

**UNDP MOLDOVA**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY PROTECTION PROGRAMME**

**OUTCOME EVALUATION**

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**CHISINAU, NOVEMBER 2013**

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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ADR	Assessments of Development Results
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbons
CO	Country Office (UNDP)
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CPD	Country Programme Document (UNDP)
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
DCFTA	Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (European Union)
EEA	Energy Efficiency Agency
EEP	Environment and Energy Portfolio (UNDP)
ENTSO-E	European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity
EU	European Union
FAO	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers to Implementing Partners
HCFC	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons
ILO	International Labor Organization
MAC	Mobile Air-conditioning Service Sector
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOE	Ministry of Environment
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOH	Ministry of Health
MTF	Multilateral Trust Fund (Montreal Protocol)
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NEF	National Environmental Fund
NSC	National Steering Committee (SPG/GEF)
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
OE	Outcome Evaluation
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PA	Protected Area
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyls

POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
RMP	Refrigerant Management Plan
SGP	Small Grant Programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children and Education Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNPF	United Nations Partnership Framework
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
US\$	United States Dollars
WB	World Bank
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plants

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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1. There are several major environmental and energy issues and problems and they spread across the urban and rural areas and all sectors of the economy. There is a general consensus among all the interviewees as well as all the documents reviewed that the **ENERGY BILL**, **WATER AND SANITATION** and **WASTE MANAGEMENT** are the biggest issues Moldova faces. But there are also other emerging challenges which are stressed in the UNPF 2013-2017, that are of special concern for Moldova's development agenda: environmental degradation, pollution and unsustainable use of natural resources.
2. Moldova has significant commitments under multilateral environmental agreements and even it was a key goal during the CPAP in analysis, the need to increase coherence with international standards and approximation to the EU environment acquis remains a challenge in the years ahead.
3. There are several other issues that traditionally have been left relatively uncovered by the government that requires urgent attention: a weak National **PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM**, deterioration of **BIODIVERSITY** and landscapes, use of overly **INTENSIVE IRRIGATION**, **POLLUTION FROM NUTRIENTS** linked to heavy use of **CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS**, **PESTICIDES AND FUNGICIDES**, that have led to **DEGRADATION**, **EROSION**, **COMPACTION** and **DEPLETION OF SOILS**, **INEFFECTIVE CONTROL OF FOREST LOGGING AND BIODIVERSITY** losses, **LAND FRAGMENTATION**, weak and ineffective **ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND STANDARDS** (not in place, not technical regulations, lack of differentiation between mechanisms, lack of capacity to implement and enforce the laws), **LACK OF PROPER COORDINATION AND INTERACTION BETWEEN MINISTRIES AND OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES** with jurisdiction over the environment and the natural resources, namely the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry. Regarding the control, the Ministry has only two layers and according to some interviewees, the Ministry does not usually work in drafting legislation or provide advice.
4. The CPAP 2007-2012 has not been anchored to any specific document related to national environmental policies and strategies. At the time of the CPAP formulation, there were no any national framework documents that could have served to guide UNDP's activities and interventions in the environment. That was left to a cluster of rules and international agreements, like the EU and international standards, specific commitments with international conventions and the MDGs. As mentioned earlier, there were several pressing issues and problems that needed urgent attention, including the need to define policies, formulate strategies and actions plans, update the legislation, establish priorities, strengthen national and local government entities and implement activities that ensured a more sustainable growth and development. Most of that came later and largely during the implementation of the CPAP.
5. The **CPAP** has two specific laudable characteristics: (i) it aggregates the effort aligning environment and energy in a single goal and very few outputs (the other goal is devoted to crisis prevention and recovery); and (ii) a special emphasis on qualitative activities as well as quantitative. The number of outcomes and outputs in a CPAP is certainly debatable, but this Evaluation is persuaded that it is far easier for the Unit and the CO to be guided for a CPAP that integrates objectives, outputs and activities. It ensures a more strategic focus, coherence, a more clear orientation to a handful of results and it is easier for UNDP to remain focused on few, specific goals. It also helps UNDP to carry its message more clearly. It is a widespread practice (with CPAPs and UNDAFs, too) to define outcomes for each thematic area and several outputs, one or almost for each project. As shown by the experience, the more integrated the CDA and the CPAP are the more strategic and more focused they are and the easiest their implementation and follow-up. There are always specificities among interventions but they can be easily reflected through the indicators, and more than one if necessary. CPAPs and their monitoring and follow-up do not need to redo what is already done at project level.

6. In addition to specific quantitative results, more easily monitored with numbers and percentages and easier to select targets, the EEP Portfolio includes strong elements of strengthening capacities, raise awareness, increase knowledge, update databases and legislation, test national institutional frameworks and formulate recommendations, develop methodologies, ensure participation, carry out assessments, identify and or implement mitigation measures, provide assistance, promote innovative approaches, support the development of policy instruments, promote investment initiatives, strengthen operational systems for monitoring information management and research, strengthen public and community participation, comply with international commitments, etc. These are the kind of enabling and qualitative events which contribution and results require specific indicators, not easily represented by numbers and percentages.

7. The need to comply with international agreements and update an old legislation prompted the Government to request UNDP's support, among others, in specific thematic areas and specific upstream and downstream activities. But UNDP was particularly relevant in thematic areas in which the country and the line Ministry needed substantive support and technical expertise. Lack of local resources and expertise and a weak Ministry made UNDP and the international community more relevant to impulse the environmental agenda and incorporate EU and international standards, the CPAP's goals for environment and energy protection. There was also a need for promoting sustainable practices in the context of economic restructuring and development and UNDP positioned strategically in those areas, supporting the Ministry to implement several downstream initiatives (see Annexure 1 for details). The NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL FUND needed a different approach and review its operation. The table of projects in hard pipeline gives us an idea of where UNDP's support is going in the near future.

8. The key questions under **RELEVANCE** are: **Was the CPAP relevant? Were the stated outcomes, indicators and targets relevant for the context, needs and priorities of Moldova and those of UNDP? To what extent has UNDP's engagement been a reflection of its strategic considerations including its comparative advantage?** It was. Overall, UNDP supported interventions have been relevant for national environmental and energy priorities, to be on track of EU and international environmental standards and to comply with commitments and obligations agreed by the country with the MDGs, EU and international conventions. UNDP's support through different interventions aligned with national sustainable development needs and requirements, working at both dimensions of development, **UPSTREAM** (influencing policies) and **DOWNSTREAM** (nurturing interventions on the ground).

9. UNDP and the government were building up **upstream** and **downstream interventions** under the umbrella of a simple, focused CPAP that carried a specific message: *Management of Environment and Natural Resources is Improved in compliance with international/EU standards*. Moldova is in transition and in the midst of many reforms of its public institutions, legislation and policy agenda. The current government regards EU association and further integration as a fundamental priority for Moldova and in few weeks it expects to sign an association agreement with the EU. As other Eastern European countries before, Moldova see the association and further integration with the EU as an institutionalized, responsible, efficient and orderly way for a country in transition to implement its commitments with the EU and the international community, derived from the European course, modernize the country, achieve political, economic and social stability and progress on equality and human rights. There is no any doubt that the EU has been a driving force for some important political, economic and social achievements and the environment, too.

10. UNDP has been **EFFECTIVE**, with different levels of success depending on the kind of intervention, in improving the body of legislation and management capabilities of government entities, in set up an enabling institutional and operational framework for the national and local government bodies to respond more effectively to challenges posed by man-made as well as to climatic events, still incipient, and in implementing several downstream

operations. Although most of UNDP CO supported interventions converged on the Ministry of Environment, its Directorates, Departments and agencies, the CO partnered with a wide range of partners in development.

11. Specifically, the Programme strategy combined the emphasis on both upstream and downstream interventions and focused on actions and thematic areas that have not called the attention of successive governments neither were at the top of their agenda.

12. Since the start-up of the CPAP in 2007, UNDP had an important platform in the **SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES (SAP)** to work consistently with the government and set the agenda of what would come next. It was not a large project in financial terms but very important for the activities involved (addressing key environmental protection issues and sustainable use of natural resources, enhancing the regulatory and strategic framework, increasing institutional capacity, and, initiating an Environmental Small Grants Scheme for NGOs). It is important to stress here the importance for the country of some key products of this project for the environmental agenda: to count with a new NATIONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY (draft), the LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (draft) and the development of the LAW ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION which is the main framework law in the sector. Moreover, through the project, UNDP supported the national strategic planning process in the GEF focal areas, resulting already in two projects approved by the GEF for funding and the GEF Small Grant Programme, implemented for the first time in Moldova (since 2012). Since the 1990s and well into the 2000s, the main implementing agency of GEF funds in Moldova was the World Bank, but more recently it is UNDP that has become the main GEF implementing agency in Moldova.

13. As stressed by the interviewees from the government and other partners, UNDP has played quite a strong role in the country bringing expertise, international experts, ideas and experiences. This support translated in new guidelines, updated databases and end-user lists, inventories and basic information on protected areas, an institutionalized way to incorporate international standards into the regulations and practice, provide recommendations on how to deal with national communications and during negotiations, brought experiences, best practices and lessons from projects, raised awareness among the population where projects have been/are implemented, helped to set up a market for biomass as an alternative source of energy, strengthened institutional and management capacities although with different levels of success, etc. National and international experts were hired from time to time to provide expertise to the Ministry of Environment and its agencies, which were entirely funded by projects.

14. Strengthening institutional and management capacities for effective policies and programme implementation through delivering policy advice, providing expertise and sharing international best practice both on cross cutting environmental governance as well as key environmental sectors, has been at the core of UNDP's interventions in Moldova.

15. In general, UNDP contribution is helping to strengthen the understanding of the intrinsic linkages between climate change and natural disasters. A special place in these efforts is occupied by the **2009/2010 NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT, CLIMATE CHANGE IN MOLDOVA. IMPACT AND POLICY OPTIONS FOR ADAPTATION** entirely devoted to Climate Change and human development and its effects for the country's environment and population. It consists of an Introduction and 11 Chapters and was prepared by a "think tank" made of national experts, coordinated by UNDP. As noted by several persons interviewed, the NHDR has been one of UNDP's most visible products, specifically of the EEP Programme and a commendable initiative in a country with the need for a clear perception of the links between natural disasters and human activities.

16. At project level, efficiency was adequately addressed with regards to resources and the sustainability of the funding mechanisms. All Project managers interviewed agreed that there were not detected operational problems exception made of some procurement, particularly the contracting of staff and international experts that is usually a long process with several steps that sometimes takes more time than expected. There were some minor complains by some Ministry's Unit for the flow of information from one or two projects and the need to involve more their counterparts in the Ministry. Project Coordinators have confirmed that they are always in close consultation with UNDP EE Programme.

17. In general, project formulation, preliminary negotiations, agreements, design and approval seem to have not been longer than other similar experiences in other focus areas or COs. As stated by GEF in some of its own reports, in comparison with other experiences, in Moldova project formulation and the approval process have been relatively efficient; about 10 months from entry into GEF pipeline to project start-up, while the preparation cost of the project funded by the Fund is reasonable (GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation, 2010). Once projects have been operational, there were or are no visible delays in implementation, while extensions of the closing date, in general no longer than six months, seem to be of no particular concerns since they are just limited to the closing date, with no increases on budgets allocations or review of objectives and results.

18. Although there are probably some alternatives to make this process more expeditious, in practice it reflects an approach and methodologies that had tried to ensure participation and full involvement of government counterpart and other partners in development from the initial steps of project identification, preliminary agreements and approval. This also explains the extensions in the closing date.

19. **PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY.** UNDP works primarily with the Government of Moldova and the Ministry of Environment, established in 1998. Most UNDP supported interventions had the Ministry of Environment as the natural partner for implementation and specifically its Offices, Directorates and Departments. Moldsilva also played a key partner role with Protected Areas. UNDP implemented a correct partnership strategy aimed at incorporating environmental and service providers' NGOs and the civil society, particularly local communities and local authorities although there is not available an assessment of their capacities and it is beyond the scope of this Evaluation. The Unit focused on thematic issues, at the core, and facilitated projects, at field level, what opened the different interventions to the interaction with different partners. Moreover, different donors have concurred to the financing of all those operations including UNDP: the EU, GEF, the Austrian cooperation, Australia, the Multilateral Fund (Montreal Protocol), and other partners.

20. Some Ministries that have some jurisdiction on issues linked to the environmental and the use of natural resources, but even if UNDP has some success to integrated them in some specific activities, it was mainly the Ministry of Environment the necessary strength to persuade the other Ministers to cooperate and coordinate activities. UNDP's credibility, policy and project experience, its catalytic and broker role, expertise and specialization and proactive role have certainly helped to its partnership strategy. At the time, the pilot grant schemes helped UNDP to increase the interaction with the NGOs movement.

21. **GENDER EQUALITY.** Usually, one of the major constraints of the environmental and energy programmes in different COs is the fact that their focus is concentrated on environmental and energy issues and problems, their positive and negative impacts on the countries and their population and on proper solutions to them. But they usually do not put particular emphasis on its beneficiaries and who they are, being them the poor families, women and men or the young population, both men and women. While the ultimate beneficiaries of EEP Programme's actions are the populations in general, the different interventions did not include activities that target specific beneficiary groups or



people affected by the combined effects of poverty, marginality, lack of access to services and unsustainable use of their (natural) resources. So there is for this Evaluation a deficit in the interventions when it comes to promote gender equality or the sake of the poor population. Even in interventions that do not specifically target poverty conditions or are specifically not pro poor or do not include affirmative actions, the poor, women, the youth and gender relations could perfectly be the main target group of those interventions. Several of the interventions reviewed by this Evaluation adapt very well to specific targeting, hand in hand with specific environmental activities proposed. Being poverty a key mandate for UNDP, targeting should have its place at the time of deciding priorities. In a way, environmental interventions have a trickle down effects on certain target groups, but it has to be recognized that those interventions are not consciously designed and formulated to benefit specific groups that are more affected by the negatives effects of unsound environmental and income generation practices. Women, youth, both men and women, and children can be the proper entry point for UNDP interventions when it comes to mitigate negative effects on the environment, disseminate practices, raise awareness, mobilize communities, etc.

22. While this report includes several recommendations, probably the main is the need to **DIVERSIFY ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER DUTY-BEARERS AT NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL LEVELS IN ITS REGULAR OPERATIONS AS WELL AS IN A BID TO ENHANCE POLICY INFLUENCE AND RAISE AWARENESS**. While the decision of UNDP to work closely with the Ministry of Environment and its agencies is important considering its role in the environmental agenda, it is felt that the governance scenario in the country necessitates a direct shift to other equally important Ministries who are responsible for institutional and policy changes and have a much ampler reach among the population. There is no doubt for this Evaluation that the good cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Moldavia has been a significant factor for the achievement of goals stated in the CPAP, international standards and commitments and for the realization of projects goals and effects. But it is viewed that UNDP can expand and deepen focus on other key Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food is certainly another natural partner for UNDP EEP particularly with climate change adaptation with focus on the human dimension of climate change effects on population.

23. Environmental education increases public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues and problems. Work with teachers and students, adapt the curricula, and reach families through children; involve the academia in the same effort, in the university. Moreover, in a context in which the Ministry of Environment have difficulties to interact with other Ministries, expand to bigger Ministries like Education would probably impact on other Ministries that would probably follow. There is a general consensus among many persons interviewed that awareness raising and advocacy is never enough and maybe working almost exclusively with the Ministry of Environment limits the reach of these efforts. UNDP EEP could be seen as the exclusive domain of the Ministry of Environment, restraining other far reaching agreements with other Ministries. This is one of the ways in which UNDP can also fulfill its aspirations of lobbying and advocacy as well as learning and aligning practices.

### 1.1. GENERAL CONTEXT

1. Moldova is a low-middle income country in transition, with a 3.6 million population (2012) and a largely agricultural economy. It became independent in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Politically, the reformed Communist party dominated politics for almost the past decade until 2009, when a party coalition won the elections. As expected, the new government continued the market oriented reforms instituted in the 1990s and the approach to the European Union (EU) for an association agreement, which has been initiated after its initialing in Vilnius, Lithuania on 29 November 2013 that should lead to full integration<sup>1</sup>.

2. Although service is the main sector of the economy, the agriculture sector still plays a key role in the national GDP, total national exports and employment. Specifically, agriculture output represents 12 percent of national GDP; the food processing sector represents 17 percent of the GDP, agriculture products and byproducts represent about 50 percent of the total national exports (2012) and the sector employs roughly 28 percent of the economically active Moldovan population. Farms supply about 70 percent of the Moldova's food demand. In percentage of the GDP and jobs, the agriculture sector is larger than the industrial sector. Roughly more than 50 percent of the population lives in the rural areas and small towns.

3. The State-owned land during the Soviet-era was entirely privatized in the second half of the 1990s, a programme that was completed in 2000s, while in Gagauz autonomy it was completed later. In Moldova all the forest belongs to the state. The State Forestry Agency (**MOLDSILVA**) manages about 90 percent of forest land, while the rest is managed by municipalities (9%) and private owners (1%). In recent years, privately managed forests have been developing on approximately 3,000 ha of private farmland<sup>2</sup>. In total, forests occupy about 12% of the national territory (some 306,000 has).

4. The country is particularly strong in the exports of foodstuff, animal and vegetables, although it usually imports more than double the amount of exports, mainly due to the energy bill (22 percent) and equipment and machinery (almost 21 percent). The wide dependence on agriculture made the Moldovan economy and the trade balance particularly sensitive to the decrease on agricultural production as it happened in 2012 due to a severe drought. Droughts are quite frequent in Moldova, which cause moderate to severe damage to the economy and the agricultural sector.

5. Moldovan economy is highly dependent on energy and raw materials that usually are imported from the former Soviet republics (Russia and Ukraine). The economy has grown steadily since early 2000s and after a short recession it grew up by 5.6 percent in 2009, and again in 2010, but growth has decreased lately to less than 1 percent

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<sup>1</sup>. The Association Agreement can also be seen as a reform agenda for Moldova, based around a comprehensive programme of regulatory approximation, around which Moldova's assistance partners can align themselves and focus their assistance. Negotiations on the Association Agreement were launched in Chisinau on January 2010, while in February 2012 the negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) as a core element of the Association Agreement were launched (Source: European Union, External Action).

<sup>2</sup>. 1.7 million ha. of land distributed to over 1.3 million owners between 1998 and 2006. Land privatization started formally in 1991, but the disintegration of collective farms and redistribution of large plots did not begin until 1998.

in 2012. Projections for 2013 predict that the economy would rebound to 5-6 percent according to recent projections, driven by the recovery of agriculture after the 2012 drought. Unemployment has decreased to 5.6 percent in 2012.

6. One third of the working population is currently living abroad, while the birth rate is low but relatively stable now, with the quite obvious impact on the aging of population, which is accelerating. The median age in the country is 35.2 years and the population growth rate is negative. Until few years ago remittances represented about a third of the GDP, making Moldova the second country in the world by percentage of GDP, but most recent figures places it in about 22 percent. It has made the economy to be particularly sensitive to the financial crisis in the Eurozone. According to official statistics, most of labor migrants are in Russia and most of remittances are coming from Russia.

7. Moldova is comparatively one of the poorest countries in Europe, although poverty conditions, in absolute and relative terms have been improving in the last decade. In 2010, 21.9 percent of the population lived below the poverty line, a 4.4 percent decline compared to the previous year<sup>3</sup>.

8. Poverty predominates in rural areas, while the poverty gap between urban and rural areas is widening year after year, particularly water and sanitation, waste management and health. A strong indication of this gap between rural and urban areas is that thirty eight percent of children living in the rural areas are under the poverty line, while this percentage decreases to 13 percent in the urban areas is an example of this big gap.

9. Recent figures show that Moldova will achieve the MDGs for poverty, but the country is still lagging behind targets in some of the 27 MDGs indicators, some of them key indicators for human development: preschool progress and secondary schooling; spread of HIV and tuberculosis; access to safe water, sewage and sanitation systems, among others. The Third National Report on the MDGs, which details the progress made by Moldova in achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals during 2010-2013, emphasizes the efforts made by the country to reduce poverty and infant mortality. It also states the efforts the government is currently doing to increase access to compulsory education, although there are some specific issues related to access to and quality of education that needs further improvement. Like previous MDGs reports, it insists again on the gap between urban and rural areas and the marginalization of small towns, which is particularly relevant considering the large population that lives in rural areas and small towns in the country<sup>4</sup>.

10. Not much different than other developing countries, historically Moldova had and still has its own problems to reconcile environmental protection with the promotion of economic growth, economic restructuring and expansion. From a more recent perspective, it is apparent that Moldova is burdened with the legacy of ecological mismanagement from previous decades in a context in which the country is pursuing a more consistent economic growth and the need

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<sup>3</sup>. Republic of Moldova and UN System, *United Nations Partnership Framework 2013-2017*, Chisinau 2012.

<sup>4</sup>. "The poverty incidence at the international threshold of 4.3 USD steeply decreased from 34.5% in 2006 to 20.8% in 2012 (the final target being 23.0%)", the Report shows. However, "despite the outstanding decrease of the poverty incidence, unfortunately over half a million of citizens still consider themselves poor." "...Apart from an analysis of the progress and the existing issues, the third National Report on the Millennium Development Goals sends some messages focused on the main development challenges faced by Moldova, which may be summarized as follows: "Two parallel realities: the rural life and the urban life"; "Emigration – a two-side phenomenon"; "Technologies: the main driver of change"; "From a patriarchal society to a modern one: different opportunities depending on the gender" (Government of Moldova, MDGs Report, 2012 with the support of UNDP and UN System in Moldova).

to diversify and expand its industrial sector and its endowment of institutional capital, human capital and natural capital. In this effort, the pressure on the agriculture sector to deliver contributed to soil erosion, a major problem in Moldova, while fertility of the soil is in constant decline. It has been accompanied by low productivity and lack of adequate practices to increase production and reduce the pressure on natural resources and the impact on the environment.

11. Moreover, the wide dependence on agriculture made Moldovan economy and the trade balance particularly sensitive to the decline on agricultural production. It also made agriculture particularly sensitive to the effects of climate change, in addition to the negative impact that inadequate agricultural production and food processing practices have on the environment. The recent drought is just an example of the impact of weather and climate change on agriculture and the economy. Although it has been quite difficult for very active national NGOs and the international community to raise awareness about the impact of unsound practices on the environment, it seems their voice have been heard as the population is starting to link severe climatic events with climate change effects.

12. According to the Forestry Code, all Moldovan forests have nature conservation functions, and there are no commercial forests in the country. Forests cover about 12 percent of the country<sup>5</sup>. A high percentage of the wood is used for energy -firewood or charcoal- and about one fourth of it is used for construction and consumer goods. As stressed by several persons interviewed, there is a lack of an effective Protected Area System that can successfully protects forests from degradation, illegal logging, landslides, and soil degradation and protect biodiversity, in addition to the lack of an adequate PAs management. Although local administrations have a role in the management and administration of some forest areas, they are not playing a role of control to avoid forest logging, loss of biodiversity, etc. Several times this control is simply ineffective.

13. Although the industrial sector comes third after the service and the agricultural sectors in terms of contribution to the GDP, it has shown an important expansion, particularly in the last decade. The expansion is quite recent and so there is not sufficient information on its impact on the environment, but as any other expansion of this kind, it is highly demanding on energy.

## **1.2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION**

14. This Outcome Evaluation (OE) is part of UNDP Moldova's Evaluation of its experience in Environment and Energy for the period 2007-2012 "...aiming to assess the extent to which programme and project activities implemented with partners during 2007-2012 have contributed to the progress under Country Programme Document's Outcome 1.4 for UNDP, as well as to the achievement of set targets, whether existing UNDP's partnership arrangements with local partners proved to be successful and relevant and overall whether UNDP-supported activities have contributed to improving management of environmental and natural resources in compliance with international/EU standards."

15. "The evaluation shall identify changes that happened within the last 6 years as they relate to the development outcomes, the degree and levels of these changes, i.e. enabling environment, organizational and/or individual levels. It shall also assess whether UNDP's strategic positioning in this area can be improved."

16. Under its portfolio, the UNDP ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY PROGRAMME response "...is aimed at contributing to the upgraded natural resource management in order to meet the EU environmental standards, improved national environmental policies and efficiently functioning public sector."

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<sup>5</sup>. Information provided by Moldsilva during the interviews.

17. The key evaluation questions have been:

- (a) To what extent has the EE Practical Area Programme attained the intended outputs and outcome?
- (b) How effective and efficient was the programme approach in achieving the intended output and outcome?
- (c) How have the EEP interventions generated changes, and at what level, in the outcome?
- (d) Will the changes promoted through EEP supported interventions be extended and/or sustained in the future?
- (e) What are the key lessons derived from the experience?

18. Since this is an evaluation carried out at the end of the development interventions planned for the current CPAPs, the evaluator gave "...greater importance to assessing efficiency and to a possible extent the effectiveness of UNDP's Environment and Energy Portfolio CPD Outcome 1.4, whether the size of resources, both financial and human, and partnership strategies continue to be cost-effective and may be applied in continuation and/or revised and/or changed in the Country Programme Action Plan 2007-2012."

19. This Evaluation reviewed the Country Programme Outcomes and Outputs as stated in the 2007-2012 Country Programme Document (CPD) and CPAP for Moldova. Although this has been the main focus of the Outcome Evaluation, it also reviewed the new CPD and CPAP 2013-2017, in its early stage of implementation, to assess the coherence of outcomes, outputs and activities planned for the next CPAP with the former planning cycle.

20. Although, there are some ongoing programmes and projects that have been designed and started their implementation during the CPAP 2007-2012 which will make their main contribution to outcome and outputs of the current CPAP 2013-2017, they have been also the focus of this evaluation: How are they doing and which is their contribution to the national development requirements?

21. In addition, the Evaluation assessed the contribution of UNDP Country Office (CO) to Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7 ENSURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Targets A, B, C and D).

22. This OE aimed at assessing how the expected results of UNDP and other partners' assistance contributed/are contributing to a change in EEP Programme's conditions<sup>6</sup> and how the Outcome has been/is influenced by the full range of UNDP strategies and activities which comprise: projects and programmes; seminars, workshops, reports and papers, advocacy, press release and other so-called non-project activities; and "soft" assistance within and outside of projects and programmes (TO ENHANCE DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS, TO ASSIST DECISION MAKING, TO ASSIST POLICY MAKING, TO REDIRECT FUTURE UNDP ASSISTANCE, TO SYSTEMATIZE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES)<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup>. **CONTRIBUTION:** The changes in development results that can be credibly linked to an intervention. Contribution implies a logical cause-and-effect relationship that points to the meaningful input of an intervention to the development result(s) (UNDP, revised policy for evaluation approved in 2011).

<sup>7</sup>. **PARTNERS** are agents or actors with whom UNDP has, or intends to have, a substantive relationship in the pursuit of common outcomes. Partners may include stakeholders, if they are involved in working towards the outcome, beneficiaries of outcome actions, and donors involved in some way with UNDP on the outcome.

23. As expected, this Evaluation should help the Country Office to understand whether the issues and focus of UNDP interventions are relevant to national development priorities and to actual development changes supported by UNDP's development cooperation strategy or they need to be updated during the implementation of the current Action Plan.

24. The Evaluation recreated the situation of the EEP in the country before the planning and implementation of the CPAP under evaluation. It will help the Evaluation to analyze "WHERE WE ARE COMING FROM, WHERE WE ARE NOW AND WHERE WE ARE GOING TO."

### 1.3. METHODOLOGY

25. The methodology followed the UNDP's 'HANDBOOK ON PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS' OF 2009, amended in 2011, which provides an overall context for results-based monitoring and evaluation and reviews tools and techniques for planning and managing monitoring and evaluation activities, and the UN EVALUATION GROUP (UNEG) STANDARDS AND NORMS<sup>8</sup>. Along with the key principles of INDEPENDENCE, INTENTIONALITY, TRANSPARENCY, ETHICS, IMPARTIALITY, QUALITY, TIMELINESS and UTILITY, both documents strongly encourage highly PARTICIPATORY Evaluations, which include meetings and consultations with and feedbacks from all partners involved in the implementation of the outcome and outputs included in the CPAP, as well as ensure their participation in all steps of the exercise.

26. In addition, the Evaluation took into account the UNDP's GUIDELINES FOR OUTCOME EVALUATORS OF 2002 with its four suggested steps: ascertaining the status of the outcome; examining the factors affecting the outcome; assessing the contributions of UNDP; and assessing partnerships for changing the outcome. Though more updated Handbooks and Standards have come after them, these Guidelines are still of good help to orient an Outcome Evaluation.

27. Fourth principles, originally defined by OECD, are at the basis of the methodology suggested in these reference documents as well as in the terms of reference of this Evaluation: RELEVANCE, EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS, DEGREE OF CHANGE (IMPACT on OECD's scale) and SUSTAINABILITY.

RELEVANCE	APPROPRIATENESS OF OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS BOTH TO UNDP'S MANDATE AND TO MOLDOVA'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND GOALS	ARE THE OUTCOMES RELEVANT TO UNDP'S MANDATE, TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND TO BENEFICIARIES' NEEDS? (RELEVANCE TO UNDP'S COUNTRY PROGRAMME). (THE ASSESSMENT OF RELEVANCE IS MORE A QUESTION OF STRATEGIC POSITIONING AND FOCUS OF UNDP ON A FEW KEY OUTCOMES. THE DEFINITION OF THE OUTCOME IS A STRATEGIC EXERCISE BASED ON NATIONAL PRIORITIES).
EFFICIENCY	USE OF RESOURCES IN TERMS OF RESULTS ACHIEVED	IS THE OUTCOME ACHIEVED OR HAS PROGRESS BEEN MADE TOWARDS IT? HAS UNDP MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN TERMS OF STRATEGIC OUTPUTS? TO WHAT EXTENT DO THE OUTCOMES DERIVE FROM EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES? AND TO WHAT EXTENT UNDP HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE OUTCOMES VERSUS THAT OF ITS PARTNERS? (IT IS MORE COMPLEX TO MEASURE EFFICIENCY FOR AN OUTCOME. ONE METHOD IS TO ESTIMATE THE RESOURCES (PROJECT, SOFT ASSISTANCE) UNDP DEDICATES TO THE OUTCOME. ANOTHER METHOD IS TO ESTIMATE THE EXTENT OF UNDP'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE OUTCOME VERSUS THAT OF ITS PARTNERS).
EFFECTIVENESS	ASSESSMENT OF CAUSE AND EFFECT TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF OUTCOMES	HAVE THE INTENDED IMPACTS BEEN ACHIEVED OR ARE THEY EXPECTED TO BE ACHIEVED? DO DIFFERENT OUTCOME DEFINITIONS FEED INTO EACH OTHER AND IS THERE A SYNERGY IN BETWEEN? IS THE OUTCOME ACHIEVED OR HAS PROGRESS BEEN MADE TO ACHIEVE? HAS UNDP MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN TERMS OF STRATEGIC OUTPUTS?

<sup>8</sup>. The UNDP policies on Evaluation are aligned with the norms and standards for evaluation in the UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, approved by the UNITED NATIONS EVALUATION GROUP (UNEG) in April 2005.

SUSTAINABILITY	IMPACT IN THE LONG RUN AND ABILITY OF NATIONAL CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN RESULTS	WILL BENEFITS/ACTIVITIES CONTINUE AFTER THE PROGRAMME CYCLE? (WILL THE POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT SITUATION ENDURE/CONTINUE IN FUTURE? IT IS A QUESTION OF SUSTAINABILITY OF THE TOTALITY OF THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED AND THE CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN, MANAGE AND ENSURE DEVELOPMENT).
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28. The Evaluation mixed qualitative and quantitative techniques. The Evaluation methodology took also into account the following CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES: (i) HUMAN RIGHT; (ii) GENDER EQUALITY; (iii) CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT; (iv) INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING; (v) INNOVATION OR VALUE ADDED TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT and (iv) the RESULT-BASED MANAGEMENT approach.

29. The PARTICIPATORY METHODOLOGY proposed included: (i) DESK-REVIEW of relevant documents, contextual information and baselines contained in project and programme documents; (ii) DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS from different sources before and during the sojourn in the country; (iii) MEETINGS AND INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS with the Senior Management and Programme Specialist and Associate, and staff of UNDP Moldova, project and programme staff, national and local Government officials, NGOs, academia, civil society representatives, programme and project beneficiaries and key stakeholders, bilateral donors, and partners at both central and district levels; (iv) FIELD VISITS to the Orhei National Park area; (v) DEBRIEFING MEETING with the Minister of Environment and other high-ranked officials, UNDP Programme staff and UNDP Resident Representative held at the end of the sojourn in the country to share the preliminary finding and recommendations; and (vi) DRAFT REPORT submitted for review and comments by UNDP and key participants in the Evaluation. Their comments and suggestions will be incorporated to the FINAL REPORT.

#### 1.4. LIMITATIONS

30. This Evaluation team has faced no limitation to carry out its work, has had all the interviews it has requested, met a large number of government high- and medium-ranked officials, both at national and district levels, project coordinators and staff, NGOs representatives, representatives from the civil society and projects beneficiaries and carried out visits to some key areas of interventions. All the meetings were scheduled with all the efficiency expected and this Evaluation had the chance to collect extensive information and documentation from the meetings and from documents provided by UNDP and other partners. It has helped this Evaluation to carry out a very detailed analysis at all levels of UNDP's support to the country. This evaluation particularly appreciated the efficiency and effectiveness of the Programme Unit to coordinate and support this Evaluation and supply it with updated (and ready-to-use) information that filled all the requirements of this Evaluation.

31. Probably the only limitation this Evaluation has faced is the **LACK OF TERMINAL EVALUATIONS** carried out for most of the completed projects<sup>9</sup>. As it came out from project documents, funds were not allocated for terminal evaluation at design and were not budgeted during implementation. Although the EEP Programme has taken actions to overcome this limitations, this is an important constraint for UNDP itself to assess its performance, its contribution to national development goals, share lessons and experiences with governments and other partners and use and disseminate the information to advocate for specific policies, improve designs, etc. and how it learn from its own interventions.

<sup>9</sup>. The Protected Areas System Project had completed the terminal evaluation during Sept-October and the findings could be considered in the framework of this evaluation

## II. OVERVIEW OF THE CPAP, RATIONALE AND PROPOSAL

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### 2.1. PROGRAMME RATIONALE

32. **STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT.** There are several major environmental and energy issues and problems and they spread across the urban and rural areas and all sectors of the economy. There is a general consensus among all the interviewees as well as all the documents reviewed that the **ENERGY BILL**, **WATER AND SANITATION** and **WASTE MANAGEMENT** are the biggest issues Moldova faces. But there are also other emerging challenges which are stressed in the UNPF 2013-2017, that are of special concern for Moldova's development agenda: environmental degradation, pollution and unsustainable use of natural resources.

33. Moldova has significant commitments under multilateral environmental agreements and even it was a key goal during the CPAP in analysis, the need to increase coherence with international standards and approximation to the EU environment *acquis* remains a challenge in the years ahead.

34. Moldova lacks its own **ENERGY SOURCES** (oil, coal or natural gas) and largely depends on imports of fossil fuels from Russia and electricity from Ukraine. Moldova has not exploitable resources, either. The only available resources are waste and biodegradable matter and some small sources for hydropower. Imports of energy sources are dominated by natural gas, while the installed capacity for generation and distribution is nearing obsolescence, while distribution is not uniformly located across the country. In general there are low levels of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources, while investments have been largely insufficient to improve the efficiency of the system<sup>10</sup>.

35. Further potential sector are renewable energy, but the development of renewable energy sources is still in an early stage (only 5 percent of the total energy consumption). Notwithstanding, there is a promising market in Moldova that uses more efficient plants for biomass burning with a performance factor up to 80%. There are several other alternatives with biomass: wood, waste products of agriculture (straw, animal dung and poultry); the waste of processing industry (sunflower, grape, sugar beet, and waste wood treatment) and solid and liquid waste.

36. The development of renewable energy and increased energy efficiency in residential, industrial sectors, transport and agriculture, are among the priorities of the Moldova's 2007 LAW OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES and the NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Moldova 2020), prepared in 2012<sup>11</sup>. It stresses the opportunities in the country for

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<sup>10</sup>. The association agreement negotiated with the EU is having a particular impact on the energy sector, with specific investments supported by the EU, channeled to increase the capacity of interconnection with neighbor countries and the implementation of projects to synchronize Moldovan energy system with the EUROPEAN NETWORK OF TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATORS FOR ELECTRICITY (ENTSO-E). In addition to EU funds, the WORLD BANK has been funding the reform and efficiency improvement of the energy sector (US\$ 2.87 million). These investments have been accompanied by an update and a gradual approximation of Moldovan legislation with the relevant EU *acquis communautaire*, like the 2009 LAW ON ELECTRICITY and the LAW ON NATURAL GAS of the same year. Access to the trans-European electricity grid and gas pipelines is the next step for Moldova's energy sector.

<sup>11</sup>. "...An adequate institutional framework was established with the NATIONAL PROGRAM ON ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY for 2007-2015, the LAW ON RENEWABLE ENERGY (2007), the LAW ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY (2010) and the NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME 2011-2020. A gradual approximation of the national legislation with the relevant EU ACQUIS is underway." (Marketinfo.dk, Energy Sector, 2013). In 2010, it was also established the AGENCY FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY (EEA).



green growth, especially with energy efficiency and savings, and renewable energy, and predicts an increase in the share of alternative energies up to 20 percent of the total energy consumption for 2020.

37. While there is some experience with small scale rural biomass applications, there is no experience of larger scale or more efficient use of biomass in the country. There is good potential for biomass to be included in social infrastructure and energy system development programs and in fact there are some projects funded by EU, implemented by UNDP, and GEF Funds that are supporting the testing and development of good practices, technologies and biomass markets and raising awareness on alternative renewable energy sources.

38. The other major issues and problems linked to the environment are **WATER AND SANITATION** and **WASTE MANAGEMENT**. As it was stressed, **WATER, SANITATION, and WASTE MANAGEMENT** are considered by all interviewees, main national priorities and were most of the investments are channeled. The water resource is under stress considering that it is below 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> per habitant per year.

39. The Nistru River is overwhelmingly the main source of water. Due to the impact on human health and sustainable livelihood, drinking water and sanitation facilities issues are becoming pressing issues in the country. The Nistru and the Prut rivers are considered moderately contaminated while their tributaries are considered highly contaminated. In general, the quality and reliability of the water supply and wastewater services are generally deficient.

40. Shallow wells between 10-30 m depth are the key source of water supply in rural areas, but do not comply with the standards of potable water. All municipalities have their water systems, while about two third of the communities in rural areas have water pipe systems. Similarly, all municipalities and towns have piped collection systems but only about half of rural communities have rudimentary sewerage that have since ceased functioning. About half of the existing infrastructure needs be rehabilitation.

41. In addition to the impact on human health and the industrial sectors dependable on clean water, like the food processing sector, the impact has been felt in the environmental degradation due to the inability to collect, treat and safely dispose of wastewaters. As shown by different studies conducted in the last few years, groundwater quality is uneven, with a preoccupying accumulation of nitrates in some areas and is above international standards in hardness, electrical conductivity and total coliform bacteria.

42. The high NO<sub>3</sub> and chlorine contents in the shallow wells are obviously related to leaking toilets, leaking sewers and other waste disposals --non authorized garbage sites<sup>12</sup>. Self-built toilets and wells are the most common water and sanitation systems in villages. The risk of contamination of groundwater is also high, particularly in rural areas where the water and sanitation systems do not cover the entire communities. The main problem in all selected towns is the WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS (WWTP). In all towns there were no significant investments during the last 15-20 years, although they are increasing lately. In some towns the WWTPs are not working due to the almost moderate to complete deterioration of the mechanical and biological parts.

43. The waste water is discharged directly into the nearest water bodies such as rivers, lakes and creeks which cause serious environmental disturbances (World Bank, Environmental Impact Assessment, 2008).

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<sup>12</sup>. Local pollution from leaking toilets, pit privies; uncontrolled open and leaking sewerage systems; unauthorized dumping sites; garbage disposal along the groundwater flow lines, etc.

44. These are areas of real concern for the country and the sectors that concentrate most of the resources invested in environmentally related issues, including funds from the NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FUND (NEF), national budgets and loans and grants provided by bilateral and multilateral agencies. Most of the attention on these issues has focused on access to safe water for the population, sewage and sanitation systems; renovate and rehabilitate the existing WWTPs with more limited attention to sustainable use of natural resources and correct effects on the environment.

45. There are several other issues that traditionally have been left relatively uncovered by the government that requires urgent attention: a weak National **PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM**, deterioration of **BIODIVERSITY** and landscapes, use of overly **INTENSIVE IRRIGATION**, **POLLUTION FROM NUTRIENTS** linked to heavy use of **CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS**, **PESTICIDES AND FUNGICIDES**, that have led to **DEGRADATION**, **EROSION**, **COMPACTION** and **DEPLETION OF SOILS**, **INEFFECTIVE CONTROL OF FOREST LOGGING AND BIODIVERSITY** losses, **LAND FRAGMENTATION**<sup>13</sup>, weak and ineffective **ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND STANDARDS** (not in place, not technical regulations, lack of differentiation between mechanisms, lack of capacity to implement and enforce the laws), **LACK OF PROPER COORDINATION AND INTERACTION BETWEEN MINISTRIES AND OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES** with jurisdiction over the environment and the natural resources, namely the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry. Regarding the control, the Ministry has only two layers and according to some interviewees, the Ministry does not usually work in drafting legislation or provide advice.

46. Moreover, agriculture needs to increase productivity and agricultural practices need to improve, the rural infrastructure needs improvement, new technologies need to be incorporated and there is also a need for developing banking and financing for agriculture. High levels of pesticide and fertilizer use have been linked with elevated rates of disease and infant mortality<sup>14</sup>. Soil contamination and groundwater pollution are associated problems. Water, especially in small rivers, is contaminated by agrochemical residues and manure as a result of inefficient fertilizer management practices. Water pollution by livestock industry.

47. More recently, in July 2013 the Parliament approved a law that regulate the extraction of minerals (sand and gravel, that are alluvial materials) for construction that free the extraction from the Nistru (Dniestr) and Prut rivers, the main rivers of the country, approval that has been largely criticized by environmentalists. The law has been stopped for years for groups that lobbied against it but finally it approved the law. Now the President would ratify it.

48. There is a NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (**MOLDOVA 2020**) but it barely touches issues related to the environment, with the exception of the need to explore alternative renewable energy sources, while environment is not one of the 7 pillars of the strategy. There is also an environmental legislation, but several issues are still missing or it is old, from the Soviet era. Still, it must be said that there are some draft strategies and laws are in the hand of the government for review and approval. The approval process is usually long in which all conflicting views, based on competencies and jurisdictions, are discussed and representatives from different Ministries agree on the change and how to proceed with them. As stressed by several representatives from the NGOs movement and some independent specialists, the system is top-down with low participation from NGOs and civil society representatives.

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<sup>13</sup>. The average size of farms is only 1.4 ha what presents a severe land fragmentation, although a high percentage of the land in private hands is farmed by corporate farms through lease agreements.

<sup>14</sup>. World Bank. *Environmental Assessment for Selected Towns for Water Supply and Sanitation Project*. Chisinau, March 2008

49. As mentioned, forests cover about 12 percent of the country, more than 300 Protected Areas of different kinds and institutions responsible for their management and control, but there is a lack of an effective Protected Area System that successfully protects forest from illegal logging, landslides, soil degradation, protect biodiversity, forest degradation and there is also a lack of an adequate PA management.

50. Although there were some antecedents with **BIOMASS ENERGY** in the country through a previous WB project (1997-2006), there is a vacuum in Moldova about the subject<sup>15</sup>. On one hand, there is still limited knowledge about the use of renewables and Energy Efficiency, while the government has not the institutional and financial capacity to impel the idea. There are specific needs on renewable energies and a laboratory is one of them.

51. As recently as 2010, straw was massively burnt in the land or just left in the field (as “waste”), while norms, standards and legislation lacked references to biomass energy. In the last few years there have been some interesting changes with alternative energy sources, particularly renewable energy. Very recently, it was established the ENERGY EFFICIENCY AGENCY within the MINISTRY OF ECONOMY and have been introduced 36 new standards based on EU standards that have been adapted to the country specificities. These standards were developed in consultations with several Ministries and there is a regulatory document under preparation in the Ministry of Economy.

52. It is very interesting to transcribe here what the **2013 MDGs NATIONAL REPORT** says about ensuring ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY. The Report calls for “a better balance between society and environment.” “Moldova has made progress in achieving some of the MDG7 indicators, however strong efforts are still needed to ensure quality and sustainability.” For example, the final target of increasing the share of the state-protected areas to 4.65% was achieved already in 2006. “...However, insufficient financial and human resources are allotted for the development of the management system, maintenance and management of the protection regimes.” At the same time, the proportion of population with sustainable access to improved water sources in Moldova was 62% in 2012 compared to the target of 65%, acknowledging that “environmental issues are dependent on the evolvement of other Millennium Development Goals.” The authors of the Report list among the possible opportunities and success factors “the promotion and deepening of active participation of the entire population in environmental protection”, which “is a major way to settle environmental issues”<sup>16</sup>.

53. The **2009 UNDP HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT** identified the main impacts of global climate change in Moldova, which include an increase in annual mean air temperature up to 4.1-5.4°C, with maximum warming in winter and in transition seasons, and a continuous annual fall in summer precipitations. The annual decrease in precipitation and an increase on temperatures stimulates a strong humidity deficit, resulting in a dryer climate. Extreme weather events are likely to become more frequent in the future, as demonstrated by three recent events: a severe drought in 2007 and again in 2010 and a heavy flooding in 2008<sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup>. More recently, the GEF Fund has approved the RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM AGRICULTURAL WASTE, which aims at addressing global climate change and reducing associated threats by achieving a reduction in GHG emissions through promotion of renewable energy from biomass.

<sup>16</sup>. Ibid.

<sup>17</sup>. UNDP, “2009/2010 NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT, CLIMATE CHANGE IN MOLDOVA. IMPACT AND POLICY OPTIONS FOR ADAPTATION.” Chisinau, 2009.

54. As recognized by the report, these impacts represent serious threats for the country, in particular: (i) water shortage coupled with increasing frequency of short-term water oversupply, particularly in the form of flash floods; (ii) reduced agricultural harvests, seriously undermining the country's food security; (iii) impacts on ecosystems with biodiversity losses; (iv) impact on human health linked to growing temperatures, leading to heat-waves and declining drinking water quality; and (v) likely negative impacts on transport infrastructure and energy distribution networks, demand and production capacity.

1. **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK.** Moldova has 32 districts, 898 first-level local public administrations and 6 development regions. . There is currently under discussion a decentralization reform that aims at building autonomous and democratic local governments, which provide quality local services equitably by managing efficiently their responsibilities. One of the key pillars of the reform is fiscal decentralization that will be implemented as of 2015.
2. Today, the administration and disbursement of the financial resources is handled at central level. Policies are also formulated at central level, but with the support of the regional levels.
3. Specifically water and sanitation, waste management and heating are under the responsibility of the local governments although the administration is still fragmented and underfunded. Environmental initiatives are administered by the MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, leaded by the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, two VICE-MINISTERS and an ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. It is subdivided in several DIRECTORATES, namely NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY, ANALYSIS , MONITORING AND EVALUATION, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION PREVENTION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT, WATER MANAGEMENT, AND FINANCES AND ACCOUNTING. The Ministry also has a CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE, which is organized by groups: INVENTORY, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION and CC MITIGATION<sup>18</sup>. This Unit is entirely financed by different projects; no resources provided by the government.
4. Although the Ministry has **845** staff, 687 belongs to the State Ecological Inspectorate and the State Hydrometeorological Services. The Ministry is relatively small: it counts for only **56 staff** of the **845** staff mentioned, including **5** staff that belongs to the NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL FUND, **26** to the AGENCY FOR GEOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES and **29** to APELE MOLDOVEI AGENCY, **33** to the FISHERIES SERVICES and **14** to the NATIONAL AGENCY FOR REGULATION OF NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES. The ECOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY INSTITUTE is subordinated to the Ministry and the ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF MOLDOVA. Moldsilva, the State Agency for research Forestry and Management subordinated to the government is responsible for administer Protected Areas, design policies, manage reforestation and forest maintenance, gardening<sup>19</sup>.
5. As mentioned, all forest belongs to the state. While the Ministry of Environment plays an oversight role in forest protection, it is MOLDSILVA that in charge of national forest administration and has the authority to develop, approve and assess forest management plans. MOLDSILVA is in charge of administering technical, economic, and legal aspects of the forest policy.

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<sup>18</sup>. Moldova signed the UNFCCC convention in 1992, ratified it in 1995; in 1997 submitted the first National Communication, with UNDP support, in 2001-2002 it was carried out the first Technology assessment with the support of UNDP-GEF funded project, while during 2003-2005 it implemented the National Self-assessment Capacity Project (UNDP project). But it was in 2004 that the Ministry decided to establish the CC Office. At the time it also set up other office, including one for Biodiversity. Since then it has implemented two other projects (funded by UNECE and UNEP) linked with the second and third communication.

<sup>19</sup>. Organizational structure of the Ministry of Environment. Official information provided by the Ministry of Environment, July 2013.

6. **THE UN SYSTEM IN MOLDOVA.** UNDP is the only UN agency dealing with environment with presence in the country. FAO has a focal point located in the Ministry of Agriculture, while UNIDO and UNEP are not present in Moldova. UNDP has been dealing with all the country's environmental issues and problems and has become more recently the main implementing agency for most of the GEF funds channeled to the country. UNDP Country Office (CO) has three focus areas, clusters or pillars: (i) DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS; (ii) HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION; and (iii) ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT.

7. **NGOS MOVEMENT.** The NGOs world is somehow divided. In 2004, there were more than 400 registered NGOs, but there has been a restructuring of the sector with disappearances, reorientation of activities and merging. At the time, the Regional Environmental Center, which was established in 1988, was still operational. After 2009, the movement has been trying to consolidate its activities, increase interaction and talk with a more unified voice, but the movement considers, at least those that are more vocal with environmental issues, that it is still misunderstood by the Ministry of Environment. Today, there are about 150 NGOs registered, 50 of which are considered professional NGOs. Only 10 to 15 of them are strong NGOs with networks, which work on advocacy, project implementation, education and several other themes.

8. Distance with the government has increased as part of movement became more vocal against some specific government measures. Notwithstanding, there is a general acceptance that the current government is more open to dialogue than previous governments and the access to the Ministry and the government has increased, but still the dialogue is based more on personal rather than institutional relations.

9. There are different kinds of NGOs: project oriented, service suppliers, grassroots organizations, NGOs working in the rural areas and in the urban areas, at local and at national levels, etc. During the implementation of the SEP project, NGOs had access to grants in what constituted a pilot phase that brought to the establishment of the GEF/Small Grant Programme (SGP). In 2010, the NGOs created the Environmental Council to facilitate consultations and provide advice on policy, legislation, etc. It has had some success in mobilizing the movement, but since May 2012 the Council has not met again.

10. As stated by several NGOs representatives interviewed by this Evaluation, the NGOs movement does not participate neither are invited by the government to participate as a movement in the decision-making process or by UN and UNDP to formulate the UNPF and the CPAP.

## **2.2. PROGRAMME PROPOSAL**

11. The OE evaluated the EEP Programme's goals as stated in the COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT (CPD) and the CPAP covering the period 2007-2011 further extended to 2012<sup>20</sup>. Goals of the EEP portfolio can be summarized as follow:

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<sup>20</sup>. **OUTPUT:** Tangible product (including services) of an intervention that is directly attributable to the initiative. Outputs relate to the completion (rather than the conduct) of activities and are the type of results over which managers have most influence. An example of an output for a project for judicial reform is the number of judges trained and qualified. **OUTCOME:** Actual or intended changes in development conditions that an intervention(s) seeks to support. The contribution of several partners is usually required to achieve an outcome. When the same example is applied, an outcome is the improvement in the judicial process as evidenced by a reduction in the backlog of cases (UNDP, revised policy for evaluation approved in 2011).

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### GOAL 3. MANAGING ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES IS IMPROVED IN COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL/EU STANDARDS	INDICATORS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL ON SEA TO THE UNECE CONVENTION ON EIA.</li><li>• NUMBER OF SEAS CONDUCTED AS INTEGRAL PART OF POLICY-MAKING AND SECTORAL STRATEGIC PLANNING DOCUMENTS.</li></ul>
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### GOAL 4. SUPPORTING CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

THERE IS IMPROVED READINESS TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE NATURAL AND MAN-MADE AND DISASTERS AND CRISIS	INDICATORS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM COMPLIANCE WITH EU/INTERNATIONAL NORMS</li><li>• THE SHARE OF THE BUDGET ALLOCATES FOR SYSTEM OF MITIGATION OR NATURAL MAN-MADE OF DISASTERS AND CRISIS AS SHARE OF TOTAL STATE BUDGETS.</li></ul>
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12. This CPAP is linked to Outcome 1 of the UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK (UNDAF) 2007-2011: *Improve the management of the environment in line with international and EU standards and commitments under the multilateral environmental agreements*. Since UNDP is the only resident UN agency with local presence in the country that deals with environmental issues, it is also the EE PROGRAMME of UNDP that dealt with the environment and in charge of following up on UNDAF's outcomes and outputs, in coordination with the government and other partners. For the current planning cycle 2013-2017, UNDAF has been changed to the UNITED NATIONS PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK (UNPF), which has three main pillars; one of them (the third) is linked to the environment: *Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk management*, which includes two outcomes: (i) *environment: improved environmental management in increased compliance with international and regional standards*; and (ii) *low emissions and resilient development: strengthened national policies and capacities enable climate and disaster resilient, low emission economic development and sustainable consumption*

13. The CPAP 2007-2012 has not been anchored to any specific document related to national environmental policies and strategies. At the time of the CPAP formulation, there were no any national framework documents that could have served to guide UNDP's activities and interventions in the environment. That was left to a cluster of rules and international agreements, like the EU and international standards, specific commitments with international conventions and the MDGs. As mentioned earlier, there were several pressing issues and problems that needed urgent attention, including the need to define policies, formulate strategies and actions plans, update the legislation, establish priorities, strengthen national and local government entities and implement activities that ensured a more sustainable growth and development. Most of that came later and largely during the implementation of the CPAP<sup>21</sup>.

14. The CPAP has two specific laudable characteristics: (i) it aggregates the effort aligning environment and energy in a single goal and very few outputs (the other goal is devoted to crisis prevention and recovery); and (ii) a special emphasis on qualitative activities as well as quantitative. The number of outcomes and outputs in a CPAP is certainly

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<sup>21</sup>. The government currently in office formulated its **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (MOLDOVA 2012-2020)**, but unfortunately it says very little about the environment, with the exception of some paragraphs devoted to proposals aimed at reducing the oil bill and explores alternative renewable energy sources. The Strategy is organized in seven priorities but no one relates to the environment.

debatable, but this Evaluation is persuaded that it is far easier for the Unit and the CO to be guided for a CPAP that integrates objectives, outputs and activities. It ensures a more strategic focus, coherence, a more clear orientation to a handful of results and it is easier for UNDP to remain focused on few, specific goals. It also helps UNDP to carry its message more clearly. It is a widespread practice (with CPAPs and UNDAFs, too) to define outcomes for each thematic area and several outputs, one or almost for each project. As shown by the experience, the more integrated the CDA and the CPAP are the more strategic and more focused they are and the easiest their implementation and follow-up. There are always specificities among interventions but they can be easily reflected through the indicators, and more than one if necessary. CPAPs and their monitoring and follow-up do not need to redo what is already done at project level.

15. In addition to specific quantitative results, more easily monitored with numbers and percentages and easier to select targets, the EE Portfolio includes strong elements of strengthening capacities, raise awareness, increase knowledge, update databases and legislation, test national institutional frameworks and formulate recommendations, develop methodologies, ensure participation, carry out assessments, identify and or implement mitigation measures, provide assistance, promote innovative approaches, support the development of policy instruments, promote investment initiatives, strengthen operational systems for monitoring information management and research, strengthen public and community participation, comply with international commitments, etc. These are the kind of enabling and qualitative events which contribution and results require specific indicators, not easily represented by numbers and percentages.

16. Although numbers and percentages are always important to follow-up on the occurrence of planned events at project level, they are not the most adequate to assess how and to what extent UNDP is contributing to improve capacities and help to remove constraints and mitigate environmental impacts and ensure a sustainable use of the natural resources, in line with national development needs and challenges.

17. The **MAIN SUBJECT OF THIS OUTCOME EVALUATION** has been COMPLETED AND ONGOING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS implemented within the framework of the EE Portfolio that have contributed to the outcome or have been designed during the planning cycle under evaluation.

18. The reference projects and programmes implemented within the boundaries of Moldova are listed below:

- “SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES”;
- “IMPROVING COVERAGE AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM IN MOLDOVA”;
- “PREPARATION OF THE HYDROCHLOROFLUOROCARBON (HCFC) PHASE OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN”;
- “IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HCFC PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN, STAGE 1, TERMINAL PHASE OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN”;
- “DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL METERED-DOSE INHALER (MDI) TRANSITION STRATEGY”;
- “MAINSTREAMING OF SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS”;
- “STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES TO UNDERTAKE ENVIRONMENTAL FISCAL REFORM TO MEET NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES”;

- “NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLANNING PROJECT TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD 2011-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN IN MOLDOVA”; and
- “MOLDOVA ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT”.

19. It might be stressed that is not per se an Evaluation of the projects and programmes and non-projects activities of the EE Portfolio.

#### ONGOING PROJECTS

	PROJECT TITLE	IMPLEMENTATION MODALITY	UNDP STAFF
1	ENVIRONMENT FISCAL REFORM PROJECT	NIM (CO SUPPORT)	1.5 (MANAGER/ASS.)
2	MOLDOVA ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT	NIM (CO SUPPORT)+ HACT (ACTIVITIES)	11
3	EU-UNDP LOW EMISSION CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME	FULL HACT	-
4	MOLDOVA DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISK REDUCTION PROJECT – PHASE I	NIM (CO SUPPORT)	1 (MANAGER)
5	RESPONSE TO THE DROUGHT 2012	NIM (CO SUPPORT) DIM	- (MANAGED WITH MDCRR PROJECT)
6	SUPPORTING MOLDOVA’S CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING PROJECT	FULL HACT	-
7	IMPROVING COVERAGE AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM	NIM (CO SUPPORT)	1.5 (MANAGER/ASS.)
8	NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLANNING PROJECT	FULL HACT	-
9	CLIMA-EAST: ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN ORHEI NATIONAL PARK	NIM (CO SUPPORT)	- (MANAGED WITH PAS PROJECT)
10	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HYDROCHLOROFLUOROCARBON (HCFC) PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN, STAGE 1	NIM	-
11	UNDP-GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME (UNOPS)	DIM (UNOPS/UNDP)	-

**SOURCE:** EE PROGRAMME, JULY 2013

20. Moldova did not participate in the GEF’s Small Grant Programme (SGP), but has submitted an application following a successful pilot small grants program financed and implemented by UNDP. It was approved by GEF and the programme is currently in implementation since 2012.



### III. MAJOR FINDINGS: PROGRESS TOWARDS THE OUTCOME

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#### 3.1. RELEVANCE<sup>22</sup>

21. Relevance is a key determinant of UNDP strategic positioning in a country like Moldova, a transition economy which is in the path to enter into an association agreement with the European Union (EU), have major environmental and energy issues that requires closer attention and is receiving massive influx of aid and expertise from the EU and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to tackle issues in different areas of the economy, the social sector and support for institutional strengthening. Relevance reflects to what extent the selected goals were relevant given the country's context and requirements and UNDP's niche, how well the Environment and Energy initiatives are aligned with UNDP's mandate, national priorities and the needs to target the environment and help its population, women and men, to ensure a more equitable society, their human development and human rights. Relevance also reflects how strategically UNDP has positioned itself vis-à-vis its comparative advantages, Moldova's particular development context and how it is reflected in the expected results.

22. The key questions under relevance are: **Was the CPAP relevant? Were the stated outcomes, indicators and targets relevant for the context, needs and priorities of Moldova and those of UNDP? To what extent has UNDP's engagement been a reflection of its strategic considerations including its comparative advantage?** It was. Overall, UNDP supported interventions have been relevant for national environmental and energy priorities, to be on track of EU and international environmental standards and to comply with commitments and obligations agreed by the country with the MDGs, EU and international conventions. UNDP's support through different interventions aligned with national sustainable development needs and requirements, working at both dimensions of development, **UPSTREAM** (influencing policies) and **DOWNSTREAM** (nurturing interventions on the ground).

23. The CPAP, which was formulated in 2006, was not anchored to a specific environmental national policy or strategy document; actually, the main document available was a law for environment from 1993 and other legislation that was approved during the Soviet era or in the 1990s. The documents that could guide UNDP's actions were the **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS** ratified by Moldova, the **EU** and **INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS**, and the **MDGs**, mixed with the need of the country to update its legislation, establish priorities and formulate strategies and action plans in several thematic areas and ensure a more sustainable growth and development.

24. UNDP and the government were building up **upstream** and **downstream interventions** under the umbrella of a simple, focused CPAP that carried a specific message: *Management of Environment and Natural Resources is Improved in compliance with international/EU standards*. Moldova is in transition and in the midst of many reforms of its public institutions, legislation and policy agenda. The current government regards EU association and further integration as a fundamental priority for Moldova and in few weeks it expects to initial the association agreement with the EU. As other Eastern European countries before, Moldova see the association and further integration with the EU as an institutionalized, responsible, efficient and orderly way for a country in transition to implement its commitments with the EU and the international community, derived from the European course, modernize the country, achieve political,

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<sup>22</sup>. Some of the projects reviewed have not completed their implementation in December 2012, when the CPAP ended and so it is not entirely possible to evaluate their effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability the way it is done with closed projects. It makes **RELEVANCE**, **PERTINENCE** and **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP** of key value for the analysis of their contribution to the national environmental agenda.

economic and social stability and progress on equality and human rights. There is no any doubt that the EU has been a driving force for some important political, economic and social achievements and the environment, too.

25. The NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (MOLDOVA 2012-2020) came years later, same as the draft ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY 2012-2020 and the draft CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY, completed in July 2012, which preparation was supported by UNDP. Specifically, the National Development Strategy is organized in seven priorities but unfortunately it says far too little about the environment, other than some references to the need to explore alternative renewable energy sources. The other two strategies are still drafts<sup>23</sup>. There is a general recognition among the persons interviewed by this Evaluation that the country has advanced considerably in terms of legislation, strategies, guidelines, methodologies and instruments for most natural resources, which were updated and developed in the last few years with UNDP's support.

26. Before 2009, when the new government came to office, the Ministry of Environment had two separate areas, NATURAL RESOURCES and BIODIVERSITY, that reflected its priorities, but with the new government, priorities changed to water and sanitation and waste management. EU funds have had their influence, too. In any case, there is no doubt among every person interviewed and every document read that these are the main priorities for the country. The oil bill and the need to reduce dependence on imported electricity and fossil fuels is also a key issue. But water and sanitation and waste management are the areas that have concentrated most of the efforts and financial resources invested by the government and channeled by the international community to Moldova, while energy and electricity are concentrating considerable attention and funds, too.

27. They were certainly not the only issues in the country and UNDP strategically positioned with other specific issues that did not have called the same attention from the government and donors: the protected area system, forestry areas, biodiversity, biomass and alternative renewable energy sources, chemicals, refrigerants and medicines/inhalers, international conventions, MDG 7, an environmental fiscal reform, disaster and climate risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, low emissions, the SGP programme, energy efficiency and the promotion of low carbon growth in cities. They were not novel in the country; GEF, through the World Bank, supported similar interventions in some of those issues<sup>24</sup>. But in the last few years UNDP has been very proactive with those issues and has become a key partner for the Ministry of Environment and the EU, helping to raise the importance and urgency of the issues for Moldova.

28. Moldova is heavily reliant on the agricultural sector and has a high share of rural population and poverty in the rural areas. Significant impacts of climate variability have already been observed over the last few years, with recurring drought and flood events. Weather and climate-related natural hazards such as drought, floods, hail, soil erosion and landslides are negatively affecting the country's development agenda. Climate change is more and more recognized by the government and by the population as a key challenge, given the increasing frequency and intensity of those natural events that turn Moldova's population, economy and environment highly vulnerable to them. The media is giving more attention to environment and natural hazards, while the population is increasingly linking these events to climate

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<sup>23</sup>. "...the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020" comes to present a vision of cohesive long-term sustainable economic development based on a diagnostic study of constraints to economic development. In this sense, it will consolidate and will guide the sectoral approach characteristic for the governance program, the objectives of which are outlined for the entire mandate period (Government of Moldova, "Moldova 2012-2020")."

<sup>24</sup>. Biodiversity, climate change, POPs, international waters and regional and global operations (mainly preparation of communications to UN conventions and development of frameworks and action plans.

change. But there is still considerable work to do and the resistance to pair economic growth with environment sustainability is still high, with Ministries and the economic forces still perceiving environmental preservation as a constraint to economic growth, a strong sign that the environment is not perceived as a potential source of economic benefits as well as a driver of growth and development. Project documents, Assessments of Development Results (ADRs) and Evaluations are sufficiently illustrative of the weakness the country had in standards, legislation, focus, lack of management and implementation capacity and expertise to deal with complex environmental issues, ineffective control and lack of proper enforcement of the legislation, outdated legislation, weak environmental institutions, reduced interaction between Ministries, lack of updated databases, guidelines, strategies, actions plans, etc. Moldova does not have enough financial resources to finance the primary technological adaptation measures needed to address most of these issues at once and so considerable external resources are needed to invest in adaptation measures. There is a NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FUND, with considerable resources to finance several of those initiatives, but the bulk of the funds are invested in civil infrastructure for water and sanitation and waste management.

29. The Ministry of Environment and Moldsilva are involved in a programme to increase forest covered areas, what should contribute to reduce severe soil erosion, landslides, water resource degradation and drought intensification. But there are other issues with forestry that needs a quick reaction from the state, specifically more effective control and protection to reduce depredation, Illegal logging and improve management of forest, update the legislation and ensure more focused interventions in PAs.

30. UNDP's strategic support acquires more relevance when we consider that major environmental issues have not traditionally been considered major issues by the government or the population, particularly before 2007 and their impacts were approached in more traditional ways.

31. The need to comply with international agreements and update an old legislation prompted the Government to request UNDP's support, among others, in specific thematic areas and specific upstream and downstream activities. But UNDP was particularly relevant in thematic areas in which the country and the line Ministry needed substantive support and technical expertise. Lack of local resources and expertise and a weak Ministry made UNDP and the international community more relevant to impulse the environmental agenda and incorporate EU and international standards, the CPAP's goals for environment and energy protection. There was also a need for promoting sustainable practices in the context of economic restructuring and development and UNDP positioned strategically in those areas, supporting the Ministry to implement several downstream initiatives (see Annexure 1 for details). The NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL FUND needed a different approach and review its operation. The table of projects in hard pipeline gives us an idea of where UNDP's support is going in the near future.

#### PROJECTS IN PIPELINE

STATUS	PROJECT NAME	FOCUS AREA	BUDGET/SOURCE OF FUNDS (USD)	DURATION
START-UP	CLIMA-EAST: ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ORHEI NATIONAL PARK	CLIMATE CHANGE, PROTECTED AREAS	694,000 (EU)	April 2013- Dec 2016
IN DESIGN	URBAN ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT. PROMOTING LOW CARBON GROWTH IN CITIES OF MOLDOVA (PPG)	ENERGY EFFICIENCY, LOW CARBON GROWTH	GEF	
START-UP	NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING PROCESS	CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION	USD 970,000 (Gov of Austria)	June 2013- May 2016

SOURCE: EEP PROGRAMME, August 2013

32. There are few UN resident agencies in the country and UNDP is the only agency dealing with environmental issues so it seems natural that UNDP has spread its operations in so many issues in such a short period of time.

### 3.2 EFFECTIVENESS<sup>25</sup>

33. UNDP has been effective, with different levels of success depending on the kind of intervention, in improving the body of legislation and management capabilities of government entities, in set up an enabling institutional and operational framework for the national and local government bodies to respond more effectively to challenges posed by man-made as well as to climatic events, still incipient, and in implementing several downstream operations. Although most of UNDP CO supported interventions converged on the Ministry of Environment, its Directorates, Departments and agencies, the CO partnered with a wide range of partners in development.

34. Specifically, the Programme strategy combined the emphasis on both upstream and downstream interventions and focused on actions and thematic areas that have not called the attention of successive governments neither were at the top of their agenda.

35. Since the start-up of the CPAP in 2007, UNDP had an important platform in the **SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES (SEP)** to work consistently with the government and set the agenda of what would come next. It was not a large project in financial terms but very important for the activities involved: “addressing key environmental protection issues and sustainable use of natural resources, enhancing the regulatory and strategic framework, increasing institutional capacity, and, initiating an Environmental Small Grants Scheme for NGOs aiming at protecting the environment and achieving sustainable livelihoods<sup>26</sup>. Other sections of this report include details about the results achieved by the project, but it is important to stress here the importance for the country of some key products of this project for the environmental agenda: to count with a new NATIONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY (draft), the LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (draft) and the development of the LAW ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION which is the main framework law in the sector.

36. Moreover, through the SEP project, UNDP supported the national strategic planning process in the GEF focal areas, resulting already in two projects approved by the GEF for funding and the GEF Small Grant Programme, implemented for the first time in Moldova (since 2012). Since the 1990s and well into the 2000s, the main implementing agency of GEF funds in Moldova was the World Bank, but more recently it is UNDP that has become the main GEF implementing agency in Moldova.

37. UNDP interventions in some thematic areas were not novel for the country. Since the early 1990s until 2009, GEF funded fourteen national projects in areas like biodiversity (five projects) and climate change (four projects), with the World Bank as the main implementation agency of GEF funds. UNDP implemented four of those fourteen projects (three in climate change and one in biodiversity), one of them in coordination with UNEP<sup>27</sup>. In a way, UNDP took over

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<sup>25</sup>. Although this evaluation is not about projects, it is a good practice to review projects and programmes that contribute to the achievement of the outcomes.

<sup>26</sup>. SEP, Project Document, 2006.

<sup>27</sup>. Moldova has participated in 16 regional and global initiatives supported by the GEF. Most of the regional projects involving Moldova are international waters projects for the Danube River and Black Sea, while the goal of global projects has been the preparation of communications to UN conventions and development of frameworks and actions plans (GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation, June 2010).

those and new thematic areas and it is currently playing a central role in the Protected Area system and forestry areas, biodiversity, biomass and alternative renewable energy sources, chemicals, refrigerants and medicines/inhalers, international conventions, the MDG 7, develop capacity for an environmental fiscal reform, disaster and climate risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, low emissions, the SGP programme, energy efficiency and the promotion of low carbon growth in cities.

38. As stressed by the interviewees from the government and other partners, UNDP has played quite a strong role in the country bringing expertise, international experts, ideas and experiences. This support translated in new guidelines, updated databases and end-user lists, inventories and basic information on protected areas, an institutionalized way to incorporate international standards into the regulations and practice, provide recommendations on how to deal with national communications and during negotiations, brought experiences, best practices and lessons from projects, raised awareness among the population where projects have been/are implemented, helped to set up a market for biomass as an alternative source of energy, strengthened institutional and management capacities although with different levels of success, etc. National and international experts were hired from time to time to provide expertise to the Ministry of Environment and its agencies, which were entirely funded by projects.

39. Strengthening institutional and management capacities for effective policies and programme implementation though delivering policy advice, providing expertise and sharing international best practice both on cross cutting environmental governance as well as key environmental sectors, has been at the core of UNDP's interventions in Moldova. All interventions have included extensive enabling activities and capacity development, like those of the biodiversity thematic area or the national communications to conventions. But it was probably insufficient to deal with the weakness and extensive requirements of the Ministry of Environment and the complexity of several of the issues involved. Still, they have been successful in pulling competencies and expertise together and defining priorities and measures and developing specific instruments to address issues.

40. Several of the UNDP supported interventions have been coordinated and administered by Government entities, although an active support from UNDP and other partners was necessary for the government to comply with communications and reporting requirements under international environmental conventions like the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNFCCC, Río +20, Johannesburg, etc. While this kind of support helps the government to comply with international agreements and conventions, they do not necessarily reinforce UNDP's strategic role in Moldova or help it to focus on national development priorities in energy and environment.

41. Not less important when it comes to analyze UNDP's effectiveness is the fact that the EEP Unit has been strategic at ensuring the participation of different national and international actors from national and local governments to NGOs, the civil society, the private sector (some), and multilateral and bilateral donors, all actors that can be found involved in most of the interventions.

42. The list of activities and results is long, quite impressive and it is sufficiently detailed in sections and subsections of this report. Still it is interesting to summarize some of them. Supported by four different projects, Moldova has met 2010 and 2013 phase-out objectives on refrigerants in line with the requirements of the Montreal Protocol; a CFC inventory was established and updated and a comprehensive database of refrigerant end-users and service enterprises was prepared and updated. It was formulated a "METERED-DOSE INHALERS TRANSITION" STRATEGY which is currently in the hands of the MINISTRY OF HEALTH for review and approval; there are under review some changes in registration procedures of medical products to preclude the registration of CFC based MDIs; and there have been

reviewed some strategies to enable Moldova to gradually and effectively transition to the use of non-CFC based ozone-friendly inhalers in treating asthma.

43. Three hundred and twelve Protected Areas nationwide has been revalidated. Their current situation has been assessed and recommendations have been elaborated to improve their conservation status and ensure effective management. Each PA should have its Master Plan but this is a difficult task considering the number of PAs (312) that covers some 157,000 ha. This is an ongoing process that will take time to complete. Draft legislation for the PAs has been submitted to the Ministry of Environment. The ORHEI NATIONAL PARK, the first National Park in the country, was approved, approval that includes the establishment by Moldsilva of the Orhei National Park administration. Legal, human, financial resources and capacity support needed to ensure a sustainable management of PAs have been identified and assessed. The Climate Change Office supported the preparation of the NATIONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY and the LOW EMISSION STRATEGY. Both are still draft versions, but together form a comprehensive strategy framework for climate change.

44. Complementary, through different UNDP's supported interventions, it has been provided policy advice, continuous advocacy and awareness raising, training, equipment and capacity building, contributing to the development of key legislation, most importantly the LAW ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION, which is the main framework law for the environmental sector. It promotes the use of STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT as key environmental governance tool. A Small Grants Scheme for environmental NGOs and CBOs was implemented, which aimed at strengthening NGOs landscape throughout Moldova, although there were several problems with the sustainability of several participating NGOs after the grant scheme ended.

45. This pilot scheme set the basis for establishing the SGP in Moldova, with UNDP as the trusted partner to implement the SPG scheme, same as the GEF funds in the country. GSP programme has completed the development of the COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY (CPS), established the NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (NSC) and is in its first year of implementation<sup>28</sup>.

46. One hundred twenty seven biomass heating sub-projects have been approved for implementation at community level, 104 of which have already been completed, while the remaining 23 are contracting the design companies. As reported by the project, it has already reached 81,238 beneficiaries who have improved heating comfort and has helped to create 269 new jobs. The project is now focused on establishing functional markets for biomass technologies. Another intervention has managed to provide support with relevant institutional, legal and regulatory framework for a comprehensive reform of the NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL FUND and the revised management and operational procedures of the Fund. This phase has already been completed and the framework has been submitted to the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Finance, which for now has divergent ideas regarding the future of the Fund. In parallel, the same project has analyzed the existing subsidy system in the energy sector looking for a reform of subsidies considered harmful for the environment.

47. The draft LAW ON CHEMICALS, which is a fundamental building block for improving the management of chemicals, was fully revised in accordance with EU requirements. The draft NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN has been developed with full integration of new aspects of the CONVENTION FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN.

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<sup>28</sup>. The NSC is composed with representatives from NGOs in the area of environmental policy, chemicals, and energy efficiency and renewable energy, the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, State Agency "Moldsilva" and UNDP.

48. A comprehensive inventory of risk assessments and projects, data and relevant organizations, and gaps in **disaster risk management** were identified and the COUNTRY SITUATION ANALYSIS was finalized<sup>29</sup>. The work started with the establishment of a NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION and parties are now developing a DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (2014-2020). As expected, both will become important building blocks for improving planning and coordination to prepare against natural risks.

49. In general, UNDP contribution is helping to strengthen the understanding of the intrinsic linkages between climate change and natural disasters. A special place in these efforts is occupied by the **2009/2010 NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT, CLIMATE CHANGE IN MOLDOVA. IMPACT AND POLICY OPTIONS FOR ADAPTATION** entirely devoted to Climate Change and human development and its effects for the country's environment and population<sup>30</sup>. It consists of an Introduction and 11 Chapters and was prepared by a "think tank" made of national experts, coordinated by UNDP. As noted by several persons interviewed, the NHDR has been one of UNDP's most visible products, specifically of the EE Programme and a commendable initiative in a country with the need for a clear perception of the links between natural disasters and human activities.

50. People interviewed by this Evaluation highlighted the value and quality of the report, while UNDP sees it as an extension of the work carried out by other means and a very effective way to put climate change issues higher on the government's agenda and to raise awareness among stakeholders. What makes the report more important for raising awareness among Moldovans, including NGOs and academia, is its linkage to the human dimension of growth and development and the human development approach promoted by UNDP through its core interventions. It can be labelled as a commendable effort for knowledge generation in a key topic like Climate Change, in a country that faces, among others, persistent moderate to severe droughts. The report is recognized as an indispensable reference tool for academia, too.

51. While some other reports can look more theoretical, while others display a more practical, public, policy focus, the NHDR has the virtue of embracing both venues, reaching a good balance between issues and challenges with more practical approach.

52. There is a recurrent issue in the analysis of effectiveness, efficiency, degree of change and sustainability: the weakness of the Ministry of Environment. Several persons interviewed stressed the limited capacity of the Ministry, a Ministry with its staff literally overwhelmed by multiple tasks and responsibilities, low salaries and limited budgets. The Ministry is small, most of its staff concentrates in two agencies, the list of projects implemented by the Ministry is long, but few technical staff deals with most issues, particularly those related to legislation and legal issues. The staff is underpaid and staff turnover reoccurs every time that a new government comes to office. Some interviewees set these numbers at about a third of the Ministry's staff, but it could not be confirmed by this Evaluation.

53. According to the information provided by the Ministry of Environment, **687** staff out of the **845** staff of the Ministry belongs to two agencies: the STATE ECOLOGICAL INSPECTORATE and the STATE HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICES, while the main structure of the Ministry counts for only **51 of those 845 staff**. In addition, **5** staff belongs to the NATIONAL

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<sup>29</sup>. The COUNTRY SITUATION ANALYSIS laid the foundation for creating the NATIONAL DISASTER OBSERVATORY (NDO) attached to the CRISIS COMMAND CENTER, established with the WB assistance, and shall contribute to strengthening of DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM in the country level.

<sup>30</sup>. UNDP, "2009/2010 NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT, CLIMATE CHANGE IN MOLDOVA. IMPACT AND POLICY OPTIONS FOR ADAPTATION." Chisinau, 2009.

ECOLOGICAL FUND, **26** to the AGENCY FOR GEOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, **29** to APELE MOLDOVEI AGENCY, **33** to the FISHERIES SERVICES and **14** to the NATIONAL AGENCY FOR REGULATION OF NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES. The ECOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY INSTITUTE is subordinated to the Ministry and the ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF MOLDOVA. The Ministry has only one lawyer to deal with legal issues. Too little a number to deal with too many pressing issues, the EU *acquis communautaire*, and an increasing awareness among the population. Besides, as confirmed by several persons interviewed, the Minister has played a key role to ensure that many things happened, but personal efforts have their limits. The NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY DIVISION of the Ministry of Environment has only 3 staff with responsibilities on several very important tasks. It is not different with the DIVISION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT, with several key responsibilities. Besides, it is very difficult to separate responsibilities between Departments.

54. Several Ministries have jurisdiction over specific environmental issues, investments and solutions in Moldova, but the Ministry of Environment has had difficulties to integrate the other Ministries in its initiatives. As stressed by some interviewees, the Ministry has limited capacity to formulate financially-sound environmental programmes which further limits its capacity to coordinate with other Ministries and its proposals being integrated into other Ministries' programmes. UNDP has had some success in mobilizing other Ministries and particularly at interacting with other stakeholders and ensure their participation in projects and other initiatives. UNDP has been credible, has provided its expertise on policy and project and pilot results, specialization and experience, as well as its proactive role and capacity to bridge the interest of the Government institutions and engage with academia, private sector, some NGOs and other UN agencies.

55. There is a body of legislation in Moldova that answers to several key natural resources and environmental issues and, in the last few years the government has taken several steps in the right direction, although there are still several constraints with the management and implementation capacity of the Ministry.

## INTERVENTIONS

56. **"UPDATE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFRIGERANTS MANAGEMENT PLAN (2005-2008 AND TERMINAL PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN" (2007-2011)**<sup>31</sup>. The projects have proved to be essential to allow Moldova to meet its 2010 and 2013 phase-out objectives established under the MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER. The comprehensive database of refrigeration end-users and service enterprises developed by the projects allowed to targeting in a proper manner the training and end-user incentive programme. Conversion and retrofits of CFC-using installations gradually reduced the future needs for CFC consumption in a cost-effective manner. In total, 18 enterprises participated and received incentive payments in the framework of the project. Improved training and equipment of technicians in the MOBILE AIR-CONDITIONING (MAC) service sector. The effect of the project continued to contribute to the CFC phase-out and the TERMINAL PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN (see below). UNDP partnered with UNEP sharing the management costs for project implementation and to build up the capacity of refrigeration technicians and students in using good refrigeration servicing practice.

57. During implementation of the **TERMINAL PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN (2007-2011)**, 49 companies replaced or retrofitted their old refrigeration equipment for new equipment that works with alternative refrigerants.

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<sup>31</sup>. The three successive projects aimed at reducing the demand for CFCs in supporting Moldova in meeting the requirements of the Montreal Protocol, while the Phase-out Management Plan specifically aims at achieving the immediate phase targets of a 2013 freeze at the baseline and subsequent 10% reduction of the baseline by 2015 in consumption of HCFCs. The project aims at reducing the demand for CFCs in supporting Moldova in meeting the requirements of the Montreal Protocol.



58. With support of these projects and in collaboration with UNEP, by end 2010 Moldova completed the phase-out of CFCs in a timely, cost effective and sustainable manner and is in full compliance with its obligations on CFCs under the MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER.

59. For the implementation of the **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HYDROCHLOROFLUOROCARBON (HCFC) PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN, STAGE 1 (2011-2013)**, the project worked through the ASSOCIATION OF REFRIGERANT TECHNICIANS and the TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, TECHNICAL ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORTATION FACULTY, which provides training to technicians and students on air conditioners, energy efficiency and the use of alternative energy sources. It is a key element of the project since Moldova had not specialists to deal with the leaking of air conditioners. As of today around 400 technicians were already trained and at the moment of the visit of this Evaluation, the CENTER was ready to launch a new training course supported by UNDP for 60 technicians. As established by the law, technicians are required to retake the training every three years. Although previous courses have been free, the Center is planning to charge for future courses in order to ensure sustainability of the training center and finance training costs. The Center should be self-sustainable.

60. The CENTER was equipped by UNDP's intervention with equipment and instruments and repairing equipment. The project is also developing standards for technicians based on new experiences and new novelties based on the EU standards that will be submitted to the Government for review and approval. As expected, in the future the EU rules will be applied with certifications according to specific categories (there are six categories but Moldova is currently certifying only two). The quality control equipment to detect leaking in air conditioners are purchased and distributed to companies, which pay 50 percent of its cost. The remaining 50 percent is financed by the MULTILATERAL TRUST FUND (MTF) and loans have to be repaid by companies.

61. The **DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL METERED-DOSE INHALER (MDI) TRANSITION STRATEGY** was a small project implemented between **2008** and **2010**, aimed at developing the NATIONAL METERED-DOSE INHALER TRANSITION STRATEGY to replace CFC-based MDIs with alternative products. Project activities included a baseline data collection and analysis of current MDI market consumption, supply sources and trends; analysis of alternative products; and carry out stakeholder workshops with key national stakeholders and experts and develop and disseminate the MDI TRANSITION STRATEGY.

62. The strategy enables Moldova to gradually and effectively transitions to the use of non-CFC based "ozone friendly" inhalers in treating asthma without affecting asthma patients (approximately 8,000 Moldovans), ensuring that patients will have available equally effective alternative products at a reasonable cost by the time CFC MDIs are out of the market. The effective implementation of the transition strategy was accompanied by the introduction of the necessary changes in the registration procedures of medicinal products to preclude registration of CFC based MDIs. These changes were initiated in cooperation with the MINISTRY OF HEALTH and included the introduction of alternative sample MDIs products to the essential medicine subsidy list. These changes required amendments to the national legislation and registration procedures for medicines, import restrictions and amendments to public procurement lists and requirements, and raising awareness of doctors, pharmacists and patients. As a result of these amendments, Imports of CFC MDIs was banned in 2012. Alternative products were procured and used in workshops and trainings with practitioners as a way to raise awareness and acceptance.

63. The **IMPROVING COVERAGE AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM IN MOLDOVA**, which started in **May 2008** and is expected to **close at the end of 2013**, was preceded by a grant to finance the formulation of the project during a period between 2008 and 2009. It was designed by the BIODIVERSITY OFFICE of the

Ministry of Environment with the support of UNDP. This is a project funded by GEF which has already approved an extension.

64. It was an ambitious project which aimed at improving the representation and coverage of the Protected Area system and to build up the capacity of Protected Area institutions in Moldova to more effectively establish and administer a representative system of protected areas. This includes varied assistance for different activities, but probably the project could be summarized in two main lines of interventions: (i) a comprehensive revalidation and assessment process of the current biodiversity value and conservation and management status of all 312 national Protected Areas, including the development of a study on PA system governance and propose an implementation plan for protected area system governance (a Master Plan); and (ii) the establishment of the first National Park in Moldova. Other activities include capacity development and strengthening of the PAs institutions and their staff, and propose amendments to the PA system legislation.

65. In general, the project has been a difficult process ahead because of the number of PAs (312) and because it was the Orhei Park the first National Park to be established in the country. Both were big outcomes that required the mobilization of several different partners and plentiful awareness raising. The Park alone comprises 33,800 has.

66. In general most of the PAs are small; 80 of them are natural protected areas and about 150 are protected monuments, geological and paleontological, special areas, etc. The biggest of them is a RAMSAR site in the wetlands in the South of the country, which overs 60,000 has. After four years, all 312 PAs have been revalidated and recommendations to improve conservation status and effective management were elaborated, for the existing a new areas to be established. The last PA was established in 1975, that is during the Soviet era, but there are not specific reasons why there were not established more after that year. Eighty percent of these PAs are administered by the Moldsilva, while the rest is administered by local authorities. PAs were also categorized according to IUCN guidelines for the national PA system.

67. The process of establishing the National Park took time as the project and the authorities involved in the process, namely the Ministry of Environment, State Agency Moldsilva, Research Institutes, NGOs, civil society, and local public authorities, were firmly (and correctly) intentioned to ensure a bottom-up, participatory process that involved the communities located inside the boundaries of the proposed Park. At the end, all actors participated actively in implementation of the process. Apart of the consultations with communities and local authorities, the project organized a travel to Romania for the majors to visit some other experiences of National Parks. It was not an activity that has been initially planned, but that was considered important to raise awareness and provide with additional information to the majors to convince them about the benefits of establishing the Park.

68. This is a key project for Moldova and also for UNDP, considering how the project will help to significantly enhance the in-situ conservation of Moldova's significant biodiversity, landscape and natural and cultural heritage through an increased coverage and inclusion of underrepresented ecosystems in the country's protected area system. As these changes come together with reforms in the legal and regulatory framework, it should ensure that the PAs are properly managed, following international standards, guidelines and practices. Protected Areas provide the basis for maintaining ecosystem goods and services such as the provision of clean drinking water and prevention of natural hazards, namely erosion and flood control, sustainable tourism and integrated regional development, or sustainable livelihoods through secured agro-biodiversity and sustainable land-use practices.

69. Maintaining these services and the ecosystems that provide them is essential for lasting social and economic development. Protected areas should contribute to strengthening a regional identity and empower people to actively participate and influence decision making processes.

70. The **ORHEI NATIONAL PARK**, the first National Park in Moldova, was established and support was provided to Moldsilva Forest Agency to establish the Orhei National Park administration. There are still some legal, administrative and financial studies to be completed, while an education and awareness raising programme targeting the region of the National Park is under implementation among all 18 communities incorporated. As expected, apart from biodiversity, landscape and natural and cultural heritage benefits the Park will bring to the area. Orhei National Park should help the population to generate income and sustainable livelihood. Training and institutional strengthening of Moldsilva and local administrations and their staff should ensure a more effective management of the PAs.

71. The five-years **SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECT (2007-2012)** has been specifically formulated to provide support to the Ministry of Environment to address key environmental protection issues and sustainable use of natural resources; enhance the regulatory and strategic framework; increasing institutional capacity; and initiate an ENVIRONMENTAL SMALL GRANTS SCHEME for NGOs aiming at protecting the environment and achieving sustainable livelihoods.

72. The project supported the development of two key strategies that form a comprehensive strategic framework for climate change: the NATIONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY and the LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. The draft strategies are both available since 2012 and are under the review of the government. The initiative took up the findings and recommendations of the 2009/2010 CLIMATE CHANGE NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT. It further provided policy advice, training, and fostered regional exchange on climate change adaptation and mitigation and strengthened the knowledge base and strategic planning capacities of the Ministry. Combined with continuous advocacy and awareness raising, project support should translate into an important base for Moldova's transition to a climate resilient and low emission development path, effectively addressing the climate change challenge.

73. Something interesting happened with the implementation of the 36 SMALL GRANTS SCHEME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL NGOs, established by the project. As reported by the project, the 36 small grant projects "...yielded multiple benefits at the community level, and accompanying trainings, exchange of best practice and support for effective participation of NGOs in all project activities strengthened the capacities of NGOs to develop, implement and monitor sound environmental projects and to effectively contribute to the design, implementation and monitoring of environmental policies." The project also report the strengthening of the NGO landscape throughout Moldova which, in the view of the project, is better enabled to address environmental problems at the local level while at the same time contributing to the socio-economic well-being of their communities. While some NGOs representatives interviewed by this Evaluation praised the grant scheme, they provided mixed assessments of its results on NGOs and their sustainability after the programme ended.

74. The **MOLDOVA ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT (April 2011-December 2014)**, is a very interesting project aimed at increasing the use of renewable energy sources through fuel switching, energy efficiency and developing biomass providers and by raising awareness on the benefits and opportunities of biomass energy. It is ambitious too: it aims at establishing some 130 municipal biomass heating systems in public buildings in rural areas of Moldova, and fuel supply markets of renewable energy sources (from local biomass: straw bales, agro-briquettes and pellets, wood, etc.). After three years of implementation the project covering all target districts. Through pilot initiatives, it is expected that the project will help local governments, entrepreneurs and communities to lay the foundations for establishment an efficient household heating, industrial cogeneration and biomass briquetting markets; build capacity

for the growth of biomass markets at regional and local levels, and awareness raising. The project targeted municipal leaders, fuel suppliers, education institutions and the population. It is also a large project: US\$ 19.13 million financed by the EU, with contributions from UNDP (US\$ 0.75 million). The very recently established ENERGY EFFICIENCY AGENCY, a body of the MINISTRY OF ECONOMY became the counterpart of the project.

75. After three years, 127 subprojects implemented at community level have been approved. At the time of this evaluation, about 104 subprojects (about 82%) have been completed and were ready to enter in operation, while the remaining 23 subprojects are in implementation. Projections indicate that all subprojects would install 29.32 MW in boiler capacity and would produce energy at 116.81 TWh. As reported by the project, beneficiaries from improved heating comfort total 81,238 people, while there have been created 269 new jobs.

76. Although the project is still in implementation, there are several benefits highlighted by the project: the awareness raised, new knowledge brought to the rural areas, people is stopping burning straw, there are changes in attitudes, families are seeing that there are economic benefits associated to straw, 75 entrepreneurs are producing biomass. By contrast, space for storage, bricket equipment and personal is needed to produce biomass and the equipment is expensive (around US\$ 50,000). The project has been buying and leasing and financing the purchase of this equipment, while its entire cost is further recovered by the project in 4 tranches spread over a 3 years period.

77. After three years of implementation, the project places the installed capacity of bricks at 30,000 Ton. The process was accompanied by systematic training to boiler operators and potential fuel suppliers and dissemination of information (the "HANDBOOK FOR FUEL SUPPLIERS", the "EDUCATIONAL BROCHURE ON RES AND EE" and the "TEACHERS GUIDE"). Even if these are projections, savings on energy could reach 50 percent of the bill for families and offices, although the demand is pushing prices up. Who buy the biomass? As stated by the project, the main demand for biomass are local offices and families too.

78. Although the **STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES TO UNDERTAKE ENVIRONMENTAL FISCAL REFORM TO MEET NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES PROJECT (2011-DECEMBER 2014)**, is not a large project in terms of financial resources but it is an important project for its potential to provide a substantive institutional support to the Ministry of Environment and the way the environmental priorities are funded. The project, which started in 2012, is set out to build up capacities for implementing environmental fiscal reforms (EFR) that should increase national and global environmental benefits through the adoption of selected financial incentives and disincentives (green subsidies, environmental fees, fines, taxes and other appropriate fiscal instruments and charges), and reduce opportunity costs to undertake actions that deliver global environmental outcomes within the agricultural and energy sectors, the goal of the project. The project has different financial sources: GEF, UNDP and additional funds supplied by the Government of Moldova.

79. More specifically, the project was designed to support the Ministry of Environment to deal with environmental issues like pollution through the use of different financial, fiscal and economic tools and deal with the subsidies channeled to the energy and the agricultural sectors to redirect funds to more efficient ways to ensure impact. OECD plays a key role in bringing international experience and expertise to the project, with a particular focus on issues related to public environmental expenditure management, fossil fuel subsidies reform, and energy efficiency. The OECD's financial contribution to the project amounts to about US\$ 120,000.

80. Although the major partner is the Ministry of Environment, the project needs to extend its partnership to the Ministry of Economy, which deals with the energy sector through its DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SECURITY AND SUPPLY UNIT, the

NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ENERGY REGULATION and the AGENCY FOR INTERVENTIONS AND PAYMENTS IN AGRICULTURE of the MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE<sup>32</sup>.

81. The biggest challenge for the project is to create an ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION to coordinate the efforts in the environmental sector and set priorities according to the weight of issues and to operate as an inter-ministerial commission. While the Ministry of Environment is open to the commission, the other Ministries have not shown the same commitment to the idea.

82. A key activity of the project aimed at setting up a legal framework for the operation of the NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FUND, set operation criteria for establishing priorities, review its statutes and regulations and prepare its operational manual. The expected output is a document that unifies statutes and regulations in one "REGULATION OF THE FUND." As part of these regulations, the proposal includes a restructuring of the FUND, turning it independent, review the membership of its Council, which is chaired by the Minister of Environment, and make the staff independent from its current employer, the Ministry of Environment, and accountable to a Manager and the Council. Unlike the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Finance is not open to the proposed changes, which should require changes on financial laws that would change the way the Fund is funded.

83. The proposal is currently blocked due to the opposition of the Ministry of Finance, which is proposing that the funds channeled to the Fund, which are supplied by ecological and pollution charges and taxes, be budgeted in the national budget and supplied by the Government on annual basis, while priorities should be set by the Government<sup>33</sup>.

84. Since about 80 percent of the funds are channeled to civil infrastructure for water and sanitation and waste management, the fund seems to have turned into an Investment Fund with strong or weak links to the environment and reduced amount for other environmental priorities. While the Ministry of Environment's view is to turn the fund more oriented to environmental issues, the Ministry of Finance's view looks more to maintain a status quo in which the Fund becomes an investment fund, not different to how it is operated today. Truly speaking, the National Environmental Fund has stopped being a genuine environmental fund, years ago.

85. The **MAINSTREAMING OF SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS (AUGUST 2011- DECEMBER 2012)** aimed at mainstreaming a sound management of chemicals into national developments plans in order to strengthen country's capacities for chemicals and waste management thus "...minimizing the significant adverse effects of these on human health and the global environment." The project adds up to the efforts of the STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT and few other relevant Conventions in the management of chemicals. The project proved to be an opportunity for the Ministry of Environment to resume the dialog for improved chemicals management regime and bring the topic into focus of the key institutions and stakeholders at a higher level. The draft LAW ON CHEMICALS, which is a fundamental building block for improved chemicals management, was fully revised in accordance with EU requirements within this project and cost recovery opportunities for financing pilot initiatives were identified and assessed<sup>34</sup>.

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<sup>32</sup>. The Ministry of Energy has been integrated within the Ministry of Economy. A Deputy Minister is in charge of Energy.

<sup>33</sup>. A draft version of the proposal to transfer the funds assigned to the National Environmental Fund to the national budget is already in the Parliament but still had not been reviewed by it.

<sup>34</sup>. The project has been managed through the HARMONIZED APPROACH FOR CASH TRANSFER using the direct cash modality contributing to building capacity of the national institutions for programme and aid management.

86. Basically, project activities concentrated on carrying out a baseline analysis and the identification of sound management of chemicals priorities; the economic valuation of selected priorities; designing some policy instruments supporting the SMC issues; identifying opportunities for integrating SMC within national plans, and subsequently mainstreaming national SMC priorities into national development programmes and plans. Given the existing fragmentation among institutional with responsibilities over the management of chemicals the project recommended the creation of a CHEMICALS AGENCY as the most appropriate inter-ministerial coordination mechanism, in line with the ongoing NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS and the revised draft Law on Chemicals.

87. The **NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLANNING PROJECT TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD 2011-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN IN MOLDOVA (January 2012-December 2013)** is supporting the government to integrate Moldova's obligations under the CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY into its national development and sectoral planning frameworks through a renewed and participative "biodiversity planning" and strategizing process, in a manner that is in line with the global guidance contained in the CBD Strategic Plan for 2011-2020. This national participative stocktaking exercise on biodiversity planning delivered the national biodiversity targets which in respond to the global AICHI TARGETS.

88. As some other similar projects, it was not a large project in terms of resources available, but it turned to be an important initiative for its role in supporting the government to integrate Moldova's obligations with the CONVENTION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY into the national planning and development framework. Although it is in the middle of its life span, the project has already developed the national targets in response to the global AICHI TARGETS were developed in a participatory manner; drafted the NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN, which includes new aspects of the CONVENTION FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN, such as mainstreaming, valuing ecosystem services and promoting ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience. It has also been updated the CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISM which should facilitate cooperation and increased public awareness in the area of biodiversity conservation.

89. According to the project, it put special focus on collaboration with such institutions and partners, namely the MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY, TOURISM AGENCY, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, STATE AGENCY MOLDSILVA, research Institutes, NGOs, civil society, private sector and local authorities who participated actively in identification of national biodiversity conservation targets. As expected, the lobbying effort for sectoral biodiversity mainstreaming should be supported by the STUDY ON ECONOMIC VALUE OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN MOLDOVA delivered in the framework of this project.

### **3.3. EFFICIENCY**

90. At project level, efficiency was adequately addressed with regards to resources and the sustainability of the funding mechanisms. All Project managers interviewed agreed that there were not detected operational problems exception made of some procurement, particularly the contracting of staff and international experts that is usually a long process with several steps that sometimes takes more time than expected. There were some minor complains by some Ministry's Unit for the flow of information from one or two projects and the need to involve more their counterparts in the Ministry. Project Coordinators have confirmed that they are always in close consultation with UNDP EE Programme.

91. In general, project formulation, preliminary negotiations, agreements, design and approval seem to have not been longer than other similar experiences in other focus areas or COs. As stated by GEF in some of its own reports, in comparison with other experiences, in Moldova project formulation and the approval process have been relatively

efficient; about 10 months from entry into GEF pipeline to project start-up, while the preparation cost of the project funded by the Fund is reasonable (GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation, 2010). Once projects have been operational, there were or are no visible delays in implementation, while extensions of the closing date, in general no longer than six months, seem to be of no particular concerns since they are just limited to the closing date, with no increases on budgets allocations or review of objectives and results.

92. Although there are probably some alternatives to make this process more expeditious, in practice it reflects an approach and methodologies that had tried to ensure participation and full involvement of government counterpart and other partners in development from the initial steps of project identification, preliminary agreements and approval. This also explains the extensions in the closing date.

93. The table included in the following page details all the funds expended by each project as of 30 June 2013. The list also includes a small project that was implemented prior to the start-up of the CPAP. As it can be seen in the table, most completed projects have expended all funds allocated or were close to full execution of financial resources allocated. With two exceptions, all projects have a financial execution that is about 95 percent, while in one of those two experiences, the execution is 88%. As confirmed by the Unit and by project coordinators, projects are being implemented almost on time, with minor extensions on the completion date.

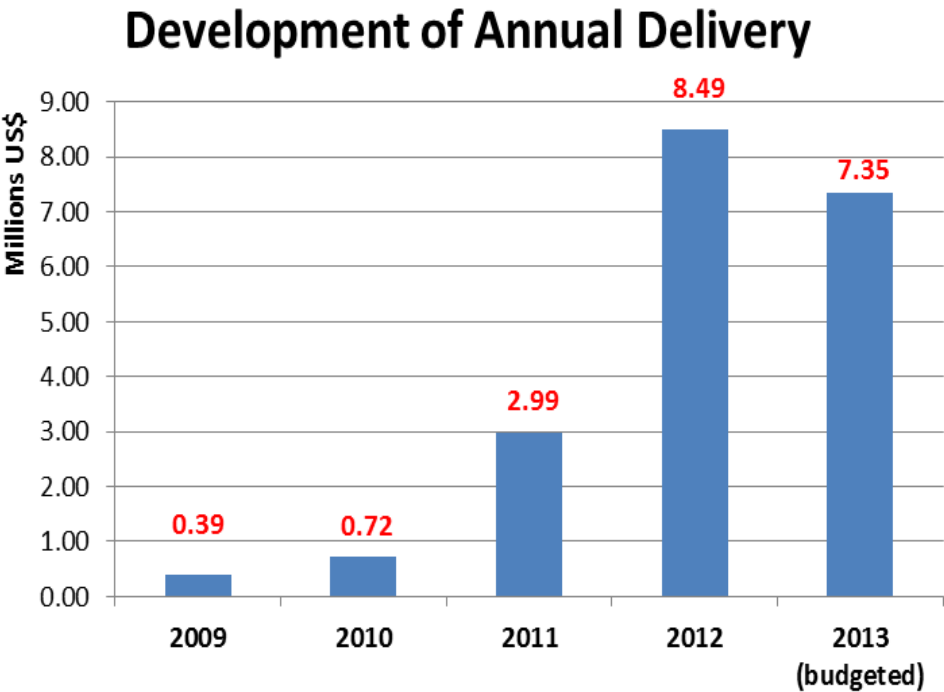
ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY PROJECTS ANNUAL DELIVERY (2005-June 2013)

PROJECTS	DONOR(S)		DELIVERY BY YEAR (total per project in US\$)									TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	% DELIVERY
			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Aug-2013		
SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT (PREPARATION GRANT)	GEF	TRAC CO	7,641.00	22,312.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29,949.00	100.01
APPROXIMATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION	TRAC CO		n/a	n/a	47,567.95	0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	47,529.72	100.08
4TH NATIONAL REPORTING TO CBD	GEF		n/a	n/a	n/a	9,278.18	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20,000.00	46.39
PAS PREPARATION GRANT	GEF		n/a	n/a	n/a	49,995.83	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	50,000.00	99.99
TPMP	Montreal Prot.		n/a	n/a	505.82	137,362.52	81,007.77	78,039.03	7,925.80	n/a	n/a	305,000.00	99.95
SEP	TRAC CO		n/a	n/a	n/a	129,893.59	96,149.80	199,782.52	204,041.04	40,181.15	n/a	689,454.00	97.19
PAS IMPLEMENTATION	GEF	TRAC CO	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	104,460.39	237,964.19	304,216.12	167,798.26	53,196.36	995,000.00	87.20
HPMP PREPARATION	Montreal Prot.		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24,584.04	24,274.61	12,142.03	n/a	n/a	61,000.00	100.00
MDI STRATEGY	Montreal Prot.		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24,029.14	5,171.36	729.95	n/a	n/a	30,000.00	99.77
EFR (PREPARATION GRANT)	GEF		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24,803.95	n/a	n/a	n/a	25,000.00	99.22
SUPPORT TO 2010 FLOODS	Gov. Denmark	Soros	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	124,304.34	46,513.67	n/a	n/a	170,952.00	99.92
DCRRP (2 PROJECTS IN ONE)	Gov. Austria	BCPR / TRAC CO	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22,327.81	584,663.87	286,182.91	207,987.66	1,100,000.00	100.11
MOLDOVA ENERGY AND BIOMASS (4 PROJECTS IN ONE)	EU	TRAC CO	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,783,081.17	7,651,172.22	3,383,404.70	19,132,735.00	66.99
EFR IMPLEMENTATION	GEF	TRAC CO	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,073.14	63,934.67	33,947.91	620,450.00	17.40
HPMP IMPLEMENTATION	Montreal Prot.		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,000.82	33,215.64	16,259.20	88,000.00	60.77
SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS	Keml		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	31,660.81	154,080.71	n/a	165,000.00	99.84
NBSAP	GEF	TRAC CO	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	63,558.77	59,439.88	222,000.00	55.40
LOW EMISSION CAPACITY BUILDING (PREPARATION GRANT)	EU	Australian/ German Govt	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18,638.81	600.00	32,000.00	60.12
RESPONSE TO 2012 DROUGHT	BCPR		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16,100.12	56,098.52	200,000.00	86.10
CLIMA-EAST: ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION	EU		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.00	694,805.00	0.00
URBAN ENERGY EFFICIENCY (PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT)	GEF	TRAC CO	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	51,150.00	60,000.00	85.25
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING PROJECT	Gov. Austria		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.00	952,320.00	0.00
Total			7,641.00	22,312.00	48,073.77	326,530.12	330,231.14	716,667.81	2,989,048.42	8,494,863.26	3,862,084.23	25,691,194.72	

Source: EEP Unit, August 2013



95. . As shown by the figure hereunder, the delivery literally exploded in the last three years. The US\$ 8.9 million delivery for an EE or SD Unit in UNDP is always an impressive amount.



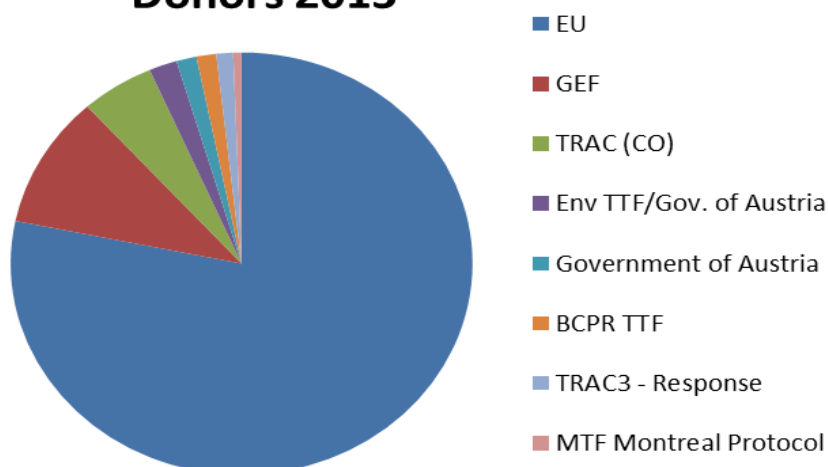
Source: EEP Unit, July 2013

96. There has been an impressive expansion on the EE Portfolio since the start-up of the CPAP, particularly in the last few years, with the increase in the funds channeled by EU to Moldova through UNDP. On one hand, the EEP Unit has become an agency of trust to the EU, but not only, to implement its environmental and energy projects through UNDP. On the other hand, the expansion is explained by a proactive Unit and its correct partnership strategy. It was already mentioned that until few years ago, UNDP was not considered a partner of trust for implementing GEF Funds and there was not a SPG programme in Moldova. It also means that UNDP is also considered by the Government and the Ministry of Environment as a partner of trust to join forces to advance the country’s environmental agenda. Annual delivery figures are impressive compared with similar programmes in other (bigger) countries.

97. UNDP itself turned a situation that required trust, delivery, accountability, transparency and proactive staff. Before the start-up of the CPAP there was not a trusted relationship between the former government; a government that seemed not to accept a ‘no’ for an answer. GEF funds implemented by UNDP have increased to US\$ 4.5 million. Changes in the government coincided with changes in UNDP and a new Programme Specialist (2009) and a new Programme Associate (2011) came on board and assumed the responsibility to coordinate and operate the Programme.

98. As shown in the following figure, EU has become a major donor among all the partners that are working together with UNDP with the environmental agenda. There are good prospects that the relationship with the EU will expand after Moldova will sign the association agreement with the EU. Among the UNDP values mentioned in the previous paragraph, efficiency, delivery, transparency and accountability are a key element to cement this relationship.

## Donors 2013



Source: EEP Unit, July 2013

99. Efficiency was adequately addressed with regards to resources and the sustainability of the funding mechanism, although there were little or no counterpart funds allocated by the government in most interventions.

100. In addition, project staff interviewed by this Evaluation has not recalled any particular references of any major redesign of projects or delays that could not be considered standards for projects of same characteristics. The Minister is involved in many of the decisions related to project day-to-day business and probably at times it means some delays on processes but again, nothing that had called the attention of the interviewees. Notwithstanding, there have been some reviews on project strategies, like the SEP project, that started in 2007 but was further reviewed and positioned strategically, taking up the findings and recommendations of the 2009/2010 NHDR on Climate Change, to enabling an institutional environment in place for effectively responding to the impacts of climate variability and change.

101. Some deviations from their timeframe are more common among projects, probably because the time consumed by the early stages of implementation, particularly community mobilization, uses to be underestimated during the designs. But projects extensions, when happened, have been approved by financiers for few months beyond the original project completion dates, not for long periods of time. Nothing uncommon and nothing to worry about.

102. As shown in Annexure 3, this Evaluation has had a large and varied list of interviewees with many different partners, from representatives from the NGOs movement, beneficiaries, local government authorities, Ministry of Environment's high-ranked officials and staff from every relevant Division, Directorate and Offices, national government officers, national expert and representatives from bilateral agencies. Unfortunately, this evaluation has not the chance to meet representatives from a key partner and donor like the EU. As usual, in every interview, this Evaluation asked specific questions about UNDP and it found that there is a general consensus among the development partners and government high- and medium-ranked officials that UNDP and projects are effective and efficient; they are implemented within the expected timeframe and within the budget, are transparent and are characterized by an orderly management and execution.

103. The EE Programme has managed to be relevant during the CPAP's implementation cycle and, looking at the figures of the previous tables and graphics and projects in pipeline (hard and soft), there is no doubt that it will continue being relevant for the years to come. Specifically, the financial aspects of UNDP/EEP cooperation assistance is

still of great practical significance. Probably it did not matter much that they have not been significant in terms of amount of funds; they do not even drive the relationship between the government and UNDP, even if the government welcome these funds and is grateful for the leverage provided by UNDP to mobilize funds for the country.

### 3.4. SUSTAINABILITY

104. Usually, the SUSTAINABILITY concept is not always easy to internalize and translate into action within the government structures, even in the presence of good, detailed exit strategies and proper capacity development. It is necessary to find the right approach and terminology and articulated messages (and methodology); a good understanding of government dynamics, decision-making processes, budgets and procedures; extend the relationship with academia, specialized NGOs, local authorities, district offices, and ensure a proper follow up once projects have closed. And this effort might be set from design to be successful. Certain interventions flags after they are completed and, very unfortunately, the knowledge tends to be forgotten once the intervention is closed out. Staff turnovers and transfers, or weak institutions are frequent and further complicate the sustainability of outputs and results.

105. Sustainability certainly has to do with wide stakeholders' participation and ownership but also with the design of proper mechanisms that effectively streamline national priorities, put the right emphasis on sustainability, replicability and up-scaling, design proper actions, and are familiar with how partners work. Sometimes, it is expected too much from sustainability; too many assumptions, but not anchored in what can reasonably be expected.

106. In addition, institutional sustainability of the interventions is also very much linked to available resources in order to ensure the continuity of project results.

107. UNDP has been particularly careful to ensure that all interventions achieved specific results and set specific mechanisms that would ensure their sustainability and continuity in the medium- and long-term. For example:

- The four projects that dealt with **REFRIGERANTS** have directly or indirectly supported the upgrading, recovery and recycling capacities of the RECYCLING CENTER, which is in charge of research and training technicians and end-users on refrigerants. The Center has trained more than 400 technicians, while all four interventions allowed the country to meet its 2010 and 2013 phase-out objectives established under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer. Freon 12 is in route to be history in Moldova, and there is time ahead to completely replace Freon 22. Moreover, companies are importing equipment that complies with the new legislation and new buildings and houses are installing new equipment.

Until now, the project and the Multilateral Fund have financed the investments and the training of technicians, while the OECD has financed the technical assistance. The Center, with funds provided by the Multilateral Fund, is financing the lease or purchase of equipment, but companies have to repay the loans, while future training courses for technicians will not be free of charge anymore. In addition, the Center is located in the University and its staff is an experienced staff that has received all the training required to carry out their responsibilities under the obligations stated in the Montreal Protocol. There is also the LAW ON EMISSIONS which establishes that all technicians dealing with refrigerants, air conditioners, etc. should retake the training every three years.

The Center will probably need some additional funds in the short- and medium-term, but medium- and long-term sustainability seems to be ensured and as long as the government continue supporting the role of the Center and enforcing the Law, something that seems to be certain for now.

- The establishment of the **ORHEI NATIONAL PARK**, the first National Park in the history of the country, has been a seminal achievement that can be replicated in other areas across the country and that would have a positive impact on the PA system. The road to its approval involved national and local government entities and officials, the civil society, communities and UNDP for almost two years, with plenty of advocacy and lobbying until it was finally approved few months ago. The process has been participatory and has raised the awareness of the population living within the boundaries of the Park and expectations are high among them. An important phase has been completed and now come, among others, the new needs and challenges:
  - the Park should be operational in the near future and should be ensured that the authorities and the population fully embrace the idea;
  - set up adequate financing mechanisms;
  - ensure systematic communication and information campaigns for all partners;
  - set up a participatory decision-making process at local level to ensure the population is involved with the global management of the Park;
  - identify viable income generation activities that will allow the population living in the area to substitute current, less sustainable sources of income for more sustainable and environmentally-friendly ones (sustainable livelihoods should be a priority for planners, financiers and local and national government officials); and
  - set up strategic and operational decision-support mechanisms.

The National Park should, among others objectives, protect biodiversity, put natural resources under a more restricted and appropriate use and conservation based on international standards not applied before, and would force the population to find sustainable income generating activities compatible with the nature and objectives of the National Park. To achieve its goals, it will certainly require a concerted effort between local and national government entities and officials, the population living in the Park and the people visiting it, NGOs, the media and the entities in charge of enforcing the rules to ensure this seminal initiative is successful and sustainable in the medium- and long- term. Many expectations are placed on this initiative and so all people involved, including UNDP, should face the needs and challenges ahead:

- **BIOMASS PROJECT.** The project is supporting the establishment of markets for biomass technologies and a value chain was reinforced, both of which are the main guarantees for medium- and long-term sustainability. In addition, low-cost policy and regulation actions to support the establishment of the market resulted in the revision of 37 national standards on solid biomass under the leadership of the National Standardization Institute. New jobs have been created and new income generating activities has been secured through the supply of biomass fuel through leasing purchase mechanism. To date, as many as 9 biomass bailing and handling equipment sets have been leased and leasing of briquetting equipment is underway and 6 local companies have already expressed their interest, while other 9 companies have already been accredited for biomass boilers assembling. The largest sugar producer, Sudzucker Moldova, which is piloting the co-generation activity using the biomass fuel. As expected the new markets developed will be a key tool for the sustainability of results.

108. A new UNDP project, the **CLIMA-EAST: ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ORHEI NATIONAL PARK**, is in the first steps of implementation and will run until 2016. The project aims at demonstrating a

natural resource management model in the pastures and forests of Moldova which increases ecosystems' capacity to sequester carbon under pending climate risks, while at the same time retaining biodiversity and economic values. The project will help avert further deterioration of natural resources (biodiversity, land, forest), sequester the carbon and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, improve local pasture and forestry resources, promote better understanding of problems related to climate change impacts and contribute to local/regional sustainable development. The project activity is expected to enhance the GHG removals.

109. This is an important initiative that will ensure that funds allocated for the environment are invested in the Park. But, in the view of this Evaluation, there are several key challenges ahead to ensure the Park is operational and sustainable, so these challenges might be faced at the soonest to ensure that the impulse and expectations raised with the establishment and approval of the Park materialize in specific actions. As expected, the experiences will be institutionalized, but there are challenges ahead for a Ministry that still needs plenty of support from UNDP and others.

110. The association agreement with the EU is under way that will only strengthen the effort to adapt national legislation, standards and policies to European and international standards and consolidate the results linked to UNDP's support. It will also bring the funds needed to implement several key interventions needed to impulse the environmental agenda.

### **3.5. FACTORS AFFECTING THE OUTCOME**

111. **THE MINISTER AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT.** The Ministry of Environment gained a new impulse with the new government and with the new Minister in office, even if no more staff and more substantive budgets have been added. Before that, the relationship between UNDP and the Ministry of Environment was not close neither was much room for UNDP to display all its comparative advantage on environment. But things changed with the new Minister. The Minister is not a professional of the environment neither from the party of the Prime Minister, but since he was appointed by the Prime Minister he has been very active in many different issues that were of the competence of the Ministry, up to the point of chairing the Steering Committees of and personally approving requests and actions from all projects. This is certainly a very encouraging event for the country, the environment and the Ministry's relationship with UNDP and the international community, which praise the Minister's proactive role. One of the interviewees that was not particularly praising of the Ministry's role and capacity of delivery, control and interaction with other Ministries, praised the Minister and placed him as the second best Minister he has dealt with.

112. Along this report different things have been said about the weakness of the Ministry of Environment, but it would have certainly been a less visible entity it would not have had the current, proactive Minister as head of the Ministry.

113. Factors positively affecting the outcome also include the **UNDP'S ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY PROGRAMME.** UNDP has put in place some its key principles: trust, neutrality, impartiality, transparency and accountability, in addition to local presence, international knowledge and expertise that have been praised by government officials and representatives from other partners interviewed by this Evaluation. There have been other areas of intervention that have emphasized UNDP's comparative advantages, particularly its leadership on some conceptual innovations: the 2009/2010 NHDR, which has been one of UNDP's most visible products, specifically by the EE Programme and a commendable initiative particularly in a country with the need for a deepest discussion on climate change and natural resources events in the country.

114. The Unit has been proactive and how the portfolio has evolved and diversified in the last few years is a clear example of that as well as of the way it has interacted with bilateral and multilateral donors and the government.

Moreover, UNDP became an agency of trust for the government and GEF to implement GEF Funds. All this proactivity translated in several initiatives in different thematic areas that have ensured a bigger possibility for UNDP to achieve its goals.

115. Last but by not any mean the least, as confirmed by most of the specialists and NGOs representatives interviewed by this Evaluation, there is a palpable recognition of the role played by the **PROGRAMME COORDINATOR** and the **PROGRAMME ASSOCIATE**, main factors in the proactive role played by UNDP in the country and for the environmental agenda.

116. The **EU-MOLDOVA'S ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT**. As mentioned several times in this report, the Moldova-EU association agreement has led Moldovan authorities to update legislation and standards to comply with EU and international standards. In addition, the EU is providing funds for main national priorities on water and sanitation and waste management and other environmental issues. The process is quite recent and so several of the steps have to be taken in the future and the need to adapt the legislation and standards are still in implementation. In Europe, measures to conserve the environment and landscape diversity are now well established and there is no doubt that EU accession will mean enhancement of legislation, institutions, procedures and quality of life for Moldovans through cooperation, integration and the legislative framework. As the association agreement will progress, Moldova's environmental issues and its response will be under more scrutiny and a specific timetable.

117. In the same line, the **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND THE MDG** ratified by Moldova, particularly the UNFCCC, the Convention for Biodiversity Diversity, the Montreal Protocol and the MDG 7 have also helped the country to meet their commitments that in all cases raised the national standards to international levels, while projects, several of them supported by UNDP, have being the platform to achieve those goals. All throughout this report, this evaluation has the possibility to confirm the contribution of conventions and the MDGs 7 to advance the environmental agenda in Moldova.

118. **NATIONAL OWNERSHIP** and **CLOSE CONSULTATION** with national partners. In current circumstances and considering the donors that are working together with UNDP, there is probably no any possibility for UNDP, the UN System or bi- and multilateral organizations to implement activities and provide support in Moldova without the participation and ownership by the government, not with the current Minister, who chair Steering Committees and participate in most of the decisions that have to do with projects in which the Ministry is partner. Beyond the role played by the Minister, it was the EE Programme and its interventions that have made specific efforts to ensure the strong participation of government entities at central and provincial, coordination and execution levels. As the trust and interaction between UNDP and the Ministry of Environment grew year after year the relationship created an appropriate environment for projects to implement their activities and for UNDP and the Ministry to agree more easily on current and future operations.

119. Other factors include a more **INTEGRATED APPROACH TO PROBLEMS AND THE PARTICIPATORY PROCESS** introduced in UNDP interventions. It has usually been a constraint that made difficult for the government to tackle the environmental problems in a more integrated and result-oriented path. Sometimes UNDP projects have included too many activities and have spread too thinly, losing some focus but they still have helped to face some key deficiencies in a more methodical way. Projects are probably a more traditional way of dealing with development. But projects, particularly downstream projects, helps to create networks, link with NGOs and civil society, create and develop capacity at local level, ensure that funds are effectively allocated in specific areas, help to understand the institutional and organizational landscape in which UNDP operates and can form the empirical base for higher level initiatives. More

importantly, they should directly support the needs and interests of specific target populations, channels funds and other services, and ensure better access to goods and services.

120. Programmes and projects are good platforms to treat issues more organically and target different people, areas, government levels, outputs and results, partners, all under the same umbrella.

121. **LINKAGE BETWEEN UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM OPERATIONS.** Usually, downstream operations have difficulties to link with upstream efforts, influencing higher level policies and the contribution of pilot initiatives for testing new practices which can lead to replication and scaling up. In some cases, these operations have been usually seen as to having very confined effects and impacts without transcending the areas of intervention and the local institutions that participate in their implementation. But it seems not to have been the case of several of the operations implemented by the Programme that mixed field activities with advocacy through the development of laws and standards. Still, it is not easy to assess how these initiatives have provided the government with the necessary knowledge to review policies, helped to refine interventions that advocate for the environment with other entities outside the Ministry and integrate ideas in other institutions.

122. **PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY** and **GOOD COMMUNICATION AND CLOSE CONTACT WITH PARTNERS** (see in following section).

### **3.6. PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY**

123. UNDP works primarily with the Government of Moldova and the Ministry of Environment, established in 1998. Most UNDP supported interventions had the Ministry of Environment as the natural partner for implementation and specifically its Offices, Directorates and Departments. Moldsilva also played a key partner role with Protected Areas. UNDP implemented a correct partnership strategy aimed at incorporating environmental and service providers' NGOs and the civil society, particularly local communities and local authorities although there is not available an assessment of their capacities and it is beyond the scope of this Evaluation.

124. The Unit focused on thematic issues, at the core, and facilitated projects, at field level, what opened the different interventions to the interaction with different partners. Moreover, different donors have concurred to the financing of all those operations including UNDP: the EU, GEF, the Austrian cooperation, Australia, the Multilateral Fund (Montreal Protocol), and other partners.

125. Some Ministries that have some jurisdiction on issues linked to the environmental and the use of natural resources, but even if UNDP has some success to integrated them in some specific activities, it was mainly the Ministry of Environment the necessary strength to persuade the other Ministers to cooperate and coordinate activities.

126. UNDP's credibility, policy and project experience, its catalytic and broker role, expertise and specialization and proactive role have certainly helped to its partnership strategy. At the time, the pilot grant schemes helped UNDP to increase the interaction with the NGOs movement.

127. Particularly successful has been the partnership with the OECD, which participates in the substantive implementation of the EFR project with 3 distinctive activities. These include: training on the design of environmental programmes as part of medium-term public budget expenditure planning, conducted in October 2011, energy subsidies

and climate change and a project on the design of an environmentally-related investment programme supported with public funds (planned to be implemented in 2014)<sup>35</sup>.

128. There are several large interventions that have ensured a very participatory approach, for example:

- The **MOLDOVA ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT, SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECT, IMPROVING COVERAGE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM IN MOLDOVA**, which have involved partners at different levels, local and national, is a good examples of coordination with local authorities and local partners, economic forces and communities.
- Good cooperation between the Ministry of Environment, Moldsilva, the State Forestry Agency, and UNDP through the **IMPROVING COVERAGE AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM IN MOLDOVA** is another significant example of coordination and interaction between partners and factor for the fulfillment of its outcomes.
- Probably the biggest initiative in terms of partnership, for its nature and the need to interact and coordinate with other national institutions is the initiative implemented though the **DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISK REDUCTION PROJECT, WHICH HAS COLLABORATED WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS**, that included: the Civil Protection and Emergency Situation Service, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Ministry of Information Technologies and Communication, Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Healthcare, the Ministry of Environment and its agencies that deal with DRR issues, State Hydro Meteorological Service, State Agency "Apele Moldovei", Project Institute "Acvaproiect", State Company "Urbanproiect", Research and Scientific Institutions, including Academy of Science with its specific agencies, Institute of Geology and Seismology, Institute of Ecology and Geography, Land and Cadaster State Agency, etc., NGOs, as well as representatives from mayoralities.
- **NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLANNING PROJECT TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD 2011-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN IN MOLDOVA**. According to project reports, it put special focus on collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Tourism Agency, Ministry of Transport, State Agency Moldsilva, research Institutes, NGOs, civil society, private sector and LPAs who participated actively in identification of national biodiversity conservation targets.

### 3.7. CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

#### GENDER EQUALITY

129. Usually, one of the major constraints of the environmental and energy programmes in different COs is the fact that their focus is concentrated on environmental and energy issues and problems, their positive and negative impacts on the countries and their population and on proper solutions to them. But they usually do not put particular emphasis on its beneficiaries and who they are, being them the poor families, women and men or the young population, both men and women. While the ultimate beneficiaries of EE Programme's actions are the populations in general, the different interventions did not include activities that target specific beneficiary groups or people affected by the combined effects of poverty, marginality, lack of access to services and unsustainable use of their (natural) resources.

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<sup>35</sup>. As expected, the energy subsidies and climate change report will be finalised and published in the first quarter of 2014.



So there is for this Evaluation a deficit in the interventions when it comes to promote gender equality or the sake of the poor population. Even in interventions that do not specifically target poverty conditions or are specifically not pro poor or do not include affirmative actions, the poor, women, the youth and gender relations could perfectly be the main target group of those interventions. Several of the interventions reviewed by this Evaluation adapt very well to specific targeting, hand in hand with specific environmental activities proposed.

130. Being poverty a key mandate for UNDP, targeting should have its place at the time of deciding priorities. In a way, environmental interventions have a trickle down effects on certain target groups, but it has to be recognized that those interventions are not consciously designed and formulated to benefit specific groups that are more affected by the negatives effects of unsound environmental and income generation practices. Women, youth, both men and women, and children can be the proper entry point for UNDP interventions when it comes to mitigate negative effects on the environment, disseminate practices, raise awareness, mobilize communities, etc.

131. Still, this Evaluation considers very important to highlight the fact that the EE Programme is small, just two staff but both staff are women, an event that should be reflected in projects too, which are usually managed by men. In addition, most of the high-ranked persons of the Ministry of Environment interviewed by this Evaluation were women. The two interpreters this Evaluation was provided to carry out meetings and interviews were also women. A good signal of gender sensitivity.

## **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT<sup>36</sup>**

132. Along this evaluation report as well as in the Annexure 1 there have been detailed many different activities aimed at developing capacity among Ministry officials and staff of different national agencies, the NGOs' movement, local authorities and communities, principally in small towns and rural areas but not only, and in many different capacities. Reading the different project documents it is clear that building local capacities has been a priority for UNDP. All the interventions systematically included capacity development in their designs and these were paired with enabling activities aimed at supporting national and local entities to implement specific activities that helped them to fulfill Moldova's obligations under the international conventions and prepare national official on how to negotiate.

133. There have not been evaluations of the effect of capacity development on the people trained and supported and how these people are using the knowledge and the capacity that have been transferred to them through training, expertise, updated databases, guidelines, responsibilities, equipment, experiences collected through projects, etc. There are projects reports available but they are usually quite optimistic about the results of the capacity building activities. But looking more carefully at the kind and duration of the activity, the training does not seem to be substantive in depth and breadth to think that the results reported by projects in that specific effort are the one effectively accumulated by the trainees.

134. So it is not particularly easy for this evaluation to assess capacity building beyond some specific examples other than confirm that there have been plenty of capacity development in every intervention implemented. Still, there are some interesting examples with results allows to have a clearer idea of the capacities developed.

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<sup>36</sup>. A regulation to coordinate the foreign assistance which sets new procedures, allocation of responsibilities and institutional restructuring has been approved by the government few years ago.

- On one hand, the RECYCLING CENTER located within the University is composed of experienced professors and technicians for whom the capacity developed in the Center with the equipment; training and international expertise provided can be more easily assessed and confirmed; and
- On the other hand there are elements of doubt when it comes to the capacity transferred to the Ministry of Environment, in which the same staff is responsible for several different tasks and responsibilities.
- It will be interesting to assess the next steps in the establishment of the Orhei National Park. According to project reports, local governments, Moldsilva and entrepreneurs are ready for the next steps. This evaluation has its doubt the people involved in the establishment of the National Park are ready to carry out their duties without a consistent external support, supplemented with financial resources. There is for example a very challenging task ahead that is to convince people living within the boundaries of the Park to change their current activities for more sustainable income generating activities. **It is a perfectly achievable goal, but it will require plenty of attention, persuasion, presence and efforts.** This and other issues are, in the view of this Evaluation, very sensitive issues that should be approached quickly to take advantage of all the expectations created in the country with the approval of the National Park.

135. As it usually happens, the training or technical expertise provided by projects is never enough to surmount the lack of expertise in specific, more contemporary, cutting edge thematic areas, like climate change or even in management of natural resources. As confirmed by different persons interviewed, the Ministry's staff very much appreciates the expertise supplied by projects, but they would expect it would stay longer than it usually stays.

136. UNDP has extended the **HARMONIZED APPROACH TO CASH TRANSFERS TO IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS (HACT)** modality. At the time of the visit of this Evaluation, there were about a third of projects that were administered under the HACT modality; some of them full HACT and some with the HACT modality limited to some activities (direct cash transfers, direct payments and reimbursements). The other modalities implemented are the NIM/NEX (national execution), with full support from UNDP CO and the DIM/NEX modality (direct execution). The DIM/DEX modality is used in one case only. With the exception of the DIM modality, all other modalities are selected on the bases of measuring risk to determine the cash transfer modality and associated procedures (risk based approach), in line with the overarching objective of developing expertise of national systems and procedures.

137. Most interventions still maintain and put in place **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNITS (PIU)**, which operates based on UNDP rules and procedures rather than national systems. In theory, the HACT modality implies moving from PIUs to full national execution (i.e., UNDP does not contract the personal to provide support to implementing partners in the administration of projects.) Some projects using the HACT modality are already using national rules (formats, national accounting systems and government chart of accounts). In these cases, UNDP requests that budgets lines reflect projects lines, but **it means that projects have to prepare two reports as the budget lines do not match project lines.** Project administrative staff has access to the UNDP systems (their accounts) but they have no authorization to enter information into the system, which has to be entered by an UNDP staff.

138. As shown by the table of budgets and actual expenditures shown in a previous section, the level of cofinancing by the government has been reduced or non-existent, and is even more limited for projects aimed at supporting the government to comply with international conventions.

## SCALING-UP AND REPLICATION<sup>37</sup>

139. In general, results, experiences and good practices of several UNDP supported interventions have good possibilities of replication and scaling up. There are some very interesting examples:

- **BIOMASS PROJECT.** This large project has intervened in rural areas of Moldova and the establishment and consolidation of biomass markets is under way and the model is highly replicable and can be further scaled up all over the country. As expected, the project will update biomass technology and will provide good examples of demonstration plants in the use of biomass (straw) fuelled energy systems as a viable alternative to fossil fuels and a sustainable mean for addressing the energy supply problems facing rural communities and agro-enterprises. New jobs and income are created and secured through the establishment of value added chains at the local and regional level through the supply of **BIOMASS FUEL** through leasing purchase mechanism. Nine companies have been accredited for biomass boilers assembling. It is the result of the efforts implemented through the project to establish an efficient household heating, industrial cogeneration and biomass briquetting markets that can be quite easily replicated in other houses. Further to this effort, the largest sugar producer in Moldova (Sudzucker Moldova) is piloting the co-generation activity using the biomass fuel. As projected, the replacement of traditional energy sources for renewable sources (in this case, readily available biomass fuels), will contribute to reduce GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) emissions and pollution and for Moldova to achieve commitments under the UNFCCC.
- **PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM AND THE ORHEI NATIONAL PARK.** As mentioned before, the approval of the National Park was a success for all the actors involved, including UNDP. This experience was preceded by other intent to establish another Park, the **LOWER DNIESTR NATIONAL PARK NATIONAL PARK**, but the Parliament did not approve the creation of the Park. This specific effort was supported by another GEF medium-size project, the **BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROJECT IN THE LOWER DNIESTR DELTA ECOSYSTEM**. This intent brought to the formulation of the **IMPROVING COVERAGE AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM IN MOLDOVA**, which has had a positive effect on the approval of the Orhei National Park. The same effect could have the Orhei Park, the first in the country, to achieving the target of obtaining the approval of the **LOWER DNIESTR NATIONAL PARK NATIONAL PARK** and other new Parks. The approval of the Orhei National Park is a strong incentive not only for obtaining the approval of a second National Park, but also for improving the management and coverage of the Protected Areas system. The Orhei National Park has energized the people involved with the environment, raised awareness and commitment from local authorities and local populations and with proper, supplementary actions it could only expand to other people. Some of the project technical studies and management plan prepared for the National Park and community resource management pilots are highly replicable, too.
- As expected, the **IMPROVING COVERAGE AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM IN MOLDOVA**, funded by GEF can contribute to improve the management of existing Protected Areas and increase the number and extent of the 312 Protected Areas assessed by the project. The PAs can

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<sup>37</sup>. Replication of project outcomes is foreseen through direct reproduction of selected project actions, methodologies, experiences and best practices, as well as by scaling up of experiences collected during their implementation.

effectively contribute to conserving globally unique habitats and the species they contain and bring good management and practices from PA to PA.

140. There are several other projects with similar possibilities for replicability and some for scaling up some of their activities. There are also some pilot-experiences, such as formulate policies, update legislation and write new laws, write communications to conventions, etc. that were just designed to act as drivers of other objectives.

141. As shown by the experience, projects that were closer to the local population have a high potential for replication.

## **IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **4.1. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNDP**

#### **DIVERSIFY ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER DUTY-BEARERS AT NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL LEVELS IN ITS REGULAR OPERATIONS AS WELL AS IN A BID TO ENHANCE POLICY INFLUENCE AND RAISE AWARENESS.**

142. While the decision of UNDP to work closely with the Ministry of Environment and its agencies is important considering its role in the environmental agenda, it is felt that the governance scenario in the country necessitates a direct shift to other equally important Ministries who are responsible for institutional and policy changes and have a much ampler reach among the population. There is no doubt for this Evaluation that the good cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Moldsilva has been a significant factor for the achievement of goals stated in the CPAP, international standards and commitments and for the realization of projects goals and effects. But it is viewed that UNDP can expand and deepen focus on other key Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food is certainly another natural partner for UNDP EEP particularly with climate change adaptation with focus on the human dimension of climate change effects on population.

143. Environmental education increases public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues and problems. Work with teachers and students, adapt the curricula, and reach families through children; involve the academia in the same effort, in the university. Moreover, in a context in which the Ministry of Environment have difficulties to interact with other Ministries, expand to bigger Ministries like Education would probably impact on other Ministries that would probably follow. There is a general consensus among many persons interviewed that awareness raising and advocacy is never enough and maybe working almost exclusively with the Ministry of Environment limits the reach of these efforts.

144. UNDP EEP could be seen as the exclusive domain of the Ministry of Environment, restraining other far reaching agreements with other Ministries. This is one of the ways in which UNDP can also fulfill its aspirations of lobbying and advocacy as well as learning and aligning practices.

#### **WORKING WITH MUNICIPALITIES AND DISTRICTS AND DEVELOPING THEIR CAPACITIES TO FULFILL THEIR MANDATES.**

145. The decentralization process currently under analysis will surely increase municipalities and districts' autonomy and responsibilities and it will necessitate a renewed effort on working with them and developing their capacities to fulfill their mandates.

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED, THEREFORE, THAT UNDP PLAYS A PROACTIVE ROLE IN DOCUMENTING ITS SUCCESSES (OPERATIONAL AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL) AND DISSEMINATES IT WISELY.**

146. Much has been said during the course of this evaluation about how UNDP can act as a change agent or a knowledge broker. Realistically speaking, UNDP can do this by investing in knowledge management through project and non-project activities and taking advantage of the fact that it is perceived as a credible and neutral entity with strong linkages with the government. Its contributions in preparing the 2009/2010 NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS and the MDG reports are visible and widely acknowledged by various stakeholders and a key future priority for UNDP should be its well-researched, high quality national level reports. However, there is plenty of room in terms of emerging as a knowledge center and properly documenting its work and aggregating results in a higher manner that are useful for a wider audience, i.e. academia, NGOs movement, government officials, teachers and students and through them their families.

147. Same as in the previous recommendation, this is one of the ways in which it can also fulfill its aspirations of lobbying and advocacy as well as learning and aligning practices. Such dissemination forums can serve as the platform for facilitating dialogue with wide ranging stakeholders including other Ministries and their stakeholders.

**IT IS NECESSARY AND STRATEGIC TO HAVE A ROAD MAP WITH DETAILED TASKS, A CALENDAR, CLEAR RESPONSIBILITIES, AND SOURCE OF FUNDS TO ENSURE THAT THE ORHEI NATIONAL PARK BECOMES OPERATIONAL AND IS SUCCESSFUL.**

148. While there has been an important mobilization of local authorities, communities, the NGOs movement and the civil society behind the approval of the Orhei National Park, there is a clear danger that after the approval was obtained and the law was promulgated, partners start the demobilization and things stop where they are now or go backward. There are many challenges ahead for establishing the National Park, several of them have been mentioned in the report, and it should not be left only to Moldsilva to carry out the whole work.

149. More probably a Phase II of the project, or of some of its components, is maybe needed to ensure the efforts, mobilization and expectations do not stop where they are now. And a component of this Phase II project could be the approval of a second National Park, maybe the LOWER DNIESTR NATIONAL PARK, for which most of the work has already been done. GEF, bilateral donors or the EU would probably be willing to support a project like this.

**PROJECTS AND NON-PROJECTS ACTIVITIES SHOULD INCLUDE THE HUMAN DIMENSION**

**ENSURING INCLUSION OF CATEGORIES OF POOR**

150. Reaching out to categories of poor is important, including the destitute and vulnerable women, for example in community based projects (e.g. in physical infrastructure, alternative energy sources, or other schemes). Of course, the condition of cost contributions may restrict the inclusion of the poorest. Experience and literature review suggests that this is important for the sake of ownership and participation of the community and right for an equitable distribution of benefits. Given this scenario, there is a need that poverty-oriented environmental initiatives can come up with suitable alternatives.

**INCREASE FOCUS ON WOMEN; ENSURE INCLUSION IN ALL PROJECTS AND WORKS WITH UNWOMEN.**

151. Consistent with the specific points of this report and the previous recommendation, the interventions have focused on environmental issues and problems but they can go beyond that and target specific beneficiary groups, too. **UNDP EEP should expand focus on the poor and marginalized including women and the youth and consider tangible ways in which it can organize and mobilize these demographic groups while catering to environmental issues and problems, rural-urban differences, etc.** For instance, there is still a wide unmet need in focusing efforts on maximizing opportunities for poor, including women. Gender equity should be given higher priority. **In the absence of specific activities and dedicated resources, even mainstreaming gender can lead to the marginalization of the issue.**

152. At project and Programme design, the issue should be handled by specialists and activities and budgets should be allocated to ensure that gender, women empowerment and affirmative actions specifically targeting women are included in the design. Moreover, **funds should be allocated in project documents to train project staff and the staff of the implementing agencies and partners on the issue.**

153. The gender approach permeates all project activities and their planning, implementation and follow-up is not the responsibility of a specific person within the PCU, but of any person involved with the implementation of

components and activities and partners. **When it comes to targeting, equality and a more balanced distribution of funds among men and women within projects** should be key to ensure development goals. And the gender specialist at UNDP or UN should play a role at project design and planning.

154. Climate change adaptation has plenty to do with women and the poor.

155. UNWOMEN has a clear mandate that works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment and equality of women; human rights and humanitarian response. It is part of its mandate to “strengthen the effectiveness, coordination and quality of outputs of the UN mission around gender equality” and **it is but natural for UNDP to try and explore possibilities for joint collaboration around EEP goals.**

**DESIGNS NEED SPECIALIZATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES BUT THEY ALSO NEED PERSONS WITH A DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT AND A STRATEGIC VISION.**

156. To ensure that the human development dimension mentioned above is incorporated in UNDP’s project designs, it is necessary that specialist in development join design teams.

**THERE IS ROOM TO INTERACT AND COORDINATE ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER FOCUS AREAS OR CLUSTER WITHIN THE COUNTRY OFFICE.**

157. There is room to interact and coordinate activities with other Focus Areas or cluster within the Country Office and the point of contact between their interventions is the people, the target groups.

**INVOLVE THE NGOs MOVEMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY DURING THE PLANNING PROCESS**

158. While it is probably that the government is not that open to make an ample invitation to NGOs and civil society representatives during the planning process, it would be commendable that UNDP could convince partners to remove any reservation about inviting other partners to plan common actions, set common goals and share responsibilities. This participation would be extended to the preparation of strategies and actions plans at project level.

**REPLICABILITY AND UP-SCALING, PARTICULARLY FOR PILOT, ONE-TIME, DEMO-PROJECTS, SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED AND EVEN ELEVATED TO THE LEVEL OF OBJECTIVES IN THE DESIGNS.**

159. Replicability and up-scaling, particularly for pilot, one-time, demo-projects, should be emphasized and even elevated to the level of objectives in the designs. **There is always a question about what is a project for and into what a project might translate, and replicability and up-scaling are two of the answers.**

## **ANNEXES**



## ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY PROJECTS MATRIX (2007-2013)

## ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

PROJECT TITLE	SHORT DESCRIPTION AND PLANNED PROJECT OUTPUTS	START/END DATES /A	RESULTS ACHIEVED AND EXPECTED AND THEIR IMPACT/BENEFICIARIES AND PARTNERS/ PARTNERSHIPS/PROJECTS OUTPUTS/TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET AND BY FUNDS
<b>1. UPDATE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFRIGERANTS MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	<p>The Republic of Moldova ratified the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol in July 1996 and all its amendments in 2001, 2005 and 2006.</p> <p>The ExCom of the Multilateral Fund approved the Country Programme of the Republic of Moldova in July 1998 together with the approval of the Refrigerant Management Plan (RMP) resulting from a survey of basic data and information. The RMP update was approved at the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ExCom.</p> <p>The project aims at reducing the demand for CFCs in supporting Moldova in meeting the requirements of the Montreal Protocol. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitor and update the Refrigerants Management Plan</li> <li>- Provide technical assistance and end-user incentives for retrofitting or converting CFC-based installations</li> <li>- Conduct awareness raising and demonstration workshops, including training on correct retrofitting of CFC-12 based MAC units</li> <li>- Analyze and upgrade capacities of the Recycling Centers.</li> </ul>	<b>2005– 2008</b>	<p>The comprehensive database of refrigeration end-users and service enterprises developed by the project allowed appropriately targeting the training and end-user incentive programme. Conversion and retrofits of CFC-using installations gradually reduced the future needs for CFC consumption in a cost-effective manner. In total, 18 enterprises participated and received incentive payments in the framework of the RMP.</p> <p>Improved training and equipment of technicians in the Mobile Air-conditioning (MAC) service sector ensured that leaks and emissions during servicing and maintenance are kept to a minimum. Sustainability was further ensured by upgrading in parallel the recovery and recycling capacities of the Recycling Center. In total, a reduction in consumption and corresponding imports of approximately 7 ODS tones/year was achieved.</p> <p>The effect of the RMP continued to contribute to the CFC phase-out and the TPMP (project listed below) has proven essential to allow Moldova to meet its 2010 phase-out objectives established under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer.</p> <p>The implementation of the RMP is completed resulting in phase-out of 40.02 Metric tons of CFCs.</p> <p>The total budget of the project is <b>US\$173,495</b> financed through the Multilateral Fund for Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.</p>
<b>2. TERMINAL PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	<p>The project is targeting the complete phase-out of CFCs in Moldova by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010, as this obligation is taken by the Government of Moldova under the Montreal Protocol. This</p>	<b>2007– 2011</b>	<p>Building on the achievements of the Refrigerants Management Plan project listed above, a full database of end users and CFC inventory was established and updated and necessary quality control equipment purchased, supporting Moldovan authorities in enforcing and monitoring the complete phase out of CFC consumption in the country. Companies were supported with financial incentives and technical know-how to move to proven CFC-free technologies. During implementation of these projects, in total</p>

	<p>includes technical assistance in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation and inventory of existing equipment using CFCs (industrial and commercial refrigeration sub-sectors)</li> <li>- Financial incentives to enterprises (end-users) for replacement or retrofit of the existing refrigeration equipment.</li> </ul> <p>The project has also partnered with UNEP to share the management costs for project implementation and to build up the capacity of refrigeration technicians and students in using good refrigeration servicing practice.</p> <p>In addition, it is expected that with the training sessions for customs officers, ecological inspectors, customs brokers, importers of ODS and CFCs the enforcement of CFCs import control would improve. The reviewed enforcement measures provided by the law and regulations and aimed at CFCs control shall ensure proper monitoring and management of ODS imports.</p>		<p>49 companies replaced or retrofitted their old refrigeration equipment to new refrigeration equipment working with alternative refrigerants. The incentive programme for end-users to convert/retrofit CFC-equipment stimulated fast reduction of CFCs, improved maintenance practices and enabled the introduction of new climate-control systems and remote control products and enhanced understanding of energy efficiency. The implementation of the incentive payment for end-users programme and corresponding technical assistance and capacity development support in Moldova was considered to be an extremely successful activity that proved to be very effective in phasing out CFCs.</p> <p>With support of these projects (in collaboration with UNEP), by end 2010 Moldova completed the phase-out of CFCs in a timely, cost effective and sustainable manner and is in full compliance with its obligations on CFCs under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer.</p> <p>The total project budget is <b>US\$305,000</b> financed through the Multilateral Fund for Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.</p>
<b>3. PREPARATION OF AN HCFC PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	<p>The project is supporting the preparation of a management plan to completely phase-out Hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) in Moldova by 2013, as this obligation is taken by the Government of Moldova under the Montreal Protocol. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HCFC Baseline data collection and analysis of consumption in the refrigeration sector, including industrial, commercial and air conditioning sub-sectors.</li> <li>- Stakeholder workshops with key national stakeholders and experts to validate the results of the baseline data analysis;</li> <li>- Preparation of a HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) for Moldova</li> </ul>	<b>2008-2011</b>	<p>The Hydrochlorofluorocarbon Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) for Moldova was prepared and finalized with broad involvement and consultation of key stakeholders, experts and industry representatives, including a comprehensive baseline data collection and analysis and was submitted for the consideration of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee (project review committee) of the Montreal Protocol. The HPMP was prepared to define the Government's commitment and plan to meet the obligations that it has assumed as a Party to the Montreal Protocol and lays the basis for the complete phase-out of HCFCs in Moldova as required by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer. The plan further ensures that this is achieved in a cost effective and sustainable manner and lays the basis for accessing the required supporting financial resources.</p> <p>By committing to the first HCFC reduction step of 10% of the baseline (~41 metric tons of HCFCs) representing 4.1 metric tons reduction by 2015, in line with established funding rules (Decision of the ExCom 60/44), Moldova is eligible to receive US\$ 88,000 for the initiation of capacity development in the refrigeration servicing sector. Further on, for the additional reduction in HCFC consumption (90%), the country will be eligible to receive additional <b>US\$792,000</b> supporting the total phase-out by 2030.</p> <p>The total project budget is <b>US\$61,000</b> financed through the Multilateral Fund for Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.</p>

<b>4. DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL METERED-DOSE INHALER (MDI) TRANSITION STRATEGY</b>	<p>The aim of this project is to develop the National Metered-Dose Inhaler Transition Strategy to replace CFC-based MDIs with alternatives. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Baseline data collection and analysis of current MDI market consumption, supply sources and trends; analysis of alternative products</li> <li>- Stakeholder workshops with key national stakeholders and experts</li> <li>- Development of the MDI Transition Strategy</li> <li>- Printing and dissemination</li> </ul>	<b>2008 - 2010</b>	<p>The “Metered-Dose Inhalers Transition Strategy” was developed in a participatory manner, approved, printed and widely disseminated together with the brochure “Curing yourself–Save the Ozone Layer”, ensuring awareness about the strategy and its objectives among end-users and the medical/pharmaceutical sector. The introduction of the necessary changes in the registration procedure of medicinal products to preclude registration of CFC based MDIs was initiated in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, ensuring effective implementation of the transition strategy. The alternative sample products which were procured and used during workshops and trainings for practitioners were instrumental in raising awareness and acceptance.</p> <p>The strategy enables Moldova, which is a signatory to the Montreal Protocol, to gradually and effectively transition to the use of non-CFC based “ozone friendly” inhalers in treating asthma without affecting asthma patients (approximately 8,000), ensuring that patients will have available equally effective alternative products at a reasonable cost by the time CFC MDIs are out of the market. MDI strategy had been formulated and discussed with stakeholder and submitted by the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Health for final approval and implementation. Alternative MDIs were added to essential medicine subsidy list. Imports of CFC MDIs was to be banned by 2012. This involves introducing the necessary amendments to the national legislation and registration procedures for medications, import restrictions and amendments to public procurement lists and requirements, and raising awareness of doctors, pharmacists and patients.</p> <p>The total project budget is <b>US\$30,000</b> financed through the Multilateral Fund for Implementation of the Montreal protocol.</p>
<b>5. EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM (PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT)</b>	<p>Preparation of the Project Document for GEF CEO Endorsement for “Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System in Moldova” project. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of a detailed profile of the Protected Area System in Moldova, including assessment of political, social and economic development context; the legislative framework; status and distribution of protected areas; the comprehensiveness and adequacy of PAS; management effectiveness of individual Pas in the PAS, and threats to PAS.</li> <li>- Identification of a pilot area for the National park to be established in the framework of the project.</li> <li>- Analysis of the capacity of protected area</li> </ul>	<b>2008 - 2009</b>	<p>The aim of this project preparation grant was the development of the full project document, including required background research and assessments and stakeholder consultations, for the project “Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System in Moldova” listed below. The preparation was partly co-funded by the “Support to Environment Protection and Natural Resources” Project (also listed below). The project was approved by the Global Environment Facility in 2009.</p> <p>The Project Preparation Grant constitutes <b>US\$50,000</b> financed by Global Environmental Facility.</p>

	<p>institutions, their roles, responsibilities, strengths and weaknesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Performing an analysis of the protected area system financing.</li> <li>- Develop the full project scope, strategy and implementation plan.</li> </ul>		
<b>6. IMPROVING COVERAGE AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM IN MOLDOVA</b>	<p>The project aims to improve the representation and coverage of the protected area system and to build the capacity of protected area institutions in Moldova to more effectively establish and administer a representative system of protected areas in Moldova. This includes assistance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a comprehensive revalidation process of the current biodiversity value and conservation and management status of all 312 national Protected Areas</li> <li>- develop a study on PA system governance and propose an implementation plan for protected area system governance.</li> <li>- the establishment of the first National Park in Moldova</li> <li>- strengthen the capacity of the protected areas institutions (both institutional and personal capacities).</li> <li>- propose amendments to the Protected area system legislation.</li> <li>- development and implementation of a Biodiversity Conservation Education and Awareness Strategy and Programme at the national and regional level</li> </ul>	<b>May 2009 - December 2013</b>	<p>After 4 years of implementation the following results have been achieved in the framework of the “Protected Area System” project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Based on a comprehensive assessment process of the current protected area system all 312 protected areas have been revalidated, recommendations for their improved conservation status and effective management were elaborated, including recommendations for new areas to be included.</li> <li>- The country’s first National Park was established with the project support.</li> <li>- Support is provided to Moldsilva Forest Agency in establishing Orhei NP administration: studies for legal, human and financial resources needed. Also a capacity support (trainings and equipment) will be allocated to the park by the end of the project.</li> <li>- Substantive supports were allocated to local public authorities and local manufactories to plan the development of a tourism infrastructure for the Orhei National Park area.</li> <li>- A proposal for PA system governance (including a detailed action plan, was developed and presented to the main stakeholders. Substantive progress in plan implementation was achieved by Moldsilva Forest Agency, and less by the Ministry of Environment.</li> <li>- A study on PA financing and financing mechanisms for efficient PA planning and management were developed.</li> <li>- A categorisation according to IUCN guidelines for the national PA system was performed.</li> <li>- A set of Operational guidelines for PA planning and management were developed and will be disseminated to all PA management institutions.</li> <li>- Amendments to the PA legislation in accordance to project results were developed and provided to the Ministry of Environment.</li> <li>- A training programme for PA planning and management was developed and registered at the Protected Area management authority (Moldsilva Agency).</li> <li>- A number of workshops for PA staff for based on developed training programme were facilitated.</li> <li>- A training of trainers based on developed PA panning and management guidelines were organized.</li> <li>- An education and awareness raising programme targeting the region of the national park is under implementation, having effectively contributed to the understanding the importance of the national park in all 18 communities incorporated.</li> </ul> <p>As a result of the project the in-situ conservation of Moldova’s significant biodiversity will be significantly enhanced through an increased coverage and inclusion of underrepresented ecosystems in</p>

			<p>the country's protected area system, which will be managed more effectively by reformed governance structures and better trained protected area operational staff. The legal and regulatory framework which will be put in place ensures that protected areas are planned and managed according to standards and operational guidelines complying with best international practice. The conservation of biodiversity, while being an aim per se, yields multiple benefits for the country's population. Protected areas provide the basis for maintaining ecosystem goods and services like provision of clean drinking water and prevention of natural hazards, like erosion and flood control, sustainable tourism and integrated regional development, or sustainable livelihoods through secured agro-biodiversity and sustainable land-use practices. Maintaining these services and the ecosystems that provide them is essential for lasting social and economic development. Protected areas are further contributing to strengthening regional identity and its governing structures empower people to actively participate and influence decision making processes.</p> <p>The National Park Orhei will conserve the region's unique biodiversity, landscape and natural and cultural heritage while at the same time yielding educational and recreational benefits and contributing to income generation and sustainable livelihoods of the population. Sustainability will be ensured by developing a strategic and operational decision-support tool to support the ongoing consolidation and expansion of the national protected area system and putting adequate financing mechanisms in place.</p> <p>While the beneficiaries of the project are the people of Moldova equally both men and women, a special focus has been put on collaboration with such institutions/partners as the Ministry of Environment, State Agency Moldsilva, Research Institutes, NGOs, civil society, and LPAs who participated actively in implementation of the up-mentioned project activities. A special attention was paid to the youth from the Orhei National Park area (both boys and girls) for promoting the understanding about the biodiversity and protected area importance for country sustainable development.</p> <p>The total budget of the project is US\$990,000 where US\$950,000 is financed by GEF and <b>\$20,000</b> co-financed by UNDP CO.</p>
<b>7. SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES</b>	<p>The objective of the project is to provide support to the Ministry of Environment in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- addressing key environmental protection issues and sustainable use of natural resources, enhancing the regulatory and strategic framework, increasing institutional capacity; and,</li> <li>- initiating an Environmental Small Grants Scheme for NGOs aiming at protecting the environment and achieving sustainable livelihoods.</li> </ul>	<b>2007-2012</b>	<p>The Support to Environment Protection (SEP) project, in the course of 5 years of implementation, resulted in strengthened national capacities for better and modernized environmental management, both of central public authorities and NGOs/CBOs. More specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By taking up the findings and recommendations of the 2009/2010 Climate Change NHDR the SEP project was positioned strategically in supporting the country in putting the enabling strategic and institutional environment in place for effectively responding to the challenges posed by the increasingly significant impacts of climate variability and change. The project supported the development of the National Adaptation Strategy and the Low Emission Development Strategy (drafts of both finalized, and both included in the government work programme for 2012 for adoption), together forming a comprehensive strategic framework for climate change. It further provided policy advice, training, and fostered regional exchange on climate change adaptation and mitigation (supported also by UNDP BRC expertise), strengthening the knowledge base and strategic</li> </ul>

			<p>planning capacities of authorities. Combined with continuous advocacy and awareness raising, the project is laying an important basis for Moldova's transition to a climate resilient and low emission development path, effectively addressing the climate change challenge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The capacities of environmental authorities for better environmental management were strengthened by contributing to the development of key legislation in the environment sector, most importantly the Law on Environment Protection which is the main framework law in the sector, promoting the use of Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment as key environmental governance tools by supporting the development of legislation and institutional capacities for effective implementation, delivering policy advice and sharing international best practice both on cross cutting environmental governance as well as key environmental sectors, and supporting the implementation of and reporting requirements under international environmental conventions like the Convention on Biological Diversity.</li> <li>- The Small Grants Scheme for environmental NGOs and CBOs resulted in a strengthened NGO landscape throughout Moldova which is better enabled to address environmental problems at the local level while at the same time contributing to the socio-economic well-being of their communities. 36 small grant projects yielded multiple benefits at the community level, and accompanying trainings, exchange of best practice and support for effective participation of NGOs in all project activities strengthened the capacities of NGOs to develop, implement and monitor sound environmental projects and to effectively contribute to the design, implementation and monitoring of environmental policies.</li> <li>- The project was further successful in strategically building the basis for larger interventions in key priority areas identified with the Ministry of Environment, NGOs and other stakeholders. The project for instance supported the national strategic planning process in the GEF focal areas, resulting already in two projects approved by the GEF for funding. Further, the project supported the application, prepared the ground and enhanced the absorption capacity of the environmental NGO sector for the upcoming GEF Small Grants Scheme, which will be significantly up scaling the existing UNDP SEP small grants scheme.</li> </ul> <p>Currently the project is completed and the total budget over 5-year of implementation constitutes <b>US\$689,454</b> allocated from UNDP CO TRAC funds.</p>
<b>8. SUPPORT TO 2010 FLOODS</b>	<p>The project is an emergency response provided to the Government of Moldova in the aftermath of 2010 floods and aimed at mitigating the consequences of respective disaster through a number of specific outputs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved emergency support coordination, including the Early Recovery Interventions;</li> </ul>	<b>2010 - 2011</b>	<p>Following the request for assistance from the Government of Moldova, a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) had been conducted by the Government of Moldova and supported by the European Commission, United Nations, and World Bank and others with the financial assistance of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).</p> <p>While the PDNA forms the basis for a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction planning framework and helps coordinate recovery effort across various sectors and donors, it determined the socio-economic impact of the floods including valuation of damages and losses and human recovery needs, identified the recovery and reconstruction needs per sector, provided for identification, prioritization</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Multi-sectorial Early Recovery planning in affected locations;</li> <li>- Identification of further risks along the two main Rivers in Moldova, Nistru and Prut</li> </ul>		<p>and costing of new emerging activities associated with the recovery and reconstruction effort, as well as built the capacity of the government and local partners to conduct such assessment in the future.</p> <p>At the local level, along with the disaster relief and recovery focus of “cash-for-work” approach the project intended to encourage trade, production, and secondary economic benefits and to contribute to people’s empowerment and participation in decision-making. In this line as many as 11,801 people living in the affected areas benefited directly and indirectly from the local level recovery interventions under the “cash for work” component of the project.</p> <p>During its implementation the project had collaborated with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry for Labor, Social Protection and Family, Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service, Hydro-Meteorological Service, State Agency "Apele Moldovei", LPAs from 5 floods-affected areas of Moldova, NGOs and CBOs and other relevant institutions who all agree that the principles of disaster and climate risk management need to be fully mainstreamed into national development strategies, policies and planning processes.</p> <p>The total project budget constitutes <b>US\$171,194.54</b>, out of which <b>US\$100,000</b> -UNDP, Soros Foundation -<b>US\$20,000</b>, Royal Danish Embassy and Bucharest -<b>US\$51,194</b>.</p>
<b>9. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FISCAL REFORM (PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT)</b>	<p>The ultimate expected output of the project is preparation of the project document “Strengthening Environmental Fiscal Reform (EFR) for National and Global Environment Management”; that will be aiming at improving economic and financial instruments for environmental management; increasing information, education and awareness regarding EFR, and piloting and reporting on EFR instruments, both at the national and the sub-national level.</p>	<b>2010 - 2011</b>	<p>The full project document which is being prepared with this project preparation grant will be submitted to the GEF for CEO endorsement by the end of March 2011.</p> <p>The project results in strengthened environmental management capacities yielding environmental benefits through a reform of environmentally harmful subsidies and environmental charges, improved regulations and operational management of the National and Local Ecological Funds, facilitation of eco-technology investments, and strengthened capacities for environmental expenditure planning and integration of environmental concerns into governmental budget and MTEF processes.</p> <p>The total preparation grant constitutes <b>US\$25,000</b>.</p>
<b>10. DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISK REDUCTION PROJECT</b>	<p>The project aims to contribute to reduction of disaster and climate risks approaching national vulnerability to climate variability and change through creation of an informed National Disaster Observatory, capacity building activities at both local and central authorities and proper prioritizing process while developing the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy.</p> <p>The expected project outputs are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen disaster risk assessment</li> </ul>	<b>2010-July 2013</b>	<p>As a result of this project a comprehensive inventory of risk assessments and projects, as well as of the data and relevant organizations and gaps in disaster risk management were identified with the finalization of the Country Situation Analysis.</p> <p>The Country Situation Analysis laid the foundation for creation of the National Disaster Observatory (NDO) attached to the Crisis Command Center (and established with the WB assistance) and shall contribute to strengthening of Disaster Risk Management System in the country level. While the NDO is linked with all the relevant institutions and regions in the country holding DRM relevant data and information, it consists of 3 key components – an official institution hosting the NDO, a nation-wide network of disaster registration (historic and present data), and a computational infrastructure (software, database, applications, etc.) to provide analytical products in support of decision making at</p>

	<p>capacities and identify priorities at the national level to inform country disaster risk and climate risk management strategies and program development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen capacities to manage climate risks at local levels;</li> <li>- Strengthen capacity of UN Country Team to manage disaster and climate risks.</li> </ul>		<p>all levels.</p> <p>The work initiated on establishing a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and developing a Disaster Risk Management Strategy (2014 – 2020) will be important building blocks for improved planning and coordination. The results of a DRR capacity assessment are feeding into these processes. The increased capacities of DRR practitioners at national and local level through study visits, trainings, seminars and participation in implementation of project activities shall improve coherence and exchange of information and the sustainability of projects' interventions.</p> <p>The supported risk reduction efforts at the local level will be conducive to reducing vulnerabilities by enhancing capacities for risk assessment and mainstreaming climate and disaster risk management in local development planning, and implementing concrete priority risk reduction measures. The knowledge was codified in form of a comprehensive Local Level Risk Management Toolkit.</p> <p>The risk assessments undertaken in 20 vulnerable communities and the 10 innovative initiatives piloted at the local level shall increase the awareness and buy-in for projects interventions.</p> <p>In implementing its activities the project had collaborated with the Civil Protection and Emergency Situation Service, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Ministry of Information Technologies and Communication, Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Healthcare and Ministry of Environment with its agencies dealing with the DRR issues (State Hydro meteorological Service, State Agency "Apele Moldovei", Project Institute "Acvaproiect", State Company "Urbanproiect"), Research and Scientific Institutions, including Academy of Science with its specific agencies (Institute of Geology and Seismology, Institute of Ecology and Geography, Land and Cadaster State Agency, etc.), NGOs, as well as representatives from mayoralities.</p> <p>Total project budget is <b>US\$1,000,000</b>, coming from UNDP, BCPR and Government of Austria.</p>
<b>11. MOLDOVA ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT</b>	<p>The project purpose is to significantly increase the use of renewable energy sources through fuel switching and energy efficiency and by raising awareness on the benefits and opportunities of biomass energy.</p> <p>The project consists of four inter-related outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of municipal biomass heating and fuel supply markets (installation of 130 biomass heating systems in public buildings in rural areas of Moldova)</li> <li>- Laying foundations for establishment of efficient household heating, industrial</li> </ul>	<b>April 2011 – December 2014</b>	<p>The project is currently in its third year of implementation, starting full implementation as of April 2011.</p> <p>As a result of the project which is covering all districts of Moldova, the country will have in place a more secure and sustainable energy supply system in rural areas of Moldova, with a high potential for replication and up scaling.</p> <p>In this line, as many as 127 biomass heating sub-projects have been approved for implementation at the community level. While 104 such sub-projects are completed already and are ready for operation in the winter 2013, for the other 23 contracting of the design-build companies is under way. The total capacity of boiler installations would constitute ~29.32 MW which will produce energy at 116.81 TWh. As a result of this effort a total number of 81,238 people benefit from improved heating comfort and in addition created 269 new jobs.</p> <p>The project lays the basis for the establishment of functional markets for biomass technologies which will ensure sustainability of the project intervention beyond its lifetime. New jobs and income are</p>



	<p>cogeneration and biomass briquetting markets (including demonstration projects)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building capacity for growth of biomass markets at regional and local levels, targeting municipal leaders, fuel suppliers, education institutions.</li> <li>- Awareness raising and visibility promotion</li> </ul>	<p>created and secured through the establishment of value added chains at the local and regional level through the supply of biomass fuel through leasing purchase mechanism. To date, as many as 9 biomass bailing and handling equipment sets have been leased and leasing of briquetting equipment is underway in which 6 local companies had expressed their interest. The low-cost actions on policy and regulation to support the market environment materialised in revision of 37 national standards on solid biomass under the leadership of the National Standardization Institute.</p> <p>In support to establishment of the efficient household heating, industrial cogeneration and biomass briquetting markets relevant trade mission for the potential local entrepreneurs had been carried out resulting in 9 companies being accredited for biomass boilers assembling. Further to this effort, the largest sugar producer Sudzucker Moldova is piloting the co-generation activity using the biomass fuel.</p> <p>The envisaged PPP in the Leova district and the feasibility study conducted towards its establishment is seen as a way of enhancing the economic involvement of the local administrations in briquette production with strong support from the private sector.</p> <p>Through the replacement of traditional energy sources with readily available biomass fuels the project will significantly contribute to a reduction in Green House Gas emissions and environmental pollution, as such also contributing to achieving Moldova's commitments under the UNFCCC.</p> <p>A country wide awareness raising campaign combined with a school education programme will significantly change the population's knowledge and attitude towards renewable energy sources, laying the basis for increased uptake of sustainable energy technologies in the future.</p> <p>So far, 507 municipal leaders have increased capacities in effective administration of biomass heating systems at the community level; 3,410 community leaders increased their capacities in the field of local resource mobilization and implementation and management of biomass heating projects; 950 community leaders gained knowledge and skills required for ensuring sustainability of community investment in biomass heating systems, as well as in establishing proper monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; 317 boiler operators have acquired basic skills related to the operation of biomass boilers, their maintenance and safety in use; 251 potential fuel suppliers have been equipped with relevant knowledge and skills regarding the biomass fuel production cycle (preparation of raw materials, processing, packaging, storage, contracting, delivery, business development, quality control, etc.);</p> <p>The printed and disseminated <i>Handbook for fuel suppliers</i>, as well as the <i>Educational Brochure on RES and EE</i> together with the <i>Teachers Guide</i>, and the targeted training activities all shall also contribute to the sustainability of project interventions, change of attitudes and replication resulting already at this stage in introduction in schools of an optional class on RE and EE.</p> <p>The unified information platform on biomass energy sources, technologies, legislation, donors, existing Government support in the area of RE and EE etc. is now available through <a href="http://www.aee.md">www.aee.md</a> and the <a href="http://www.biomasa.aee.md">outputs of this project through www.biomasa.aee.md</a>.</p> <p>Beside the focus of promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency at the highest level the Annual</p>
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			<p>Award Ceremony in the Energy field which takes place under the high-level patronage manages to get together international donors active in the energy sector of Moldova (EBRD, GIZ), sponsors and private sector (Orange, Eximbank, Baunit), government institutions such as for example Ministry of Economy, Agency for Energy Efficiency, academia, NGOs and others.</p> <p>The project is financed by EU totaling <b>US\$19,132,735</b> with large contribution from UNDP valuing <b>US\$752,200</b>.</p>
<p><b>12. STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES TO UNDERTAKE ENVIRONMENTAL FISCAL REFORM TO MEET NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES</b></p>	<p>This project sets out to build capacities for implementing environmental fiscal reforms (EFR) that will produce increased national and global environmental benefits through the adoption of selected subsidies, fees, fines, taxes and other appropriate fiscal instruments. The reforms will focus on creating conditions, financial incentives and disincentives, and decreased opportunity costs to undertake actions that deliver global environmental outcomes.</p> <p>The project expected outputs are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support reform of environmentally harmful subsidies, green subsidies, as well as environmental charges within the agricultural and energy sectors is supported;</li> <li>- Ensure capacity development for EFR to build consensus among concerned stakeholders</li> <li>- Undertake integration of EFR in local and central planning processes is undertaken.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2011-December 2014</b></p>	<p>The project is its second year of implementation initiating an environment fiscal reform ultimately resulting in more rational use of natural resource and technological innovation, reduced pollution and greening of the economy on the whole.</p> <p>To date the project has managed to provide support with relevant institutional, legal and regulatory framework for a comprehensive reform of the National Ecological Fund and the revised management and operational procedures of the Fund in line with the best European practices with appended triennial spending strategy will increase its transparency and relevance.</p> <p>Analysis of the existing subsidy system in the energy sector conducted to identification of opportunities for reform of environmental harmful subsidies and green subsidies in support of eco-technology innovation and green economy.</p> <p>In order to achieve the local level interventions of the project focused on integration of environmental fiscal reform instruments into decentralization process the project is closely collaborating with the UNDP Joint Integrated Local Development Programme (JILDP). The JILDP is developing human, institutional and financial management capacities of local governments for improved governance.</p> <p>In collaboration with OECD the project is also providing training on the design of environmental programmes as part of medium-term public budget expenditure planning and on energy subsidies and climate change.</p> <p>The project is financed by the Global Environmental Facility and UNDP with a total value of <b>US\$620,450</b>.</p>
<p><b>13. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HYDROCHLOROFLUOROCARBON (HCFC) PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN, STAGE 1</b></p>	<p>The objective of the project is to support the country in fulfilling its international commitments under the Montreal Protocol of achieving the immediate phase targets of a 2013 freeze at the baseline and subsequent 10% reduction of the baseline by 2015 in consumption of HCFCs.</p> <p>The expected projects outputs are the following:</p>	<p><b>2011-2013</b></p>	<p>During the lifetime of the project the Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) Management Plan shall enter into force identifying the specific HCFC quota and institutionalising the bans on import of HCFC containing equipment. The HCFC Phase-out effort is complemented by a capacity building component addressed to refrigeration technicians and customs officers.</p> <p>While the freeze of HCFC consumption at the baseline had been ensured as of 01.01.2013 the National Phase-out plan for HCFCs for the period 2013-2040 elaborated and submitted to the Government for approval will provide for introduction of annual quota for quantitative restrictions on HCFCs imports in</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop regulatory measures, including necessary amendments to the national regulation on ODS, taking into account the new phase-out schedule of HCFCs;</li> <li>- Increase technical capacity for the existing technicians dealing with ODSs and/or HCFCs and vocational training system strengthened</li> <li>- Ensure monitoring of timely implementation of HPMP components.</li> </ul>		<p>order to achieve the expected 10 % reduction of HCFC by 2015.</p> <p>The introduced certification system for technicians and companies dealing with ODS and HFCs as part of the National Phase-out Plan for HCFCs and in line with the EU requirement clearly defines the level of competence of refrigeration technicians thus encouraging use of good refrigeration servicing, maintenance and containment practices leading to unnecessary consumption of ODS and HFCs. The system will authorize the respective technicians to conduct business practices, including purchase of refrigerants, under a set of agreed rules, and thus promoting formalization of the trade.</p> <p>The targeted trainings for customs officers on monitoring and control of imports and exports of ODSs and ODSs-containing equipment as well as the improved technical capacity of the Refrigeration Association which serve as a benchmark for technical expertise in the servicing sector will be conducive to detecting and preventing illegal trade of ODS and use of best practices in the refrigeration sector.</p> <p>The increased capacity of the vocational school “Tehnofrig” is expanding the number of high-quality technicians dealing with ODSs and HFCs.</p> <p>While the National Ozone Unit is responsible for implementation of this project, for achieving the expected results the project is collaborating more specifically with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, National Institute for Standardization and Metrology, private sector and academia and others.</p> <p>The first tranche of this project represent <b>US\$79,200</b> and expected second tranche is US\$8,000 potentially bringing the total up to <b>US\$88,000</b>.</p>
<b>14. MAINSTREAMING OF SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS</b>	<p>The ultimate objective of the project is mainstreaming of sound management of chemicals into national developments plans in order to strengthen country’s foundational capacities for chemicals and waste management thus minimizing the significant adverse effects of these on human health and the global environment.</p> <p>The expected project outputs are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Baseline analysis and identification of sound management of chemicals priorities</li> <li>- Economic valuation of selected priorities and designing policy instruments supporting the SMC issues</li> </ul>	<b>August 2011- December 2012</b>	<p>Moldova committed to sound management of chemicals as part of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and few other relevant Conventions in the area and the project proved to be an opportunity for the Ministry of Environment to resume the dialog for improved chemicals management regime and bring the topic into focus of the key institutions/stakeholders at a higher level which was timely given the ongoing at that time national and sectoral planning processes when the sound management of chemicals could be mainstreamed.</p> <p>While the project revamped the SAICM Working Group (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Working Group) used as a formalized channel for exchange of information within the main relevant institutions and beyond, it contributed to the increased stakeholders’ awareness of the current status, gaps and needs for sound management of chemicals governance through completed baseline analysis and identification of the priority issue in this field.</p> <p>Given the fragmented distribution of institutional responsibilities in the chemicals management area the project explored the best inter-ministerial coordination mechanism supporting the recommendation of creating a Chemicals Agency which is in line with the ongoing National Programme on Sound Management of Chemicals and the revised draft Law on Chemicals.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identification of opportunities for integration of SMC within national plans and subsequently mainstreaming of national SMC priorities into national development programmes and plans.</li> </ul>		<p>The draft Law on Chemicals, which is a fundamental building block for improved chemicals management, was fully revised in accordance with EU requirements within this project and cost recovery opportunities for financing implementation were identified and assessed.</p> <p>The project has been managed through the Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfer using the direct cash modality contributing to building capacity of the national institutions for programme and aid management.</p> <p>The total budget of the project constitutes <b>US\$165,000</b> financed by the Swedish Chemicals Agency for period of 18 months.</p>
<b>15. LOW EMISSION CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (PPG)</b>	The programme is designed to provide coordinated, expert, capacity -building support to assist Moldova in formulation of the Low Emission Capacity Building Project proposal and identification of the most appropriate activities intended to promote of climate resilient economic growth.	<b>2012-2013</b>	<p>The results of this project shall materialize in a full project document for the Low Emission Capacity Building Programme for a period of 3 years expected to: (1) establish a robust Green House Gas inventory; (2) formulate the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs); (3) create a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification systems in support to the implementation of NAMAs, LEDs and NCCAS.</p> <p>The preparatory funds for project formulation are provided by the EU in the total value of <b>US\$32,100</b>.</p>
<b>16. NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLANNING PROJECT TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD 2011-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN IN MOLDOVA</b>	<p>The objective is to integrate Moldova's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity into its national development and sectoral planning frameworks through a renewed and participative "biodiversity planning" and strategizing process, in a manner that is in line with the global guidance contained in the CBD Strategic Plan for 2011-2020.</p> <p>The following are the expected outputs of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participative stocktaking exercise on biodiversity planning takes place and national biodiversity targets are developed in response to the global Aichi targets;</li> <li>• The National Biodiversity Strategy and Actions Plan is updated and it fully integrates new aspects of the Convention for Biological Diversity Strategic Plan;</li> <li>• National frameworks for NBSAP implementation developed, CBD reporting ensured and Clearing House Mechanism</li> </ul>	<b>January 2012- December 2013</b>	<p>The project is in its second year of implementation taking stock of the previous biodiversity planning framework, looking into the barriers and causes for the biodiversity degradation and loss at the national level and supporting development of a new biodiversity planning framework through a participative and strategizing process.</p> <p>In terms of results and their further impact the project so far achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The national targets in response to the global Aichi Targets were developed in a participatory manner and will be conducive to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at both national and global level;</li> <li>- The draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Actions Plan is developed with full integration of new aspects of the Convention for Biological Diversity Strategic Plan, such as mainstreaming, valuing ecosystem services and promoting ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience and seeks to maintain the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to human well-being;</li> <li>- The Clearing House Mechanism is updated facilitating cooperation and increased public awareness in the area of biodiversity conservation</li> </ul> <p>While the beneficiaries of the projects and of an improved National Biodiversity Strategy and Actions Plan are the people of Moldova equally both men and women, a special focus has been put on collaboration with such institutions/partners as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Tourism Agency, Ministry of Transport, State Agency Moldsilva, Research Institutes, NGOs, civil society, private sector and LPAs who participated actively in</p>

	updated and linked up to the global CHM networks		<p>identification of national biodiversity conservation targets and providing for biodiversity conservation mainstreaming into sectorial development strategies.</p> <p>The participatory identification of the national biodiversity conservation targets with the aim to move from policy decisions to measurable real world results in reducing the rate of biodiversity loss, as well as the extensive inter-sectorial consultations during the elaboration of the new National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy will ensure that the actions promoted by the Strategy could be further easily integrated into such sectors-specific plans as agriculture, forestry and hunting, education, health, tourism and fishery and into cross-sectoral plans such as regional development and planning, climate change adaptation/mitigation, land-use management, food security and others.</p> <p>The lobbying effort for sectoral biodiversity mainstreaming shall also be supported by the Study on Economic Value of Ecosystem Services in Moldova delivered in the framework of this project. The new National Biodiversity Strategy and Actions Plan will also build upon the Protected Areas Systems Expansion strategy and related outputs delivered under another GEF/UNDP Project on Protected Areas System.</p> <p>The total budget of the project is <b>US\$222,000</b>, of which is financed by GEF and \$2,000 co-financed by UNDP CO.</p>
<b>17. RESPONSE TO 2012 DROUGHT</b>	<p>The project is providing support to the government and other entities in coordination and impact assessment effort related to emergency response and recovery following the 2012 drought.</p> <p>This is done through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of technical expertise and coordination;</li> <li>- Developing of assessment and monitoring mechanism including pre- and post-disaster sector status</li> <li>- Ensuring effective project management and visibility;</li> </ul>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<p>The project is a joint effort between UNDP and FAO to respond to the drought of 2012 through a number of specific measures aimed at mitigating the consequences of the disaster.</p> <p>In this line as many as 1,094 vulnerable families from the Southern part of Moldova received emergency support in the form of fodder to alleviate the consequences of the disaster and help the local people to maintain the number of existing livestock used for subsistence. The identification of vulnerable families was done in close coordination with local authorities and in selecting the target districts the project relied on the findings of the Drought Assessment Report conducted by FAO as well on Rapid Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment, conducted by experts of World Food Programme.</p> <p>The developed recovery framework incorporates short term rehabilitation measures as well as provision of sustainable medium-term and long-term measures to help communities strengthen resilience to natural disasters and adapt agricultural production to climate change.</p> <p>Proposals for coordination mechanism and guide for mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction are in line with two national strategies which are currently in the process of development (National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy).</p> <p>The total budget of the project is <b>US\$200,000</b> financed by BCPR and OCHA.</p>
<b>18. GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME</b>	The main objective of the Small Grants Programme is to generate national and global environmental benefits and socio-economic development opportunities through community-	<b>September 2012- December</b>	The project is in its first year of implementation, having completed development of the Country Programme Strategy (CPS) and establishment of the National Steering Committee (NSC) composed of representatives of NGOs in the area of environmental policy, chemicals, and energy efficiency and renewable, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Ministry of

	<p>based initiatives and actions implemented by NGOs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in the areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, sustainable land management, protection of international waters, phase-out of POPs and chemicals management.</p> <p>The following are the expected outputs of the project based on immediate objectives of the Country Programme Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new protected areas and coverage (hectares) of unprotected ecosystems and threatened species; sustainable financing/management plans for protected areas;</li> <li>- policies and regulatory frameworks for production sectors to protect/conserv biodiversity;</li> <li>- national and sub-national land-use plans that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation;</li> <li>- demonstrate innovative carbon technologies and deploy these on the ground;</li> <li>- achieve energy savings;</li> <li>- reforestation of river basins forests ;</li> <li>- reduce and prevent land-based pollutants of river basins;</li> <li>- introduce tools and instruments of integrated water resources management;</li> <li>- develop and test innovative SLM practices, integrated natural resource management (INRM) tools and practices;</li> <li>- Introduce innovative SL/WM practices at field level;</li> <li>- reduced-risk pesticides use and substitution for highly toxic pesticides as well as effective and non-chemical alternative means of pest control promoted;</li> <li>- controlled POPs and other chemicals of global concern phased out;</li> <li>- stakeholders are better informed via</li> </ul>	<p><b>2014</b></p>	<p>Agriculture and Food Industry, State Agency “Moldsilva”, and UNDP.</p> <p>While the direct beneficiaries of the SGP Moldova are both NGOs and community based organizations, the required co-financing ensures sustainability of project benefits and socio-economic opportunities for development for local communities and authorities and private sector.</p> <p>The total budget of the project is <b>US \$ 1,650,000</b> (GEF CORE and STAR funds).</p>
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	<p>workshops and trainings about global challenges and local actions required;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- public awareness raised through workshops and other activities;</li> <li>- capacity of CSOs and CBOs as SGP partners, strengthened to manage environmental issues and implement global conventions, to monitor developed projects and programs.</li> </ul>		
<b>19. URBAN ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT; PROMOTING LOW CARBON GROWTH IN CITIES OF MOLDOVA (PPG)</b>	<p>The preparatory grant allocated by UNDP and GEF will support development of a medium sized project with the objective to catalyze low carbon growth in cities and towns in Moldova by developing a public-private partnership using the ESCO model (investment in municipal energy-efficiency projects and shared savings agreements).</p> <p>The expected outputs of the PPG are the following:</p> <p>Baseline data report on energy consumption and practices in the city of Chisinau, estimations of the best opportunities for EE and GHG savings in Chisinau and over Moldova, investment cost estimate and cost-effectiveness in term of payback period, preliminary breakdown of investment projects potential in term of EPC projects, BOT projects or through another investment partnership instrument;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Direct Energy savings and CO2 emissions calculation report</li> <li>- Legal, Regulatory, and Institutional, Framework Report which describes the legal issues concerning the establishment of ESCO Moldova as a legal entity;</li> <li>- Preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding and “Termsheet” between the Municipality of Chisinau and the potential investor</li> </ul>	<b>May 2013- March 2014</b>	<p>A team of two national and two international experts will work in close cooperation with the relevant Moldovan authorities, including Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy, Municipality of Chisinau, Agency for Energy Efficiency, etc. and other stakeholders and will strive to prepare a feasible UNDP GEF climate change mitigation project that will catalyze low carbon growth in cities and towns in Moldova by developing a public-private partnership using the ESCO model (investment in municipal energy-efficiency projects and shared savings agreements).</p> <p>The project document prepared as part of this stage should be submitted for GEF approval no later than March 2014 and the grant allocated for this purpose values <b>US\$65,000</b>.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of 'Business Plan' for the ESCO Moldova</li> <li>- Preparation and finalization of the UNDP Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and the GEF Tracking Tool.</li> </ul>		
<b>20. NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING PROCESS</b>	<p>The overall goal of the project is to ensure that Moldova has a system and capacities in place for medium- to long term adaptation planning and budgeting with the overall aim to reduce vulnerability of the population and key sectors to the impacts of climate change. The main project objective is to support Moldova to put in place its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process contributing to and building upon existing development planning strategies and processes and to implement priority adaptation actions.</p> <p>The following outputs are expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Institutional and policy frameworks for medium- to long-term gender-sensitive adaptation planning and budgeting in place</li> <li>- Institutional and technical capacities for iterative development of comprehensive NAP strengthened</li> <li>- Adaptation interventions in priority sectors implemented including demonstration projects at a local level to catalyze replication and up scaling</li> </ul>	<b>June 2013-May 2016</b>	<p>The project is at the initial stage of implementation expected to result in strengthened capacity of national and sectoral planners and decision makers for climate resilient planning.</p> <p>While the project is a capacity development intervention in the area of climate change adaptation supporting operationalization and implementation of the National Adaptation Strategy its activities will be conducive <i>inter alia</i> to mainstreamed adaptation in priority sectoral development plans, developed adaptation plans for selected sectors, identified costs and financing strategy for priority national adaptation options and adequate national and sectoral knowledge on the use of tools and approaches to advance medium-to long term adaptation planning and budgeting.</p> <p>A special emphasis will be put on upgrading the climate data management system in line with the international requirements. The project will also forge strategic partnerships in the area of climate change adaptation with Austrian Meteorological Service, Austrian Environment Agency, Austrian Civil Protection Agency and others.</p> <p>In line with the financing strategy for climate change adaptation elaborated with the support of this project creation of a PPP is expected as part of the on-the-ground adaptation interventions. In addition to the pilot adaptation focus, the local level interventions are expected to generate multiple development benefits providing for alternative livelihood opportunities and sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>The project is fully financed by the Government of Austria with the total value of <b>US\$970,013</b>.</p>
<b>21. CLIMA-EAST: ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ORHEI NATIONAL PARK</b>	<p>The project aims to demonstrate a natural resource management model in the pastures and forests of Moldova which increases ecosystems' capacity to sequester carbon under pending climate risks, while at the same time retaining biodiversity and economic values.</p> <p>The expected project outputs are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop an innovative pasture and community forest management systems on the whole territory of the Orhei National Park.</li> </ul>	<b>April 2013-December 2016</b>	<p>The project is at the inception phase targeting pastures and forest degraded lands located in the Orhei National Park area (33,792.09 ha) and its buffer zone.</p> <p>The project will develop innovative pasture and community forest management systems on the whole territory of the park, including rehabilitation of 500 ha of pastures and afforestation of 150 ha of eroded and non-productive lands. As many as 18 communities (5,890.92 ha) from Orhei National Park region will benefit from pasture management plans developed based on pasture inventory. For a total of 1,392 ha of community forests management plans will be developed. While the impact of pasture management plans is measured in terms on improved forage yield, quality, diversity, and persistence and reduced pressure on overgrazed degraded areas, as well as enhanced production cost efficiency and wildlife habitat, it will also provide for essential and additional conservation practices.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restore 500 ha of pastures and 150 ha of eroded and non-productive lands through afforestation.</li> <li>- Develop a carbon assessment and monitoring system for the park area.</li> </ul>	<p>The project will help avert further deterioration of natural resources (biodiversity, land, forest), sequester the carbon and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, improve local pasture and forestry resources, promote better understanding of problems related to climate change impacts and contribute to local/regional sustainable development. The project activity is expected to enhance the GHG removals by preventing soil erosion, which is estimated to account for carbon storage in soil of 0.9 tC/ha/yr, accumulation of 0.45 t C/ha/yr of carbon in pasture vegetation and 9.12 t C/ha/yr accumulation in forest vegetation with continuous increase. Expected to deliver the following results:</p> <p>The beneficiaries of the project are the people living in the Orhei National Park area equally both men and women. A special focus will be put on collaboration with such institutions/partners as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, State Agency Moldsilva, Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre, Research Institutes, NGOs, civil society, and LPAs who participated actively in implementation of the up-mentioned project activities.</p> <p>The total budget of the project is <b>US\$694,000</b> provided by the European Union.</p>
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**Notes:**

**A/** Months indicated where info available

**SOURCE:** EEP Unit, August 2013

## LIST OF PERSONS MET

<b>Mr. Gheorghe Salaru</b>	Minister of Environment
<b>Ms. Nicola Harrington-Buhay</b>	UNDP Resident Representative
<b>Ms. Nadja Veters</b>	Energy & Environment Portfolio Manager, UNDP Moldova
<b>Ms. Silvia Pana-Carp</b>	Energy & Environment Portfolio Associate, UNDP Moldova
<b>Mr. Andrei Isac</b>	Representative of the Civil Society
<b>Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov</b>	Director of Milieukontakt NGO, Member of GEF SGP Steering Committee
<b>Ms. Ala Rotaru</b>	Head of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Division, Ministry of Environment
<b>Ms. Ludmila Marduhaeva</b>	Senior Officer, Division of Environment Pollution and Waste Management, Ministry of Environment
<b>Ms. Tatiana Tugui</b>	Director of Environment Pollution Prevention Office
<b>Ms. Tatiana Echim</b>	Programme Coordinator, Environment Pollution Prevention Office
<b>Mr. Alexandru Teleuta</b>	Director of the Biodiversity Office and Director of the Botanical Garden, NBSAP Project Manager
<b>Mr. Alexandru Rotaru</b>	Manager of the Protected Areas System Project
<b>Ms. Georgette Bruchez</b>	Country Director, SDC Co-chairing of the Sector Coordination Council on Environment, Water and Sanitation
<b>Mr. Stefan Chitoroaga</b>	Director of Moldosilva Agency
<b>Mr. Tudor Botnaru</b>	Vice Director of Moldosilva Agency
<b>Mr. Petru Rotaru</b>	Head of Division, Division of Forest Fund, Protected Areas, Protection and Control
<b>Mr. Dumitru Galupa</b>	Director of the Institute of Research and Forestry Management
<b>Mr. Alexandru Rotaru</b>	PAS Project Manager
<b>Mr. Ion Stefirta</b>	Head of Orhei District
<b>Mr. Valerian Scutelnic</b>	Deputy Head of Orhei District
<b>Mr. Ion Nasalciuc</b>	Head of Agriculture Section in the Orhei District Council
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<b>Mr. Vasile Cartofeanu</b>	Director of the Association of Refrigerants Technicians
<b>Mr. Alecu Renita</b>	Director of the Ecological Movement of Moldova
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