

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

Country: Moldova



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



Awarding of Environmental Journalists



Contents

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| CONTEXT..... | 3 |
| 1. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME - SUMMARY BACKGROUND..... | 3 |
| 2. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME NICHE | 4 |
| 2.1. Alignment with national priorities. | 4 |
| 2.2. Opportunities for community and civil society organizations involvement for implementing national environmental priorities..... | 5 |
| 2.3. The potential for synergy of selected OP6 strategic initiatives with full size projects and programmes | 9 |
| 3. OP6 STRATEGIES | 15 |
| 3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies..... | 15 |
| 3.2. Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies..... | 16 |
| 3.3. Grant-maker+ Strategies | 17 |
| 3.3.1. <i>CSO-Gouvernement dialog platform</i> | 17 |
| 3.3.2. <i>Policy influences</i> | 18 |
| 3.3.3. <i>Promoting social inclusion</i> | 18 |
| 3.3.4. <i>Knowledge management plan</i> | 18 |
| 3.3.5. <i>Communication Strategy</i> | 19 |
| 4. EXPECTED RESULTS FRAMEWORK | 20 |
| 5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN | 24 |
| 6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PLAN | 25 |
| 7. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN..... | 26 |
| 8. NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT | 28 |
| ANNEX 1: OP6 LANDSCAPE BASELINE ASSESSMENT | Error! Bookmark not defined. |
| ANNEX 2: OP6 DONOR PARTNER STRATEGY..... | Error! Bookmark not defined. |

LIST OF ACRONYMS

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

OP6 RESOURCES

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

CONTEXT

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

1. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME - SUMMARY BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

building capacities of the communities located in the Bic River basin. Additionally, around 3.6 ha of the shelter belts were created along the river, with the participation of 700 youngsters; 3 springs were arranged to increase the flow of water in the river with about 28 m³/day; 4 voluntary water monitoring centres have been created, all the schools have been involved in river water quality monitoring (63 schools from 63 communities in the basin of the river, involving more than 1000 youngsters in these activities); in one school a reservoir to collect waste waters was built, etc.

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

All these projects supported by OP5 contributed to solving ecological problems that are included in the priorities of Global Environmental Facility. The problems were solved through improving the quality of transboundary waters, carbon emissions reduction, and elimination of the causes of biodiversity loss and promotion of its conservation. As a result, SGP granted 478.600\$ as small grants for public associations, in the frame of OP5. The total number of beneficiaries was 116.470 persons, out of which 734 women participated in the projects implementation. The public associations which implemented the projects managed to attract co-financing in amount of 580.694\$, including 172.606\$ as an in-kind contribution. Due to the implemented projects, Moldova succeeded to prevent the formation of 192,8 tones of CO₂ annually, to apply 14 types of innovations and develop 3 local policies aiming at environmental protection. The listed results are not the final ones, since 4 projects financed by OP5 will be finished at the end of December 2017.

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

2. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME NICHE

2.1. *Alignment with national priorities.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Terrestrial landscape conservation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. OP6 STRATEGIES

3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

3.3. Grant-maker+ Strategies

3.3.1. CSO-Government dialog platform

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

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

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

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

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

3.3.2. Policy influences

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

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

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

3.3.3. Promoting social inclusion

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

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

3.3.4. Knowledge management plan

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

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

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

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

3.3.5. Communication Strategy

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

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

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

4. EXPECTED RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Table 3. Consistency with global program SGP OP6 components

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

| | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>SGP OP6 Component 2: <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</i> 2.1 The Smart climate and agro-ecology systems</p> | <p>2.1.1. Demonstration, development and knowledge transfer of agro-ecology practices</p> <p><i>Protection of most threatened species/breeds</i></p> <p><i>Development and adoption of the best agricultural practices</i></p> <p>2.1.2 New approaches in adaptation of agriculture to climate change</p> <p><i>Integrated pests management and reduction/elimination of the pesticides in agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Integrated nutrient management systems and reduction/elimination of the fertilizers use</i></p> <p><i>Optimized irrigation scheduling on farm level and improved soil water conservation</i></p> | <p><i>Aprox.4 projects</i></p> | <p>At least 2 practices that provide measures for reducing CO₂ remissions;</p> <p>At least 2 farmers who practice multi-cropping;</p> <p>Good agricultural practices adapted to climate changes, implemented on 5 ha or at least 5 ha with sustainable management practices on agricultural land</p> <p>At least 2 developed and published guidelines;</p> <p>At least 2 ecological lessons organised;</p> <p>At least 1 continuous training program developed;</p> <p>At least 60 households informed about good agricultural practices adapted to climate change</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual project reporting by SGP country teams • Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs) • Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) • Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs) |
| <p>SGP OP6 Component 3: <i>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</i> 3.1 Energy saving, efficiency and renewable sources</p> | <p>3.1.1. Ensure affordable access to different forms of energy, through models that appreciate environmental and ecological aspects</p> <p><i>Capacity development efforts enabling the community to develop and use innovative technologies</i></p> <p><i>Development and adoption of new technologies for low-carbon energy generating and storage</i></p> | <p><i>Aprox.3 projects</i></p> | <p>At least 2 innovative solutions of locally adopted solutions, demonstrated and documented;</p> <p>At least 20 households with access to electricity or heat from renewable sources;</p> <p>At least 10 ha of viable energetic plantations created</p> <p>At least 1 project which uses biomass to produce energy is</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMR, country reports • AMR, global database, country reports • Special country studies • Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs) |

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

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

5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PLAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

Table 5. Description of risks identified in OP6

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

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

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

8. NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

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