

**STRATEGY OF THE SGP COUNTRY
PROGRAM FOR THE OP 7, MOLDOVA**

STRATEGY
**of the Global Environmental
Facility Small Grants Program
for the Operational Phase 7,
2020-2024**
Republic of Moldova



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List of Acronyms

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AEE	Agency for Energy Efficiency
AIPA	Subsidy Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report of GEF SGP
CPA	Central Public Authority
CPD	UNDP Country Program Document
CPS	Country Program Strategy
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CPMT	Central Programme Management Team of the Small Grants Program of GEF
EMERALD	Ecological network for the conservation of flora and fauna and natural habitats in Europe
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	The German Agency for International Cooperation
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
JOP RO-MD	Joint Operational Program Romania – Republic of Moldova
LAG	Local Action Group
LEADER	French language acronym „liaison entre actions de développement de l'économie rurale” – which means "links between actions for the development of the rural economy"
LPA	Local Public Authority
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MARDE	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment
NC	National Coordinator of the SGP GEF
NSC	National Steering Committee of the SGP GEF
NEF	National Ecological Fund
NEN	National Ecological Network
NFRD	National Fund for Regional Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
OP6	Operational phase 6
OP7	Operational phase 7
POLISH AID	The Agency for International Development of the Republic of Poland
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals of the UN
SGP	Small Grants Program
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TAG	Technical Advisory Groups
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNOPS	The UN Office for Project Services is an entity of the UN development system
USAID	The United States Agency for International Development

Financial Resources for Operational Phase 7 - SGP Country Program (estimated in US \$)¹

Total SGP grants so far in (2012):	USD 1,870,000
Basic funds GEF OP7:	USD 500,000
Funds GEF OP7 STAR:	-
The balance remaining from the basic funds and STAR OP6 GEF (if applicable)	-
Other funds (insured)	-
Other funds (expected / to be mobilized)	USD 500,000, co-financing

1. CONTEXT

As a corporate program of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the GEF Small Grants Program (SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), aligns its operational stages with those of GEF and its co-financing partners, providing a global portfolio of innovative, inclusive and impactful projects that address global environmental and sustainable development issues.

Actions at the local level undertaken by civil society and community-based organizations, including women's groups, natives, youth and persons with disabilities, are recognized as essential for forming alliances with multiple actors in order to generate global environmental benefits and contribute to:

- the programme directions of GEF-7,
- UNDP Country Program for 2018-2022
- national priorities for the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- other international commitments.²

Due to GEF's successful operations for over 26 years in over 133 countries, the 7th Operational Stage of the SGP aims to ***"promoting and supporting innovative, inclusive and impactful initiatives, as well as encouraging partnerships of multiple actors at local level to address global environmental issues in priority land / sea landscapes."***

In this context, several important actors were questioned (local CSOs and Local Action Groups from the regions of the country, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and the environment, local public authorities, Committees of small river basins, other forms of local associations, relevant donors), who were asked for their opinion on the results achieved in OP6 of the GEF SGP, the priorities for OP7, suggestions for improving the involvement of local communities in environmental initiatives, etc. The short results of the questionnaires are in the Annex 1.

The strategy of the GEF SGP country program, for the operational stage 7 (2020-2023) in the Republic of Moldova, was elaborated by a group of experts (Dr. Viorel Miron, Dr. Iurii Bejan, Gabriel Mărgineanu, Ina Coșeru, Iurie Calestru, Dr. Marina Miron), co-opted by the Association of Tourism Development in Moldova (November 2019–February 2020).

¹ The level of SGP OP7 resources represents an estimated total of: (i) the basic allocation of the GEF7 grant (to be reviewed annually by the ECMP based on performance, co-financing and strategic partnerships, demonstrated rates of NSC commitment, and UNOPS implementation); (ii) STAR approved resources; and (iii) other sources of cost sharing by third parties & co-financing (country, regional and / or global). SGP countries with outstanding balances from OP6 that have not been allocated, will use these balances in accordance with the strategic approach of OP7 to be consistent with SGP programming conditions and expected results..

² The initial concept of OP7 of SGP was incorporated in the strategic directions for the general negotiations of 2017 regarding the completion of GEF-7 and was subsequently approved by the GEF Council document "The GEF Small Grants Program: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7" (GEF / C. 54 / 05.rev) in June 2018.

2. SUMMARY: Key results / achievements

Between 2016-2019, the Small Grants Program of the Global Environment Facility implemented the 6th operational stage, offering grants to NGOs to implement 38 projects in the following strategic areas stipulated by the OP6 Country Strategy: **Biodiversity** (12 projects), **Climate Change** (7 projects), **Soil Degradation** (11 projects), **Chemicals** (4 projects) and **Capacity Development** (4 projects). Thus, GEF SGP granted US \$ 1,425,053 in the form of grants to public associations. At the same time, NGOs managed to attract \$ 1,839,659 in co-financing, of which \$ 545,950 in kind. Most of the projects were implemented in the southern region of the country, followed by the centre and the north. In particular, we would like to mention the Stefan Voda district, where, with the support of GEF SGP, 5 projects were implemented in the priority areas of the program.

The projects have contributed to the achievement of the indicators stipulated in the Country Strategy of the Small Grants Program for OP6 and to the solution of the global ecological problems that are in the focus of the Global Environment Facility. Therefore, **48 ha of forest plantations** and **8 ha of forest strips** were created; good agricultural practices adapted to climate change, implemented on **51164,90 ha**; **2 innovations of solutions adapted** locally, demonstrated and documented; **45 households** with access to electricity or heat from renewable sources; **26 ha of viable energy plantations** created; **70 trained households on the proper management of chemicals**; **80 points for the collection of e-waste created** and **45 tons of e-waste collected**. As a result of the implementation of the projects with the support of the GEF SGP, 37,832 persons benefited, of which 5537 women and 26,726 children.

The innovative spirit and the relevance of the fields addressed in the GEF SGP projects have created the premises for the extension and takeover of the good practices both in the country and abroad. An eloquent example in this regard is also the project „Clean city with recycled e-waste”, implemented by the Association of Waste Recovery, with the support of which 128 collection points for e-waste were located in Chisinau. Being aware of the harmful effects on the environment caused by the uncontrolled storage of e-waste and being motivated by the immediate results of this project, other localities in the country were determined to get involved and collect e-waste. Another example of success is the project „Performing the energy efficiency works of the outer walls and the construction of the thermal plant based on solid biofuel in Bușila village, Ungheni district”, implemented by NGO „Chance”. The energy efficiency measures implemented in this project have been highly appreciated internationally, and therefore, this project was one of the finalists who competed for the EU Award for Sustainable Energy for the Eastern Partnership 2019.

The lessons learned and the results obtained in OP6 are the fundamental element for ensuring the proper implementation of the SGP in OP7. The success factors that have ensured the use of the allocated financial means and the generation of results are: informing and training the potential beneficiaries of the SGP; receiving concepts and / or project proposals continuously, without a deadline; the quality of completing the forms for the project proposals; the high degree of professionalism and involvement of the CNC members, both at the conceptualization stage and at the evaluation stage; the availability of other donors to co-finance projects supported by SGP. At the same time, both in OP6 and in the new EO 7, in the process of accessing the grants offered by SGP GEF, the commitment to ensure co-financing remains the main challenge for NGOs.

3. PRIORITIES OF THE COUNTRY AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1 Alignment with national priorities

GEF SGP targets, initiatives and indicators are well anchored in national environmental strategies. The coherence and the coverage of the global GEF initiatives for OP7 in the national strategies and international conventions to which the Republic of Moldova has acceded is reflected in Annex 2.

Assessing the existing strategic context allows us to formulate a number of key conclusions, such as: (i) there is a national strategic framework in which most of the global GEF initiatives fall; (ii) the international agreements ratified by us encourage the actions provided by the CPS; (iii) CSO initiatives can be found in the strategic intervention framework and international commitments on a wide range of targets, although often the tools to support environmental projects submitted by local communities are not clearly stated. Listed below are the data for the ratification by the Republic of Moldova of the relevant conventions and relevant national planning frameworks:

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

National planning conventions / frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Ratified on 23.06.1993
CBD's national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP)	Adopted on 18.05.2015
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)	Signed on 06.12.2011
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Ratified on 16.03.1995
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Accessed 24.12.1998
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Ratified on 19.02.2004
The Minamata Convention on Mercury	Signed on 04.10.2013
2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Adopted on 08.11.2018
Voluntary national reviews for UN SDGs	The first is planned in July 2020
The Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity (New York, SUA 2001)	Ratified at 11.10.2002
The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention)	Ratified at 23.06.1993
The Kyoto Protocol (Kyoto, 11 th December 1997)	Joined on 13.02.2003
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna, 22 nd March 1985)	Joined at 24.07.1996
The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal, 16 th September 1987)	Joined at 24.07.1996
European Landscape Convention	Ratified October 12, 2001
CBD's national biodiversity strategy and action plan 2015-2020 (NBSAP)	Adopted there 18.05.2015
The environmental strategy for the years 2014 - 2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation	Approved by HG Nr. 301 from 24.04.2014
Strategy of the Republic of Moldova to adapt to climate change by 2020 and the Action Plan for its implementation	Approved by HG Nr. 1009 from 10.12.2014
National program on sustainable management of chemicals in the Republic of Moldova	Approved by HG nr. 973/2010
The national action plan in the field of renewable energy for 2013-2020	Approved by HG Nr. 1073 from 27.12.2013

The energy strategy of the Republic of Moldova until 2030	Approved by HG Nr. 102 from 05.02.2013
The national program for energy efficiency 2011-2020	Approved by HG Nr. 833 from 10.11.2011
Strategy for the development of rural extension services for the years 2012-2022	Approved by HG Nr. 486 from 04.07.2012
National strategy for agricultural and rural development for 2014-2020	Approved by HG Nr. 409 from 04.06.2014
National Strategy on Reducing and Eliminating Persistent Organic Pollutants and National Plan for Implementing the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	Approved by HG Nr. 1155 from 20.10.2004
Strategy for sustainable development of the forestry sector in Republic of Moldova	Approved by HP Nr. 350 from 12.07.2001

3.2 Gaps and opportunities

In accordance with the priorities of the Republic of Moldova in the field of environment represented in Table 1, a number of key gaps and opportunities are highlighted in particular in the compartment for promoting the significant involvement of communities and civil society organizations in the further implementation of national priorities.

The most obvious **gaps** are:

- discrepancies in the national strategic framework (ex: between the same target indicators in different strategies, different approach of CSO role and reduction to information / awareness actions or ignoring them, ...);
- discrepancies in approach between national strategies and the GEF SGP Country Strategy (ex: provisions related to the community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species, the modest presence of the resilient and low-emission urban development component, the integration of community-based adaptation within the framework national processes, public-private partnership approach, integration of social inclusion and use of participatory mechanisms, etc. - being present only formally and randomly, they do not have a real support and is limited only to a symbolic presence, without a clear legal commitment);
- issues mentioned by the persons / institutions questioned (eg, the lower involvement of CSOs in environmental projects, difficulties related to large co-financing, insufficient qualified people in attracting and implementing projects, ensuring continuity of projects, passivity of the population and public authorities in view supporting environmental initiatives, economic agents not prepared to get involved and co-financing ecological initiatives, migration, political instability, etc.);
- priority actions determined in consultations with relevant actors (eg optimization of co-financing of different donors, promotion of common projects or in common locations, participation of donors in committees for evaluation of common projects, removal of procedural barriers for beneficiaries applying to several donors, etc.).

The **opportunities** considered are as follows:

- Opportunities marked by the analysis of OP6 results, carried out on priorities (eg good results / high-performance indicators of community-scale NGOs; ensuring continuity for preferred actions at biodiversity level, innovative agriculture, waste and chemical management, alternative energy; flexibility in addressing the agenda of the submission of applications and forms of co-financing; continuous simplification of the procedures related to the cycle of submitted projects without diminishing their quality, etc.);
- opportunities related to increasing the attention of donor structures towards CSOs and local communities (eg increasing the presence of NGOs in facilitating and participatory or partnership actions, reorienting the financial support needed at the local level, reducing the imbalance in determining the role and the possibility of involving NGOs in solving different important problems mentioned in the national strategies);
- the opportunities offered by the regional situation for the new OP7 period (eg: reorienting the financing to the final beneficiaries who need co-financing, restarting large internal financing programs (NFRD, EU);
- other tools to support GEF by cooperating with other donors, etc.

3.3 The OP7 strategic priorities of the SGP Country Program

Table 2. Aligning the GSP Country Program with the OP7 SGP Strategic Initiatives and the country priorities / projects / programs of the country

1	2	3
OP7 SGP strategic initiatives - globally	Priorities of the SGP Country Programme OP7	Complementarity of the SGP Country Program with GEF, UNDP and other projects and programs
<p>Community-based conservation of ecosystems and threatened species Key objectives / focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the effectiveness of the management of protected areas through ICCA and shared governance with the private sector and the government. • Improving community-friendly biodiversity practices and approaches, including promoting the maritime economy (ex: agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). • Strengthening community-led actions for the protection of endangered species. 	<p>Community-based conservation of ecosystems and threatened species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving and expanding the management of protected areas in cooperation with national, local and private sector authorities. • Improving community-friendly biodiversity practices and approaches in key sectors (eg agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). • Protection of threatened species through consolidated actions led by local communities. 	<p>National Ecological Fund; National Regional Development Fund; Subsidy Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development AIPA; Agency for Energy Efficiency; LPA, Economic Agents, Beneficiaries; IFAD, other development partners of the Republic of Moldova; EU funds (ex: JOP RO-MD, JOP MD-UA, Cooperation in South-East Europe, JOP Black Sea Basin, etc.), UNDP, USAID</p>
<p>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, as well as food security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of food production in general and the value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, SIDS, etc.). • Increasing diversification and improving livelihoods • Removing deforestation from the supply chain and extensive restoration of degraded lands. 	<p>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, as well as food security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing diversification and improving the value chain in food production, protecting vulnerable ecosystems. • Removing deforestation from the supply chain and extensive restoration of degraded land. 	<p>Subsidy Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development AIPA; National Ecological Fund; Agency for Energy Efficiency; LPA, Economic Agents, Beneficiaries; IFAD, other development partners of the Republic of Moldova; EU funds (ex: JOP Ro-MD, JOP MD-UA, Cooperation in South-East Europe, JOP Black Sea Basin, etc.), UNDP, USAID</p>
<p>Co-benefits of access to energy with low carbon emissions Support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the CDN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting energy efficient and renewable energy technologies, providing social-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. • Promoting the needs of decentralized 	<p>Co-benefits of access to energy with low carbon emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting energy efficient and renewable energy technologies, providing social-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. • Promoting the needs of decentralized energy services in rural and urban areas. 	<p>Agency for Energy Efficiency; National Ecological Fund; LPA, Economic Agents, Beneficiaries; IFAD, other development partners of the Republic of Moldova; EU funds (ex: JOP RO-MD, JOP MD-UA, Cooperation in South-East Europe, JOP Black Sea Basin, etc.), UNDP, USAID</p>

<p>energy services in rural and urban areas.</p>		
<p><i>From local to global coalitions for chemical management and waste management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing and promoting the alternative for the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold extraction. • Promote solid waste / plastic management and circular economy. • Reducing / eliminating the use of chemicals in agriculture. • Strengthening coalitions from local to global ones on the management of chemicals, waste and mercury. 	<p><i>From local to global coalitions for chemical management and waste management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of solid waste / plastic management and circular economy. • Reducing / eliminating the use of chemicals in agriculture. • Strengthening coalitions on the management of chemicals, waste and mercury. 	<p>National Ecological Fund; Subsidy Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development AIPA; LPA, Economic Agents, Beneficiaries; IFAD, other development partners of the Republic of Moldova; EU funds (ex: JOP RO-MD JOP MD-UA, Cooperation in South-East Europe, JOP Black Sea Basin, etc.), UNDP, USAID</p>
<p><i>Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved capabilities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address resilient, low-emission urban development • Innovative and inclusive social solutions / approaches that are socially proven (including waste and chemical management, energy, transportation, river basin protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) • Implementation of the public-private partnership approach for access to low-carbon energy for marginalized urban communities 	<p><i>Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building for resilient and low-emission urban development through integrated and inclusive community-driven solutions. • Promotion of innovative and socially inclusive urban solutions demonstrated. • Promotion of public-private partnerships for access to low-carbon energy in marginalized communities. 	<p>National Regional Development Fund; National Ecological Fund; Agency for Energy Efficiency; LPA, Economic Agents, Beneficiaries; IFAD, other development partners of the Republic of Moldova; EU funds (ex: JOP Ro-Md, JOP Md-Ua, Cooperation in South-East Europe, JOP Black Sea Basin, etc.), UNDP, USAID</p>
<p><i>Community-based adaptation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing vulnerability and improving the adaptability of communities. • Providing countries with concrete experiences at local level regarding adaptation to climate change. • Providing clear policy lessons and integrating community-based adaptation into national processes. 	<p><i>Community-based adaptation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing vulnerabilities and improving communities' adaptation capabilities. • Promotion of concrete models of adaptation of local communities to climate change. • Encourage policies for integrating community-based adaptation into national processes. 	<p>National Ecological Fund; National Regional Development Fund; Subsidy Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development AIPA; Agency for Energy Efficiency; LPA, Economic Agents, Beneficiaries; IFAD, other development partners of the Republic of Moldova; EU funds (ex: JOP Ro-Md, JOP Md-Ua, Cooperation in South-East Europe, JOP Black Sea Basin, etc.), UNDP, USAID</p>

<p>Private sector policy and platforms for CSO-Government planning dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting / strengthening voices and community participation in global and national policies, developing strategies on the global environment and sustainable development issues. 	<p>Private sector policy and platforms for CSO-Government planning dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging community participation in global and national policies, developing global strategies relevant to the environment and sustainable development. 	<p>IFAD, other development partners of the Republic of Moldova; EU funds (ex: JOP Ro-Md, JOP Md-Ua, Cooperation in South-East Europe, JOP Black Sea Basin, etc.), UNDP, USAID</p>
<p>Strengthening social inclusion (obligatory)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of <i>targeted initiatives</i> Integration of social inclusion in all projects (eg women / girls, natives, young people, people with disabilities) 	<p>Strengthening social inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of <i>targeted initiatives</i>. Integration of social inclusion in all projects. 	<p>National Fund for Regional Development; LPA, Business Agents, Beneficiaries; IFAD, other development partners of the Republic of Moldova; EU funds (ex: JOP RO-MD, JOP MD-UA, South-East Europe Cooperation Programme, JOP Black Sea Basin, etc.), UNDP, USAID</p>
<p>Knowledge management (obligatory)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. Improvement of CSO / CBO capabilities. Carrying out South-South exchanges to promote technology transfer and replicating good practices. 	<p>Knowledge management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. Improvement of CSO / CBO capabilities. Carrying out South-South exchanges to promote technology transfer and replicating good practices. 	<p>National Fund for Regional Development; LPA, Business Agents, Beneficiaries; IFAD, other development partners of the Republic of Moldova; EU funds (ex: JOP RO-MD, JOP MD-UA, South-East Europe Cooperation Programme, JOP Black Sea Basin, etc.), UNDP, USAID</p>
<p>Results management, monitoring and evaluation (obligatory)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing the new M&E strategy in the country program, developing and implementing projects and making decisions using participatory mechanisms. 	<p>Results management, monitoring and evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing the new M&E strategy in the country program, developing and implementing projects and making decisions using participatory mechanisms. 	<p>National Fund for Regional Development; LPA, Business Agents, Beneficiaries; IFAD, other development partners of the Republic of Moldova; EU funds (ex: JOP RO-MD, JOP MD-UA, South-East Europe Cooperation Programme, JOP Black Sea Basin, etc.), UNDP, USAID</p>

4. PRIORITY LANDSCAPES AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES OP7

4.1 Grants for priority terrestrial landscapes

a) The process of selecting the priority terrestrial landscapes

Republic of Moldova does not have seashore, which is why the Strategy targets only the terrestrial landscapes. During the previous OP6 the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region, was considered as a single landscape due to its small size. The same approach of the country as one landscape is followed in most environmental strategies of the country.

During the period of November-December 2019, a series of consultations took place with the potential beneficiaries of GEF SGP funds, who selected the country as one landscape for the implementation of the future SGP projects within OP7. Thus, following the survey with the relevant actors (NGOs, LPAs, representatives of environmental authorities, scientists, etc.) on Criteria for the selection of terrestrial and marine landscapes, it was agreed to maintain the same approach of "small country - unique landscape" (see Annex 1).

At the same time, the priority for the GEF global initiatives was debated for the Republic of Moldova, which adjusted to the local context were selected as follows:

- Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species;
- Co-benefits of access to energy with low carbon emissions;
- From local to global coalitions for chemical management and waste management;
- Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions;
- Community-based adaptation;
- Strengthening social inclusion;
- Knowledge management;
- Results management, monitoring and evaluation.

CSO initiatives related to Agriculture and Sustainable Fisheries as well as food security will be supported in the effort to conserve the agricultural and rural landscape, improve soil protection practices and sustainable development of local communities. Similarly, all initiatives to promote Private Sector Policy and the CSO-Government planning dialogue platforms will be encouraged in most projects as horizontal measures, in order to scale the effects of cooperation between the main actors relevant to the efficiency of environmental projects.

At the same time, it is important that up to 70% of GEF SGP funds would be directed by the beneficiaries to specific actions to restore the degraded / eroded sectors through afforestation or grassland, improvement of management of natural protected areas and wetlands, local application of solutions of energy efficiency from alternative sources, reduction of solid waste, plastics and chemicals from economic sectors with land use.

Similarly, following the organized public debates, the need to focus on a compact number of indicators for efficient monitoring of the projects promoted by CSOs was voiced, which would give a possibility to have a balanced coverage of the basic, specific and horizontal indicators of the strategic initiatives at the territorial level.

At the same time, the process of selecting terrestrial landscapes for awarding grants in OP7 will ensure the objectivity, transparency and full participation of relevant actors throughout the national territory, including the Transnistrian region.

b) Landscapes selected for OP7

The process of realizing and updating the landscape approach included a scientific argumentation during public debates, including the participatory involvement of actors from 3 regions of the country. Likewise, the country commitments, reflected in the national strategies, regarding the improvement of certain landscapes were analyzed. This exercise led to the formulation of an OP7 Strategy focused on interventions in a unique landscape at country level, but with thematic accents specific to the Republic of Moldova (Annex 1).

For the purpose of interventions at OP7 level, it is scientifically argued the need to extend landscapes with high ecological value (forests, pastures). There are critical areas in the country (Balti Plain, Lower Nistru Plain, Bugeac Steppe) where there is a need to extend landscapes with high ecological value, to consolidate these categories of landscapes and to plant native species. However, because the lands suitable for afforestation are relatively small

(about 8% at national level), it is proposed to identify the lands for the extension of pastures through grass, which have a high suitability due to more favorable pedological conditions.

In the context of the need to develop natural landscapes, actions to expand the national ecological network (especially at the local level) are encouraged, with the natural areas protected by the state. The Government's commitment to expand the area with state-protected natural areas from 5.6% to 10% by 2024 is favorable for the involvement of local communities in this regard. Also, for the necessity of creating riparian buffer zones with shelter belts of rivers and water basins, practically every municipality in the Republic of Moldova has the possibility of developing such a project and extending landscapes with high ecological value. At the same time, 1528 km² are affected by landslides and 550 km² are strongly eroded soils (6.2% of the territory of the country, in particular the Codri Plateau) which, as degraded lands, and which need improvement through the involvement of local communities.

c) OP7 strategic initiatives in landscapes

Following a vast process of public consultations with the relevant actors (Annex 1), it was established the need to intervene on 8 strategic initiatives (including 3 mandatory ones) to be implemented in the Republic of Moldova. This multifocal intervention is argued by the need to encourage a large number of environmental initiatives promoted by CSOs, the maximum coverage of the territory of the country, but with priority application in areas that clearly meet the criteria of the endangered landscapes.

At the same time, the landscape approach will take into account the following specific needs of the Republic of Moldova:

- improving natural habitats and biodiversity through friendly approaches in key sectors;
- increasing the degree of coverage of the national territory with protected areas through local participatory actions;
- restoring degraded land in rural landscapes and reducing deforestation;
- protecting ecosystems affected by agriculture and related industries;
- decentralization of energy services in rural and urban areas;
- reduction of solid waste, plastic, chemicals, mercury in the country's landscape;
- reducing the use of chemicals on agricultural land;
- improving the state of the urban and rural landscape by developing capacities, innovative and socially inclusive urban solutions;
- ensuring access to low-carbon energy in local communities;
- community involvement in reducing vulnerabilities and improving the capacity to adapt to climate change.

In this respect, grant beneficiaries will promote measures of wide participatory involvement of the community and relevant actors, including for co-financing, to achieve a greater impact due to integrated approach in each intervention for the selected landscapes. Similarly, the opportunity to co-finance initiatives funded from other sources to enhance the synergy effect of the intervention on a broad spectrum of environmental issues will continue to be supported.

4.2 Grants Outside Terrestrial Landscapes

Because a significant portion of resources will be used strategically and sustainably for projects relevant to the selected landscape, actions that do not clearly target certain landscapes will also be encouraged to scale the impact of community involvement, the use of new technologies and environmental awareness. Thus, outside the selected terrestrial landscapes, innovative actions will be supported, which will be inclusive and impactful, oriented towards achieving horizontal indicators. Some of the initiatives outside the priority landscapes will include Grantor + projects, including CSO-Government-Private-sector dialogue platforms, social inclusion actions³ and knowledge management (up to 30% of resources). Grantor + initiatives will be subject to the usual granting regulations within GEF or other co-financing sources in partnership with relevant CSOs.

a) CSO-Government-Private Sector dialogue platform

The non-governmental sector plays a big role in raising awareness about the issues that are sometimes ignored by public authorities, at the same time, the CSOs contribute to the creation of a connection "bridge" between the local level and the national / local decision-makers to influence the environmental policy, facilitating the takeover of good practices and strengthening communication between the actors. By using the organizational capacities, the trained human resources, the local conjuncture, CSOs could monitor and support the activity of the public authorities in realizing the environmental commitments. GEF SGP will support CSOs from Republic of Moldova that can meet community needs better than the public sector. At the same time, the program will support for the majority of the projects different horizontal activities oriented to the development of the platforms of dialogue OSC-Government-Private sector organized for the joint implementation of actions to promote national networks aimed at protecting the environment (ex: NEN, Emerald, Aquatic Basin Committees, LEADER, etc.) but also other commitments by which the nongovernmental sector can influence the development of the community, including the use of the experiences and lessons learned to shape and influence the environmental policies.

The following will be encouraged: i) meetings with the participation of NGOs and LPA / CPA to ensure the exchange of information and opinions on the elaboration and monitoring of the implementation of environmental policies; ii) supporting the platforms and councils of the national, regional, local NGOs (ex: the NGO Council, the National Platform of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership, etc.) and the creation of working groups on different topics; iii) training courses and informative seminars for state officials and NGOs for capacity building in the process of developing and monitoring the implementation of environmental policies; iv) elaboration and adoption of measures to guarantee the transparency of the environmental activity of both the legislative and executive branches at all levels, from the Parliament and the Government to the district, local and mayoral councils; v) elaboration of the models of state support of civil society, the private sector and citizens in order to increase the co-financing rate of the projects supported by the GEF SGP; vi) promoting environmental volunteering with the involvement of civil society, state organizations, the private sector and citizens; vii) developing communication between NGOs and PCA / APL through electronic tools (e-governance, e-platforms, websites, social media, common calendar of events, questionnaires, evaluation of the results of GEF SGP projects, etc.); viii) promoting the dialogue that would

³ As in the previous Operational Stage (EO6, 2015-2019), during EO7 interdisciplinary projects outside the focus areas of the specific land / marine landscapes could use up to 30% of the EO7 SGP (basic and STAR) grant allocations as soon as the criteria for prioritizing and selecting such projects will be agreed.

contribute to the approximation of the fields of agriculture and environment; ix) developing the capacities of local environmental NGOs to promote dialogue on major environmental issues (ex. the Dniester problems, the National Ecological Network, the Association Agreement with the EU, etc.), but also for the elaboration of local environmental policies, etc.

b) Promoting social inclusion, gender equality and women's ability

GEF SGP will encourage the promotion of social inclusion in projects by ensuring visibility of the opinion of different social groups, including the needs and concerns of marginalized or socially vulnerable groups, ensuring access to social interaction on various dimensions (economic, social, cultural, religious and political), respecting the rights of all categories of citizens involved, access to various types of resources made available by the actors involved in the projects supported by GEF, etc. Similarly, the projects will support specific activities to promote gender equality and empower women, old people and young people, also encourage the participation of people with disabilities.

A brief analysis shows that, in the Republic of Moldova, an agricultural country with a large share of natural resources located in rural areas, the number of women is greater than men (1705 thousand men and 1842 thousand women in 2018). Although the trend of recent years shows that women largely migrate from the rural areas, however, their percentage involved in agricultural activities is high. According to statistical data, at the level of 2018 in the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova (because the whole territory of the country was selected as a priority landscape for projects supported by GEF SGP OP7) in the field of agriculture were trained 244 thousand men and 207 thousand women, increasing for both gender compared to 2017 (when the number of men involved in agriculture was 223 thousand, and the number of women - 167 thousand). Gender wage disparity in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in 2018 constituted 11.8%, with a slight decrease compared to 2016 (12.6%).

Statistical data (2018) shows that working age population (15-65 years) in the Republic of Moldova constituted 1186 thousand persons, of which 590.6 thousand men and 595.4 thousand women. However, the management functions of the enterprises in this respect were occupied by 2362 men and only 1191 women. Of the total number of Moldovan population able to work and working in the country, management positions occupy 0.4% of men and only 0.2% of women, so twice smaller.

Regarding the share of women in the decision-making process in the Republic of Moldova we can mention that at the level of 2018 at ministerial level their percentage was 33.3%, and in parliament - only 20.8%. Thus, in the Republic of Moldova, even though the law guarantees women equal rights with men, many women have less control over natural resources. Research shows that if women were granted de facto the same access to production resources as men, agricultural productivity in the country could increase by 20-30%, which in turn would reduce poverty and improve women's ability to support their families and to sustainably manage and utilize natural resources.

However, GEF SGP Moldova, relying on previous results of inclusion of women in projects (out of 38 GEF SGP projects from OP6, 16 projects were led by women (42%), and 21 projects (55%) were directly promoted gender equality and women's empowerment), will continue to support in OP7 quotas higher than the national average, the basic indicator being the value of 50% for projects led by women and / or integrating concrete mechanisms for increased participation of women.

SGP intends to support some of the identified entry points to remedy this situation, including:

- Supporting women’s improved access, use, and control of resources, including land, water, forest by: (i) contributing to shape policy and gender norms to improve women’s access to and control over land, water, forests and other natural resources; (ii) providing targeted support to raise awareness and assist women in exercising their legal rights; and (iii); enhancing women’s decision-making capabilities regarding land, forests, water and other biological resources they use.
- Enhancing women’s participation and role in natural resources decision-making processes, with women as agents of change at all levels by promoting women’s equal engagement in community, rural and urban planning processes.

Addressing gender gaps in participation and leadership in decision-making can help to create more representative institutions and policies as well as helping women become better involved in decisions that shape environmental planning, policy making, promoting sustainable solutions and practices.

- GEF SGP will in turn contribute in the RM through the NC and the NSC to increase the role of women in society by considering gender as one of the main criteria for project approval.
- The SGP NSC will use a checklist and criteria for evaluating and analyzing projects regarding how gender is integrated.
- GEF SGP Moldova continues to accept and encourage the writing of project proposals in Romanian and Russian languages, thus encouraging increased involvement of women and representatives of socially vulnerable groups and young people.
- At all the phases of project development and implementation within the SGP, will be analyzed the roles of men and women in the community and project and their participation in project design, approval, implementation and monitoring. Needs assessment as a tool will be used in the development phase of the project and is to define the roles of women and men at the beginning of the project. This will help to minimize conflicts between different stakeholders in the phases of the project cycle regarding roles in project activities and sharing of project benefits.
- During the implementation of the projects supported by GEF SGP Moldova, field evaluation will be used, including monitoring and evaluation of participation based on gender-focused indicators⁴ to monitor the state of gender mainstreaming in all projects.

c) Knowledge management

GEF SGP aims to include in each project a learning and knowledge management plan to share and disseminate the lessons learned and the best practices identified. These commitments need to set clear learning goals, the necessary resources, explicit methodologies for knowledge management, their dissemination during and after the completion of the project. The learning and knowledge exchange events will combine face-to-face meetings, web page distributions, online forums and thematic networks, trainings, webinars, video conferences, elaboration and dissemination of relevant thematic studies, libraries, etc.

The country portfolio of SGP projects with civil society, government, the private sector and other actors relevant to the process of knowledge generation will include, inter alia, an assessment of learning outcomes, knowledge generated and shared, type of knowledge products, knowledge fairs, knowledge exchanges, knowledge exchange from colleague to colleague, use of demonstration locations. At the same time, effective ways will be pursued to

⁴ Reference to <http://lex.justice.md/md/315674/>

generate a greater impact and to encourage the replication and expansion of innovations, including through the development of the OP7 extended digital library.

5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

Communication is a strategic measure, but information management and communication will be ensured through the strategy of the SGP / GEF team to involve and communicate with key actors and CSOs from the Republic of Moldova to promote broad participation, develop effective relationships and foster partnerships throughout the OP7 and at any stage of the cycle of the supported projects (preliminary-informative, submission, implementation, reporting).

The program and each grantor will clearly articulate the contribution of the SGP to national priorities, GEF programming, and UNDP strategies through a systematic and pro-active approach, informing the CSO / CBO and the public through mass media, social networks, public consultations, international relations, information activities and awareness, etc.

The communication plan of the SGP country program is structured on two main components of communication (internal, external), ensuring an open, professional, reliable, accessible approach, with transparent information sources for better visibility, credibility, and reputation. At the same time, the internal communication will support the monitoring and evaluation process throughout the period, while the external communication activities, targeting the horizontal indicators, will ensure the necessary transparency of the program, the access to information for all stakeholders, the management of key messages in this regard. The key messages will be in line with the overall communication strategy of the SGP and with the target audience in the Republic of Moldova. The implementation of these activities will increase the presence in the visual media, websites and social media, events, reports, and publications, newsletters and other new communication technologies or innovative ways. The communication plan aims at clear objectives:

- a better understanding of the problems of the global environment and sustainable development (including livelihoods, poverty reduction, gender dimension, etc.);
- raising awareness and mobilizing resources and actions to address environmental issues at the country and local level;
- promoting partnerships and involvement;
- harmonization of the activity carried out in the common interest and for the benefit of the groups - target of the PMG;
- promoting the transparency of the activity carried out and improving the perception of the conditions and procedures of the SGP grant for OP7.

6. THE PARTNERSHIP PLAN AND MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

The Partnership Plan and the mobilization of OP7 resources aim to strengthen the impact and sustainability of the granting of grants under the aegis of the SGP country program and Grantor + roles. In OP7, the co-financing approach of the projects will be continued according to the 1: 1 scheme, where for every dollar spent from GEF funds, one dollar from other sources attracted, of which only up to 50% can be in kind, and at least 50% of the co-

financing must be in the money. The strategy for OP7 will maintain the necessary balance of the distribution of available funds between the strategic initiatives selected following the financial results of the previous period and the survey to evaluate the co-financing potential of the beneficiaries.

At the same time, small-scale projects will be encouraged, including local CSOs without experience. Experienced NGOs are encouraged to promote consortium projects with local ones in order to better exchange experience and good practices.

6.1 Planned and secured cash, as well as co-financing in kind

GEF SGP for OP7 has ensured a financial envelope of \$ 500,000, which will draw from the compulsory co-financing at least a similar amount (including a maximum 50% in-kind) from various sources. At the project level, the grant will constitute up to \$ 50,000 grant for simple projects and up to \$ 150,000 for strategic projects. At the same time, it will be ensured that the allocation at the terrestrial landscape level is allocated up to 70% of the total financial envelope GEF SGP.

6.2 Co-financing opportunities

Following the public consultations, the questioning of the potential beneficiaries and the relevant actors were determined the concrete activities and approaches to facilitate the necessary co-financing in the projects promoted by the CSOs. These sources can be LPA, interested economic agents, donor/development partners (GIZ, AIDS, ADA, IFAD, Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova etc.), direct citizens/beneficiaries, Government/state budget (FNDR, AEE), National Ecological Fund, EU funds, other sources (rayon councils, volunteers, wider collaboration with other projects, migrant natives, fundraising, NGOs, students, teachers).

The concrete activities and approaches to facilitate the co-financing of projects will be structured on the following dimensions:

- GEF (including other than SGP) and non-GEF resources (multilateral/bilateral donors, foundations, etc.) for the implementation of CPS strategic Initiatives and supporting the UN 2030 ODD approach;
- cost recovery for co-financing a share of the non-grant costs of the SGP country program (i.e. UNDP resources, national public budgets, government contributions, bilateral donors);
- the opportunity and flexibility of SGP / GEF to serve as a co-financing tool for other relevant projects and programs;
- potential financing from the private sector (eg supporting successful sustainable enterprises for their expansion). Annex 4

6.3 Grantor+ and partnership opportunities

The SGP team including the NSC and the Technical Advisory Groups (GCTs) will assist communities and CSOs in developing proposals to access other donors and funding organizations. Although the funds may not go directly to the SGP, this activity can be considered as part of the mobilization of resources, as there is an increasing flow of resources to the SGP actors due to the support provided. Approaches to facilitate these opportunities may be: (i) the association of 2 applicants with 2 different donors under the umbrella of "one project" or "integrated project" (ex:

SGP GEF and Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova), (ii) co-financing based on an agreement between 2 different donors, (iii) the cumulation of complementary activities involving mobilizing communities, involving young people, etc.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The key risks anticipated in the implementation of CPS during OP7 are related to the following aspects: (i) social and environmental risks (with reference to UNDP Social and Environmental Guarantees); (ii) climate risks; (iii) other possible risks. In the table below lists all identified risks, estimating the degree and probability of the risk, as well as the relevant risk mitigation measures.

Table 3. Description of risks identified in OP7

Describe the identified risk	Risk degree (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	The measures envisaged mitigating the risk
Difficulties related to large co-financing (50%)	high	high	Support agreements with other donors for co-financing environmental projects; Promoting actions in local strategies that would facilitate co-financing of LPAs
Decreased number of applicants and reduced involvement of NGOs,	high	medium	More active promotion of SGP in "man-to-man" actions; Dissemination of information in partnership with CPA on the implementation of environmental policies
Population passivity and LPA	high	high	Focusing on promoting actions of urgent need
Risks related to the continuity of the results of the implemented projects	high	high	Focus on achieving sustainable indicators
The difficulty of qualified human resources in attracting and implementing projects	medium	medium	Qualified assistance measures in the case of assisting and implementing a assistance (consultancy)
Political instability	medium	medium	Non-involvement in political actions
Environmental risks	medium	medium	The flexibility of SGP actions to respond promptly to new challenges
Climate risks	high	medium	The flexibility of SGP actions to respond promptly to new challenges

During the implementation of CPS OP7 the risks will be monitored and if necessary revised during the annual update of the strategy and AMR preparation. Periodically and by consulting the CSO / CBO and the relevant actors, a clear assessment of the degree and validity of the risk will be made, as well as the effectiveness of the measures taken to mitigate the risks. Subsequent interventions will be about adjusting the probability of risk, eliminating some risks or the emergence of new risks, and identifying new measures to reduce them.

According to the findings, the appropriate adjustment of the SGP / GEF Strategy for OP7 will be proposed.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

The monitoring and evaluation plan follow the Guidelines of the Country Program M&E SGP (2019). It reflects the monitoring approaches at both the country and project levels, as well as the expected results framework of the CPS.

8.1 Monitoring approaches at project and country level

The monitoring and evaluation process (M&E) represent a set of horizontal actions carried out regularly and at each project stage (planning, formulation / submission, implementation, reporting, analysis of results). Being a basic plan of the SGP / GEF program, it aims to measure through a clear system of reporting the progress and achievements achieved at the country level and of each project to prevent implementation difficulties and to evaluate the quality of the achieved objectives. The monitoring process will follow how the project's activities lead to the achievement of the planned results and indicators, including for making the necessary adjustments to improve the project performance. At the same time, the evaluation will be a periodic activity meant to assess the relevance, performance, effects and impact of a project in relation to the targeted objectives but also the SGP / GEF indicators. Special attention will be given to issues related to data quality assurance. In this respect, the systematic process of registering projects and data at country level in the SGP database will be a continuous and horizontal activity.

At the project level M&E will follow the progress in achieving the committed results, for which the CSO is responsible. In its reports (progress, final) each project team will present the description of the activities carried out, the degree of achievement of the program and project indicators, the good practices and the lessons learned from the difficulties encountered, the consumption of the means allocated, the evaluation of the achieved results, etc. Likewise, in the information on the progress in the actions taken in accordance with the plans in the project proposal, the successes and shortcomings encountered will be presented, in order to ensure the necessary corrections, but also the regular exchange of opinions with the NC of the GEF SGP for a continuous process of improvement and learning. At the same time, in the process of monitoring and evaluating the project, the CSO will also involve the target groups and partners, who participated in its elaboration and implementation. In the M&E reports, the opinions and visions of the partners must be reflected.

At the country level M&E, the results of all the projects in the program portfolio will be aggregated and analyzed in particular on the following dimensions: reaching CPS targets and indicators, systematizing and amplifying the good practices and lessons learned, improving the relations between the actors involved, reporting to the national management team of GEF SGP.

The SGP projects will be periodically passed through a monitoring system aimed at: (i) obtaining on the basis of the reports information on the progress in relation to the expected results, stipulated in the project proposal; (ii) identification of strengths and successes, as well as weaknesses and potential shortcomings of project teams; (iii) regular provision of the feedback for a continuous process of learning and exchange of experience between the participants in the SGP. Continuous communication (via email, phone, skype, etc.) between the project teams and

the NC is essential in the process of monitoring the projects, including those in difficulty. At the same time, the monitoring will serve as a tool to modify the activities in order to achieve better the expected results.

The monitoring visits will have a scheduled periodicity of at least 1-2 for each project (usually correlated with the progress and final reporting process) performed by the NC, including with the invitation of other relevant actors. Thus, in the field will be observed the actual implementation of the reported actions of the project and the way of involving the beneficiaries of the grant. The NC will document how to reach the country indicators and global GEF initiatives, the impact of the activities carried out and the good practices from the Republic of Moldova, as well as to find the discrepancies or differences from the grant contracts. Thus, the monitoring reports will indicate the findings, observations, recommendations and measures to be taken by the beneficiaries, NC and NSC, which will be informed accordingly.

Monitoring visits may target several projects in a cluster to scale GEF SGP support performance. The organization of joint monitoring visits with other co-financers (donors, foundations, academic institutions, etc.) of GEF SGP projects is encouraged.

The evaluation of the projects at the end of the projects will focus on the analysis of the performance and the results of the project based on the objectives of each project but also on the country level indicators, the activity of the CSOs and the possibilities of improving the capacities of involvement of the communities in solving environmental problems. Plans for GEF SGP project portfolio evaluations will corroborate the different types of reports that will help the program maintain accountability, sustainability, enable replicability and provide the opportunity for identifying and communicating good practices.

Participatory monitoring and compliance with ethical guidelines are important features of M&E SGP. Thus, each grantor will present the methods of carrying out the community-led monitoring (joint sessions and workshops, participatory data or studies, etc.), local actors, community members, including vulnerable persons, periodically involved in defining the progress and results of the reported project.

Involving the beneficiaries of the projects in the M&E process will amplify the mutual understanding needed to carry out the project, ensure participatory, representative and credible data, as well as strengthen the capacities of the actors involved in the development of joint activities. The wide application of the involvement of stakeholders in the evaluation and self-monitoring process will scale the experience gained within the program and a better understanding of the lessons learned.

Table 4. The country-level M&E plan

M&E activity	The purpose	Responsible parties	The source of the budget	Period of time
Elaboration of the Country Program Strategy	The framework for actions, including the identification of projects at community level	NC, NSC, stakeholders from the country, beneficiaries of grants	A SGP grant for the involvement of consultants will be used for CSP OP7	At the beginning of OP7
Annual review of CPS and analysis of	Evaluation of project effectiveness, country portfolio; learning,	NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office, Central Program	Staff time, country operational budget	At least the annual ⁵ review to ensure CPS OP7 in achieving the expected results and

⁵ It is recommended that the annual CPS review be carried out around the AMR submission period for both processes to accrue benefits from one trial to another (the suggested period is May-July).

M&E activity	The purpose	Responsible parties	The source of the budget	Period of time
project results at NSC meeting	adaptive management	Management Team (CPMT).		making timely and evidence-based changes in SPT, as needed ⁶ .
Study on the annual monitoring report ⁷	Facilitate efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves as a primary tool to record and analytically present the results to donors	NC / PA in close collaboration with NSC. The CPMT provides technical guidance and support and receives the country's final request for further action.	Staff time	Once a year in June-July
Revising the country portfolio	Capturing methodological results on a portfolio at a certain time to assess changes in the impact and wider adoption. The objective is to support reporting to stakeholders, learning and support for strategic development / implementation of CPS	NC, NSC	The SGP planning grant for the involvement of consultants will be used to review the impact of previous operational cycles and to use the lessons learned for the elaboration of CPS OP7 as well as for its implementation. Global M&E technical support can be provided	Once per operational stage
SGP database	Ensuring of the record of all contributions country program and projects in SGP database	NC, PA	Staff time	Throughout the operational stage. Ensuring the quality and completeness of the data before the annual monitoring cycle (May-June each year)
Audit	Ensuring compliance with the standards and norms of project implementation / management	UNOPS / External contractor. NC / for granting the requested support	Overall operational budget	Annual for selected countries based on risk assessment

⁶ Please note that CPS OP7 will be perceived as a dynamic document and can be updated by the SGP and NSC country team on a regular basis to reflect any adjustments needed to ensure maximum impact. This process of updating the CPS must be part of the Annual Review of the CPS.

⁷ The timely and quality presentation at country level for the annual Monitoring Process is mandatory. As a Global Program, it facilitates CPMT aggregated reporting to GEF, UNDP and other stakeholders.

8.2 Results framework of CPS

Table 5. The results framework for the country program strategy SGP OP7

<p>Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals to which CPS will contribute:</p> <p>Goal 3: Health and well-being Goal 6: Clean water and hygiene Goal 7: Clean and accessible energy Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production Goal 13: Climate action Goal 15: Life on earth Goal 17: Partnerships for goals</p>		
<p>Synergy with the UNDP Country Program Document (CPD): Climate, environment and energy change</p>		
<p>Purpose of the SGP Program OP7: Promoting and supporting innovative, inclusive and impactful initiatives, as well as encouraging partnerships of multiple actors at local level to address global environmental issues in priority land / sea landscapes.</p>		
1 Strategic initiatives CPS of SGP OP7	2 Indicators and Targets of CPS OP7	3 Verification means
<p>Strategic initiative 1: <i>Community-based conservation of ecosystems and threatened species</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving and expanding the management of protected areas in cooperation with national, local and private sector authorities. Improving community-friendly biodiversity practices and approaches in key sectors (eg agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). Protection of threatened species through consolidated actions led by local communities. Removing deforestation from the supply chain and extensive restoration of degraded land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 hectares of terrestrial landscapes enjoy improved management to benefit the biodiversity (new forest plantations, weeds) 40 ha networks of fortified conserved areas (including cores, ecological corridors, aquatic protection strips) 2 protected areas based on the community 10 endangered species protected by the local community 50 hectares of terrestrial landscapes enjoy sustainable land management in production systems (GEF basic indicator 4.3). 20 small farmers supported in achieving the national targets for land degradation neutrality (LDN). Studies or management plans for 5 natural areas and protected areas Thematic studies to increase soil quality 	<p>Individual project reporting by the SGP country teams (as part of the mid-term and final progress report) Comparison variables from the initial evaluation (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP Global Database Review of the country program National sectoral statistics Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPL)</p>
<p>Strategic initiative 2: <i>Co-benefits of access to energy with low carbon emissions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting energy efficient and renewable energy technologies, providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. Promoting the needs of decentralized energy services in rural and urban areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 technologies of energy access solutions adapted locally and oriented to communities, with demonstrations of success or extension and replication. 100 KW of installed renewable energy capacity from local technologies (ex. based on low capacity photovoltaic and / or wind technologies). 10 ha of energy crops (forests and non-forest land with the restoration and consolidation of carbon stocks initiated) 	<p>Individual reporting of the project by the SGP country teams (as part of the progress report from mid-term and final) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP Global Database Review of the country program strategy (NSC contribution) National sectoral statistics</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 households that obtain energy access, with estimated and valued co-benefits 	Reports of relevant development partners
<p><u>Strategic initiative 3:</u> From local to global coalitions for chemical management and waste management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote solid waste / plastic management and circular economy. Reducing / eliminating the use of chemicals in agriculture. Strengthening coalitions on the management of chemicals, waste and mercury. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 communities are working to raise awareness and promote the sound management of chemicals, waste and mercury. 5 tons of persistent liquid and solid organic pollutants, materials and products containing POP and mercury removed or eliminated (GEF basic indicator 9.6). 50 hectares of degraded / polluted agricultural land are restored (GEF basic indicator 3.1). 100 m³ of decontaminated productive soil, including for agricultural needs. 	<p>Individual reporting of the project by the SGP country teams (as part of the progress report from mid-term and final)</p> <p>Strategic Partnership with IPEN and Mercury GOLD Country Partners</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP Global Database</p> <p>Review of the country program strategy (NSC contribution)</p> <p>National sectoral statistics</p> <p>Reports of relevant development partners</p>
<p><u>Strategic initiative 4:</u> Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building for resilient and low-emission urban development through integrated and inclusive community-driven solutions. Promote innovative and socially inclusive urban solutions demonstrated. Promote public-private partnerships for access to low-carbon energy in marginalized communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 communities with improved capabilities to promote integrated community-led solutions for resilient and low-emission urban development. 5 community-based urban solutions / approaches (including chemical and waste management, energy, transportation, ecotourism, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) are implemented. 2 public-private partnerships for access to low-carbon energy in marginalized communities. 	<p>Individual reporting of the project by the SGP country teams (as part of the progress report from mid-term and final)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP Global Database</p> <p>Review of the country program strategy (NSC contribution)</p> <p>National sectoral statistics</p> <p>Reports of relevant development partners</p>
<p><u>Strategic initiative 5:</u> Community-based adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing vulnerabilities and improving communities' adaptation capabilities. Promote concrete models of adaptation of local communities to climate change. Encourage policies for integrating community-based adaptation into national processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 local communities with increased capacity for adaptation to extreme weather conditions. 2 concrete models of adaptation of local communities to climate change. 	<p>Individual reporting of the project by the SGP country teams (as part of the progress report from mid-term and final)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP Global Database</p> <p>National sectoral statistics</p> <p>Reports of relevant development partners</p>
<p><u>Strategic initiative 6:</u> Strengthening social inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote targeted initiatives. Integration of social inclusion in all projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>500 direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as a co-benefit of GEF investment (GEF basic indicator 11).</i> <i>100 representatives from the social inclusion group (natives, women, young people, people with disabilities, farmers, other marginalized</i> 	<p>Individual reporting of the project by the SGP country teams (as part of the progress report from mid-term and final)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report</p>

	<p><i>groups) supported with important participation in the dialogue platforms.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>50% SGP projects run by women and / or integrate concrete mechanisms for increased participation of women.</i> • <i>50% projects contribute to closing gender gaps related to access and control over natural resources</i> • <i>50% projects improve women's participation and decision-making in natural resource governance</i> • <i>50% projects target social-economic benefits and services for women</i> • <i>50% SGP projects that have support aimed at natives in terms of programming and management at country level.</i> • <i>25% SGP projects that demonstrate appropriate youth engagement models.</i> • <i>10% SGP projects that demonstrate models of involvement of people with disabilities and elderly people.</i> • <i>2 dialogues agreed between CSO-Government-Private Sector to support the voice and representation of the community in the elaboration of national / sub-national policies.</i> 	<p>(AMR), SGP Global Database Review of the country program strategy (NSC contribution) Reports of relevant development partners</p>
<p><u>Strategic initiative 7:</u> Monitoring and evaluation, as well as knowledge management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities.</i> • <i>Improvement of CSO / CBO capabilities.</i> • <i>Carrying out South-South exchanges to promote technology transfer and replicating good practices.</i> • <i>Managing the new M&E strategy in the country program, developing and implementing projects and making decisions using participatory mechanisms.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>100% projects that manage management modalities based on results in program design and implementation, as well as decision making using participatory mechanisms.</i> • <i>Quarterly frequency of updating the SGP database for efficient data collection, management and analysis, to support the benefits in program performance and learning.</i> • <i>2 south-south exchanges at global and regional level for knowledge transfer, technology replication, tools and approaches on global environmental issues.</i> 	<p>Individual reporting of the project by the SGP country teams (as part of the progress report from mid-term and final) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP Global Database Review of the country program strategy (NSC contribution) National sectoral statistics Reports of relevant development partners</p>

9. Approval of the National Steering Committee

NSC members involved in the elaboration, revision and endorsement of CPS OP7	Signatures
Inga Podoroghin, UNDP Moldova	
Ion Lica, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment	
Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, NGO „EcoContact”	
Aurel Lozan, WWF Central and Eastern Europe	
Virginia Bîlici, Embassy of Sweden in the Republic of Moldova	
Victor Cîmpoiș, NGO „Cutezătorul”	
Anastasia Ștefanița, Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova	
Mihai Lupu, MERC Institute of Energy	

Note: The signatures of the members of the NSC are required as approval of the complete final CPS, revised accordingly and approved at the meeting of the National Coordination Committee.

ANNEXES

Annex 1

The process of involving the actors in the elaboration of the Country Program Strategy of the GEF SGP for OP7

In the process of implementing the Country Strategy of the GEF Small Grants Program for OP7, several potential beneficiaries and relevant actors were trained, who were asked for a clear opinion on the priorities of the document, which will be the basis of the process of achieving the selection of projects submitted by potential beneficiaries in the next 4 years.



In order to make the process of consulting public opinion more efficient, several participatory events were organized: 6 regional meetings and approx. 30 focus groups which discussed the prioritization of strategic initiatives and criteria for the selection of terrestrial landscapes, the priority actions of intervention as well as the implementation of the GEF SGP Country Strategy. The total number of participants is 292 persons, representing different categories of potential beneficiaries and relevant actors including: local and national public associations; local public authorities; local contractors; various agents and development partners, etc.

The opinion was consulted on the basis of the detailed questionnaires, the subsequent analysis of the answers allowed the selection and prioritization of the Strategic Initiatives of the SGP for OP7, the actions needed for CSO interventions, to identify the risks, which may jeopardize the process of carrying out the Strategy in the next 4 years, the processes for and stimulating the wider involvement of the communities. local, etc. Similarly, within the focus groups the modalities of synchronizing the financing programs were discussed on the priorities similar to those supported and promoted by GEF SGP in the Republic of Moldova in order to make the efforts to attract the sources of co-financing more efficient.

Figure 1. Prioritization of strategic initiatives

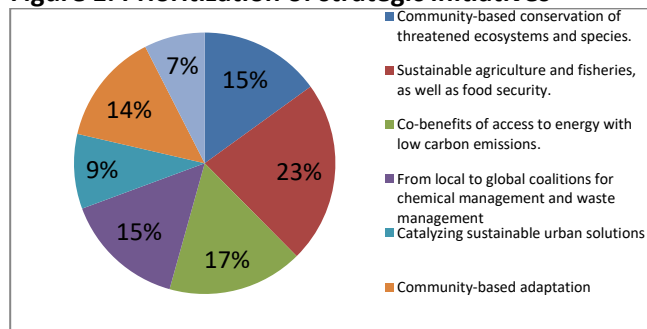
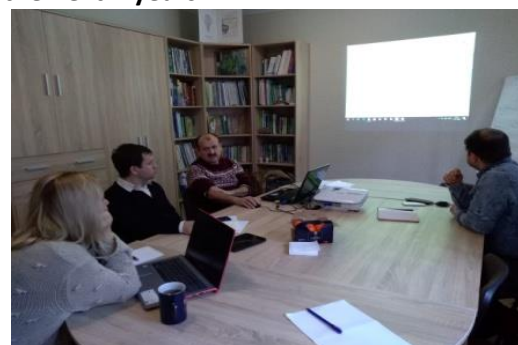
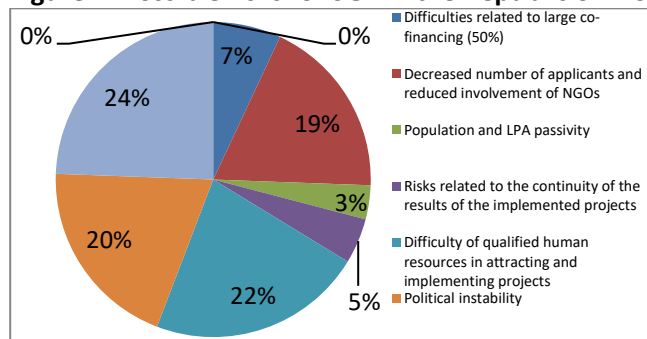


Figure 2. Possible risks for SGP in the Republic of Moldova during the next 4 years



To be held another 10 thematic focus groups and 3 public consultations with relevant stakeholders to complete the content GEF SGP Country Strategy OP7.

Annex 2
Coherence and coverage of global GEF initiatives for OP7 in national strategies and international conventions adhered to by the Republic of Moldova

The normative act	GEF global initiatives	Activities suitable for CSOs
The environmental strategy for the years 2014 - 2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation	1,2,3,4,5,6	1,2,3,4,6
Strategy on the biological diversity of the Republic of Moldova for the years 2015-2020 and the Action Plan for its implementation SPDBRM	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	1,2,5,6,8,9,10
Strategy of the Republic of Moldova to adapt to climate change by 2020 and the Action Plan for its implementation	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	1,2,3,4,5,9
National program on sustainable management of chemicals in the Republic of Moldova	4	4
The national action plan in the field of renewable energy for 2013-2020	3	3
The energy strategy of the Republic of Moldova until 2030	3	3
The national program for energy efficiency 2011-2020	3	3
Strategy for the development of rural extension services for the years 2012-2022	2, 5, 6	6
National strategy for agricultural and rural development for the years 2014-2020	2	2
National Strategy on Reducing and Eliminating Persistent Organic Pollutants and National Plan for Implementing the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	4	4
Strategy for sustainable development of the forestry sector in Republic of Moldova	1	1
National plan for the extension of the areas with forest vegetation for the years 2014-2018	1	1
Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 5th June 1992), ratified at 23.06.1993	1,2,4,5,6,8,9,10	1
The Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity (New York, SUA 2001), ratified at 11.10.2002	1,2,4,6,7,9,10	1
The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (APS), signed at 06.12.2011	1,2,6,7,8,9,10	1
The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (also known as Berne Convention), ratified at 23.06.1993	1,2,5,6,10	1
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York, 9th May 1992), ratified at 16.03.1995	3,5,6,9,10	3,9,10
The Kyoto Protocol (Kyoto, 11th December 1997), joined on 13.02.2003	2,3,5,6,7,9,10	2,3,10
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna, 22nd March 1985), joined at 24.07.1996	1,3,4,5,6,9,10	9
The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal, 16th September 1987), joined at 24.07.1996	1,3,5,6,9,10	9,10
UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification (Paris, 17 th June 1994), joined at 24.12.1998	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
Minamata Convention on Mercury, signed at 04.10.2013	1,3,4,6,7,9,10	1,3,4,6,9,10
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm, Sweden 2001) – ratified at 19.02.2004	1,4,5,6,8,9,10	1,4,8,9,10

Annex 3

Republic of Moldova - a unique terrestrial landscape, but with specific thematic accents
Typology of terrestrial landscapes in which maps of areas with landscapes suitable for restoration through afforestation / grassing

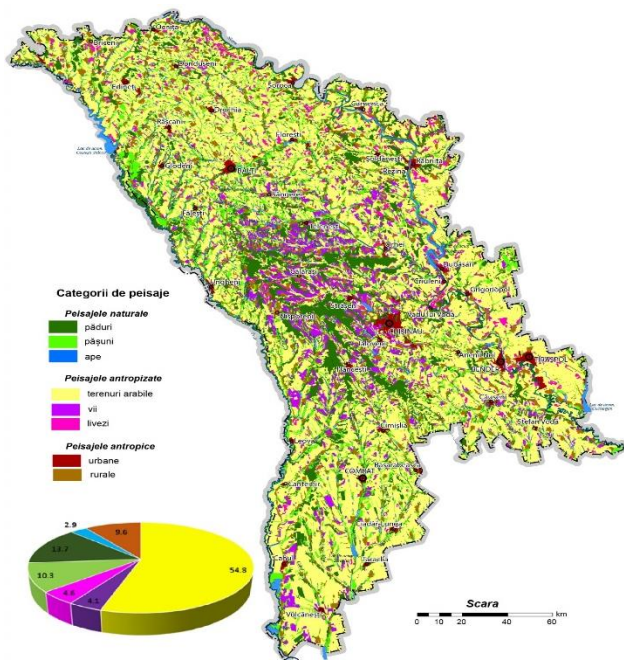


Figure 1. Categories of landscapes

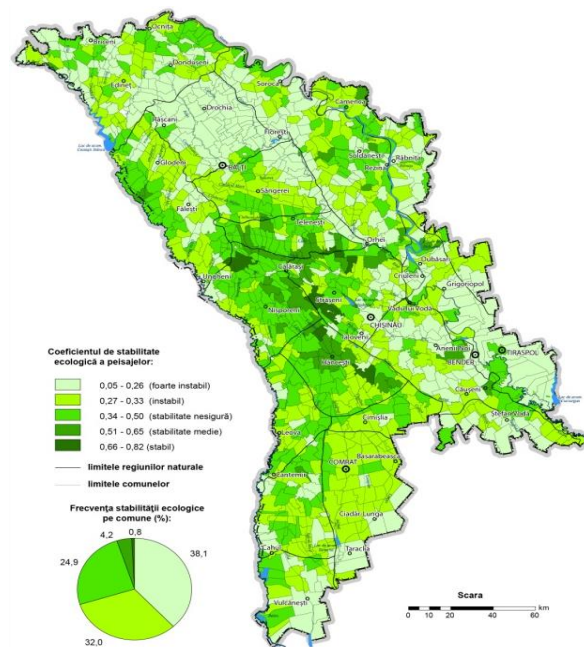


Figure 2. The coefficient of ecological stability of the landscapes

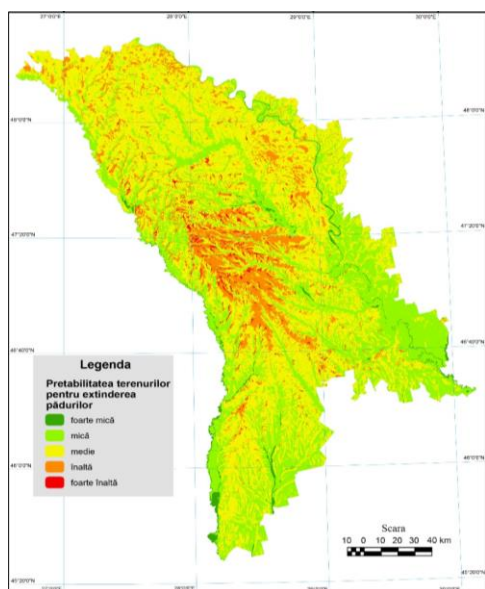


Figure 3 Land suitable for afforestation

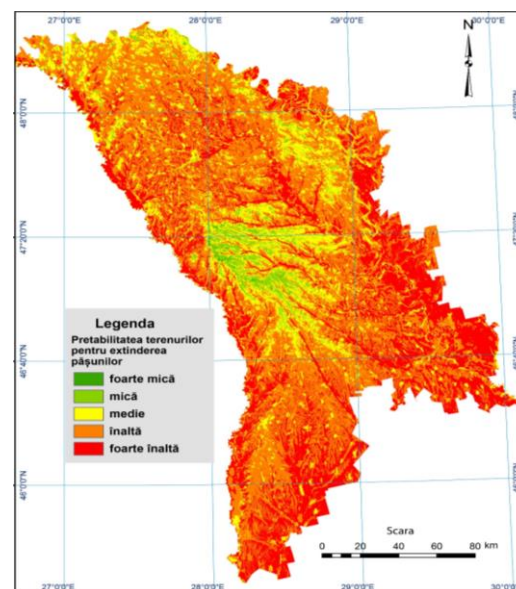


Figure 4 Land suitable for grassing

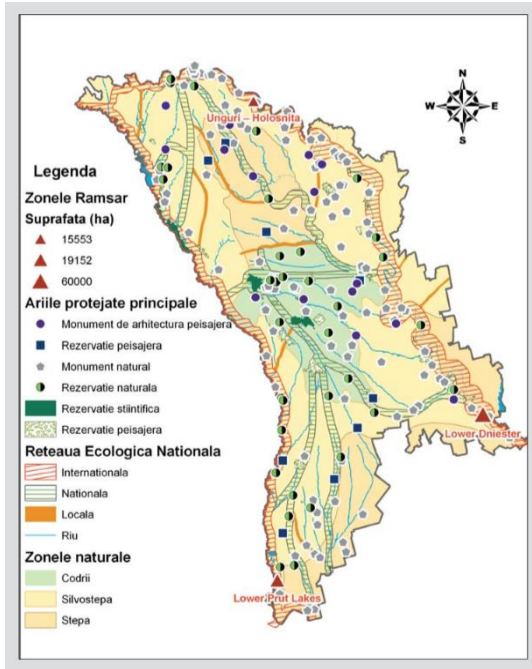


Figure 5 The national ecological network

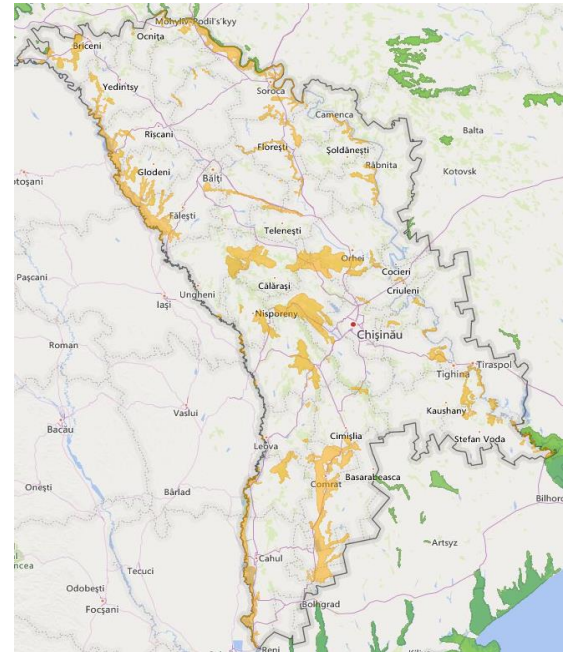


Figure 6 Emerald network

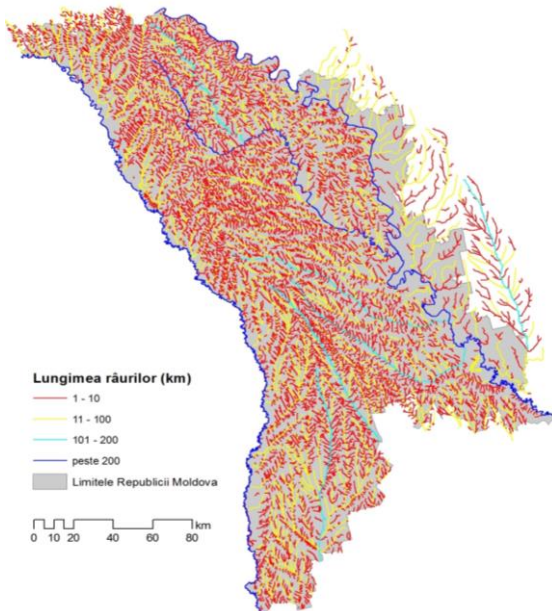


Figure 7 Areas and strips of water protection of rivers and water basins

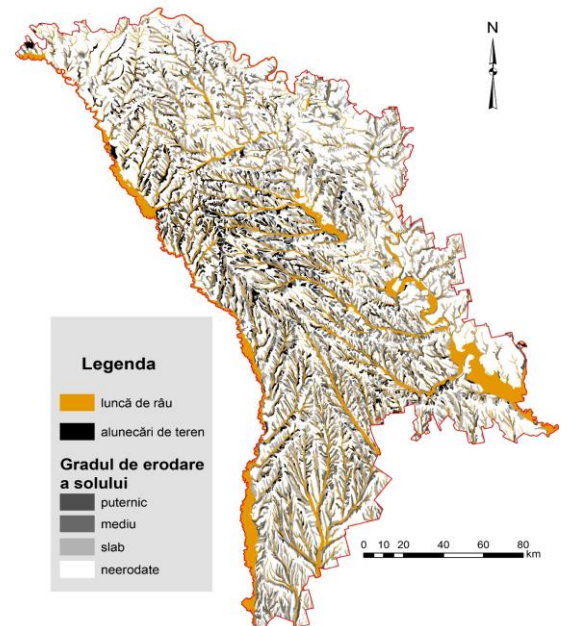


Figure 8 Land degraded for reforestation

Annex 4
Support details for co-financing partnerships at country level

SGP indicators / Co-financing sources	LPA	Interested businesses	Other donors, development partners (GIZ, SIDA, IFAD)	Citizens, direct beneficiaries	Government, state budget (NRDF, AEE, AIPA)	National Ecological Fund	EU funds	District councils	Wider collaboration with other projects	Migratory natives	Fundraising	NGOs
50 hectares of terrestrial landscapes enjoy improved management to benefit the biodiversity (new forest plantations, grassing)												
5 protected areas based on the community												
40 ha networks of fortified conserved areas (including cores, ecological corridors, aquatic protection strips)												
10 endangered species protected by the local community												
50 hectares of terrestrial landscapes enjoy sustainable land management in production systems												
50 hectares of degraded agricultural land are restored												
10 links and partnerships for sustainable food production practices (such as diversification, sustainable intensification, reduction of deforestation) and supply chain management (especially SMEs).												
20 small farmers supported in achieving the national targets for land degradation neutrality (LDN)												
100 KW of installed renewable energy capacity from local technologies (ex: regarding the types of technology for biomass renewable energy, solar energy)												
2 technologies of energy access solutions adapted locally and oriented to communities, with demonstrations of success or extension and replication												
30 households that obtain energy access, with estimated and valued co-benefits												
10 ha of forests and non-forest land with the restoration and consolidation of carbon stocks initiated												
5 tons of persistent liquid and solid organic pollutants, materials and products containing POP and mercury removed or eliminated												

100 m ³ of decontaminated productive soil, including for agricultural needs												
5 communities are working to raise awareness and promote the sound management of chemicals, waste and mercury												
5 community-based urban solutions / approaches (including chemical and waste management, energy, transportation, ecotourism, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) are implemented												
5 communities with improved capabilities to promote integrated community-led solutions for resilient and low-emission urban development												
2 public-private partnerships for access to low-carbon energy in marginalized communities												
5 local communities with increased capacity for adaptation to extreme weather conditions												
2 concrete models of adaptation of local communities to climate change												
2 dialogues agreed between CSO-Government-Private Sector to support the voice and representation of the community in the elaboration of national / sub-national policies												
100 representatives from the social inclusion group (natives, women, young people, people with disabilities, farmers, other marginalized groups) supported with important participation in the dialogue platforms												
2 public-private partnerships on key issues related to the global environment are promoted												
<i>Training and capacity building</i>												
<i>Thematic studies, researches</i>												
<i>Promotional events</i>												

GEF country programme action for Moldova over the next 4r years

Eligible indicative actions

Strategic initiative 1: Community-based conservation of ecosystems and threatened species

Landscape protection: extension of landscapes with high ecological value (forests, grasslands), ecological reconstruction of lands eroded or subject to landslides, enhancement of ecoprotective and bioproductive potential, conservation of rural landscape, protection of hydrographic basins, restoration of biodiversity, conservation of biodiversity, conservation of biodiversity areas with limestone (including landscape, flora, fauna),

Afforestation: afforestation of degraded lands (rapids, lands affected by landslides, eroded lands), solutions to ensure sustainability for afforested lands, planting of native tree species (including the creation of nurseries, seed bank), involvement of the population in forest reconstruction activities, plantations forest on the rocks

Grassing: actions to increase the share pastures, grassing herbal honey / medicine multi-improving degraded pastures,

Strengthening the network of protected areas: expanding the national ecological network (especially the local one), creating areas and strips for the protection of rivers and water basins, improving the management of the network of protected natural areas, creating small infrastructures for exploiting protected natural landscapes (natural protected areas) : arrangement of viewing points);

Rehabilitation of agricultural and rural landscapes: promotion of integrated management of agro-ecosystems, promotion of elements of ecological agriculture and environmentally friendly practices (agroterases, fences in the reefs, waves / streams, etc.), rehabilitation of springs / fountains, technologies for water-based pools, waterproof creations, / the restoration of the protection strips and the diminution of the processes of degradation of the agricultural lands, the implementation of ruins,

Promotion of relevant thematic studies: (ex. ensuring the performance of specific technical-scientific studies, evaluating the quality status of the soil cover on the sectors foreseen for afforestation, carrying out forestry design works, promoting forestry / pastoral planning and developing development plans. forests / meadows, actions to increase the benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services, development of management plans for protected natural areas, mapping of flowers and fauna, etc. Studies can be funded by the GEF SGP if at least one part of the study recommendations are implemented within the same project)

Protecting endangered species: identifying and improving habitats for endangered species, increasing the visibility of the issue of endangered species, inventorying nests of rare species, improving living conditions for animals (ex: installing nests for endangered species), strengthening habitats (unifying some)

Promotion, information, awareness: training of LPA staff and relevant institutions on fauna / flora diversity in the country or in a region, informing and ensuring the public participation in the activities of extending the areas with forest vegetation, advocates for adjusting fines to environmental violations, Training the staff of local public authorities on how to carry out the works of care and management of forest vegetation, promoting good practices of multiple use of landscapes to meet ecological, economic, social and cultural needs, capitalizing on the use of the forest fund for recreational purposes, promoting some financing mechanisms to manage the landscape or stimulate access to the funds made available by the government, safeguarding and exploiting the tourism potential of natural and cultural landscapes, training on the importance of species endangerment, informing the owners, administrators and the general public about the presence of endangered species in the perimeter of the commune, arranging ecotourism routes, hours of ecological education in schools, etc.

Strategic initiative 2: Co-benefits of access to energy with low carbon emissions

Promoting new technologies: encouraging environmentally friendly technologies, promoting solutions for improving energy efficiency and capitalizing on renewable energy sources (photovoltaic panels, solar collectors, thermal insulation, wind energy, biofuel, biomass and biogas installations for household applications, LEDs and the dimming system), the use of secondary agricultural and forestry waste, the application of the concept regarding the generation distributed at local level or the local energy autonomy.

Energy plantations: creation / expansion of energy plantations (including willow and acacia),

Involving the population: saving energy consumption / thermal heat, promoting the use of high energy efficiency products, promoting and encouraging energy efficient technologies (ex: cogeneration, heating / cooling), promoting the concepts of rural ecological houses.

<p>Strategic initiative 3: From local to global coalitions for chemical management and waste management</p> <p><u>Waste management:</u> promoting the principle of extended producer responsibility, separate waste collection, promoting composting, reuse of waste, reducing the use of plastic packaging, training to improve waste management, eco-friendly toilets, promoting composting of organic waste and using sludge / ponds,</p> <p><u>Chemicals management:</u> promoting actions to ensure sustainable management of chemicals at local level, promoting the use of eco-detergents, advocating for the dangers of pesticide deposits, actions for decontamination of land due to pollution, public awareness of consumer safety and reduction of risks associated with the use of chemicals, development of hazardous waste collection points (batteries, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), expired medicines, etc.) from households, collectors of mercury thermometers and expired lamps, centralized collection of expired reagents from school laboratories, collection of expired pesticides / herbicides.</p>
<p>Strategic initiative 4: Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions</p> <p><u>Urban development:</u> restoration of degraded landscapes from the urban areas, rehabilitation of urban, peri-urban and rural green spaces, promotion of environmentally friendly technologies in urban landscaping (ex: rain garden), implementation of smart community-led solutions (including chemical and waste management, energy, transport , ecotourism, the protection of river basins, ecosystem services and biodiversity), the development of springs, the promotion of ecological transport (ex: cycling),</p> <p><u>Urban planning:</u> promoting biodiversity conservation actions in local environmental protection plans, promoting SMART City and ECODRIVE concepts, promoting rainwater collection for technical purposes, advocates for introducing general urban (rural and urban) plans for the development of green areas for residential neighborhoods, promoting connecting the population to the existing sewers.</p>
<p>Strategic initiative 5: Community-based adaptation</p> <p><u>Enhancing adaptation capacities:</u> promoting practices and technologies to mitigate the effects of climate change, mitigation / local adaptation to these effects, encouraging the development of Associations of Private and / or Private Forest Owners,</p> <p><u>Flood adaptation:</u> promoting good practices for adequate management of flood risk, development of wetlands, elaboration of technical regulations for the exploitation of aquatic basins, delimitation and afforestation of riparian strips of protection of aquatic objects around the commune; inventory of the status of the protection dams in the perimeter of the commune; the construction / repair of the bottom and fire extinguishers at the aquatic basins, the conversion of ponds, the consolidation of the damaged dams,</p> <p><u>Adaptation to droughts:</u> promoting good practices and measures to combat drought / water shortage, breeding indigenous species resistant to various climatic conditions in nurseries, solutions for forest protection against fires and pollution, creating new water reservoirs with waterproof bottom , the development of wetlands and the collection of water from rainfall, the promotion of agricultural crops with low water consumption; promoting technologies for water loss mitigation; promotion of technologies that allow the use of waste water in irrigation, etc.</p>
<p>Strategic initiative 6: Strengthening social inclusion</p> <p><u>Increasing the role of CSOs in the locality:</u> actions to strengthen and directly involve the inhabitants, contributions to strengthening local capacities, facilitating common work in carrying out local environmental strategies correlated with national ones, developing and actively implementing environmental projects in collaboration with LPA, community and potential funders, inclusion of seniors, institutional improvement of local NGOs, support of ecological youth circles.</p> <p><u>CSO expertise</u> in analyzing the implementation of strategic documents, informing the general public and training the company in national actions in the field of environmental protection, etc.</p>
<p>Strategic initiative 7: Monitoring and evaluation, as well as knowledge management</p> <p><u>Informing, raising awareness of environmental issues:</u> educating and raising public awareness of relevant EO7 actions, training of staff, training of staff, facilitating public participation in the decision-making process related to environmental issues, including environmental impact assessment, use of new technologies in the field of environmental issues. schooling and inclusive communication, facilitating access to environmental information, developing geographical information systems such as "Report an environmental problem", promoting actions of public interest (ex: advocates on the integration of environmental protection provisions, green economic development and adaptation) to climate change in the sector policy documents and the relevant legislation, the legislation regarding the creation of communal forests, the introduction of insurance in forestry, etc.</p> <p><u>Thematic trainings</u> (ex. participatory planning, knowledge management and strengthening of legislative and institutional capacities relevant to the natural environment, awareness of the necessary techniques for saving water and other local natural resources, conservation of biodiversity and biological security, integration of ecosystem services in agriculture, promotion of nutritious and diversified diets through increased use of biodiversity, reducing food waste, integrated institutional system of chemical</p>

management, increasing the capacities of NGOs in promoting partnership projects, training for civil servants for capacity building in the process of elaborating and monitoring the implementation of the development plans. environment, etc.), non-formal ecological education.

Annex 5.2

The ineligible actions of GEF SGP CPS for Moldova in the next 4 years

- feasibility studies / technical projects for dumps,
- technical projects and ecological approval (on various aspects established in the environmental legislation),
- ecological expertise in the elaboration of the general urban planning of the localities,
- business plan / strategies for sustainable urban development,
- financial support of entrepreneurs,
- creation of waste management system in localities,
- authorized garbage or common polygons for waste from several localities,
- regional waste collection platforms,
- management of household waste,
- procurement of bins,
- extension of sanitation services,
- medical / pharmaceutical waste collection,
- storing and using toxic packaging,
- tractors, utilities,
- mini briquetting factories,
- infrastructure for access to drinking water,
- major actions in the event of natural disasters,
- dam revitalization,
- creation of aquatic basins on local streams,
- deepening of lakes and rivers,
- installation of mini-hydropower stations without "low-free" dam on small rivers,
- organization of wetlands for sewage,
- new district sewerage system,
- floristic arrangement of public institutions,
- playgrounds for children,
- construction / preservation of houses,
- private pension / hotel construction,
- mapping of urban sites in advanced deterioration condition for rehabilitation solutions,
- monitoring harmful emissions.

Extended producer responsibility

According to the Strategy of the Country Program of the SGP for Operational Stage 7 for the Republic of Moldova, one of the priorities of the program is "From local to global coalitions for chemical management and waste management":

1. Promote solid waste / plastic management and circular economy.
2. Reducing / eliminating the use of chemicals in agriculture.
3. Strengthening coalitions on the management of chemicals, waste and mercury.

Waste Law 209/2016 of the Republic of Moldova stipulates a new approach to waste management by economic agents, LPAs and population. The law introduces a new mechanism "Extended producer responsibility" for economic agents, which must apply it to the following types of waste: batteries and accumulators; electrical and electronic equipment; vehicles; oils; packaging (see Box 1). The projects submitted to the Small Grants Program of the Global Environment Fund, can promote the application of this mechanism in the Republic of Moldova, involving within the program economic agents, which generate these types of waste.

Box 1:

According to the Waste Law 209/2016, the extended producer responsibility mechanism is included in article 12, and involves the following:

Article 12. Extended responsibility of producers

(1) To strengthen the reuse and prevention, recycling and other types of waste recovery, natural or legal persons (the producer of the product) who, at the professional level, design, produce, process, treat, sell and / or import the products mentioned in paragraph (14) are subject to the extended responsibility regime of the producer.

(2) The extended liability of the producer represents the totality of the obligations imposed on the producers, either individually or collectively, for the recovery and capitalization or recycling end-of-life products. The activities for the application of the extended responsibility of the producer concern the measures of acceptance of the returned products and of the waste that remain after the use of the respective products, as well as the subsequent management of the waste and the financial insurance for these activities.

(3) Activities for the application of the extended producer responsibility must be accompanied by the necessary measures to encourage both the ecological design and the production of products, as well as the use of components and materials that have a low impact on the environment and which generate a small quantity waste during production and subsequent use, as well as to ensure that recovery and disposal of products that have become waste is carried out in compliance with the provisions of art. 3 and 4. The presence of dangerous substances in the products mentioned in par. (14), subject to priority of the manufacturer's extended liability regulations, such as mercury, cadmium, lead, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls, polybrominated diphenyl ethers and ozone-depleting substances, including hydrochlorofluorocarbons, are regulated by this law and by the normative acts regarding the management of these products, approved by the Government.

(4) The measures mentioned in par. (2) should encourage the development, production and marketing of multi-use products, which are technically sustainable and which, after becoming waste, can be subject to a safe use and of a eliminations that do not pollute the environment.

(14) In order to promote extended producer responsibility, the following products will be subject to priority of these regulations:

- a) batteries and accumulators;
- b) electrical and electronic equipment;
- c) vehicles;
- d) oils;
- e) packaging.

CO-FINANCING POTENTIAL FOR GEF EO7 GSP

1. The National Ecological Fund⁸

The National Ecological Fund (NEF) is a national fund, administered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova. NEF is the only fund in the Republic of Moldova whose purpose is to finance projects exclusively in the field of environmental protection. Being created by Government Decision no. 988 of 26.09.98 in accordance with the Law on environmental protection (no. 1515 of 16.06.1993), the Law on amending and completing the Law on environmental protection (no. 1539-XIII of 25.02.1998), the law on payment for pollution of the environment (no. 1540-XIII of 25.02.1998), the NEF aims to accumulate additional means to finance the activities in the environmental field. The financing of the projects submitted by the applicant takes place only after their approval by the Board of the Fund.

Funding areas remained the same:

- Projects foreseeing the implementation of national strategies, programs and plans for environmental protection, standards and norms, for the construction and participation by quotas in the construction of the environmental protection objectives (including financing the design works and the implementation of projects in the field of water supply and sewerage, financing the works for the collection and sorting of the waste and the support of the companies processing or neutralizing them, financing the works for improving the quality of the air basin);
- Scientific investigations in the field of environmental protection carried out at the request of MARDE, participation by quotas in the research-development works, elaboration of the projects of the protected areas of the natural heritage and the built one of national and international importance;
- Organizing and managing the ecological information system, promoting ecological knowledge;
- Organization of international cooperation in the field of environmental protection, including by involving foreign specialists in providing consultative, expert assistance, participation of the country's representatives in the activity of international ecological conventions to which the Republic of Moldova is a party, paying the membership fees of the interstate organizations in the field of environmental protection, organization and carrying out the activities of implementation of the CITES Convention;
- The liquidation of the consequences of natural disasters, production failures, other situations that may harm the environment;
- Granting financial support to non-governmental environmental organizations based on a special grant program for projects aimed at environmental protection.

Synergy between the priority areas of the Fund and the priority areas GEF SGP OP7:

- Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species
- Co-benefits of access to the low carbon energy system
- From local to global coalitions for chemical management and waste management
- Monitoring and evaluation, as well as knowledge management.

2. Agency for Energy Efficiency⁹

Projects focused on promoting energy efficiency and capitalizing on renewable energy sources, which have a positive impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, can be supported by the Agency for Energy Efficiency. The main

⁸ <http://mediu.gov.md/index.php/component/content/article/79-categorii-in-romana/despre-minister/institutii-subordonate/72-fondul-ecologic-national>

⁹ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112491&lang=ro

objective of the AEE is to attract and manage financial resources in order to finance and implement projects in the field of energy efficiency and to use renewable energy sources in accordance with the strategies and programs developed by the Government. The AEE achieves its objectives by promoting and financing economically, technically and environmentally feasible projects that ensure the sustainability of energy consumption and would direct the economy towards a reduction in energy intensity, as well as reducing pollutant or greenhouse gas emissions.

Projects can be funded through:

- The call for project proposals no. 3 - public sector
- The call for project proposals no. 4 - private sector
- The call for project proposals no. 5 - public lighting

Synergy between the priority areas of the funding agency and the priority areas of GEF SGP OP7:

- Co-benefits of access to the low carbon energy system
- Catalyze sustainable urban solutions.

3. Consolidated Unit for Implementation of IFAD Programs

The institution was created by the Government of the Republic of Moldova for the implementation of the IFAD programs, after the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the International Fund for Agricultural Development in 1996.

The components of IFAD Programs are implemented in accordance with the procedures established and approved by IFAD in agreement with the Government of the Republic of Moldova. The activities provided for in the programs are implemented by UCIP-IFAD in collaboration and / or through the accredited service providers and the participating financial institutions, depending on the specific activities implemented. Within the two projects in progress: PRRECI (IFAD VI) and PRR (IFAD VII) UCIP IFAD has the following types of grants:

1. The Rural Program for Inclusive Economic-Climatic Resilience (IFAD VI)

- Grants for the establishment and rehabilitation of grass coverings¹⁰
- Grants for the rehabilitation and establishment of plantations of forest protection curtains / fruit trees¹¹

2. Rural Resilience Project (IFAD VII)

- Grants for the establishment and rehabilitation of grass coverings¹².
- Grants for financing measures to adapt agricultural production systems to climate change.
- Competition for infrastructure projects for 2021 within the Rural Resilience Project¹³
- Grants for women for business development and diversification¹⁴ - pilot project
- Grants for the rehabilitation / establishment of protection curtains, fruit-tree plantations and riparian strips of water protection¹⁵

Synergy between the priority areas of the financing institution and the priority areas GEF SGP OP7:

- Co-benefits of access to energy with low carbon emissions
- From local to global coalitions for chemical management and waste management
- Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions
- Community-based adaptation

¹⁰ <https://www.ucipifad.md/granturi/granturi-pentru-infiintarea-si-reabilitarea-invelisurilor-de-ierburi-2/>

¹¹ <https://www.ucipifad.md/granturi/granturi-pentru-reabilitarea-si-infiintarea-fasiilor-de-protectie-forestiere-silvo-pomicole/>

¹² <https://www.ucipifad.md/granturi/granturi-pentru-infiintarea-si-reabilitarea-invelisurilor-de-ierburi-2/>

¹³ <https://www.ucipifad.md/granturi/concurs-pentru-receptionarea-cererilor-de-finantare-a-proiectelor-de-infrastructura-pentru-anul-2021-in-cadrul-proiectului-de-rezilianta-rurala/>

¹⁴ <https://www.ucipifad.md/granturi/granturi-destinate-femeilor-pentru-dezvoltarea-si-diversificarea-afacerilor/>

¹⁵ <https://www.ucipifad.md/granturi/granturi-pentru-reabilitarea-infiintarea-perdelor-de-protectie-plantatiilor-agrosilvice-si-a-fasiilor-riverane-de-protectie-a-apelor/>

4. Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture ¹⁶

AIPA is a public institution for self-management, set up next to the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and the Environment, which has the mission to manage the resources of the National Development Fund for Agriculture and Rural Environment and the resources of the development partners, allocated for administration, thus implementing the state policies regarding development of agriculture and rural environment through subsidization and other forms of financial support for agricultural producers.

During February –May, AIPA receives applications for advance grants, in order to improve the standard of living and work in rural areas, aimed at improving and developing rural public infrastructure and reducing the trends of social and economic decline in rural areas.

Under the conditions of the Regulation, eligible for advance grants are: first-level administrative-territorial units (villages and communes, as well as cities with a population of up to 10,000 inhabitants with resident status, according to the latest census of population and housing) and the legal or natural persons registered in the rural localities that create or develop their non-agricultural activities.

Support measures are as follows:

Measure 1. Improvement and development of rural public economic infrastructure,

Measure 2. Renovation and development of the rural locality,

Measure 3. Diversification of the rural economy through non-agricultural activities

The term of implementation of the project will not exceed 24 months.

Synergy between the priority areas of the funding agency and the priority areas of GEF SGP OP7:

- Co-benefits of access to energy with low carbon emissions
- From local to global coalitions for chemical management and waste management
- Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions
- Community-based adaptation.

5. Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Moldova ¹⁷

The cooperation of the Slovak Republic with the Republic of Moldova is based on the Mid-Term Cooperation and International Development Strategy (2019 - 2023)¹⁸.

The strategy is focused on one or more of the sustainable development goals selected for Good governance:

- No poverty and no hunger (SDO 1, 2);
- Health and well-being (SDO 3);
- Quality education and gender equality (SDO 4, 5);
- Clean water and sewage and accessible and clean energy (SDO 6,7);
- Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8);
- Industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDO 9);
- Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDO 11);
- Climate action, life on earth and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDO 13,15,16).

Synergy between the priority areas of the funding agency and the priority areas of GEF SGP OP7:

- Co-benefits of access to energy with low carbon emissions

¹⁶ <http://aipa.gov.md/ro/content/aipa-dat-startul-recep%C8%9Bion%C4%83rii-cererilor-de-solicitare-subven%C8%9Biei-%C3%AEn-avans-pentru>

¹⁷ <https://www.mzv.sk/web/kisinov-en/slovakaid>

¹⁸ <http://www.slovakaid.sk/en/news/559-country-strategy-paper-moldova>

- From local to global coalitions for chemical management and waste management
- Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions
- Community-based adaptation

Small grant program of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Moldova¹⁹ is funded by the SlovakAid Program and directly targets small projects, which represent a more flexible, operational and efficient financial support for developing countries. The submitted projects must be related to the sectors related to clean water and sewage and accessible and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, climate action.

The amount allocated is expected to be up to EUR 10,000.

Duration of project implementation between 6 and 12 months.

6. Solidarity Fund PL in the Republic of Moldova²⁰

In the Republic of Moldova it has been operating since 2012 on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Poland and the Republic of Moldova. The fund's activity is aimed at creating synergy to support community development, operating on the basis of the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity. The fund creates sustainable local partnerships and develops systemic solutions together with the rural and urban communities of the Republic of Moldova. Supports local development processes, applying international tools, sharing lessons learned and promoting good practices.

The directions of the activity fund are oriented towards supporting local development:

6.1 LEADER-EU Rural Development Fund²¹

The LEADER-EU Rural Development Fund is an instrument implemented by the Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova in partnership with the LEADER National Network in the Republic of Moldova²². The "LEADER approach to rural prosperity in Moldova" is funded by the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Polish Republic under the Polish development cooperation program - Polish aid. The mission of the Fund is to strengthen local development in the Republic of Moldova, by co-financing development projects, implemented by local partners.

The 2020 edition aims to contribute to the development of rural areas by implementing and strengthening the LEADER approach.

The Local Action Groups (LAGs) of the Republic of Moldova are eligible to participate, which correspond to the basic principles of the LEADER approach and have the Local Development Strategy, approved by the General Assembly (Council) of the LAG.

The general objective is: economic development and improving the standard of living of the rural population of the Republic of Moldova by strengthening the LEADER approach. The specific objectives are: (i) supporting the LAGs in the implementation of projects and initiatives that support the realization of the LAG Local Development Strategy; (ii) institutional development of the LAG; (iii) strengthening the experience of implementing the LEADER approach in the Republic of Moldova.

6.2 Urban development based on the Urban Revitalization approach²³ is carried out in several cities in the country. The main idea is the positive transformation of those parts of the cities that are in crisis and need changes in social, architectural, economic, environmental, etc. The Urban Revitalization process is carried out in a complex way,

¹⁹ <https://www.mzv.sk/documents/1152881/3561042/Small+Grants+Guidance+2020.pdf>

²⁰ <http://solidarityfund.md/cine-suntem/>

²¹ <https://solidarityfund.md/apel-de-propuneri-in-cadrul-fondului-de-dezvoltare-rurala-leader-ue-2020/>

²² <https://leaderin.md/?p=13456>

²³ <http://solidarityfund.md/dezvoltare-urbana/>

through territorially integrated actions and carried out by the local administrations through efficient local, regional, national partnerships based on an Urban Revitalization Program of the city.

Small Grant Fund 2020 - Urban Revitalization Edition²⁴ is organized in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Funds for Development and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland. The call is co-financed from the funds of the Polish Development Cooperation Program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Polish Republic - Polish aid.

SGF 2020 - Urban Revitalization edition aims to support the process of implementation of Urban Revitalization Programs as instruments of urban policy - main means of stimulating sustainable urban development of city areas, including social, economic, environmental, spatial and cultural aspects.

Synergy between the Foundation's priority areas and GEF SGP OP7 priority areas:

- Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions
- Community-based adaptation.

7. Embassy of Romania in Moldova

The Government of Romania through the Department of Policies for the Relation with Romanians Everywhere develops a technical assistance program for Romanians from abroad, including from the Republic of Moldova. The Policy Department for the Relations with Romanians Everywhere elaborates and applies the policy of the Romanian state in the field of relations with the Romanian communities outside the borders and acts to strengthen the relations with the Romanians outside the borders of Romania and to preserve, develop and express their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, in compliance with the law of the state of which the residents are.

Financing programs:

- Culture - "Constantin Brancusi"
- Mass media - „Mihai Eminescu”
- Education - "Nicolae Iorga"
- Spirituality and tradition - "Andrei Şaguna"
- Civil Society - "Dimitrie Gusti"

Auction calendar: 2 times a year, usually February-March and October-November.

Synergy between the priority areas of the funding agency and the priority areas of GEF SGP OP7:

- Catalyze sustainable urban solutions.
- Community-based adaptation.

8. Austrian Development Agency²⁵

The Cooperation Partnership between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) is based on the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Cooperation and Development, signed on 21/10/2008, in Vienna, and the Objectives activities are focused on reducing poverty, ensuring peace and human security and protecting the environment.

Assistance to Moldova is carried out according to the Austrian Cooperation Strategy with the Republic of Moldova for 2015-2020.

Priority areas:

- water / wastewater management (60%);
- vocational and technical training according to the demands of the labor market (30%), especially in rural areas;

²⁴ <https://solidarityfund.md/fondul-granturilor-mici-anunta-apel-deschis-pentru-editia-revitalizare/>

²⁵ <http://amp.gov.md/portal/node/17>

Other important additional areas are:

- administration (10%) (which includes strengthening the capacities of public administration, support for civil society, conflict prevention and reintegration of emigrants returning to the country);
- gender equality and the environment.

Deadline: There are no formal procedures or deadlines for submitting project proposals. They can be presented at any time throughout the year.

The amount allocated is expected to be up to EUR 10,000.

Synergy between the priority areas of the funding agency and the priority areas of GEF SGP OP7:

- Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species.
- Co-benefits of access to low-carbon energy.
- Catalyze sustainable urban solutions.
- Community-based adaptation.
- Strengthening social inclusion.

9. Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova²⁶

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is an international cooperation agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. The SDC is responsible for coordinating the technical assistance and humanitarian aid provided by the Swiss Confederation. In the Republic of Moldova, the SDC is represented by the Swiss Cooperation Office which is also the Representation of the Embassy of the Swiss Confederation in the Republic of Moldova. Assistance to Moldova is done according to the Swiss Cooperation Strategy in the Republic of Moldova (2014-2017).

Priority areas for the small grant program:

- Projects that address democratic processes, human rights and civil society development in general, as well as concrete issues related to social inclusion, gender equality, good governance and anti-corruption, migration and development in Switzerland's main areas of activity in Republic of Moldova - health, governance, economic development and employment;
- Culture projects that promote cultural diversity and contemporary artistic expression, create spaces for dialogue and support professionals and their organizations in their efforts to play a more active role in the development of culture.

Amount allocated: up to CHF 50,000 for small grants and CHF 100,000 grants for projects, submitted by regional or national organizations, or a consortium of organizations, focused on one or more of the eligible topics described below, and which include a additional component of institutional development.

The duration of the project does not exceed 18 months.

Auction calendar: The grant program is announced by the Swiss Cooperation Office in Chisinau. For the small grants program 2019-2023 financial sources are available in the size of the allocated budget. The project concepts and the application forms for the selected concepts can be submitted throughout the year, with no deadlines for submission. The received ones are discussed every two months.

Synergy between the priority areas of the funding agency and the priority areas of GEF SGP OP7:

- Community-based adaptation.
- Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions.
- Strengthening social inclusion.
- Monitoring and evaluation, as well as knowledge management.

²⁶ <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/strategy.html>

10. Embassy of Sweden in Moldova

The Swedish Embassy has several areas of cooperation with the Republic of Moldova through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

- Sector 1: Democracy, human rights and gender equality
- Sector 2: Sustainable infrastructure (Energy)
- Sector 3: Market development

The overall objective of the development cooperation between Sweden and Moldova is to support Moldova's efforts to reduce poverty by promoting democratic governance, sustainable economic growth in favor of the poorest, preventing social marginalization and improving public health.

Synergy between the priority areas of the funding agency and the priority areas of GEF SGP OP7:

- Community-based conservation of endangered ecosystems and species.
- Co-benefits of access to energy with low carbon emissions.
- Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions.
- Community-based adaptation.
- Strengthening social inclusion.

11. EU Delegation in Moldova

The European Commission has several grant programs for Moldovan civil society in various fields, which are announced on the official website of the EU Commission.²⁷

Synergy between the priority areas of the funding agency and the priority areas of GEF SGP OP7:

- Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species.
- Co-benefits of access to energy with low carbon emissions.
- Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions.
- Community-based adaptation.
- Strengthening social inclusion.

²⁷ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&nbPubliList=15&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&searchtype=AS&pgm=&finpub=&ZGEO=35503&debpub=&ccnt=7573876&aoet=36538>