports will be conducted.

CSO is directly responsible for project results achieving. In the project proposals development process, CSO involve also target groups and partners, fact that leads to condition of their involvelent in monitoring and evaluation process. Their opinions and visions should be reflected in monitoring and evaluation reports. NC and NSC members involved in M&E process have the right to discuss and to interview with the project partners and beneficiaries.

On the programme level, the information and indicators gain on the project M&E level are regularly evidenced, systemized and recorded in the GEF SGP global database and summarized in the Annual Country Reports (ACR). The programme M&E results are regularly communicated with

the NSC, CPMT/UNOPS regional team, NGO's and public. The findings of the M&E are used to evident progress and contribution of the programme towards the CPS outcomes and to take appropriate adaptive management measures if necessary.

**Table 4. M&E plan at the Country Program Level**

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible parties	Budget source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy Development	Framework for identification of community projects	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantees	Covered under the preparatory grant	At start of operational phase
Annual Country review of the country program strategy	Learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	The reviews will be annually <sup>5</sup> to ensure that CPS keep the step with the plan in achieving its targets and results and to take decisions on any needs related to the revision or adaptive management
NSC meeting for ongoing assessments and project results analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP	Covered under country programme operating costs	Minimum twice a year, once dedicated to M&E and adaptive management at the end of the grant year
Annual country report (ACR) <sup>6</sup>	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presented to NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in June
Annual monitoring report (AMR) <sup>7</sup> Study (based on ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donor	NC presents CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in July
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Programme	NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per operational phase

## 6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PLAN

GEF Small Grants Program requires co-financing for the projects respecting the 1:1 formula, that means that for every dollar spent from the GEF funds should be attracted one dollar from other sources. In the same time, it is permissible that up to 50% of the co-funding will be in kind and at least 50% of it will have monetary coverage.

<sup>5</sup> The CPS is a living document, and should be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary by the NSC on a periodic basis as part of the annual strategy review.

<sup>6</sup> The country programme should be reviewed in consultation with the NSC members, national Rio Convention focal points, and the associated reporting requirements. The Annual Country Report should be presented at a dedicated NSC meeting in June each year to review progress and results and take decisions on key adaptive measures and targets for the following year.

<sup>7</sup> The AMR Survey will essentially draw upon information presented by the country in the Annual Country Report (ACR) with few additional questions. It will enable aggregation of country inputs by CPMT for global reporting.

According to surveys, the monetary financing, which must be demonstrated by civil society organizations, remains the biggest challenge within the GEF SGP. Projects co-financing opportunities that will be supported by SGP of GEF in OP6 were identified in the framework of funding programs of the Austrian Development Agency, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, EU Delegation in Moldova, Embassy of Slovakia in Moldova, Polish Embassy in Moldova, US Embassy in Chisinau, Romanian Embassy in Moldova, Swedish Embassy in Moldova, East-European Foundation, National Environmental Fund, Energy Efficiency Fund, Social Investment Fund. These can be found in Annex 2 of the Strategy.

Funds can be accessed as regular calls for projects announced by development partners. In this case, the CSO should pursue the projects financed from the SGP and other donors to be implemented in the same period to be considered as SGP co-financing.

With the projects financed under the SGP, CSO can bring added value to large projects, implemented by UNDP Moldova and other donors active in the country by complementary activities involving community mobilization, youth involvement, etc. However, projects implemented by CSOs, with the support of SGP, could help to achieve a bigger outcome, forming partnerships with civil society organizations or local authorities, which implements in the same time projects funded by other donors and are relevant for strategic initiatives of SGP of OP6. Such projects can be realized with financial support of the Social Investment Fund, Energy Efficiency Fund, IFAD. In this regard, before launching calls for SGP projects, NC will require from these institutions the list of projects under implementation and contact details of implementing organizations, will inform CSO about the opportunity to create partnerships with respective organizations/authorities and the modality of justification of the co-financing in such a partnership. In case of such partnerships it is important to note that, in order to justify the co-financing money, in the SGP reporting must be demonstrated the funds that were spent on the project during the implementation of the SGP project, including from partner accounts. If this is not possible to prove, but the partner can give an statement of his co-financing contribution, then this form of co-financing is considered to be in kind.

Other ways of co-financing of projects under the GSP can be accessed from donations from individuals, business, and local government contributions. SGP encourages attracting co-financing from these sources, especially from business, including co-financing in kind by providing spaces for offices or meeting rooms, equipment, materials, volunteer's work, etc. SGP will finance several capacity building projects, which will organise learning sessions for the CSOs on the application and project's implementation, project proposals development following the SGP strategic initiatives.

## **7. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Environmental and social sustainability are fundamental to achieve the development outcomes and must be systematically integrated into the cycle of UNDP programs and project cycle management. Thus, during the risks management plan development were taken into account the UNDP [Social and Environmental Standards](#), political and financial situation in the country, previous experiences of implementing the SGP and other projects and programs supported by international and national donors.

**Table 5. Description of risks identified in OP6**

Describe the identified risk	Degree of the risk / probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Risk of non capitalizing and disappearing in time of results achieved on lands/public buildings within SGP projects (e.g: plantations, environmental infrastructure, informational panels, etc.)	Medium /High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating partnerships with LPAs, competent authorities, other CSOs;</li> <li>• Capacity building of LPAs, competent authorities, traders, population and other stakeholders, in the field project topics;</li> <li>• encouraging to establish the public monitoring teams;</li> <li>• encouraging the dialogue platforms CSO-Government/LPA;</li> <li>• budgeting and construction of fences for project results (e.g protection fences for plantations).</li> </ul>
Risk of a negative impact on the environment and population health	Low/Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assessing the probability of such a risk during the evaluation of project proposals;</li> <li>• implementation of project activities following the environmental compliance, management plans of protected areas (where these exist), river basin management plans (where these exist);</li> <li>• consulting experts in relevant fields;</li> <li>• encouraging budgeting of expenditures for laboratory investigations, where appropriate;</li> <li>• encouraging the use in the process of projects' implementation, facilities and installations with low emissions/ non-polluting, if applicable;</li> <li>• encouraging the implementation of pollution prevention standards and rational use of resources,</li> </ul>
Risk of overlapping of the project activities	High/Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation and dialogue with other donors for information on the projects implemented.</li> </ul>
Risk of delayed implementation of project activities because of unsuitable work season	Medium/Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• respecting the terms of proposals' evaluation;</li> <li>• respecting the terms for signing contracts and transfer the installments;</li> <li>• adjusting the activity plans of the projects, if necessary</li> </ul>
Risk of climate change impact on the project results	Medium/Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the risk of climate change impact, and development of adaptation or mitigation measures were appropriate</li> <li>• Adjustment of the activities plan due to climate hazards</li> <li>• Budgeting the expenses related to adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change impact</li> </ul>
Risk of lack of co-financing	Medium /High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• signing of bilateral agreements between GEF SGP program and other potential national and international donors;</li> <li>• providing necessary assistance to civil society organizations, by NC, identifying and accessing the required co-financing;</li> <li>• acceptance for evaluation of project proposals without proof of co-financing and the introduction of a clause in the procedures for financing of a grace period of up to six months to find co-financing, after which it will sign the agreement for project funding between SGP and applicant;</li> <li>• CSO consultaion by SGP and evaluation of the difficulties of accessing and reporting of co-financin and difficulties related to the co-financing origin;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yearly analysis of the risk within the NSC meetings and adjustment of the SGP strategies to reduce the risk</li> <li>• Reducing the monetary co-financing to parity rate of 1:0,7</li> </ul>
Risk of non-assimilation of available funds due to the reduced capacity of CSOs	Medium/Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• regular assessment of needs for capacity building of CSOs in the fields of interest to the SGP;</li> <li>• organising training sessions for CSO capacity building and reducing the potential risk;</li> <li>• preparing an annual report on the degree of assimilation of SGP funds, according to GEF-6 strategic initiatives and reporting on NCC meetings to take appropriate decisions in order to reduce the degree of manifestation of that risk.</li> </ul>
Risk of inadequate implementation and reporting	High/High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increasing the capacity of CSO on project management, financial management, financial reporting under the GEF SGP</li> </ul>
Political risk	Medium/Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintaining a permanent dialogue between GEF SGP and central public authorities involved in ensuring the co-financing of the SGP projects in order to reduce the risk related to the procedure of obtaining the co-financing from these institutions;</li> <li>• maintaining the dialog platform between CSO - Government - LPA;</li> </ul>

During the implementation of SGP OP6, risk monitoring will be permanently performed by the NC. Periodically, NC will organise consultations with stakeholders, considering the indications of the risk management plan, in order to evaluate in a proper way the risk level and its validity.

## 8. NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Inga Podoroghin	
Silvia Pana-Carp	
Aurel Lozan	
Liubomir Chiriac	
Octavii Ivanov	
Oxana Paierale	
Tatiana Lujanscaia	
Victor Cimpoeş	

## GEF SGP Moldova Operational Phase 6

### Annex 1 to Country Programme Strategy *Landscape baseline study*



SGP organized two trainings on Project Proposals writing for CSOs and NGOs



Awarding of Environmental Journalists



## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AEE	Agency of Energy Efficiency
LPA	Local Public Authorities
TEP	Thermo-electric plant
CCF	Forum on Climate Change in the Eastern region Partnership
NC	National Coordinator
NSC	National Steering Committee
WEEE	Waste of electrical and electronic equipment
OP	Operational Phase
EUR	Euro
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
FAO	United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture
EEF	Energy Efficiency Fund
NEF	National Ecologic Fund
SIFM	Social Investments Fund of Moldova
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
QE / QA	Questionnaire for self-evaluation ex-ante of the NGO and questionnaire for self-evaluation ex-post
SRE	Source of Renewable Energy
SGP	Small Grants Programme
USA	United States of America
EU	European Union
USD	USA Dollar

## ANEXA 1: OP6 LANDSCAPE BASELINE ASSESSMENT

### Water resources

Water is a renewable natural resource, vulnerable and limited, indispensable for life and society, a key factor in maintaining the ecological balance, a raw material for production activities, a source of energy and a transport mean.

Activities and relations in the field of water management are regulated by: Law on Environmental Protection (no.1515/1993); Water Law (no.272/2011), entered in force on 26 October 2013; Law on riparian buffer zones and shelter belts of rivers and water basins (no.440/1995); Law on Natural Resources (no.1102/1997); Law on Environmental Pollution (no.1540/1998).

The following state bodies formed the institutional framework for the water resources management:

- i. Ministry of Environment, through subordinated institutions: Agency "Apele Moldovei" (surface water); Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources (groundwater); State Ecological Inspectorate (authorization of special water use, environmental laws enforcement); State Hidrometeo Service (monitoring surface water quality);
- ii. Ministry of Health, through its subordinated institutions: the National Centre for Public Health; Public Health Centers in the districts (monitoring and issuing the sanitary authorisation of water consumption for drinking purposes and recreation of the population in special areas);
- iii. Local Public Authorities (Water protection and use on the administered territory).

The water resources in the Republic of Moldova are represented by: 3.621 rivers and streams with a total length of over 16 thousand kilometres; by 4,126 natural lakes and artificial pools with a surface of 40 878 ha, located and constructed on the river courses and in their watersheds; by 7801 artesian wells and 166 542 shallow wells and springs with shallow underground water.

The main water courses are Nistru and Prut, which are border rivers, the length of which in Moldova is 660 km and, respectively, 695 km, and the total area of their basins is 19 070 km<sup>2</sup>.

The most important source of drinking water is surface water, especially from Dniester River, which constitutes about 83%, from Prut River - 1,8%, and from other surface water sources - 0.2%. Sources of groundwater captured from artesian wells, springs and shallow wells constitute about 15% of general consumption of water for drinking purposes.

Currently in Moldova there are 170 mineral water deposits, of which about half, for various reasons (mainly because of the content of fluorine and hydrogen sulfide exceeds the maximum allowable concentrations by 8 or sometimes even 10 times), are not exploited in the end.

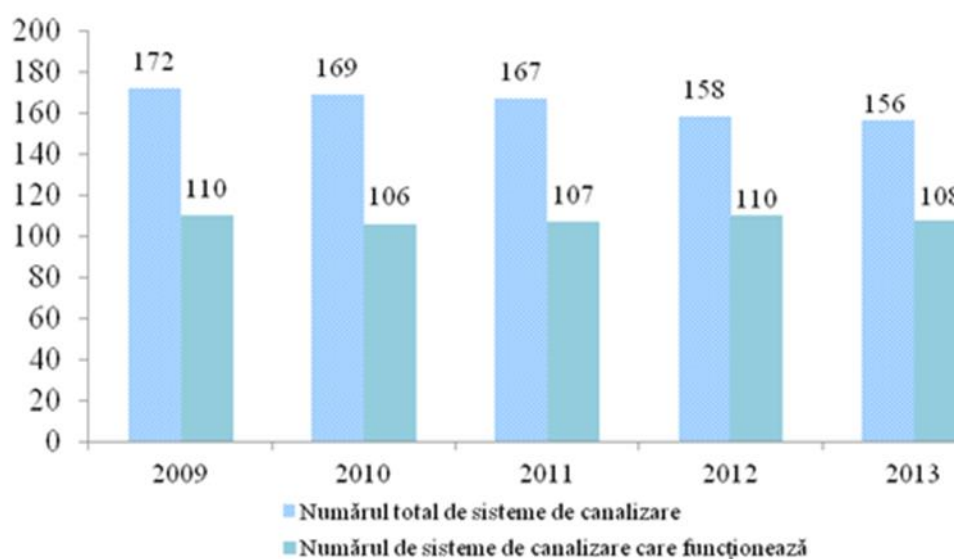
Moldovan population is about 3.558 mln. inhabitants, including 1.503 mln. - in urban areas and 2,055 mln. - in rural areas. The volume of water currently available in Moldova is around 500 m<sup>3</sup> per capita per year. The internationally recommended thresholds defined the volume of 1,700 m<sup>3</sup> per capita per year as a safe level of availability of fresh water.<sup>1</sup> In case the volume of water available is less than 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> per capita per year, water shortages may create obstacles in economic development and affect health and living standards of the population.

<sup>1</sup> National Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chişinău, 2014. pag.31

*Water resources management* shall be based on a river basin approach - for basin districts of Nistru River and separately for Prut-Danube River Basin - Black Sea located in Moldova. Within the river basin districts the sub-basins are formed. All small and medium rivers located in Nistru River basin district have connection with Nistru River and those situated in Danube river basin district located in Prut-Danube river and Black Sea - with Prut river. According to GD 775 of 10.04.2013 on the boundaries of river basin districts and sub-basins of Moldova there are two river basin districts (Nistru and Prut-Danube-Black Sea), including a total of 39 sub-basins.

According to statistics (2012), in the country there are 828 aqueducts, 73 of which are not functional. 378 municipalities (38.7%) are connected to these aqueducts, out of which 76.7% are in cities and 36.2% - in rural areas. Number of localities connected to aqueducts increases annually. This is due to increased investments in the sector, which, over the last five years amounted to about 1.9 billion (32% from domestic sources and 68% from foreign donors). Thanks to these investments, more than 180 supply systems were put into operation.<sup>2</sup>

It should be noted that the biggest problem in water supply and sanitation sector remains the lack of sewage systems and wastewater treatment plants for the newly built aqueducts. Out of total aqueducts (828), only 158 are equipped with sewage systems (from which only 110 operate) and 124 are equipped with waste water treatment stations.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, every year, the number of sanitation systems is decreasing. Thus, in 2013 these numbers decreased to 156 (of equipped with sewage systems) and 108 (which operate) respectively. Dynamics of existence and functioning of sewage systems is shown in the figure below:



Connection rate of the population to centralized water supply is approximately 43%, excluding Chisinau and only 21.4% of the population benefits from centralized wastewater collection, of which only 1.0% in rural areas.

The water resources were negatively influenced in both quantitative as well as qualitative way. Their state is conditioned by:

- Human activities carried out in riparian buffer zones of rivers and lakes (land use, cutting of trees, washing vehicles, etc.);
- Failure to comply with environmental requirements on creating and restoring shelter belts in the riparian buffer zones of river and lakes;
- Absence of clear limits of riparian buffer zones of rivers and lakes;

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chișinău, 2014. pag.33

<sup>3</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chișinău, 2014. Pag.33

- Capturing springs which supply rivers with water;
- Construction of water basins on water courses (construction of dams with hydro installations);
- Irrigation without license;
- Silting of rivers due to washing of fertile layer of soil from agricultural lands into the rivers;
- Inadequate waste management.

Water quality is influenced by anthropogenic and physical factors. Qualitative characteristics of natural waters is based on the physical, chemical and bacteriological indicators. In this context, it should be noted that water quality is first of all influenced by human activity. The main indicators of pollution analyzed by State Hidrometeo Service, Ecological Investigation Centres of the State Ecological Inspectorate are: ammonium, nitrates, nitrites, chemical and biological oxygen demand, suspended matter. Concentrations of pollutants in surface water vary depending on the season, the highest being identified in the warm periods of the year.

Water quality of Nistru and Prut rivers, according to hydro-chemical indicators, correspond to classes II (clean) and III (moderately polluted) of water quality. The water of these rivers is moderately polluted with biogenic elements, such as nitrogen, phenol, copper compounds, petrol products.<sup>4</sup>

The quality of water of small rivers is characterized by a high degree of pollution with ammonium ions, nitrites, copper, oil products, phenols, surface-active substances, increase of BOD5 and low content of dissolved oxygen in water. Most polluted rivers requiring urgent improvement are: the Bic river downstream Chisinau municipality, the Raut river downstream Balti municipality, the Cogilnic river downstream Hincesti town, the Lunga river upstream and downstream of Ceadir-Lunga town. The water of some small rivers especially in the south of the country, crossing rock masses with a high salt concentration, is not allowed to be used even for irrigation. The quality of water of Bic, Ciuhur, Girla Mare, Sarata, Lapusna, Cubolta, Lunga, Cogilnic, Ichel and Botna riveres, according to hydrobiological indicators, corresponds to the 3<sup>rd</sup> rank of water quality (moderately polluted).

Only 54% of springs correspond to parameters of good quality water that could be used as drinking water, most of which is captured water.<sup>5</sup> Lack of solid waste disposal systems, the lack of elementary and sanitary measures which would protect the quality of water resources are the main causes of polluting water in shallow wells (84.2% of the wells are polluted), though these are a source of drinking water for about 75% of the rural population. Typically, water from wells is polluted with nitrates, nitrites, manure runoff stored near water sources in the yards of the people.

Water pollution is caused, in most of the cases, by insufficiently treated waste waters, discharges of untreated waste water from municipal sewage, inadequate solid waste management, pollution of waters with manure, or with pesticides used in agriculture, by petrol deposits/storages, petrol stations and other pollution sources from energy sector.

A special impact on the quality of water is generated by storm waters which are brought in big quantities into rivers after powerful storms. Hereby, these are bringing into rivers a high concentration of pollution (waste water, solid waste, organic fertilizers, other harmful substances and products).

An imminent danger for groundwater pollution is provoked by abandoned artesian wells, which usually have damaged construction or the open well mouth. All these causes thr mixing of rainwater with underground waters, thus worsening the quality of aquifers.

<sup>4</sup> Environmental state in the Republic of Moldova, Chisinau, 2011

<sup>5</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chisinau, 2014, pag.32

Transboundary water pollution generates pressure with neighboring countries (Moldova-Romania, Moldova- Ukraine). According to bilateral research agreements concluded between Moldova and Romania, Moldova and Ukraine, water quality monitoring of Nistru and Prut river is carried out. Thus, during 2014 samples of water from Nistru and Prut rivers were taken and the results of water quality indicators evaluation did not exceed maximum allowable concentrations (CMA).<sup>6</sup>

## Biodiversity

The Moldova's biological resources are represented by a specific variety of plants, animals, mushrooms and micro-organisms the value of which is indisputable for any terrestrial, water or air ecosystem. The diversity of species is determined by the country's geographical position, climate and paleogeographical conditions, the exchange of biota with neighboring regions and, especially, by human impact.

Activities and biodiversity management relations are governed by the Law on Environmental Protection, no. 1515/1993; Forest Code, no. 887/1996; Law on green spaces in urban and rural areas no.591 / 1999; Animal Kingdom Law, 439/1995; Law on State Natural Protected Areas Fund, nr.1538 / 1998; Law on Fish Fund, Fishing and Aquaculture, no.149 / 2006.

The institutional framework for the management of biodiversity is composed of the:

- i) Ministry of Environment through subordinated institutions: Agency Moldsilva (state forest fund, protected areas covered with forest vegetation, wildlife hunting in the forest), State Ecological Inspectorate (environmental enforcement and authorization in forestry sector including for wildlife hunting), Fishing Service (environmental compliance and authorization of use fishing resources);
- ii) Local Public Authorities (subordinated forests, green areas, protected areas located on the subordinated territory);
- iii) the Academy of Science (protected areas, according to Law no. 1538/1998);
- iv) legal entities and individuals (private forest fund);
- v) Association of Hunters and Fishermen of Moldova (fauna fur hunting and wetland birds).

Forest resources are constituted of forest fund resources and forest vegetation located beyond forest fund. Forests have a special role in maintaining the ecological balance in combating desertification and land degradation, biodiversity conservation, landscape protection, water and watershed protection, in assuring food and energy security, in mitigating the impact of climate change and preventing and reducing risks of natural disasters.

As of January 1, 2014, the forest fund of the Republic of Moldova, representing 13.6% of total land area, is about 446 400 ha. About 379.300 ha of this area are covered with forest land, the rest are lands for reforestation or for various administrative needs. The forest vegetation outside the forest fund is around 51 900 ha. According to the Real Estate Register, kept by the State Enterprise "Cadastre", 81.1% of the national forest is in the state ownership, 18.3% are owned by local authorities (municipalities) and only 0.6% by private owners.<sup>7</sup>

According to the Forest Code, forests are exclusively functioning for environmental protection. Five functional subgroups of forests are distinguished, as for:

- water protection - 1.6%
- land and soil protection - 7.9%
- protection against industrial pollution and climatic factors - 47.4%
- recreation - 26.4%

<sup>6</sup> Annual report of the State Ecological Inspectorate -2014. Environmental protection in the Republic of Moldova

<sup>7</sup> Republic of Moldova: Information note on the policy in forestry sector. Publishing house Stiinta, 2015, pag.5

- scientific interest and conservation of Genetic Resources and Forestry ecofund - 16.7%

The green areas in urban and rural settlements used for recreation constitute 21553.56 ha, including: general use - 6790.56 ha, restricted - 3166.29 ha, with specialized profile - 106.17 ha, with utility functions - 9805.7 ha, and as tourist area - 36.43 ha.<sup>8</sup> It should be noted that during the last years a massive reduction of green areas was noticed, due to their conversion into areas occupied by construction. Huge green areas of the Republic of Moldova are sold or rented. Many green areas degraded around water basins, in the parks of the cities, towns and villages. Besides reducing the territory covered with vegetation, green areas pollution is another serious environmental problem. Decrease of green areas impose higher environmental risks on urban spaces, having an immediate negative impact on their sustainability, quality of life and health of the population.

The current surface of forests and other types of forest vegetation in the country is insufficient to meet the needs of maintaining the ecological balance of the environment. The consequences of this situation lay in climate, hydrological and geomorphological hazards (droughts, floods, landslides, erosion). The decrease of forest ecosystems in rivers watersheds caused not only a significant reduction of biological diversity by also deficiencies in socio-economic development of the country.

State Natural Protected Areas in Moldova occupy an area of 189 400 ha, which represents 5.5% of the country and is much lower than in most European countries.<sup>9</sup>

In accordance with the Law no. 1538-XIII of 25 February 1998 on the natural areas protected by the state, there are 12 categories of state natural protected areas including: scientific reserves, natural landscape reserves, biosphere reserves, national parks, natural monuments, dendrological gardens, zoological gardens, wetlands etc.

Analysis of the functional structure of natural areas protected by state indicates that the core part of these areas are scientific and landscape reservations. Most state protected areas are located in the forestry sector, which represent 15.3% of the forest and about 17% of the area covered by forests.

Relatively low share of natural areas protected by the state does not ensure effective conservation of biological diversity as required by international conventions in the field. From scientific point of view, expanding of network of protected areas at the national level up to 10% from the total surface of the country could ensure protection of about 50% of all species, which represent biological diversity of natural ecosystems. The situation is getting worse every year because the protection regime in most natural areas protected by state is not assured properly. It must be mentioned that the network of protected areas does not meet at all the criteria of the International Union of Conservation of Nature and requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity and should be adjusted to the provisions of IUCN and the mentioned Convention.<sup>10</sup>

In Moldova there are three protected areas with the status of a wetland of international importance, with a total area of 94 700 ha, where the greatest diversity of fauna is concentrated and which aim to protect and conserve natural habitats and migratory birds both at national and at European levels. These are: "Lower Prut Lakes", "Lower Dniester" and "Unguri- Holosnita". Unfortunately, the natural, economic or cultural importance of these areas is less known. Wetlands are used for economic purposes, irrigation, fishing, grazing, hunting or recreation,

<sup>8</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chisinau, 2014, pag.43

<sup>9</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chisinau, 2014, pag.44

<sup>10</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chisinau, 2014, pag.45

being transformed or completely destroyed. The lands of these wetlands of international importance are managed by Agency "Moldova's Waters" Agency "Moldsilva", local public authorities and other owners. Because of the mismanagement of these areas, there are about 150 thousand hectares of wetland and floodplain which require restoration and ecological reconstruction.<sup>11</sup>

Proper management of wetlands of international importance should be carried out in accordance with certain plans. So far, drafts of the management plans have been developed for two Ramsar areas, and necessary documents were prepared to convert one of these into the national park (National Park Lower Dniester). However, improvement of policy management is necessary in this area at all levels, as well as development of relevant documents and regulations for wetlands of international importance. However, some of these are recognized as core areas of the National Ecological Network, but there is no approved list of wetlands of national importance and criteria of their establishment which would be officially approved.

National Park "Orhei" was established on the area of 33792.09 hectares including 18 villages of 4 districts - Orhei, Straseni, Calarasi and Criuleni. Draft Resolution on the founding of the first national park in the Republic of Moldova was approved on 12 July 2013, the procedure was initiated back in 2008. The National Park Orhei benefits from a special protection and conservation of species of wildlife, and elements or formations with ecological, scientific, recreational and cultural value, located in this area. The main parts of the park are the cultural-natural reserve "Old Orhei", Landscape Reserve Trebujeni, a segment of forest with Curchi monastery and Tiganesti Landscape Reserve with Tiganesti Monastery.

The aims of establishing the national park are:

- ensuring biodiversity conservation;
- maintaining and improving the quality of ecosystem services;
- maintaining the genetic diversity of plants;
- promoting organic farming;
- restoring forests, grasslands, meadows;
- protecting and conserving water resources;
- increasing recreational activities and tourism potential.

Flora diversity determines fauna diversity in natural ecosystems (terrestrial and aquatic). According to the number of animal species that inhabit the country, Moldova is placed among countries with relatively rich fauna. The vertebrate fauna includes 70 species of mammals, 281 species of birds, 14 species of reptiles, 14 species of amphibians and 41 species of fish. Invertebrate fauna is quite rich - about 15,000 species, of which only 13,000 are species of insects.<sup>12</sup>

Intense exploitation of forest, aquatic, steppe, meadow ecosystems endangered the animal world diversity, causing deterioration of food chains in these ecosystems. The process of degradation of the natural and anthropic ecosystems has a significant influence on the wealth of animal and vegetal world. Forest ecosystems provide diversified living conditions for animals, but essential forest fragmentation reduce the possibility of exchange of their populations. Forest ecosystems of the central Codrii forests have a richer flora diversity than in the North of Moldova, determining a richer diversity, the south of the country has a lower flora and respectively fauna diversity. Due to the reduction of forests surface and extensive grazing in meadow and steppe ecosystems, some species of flora and fauna have become vulnerable and rare. Thus, the Red Book of Moldova is completed with the new endangered species that have to be taken under state protection. If the first edition of the Red Book (1978) included 29 animal species and 26 plant species, the second edition (2001) includes 126 plant species and 116

<sup>11</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chisinau, 2014, pag.45

<sup>12</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chisinau, 2014, pag.44

animal species, then the 3rd edition which was published in 2015, contains 208 species of plants and 219 species of animals.

A relatively low diversity of aquatic fauna was kept in lower courses of Nistru and Prut rivers. Some ponds were drained, others were silted and degraded, and no longer functions as an aquatic ecosystem.

Animal species hunted are in a dramatic quantitative decline, caused by excessive poaching, high number of predators (foxes) and lack of effective hunting management.

## Eco-Tourism

In Moldova there are over 15 thousand places of touristic attraction and over 300 important natural areas. Development of touristic heritage objects is ensured through territorial tourism planning in accordance with town planning and landscaping documentation (PATN, 2008).<sup>13</sup> According to the National Bureau of Statistics in 2015 these were visited by 242 600 tourists, with 1.9% more than in 2014. Out of 15 500 foreign tourists and backpackers who visited Moldova in 2015, 65.1% arrived with the purposes of rest, recreation and leisure. Number of tourists in domestic tourism in 2015 was 37.3 thousand tourists, down with 13.5% compared to 2014. Transfer of Moldovan citizens within the country for tourism, was organized especially by travel agencies and tour operators from Chisinau (42.4%) and developing regions: Centre (28.6%) and South (25,2%).<sup>14</sup>

Objects of tourism are an important number of fields used in various economic activities, which have tourism destination and which forms the landscape attractive for excursions and hiking, but also contains tourism facilities (hotels, villages for holidays, agropensions, resorts, etc.). Some categories of land (foreseen for natural protection, health care, recreational activities, historical and cultural value lands, lands of suburban areas and green areas, forestry fund, water fund) have the characteristics necessary for lands with touristic priorities. Agricultural lands are also interesting for tourists as a business card of the countryside.

A potentially important attraction for tourists represents Moldova's forested areas. Approx. 45% of the total are forests for recreation and nature conservation activities and should be used for excursions, organised recreation and spa treatment as various alternative types of unorganized tourism.<sup>15</sup>

Currently in Moldova there is a system of recreational areas related or connected to water basins of national importance. The beaches represent the most widely used recreational type connected to water basins. Travel arrangements for national recreation areas related to water basins (Vadul lui Voda, Soroca, Vatra, etc.) are clearly regulated in Moldova.

The country has a complex system of natural areas under state protection: 12 categories of natural protected areas (over 66 500 ha), which include 178 different types of reservations, 130 natural monuments, and 433 secular trees. Eight types of protected areas correspond to IUCN classification, and four categories are of national interest (botanical garden, dendrological garden, landscape architecture monument, zoo). The vast majority of protected areas are located within village communities, which create prerequisites for the development of ecotourism and rural tourism.

However, the territories included in natural protected areas are slightly included as trails for excursions. Streams of visitors are sporadic, the trails are unmarked and spaces for leisure and

<sup>13</sup> <http://adtm.md/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Avantaj-e-turism-RM.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.statistica.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=5080>

<sup>15</sup> <http://adtm.md/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Patrimoniu-natural-RM.pdf>

food are not well arranged. However, there are few places arranged for organised recreation in reserves, known and accessible for the population and the country's guests. In natural protected areas none of the accommodation facilities are classified under national law. Thus, ecological tourism in Moldova is almost non-existent. It should be mentioned that Natural Protected Areas Fund is just partially open for tourism. Low interest is manifested for the promotion of ecotourism activities and most protected natural areas are not managed properly or are abandoned, administration of reserves does not apply management of ecotouristic destinations. Bad road infrastructure in the areas of ecotourism interest, lack of a program to promote ecotourism, and practice of "wild" tourism in natural protected areas compromise eco-tourism development.

According to National Tourism Agency, as for 2016 there are the following eco-tourist routes:

- National tourist route nr. 16 "Little Delta of Moldova": Chisinau - Cahul - Manta - Văleni - Slobozia Mare - Giurgiulesti - Chisinau with the excursion on nature, history, ecology. Length of the route - 480 km round trip.
- National tourist route nr. 15 „Through UTAG and Bugeac": Chisinau - Comrat - Tomai - Ceadâr Lunga - Cazaclia - Taraclia - Beșalma - Chisinau with excursion on nature, culture, wine, history. Length of the route - 350 km round trip.
- National tourist route nr. 13 "Monasteries of Codrii forests": Chisinau - Condrița - Capriana - Hincu - Chisinau with excursion on culture, nature, religion, pilgrimage. Length of the route - 180 km round trip.
- National tourist route nr. 12 "Middle Prut": Chisinau - Glodeni - Cobani - Butesti - Balatina - Moara Domneasca - Falesti - Ungheni - Radenii Vechi - Chisinau with excursion on history, nature, ecology. Length of the route - 480 km round trip.<sup>16</sup>

During the period of May 2013 - December 2015 a project "Quality Certification System in agrotourism - CerTour" was implemented by the Association of Tourism Development of Moldova and Suruceni Mayorality within the "Black Sea 2007-2013" supported by EU. As a result of the project 6 agrotouristic pensions and 3 touristic zones of Moldova were evaluated, certified and included in the international network CerTour<sup>17</sup>:

- GOLDEN Category: Agrotouristic Pension "Eco-resort Butuceni", Agrotouristic pension "Casa din Lunca" agrotouristic pension "Hanul lui Hanganu", touristic pension "Fata Morgana".
- SILVER Category: agrotouristic pension „Casa Verde”, agrotouristic pension "Vila Roz".

Certified companies in Moldova and those included in the international network will be able to attract more customers and thus develop rural tourism and / or ecological potential of Moldova.

## Climate change

In Moldova, the character of climate changes observed was identified through the study of evolutionary trends and variability of basic climatic indicators. Early 90s of the twentieth century is considered a "reference point" for global warming. Proceeding from this, the average annual and seasonal temperature and precipitations measured by Chisinau meteo station (which observed temperature - since 1887 and precipitations - since 1891) were studied and compared for two periods of time:

- at the beginning of observation period up to 1980 and
- from 1981 to 2010.

The results obtained allowed to state that modification trend of average annual temperature of air before 90s of XX century was very low (0.05°C per decade or ~ 0.50° C per century). Beginning with 90s of the twentieth century, this index increases quickly (about 0.630°C per decade or ~ 6.30 °C per century). Moreover, compared to the first period of study (1887-1980),

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.turism.gov.md/>

<sup>17</sup> [http://adtm.md/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Comunicat-de-presa-28.01.16\\_pe-site-ADTM.pdf](http://adtm.md/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Comunicat-de-presa-28.01.16_pe-site-ADTM.pdf)

trends of temperature change over the last three decades (1981-2010) are statistically significant for thermal values that characterize the summer season and those which characterize the average annual values and those for spring and autumn seasons. Trends in evolution of average annual and seasonal precipitations for two periods evaluated are positive for all seasons except spring season (1891-1980) and summer (1981-2010), for which trends were negative. It should be noticed however that slight increasing trends in average annual and seasonal precipitations are not statistically significant, except for the annual period 1891-1980.<sup>18</sup>

The comparison of average annual and seasonal temperature and standard deviations for the two reference periods have confirmed substantial changes in temperature regime. With a high degree of certainty, it has been established that the average seasonal (except autumn) and annual air temperatures during the last three decades are different from the values recorded during the previous periods, while the variability of this index remains almost unchanged (except annual average air temperature for which a significant increase in variability of the respective index was stated over the past three decades). The analysis of average annual precipitation does not show statistically significant differences. Also, no significant differences were found in the variability of precipitation, with the exception of the spring season.

### **Impact of climate change on various economic sectors of the Republic of Moldova**

*Agricultural sector.* Direct impacts of climate change and potential socio-economic consequences that are relevant to agriculture include effects of changes in temperature and thermal stress; changes in rainfall volume, intensity and seasonal distribution; and an increase in extreme and potentially harmful weather conditions. It is anticipated that climate change will bring both advantages and disadvantages for crops in Moldova. Although warmer temperatures would extend the growing season, it could also increase the damages caused by heat stress, changes in precipitation regime and problems with pests.

According to vulnerability assessment of risks / opportunities associated with climate change in agricultural production, the most vulnerable regions of Moldova in relation to climate change will be South (Plain of Southern Moldova, terraces of lower Prut and Nistru rivers) and partly Center (Plateau of central Moldova and Nistru and Prut river terraces, Raut, Bic and Botna rivers), for which it was discovered that most of the risks, with high probability, relate to climate change. For Moldovan agriculture it is considered that five of the identified risks should be of a high priority: the high risk of drought and water scarcity; increased irrigation needs; erosion, salinization of soil, desertification; high risk of pest diseases; and reducing production of basic cereal crops (wheat and corn). Three of these risks include potential consequences of changes in precipitation regime, heavy precipitation in winter and low water availability in summer. Hereby, actions should be examined to conserve water in winter, in order to maintain water supply in summer. Much of the research for adaptation in the agricultural sector will be focused on actions to combat water scarcity in the future. Adaptation options, such as water conservation measures and adjusting planting and harvesting periods, could be instrumental in reducing losses associated with water scarcity in the future. Other adaptation options include the introduction of new varieties and hybrids, for example, with greater resistance to drought and heat, and developing policies and practices to increase the flexibility of agricultural systems. Certain better definitions of critical climate thresholds will also be beneficial for adaptation planning. Out of opportunities identified, the potential for increased production of certain crops, whether as a result of high yield based on the new climate regime or because certain new crops could be raised in the particular regions, was the largest priority. Thus, attention will be paid to promoting crops that have potential in new climate conditions.

*Water resources sector.* Climate change is only one of the factors that will determine future indexes of availability and use of water. Non-climatic factors may aggravate or mitigate the

<sup>18</sup> Third National Communication of the Republic of Moldova, developed in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, <http://clima.md/doc.php?l=ro&idc=81&id=3506>

effects of climate change on water availability and quality. They also could have a significant impact on water demand. Increased pollution and development will play a dominant role. Target of real water supply for all users will be threatened by a trend of changing water resources due to climate change already by the 2020s, when the intensity of use of surface water will approach 100 percent.

Although big rivers are the main source of water, access to water is not equal in Moldova. The greatest distance between a village and the nearest source of water is about 6 km. About a quarter of the population lives in the buffer zone of 6 km of Nistru and Prut Rivers; this area is 1/5 of the national territory and comprises 23% of the total number of localities. The remaining population is forced to rely on various water supply systems designed to transfer water from these rivers, or rely on local resources of poorer quality. The Northern part of the country (and the Central part, to a certain degree) is more or less provided with water, while the South suffers from a lack of natural water. Meanwhile, water transfer schemes of medium or long distance do not exist in the South. This region is among the most exposed to water scarcity. Also surface water resources in the South (and, rarely, in the Central part of the country) are most likely to be depleted during drought years. In these circumstances, geographical location of water users will play the decisive role in the future in providing access to safe water. Water scarcity region extends already to the North of Moldova, and reaches the most populated areas, and this fact puts maximum pressure on water resources and contributes to water use in a most intensive way. The most vulnerable regions to water scarcity will be the South, Centre of Moldova and Chisinau municipality, for which the highest risk of anticipated climate change impact was identified.

For water resources of the country, eight of the identified risks are considered to be priority: high risk of droughts and water scarcity; high requirements to irrigation; increasing the frequency and intensity of floods; reduced availability of water from surface water or groundwater resources; changes in demand for water; water quality indices (e.g., mineralization, hardness, dissolved oxygen) affected by high water temperatures and other factors; increased water pollution by pesticides and fertilizers, due to increased soil washing during heavy rains; changes in average annual water volume of the rivers, in terms of increase or decrease.

*Forestry sector.* Researchers anticipate that even small changes in temperature and precipitation could affect forest growth and survival in the future, especially in peripheral and transition areas of ecosystems such as forests in Moldova. The potential lack of summer rainfall with prolonged drought is the main limiting factor of growth and productivity of forests. Raising temperatures and changing of rainfalls are the main factors that expose the forests various insect pests and fungal diseases. Demand for water during the growing period is normally greater than the amount of rain available in reality. This shows that if raising of temperature does not coincide with abundant rainfalls, water scarcity could limit the growth to a greater extent than today. The effect of climate change on individual species can be positive or negative, depending on the location and the regional changes in climate. According to vulnerability assessment in terms of increasing the impact of climate change in the forestry sector, the most vulnerable regions in Moldova will be: south (where there is already the lowest level of coverage with forests, or 7.7% of the total geographical area) and partly Center (14.5% of the total geographical area), for which the greatest risk associated to climate change was determined. For forestry sector, seven of the identified risks are considered of high priority: negative consequences for species sensitive to temperature changes; regeneration rate change; change of species sensitivity to water scarcity; changing of individual density of trees; phytosanitary conditions change; changing species composition; possible increase in tree mortality. There is an opportunity associated with climate impact on the forestry sector: increased production of biomass. Adaptation measures in the continental-temperate bioclimatic zone, which also includes forests of Moldova, are very diverse. The research currently taking place and planned for the future include topics such as: seedlings adapted, biotic and abiotic damage, biological diversity, particularly genetic diversity, forestry processing and protective functions of forests.

Actions at the level of trees (regeneration and thinning, harvesting) aim to reduce risks of abiotic damage, such as fire, wind, drought and of biotic damage such as pathogenic pests and diseases. Building stable and diverse forests constitute a continuous measure and is planned to improve the stability of trees by selection of species, origin and corresponding genotypes.

The energy sector. Although RM primarily covers its energy needs from imports, the Moldovan Energy Strategy 2030 aims at strengthening local production capacity by modernizing and improving existing district heating power plants and construction of mini heating power plants. Another focus area will consist in production of energy from renewable sources such as biomass, solar and wind. Yet climate predictions and water availability show that some of these plans could be jeopardized due to climate scenarios. At present from 65 to 70% of water resources are used in industrial cooling and heating and hydropower production. However, water resources in the country are very sensitive to climate change effects. Thus, water scarcity will begin to negatively affect national development objectives for 2020, if their achievement would be based only on surface waters. If groundwater is added, water scarcity will become an obstacle for development by 2030. Moreover, one of the effects of climate change on water supply will be increasing instability of annual water flow: water inflow increased shortly in spring and sudden floods and deficit caused by longer and more severe droughts. Thus, the scarcity of water could become the main barrier in increasing the production of hydropower and cogeneration energy. In addition, climate forecasts show that the anticipated worsening of the humidity and the increasing desertification could damage the ecological conditions for forests crops growth by the end of the century. Finally, it represents a serious threat to energy production from biomass. Simultaneously, the anticipated increase in the number of days with temperatures exceeding 10°C will mean that household heating will be required for less days than now (Chisinau municipality district heating begins when the daily temperature is below 8°C). At the same time, it is expected that the summers and autumns will become hotter and drier. Thus, the demand of electricity needed to provide cooling indoors may increase. Even without taking into account the effects of climate change, it is expected that electricity consumption will increase up to 15% by 2020 compared to 2006. Considering the effects of climate change, we could anticipate that the demand for electricity will increase even more.

According to vulnerability assessment of risks posed by climate change on energy sector, the most vulnerable regions in Moldova will be: Chisinau, North and partly South of the country, for which there will be the highest risk with increased probability of climate change. For energy sector, five of the identified risks are of high priority: increasing the amount of energy used to cool commercial and residential buildings and for cooling in industrial processes; increasing damage of power networks, which create risks and hazards for transport and distribution of electricity; changing balance between types of fuel used to produce energy; increasing water scarcity could become an obstacle for increasing the production of hydropower and cogeneration energy; and reducing biomass production. There are three opportunities associated with climate impact in energy sector: reducing the amount of energy used for water heating in the residential sector, commerce and industry in Chisinau, Centre and South of Moldova; wind speed and direction could increase the potential and efficiency of wind energy generation with high probability in the South and lower - in the North and Center of the country; prolonged sunny periods of time could increase the potential of energy generation from solar sources in the South of Moldova, and in Chisinau municipality.

## Energy resources

Moldova is an importer of energy and natural gas, purchased from a single source representing the major source of fuel. The structure of the EU-27 energy mix is very different from that of the Republic of Moldova regarding the participation of natural gas (23.9% versus 40.5% in Moldova, or nearly half), so the impact of this dependency is different. Moldova's oil reserves are very low. They are located in the South of the country, being extracted in Cahul rayon, while reserves identified in Cantemir rayon, have not yet been exploited. Coal has a lower

participation in the energy mix in Moldova. In light of EU policy to promote the generation of electric energy with low carbon technologies, this should be seen as a favorable precondition of a coherent EU policy on the future energy mix implementation in Moldova.

A comparison of the consumption structure by activities shows that 46.8% of energy consumption in Moldova is represented by household consumption compared to only 26.5% in the EU and only 6.9% of industrial consumption compared to 24.2% in the EU.<sup>19</sup>

According to data on the dynamics of energy flows in electricity distribution networks, during 2015, the transmission and system operator, distribution networks operators and final suppliers purchased electricity in the volume of 4050.4 mln. kWh, with 0.4% more than during the previous year, and consumers, excluding consumers who used their eligibility, received by 1.8 percent more electricity (3616.2 mln. kWh) than in 2014. Data presented in the table below show an increase of 4.7 mln. kWh (0.6%) of the volume of electricity produced in 2015 comparing to previous year, when it was produced 792.8 million. kWh of electricity<sup>20</sup>:

**Table 1.** Volume of purchase and supply of electricity to consumers\*

Indicators	Measurement Unit	2001	2005	2010	2013	2014	2015	Modifications			
								2014/2013		2015/2014	
								Amount	%	Amount	%
1. Quantity of electricity purchased - total	mil. kWh	3 194,8	3 359,5	3 835,7	3 959,7	4 034,7	4 050,4	+75,0	+1,9	+15,7	+0,4
	mil. lei	1 161,6	1 180,1	2 905,5	3 903,9	4 265,4	5 383,3	+361,5	+9,3	+1 118	+26,2
2. Average price of purchasing electricity	bani/kWh	36,36	35,13	75,75	98,59	105,72	132,91	+7,13	+7,2	27,2	+25,7
3. Electricity quantity delivered to consumers - total	mil. kWh	2 166,0	2 585,0	3 229,2	3 435,2	3 553,3	3 616,2	+118,1	+3,4	+62,9	+1,8
	mil. lei	1 376,4	1 943,1	4 320,4	5 386,7	5 573,6	6 066,6	+186,9	+3,5	+493,0	+8,9
4. Average tariff of electricity delivery (without VAT)	bani/kWh	63,55	75,17	133,80	156,81	156,86	167,76	+0,05	+0,0	+10,9	+6,9

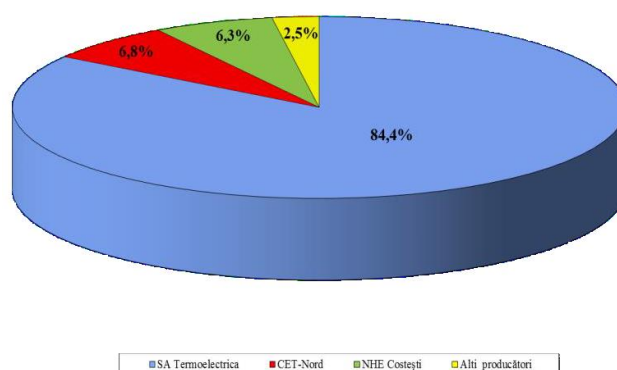
\*data don't include consumers which have a status of eligible consumer.

In 2015 increasing volumes of electricity produced happened due to increased production of electricity at power plants with district heating. Thus, the amount of electricity produced by S.A. "Termoelectrica" was 670.5 mln. kWh, exceeding by 10.1 mln. kWh (1.5%) the volume of electricity produced by S.A. "CET-1" and S.A. "CET-2" during the previous year (660.4 mln. kWh). Similarly, S.A. "CET-Nord" increased electricity production by 3.1 mln. kWh or 6.2%:

<sup>19</sup> Energetic strategy of the Republic of Moldova until 2030

<sup>20</sup> Report on ANRE activity for 2015

Figure 1. Structure of electricity production in 2015, %

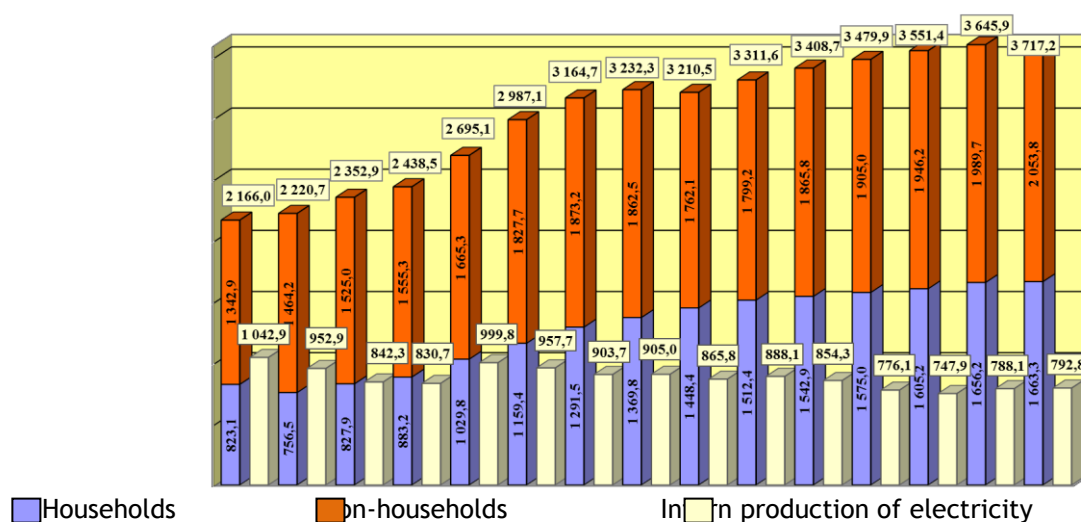


Meanwhile, SE "NHE Costești" has substantially diminished production of electricity (14.6% or 8.5 mln. KWh) caused by decrease of the water flow of Prut river occurred during the reference period. The amount of electricity produced and delivered into the network by other domestic producers, such as sugar mills by their own sources of generation or electricity generated from different renewable energy sources, remained practically at the same level (19.4 million kWh) as during the previous year (19,3 mil kWh).<sup>21</sup>

Changing energy consumption in 2015 compared to previous year differ substantially according to the main categories of consumers monitored. So, if electricity consumption increased in average by 2.0 percent, for households it was more an insignificant increase by 0.4%. Moreover, with reference to households, we note that if rural households increased their consumption by 1.9%, about equal to the average increase in consumption, then urban household consumption decreased by 0.8 percent. However, the greatest growth in consumption of 3.2%, was noticed for non-household consumers.

As a result, the structure of electricity consumption changed. Thus, the share of electricity consumption of households comparing to previous year decreased by 0.7 percentage points, while of non-household consumers increased correspondingly by 0.7% and constituted, in 2015 44,7% and 55.3% respectively of nominated categories. At the same time, the share of urban households decreased by 0.6%, from 24.3 to 23.7%.

Figure 2. Electricity production and use during 1997-2015 mil. kWh



<sup>21</sup> Report on ANRE activity for 2015

The amount of electricity produced from renewable energy sources increased by about 5.5 times in 2015 compared to 2014, during which a total amount of electricity from renewable sources constituting 3.1 GWh was delivered in electricity networks (according to information presented by network operators over the years concerned). It should be noted, that the largest increase of electricity produced from renewable energy sources is due to the start of operation of the power plant belonging to "Südzucker Moldova" S.A., with an installed capacity of 2.4 MW, which uses as fuel biogas produced from organic waste (sugar beet pulp) obtained from sugar factory in Drochia town.<sup>22</sup>

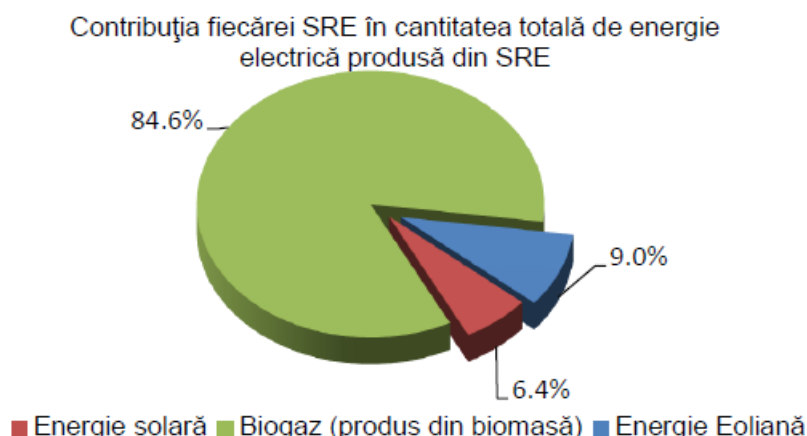
Table 7 presents aggregated data on various types of Renewable Energy Sources, related to the installed capacity of power plants, the number of guarantees of origin issued by network operators and the quantities of electricity produced from renewable sources and delivered in electricity networks during 2014 and 2015 for which guarantees of origin were issued.

**Table 2.** Production of electricity from renewable sources of energy during 2014-2015 according to guarantees of origin issued by network operators

Type of renewable energy	Nr. of guarantees of origin issued in 2015	Installed capacity, kW	Total electricity produced and delivered in electric networks, thousands kWh	
			2015	2014
Solar energy (Fotovoltaic)	95	1 257	1 091,0	377,8
Biogas (produced from biomass)	33	2 805	14 530,8	1 275,5
Wind energy	12	1 130	1 547,7	1 481,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>5 192</b>	<b>17 169,6</b>	<b>3 134,5</b>

Electricity produced from biogas has the largest share in the total amount of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in 2015 (84.6% of total electricity), followed by electricity produced from wind energy (9, 0%), respectively, and electricity produced from solar energy (6.4%; see Figure 3).

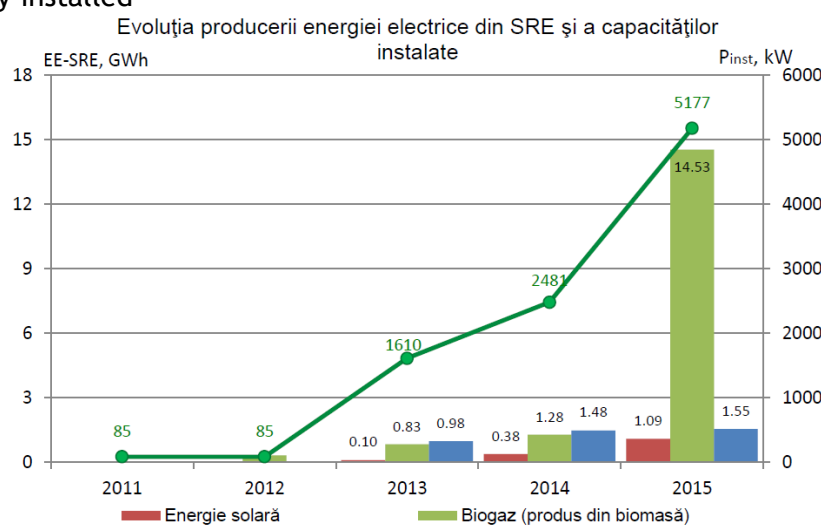
**Figure 3.** Electricity produced from renewable sources of energy in 2015



Simultaneously, the evolution of installed capacity of power plants that use renewable sources and the development of electricity production separately by types of renewable sources of energy (solar, biogas produced from biomass and wind), for 2011-2015, is presented in Figure 4.

<sup>22</sup> Report on ANRE activity for 2015

**Figure 4. Evolution of electricity production presented by types of renewable sources of energy and total capacity installed**



During 2011-2014, UNDP project "Energy and Biomass" was implemented in Moldova, supported by the EU Commission. The project budget was about 14.5 million Euro. In four years, the project has installed biomass heating systems in 144 public institutions in rural settlements. From 144 public institutions that have installed biomass boilers, 86 are schools, 49 kindergartens, 4 community centers, 3 mayoralty office and 2 vocational schools. These public institutions are used by a large number of people who benefited from the new heating systems operating on biomass. These beneficiaries are 26 835 children, 4.761 public servants and employees, 58.793 parents and other categories, in total - 90 389 people. All these actions of the Energy and Biomass Project in Moldova have generated over 350 new jobs. In most cases, new jobs were obtained by operators of new boilers and solid biofuel producers. In some cases, biomass power stations combined with energy efficiency measures have allowed for the extension of surfaces heated in public institutions and therefore led to the opening of new kindergartens, new classrooms in schools and hiring new teachers. Number of producers of briquettes and pellets has increased more than 10 times during the last four years, reaching to 130 companies.<sup>23</sup> General information about heating systems operating on biomass and installed by 2015, with the financial support of Energy and Biomass Project in Moldova can be found on the project site.<sup>24</sup>

## Land resources

Moldova has qualitative soil resources, which ensure the country's economic activity. Chernozems which are considered to be soils with high natural productivity, occupy about 70% of the total territory and 80% of agricultural land. The relief is diverse, and over 80% of arable land is located on the hillsides. Agricultural land belongs to: agricultural cooperatives (6.3%), joint stock companies (2.0%), limited liability companies (34.0%), farms (27.6%), households with farmland and gardens (14.2%); horticultural associations (0.3%), reserve fund and other land (15.6%).

Activities and management of land resources are regulated by the Law on Environmental Protection, no. 1515/1993; Land Code, no. 828/1991; Natural Resources Law, nr.1102/1997; Law on Ecological Expertise, nr.851/1996; The law on environmental impact assessment, no.

<sup>23</sup> <http://green.gov.md/libview.php?l=ro&idc=47&id=111&t=/Studii-si-analize/Studii-si-analize/Raport-final-al-Proiectului-Energie-si-Biomasa-in-Moldova-2011-2014>

<sup>24</sup> [http://www.biomasa.md/img/docs/MEBP\\_Proiecte\\_de\\_incalzire\\_a\\_institutiilor\\_publice\\_01.12.2014\\_RO.pdf](http://www.biomasa.md/img/docs/MEBP_Proiecte_de_incalzire_a_institutiilor_publice_01.12.2014_RO.pdf),  
<http://www.biomasa.md/map-map-2/>

86/2014; Government Decision no.1451 of 24.12.2007 approving the Regulation on the assignment, change of destination and exchange of land.

The institutional framework for management of land resources is constituted from the: i) Ministry of Agriculture and Food Processing (land use); ii) Ministry of Environment with subordinated institutions: State Ecological Inspectorate (control of the use of land resources); iii) Local Public Authorities (protection, use of land resources on the managed territory, cadastral records); iv) Agency for Land Resources and Cadastre (evidence, delimitation of public ownership lands, land use in other than agricultural purposes); v) legal and natural persons (use, protection of private land resources).

For Moldova agricultural sector is crucial being an important part of economy, food security and as a source of jobs. However, Moldova's agriculture lately suffered significant technological and structural changes. In general, income levels remain low, while the difference between efficient agricultural farms and individual farmhouses, amplified even more. Recent evaluations suggest that the most negative impact of agriculture on the environment is generated by incorrect crop rotation, or especially rotation absence, drastic reduction of organic fertilizers use, which led to soil infertility, improper use of mineral fertilizers and chemical products including for plant protection.

All this conditioned quality of soil resources, which is described as mostly unfavorable, their use remains inefficient, often destructive. Soils are permanently subject to intensive degradation caused by both natural and anthropogenic factors, which finally reduce soils productivity and extends agricultural land desertification.<sup>25</sup>

The natural factors contributing to soil degradation are storms or strong rains during the warm season, destroyed relief of agricultural lands (80%), saline rocks, unfavorable groundwater level and its high mineralization etc. According to studies, eroded land area constitutes 877 644 ha, out of which 504 777 ha are slightly eroded, 259.332 ha are moderately eroded and 114.165 ha are strongly eroded land.<sup>26</sup> Annual direct and indirect losses caused by erosion, are estimated at 2.432 billion MDL. Moreover, about 84,000 ha of land are strongly eroded and affected by landslides and ravines. The growth rate of the area affected by landslides is 1,000 ha annually.<sup>27</sup> Most affected areas by landslides are placed in Nisporeni rayon (2.956 ha), Calarasi rayon (2.147 ha), Ungheni rayon (2.065 ha), Hincesti rayon (1.165 ha), Straseni rayon (697 ha) and Telenesti rayon (538 ha).<sup>28</sup>

Landslides affect residential houses, roads, hydraulic structures etc. Currently, 80% of the lands affected by landslides are removed from use and assigned to the reserve fund, recorded as "land for afforestation".

The biggest impact on soil quality is caused by anthropogenic factor. Thus, privatization of land and land parceling, lack of agricultural crop rotation, lack of erosion measures, failure to implement best practices for soil protection and conservation have complicated effective management of soil resources. Narrow privatized parcels located along the slopes, soil ploughing which is performed in the same direction (from hill down the valley) accelerates erosion. Often considerable areas of qualitative soils at the initiative of landowners are excluded aside and remain uncultivated.

Average fertility of soils in the country is 63 points. This indicator is reduced annually by soil degradation processes: erosion, dehumification, destructuring, secondary compaction,

<sup>25</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chişinău, 2014, pag.37

<sup>26</sup> Republic of Moldova: information note on the policy in forestry sector. Publishing house Stiinta, 2015, pag.26

<sup>27</sup> Republic of Moldova: information note on the policy in forestry sector. Publishing house Stiinta, 2015, pag.26

<sup>28</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chişinău, 2014, pag.38

salinization, transformation of soils in swamps. Over the past 30 years, the surface of eroded soils increased by 223 800 ha, advancing by about 6400 ha annually and is at the moment over 880 thousand hectares, which is 25.93% of the total country's area or 40% of the country's agricultural land. The highest level of erosion of agricultural land is registered in Calarasi (56.1%), Cahul (44.4%), Hincesti (43.7%), Ungheni (43.4%) and Nisporeni rayons (43.4 %). The annual loss of fertile agricultural soils due to erosion is, by some estimates, 26 mln. tons, including humus - 700 thousand tons, nitrogen - 50 thousand tons, phosphorus - 34 thousand tons, potassium - 597 000 tons.<sup>29</sup> Indirectly, the process has other consequences: siltation of water ponds and other water bodies, soil and groundwater pollution with plant protection products and fertilizers, destruction of communication lines and hydro-technical constructions etc. Diminishing of soil quality is conditioned by dehumification processes. In arable soils, humus content decreases by about 10 tonnes annually for a hectare because of reduced organic matter and use of fertilizers in soils.<sup>30</sup>

Soil destruction occurs due to various earthworks, like mining, which results in increased areas of non-productive soils. At the same time destruction of protective shelter belts of agricultural lands could be mentioned here.

According to land cadastre, in 1991, the area of protective shelter belts of agricultural lands constituted 31 thousand ha. Currently, coverage of agricultural landscapes with protective shelter belts is two times less, than it is needed (58 thousand hectares are needed).<sup>31</sup> Thus, to improve the environmental situation of soils, it is necessary to form a network of shelter belts with different functions.

## Organic farming

According to the Ministry of Agriculture in 2015 it was recorded, that 36 businesses use land for organic farming on the area of 7757.60 ha and 2.825 m<sup>2</sup> - for greenhouses. During 2015 they were controlled by the authorities of inspection and certification "ECO Certified" and EFC "BioZoo" Ltd., authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture. Environmental certifications were obtained by nine businesses for 7199.88 ha of land and 2.825 m<sup>2</sup> - of greenhouses. These lands were cultivated, mostly for cereals, sunflower, soybean, sorghum, beet, lucerne, lavender, medicinal and aromatic plants, on smaller surfaces - vegetables, aronia, lavender, blackberry, raspberry. Part of the land is occupied with fruit trees such as plum, almond, apple, nuts and by vineyards. The 36 certified businesses are located in the districts of Anenii Noi - 1; Stefan Voda - 2; Orhei - 3; Hincesti - 4; Drochia - 4; Ungheni - 2; Leova - 1; Rezina - 1; Singerei - 4; Cimislia - 1; Glodeni - 1; Calarasi - 2; Edinet - 2; Donduseni - 1; Floresti - 1; mun. Balti - 2; Straseni - 2, Mun. Chisinau - 2.<sup>32</sup>

## Chemical substances

Due to reduction of diffuse sources of pollution in recent decades, pollution of soils decreased. There have been significantly reduced the quantities of fertilizers and pesticides used in agriculture, there is no current problem of pollution by nitrates (except for rural areas where soils are strongly polluted with manure) and heavy metals (zinc, nickel and mobile lead). There happens local soil pollution with mobile copper due to unregulated use of chemical substances containing copper.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chişinău, 2014, pag.37

<sup>30</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chişinău, 2014, pag.38

<sup>31</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chisinau, 2014, pag.38

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.maia.gov.md/>

<sup>33</sup> Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, Chisinau, 2014, pag.38

Activities of chemicals use are regulated by the Law on Environmental Protection, 1515/1993; Law on harmful products and substances, nr.1236 / 1998.

The following state bodies form the institutional framework in this field:

- i) Ministry of Agriculture and Food Processing (authorization and use of chemicals);
- ii) Ministry of Environment (Control and authorizing the use of chemicals-State Ecological Inspectorate);
- iii) Ministry of Health (Control and authorizing the use of chemicals);
- iv) the institution subordinated to the Ministry of Interior Affairs - Emergency Department (transportation of hazardous substances);
- v) Local Public Authorities (use of chemicals on subordinated land, security and protection); vi) legal and natural persons (storage and use of chemicals on private land).

The problem of local pollution of soils with waste and harmful substances becomes more acute. Waste of different categories is stored and transported chaotically around the settlements. Apart from waste deposited in authorized and spontaneous areas (ramps, platforms and polygons), significant amounts of waste, mostly solid are transported or thrown in ravines, in protective shelter belts of lands, in canals and small rivers, on roadsides, on degraded lands etc. These wastes pollute primarily soil and also groundwater.

### **Pesticides management**

Another problem is local soil pollution with pesticides, persistent organic pollutants, especially around current and former warehouses of agricultural chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) and deposits for preparation of plant protection chemical substances. With surface runoff, these pollutants are accumulated in soils and in water bodies. Also, construction materials obtained from demolition of old warehouses are important factors of soil pollution in places of where these are stored or used.

During 2008-2010, an inventory and mapping of areas contaminated with persistent organic pollutants was carried out at the national level. A total of 1,588 contaminated sites were identified, which include 2,326 objects of chemicals preparation: pesticides warehouses, stations for chemicals preparations, stations for helicopters, evaporation places and illegal places of pesticides burial. The most common types of chemicals preparation and storage infrastructure are former warehouses of chemical fertilizers storage (45% of total constructions) and stations for chemicals preparation (34%).

At the moment, in 7 warehouses of district centers more than 980 tons of pesticides are stored for future elimination. Out of these, 730 tons of solid pesticides from 6 deposits in Alexandreni settlement, Calarasi rayon; Budzhak and Gaidar settlements, in UTAG region; in Hincesti, Falesti and Ungheni towns are planned to be eliminated within the project funded by NATO and implemented by the Ministry of Defence. About 250 tons, which are stored in the warehouse of Pascani village, Criuleni rayon, were repackaged in 2015 and are expected to be eliminated within the regional EU and FAO funded project and implemented by FAO in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Processing.

Lately there has been noticed soil pollution with petrol products throughout the country, the main sources being petrol storage places and petrol stations, car wash and car service stations, as well as accidental pollution.

### **Solid municipal and production waste**

Solid waste management is closely linked to the country's development objectives. Local governments are responsible for solid waste management, therefore they need to establish appropriate fees and ensure financing of waste management system. Special sanitation services

exist in municipalities, in all district centers, including small towns within districts, municipal waste management being carried out in an organized manner, through these services. In rural areas, there are no organized waste management services, transportation of waste to sites being made individually by each generator. Currently there has been some attempts to create waste collection services in some rural areas.

Municipal waste generation is influenced by many factors, the most significant being income of the population, consumer behavior, appearance on the market of new packed products and demographic evolution. A high level of income of the population and urbanization has resulted in the generation of large quantities of waste per capita in rural areas which are usually between 0.3 to 0.4 kg per inhabitant per day and 0.9 kg per inhabitant per day or more, in urban regions.<sup>34</sup>

The amount of solid waste generated and collected in 2014 in a centralized manner in urban and rural areas was 2,437,943 m<sup>3</sup> of waste. Storage of solid waste in 2014 was conducted in 1,158 waste sites/deposits with an area of 1235.5 ha organized by local authorities<sup>35</sup>.

At present (2016) feasibility studies and reports on environmental impact assessment are developed in the context of creating a system of waste management in three of eight areas of waste management system in Moldova, which are included in the waste management strategy for the years 2013-2027, and namely: Southern Development Region - Cahul, Cantemir and Taraclia; Central Development Region - Calarasi, Nisporeni and Ungheni; Northern Development Region - Briceni, Donduseni, Edinet and Ocnita. Until April 2016, as a result of the study and working sessions organized a place has been identified for landfill which will be arranged in Southern Development Region. It will be built on the existing landfill of the Cahul town as well as two transfer stations in Cania village and Taraclia town, for which decisions of local councils should be taken on the procedure of land use change.

According to art. 20 of the Law on municipal and production waste<sup>36</sup>, burning of waste of any origin is prohibited in Moldova. However, due to massive accumulation of waste which is not recycled or reused, often waste from landfills or vegetal waste accumulated each autumn after harvesting of agricultural production or the leaves fall is burnt in an open form. This happens due to poor knowledge on the efficient way of waste management and poor investments in waste management infrastructure and namely in recycling, composting, production of biomass / biogas etc.

Management of municipal and production waste is regulated by the Law on Environmental Protection 1515/1993 and Law on municipal and production waste no. 1347/1997.

The institutional framework on waste management is formed by: i) Local Public Authorities (collection, transport and disposal, creation and management of public services in the field); ii) Ministry of Environment through the State Ecological Inspectorate, district subdivisions (control and authorization of waste disposal); iii) Ministry of Health (control and authorization of waste disposal).

## **Hazardous waste**

Toxic waste / hazardous has a significant impact on the environment and especially on the population's health, which forms less than 1% of all waste collected in the country.

<sup>34</sup> National Strategy on Waste Management - GD 248 from 10.04.2013

<sup>35</sup> According to Bureau of National Statistics.

<sup>36</sup> <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=311576>

In 2013 a total of 726.8 tonnes of hazardous waste were generated in the country. According to the statistical study, the main types of hazardous waste generated were: petrol waste - 259.1 tons, production and use of paints and varnishes - 0.161 tonnes, petrol slurry - 251.5 tons, waste containing lead and its compounds - 104.8 tons. Among those ferrocyanide waste is also included, which presents historical waste stocks as a result of the wine production in the country. Currently, this waste is kept in wineries in special containers. At the moment 3837.46 tonnes of waste containing cyanide compounds is identified (with the 1st class of toxicity). It should be noted that modern technologies used in winemaking do not generate ferrocyanide waste.<sup>37</sup>

Medical institutions produce various waste consisting of food scraps, medicines waste (pills, powders, reagents), laboratory antigen-testing, disinfectants, detergents, biowaste (culture media materials, biochemical materials, immunological, biological substrates (blood, serum, organic tissues), medical devices and radioactive materials, and municipal waste. However, about 10-25% of medical waste is hazardous waste that requires special treatment. These fractions of medical waste present an increased risk for both human health and for the environment. According to statistics, annually medical institutions form about 2,000 tons of medical waste.<sup>38</sup>

Treatment of infectious waste in the autoclave method is organized at district hospitals: Soroca, Telenesti, Soldanesti, Taraclia and Chisinau municipality. For destruction of stabbing / cutting hazardous waste special devices NULIFE were found in Criuleni and Telenesti towns, while dust formed is sent to landfills for solid municipal waste. In some institutions infectious medical waste are burned in furnaces or in metal containers located within the institution. The method of incineration in special equipment is used in Institute of Phtiziopneumology "Chiril Draganiuc" and other places. Anatomical - pathological parts formed in hospitals are buried in Bekkari pits or in cemeteries.<sup>39</sup>

### **Electric and electronical equipment waste**

In recent years an increase in imports of electrical and electronic products is noticed, which impacts the state of environment and health, considering the fact that those contain hazardous substances such as lead, bromine, mercury, chromium, halogen substances. Currently several initiatives were launched to develop collection and recycling of these types of waste, but proper management of these categories require an appropriate legal framework that would oblige producers of this equipment to contribute to the establishment and operation of the this type waste management system in Moldova as it exists in neighboring countries (by promoting producer responsibility principle). The draft Regulation on these types of waste management has been developed by the Ministry of Environment and will be promoted after the approval of the Waste Framework Law.

### **Coalitions and management networks of chemicals**

At present, in Moldova, there is an informal network of environmental NGOs who work in chemicals management field. This network already has several projects in management of obsolete pesticides, agricultural chemicals, food safety etc. This network includes EcoContact, Mostenitorii, ProDezvoltareRurală, Speranta Carpineni, Certitudine NGOs and consumer assistance centers in Chisinau and Cahul municipalities as well as others.

<sup>37</sup> Annual report of the State Ecological Inspectorate-2014. Environmental protection in the Republic of Moldova, pag.134

<sup>38</sup> Annual report of the State Ecological Inspectorate-2014. Environmental protection in the Republic of Moldova, pag.135

<sup>39</sup> Annual report of the State Ecological Inspectorate-2014. Environmental protection in the Republic of Moldova, pag.135

## Dialogue platforms between the Government and NGOs and policies influence

According to the Strategy on Civil Society development for 2012-2015<sup>40</sup>, there are over 8200 NGOs in Moldova. Most of these CSOs registered (approx. 65%) are located in Chisinau municipality, although this administrative territorial unit is representing only about 25% of the total population. According to estimates, there are over 1000 CSOs registered in the Transnistrian region of Moldova, contributing to a certain extent, to representing of citizen interests in the region and establishing contacts among the two banks of Nistru river. Moldova has about 1.9 of OSC reported per 1,000 inhabitants, which represents some progress compared to Ukraine (1.2) and Russian Federation (1.6). According to estimates, about 25% of all CSOs are sufficiently active and develop various projects and initiatives. One reason in reduced number of active CSOs is lack of financing sources inside the country and lack of mechanisms for income generation through the provision of services. Moldova does not have a clear policy of support and development of NGO sector.

CSOs in Moldova are working in various fields and are involved in various sectors. Analyzing the situation in quantitative terms, nearly half of organizations are working in social or education field. Every tenth NGO is working on human rights and other 7.4% - in the youth sector. Environment is the area of activity for 6.5% of organizations, and 4.3% are interested in economic development. Media is a concern for 3.4% of the organizations.

Overall, CSOs in Moldova work for all citizens. However, these activities are mostly oriented for children and youth (60.3%). Older people (elderly, pensioners, veterans are beneficiaries of a proportion of 17.8% and professional groups - of 17.0% of the organizations. NGOs which involve and develop women constitute 4.6% of CSOs, and every tenth NGO said that state institutions are their main beneficiaries. Also, every tenth NGO works for the benefit of vulnerable groups of the society and 7.8% act for the development of other CSOs. Associations pay less attention to disadvantaged groups of people. Thus, only 4.6% of the organizations work for persons with disabilities, 3% - for minorities and 2.7% - for victims. At the same time, 7.8% of the organizations work for all citizens.

One of the major concerns is alienation of citizens from the government process. In this context, as in many others, civil society constitutes an important element of democratic process. This gives citizens an alternative way, alongside with those of political parties and lobbies of channeling different views and different interests and of ensuring the decision-making process. Low participation of civil society in decision-making is based on a number of causes, including deficient legislation on transparency of decision-making process, bad institutional practices taken by central public authorities and local public authorities, low capacities of CSOs to participate in decision making process, weaknesses of educational system in the field of democratic citizenship, level of socio economic development and, in consequence - lack of a middle class interested in public participation, perception problems of public participation of CSOs as political involvement, lack of donor programs that would have stimulated more active civil society participation.

On the other hand, there are many other networks of CSOs dealing with policies to develop the sector represented by the National Council of NGOs in Moldova, Alliance of NGOs active in the field of Social Protection of Child and Family, Alliance of Organisations for Persons with disabilities, Network of NGOs in the field of AIDS, Anticorruption Alliance, Women's Forum, Women's Political Club 50/50, the National Environmental NGO Council, Coalition to promote Law on volunteering and related activities, National Youth Council of Moldova. Some networks have significant experience of cooperation with related ministries.

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.consiliulong.md/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Strategia-de-Dezvoltare-a-Societ---ii-Civile-din-Republica-Moldova-2012-2015.pdf>

Moldovan civil society is now more active and organized than before 2009. Approaching the European Union, including signing of Association Agreement has made possible the involvement of civil society representatives in consultation process with public institutions. Furthermore, dialogue with civil society has become mandatory. Consequently, access of civil society in discussions on various draft laws, public policies and strategies has lost its "elite" character (when only NGOs which had the same view with the ministries were involved in consultations), and at present state institutions can not completely ignore the recommendations coming from independent experts not unaffiliated politically.

Although there were concrete steps undertaken to ensure a permanent dialogue between governments and civil society, institutionalization of this cooperation remains problematic. By Decision No. 11 of 19.01.2010 of the Government of Moldova **National Council for Participation (CNP)** was created<sup>41</sup>. According to the document, it will be the assistant of Policies, Strategic Planning and Foreign Aid Department of State Chancellery of the Government of Moldova.

CNP is formed of 30 representatives of civil society. The mandate is given for two years. National Participation Council aims to facilitate stakeholder participation in the development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and updating of documents of strategic planning. CNP's mission is to contribute to public policy decisions adoption that meet the interests of society.

Council aims to develop and promote the strategic partnership between public authorities, civil society and private sector to strengthen participatory democracy in Moldova by facilitating communication and stakeholder participation in identifying and implementing strategic priorities of the country's development at all stages and creation of the framework and building institutional capacities to assure the entire involvement of interested stakeholders in decision-making process.

Strategic directions of activity include:

- I. Provide expertise in public policy development, monitoring and evaluation of public policy implementation
- II. Facilitate the involvement of civil society and private sector in public decision-making process

In order to perform the mandate of CNP for 2012-2014, five working groups were created. Each group had a coordinator and an assistant. The coordinator was a member of this working group, working group members were elected by a simple majority of votes.

Working groups within CNP 2012-2014:

1. Justice and Human Rights
2. Economy, finance and entrepreneurial environment
3. Security and Foreign Policy
4. Social, health and education issues
5. Environment and Sustainable Development

Permanent Bureau may set up ad-hoc groups, at the proposal of at least two members of CNP to promote ad hoc initiatives.

Until 2016, CNP has exercised two mandates, the last ending in 2014. Mandate from 2012 to 2014 was very active and visible, CNP providing civil society opinion on the drafts of legislative and regulatory acts included in Government's agenda at each meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers. After finishing the mandate in 2014, when Parliamentary elections occurred, CNP has not been renewed, because of many Governments that were changing during 2015 and because of political instability in Moldova. Thus, in the fall of 2014, the political class was not really interested in reanimation of this mechanism of cooperation with civil society to monitor the

<sup>41</sup> <http://cnp.md/>

governance act, although civil society organizations requested several times re-establishment of CNP in discussions with candidates for the position of Prime Minister, with the ministers elected in 2015-2016, and the administration of the Parliament of Moldova. After many discussions and a resolution of Civil Society Forum in November 2015, the Government has decided to renew the mandate of CNP, but create it not only to cooperate with the Government but also with the Parliament of Moldova. A joint meeting of the Parliament - Government - Civil Society was organised in April 2016 to determine the new form of CNP and a working group was created which at the moment is forming the new model of CNP.

Another network of collaboration with decision makers at central level is the **National NGO Council from Moldova (CN ONG)<sup>42</sup>**, which aims to develop a favourable framework for NGOs development through their involvement in discussing/launching/monitoring drafts of laws and public policies which influence NGOs activity.

The objectives of the National NGOs Council from Moldova are:

- Facilitate dialogue between NGO - Government, Parliament and other social partners;
- Prepare NGO Forums and help achieve resolutions adopted at the Forum;
- Develop collaborative projects of NGOs which work in different fields;
- Contributing to the development of favorable legal framework for the development of NGO sector;
- Establish working groups for implementing decisions Forum;
- Facilitate the exchange of information between NGOs.

The National Council of NGOs from Moldova is a form of self-organization of civil society, composed of 11 elected members of civil society at the National Forum of Civil Society, which is held every two years. The Council's mandate is to achieve Resolution of Civil Society Forum, which mostly focuses on issues related to the creation of favourable legal framework for the development of civil society in Moldova. The National Council of NGOs from Moldova has the longest history, reaching in 2016 its 8th mandate of activity.

In addition to this, the National NGOs Council from Moldova intervenes within different thematic areas and urgent topics in society, at the request of civil society organizations. These interventions are manifested through various lobbying and advocacy campaigns where civil society organizations interact with decision makers. Thus, the Council intervened in cases of allocation of funds from the National Ecological Fund in supporting environmental organizations in the process of stopping extraction of sand from Prut and Nistru rivers stipulated in the law on naval transport, etc. The Council was involved in the development and monitoring of implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Civil Society for 2012-2015, including the development of several internal mechanisms of financial support for CSOs which were not supported by the central public authorities, which did not want to create a solid basis for the development of civil society.

In environmental area there is a **National Council of Environmental NGOs**, which was founded at the beginning of 2000 but for various reasons has suspended work for several times over the years, being revived in early 2015 at the environmental NGOs Forum, held in December 2015.

National Council of environmental NGOs consists of nine members representing associations, coalitions, networks, working groups, the basic purpose of which is environmental protection, pollution reduction, pursuing sustainable development. Every two years, up to 1/3 of the members are renewed under the rotation principle, the election of new members is done by environmental NGOs at the Annual Forum of Environmental NGOs. The Board's goal is to identify the resources needed to increase the quality of the whole process of environmental protection, sustainable development and public involvement, and strengthen cooperation of NGOs with

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<sup>42</sup> <http://www.consiliulong.md/>

central authorities to implement appropriate environmental policies and assure their integration into national and sectoral policies of the state. Council promotes environmental policies and represent and defend the interests of environmental CSOs in their relations with government, competent authorities, businesses, donors, etc. The Council meets at the initiative of the Chair or one of the members to discuss topics of common interest in the field of environment. Periodically, the National Environmental NGOs hold meetings with the Ministry of Environment, which promote environmental policies and legislation implementation.

NGOs communicate through the platform of electronic communication - forum-list@vox.md, which brings together 204 e-mail addresses of environmental civil society organizations. This communication platform is used mainly for information dissemination, exchange of experiences, outreach to various actions and position papers, to various events for NGOs of Moldova.

Some NGOs are organising lobbying and advocacy campaigns to promote public policies implementation, cooperating for this with relevant ministries and members of the Parliament. However, these are not so many NGOs which mostly are situated in Chisinau municipality. At the same time, so local NGOs established good relations with the local public authorities to promote local interest policies, including environmental protection.

## Gender equality aspects

Despite the efforts made by public authorities, development partners and CSOs, since the Law on insurance equal chances for women and men, substantial structural problems which affect disproportionately both sexes still persist:

1. the level of representation of women in decision making bodies mostly did not change;
2. women are discriminated on the labor market and upper-represented in the worst paid economic sectors;
3. women are disproportionately much taking care about children, having minimum support from dads, these realities being caused by public policies and society;
4. the number of victims of domestic violence is steadily growing.<sup>43</sup>

**The Republic of Moldova has a low level of gender equality.**<sup>44</sup> The gender equality Index<sup>45</sup>, for 2009 and 2014 shows that at the moment the Republic of Moldova is at the middle of its path towards achieving gender equality. In 2014, a significant deterioration of gender equality was registered in four areas (less than 70pts.).

**Table 3. Gender equality index 2009-2014**

Relevant areas	Index value 2009	Index value 2014	Progress/Regress
Labor market	70	63	-7
Politics	32	34	+2
Education	55	54	-1
Acces to resources	77	75	- 2
Perceptions, Stereotypes	47	52	+5
Health	73	71	-2
<b>Gender equality Index</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>-1</b>

<sup>43</sup> Gender equality agenda. Proposals for the governmental program on the promotion of gender equality in 2014-2018.  
[http://progen.md/files/5604\\_7649\\_agenda\\_reforma\\_egalitatea\\_de\\_gen.pdf](http://progen.md/files/5604_7649_agenda_reforma_egalitatea_de_gen.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> Gender equality index 2015. The impact of gender policies 2009-2014.  
<http://www.progen.md/index.php?pag=n&opa=view&id=333&tip=publicatii&start=&l=>

<sup>45</sup> Gender Equality Index aims to measure the level of gender equality and the annual progress towards it. Gender Equality Index is calculated on the basis of 31 indicators of impact, grouped into six categories relevant, such as: (i) employment, (ii) policy, (iii) Education, (iv) access to resources (v) Perceptions and Stereotypes, (vi) Health. For each category a sub index was calculated, which can vary from 0 - indicating total inequality between men and women and 100 - indicating perfect equality of gender. Thus, as calculated index is closer to 100, the more the level of gender equality in that area is higher.

The level of gender equality in the Republic of Moldova has decreased comparing to 2009. This factor is due to lack of relevant reforms for promoting gender equality. Politics remains the main area with the highest level of gender inequality. This is the area which has minimum progress, mainly at the local level, results achieved without the implication of political factors.

The National Program for Gender Equality did not produce the expected impact. Considering the low level of Gender Equality Index for 2009 and 2014 we may conclude that the Government's efforts to ensure a greater gender equality were unsuccessfully. There is a warning tendency regarding the gender equality state in the labor market. This issue proves the lack of efficient measures which would ensure reconciliation of professional and family life (insufficient nurseries, too long maternity leave).

Although the gender stereotypes are persisting, the perceptions of women in politics has improved. It can be noticed, that currently the citizens of the Republic of Moldova have become less patriarchal and more opened to accept a larger participation of women in politics and business.

The Gender Equality Index measures the equality and inequality in both directions - the inequality between men and women, - the inequality to men and to women. Gender inequality in the areas of labor market, politics, resources, perceptions affects primarily women. Men, however, are affected by inequalities in education and health. In both areas gender equality was affected compared to 2009.

### **Promoting social inclusion**

Social exclusion requires a strategy for social reconstruction while implementing policies to support vulnerable groups. Currently in Moldova there is a system of indicators for monitoring social exclusion, but there is a will of alignment to international standards in terms of social inequality analysis and study of the impact of social policies on vulnerable groups of the population.

Social exclusion shows weaknesses in: (i) labor market that promotes economic integration; (li) the welfare state system that supports social integration; (lii) child and family system offering personal integration and (iv) legal and democratic system which assumes civic integration.

According to the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020" alongside social inclusion of gender dimensions, human rights, environment aspects, there are interrelated mechanisms which will be applied at three levels: in the process of implementing the priorities it is required to organise training of using techniques and methodologies already in place to ensure the reflection of interrelated issues in the measures and actions proposed, as well as consultation with various support groups; facilitate active use of the methodology for ex-ante evaluation of public policy impact in the process of formulating actions (ex-ante methodology is a useful tools for dialogue with civil society); helping to maximize performance in these areas and attracting investment and ensuring that interrelated issues are included in reports prepared at the country level.

National Bureau of Statistics of Moldova applies indicators for monitoring social exclusion / inclusion, sectoral policies implemented, providing a comprehensive analysis of their impact on the quality of life. The monitoring indicators are grouped into 10 main dimensions of quality of life:

- poverty and inequality (14 indicators)
- household and housing conditions (10 indicators);
- employment (14 indicators);
- education (19 indicators);
- Health (13 indicators);

- Social Protection (9 indicators);
- justice and security (8 indicators);
- Culture, Sport and Leisure (4 indicators);
- civic participation, governance, communication and access to information (10 indicators)
- environment (2 indicators).

More information could be found in the study "Approaches to Social Exclusion in Moldova. Methodological and analytical aspects"<sup>46</sup>.

## Knowledge management

Knowledge management scheme presents ways of working and thinking that by understanding and application of knowledge lead to improved knowledge use. Out of many approaches in the field, two models are accepted as fundamental in knowledge management: dynamic process of knowledge creation (SECI), and intellectual capital model.

Moldova is implementing a program with a duration of five years which aims to facilitate the transformation of libraries into vibrant community institutions. With the guidance of trained librarians and support of community partners, citizens will enjoy free access to modern technologies and innovative services of library which correspond to modern information needs.

The program focuses on four main areas of activity, to achieve the objectives: equipping libraries with modern technologies, training of librarians, working with central and local authorities to support public libraries as centers of community development and cooperation with civil society and private institutions to raise awareness and to modernize libraries.

With the aim of strengthening a system of professional development for librarians, Novateca created a network of training centers and trained selected librarians; ensures sustainable and continuous professional development; provides funding for development of modern and innovative library; and organize public awareness campaigns to re-launch libraries as community centers.

At present 68 public libraries in 12 districts of the country are equipped. Nationally, Novateca cooperates with the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection, Ministry of Information Technology and Communications (the accent is put on including libraries into the Strategy Digital Moldova 2020) and established a partnership agreement with the national operator of communications Moldtelecom which offers to public libraries 50% discount on the monthly fee for Internet service.

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<sup>46</sup> <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=350&id=2898>

## GEF SGP Moldova Operational Phase 6

### Annex 2 to Country Programme Strategy *Donor Partnership Strategy*



SGP organized two trainings on Project Proposals writing for CSOs and NGOs



Awarding of Environmental Journalists



## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AEE	Agency of Energy Efficiency
LPA	Local Public Authorities
TEP	Thermo-electric plant
CCF	Forum on Climate Change in the Eastern region Partnership
NC	National Coordinator
NSC	National Steering Committee
WEEE	Waste of electrical and electronic equipment
OP	Operational Phase
EUR	Euro
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
FAO	United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture
EEF	Energy Efficiency Fund
NEF	National Ecologic Fund
SIFM	Social Investments Fund of Moldova
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
QE / QA	Questionnaire for self-evaluation ex-ante of the NGO and questionnaire for self-evaluation ex-post
SRE	Source of Renewable Energy
SGP	Small Grants Programme
USA	United States of America
EU	European Union
USD	USA Dollar

## ANNEX 2: OP6 DONOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

### 1. National Environmental Fund<sup>1</sup>

The National Environmental Fund is a national fund administered by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova. Projects funding is done considering the submitted project proposals, and is approved by the Administration Council of the Fund.

The National Environmental Fund is the only fund in Moldova, which is financing solely environmental projects.

#### *Fields of interest:*

- Projects which foresee the implementation of national strategies, programs and plans in the field of environment, as well as standards and regulations, for shared participation in the construction of environmental infrastructure (including financing of project design development and implementation of projects in the field of water supply and sanitation, financing of waste collecting and sorting projects and supporting businesses which deal with waste recovery and disposal, financing of projects that improve air quality;
- Scientific investigations in the field of environment, carried out upon request of the Ministry of Environment; shared participation in research & development projects, developing project design for protected areas of the natural and built heritage of national and international importance;
- Organisation and management of environmental information system, promoting environmental knowledge;
- Organisation of international collaboration in the field of environment, including the involvement of foreign experts in consultancy, expertise; participation of national representatives in the implementation of international conventions signed and ratified by Moldova; paying membership fees for conventions, implementation of CITES Convention (development of CITES permits, procurement of special stamp CITES etc.);
- Elimination of natural calamities consequences, industrial disasters, other situations that harm the environment;
- Providing financial support to the environmental NGOs by organizing special environmental grants programs.

*Budget limits of the call:* are not specified

*The synergy between the priorities of the financing agency and strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:*

- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Intelligent innovative agroecology in terms of climate-smart approach Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

#### *Co-financing procedure:*

The co-financing of projects, approved for funding within the GEF SGP OP6, will be done under a signed collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Environment and UNDP Moldova.

The co-financing procedures foresee the following:

1. The project's approval is done by the NSC of the GEF SGP. Approval of financing is conditioned by the identification and approval of project's cofinancing.

<sup>1</sup> <http://mediu.gov.md/index.php/component/content/article/79-categorii-in-romana/despre-minister/institutii-subordonate/72-fondul-ecologic-national>

2. Notification of the applicant by the National Coordinator regarding the conditional approval of project's funding and suggesting to follow the procedures to access co-financing for the project from NEF
3. Acceptance by the applicant to follow procedures to access the co-financing from NEF
4. Filling in the application form of NEF, according to NEF's procedures and conditions<sup>2</sup>
5. Approval of the application form by the National Coordinator of GEF SGP
6. Submitting the filled in application form according to NEF's procedures, to the NEF Secretariat, under the Collaboration Agreement with GEF SGP for OP6.
7. Evaluation of application form by the Administration Council of NEF
8. Announcing the results of evaluation
9. If the project is approved for financing from NEF, the financial contract is signed between the applicant and UNDP Moldova (for the part of the project to be financed by GEF funds) and between the applicant and the Ministry of Environment (for the part to be financed by NEF)

The applicant should know that within this type of financing, during the project implementation, he/she should respect the implementation and reporting procedures of GEF SGP, for funds allocated by GEF SGP, as well as implementation and reporting procedures of NEF, for funds allocated by NEF.

## 2. Energy Efficiency Fund<sup>3</sup>

The Energy Efficiency Fund (EEF) is supporting the projects from Republic of Moldova, that focus on promoting energy efficiency and on harnessing renewable energy sources (RES), having a positive impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The main objective of the Energy Efficiency Fund is to attract and manage financial resources toward the funding and implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, in accordance with strategies and programs developed by the Government.

The Fund is achieving its objectives by promoting and financing economically, technically and environmentally feasible energy projects which will ensure sustainable energy consumption and will lead towards low energy intensity, as well as reducing the greenhouse gas emissions.

*Financing of projects is achieved by launching the:*

- Call for proposals no 1 - public sector [restricted procedure]<sup>4</sup>
- Call for proposals no 2 - private sector [restricted procedure]<sup>5</sup>
- Call for proposals no 3 - public sector<sup>6</sup>
- Call for proposals no 4 - private sector<sup>7</sup>
- Call for proposals no 5 - public lighting<sup>8</sup>

*Budget limits of the call:* are not specified

*The synergy between priorities of the financing agency and strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:*

- Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

*Co-financing procedures:*

<sup>2</sup> <http://mediu.gov.md/index.php/component/content/article/79-categorii-in-romana/despre-minister/institutii-subordonate/72-fondul-ecologic-national>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fee.md/index.php?l=ro>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fee.md/index.php?pag=page&id=401&l=ro>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.fee.md/index.php?pag=page&id=428&l=ro>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fee.md/index.php?pag=page&id=484&l=ro>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.fee.md/index.php?pag=page&id=499&l=ro>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.fee.md/index.php?pag=page&id=497&l=ro>

The co-financing of projects, approved for funding within the GEF SGP OP6 will be done under a signed Collaboration Agreement between the Agency for Energy Efficiency of Moldova and UNDP Moldova.<sup>9</sup>

The procedures for co-financing foresee the following phases:

1. The project's approval is done by the NSC of the GEF SGP. Approval of financing is conditioned by the identification and approval of project's co-financing.
2. Notification of the applicant by the National Coordinator regarding the conditional approval of project's funding, and suggesting to follow the procedures to access co-financing for the project from the Energy Efficiency Fund
3. Acceptance by the applicant to follow procedures to access the co-financing for the project from the Energy Efficiency Fund
4. Reviewing the project by the Agency for Energy Efficiency (procedure established by the law nr.142 from 02.07.2010<sup>10</sup>)
5. If the review is positive, it will be followed by signing the funding contracts between the applicant and UNDP Moldova (for the GEF SGP funds) and between the applicant and Agency for Energy Efficiency (for the funding received from the Energy Efficiency Fund)

The Applicant should consider that under this type of financing, during the project implementation the implementation and reporting procedures of GEF SGP should be fully respected for the part of the project financed by GEF SGP, and that the implementation and reporting procedures of Energy Efficiency Fund should be fully respected for the part of the project financed by the Energy Efficiency Fund.

*Note:* Projects submitted by NGOs, within this priority, could be reviewed by the Agency for Energy Efficiency prior to submitting the project to GEF SGP. This would accelerate the signing of financial contracts, in case the project is approved by the NSC.

- a. Another modality of co-financing projects within GEF SGP OP6 could be the creation of partnerships with local public authorities which already accessed funds from the Energy Efficiency Fund, and their implementation period coincides with the implementation period of the project financed by GEF SGP.

The co-financing procedures foresee the following:

1. Identification of a partner representing the local public authority, which implements a project on renewable energy sources, and which is relevant to the strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6 „Co-benefits of accessing energetic systems with low carbon emissions” and which is in line with the project idea, to be developed by the NGO applying to GEF SGP OP6. The list of projects under implementation may be requested from the National Coordinator of GEF SGP, as well as from the Agency for Energy Efficiency
2. A partnership agreement between NGO and LPA is signed for the jointly implementation of the project, with the identification of each respective contribution and funding sources
3. A project proposal is submitted to GEF SGP, attaching the partnership agreement, as a proof of co-financing.

The applicant should consider that when reporting following the GEF SGP's instructions, there will be presented as well, the financial documents of the partner - as a co-financing part of the project.

<sup>9</sup> Urmează a fi realizat în trimestrul 1-2 a anului 2016

<sup>10</sup> <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=335818>

*Note:* In case of this type of financing, projects submitted by NGOs to GEF SGP don't need to be reviewed by the Agency for Energy Efficiency, because they will not benefit directly from funds allocated by the Energy Efficiency Fund.

## 2. Social Investments Fund from Moldova<sup>11</sup>

Moldova Social Investment Fund (MSIF) is a project created by the World Bank and donor countries in order to contribute to the implementation of national development strategies in Moldova by empowering poor communities and institutions in managing their priority development needs.

The objective of the Social Investment Fund of Moldova is to contribute to the implementation of Moldova's National Development Strategy by empowering poor communities and institutions in managing their priority development needs.

Along with technical and financial assistance, MSIF is a mechanism which promotes the learning of the new principles of local government by communities. The community actors (LPAs, NGOs, associations of beneficiaries etc.) acquire different methods of working with the community such as public involvement in the decision-making process, ways of identifying priority issues, strategic planning, monitoring the project implementation, maintenance and ensuring the sustainability of renovated objects/buildings, financial management, institutional development of local government and NGOs.

MSIF works with beneficiary communities on partnership principles. MSIF financial role is to support the 70% -85% of the subproject proposals' costs, and to facilitate and monitor community groups wishing to implement subprojects. Community is responsible for preparing proposals for subproject, collecting investment of at least 15% of the proposed subproject, organizing competitions for the selection of the contractor and the local inspector, overseeing the implementation of subprojects in the community and signing of payment, ensuring the sustainability of renovated objects of social infrastructure.

*Financing priorities:* energy efficiency, renewable energy, water supply and sanitation, public lightning, etc.

*The synergy between priorities of the financing agency and strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:*

- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology
- Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

*Co-financing procedures:*

Co-financing of projects funded within the GEF SGP OP6 could be realized through partnerships with LPAs, which benefit from MSIF's assistance and their period implementation overlap with the implementation period of the project to be financed through GEF SGP.

The co-financing procedures foresee the following phases:

1. Identification of the partner (LPA or public institution), which implements a project which is in synergy with the project idea proposed by the NGO within GEF SGP OP6 and which is according to the strategic initiatives of the GEF SGP OP6. The list of projects under implementation may be requested from the National Coordinator of GEF SGP.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://fism.gov.md/>

2. A partnership agreement is signed between NGO and LPA/public institution to implement jointly the project, where contribution of each party and sources of financing will be stipulated
3. A project proposal is submitted to the GEF SGP, attaching the partnership agreement, as a proof of co-financing.

The applicant should consider, when the reporting documents will be presented to GEF SGP, financial documents of the partner will need to be presented as well.

### 3. East European Foundation<sup>12</sup>

The East Europe Foundation is a non-profit, non-political, public interest organization, established as a foundation, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the Law on Foundations and other laws.

The mission of the East Europe Foundation is to empower Moldovan citizens and foster sustainable development through education and technical assistance programs that promote democracy, foster good governance and build economic prosperity.

#### *Foundation's programmes:*

- Civil Society Oversight
- Community Mobilization for Local Development
- Free and Fair Elections
- Promote Independence and Quality of Media Reporting
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Youth Banks
- Support to vulnerable groups

*Budget limits:* up to 15.000 EUR

#### *The synergy between the priorities of the financing agency and the strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:*

- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology
- Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

The projects which are implemented according to the GEF SGP priorities could be found in such Programs as Civil Society Oversight, Community Mobilization for Local Development and Youth Banks of the East European Foundation programmes.

#### *The co-financing procedures:*

NGOs will apply for projects to GEF SGP and EEF according to procedures and application forms of both donors.

The National Coordinator of the GEF SGP will coordinate with the Executive Director of EEF calendar of calls for proposals to identify opportunities of co-financing projects by EEF. This opportunity will be available starting with quarter II-III of 2017.

<sup>12</sup> <http://eef.md/index.php?l=ro>

#### 4. The Embassy of Slovak Republic in Moldova<sup>13</sup>

Cooperation of Moldova with Slovak Republic is based on a Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Development Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova for 2014-2018<sup>14</sup>.

The main goal of the Strategy is to support Moldova in building a stable, functioning, democratic state and improve the living conditions of its inhabitants.

The Strategy will be implemented within two *sectoral priorities* with the following specific objectives:

1. Good Governance:
  - 1.1 Improve the performance of local self-governments and strengthen their significance in local and regional development
  - 1.2 Strengthen the effective functioning of state administration and civil society
2. Water and sanitation
  - 2.1 Improve the efficiency of the drinking water supply system, sanitation and waste management
  - 2.2 Improve the environment and quality of life of inhabitants via interventions in the area of water and sanitation
  - 2.3 Increase environmental awareness and information in the area of protecting water resources

*The synergy between the priorities of the financing agency and the strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:*

- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology

*Co-financing procedures:*

##### a. Small Grants Programme of the Embassy of Slovak Republic in Moldova

This Programme is realized under the SlovakAid, at a smaller scale, in a flexible, operative and efficient manner for developing countries. Project should refer to water supply and sanitation sector and solid waste management sector. The priority will be given to project which concentrate on small investments, such as: reconstruction of waste supply and sanitation pipes, revitalization of water sources, drinking water treatment systems at the local level, support in collecting municipal waste, building waste sites to collect and recycle waste, etc.

The total budget for one project is up to 15.000 EUR. Project duration should be no longer than 6 months.

Relevant projects, submitted within GEF SGP, that build synergies with the priorities of SlovakAid, after being conditionally approved by the NSC, will be presented further to the representative of the Embassy, by the National Coordinator. After the projects evaluation, the Embassy will inform the National Coordinator of GEF SGP about the interest to co-finance one project or another.

##### b. Grants programme of Slovak Agency for International cooperation and development (SlovakAid)

*Financial priorities:*

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.mzv.sk/web/kisinov-en/home>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.slovakaid.sk/en/news/559-country-strategy-paper-moldova>

- Effective self-government
- State administration and civil society
- Water and sanitation
- Support the development of civil society with an emphasis on the new citizens' initiatives (the so-called. "Grassroots") and community development in the regions
- Activities involving young people - increasing interest in public affairs, support civic initiatives and activism of young people
- Increasing public environmental awareness (especially in the field of drinking water and prevention of illegal dumps)

*Budget limits:* up to 100.000 EUR

*Calendar of calls for proposals:* announcement of calls for proposal is done annually in April - May. Project evaluation lasts over 6 months.

*Note:* the applicant should be an NGO from Slovak Republic and the partner - from Moldova.

## 5. The Embassy of Poland in Moldova<sup>15</sup>

The Small Grants Fund was established with the purpose of providing assistance on all the continents through the network of Polish diplomatic missions. The Small Grants include for example well drilling, minor infrastructure repairs, purchase of medical or educational equipment and various training projects.

Development projects are carried out by Polish diplomatic missions, or by their local partners, such as local NGOs, public institutions, local authorities or Catholic missions, which, apart from their religious activity, implement projects improving the living standards of the local people. Diplomatic missions are responsible for the organizational, financial and reporting sides of the project. Nevertheless, the project initiative always comes from local partners and beneficiaries who take charge of the proper distribution of resources and the maintenance of project's results after the Polish aid financing is finished. Project initiators present their ideas to the relevant diplomatic mission which chooses the most valuable initiatives. Then, under the form of a project application, it is presented to the MFA headquarters in Warsaw for final approval.

*The synergy between the priorities of the financing agency and the strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:*

- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology

*Budget limits:* up to 30.000 EUR

*Calendar of call for proposals:* The projects are collected by the Embassy each year in January-February.

Projects should be finalized by the end of the calendar year, when co-financing was granted

*Co-financing procedures:*

NGOs will submit application forms to both GEF SGP and the Embassy of Poland in Moldova, according to procedures and application forms of each donor organisations.

## 6. The Embassy of Romania in Moldova

Romanian Government carries out more technical assistance programs in Moldova, as follows:

<sup>15</sup> <https://polskapomoc.gov.pl/Polish,Aid,160.html>

a. Mobility Fund for experts from civil society Romania-Moldova<sup>16</sup>

Mobility Fund is implemented with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs of Romania through the Romanian program of cooperation for development (RoAid), in partnership with UNDP - Regional Center for Europe and Central Asia.

The Principal Objective consists in bilateral transfer of experience, knowledge, good practices between Romania and Moldova, improving the dialogue between these two countries, facilitating the involvement of NGOs in developing public policies, developing joint projects and actions which would correspond to the objectives of Moldova's integration into EU, as well as Romania's objectives in the context of cooperation policy for development.

*Beneficiaries of Mobility Fund are:*

For individual mobility:

- - experts from civil society and academic sector from Moldova and Romania. Grant is offered to natural persons, one expert could benefit from one financing.

For grants:

- Organisations of civil society from Romania and Moldova registered according to legislation.

*Eligible activities:*

- For individual mobility - participation in conferences and seminars, working meetings and coordination meetings, mentoring activities, consultancy and capacity building - beneficiaries are NGOs or community.
- For grants: activities which foresee building organization capacities, improving the role of civil society in those two countries, increasing the visibility of civil society in Romania and Moldova, capacity building such as workshops, training, seminars, study visits, internship based on priorities mentioned above.

Individual mobility will be processed on a rolling basis, there is no deadline for sending applications.

For grants, calls for proposals are announced during the year.

Applications are received at [office@fondromania.org](mailto:office@fondromania.org).

Detailed information on procedures, application forms and the calendar can be found at - [www.fondromania.org](http://www.fondromania.org).

b. Department Policies for relations with Romanians from Worldwide<sup>17</sup>

This department develops and applies policy of the Romanian state on relations with Romanian communities that live outside Romania, and acts to strengthen relations with these communities and to preserve, develop and express their ethnic, cultural, language and religious identity, respecting the legislation of the state they live in.

*Financing priorities*

- Culture - „Constantin Brâncuși”
- Mass-media - „Mihai Eminescu”
- Education - „Nicolae Iorga”
- Tradition and spirituality - „Andrei Șaguna”
- Civil society - „Dimitrie Gusti”

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.fondromania.org/pagini/index.php>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.dprp.gov.ro/>

*Calendar of call for proposals:* twice a year, usually February-March and October-November

*Budget limits:* are not specified

*The synergy between the priorities of the financing agency and the strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:*

- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology
- Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

*Co-financing procedures:*

NGOs will submit application forms to GEF SGP as well as to the Financial institutions of the Romanian Government, according to the procedures of each donor organization.

## **7. Austrian Development Agency**

The partnership between the Ministry of Environment of Moldova and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) is based on the Agreement between the Government of Austria and the Government of Moldova on Cooperation and Development, signed on 21/10/2008, in Vienne, and the Objectives relate to reduce poverty, assure peace and human security and protection of environment.

Assistance offered to Moldova is implemented according to the Cooperation Strategy of Austria with Moldova for 2015-2020.

*Priority fields:*

- Water supply and sanitation
- Vocational education for market demands

According to the new Strategy of cooperation, ADA will extend its areas of intervention to assure the implementation of chapter 16 “Environment” and 17 “Climate actions” of the Association Agreement between EU and Moldova.

*The synergy between priorities of the financing agency and priority initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:*

- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology

*Co-financing procedures:*

The project implementation unit which relates to environment, water management, with regranting component will be POPs Office of the Ministry of Environment which will assure programme management and will announce call for proposals.

NGOs will submit application forms to GEF SGP and also to POPs Office, according to procedures of each donor organisations.

## **8. Swiss Development and Cooperation Office in Moldova<sup>18</sup>**

Switzerland has been supporting the Republic of Moldova since 2000 as an expression of solidarity, but also with a view to enhancing security and stability in Europe. In recent years, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has concentrated on the domains of Health, and Water and Sanitation with a clear objective of developing these two sectors in line with European standards.

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/strategy.html>

Assistance offered to Moldova is presented in the Cooperation Strategy of Switzerland in Moldova for 2014-2017

*Priority themes:*

- Water supply and sanitation
- Migration & Development
- Culture

*The synergy between the priorities of the financing agency and the strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:*

- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology

*Budget limits:* up to 30.000 CHF

*Calendar of call for proposals:* Grants programs are announced by the Office of Cooperation of Switzerland in Chisinau. For small grants program 2015-2017 allocated resources have been disbursed already. The next call for proposals will be announced during the quarter III of 2017.

*Co-financing procedures:*

NGOs will submit application forms to GEF SGP and Cooperation Office of Switzerland according to the procedures set up by these donor organisations.

## 9. The Embassy of USA in Chisinau<sup>19</sup>

The Democracy Commission Small Grants Program was initiated in 1994 as a flexible mechanism to enable American embassies to support initiatives that contribute to more open and competitive political and economic systems and the protection of human rights.

The Democracy Commission Grants Program has been implemented in Moldova since 1996, providing support to Moldovan NGOs and mass media to carry out projects throughout Moldova. The existence of a strong and vibrant civil society is critical to political, social and economic progress of Moldova. With the help of civil society organizations communities can solve many of their problems, NGOs can hold the authorities accountable in front of their citizens and advocate for the rights of disadvantaged groups to ensure equal treatment and equal opportunities for every member of the society. The nonprofit sector can educate a new generation of active, skilled and informed citizens who value democratic norms.

*Priority themes:* promotion of civil society; free flow of information; supporting independent media, transparency in government; public education and advocacy; association building; rule of law and legal reform; conflict resolution; human rights; civic education; environment; market economy; “watchdog” activities, anti-corruption awareness campaigns and training; and ethnic, minority and women’s equality.

*Budget limits:* 5.000 \$ - 24.000 \$

*The synergy between the priorities of the financing agency and the strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:*

- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology
- Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

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<sup>19</sup> <http://moldova.usembassy.gov/ro/democracy-grants.html>

*Co-financing procedures:*

NGOs will submit application forms to GEF SGP and Embassy of US in Chisinau according to the procedures set up by these donor organisations.

## **10. The Embassy of Sweden in Moldova**

Embassy of Sweden in Moldova extends its fields of cooperation with Moldova by including environment as one of the fields of interests of bilateral cooperation.

In 2016 a number of NGOs will be selected to pass through the audit procedure in order to assess their financial aspects and the overall management of the NGO, according to the procedures and requirements of the Cooperation Agency of Sweden (SIDA), further on, only a limited number of NGOs will be selected through which environmental projects with the participation of larger number of NGOs will be implemented in Moldova, including grants programs for NGOs for environmental projects.

## **11. The EU Delegation in Moldova**

EU Commission will have a number of programs during 2016-2018 for NGOs from Moldova in various fields, which will be announced on the official web site of the EU Commission.<sup>20</sup>

## **12. Climate change forum for Eastern Partnership countries (CFE II)**

Climate Forum East II is a project funded by the European Union, Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Austrian Red Cross implemented in Eastern Neighbourhood Region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) to help civil society, policy-makers and the broader public make informed decisions about how best to adapt to the risks of climate change.

CFE II primary goal is to build, strengthen the capacities and ensure support for a National Network of Civil Society Organisations to become a key actor in advocating environmental good governance, to influence effectively national and local policy making processes and raise public awareness on Climate Change through the following main activities:

- Tailored capacity development programs (training packages, mentoring, consultancies and peer exchange with more experienced CSOs) in the areas of leadership, resource mobilization and communication for national network members in the field of adaptation to Climate Change.
- Funding opportunities for development and implementation of community based projects in the field of climate change adaptation;
- Exchange of practical knowledge and experience at regional level on climate change and environmental governance.

*Areas of funding:*

- Development of local policy documents in climate change adaptation for the most vulnerable communities;
- Community based projects in the area of adaptation to climate change
- Activities with the aim of educating and raising awareness of the population toward climate change
- Advocacy actions in order to influence existing policies in the field of climate change adaptation

<sup>20</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1417429020476&do=publi.welcome&ORDERBY=upd&NBPUBLILIST=15&SEARCHTYPE=QS&ORDERBYAD=Desc&userlanguage=en>

- Activities to strengthen organizational members of the national network of CSOs in climate change adaptation.

*The way of financing:*

Providing financial support will be based on the CFE II agreement signed between AO EcoContact and Austrian Red Cross.

*The procedure for financing has the following steps:*

- Launch of the call
- Submission of application forms according to the specified instructions
- Administrative and technical evaluation of the application forms by the National Coordinator
- Selection and final approval of the application forms by CFE II Evaluation Committee
- Notification of selected applicant for financial support and contracts signing between the applicant and PA EcoContact.

*The synergy between the priorities of the financing agency and the strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:*

- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology
- Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

*Co-financing procedures:*

NGOs will submit application forms to GEF SGP and EcoContact according to the procedures set up by these organisations.

*Note:* It is recommended that during the project development, NGOs should get informed about the rules of financing, implementation and reporting of potential co-financing organisations for projects submitted within GEF SGP OP6.