GEF SGP Country Programme Strategy for Operational Phase 6
Moldova

Summary

Chișinău
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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADA</td>
<td>Austrian Development Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>AEE</td>
<td>Agency of Energy Efficiency</td>
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<tr>
<td>LPA</td>
<td>Local Public Authorities</td>
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<td>TEP</td>
<td>Thermo-electric plant</td>
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<td>CCF</td>
<td>Forum on Climate Change in the Eastern Region Partnership</td>
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<td>NC</td>
<td>National Coordinator</td>
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<td>NSC</td>
<td>National Steering Committee</td>
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<td>WEEE</td>
<td>Waste of electrical and electronic equipment</td>
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<td>OP</td>
<td>Operational Phase</td>
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<td>EUR</td>
<td>Euro</td>
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<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
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<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environmental Facility</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture</td>
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<td>EEF</td>
<td>Energy Efficiency Fund</td>
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<td>NEF</td>
<td>National Ecologic Fund</td>
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<td>SIFM</td>
<td>Social Investments Fund of Moldova</td>
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<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Nongovernmental organization</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>POPs</td>
<td>Persistent Organic Pollutants</td>
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<tr>
<td>QE / QA</td>
<td>Questionaire for self-evaluation ex-ante of the NGO and questionnaire for self-evaluation ex-post</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRE</td>
<td>Source of Renewable Energy</td>
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<td>SGP</td>
<td>Small Grants Programme</td>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USA Dollar</td>
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OP6 RESOURCES

a. Basic financing: 400,000 USD
b. Remaining balance of OP5: 850,000 USD

CONTEXT

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

1. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME - SUMMARY BACKGROUND

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

The projects supported by OP5 contributed to solving ecological problems that are included in the priorities of Global Environmental Facility. The problems were solved through improving the quality of transboundary waters, carbon emissions reduction, and elimination of the causes of biodiversity loss and promotion of its conservation. As a result, SGP granted 478,600$ as small grants for public associations, in the frame of OP5. The total number of beneficiaries was 116,470 persons, out of which 734 women participated in the projects implementation. The public associations which implemented the projects managed to attract co-financing in amount of 580,694$, including 172,606$ as an in-kind contribution. Due to the implemented projects, Moldova succeeded to prevent the formation of 192,8 tones of CO2 annually, to apply 14 types of innovations and develop 3 local policies aiming at environmental protection. The listed results are not the final ones, since 4 projects financed by OP5 will be finished at the end of December 2017.

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

1 Initial concept of the SGP at OS6 was integrated in in strategic directions for global refinancing GEF-6 and further, was approved by the GEF Council in „Program of small grants GEF: imolementing commitments for GEF-6” (GEF/C.46/13) in May 2014.
2. OP6 STRATEGIES

2.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

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

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

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

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

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

Gender mainstreaming and women empowerment. SGP will be interested in projects that are based on:
- effective crosscutting references in efficient generation of knowledge on gender and environment;
- facilitating the exchange of best practices, approaches and tools;
- establishing clear accountability mechanisms and system of gender equality among management and project staff, team of experts and stakeholders.

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

2.2. Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies

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

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

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

2.3. Grant-maker+ Strategies

2.3.1. CSO-Gouvernment dialog platform

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

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

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

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

### 2.3.2. Policy influences

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

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

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

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2 White book at the National NGO Forum, 1998: “NGOs and the concept of partnership”, authors Mihai Lisiești, Ion Olteanu
2.3.3. Promoting social inclusion

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

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

2.3.4. Knowledge management plan

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

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

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

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

2.3.5. Communication Strategy

In OP6, SGP will be focused on projects visibility improve transparency, external communication, communication with CSOs and international relations. To ensure a coherent process in communication between SGP, grantees and general public, the responsabilities are divided between SGP NC, PA, NSC and grantees.
The GEF SGP will continue to practice of organizing direct meetings, workshops for potential partners NGO’s. During the events the NGOs will be taught how to prepare project proposals, ask questions related to project implementation and management, and financial management. After these events NGOs will have a clear vision of who, when and how activities will be performed and results achieved.

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

3. EXPECTED RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Table 1. Consistency with global program SGP OP6 components

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>OP6 project components</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SGP OP6 Component 1:</strong> Community Landscape Conservation</td>
<td>At least 1 draft of the legal act or draft of the public policy, where the stipulations regarding biodiversity conservation are integrated or at least 1 water basin management plan elaborated; At least 1 tourist route marked or a touristic zone arranged.. At least 20 ha of shelter belts created; At least 5 ha of forestry plantations created; At least 10 ha of shelter belts rehabilitated (planified at national level); At least 1 local species promoted and reproductive material created; At least 3 education workshops organised, 75 educated persons (50% W- 50%M), promotion materials prepared; At least 2 informing events organised;</td>
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<td><strong>SGP OP6 Component 2:</strong> Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology</td>
<td>At least 2 practices that provide measures for reducing CO₂ remissions; At least 2 farmers who practice multi-croping; Good agricultural practices adapted to climate changes, implemented on 5 ha or at least 5 ha with sustainable management practices on agricultural land At least 2 delevopd and published guidelines; At least 2 ecological lessons organised;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component</td>
<td>Description</td>
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| **SGP OP6 Component 3:**  
*Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:* | At least 2 innovative solutions of locally adopted solutions, demonstrated and documented;  
At least 20 households with access to electricity or heat from renewable sources;  
At least 10 ha of viable energetic plantations created  
At least 1 project which uses biomass to produce energy is implemented |
| **SGP OP6 Component 4:**  
*Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions:* | At least 60 households trained on proper management of chemical substances;  
At least 60 households trained in integrated pests management;  
At least 60 households collect separately non-toxic domestic e-waste;  
Waste management system is upgraded with collection of non-toxic domestic e-waste for a population of at least 2000 inhabitants;  
At least 1 strengthened nationwide network in safe use of chemicals. |
| **SGP OP6 Component 5:**  
*CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):* | At least 20 projects contributed to developing and maintaining the dialogue;  
At least 4 strengthened thematic platforms of communication and dialogue;  
Environmental NGOs Network extended: 5 NGOs in environmental related fields working with members of environmental NGO Network |
| **SGP OP6 Component 6:**  
*Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):* | At least 20 projects oriented in social inclusion;  
All projects assure gender equality;  
At least 5 projects include activities directly involving young people and children;  
At least 2 projects include work on inclusion of vulnerable groups. |
| **SGP OP6 Component 7:**  
*Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):* | All publications will be published in global digital library data.communitiesconnect.net |

### 4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is a permanent basic component of the SGP program and aims to measure progress and achievements at country level. Under the program, M&E is realised at the planning, implementation, and finalisation stages. M&E will identify implementation difficulties and will help to identify and evaluate the achievement of proposed objectives. M&E activities are represented by different types of reports that help to maintain the program accountability, sustainability, allow replication and provides an opportunity to identify and to communicate the learned lessons.
Monitoring focuses on tracking the progress of project activities and achieve planned results. This allows keeping track of activities under the project, to determine whether project objectives are met and to make the changes necessary to improve project performance. The evaluation refers to a periodic activity aimed at assessing the relevance, performance, effects, and impacts of a project vis-a-vis the project objectives.

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

The GEF SGP Moldova has established the M&E system on project and programme level. GEF SGP M&E activities are conducting on two levels:
1. Programme level - M&E of the National programme and its country project portfolio
2. Project level - M&E during the project proposal preparation, its implementation and after its conclusion

On the project level, the M&E system consists of various types of reports to evident projects progress, accountability and impact, regular communication and coaching of the NGO’s through the whole process of project development, implementation and post project period and projects site visits and on-spot checks.
ANNEX 2: OP6 DONOR PARTNER STRATEGY

1. National Environmental Fund

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

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

Fields of interest:

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

Budget limits of the call: are not specified

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

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

Co-financing procedure:

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

The co-financing procedures foresee the following:

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

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2 Urmează a fi realizat în trim. 1-2 a anului 2016
2. Notification of the applicant by the National Coordinator regarding the conditional approval of project’s funding and suggesting to follow the procedures to access co-financing for the project from NEF
3. Acceptance by the applicant to follow procedures to access the co-financing from NEF
4. Filling in the application form of NEF, according to NEF’s procedures and conditions
5. Approval of the application form by the National Coordinator of GEF SGP
6. Submitting the filled in application form according to NEF’s procedures, to the NEF Secretariat, under the Collaboration Agreement with GEF SGP for OP6.
7. Evaluation of application form by the Administration Council of NEF
8. Announcing the results of evaluation
9. If the project is approved for financing from NEF, the financial contract is signed between the applicant and UNDP Moldova (for the part of the project to be financed by GEF funds) and between the applicant and the Ministry of Environment (for the part to be financed by NEF)

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

2. Energy Efficiency Fund

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

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

Financing of projects is achieved by launching the:

- Call for proposals no 1 - public sector [restricted procedure]
- Call for proposals no 2 - private sector [restricted procedure]
- Call for proposals no 3 - public sector
- Call for proposals no 4 - private sector
- Call for proposals no 5 - public lighting

Budget limits of the call: are not specified

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

- Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

Co-financing procedures:
The co-financing of projects, approved for funding within the GEF SGP OP6 will be done under a signed Collaboration Agreement between the Agency for Energy Efficiency of Moldova and UNDP Moldova. The procedures for co-financing foresee the following phases:

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

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

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

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

The co-financing procedures foresee the following:

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

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

12 Urmează a fi realizat în trimestrul 1-2 a anului 2016
Note: In case of this type of financing, projects submitted by NGOs to GEF SGP don’t need to be reviewed by the Agency for Energy Efficiency, because they will not benefit directly from funds allocated by the Energy Efficiency Fund.

2. Social Investments Fund from Moldova14

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

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

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

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

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

The synergy between priorities of the financing agency and strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:
- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology
- Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

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

The co-financing procedures foresee the following phases:
4. Identification of the partner (LPA or public institution), which implements a project which is in synergy with the project idea proposed by the NGO within GEF SGP OP6 and which is according to the strategic initiatives of the GEF SGP OP6. The list of projects under implementation may be requested from the National Coordinator of GEF SGP.
5. A partnership agreement is signed between NGO and LPA/public institution to implement jointly the project, where contribution of each party and sources of financing will be stipulated

14 http://fism.gov.md/
6. A project proposal is submitted to the GEF SGP, attaching the partnership agreement, as a proof of co-financing.

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

3. **East European Foundation**

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

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

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

*Budget limits:* up to 15,000 EUR

The synergy between the priorities of the financing agency and the strategic initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:
- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology
- Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

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

*The co-financing procedures:*
NGOs will apply for projects to GEF SGP and EEF according to procedures and application forms of both donors.

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

4. **The Embassy of Slovak Republic in Moldova**

Cooperation of Moldova with Slovak Republic is based on a Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Development Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova for 2014-2018.

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

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

1. Good Governance:
   1.1 Improve the performance of local self-governments and strengthen their significance in local and regional development
   1.2 Strengthen the effective functioning of state administration and civil society

2. Water and sanitation
   2.1 Improve the efficiency of the drinking water supply system, sanitation and waste management
   2.2 Improve the environment and quality of life of inhabitants via interventions in the area of water and sanitation
   2.3 Increase environmental awareness and information in the area of protecting water resources

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

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

Co-financing procedures:

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

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

The total budget for one project is up to 15,000 EUR. Project duration should be no longer than 6 months.

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

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

Financial priorities:

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

**Budget limits:** up to 100,000 EUR

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

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

5. **The Embassy of Poland in Moldova**

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

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

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

- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology

**Budget limits:** up to 30,000 EUR

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

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

**Co-financing procedures:**

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

6. **The Embassy of Romania in Moldova**

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

a. **Mobility Fund for experts from civil society Romania-Moldova**

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

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18 [https://polskapomoc.gov.pl/Polish_Aid_160.html](https://polskapomoc.gov.pl/Polish_Aid_160.html)
The Principal Objective consists in bilateral transfer of experience, knowledge, good practices between Romania and Moldova, improving the dialogue between these two countries, facilitating the involvement of NGOs in developing public policies, developing joint projects and actions which would correspond to the objectives of Moldova’s integration into EU, as well as Romania’s objectives in the context of cooperation policy for development.

**Beneficiaries of Mobility Fund are:**

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

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

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

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

For grants, calls for proposals are announced during the year.
Applications are received at office@fondromania.org.
Detailed information on procedures, application forms and the calendar can be found at - www.fondromania.org.

b. Department Policies for relations with Romanians from Worldwide

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

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

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

**Budget limits:** are not specified

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

20 http://www.dprp.gov.ro/
Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology
Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

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

7. Austrian Development Agency

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

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

Priority fields:
- Water supply and sanitation
- Vocational education for market demands

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

The synergy between priorities of the financing agency and priority initiatives of GEF SGP OP6:
- Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology

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

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

8. Swiss Development and Cooperation Office in Moldova

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

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

Priority themes:
- Water supply and sanitation
- Migration & Development
- Culture

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

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

Budget limits: up to 30,000 CHF

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

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

9. The Embassy of USA in Chisinau

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

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

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

Budget limits: 5,000 $ - 24,000 $

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

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

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

22 http://moldova.usembassy.gov/ro/democracy-grants.html
10. The Embassy of Sweden in Moldova

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

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

11. The EU Delegation in Moldova

EU Commission will have a number of programs during 2016-2018 for NGOs from Moldova in various fields, which will be announced on the official web site of the EU Commission.23

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

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

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

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

Areas of funding:

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

The way of financing:

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

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The procedure for financing has the following steps:

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

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

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

Co-financing procedures:

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

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