



GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT
 TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST-FUND

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin		
Country(ies):	Moldova, Ukraine	GEF Project ID: ¹	9359
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	5269
Other Executing Partner(s):	UNECE, OSCE	Submission Date:	24 Dec. 2015
GEF Focal Area(s):	International Waters	Project Duration (Months)	36
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of parent program:	NA	Agency Fee (\$)	185,250

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
IW 1 Program 1 (select) (select)	GEF TF	1,950,000	8,655,000
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
Total Project Cost		1,950,000	8,655,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: Integrated water resources management in the Dniester river basin to strengthen sustainable development, through the update of the TDA, development and endorsement of the SAP and initiation of its implementation.						
Project Component	Financing Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
Component 1: In-depth analysis of the water resources, related ecosystems and their use	TA	<p>Outcome 1: Science-based consensus among the countries and key stakeholders on major transboundary problems of the basin.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Understanding of current and future priority environmental issues, and their</p>	<p>1. Updated full-fledged Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Dniester Basin. The TDA will include:</p> <p>a. Background description of the situation in the basin and relevant information about the legal and institutional framework in the two countries.</p> <p>b. Drivers and Indicators: The study of, and agreement on the “main drivers of change” and on the “indicators of current conditions (status</p>	GEF TF	550,000	2,700,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

² When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#).

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

		<p>transboundary implications, including potential implications for security, by key basin stakeholders and the public.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Local stakeholders ready to minimize negative consequences for economic sectors as well as the environment in the basin.</p>	<p>indicators)”. c. The transboundary implications of the shared nature of the Basin’s water resources as well as the need for joint action to resolve these concerns will be analyzed.</p> <p>2. Scenarios of Water Futures with a focus on climate variability and transboundary issues. The set of Scenarios of Water Futures will benefit from experiences of on-going and past UNECE-UNEP-OSCE activities in the domain of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the basin.</p> <p>3. Capacity-building workshops for stakeholders on adaptive management. On the basis of the TDA conclusions on extreme climate situations and following needs for joint action, a series of seminars will be organized for relevant stakeholders such as vodokanals, farmers, actors in the energy sector and decision makers on the local level.</p>			
<p>Component 2: Development of the policy, legal and institutional set-up, mandate and capacities of the River Basin Commission for strengthened basin-level cooperation</p>	TA	<p>Outcome 1: Strengthened environmental transboundary cooperation in the Dniester basin.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Agreed actions to address major transboundary problems of the Dniester basin (SAP) with established collaborative mechanism for multi-country cooperation framework.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Involvement of stakeholders in the decision making processes of the Commission and its institutions.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Project experiences and lessons disseminated globally and</p>	<p>1. Strategic Action Programme for the basin approved at the Ministerial level.</p> <p>2. A document establishing the Statute of the Commission including subsidiary joint expert bodies.</p> <p>3. Functional and active Inter-ministerial committees in each recipient country to support the work of the future Dniester River Basin Commission.</p> <p>4. Framework established for the development of the transboundary and the national river basin management plans, elements of these plans under initial implementation.</p> <p>5. Functioning expert groups under the Commission with a clear mandate and work plan (four or more expert groups are anticipated – tentatively on water quality and drinking water, information management, implementation of the Water Framework Directive and on biodiversity).</p>	GEF TF	650,000	3,000,000

		regionally.	<p>6. A mechanism for basin-wide consultations with a broad range of stakeholders as anticipated in article 21 of the bilateral Dniester Treaty established.</p> <p>7. Twinning and experience sharing exchange with another transboundary basin, strategy for replication of best practices in the Dniester basin.</p> <p>8. Comprehensive public participation and communication/awareness raising and gender mainstreaming strategy with selected activities implemented.</p> <p>9. A project web page (following IW LEARN standards) created on the Commission website, international waters experience notes with best practices from the project produced, use of the GEF 6 IW tracking tool and participation at GEF IW conferences, UNECE Water Convention events and other IW LEARN activities ensured. 1% or more of the GEF grant will be allocated towards IW Learn activities</p>			
Component 3: Strengthening of water resources and biodiversity monitoring and conservation, and information exchange in the Dniester River Basin	TA	<p>Outcome 1: Stronger information base and better accessibility of the relevant information in the Dniester basin for the joint management of water resources.</p> <p>Outcome 2: A coordinated institutional and legal framework for access to and exchange of information from monitoring and other sources, including the use and further development of the Dniester basin GIS involving stakeholders from the whole basin.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Improved capacities for monitoring in the basin, and the partial implementation of the</p>	<p>1. Institutional and legal framework defined for a programme for basin-level/transboundary monitoring, early warning and data exchange including chemical, biological and health-related parameters.</p> <p>2. An agreed programme for joint monitoring activities and information exchange between the two countries.</p> <p>3. Training programme, field and laboratory intercalibration exercises organized for staff of institutions involved in joint monitoring and exchange of information.</p> <p>4. Several demonstration projects: -Ecosystem restoration involving creation of forest margins and riverside protective bands in transboundary areas (if feasible, a Ramsar wetland) and on the riversides. -Enhancement of flood management as a complex</p>	GEF TF	580,000	2,500,000

		agreed monitoring and information exchange programme	measure for adaptation to climate change involving: a) strengthening of the exchange of monitoring data, b) improvement of hydrological forecasting of inflow to the Dniester cascade of reservoirs and strengthening of the exchange of the forecasts within the basin, and c) up-to-date bottom topography to further assessment of water flow. -Follow up of the initial assessments of river basin fish resources (2011): a) mapping fish refugia, b) creation of artificial spawning grounds. 5. Distribution of available basin-wide information to the public via diverse sources of mass media, i.e. via a network of the environmental journalists trained during the Dniester-III project, working with national and local media, UNECE and OSCE websites, and active www.dniester-basin.org site linked to the Dniester River Basin Commission.			
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
Subtotal					1,780,000	8,200,000
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴				(select)	170,000	455,000
Total Project Cost					1,950,000	8,655,000

If Multi-Trust Fund project :PMC in this table should be the total and enter trust fund PMC breakdown here (N/A)

⁴ For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Recipient governments	Moldova	in-Kind	1,000,000
Recipient governments	Ukraine	In-Kind	2,000,000
Donor agency	UNECE	In-Kind	1,000,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-Kind	300,000
Donor agency	EU	In-Kind	3,000,000
Donor agency	OSCE	In-Kind	1,355,000
(select)		(select)	
Total Co-financing			8,655,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

a)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) ^{b)}	Total (c)=a+b
UNDP	GEFTF	Regional	International Waters	NA	1,950,000	185,250	2,135,250
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
Total GEF Resources					1,950,000	185,250	2,135,250

a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#).

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁵

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes No If no, skip item E.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: 50,000					PPG Agency Fee: 4,750		
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee ⁶ (b)	Total c = a + b
UNDP	GETF	Regional	International Waters	NA	50,000	4,750	54,750
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
Total PPG Amount					50,000	4,750	54,750

⁵ PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to \$50k for PF up to \$2m (for MSP); up to \$100k for PF up to \$3 mil; \$150k for PF up to \$6 mil; \$200k for PF up to \$10 mil; and \$300k for PF above \$10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁶ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁷

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	<i>hectares</i>
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	<i>hectares</i>
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	<i>Number of freshwater basins 1</i>
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	<i>Percent of fisheries, by volume</i>
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	<i>metric tons</i>
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	<i>metric tons</i>
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	<i>metric tons</i>
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	<i>ODP tons</i>
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries:</i>
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries:</i>

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. *Project Description.* Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) [incremental/additional cost reasoning](#) and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and [co-financing](#); 5) [global environmental benefits](#) (GEFTF) and/or [adaptation benefits](#) (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

1) Global environmental problem, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

Global environmental problem

The Dniester is the largest river in the Western Ukraine and Moldova, draining to the Black Sea. The Dniester Basin extends into the territories of 7 (out of 24) oblasts of Ukraine and covers the larger part of the Republic of Moldova. The total population of the Dniester Basin within Ukraine and Moldova is about 8 million people and the river provides the source of drinking water for some 3.5 million people.

The Dniester River provides water to a large multi-sectoral economy, comprising heavily polluting mining, chemical industries, oil refineries, machine-building plants, food and textile industries, hydropower, agriculture (86% of the basin area in Moldova and 67% - in Ukraine).

The ecosystem of the Basin is overused and stressed, and is burdened by unsatisfactory quality of available water resources, decrease in the amount and diversity of biological diversity and resources as well as floods and drought periods. This was demonstrated by the report from a joint hydrochemical expedition from the Dniester source to its mouth (2011, organized by the

⁷ Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and/or SCCF.

Dniester-III project [see a table on p.10). The report revealed that overall the water quality of the Dniester river can be defined as “very good” and “good” only along the first 150 km from the source, and that water quality declines significantly downstream and especially along the last 200-250 km and in the Dniester liman which leads to instability of water ecosystems and problems for water users. Less dissolved salts and heavy metals and more phosphorus, nitrogen and copper were found in 2011 in comparison to 1997 (the previous joint expedition), while the ammonium and organic matter content practically has not changed. Also the first since 1992 joint Moldovan-Ukrainian ichthyological expedition (2011, supported by the Dniester-III project) indicated that the number of fish species in the Dniester has decreased by 50% in the last 10 years with the number of commercial fish species decreasing by 23%. A significant number of hybrid fish species and an increasing number of fish parasites indicated a poor environmental status in the Lower Dniester.

The majority of the environmental problems facing the Dniester are clearly transboundary in nature, and coordinated efforts of Moldova and Ukraine are required to address them effectively. The excessive anthropogenic pressures and the lack of progress in addressing the most urgent environmental problems are also considered to be the result of systemic problems, faced by the existing environmental management authorities in the Basin, in particular: inadequate efficiency of existing water resource management and protection system due to deficiencies in the legal and institutional framework; gaps in the existing legislation and regulations; insufficient institutional arrangements for managing resource use at the intersectoral level and promoting the water resource management at the basin level; inadequate mechanisms for enforcement and implementation of the national and international environment- and monitoring-related legislation.

Climate change poses new challenges, including those with potential security implications, and worsens current problems in the basin. First of all, public health will be impacted by climate change. In addition, such hazards as floods, droughts, fires, heavy rains, snowfalls and heat waves are likely to become more intense and frequent within the basin. Moreover, key sectors including agriculture, hydro-energy and forestry which influence national and individual welfare and are closely linked to food and energy aspects of security in the basin could be affected by climate change. Political instability and lack of financial resources makes the countries more vulnerable to climate change and make the climate change adaptation process more time-consuming and costly. Transboundary cooperation plays a very important role in elaboration of efficient and sustainable adaptation policies and their further implementation since continuous dialogue is necessary to adapt to climate change.

Development of the Dniester River basin management plan for Moldova started in 2013 and is to be finalized in 2015. This work is realized with the support of the US Millennium Challenge Corporation. The Ukrainian authorities plan the development of the national management plan for the Dniester river basin but the reality is such that none of the so far existing river basin management plans (or those under development) has been realized with the state budget, i.e. they were drafted with donors' aid.

Root causes

The first UNECE/OSCE project to develop a transboundary diagnostic study (TDS, November 2005) was a first attempt to identify the root causes of the transboundary and shared water management challenges. The over-arching root cause was identified to be the lack of effective planning and implementation, due to lack of dedicated resources and capacity. The excessive anthropogenic pressures and the lack of progress in addressing the most urgent environmental problems are also considered to be the result of systemic problems, faced by the existing environmental management authorities in the Dniester River Basin, in particular:

- an inadequate efficiency of the existing system for water resource management and protection;
- the basin management not being programme-oriented;
- lack of incentives for environmentally sound practices and environmental improvements;
- low level of information, methodological and technical support to the environmental authorities;
- inadequate participation and involvement of the public in decision-making on environmental issues.

The transboundary diagnostic study of 2005 has been used for priority-setting for actions by local, national and international organisations. However, ten years after the this study was developed there is a need to develop a basin-wide management plan, and to develop an improved understanding of the situation in the basin. The present project will be using the GEF TDA/SAP methodology and develop an up-to-date full Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the basin.

Barriers

According to the principal stakeholders, the UNECE/OSCE/UNEP Dniester projects (“The Dniester process” 2004-2015) have made a major contribution to the cooperation on the Dniester River Basin management, more precisely, to the development of

the TDS, an action programme for 2007-2010, joint monitoring, information exchange, public awareness, stakeholders participation, adaptation to climate change, reduction of flood vulnerability, strengthening the network of stakeholders and understanding of the links between economic, social and environmental sustainability.

However, due to financial stagnation in the riparian states, external support is required to further develop the transboundary cooperation. A failure to harmonize efforts at the local, national and transboundary levels will result in increased uncertainty across the basin as well as a low level of efficiency of the efforts made. A list of barriers also includes:

- lack of a mechanism for joint decision-making and policy-analysis (the Dniester Commission has not been set up yet),
- insufficient investment in capacity building to meet the specific needs and conditions across the basin and within the countries,
- lack of culture and frameworks for proper inter-sectoral cooperation,
- lack of application of technologies that can serve multiple benefits in water resource management and reduce costs of irrational water losses, pollution and environmental degradation.

2) Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

A bilateral “Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Ukraine on the Joint Use and Protection of the Cross-Border Waters” was signed in 1994 and a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries was instituted as a cooperative mechanism for its implementation. The Agreement and its institutional mechanism have been functional but were in need of revision and modernization due to the Agreement’s focus only on a cross-border area of the river (225 km out of total 1386 km) rather than on the entire basin and also due to its narrow (in practice) scope with very limited participation of stakeholders.

As a response to the deficiencies of the above-mentioned Agreement, the governments of Moldova and Ukraine signed an intergovernmental “Treaty on Cooperation on Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin” on 29 November 2012. The signing of the Treaty is to be followed by setting-up the Dniester River Basin Commission and its Secretariat. The Dniester River Basin Treaty is a modern treaty and pioneering example for the post-Soviet area. The Treaty has been ratified by Moldova and will enter into force after its ratification by the Ukrainian Parliament, presumably by the end of 2015.

Under the 1994 Agreement and the supervision of the Plenipotentiaries the focus of transboundary cooperation has been on the water flow regime, in particular cooperation to minimize negative consequences of floods. Some steps have also been taken with regard to the development of joint monitoring.

In collaboration with the Plenipotentiaries, the Dniester process has supported cooperation on monitoring, biodiversity conservation, water and health issues, information exchange and adaptation to climate change and flood protection. A strong ownership by the two countries is a key success factor in the implementation of international projects.

For the future there is a strong need to support the broadening of sustained cooperation and to engage a broader range of stakeholders (e.g. hydropower but also basin-wide and national NGOs and the public) in the bilateral cooperation.

Three projects managed by UNECE, OSCE and partly UNEP, in the so called Dniester process within the framework of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC⁸), are referred to as baseline projects. These projects have had the general aim of improving the joint management of the basin and supporting Moldova and Ukraine in the application of the IWRM approach and principles of sustainability. The projects of the Dniester process were restricted in terms of funding as well as their scope but

⁸ The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) is a partnership of six international organizations – the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe \(OSCE\)](#), [Regional Environment Centre for Central and Eastern Europe \(REC\)](#), [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#), [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe \(UNECE\)](#), [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#), and the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\)](#) as an associated partner – with specialized, but complementary mandates and expertise, that provides an integrated response to environment and security challenges. The mission of ENVSEC is to contribute to the reduction of environment and security risks through strengthened cooperation among and within countries in four regions: Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus, and South-Eastern Europe.

their effectiveness was quite high due to the strong political will at the national level and complementary mandates and expertise of the ENVSEC partners, i.e. UNECE, OSCE and UNEP.

The baseline projects supported the development of the “Transboundary Diagnostic Study” of 2005 (http://dniester-basin.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/17final_report_eng.pdf of the Dniester-I project) and the approval of the “Action Programme to Improve Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Management of the Dniester River basin for 2007-2010” of 2007 (<http://dniester-basin.org/materials/dnestr2/> of the Dniester-II project). The afore-mentioned documents were NOT developed according to the TDA/SAP methodology by GEF. The TDS (2005) does not describe many issues suggested in the TDA and while it may be a starting point for further work, a more ambitious approach is needed at this point. The action programme for 2007-2010 aimed to identify selected priority concrete and inexpensive actions like signing the bilateral Dniester River Basin Treaty, a regulation on working group on water sanitation, a regulation on joint website, and recommending the biodiversity working group thus it did not embrace the whole range of important issues that need to be dealt with in the Dniester river basin. The Dniester-II (see a table below) was followed by the project “Dniester-III” supporting the implementation of the action programme including the drafting and negotiations of the signed bilateral Dniester River Basin Treaty (Rome, 29th November 2012). Other components of this project included activities related to water monitoring, biodiversity protection, information exchange, cooperation among health authorities responsible for drinking water, adaptation to climate change and collaboration on flood protection (on-going). In spite of the earlier transboundary diagnostic study and the (implemented) action programme for 2007-2010, there is a strong need and also demand from the riparian states to develop a full TDA as well as a comprehensive SAP which can serve as a framework for the national Dniester river basin management plans and further development of the institutional set-up for and content of the bilateral cooperation. The Dniester component of the project “Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus” launched in 2013 with the support of the EU Instrument for Stability has focused on the development of a Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester river basin, its implementation plan as well as the implementation of a number of priority climate change adaptation measures agreed by Moldova and Ukraine within this project.

The proposed project will build on the strong will of the two countries to deepen and expand transboundary cooperation in the basin and will support the countries in their efforts to develop the existing cooperative framework for the sustainable and integrated management of the shared water resources of the Dniester River basin. It will also build on the results of the afore-mentioned Dniester projects and, last but not the least, a strong network of stakeholders built during implementation of the Dniester projects. The bilateral Dniester cooperation is presently at a point where previous work has established a strong foundation and where further catalytic efforts in the framework of a GEF project could further advance the transboundary water cooperation significantly.

The proposed project also builds on a number of additional baseline national and bilateral projects, which have aimed to support transboundary water management as well as national integrated natural resource management in the basin (see table below). The existing mechanisms for inter-ministerial coordination (for example, Steering Committees of the National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management in Moldova and under re-establishment in Ukraine, the Aarhus centres) may supply a good mechanism on the national level.

Project Title	Countries	Implementing Agency and Other Executing Agencies
Water Biodiversity Conservation in the Transboundary Area of the Lower Dniester	Moldova, Ukraine	UNDP-GEF Small Grant Programme in Moldova
Transboundary cooperation and sustainable management in the Dniester River basin: Phase III - Implementation of the Action Programme (Dniester-III)	Moldova, Ukraine	UNECE, OSCE, UNEP
Action Programme to Improve Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Management of the Dniester River (Dniester-II)	Moldova, Ukraine	UNECE, OSCE, UNEP
Transboundary Diagnostic Study for the Dniester River Basin (Dniester-I)	Moldova, Ukraine	UNECE, OSCE

Technical Assistance for the Lower Dniester River Basin Management Planning	Moldova, Ukraine	TACIS
Transboundary Risk Management in the Dniester Basin	Moldova, Ukraine	German Federal Environmental Agency
A project component “Climate Change and Security in the Dniester River Basin” within the framework of the project “Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus”	Moldova, Ukraine	UNECE and OSCE
Reduction of vulnerability to climate change and extreme floods in the Dniester River basin	Moldova, Ukraine	UNECE and OSCE
Restoring Ecosystems to Mitigate Floods and Improve Cooperation between Countries in Transboundary River Basins in Eastern Europe	Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine	UNECE and OSCE

3) Proposed Alternative Scenario

This project positions the GEF to play a key catalytic role in further developing and harmonizing integrated water resource management in the basin through the development of a full-scale TDA on the basis of the 2004-2005 transboundary diagnostic study, the development and approval of the SAP and the initiation of implementation of prioritized initiatives identified in the transboundary SAP and in the national IWRM Plans (equivalent to the National Action Plans) for the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The TDA/SAP process will also contribute to the development and partial implementation of the Dniester basin national Ukrainian Action Plan (as requested by the Government of Ukraine). The Dniester basin national Moldovan AP is being developed with the help of the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the TDA/SAP will contribute to its partial implementation.

The components of the proposed GEF project are:

Component 1: In-depth analysis of the current state and use of water resources and related ecosystems, and the needs for priority environmental actions on the basin level

A preliminary transboundary diagnostic study was carried out in the basin in 2004-2005 with the support of UNECE and OSCE. The study highlighted a range of environmental issues for further discussion and improved joint management that were prioritized by both countries, and has served as the basis for a range of follow-up activities in the Dniester process including the development of the Dniester River Basin Treaty. Follow-up activities have also produced new studies and evidence e.g. in the domains of water quality, fish and aquatic bio-resources, floods and climate change (the latter being the subject of on-going comprehensive work towards assessing the basin’s vulnerability and needs for adaptation). The Atlas of the Dniester published in 2012 is the latest compilation of known environmental issues. Taking stock of these results from a fresh perspective and in a comprehensive manner in the development of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, using GEF methodology will enable basin stakeholders to develop an updated strategic vision of the Dniester’s problems today, their trends and the viable solutions for the future.

Outcome 1: Science-based consensus among the countries and key stakeholders on major transboundary problems of the basin.

Outcome 2: Understanding of current and future priority environmental issues, and their transboundary implications, including potential implications for security, and root causes, by key basin stakeholders and the public.

Outcome 3: Local stakeholders ready to minimize negative consequences for economic sectors as well as the environment in the basin.

Outputs:

- Updated full-fledged Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Dniester Basin. The TDA will include:
 - d. Background description of the situation in the basin and relevant information about the legal and institutional framework on both sides of the river.
 - e. Drivers, Root Causes and Indicators: The study of, and agreement on the “main drivers of change”, root causes, and on the “indicators of current conditions (status indicators)”.
 - f. The transboundary implications of the shared nature of the Basin’s water resources as well as the need for joint action to resolve these concerns will be analyzed.
- Scenarios of Water Futures with a focus on climate variability and transboundary issues. The set of Scenarios of Water Futures will benefit from experiences of on-going and past work of UNECE-UNEP-OSCE activities in the domain of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the basin.
- Capacity-building workshops for stakeholders on adaptive management. On the basis of the TDA conclusions on extreme climate situations and following needs for joint action, a series of seminars will be organized for relevant stakeholders such as vodokanals, farmers, actors in the energy sector and decision makers on the local level.

Component 2: Development of the policy, legal and institutional set-up, mandate and capacities of the River Basin Commission for strengthened basin-level cooperation

The UNECE/OSCE-brokered Dniester Basin Treaty, signed by Moldova and Ukraine on 29.11.2012 in Rome, initiates a new chapter in the Dniester basin cooperation. Under this Treaty a River Basin Commission will be established that will need initial advice, encouragement, inspiration and direct support not only to serve its main purpose (improving cooperation in the basin and eventually protecting and improving the Dniester environment) but also to serve as an example to other basins within and outside the Eastern Europe region.

Outcome 1: Strengthened environmental transboundary cooperation in the Dniester basin.

Outcome 2: Agreed actions to address major transboundary problems of the Dniester basin (SAP) with an established collaborative mechanism for multi-country cooperation framework.

Outcome 3: Involvement of stakeholders in the decision making processes of the Commission and its institutions.

Outcome 4: Project experiences and lessons disseminated globally and regionally.

Outputs:

- Strategic Action Programme for the basin approved at the Ministerial level.
- A document establishing the Statute of the Commission including subsidiary joint expert bodies.
- Functional and active Inter-ministerial committees in each recipient country to support the work of the Dniester River Basin Commission.
- Framework established for the development of the transborder and national river basin management plans, elements of this plan under initial implementation.
- Functioning expert groups under the Commission with a clear mandate and work plan (four or more expert groups are anticipated – tentatively on water quality and drinking water, information management, implementation of the Water Framework Directive and on biodiversity).
- A mechanism for basin-wide consultations with a broad range of stakeholders as anticipated in article 21 (including stakeholders from the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova) of the bilateral Dniester Treaty established.
- Twinning and experience sharing exchange with another transboundary basin, strategy for replication of best practices in the Dniester basin – for stakeholders from both banks of the river.
- Comprehensive public participation and communication/awareness raising and gender mainstreaming strategy with selected activities implemented.
- Project web page (following IW LEARN standards) created on the Commission website, international waters experience notes (at least 2) with best practices from the project produced, use of the GEF 6 IW tracking tool and participation at GEF IW conferences, UNECE Water Convention events and other IW LEARN activities ensured. It is foreseen that a minimum of \$40 will be destined to IW LEARN related activities. 1% or more of the GEF grant will be allocated towards IW Learn activities

Component 3: Strengthening of water resources and biodiversity monitoring, and information exchange in the Dniester River Basin

A considerable degree of work and attention to-date in the Dniester process has focused on monitoring and information exchange. In particular, the UNECE and OSCE supported joint health-related monitoring of water to be used for drinking (regular joint sampling, exchange of results, training, equipment and materials), comprehensive study of water quality, fish resources study in the Lower Dniester, a feasibility study for improving transboundary monitoring in the basin, direct support to infrastructure for automated monitoring of water flow including floods, a functional basin-level GIS on-line, support to local-level flood communication and hands-on work with the media. The protocol on sanitary-epidemiological monitoring and the draft protocol on information exchange developed under the Dniester III project can be used as a basis for further work.

Outcome 1: Stronger information base and better accessibility of the relevant information in the Dniester basin for the joint management of water resources.

Outcome 2: A coordinated institutional and legal framework for access to and exchange of information from monitoring and other sources, including the use and further development of the Dniester basin GIS, involving the whole basin stakeholders.

Outcome 3: Improved capacities for monitoring in the basin, and the partial implementation of the agreed monitoring and information exchange programme

Outputs:

- Institutional and legal framework defined for a programme for basin-level/transboundary monitoring, early warning and data exchange including chemical, biological and health-related parameters.
- An agreed programme for joint monitoring activities and information exchange between the two countries.
- Training programme, field and laboratory intercalibration exercises organized for staff of institutions involved in joint monitoring and exchange of information.
- Several demonstration projects:
 - Ecosystem restoration involving creation of forest margins and riverside protective bands in transboundary areas (if feasible, a Ramsar wetland) and on the riversides.
 - Enhancement of flood management as a complex measure for adaptation to climate change involving: a) strengthening the exchange of monitoring data, b) improvement of hydrological forecasting of inflow to the Dniester cascade of reservoirs and strengthening of the exchange of the forecasts within the basin, and c) up-to-date bottom topography for further assessment of water flow.
 - follow up of the fish resources assessment (2011): a) mapping fish refugia, b) creation of artificial spawning grounds.
- Distribution of available basin-wide information to the public via diverse sources of mass media, i.e. via a network of the environmental journalists trained during the Dniester-III project, working with national and local media, UNECE and OSCE websites, and active www.dniester-basin.org site linked to the Dniester River Basin Commission.

4) Incremental / additional cost reasoning and expected contribution from the baseline (GEF Trust Fund, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing)

Without GEF support the riparian states will cooperate on a regular basis through water, environmental and hydrometeorological agencies, on data exchange, monitoring and conservation according to the established sectoral channels and regulations. In this case wide inter-sectoral involvement of various water users into transboundary management (agriculture, hydroenergy, forestry, fishery, regional development, utilities and health) will not be in place. The governments of the countries will be more focused on the national parts of the basin and will restrict the transboundary approach to basin management that could multiply benefits and divide costs for both countries due to lack of financial and organisational resources. Moreover, local stakeholders covering different regions and sectors in the basin are not likely to be consulted due to the lack of funds, expertise and organisational resources within the countries. Both Moldova and Ukraine are only at the beginning of the development of joint integrated and sustainable management of the basin resources; therefore, international financial and expert support is needed to strengthen the process and build the capacity within the countries.

Development of the TDA and reaching an agreement on the joint SAP using GEF funding will enable the consolidation of national and international efforts to reduce degradation of the transboundary Dniester basin. The project will strengthen the understanding of the issues in the basin (TDA), contribute to the implementation of the IWRM at the national and

transboundary level (SAP), and encourage sustainable river basin management. With the support of the bilateral Commission that is to be established, the project is anticipated to have a good political support from both countries.

The project will expand the scope of previous projects as well as work in close cooperation with the on-going and planned projects, and assist the countries to advance with regard to the implementation of the new Moldovan-Ukrainian Dniester River Basin Treaty (2012) and to move to concrete achievements in terms of cooperative frameworks and institutional set-up, commitments to and implementation of priority actions as well as specific targets / indicators and strategic choices. Global benefits, as established in the International Waters Focal Area Strategy, will be accrued by facilitating a broader and more effective collective bilateral management scheme that will in particular foster the integrity of the basin ecosystem and of the services it provides.

Based on the above, the proposed GEF project will respond to the countries' request and work with all partner organizations involved in the baseline projects through the activities described above.

5) Global Environmental Benefits (GEFTF) and / or adaptation benefits (LDCF / SCCF)

The global benefits to be accrued through the project consist essentially in increased water security, and the balancing of conflicting water uses, particularly hydropower generation and abstraction for agriculture. In order to maximize the ability of the project to produce such benefits, its design includes specific elements that will emphasize the national benefits that increased transboundary cooperation in water management will bring about. In particular:

- Component 1 – contributes to a better understanding of the available water resources and an improved understanding of the consequences and priority measures to be taken by the countries in order to ensure sustainable management of the basin.
- Component 2 – improves institutional structures, develops new skills and expands sectoral communication within and among the countries to improve integrated water management.
- Component 3 – support to the development of monitoring and information exchange will provide the basis for the assessment and monitoring of longer term trends and policy efficiency.

The project will also establish a basis for increasing the ecosystem resilience of the Dniester river basin which will improve adaptation potential of the basin in the institutional, natural and organization context.

6) Innovativeness, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling Up

Specifically in terms of promoting innovation in the foundational phase of this project, steps were taken outside of the standard TDA/SAP methodology to support capacities and plans at the national level to also collaborate in the transboundary setting. This was done mainly to encourage the development of certain aspects of transboundary cooperation before the joint action plans are developed. The Action Programme resulting from this approach has established very strong linkages between national and transboundary priorities. Additionally, it is important that the countries are in the process of development (Republic of Moldova) or has requested assistance to develop (Ukraine) IWRM Plans and NAPs that can be independently supported as well as owned by the implementing stakeholders. This increases the likelihood of sustainability and accomplishment of these plans, while at the same time increasing the understanding of the localized benefits and willingness of countries to take steps in support of the implementation of these plans in the long run. This way, if the donor community cannot fund aspects of the SAP implementation, there is a higher likelihood that the countries are willing to support it themselves. At the same time the states have a strong demand for a support in development of the transboundary AP, elements of which will be done in this project.

Sustainability for the Project arises from continuing with this national-to-transboundary approach, by building capacity, strengthening institutions, improving various aspects of the monitoring systems, enhancing stakeholder involvement in IWRM and demonstrating innovative pilots for up-scaling at the national levels, while providing for harmonization at the transboundary levels. As noted above, the high level of national and local ownership, combined with fostering of transboundary relations, increases the likelihood of sustainable and successful coordination and cooperation at key technical levels. The project will build national capacities for IWRM professionals, support the development and enforcement of laws and regulations for sustainable water use, and increase stakeholder awareness, understanding and ownership of solutions. It is intended that in the longer term the role of international donors will be phased out and replaced by national and basin-wide experts and professionals capable of ensuring benefits for the stakeholders. The states are also ready for considerable in-kind contribution and possibly allocation of space and staff for the Secretariat of the Dniester River Basin Commission which is an important element of ownership and sustainability.

Regarding scaling-up, the lessons learned regarding the TDA-to-National IWRM Plans-to-SAP-to-implementation approach can be applied throughout the world. The lessons will be of particular interest to countries of the former Soviet Union as the Dniester River Basin Treaty is the first basin-wide agreement in the region where economic and social set-up are comparable in different states of the region. This focuses on empowering stakeholders to address the challenges they meet at the local and national level and to realize the critical transboundary benefits that can be obtained. Further, the potential for the shared management of transboundary waters can have larger social and economic benefits. This can only be seen where national benefits are brought into harmonization with basin-wide benefits.

2. *Stakeholders.* Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from [civil society](#) and [indigenous people](#)? (yes /no) If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project design/preparation.

In addition to close cooperation with national water and environmental authorities in the two countries, the project will also involve the following key stakeholders to discussions and implementation of various project tasks (e.g. TDA/SAP, pilot projects) : basin authorities and councils, health authorities, energy authorities and companies, local and regional authorities, basin-wide and other NGOs, scientific and educational institutions, small and medium-sized farms, other private sector. The establishment of cooperation of the Dniester River Basin Commission with a broad range of stakeholders is a priority of the project.

The project will contribute to an increased involvement of important stakeholders, in particular energy authorities, small and medium-sized farms and companies, that have so far only been marginally or insufficiently involved in the bilateral water cooperation. This is a significant step for the region.

While it is difficult to formally involve the authorities of the Transdnestrian region of the Republic of Moldova in the work under the new Treaty, it will be possible in more technical components of the GEF project to involve technical expertise from this region. Such expertise e.g. from hydrometeorological, health and sanitary service, geoinformation systems, information exchange, public awareness has already been involved in previous project activities and OSCE and UNECE have a good network in this significant part of the Dniester river basin.

While both countries are Parties to the Aarhus Convention (UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters), the level of public participation in decision making on environmental and natural resource issues needs to be strengthened. Efforts are, however, on-going to involve stakeholders in water management. Ukrainian authorities have established basin councils in the majority of its basins and this process is also developing in Moldova. A network of Aarhus Centers established in each country of Eastern Europe, including Aarhus Centers in the Republic of Moldova and its Transnistrian region as well as in Ukraine, is also well placed to contribute to supporting public participation in the basin.

Key stakeholders	Expected roles
Ministries of Environment/ Water Agencies/(if applicable) the Dniester River Basin Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to project planning and management in cooperation with the Project Management Team • Technical contribution and by expertise to the project implementation • Participation in meetings and fora for project implementation • Facilitating involvement of national partners • Providing regular feedback to the Project Management Team at the national and transboundary levels
Ministries of Environment of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (climate change, sustainable development), Ministries of Agriculture of both states (forestry, fishery, agriculture),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in relevant meetings related to sectors in interest • Intersectoral insight and feedback on project activities, particularly development of TDA and SAP • Providing inputs to technical aspects of the project

Key stakeholders	Expected roles
Ministries of Energy, Ministries of Health	
Academic Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific expertise and guidance to project planning and achieving practical project results • Support to project activities involving relevant stakeholders
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance to the Project Management Team • Inputs to technical aspects of the project • Support to project activities involving relevant stakeholders • Facilitating the involvement of local partners for capacity building and pilot projects
Community organizations and civil society groups	<p>Participation in stakeholders consultations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative guidance to the Project Management Team • Inputs to technical aspects of the project including implementation of pilot projects • Support to the stakeholder involvement activities
Women and vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in stakeholders consultations • Contribution to stakeholder activities

3. *Gender Considerations.* Are [gender considerations](#) taken into account? (yes /no). If yes, briefly describe how gender considerations will be mainstreamed into project preparation, taken into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of men and women.

The project will ensure provision of equal opportunities for men and women from public, scientific, governmental and non-governmental sectors to participate in decision making for sustainable management in the Dniester river basin. The project will make every possible effort to comply with UNDP and GEF gender policies and guidance.

The project has apparent benefits for households in this river basin (cleaner and safer water supply for people in the Dniester basin), particularly, for women who run these households and have to depend on adequate water quality.

4 *Risks.* Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable).

Risk	Level	Mitigation
Political instability could affect the implementation of actions at country level	Medium	The project will promote coordination among various actors through the stakeholder involvement plan and apply best principles of adaptive management if political instability causes challenges in selected areas of either country. OSCE political expertise and presence in the field in Moldova and Ukraine will be capitalized on to identify, anticipate and appropriately respond to political developments with implications for potential instability.
Relative institutional and financial weakness of the water and environmental authorities in Moldova and Ukraine	Medium	There is a common understanding in both countries at the level of national authorities, among national and local leading decision makers that the further development of the bilateral cooperation is of significant practical as well as political importance. The baseline projects have worked very well and UNECE, OSCE, and UNEP are trusted partners with well-established contacts in the two countries. For example, the political and administrative turmoil events in 2009-2010 in Moldova and Ukraine did not hinder significantly the projects supporting the bilateral cooperation neither on the local nor the national level.

Risk	Level	Mitigation
Lack of appropriate participation in the project of the Transnistrian region of Moldova	Medium	Well-established contacts in this region have been developed during the baseline projects. Representatives of relevant organizations from the Transnistrian region of Moldova took part in the activities of the health and water working group (WG), fisheries WG, monitoring WG and contributed to development of the Dniester basin atlas and GIS. The field presence of one of the executing agencies, OSCE, is of significant importance in this regard.
Environmental variability and climate change could alter ecosystem processes and functions, and reduce ecosystem services.	Low	The issues have been addressed through communication and coordination with the projects “Reducing vulnerability to climate change and extreme floods in the Dniester river basin” (to be finalised by late 2015) and the project component “Climate Change and Security in the Dniester River Basin” of the project “Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus.

5. *Coordination.* Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives.

This project proposal has been developed in close cooperation with the water and environmental authorities of the two countries. Representatives of relevant research institutions, basin NGOs as well as other donors and projects were involved into preparation of the project proposal. The outline of the project was presented and discussed at a high-level event of the deputy ministers of environment of Moldova and Ukraine and a Dniester basin stakeholder meeting in April 2015 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The project proposal received two letters of support from ministries of environment of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The project will be coordinating its activity and collaborating with the following on-going projects.

Project Title	Countries	Implementing Agency and Other Executing Agencies
Project component “Climate Change and Security in the Dniester River Basin” of the project “Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus”	Moldova, Ukraine	UNECE, OSCE
Reducing vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change in the Dniester river basin (Dniester-III floods & climate)	Moldova, Ukraine	UNECE, OSCE, UNEP
Rehabilitation of irrigation systems, development of "Management plan of a Moldovan part of Dniester River Basin" and establishment of the Dniester Basin Committee	Moldova	Programme "Compact" of the Millennium Challenge Corporation
Water and ecosystem management in the Lower Dniester Ramsar Site	Moldova	BIOTICA/ADA
Clima East Moldova: Climate change mitigation and ecosystem-based adaptation in Orhei National Park	Moldova	UNDP
Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea (EMBLAS-II)	Georgia, Russia, Ukraine	UNDP
National Water Policy Dialogue on IWRM	EECCA	UNECE, EU
Biomonitoring of Dniester tributaries	Moldova	Eco-TIRAS and Transboundary Cooperation Centre (Tartu, Estonia)
Small purification stations for rural areas in Black Sea Region	Moldova	Eco-TIRAS and Kavala Municipality (Greece)
Strengthening of public participation in decision making in West EECCA transboundary rivers	Moldova	Eco-TIRAS and Belarus NGO EcoProject

6. *Consistency with National Priorities.* Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes /no). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.

Country	Sustainable Development Strategy	Other national policy documents setting sustainability objectives
Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Ecological Policy • National Program of Environmental Security for 2007 – 2015 • Law on Water • National Strategy of Sustainable Development of Agriculture for 2008-2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy of Water Supply and Sewage in Communities • Law on Drinking Water • Law on Water protection Zones and Belts of Rivers and Water Bodies • Law on Natural Resources • Law on Environmental Protection • Law on Payment for Environmental Pollution • Law on Fish Fund, Fishery and Aquaculture • Law on and Strategy for Development of National Ecological Network for 2011 – 2018 • Forest Code • Strategy on Long-term Development of the Forest Sector • National Strategy and Plan on Biodiversity Conservation • National Program for Establishing the National Ecological Network • Law on Access to Information and National Plan on Implementation of the Aarhus Convention
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Plan on Environmental Protection from 2011 to 2015 • Main Principles (Strategy) of State Environmental Policy of Ukraine by 2020 • Concept of State Program on Sustainable Development of Rural Areas by 2020 • Concept of Sustainable Development of Inhabitant Units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Code • Law on Melioration of Ecosystems • Law on Aquaculture • Law on Environmental Protection • State Program of Development of Water Management and Ecological Improvement of the Dniester River Basin by 2021 • Forest Code • State Program “Forests of Ukraine” for 2010-2015 • Law on Fishery and Protection of Water Biotic Resources • National Program for Establishing the National Ecological Network by 2015 • Law on Access to Public Information • Law on Drinking Water and Drinking Water Supply • Plan on Priority Actions on Adaptation to Climate Change by 2012

The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine have ratified the UNECE Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health which demonstrates the political will of the countries to develop transboundary water cooperation following sustainability principles and implement integrated water management activities.

The development of principles for policies on environmental protection and sustainable development in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine began in the middle of the 1990s with the adoption of the Laws on Environmental Protection and was further developed in more specific legislation over time.

The basis for sustainable management of the water resources of the Republic of Moldova is formulated in two water-related documents “Concept of Ecological Policy” and “Law on Water” whereas main Ukrainian sustainability principles on water

management are integrated into the “National Plan on Environmental Protection from 2011 to 2015” and the “Main Principles (Strategy) of State Environmental Policy of Ukraine by 2020”.

Water resources in the two countries are managed according to the Law on Water in the Republic of Moldova and the Water Code in Ukraine.

Integrated water management and sustainable use of water resources are also acknowledged in the relevant legislation on water resources including “Strategy of Water Supply and Sewage in Communities of the Republic of Moldova”, “Law on Drinking Water”, “Law on Water protection Zones and Belts of Rivers and Water Bodies”, “Law on Natural Resources”, “Law on Payment for Environmental Pollution”, “Law on Fish Fund, Fishery and Fish Nursery”, “Forest Code”, “National Program for Establishing the National Ecological Network” (Moldova); and “Law on Melioration of Ecosystems”, “Law on Aquaculture”, “State Program of Development of Water Management”, “Forest Code”, “State Program “Forests of Ukraine” for 2010-2015”, “Law on Fishery and Protection of Water Biotic Resources” and “National Program for Establishing the National Ecological Network by 2015” (Ukraine).

Both countries have ratified the Aarhus Convention and developed national legislation including the laws (of the respective countries) on Access to Public Information.

The countries follow the current trends with regard to policy development on climate change. In particular, in Ukraine the National Plan of Priority Adaptation Measures is adopted and in Moldova the National Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change is in the process of finalization.

Inclusion of sustainability principles is also illustrated prominently in Ukrainian and Moldovan National Communications to UNFCCC and National reports on Biodiversity Protection.

Additionally, each of the countries signed the following multilateral agreements that are complementary to the proposed project, the SAP and National Plans. This include, among others:

- The UNECE Water Convention Protocol on Water and Health;
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance;
- The Rio Convention on Biological Diversity;
- The Paris Convention on Combating Desertification;
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol;
- The Aarhus Convention on Access to Public Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

Ukraine is a part of the Black Sea Commission, the project will contribute to the state obligations to protect the Black Sea from pollution.

7. Knowledge Management. Outline the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

Considerable part of Component 2 of the project is devoted to knowledge management, including anticipation of experiences and lessons learned from other similar projects as well as sharing the experiences of this project with other similar initiatives in participating countries, wider region (e.g. the EU and the Black Sea region, ensuring the environmental status indicators align and monitoring data shared) and international community. In this endeavour, IW LEARN will be utilised as a platform for information exchange. Participation in IW LEARN activities will be systematic in terms of contributing to the freshwater COPs, sharing lessons learnt (at least 2 Experience Notes), attendance to, and organization of webinars, participation to the IWCs. A project website, according to IW LEARN standards, will be established. Apart from being used as an information provision hub, the website will be an instrument supporting the implementation of the project activities. It will support and incorporate a range of tools such as project’s management team working space, information database, interactive maps, forum discussions etc. It is foreseen that a minimum of 1% of the project budget will be destined to IW LEARN related activities.

The project will collaborate with the EU and Black Sea Commission to ensure that the environmental status indicators align and monitoring data shared.


PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT⁹ OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):
 (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter](#)(s) with this template. For SGP, use this [SGP OFF endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mr. Oleksandr Tarasenko	Head of Department of International Cooperation	MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, UKRAINE	12/21/2015
Mrs. Inga PODOROGHIN	Head of International Cooperation and EU Integration Unit	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, MOLDOVA	07/30/2015

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies¹⁰ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Adriana Dinu, UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator		24/12/2015	Vladimir Mamaev, Regional Technical Advisor		vladimir.mamaev@undp.org

⁹ For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

¹⁰ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF