





# SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME RESULTS REPORT (FY 2017-2023)

**MOLDOVA** 

## COUNTRY REPORT CARD FY 2017-2023

PORTFOLIO PROFILE SINCE INCEPTION								
Country Programme Name	Moldova							
Year Started	2013							
	GEF	Non-GEF	Total					
Number of projects	72	6	78					
Grant amount committed	2,559,943	195,417	2,755,360					
Project level co-financing in cash	2,766,048	35,830	2,801,878					
Project level co-financing in kind	1,025,326	22,565	1,047,891					
Total co-financing *	4,045,186							

Source: SGP database as of 2023

committed

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023		
<b>Focal Area Distribution</b>	Focal Area Distribution (by completed projects)									
Biodiversity	1	1	5	2	3	2	1	15		
Climate Change	-	1	3	1	2	3	4	14		
Land Degradation	-	-	4	2	4	2	-	12		
Capacity Development	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	5		
Chemicals and Waste	-	-	-	3	1	2	3	9		
Total Projects Completed	2	3	13	10	10	9	8	55		

Source: Reporting by Country Programme as part of Annual Monitoring Process (2016-2023)

<sup>\*</sup> Total co-financing = Total project level co-financing (in cash and in kind) + Non-GEF grant amount

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
** Kindly note the total values 2016-2023 have undergon- time and/or inclusion of more results based on verification			e that supports a	ggregation of res	sults over time. 1	his includes rem	oval of duplicativ	e data over
PROGRESS TOWARDS FOCAL AREA O								
Biodiversity								
Number of biodiversity projects completed	1	1	5	2	3	2	1	15
Number of Protected Areas (PAs) positively influenced	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	5
Hectares of PAs	326	208	16	-	4	-	-	554
Number of biodiversity-based products sustainably produced	-	-	9	1	-	-	-	10
Number of significant species conserved	3	1	5	-	-	-	-	g
Number of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	_	_	8	1	2	1	_	12
Hectares of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	_	_	63	6	24	4	6	103
Climate Change						-	J	103
Number of climate change projects completed	-	1	3	1	2	3	4	14
Did the country programme address community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies? (yes/no)	-	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	-	4
Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated through completed projects	_	-	-	-	37	-	6	43
Number of typologies of community-oriented,								

15

locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and

replication

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Number of households achieving energy access co-benefits (ecosystem effects, income, health and others)	-	45	965	-	-	2,264	1,528	4,802
Breakdown of projects								
Low carbon technology and renewable energy projects	-	1	1	-	1	2	2	7
Energy efficiency solutions projects	-	-	1	-	1	3	4	9
Conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks projects	_	_	2	-	1	3	4	10
Land Degradation	<u> </u>						<u> </u>	
Number of land degradation projects completed	-	-	4	2	4	2	-	12
Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce			700	44	2.150	450		4.042
Number of community members	-	-	709	14	3,169	150	-	4,042
demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	-	-	709	14	2,374	150	-	3,247
Hectares of land brought under improved management practices	-	-	1,165	-	13	80	-	1,258
Number of farmer leaders involved in successful demonstrations of agro-ecological			700		226	110		4.055
Number of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating climate-smart	-	-	709	-	236	110	-	1,055
agroecological practices	-	-	2	-	4	5	-	11
Sustainable Forest Management								
Hectares restored through improved forest management practices	-	_	55		_	-	-	55
Chemicals and Waste								
Number of chemicals and waste projects completed	-	-	-	3	1	2	3	9

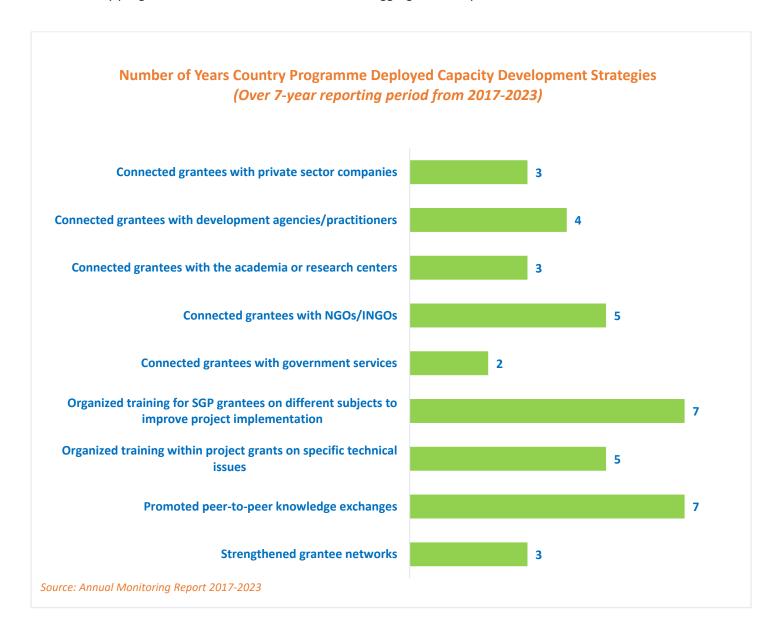
	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Solid Waste avoided from open burning (kg)	-	-	-	55,000	-	60,000	6,093	121,093
E-waste collected or recycled (kg)	-	-	-	45,406	70,000	-	126	115,532
Number of national coalitions and networks on chemicals and waste management established or strengthened	_	_	_	1	1	_	1	3
Community-Based Tools/Approaches Deplo	yed as Part o	of the Portfol	io	1	1	_	1	3
Organic farming	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	3
Solid waste management (reduce, reuse, and recycle)	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Development of alternatives to chemicals	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	1
Awareness raising and capacity development	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Capacity Development								
Number of capacity development projects completed	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	5
Number of civil society organizations with strengthened capacities	29	15	-	200	-	-	-	244
Number of people with improved capacities to address global environmental issues at the community level	62	76	-	342	-	-	-	480
GRANTMAKER PLUS								
CSO-Government Dialogue								
Number of CSO-government dialogues supported	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Number of CSO/CBO representatives involved in the dialogues	9	2	-	-	•	-	-	11
South-South Exchange								
Number of South-South exchanges supported	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Gender								
Number of gender responsive completed projects	2	3	11	10	10	9	8	53
Number of completed projects led by women	-	2	6	8	6	5	4	31
Programme Management: NSC gender focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	6
Indigenous Peoples								
Programme Management: NSC IP focal point (yes/no)	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	1
Youth								
Number of completed projects that included youth	2	3	11	7	6	6	8	43
Number of youth organizations	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	3
Programme Management: NSC youth focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	4
Persons with Disability								
Number of disabled persons organizations	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	3
BROADER ADOPTION (Scaling up, Rep	olication, Po	olicy Influe	nce, Impro	ving Livelih	oods)			
Projects replicated or scaled up	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	5
Projects with policy influence	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Projects improving livelihoods of communities	1	1	4	7	7	5	8	33
PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS								
Peer-to-peer exchanges conducted	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
Community-level trainings conducted	3	7	-	-	1	3	5	19
Number of projects monitored through field visits	4	12	11	8	10	8	8	61

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT								
National Steering Committee								
Number of NSC meetings occurred during the reporting period	5	4	6	5	3	2	3	28
Average number of NSC members that participated in each NSC meeting	5	5	4	4	4	5	7	5

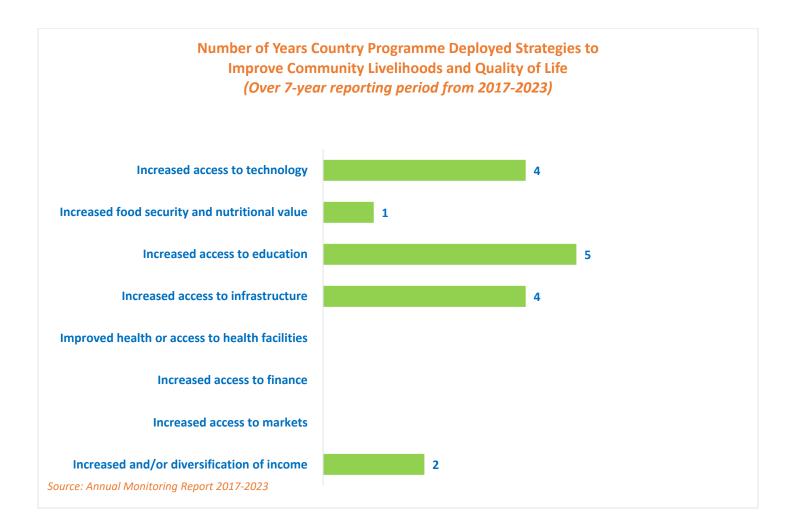
#### GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESULTS

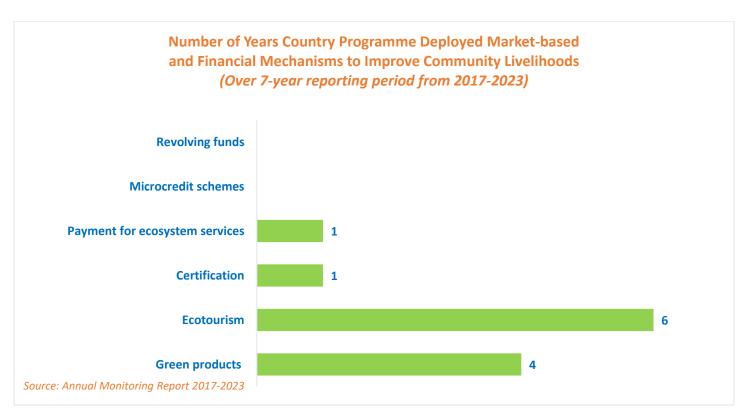
Interpreting the Green Bars in Graphs: The presence of green bars indicates the number of years that the country programme has achieved specific results. If a green bar is absent, it signifies that while the associated result is not observed in the country programme, it is still evident in the overall aggregated SGP portfolio.



## Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Gender Mainsreaming Strategies (Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)







### Number of Years Country Programme Addressed Sustainable Development Goals (Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)



#### **EVALUATIVE EVIDENCE**

**UNDP Independent Country Programme Evaluation: Moldova, 2021** 

• The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme, implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services with UNDP support, ensured the engagement of 56 environmental NGOs including support for their participation in policy dialogue platforms with the Government.

#### **EXAMPLES OF PROJECT RESULTS**

#### **Biodiversity**

SGP project in the Republic of **Moldova** addressed conservation of freshwater biodiversity in the *Dniester* River. Developed by a multi-actor working group, it has introduced measures to minimize anthropogenic sediment and pollution load to improve riverine habitat and increase the abundance of rare species of freshwater fish. Target results included the preparation of proposals to amend environmental legislation in the Republic of Moldova to: (i) improve the legal framework; (ii) monitor water quality and the state of aquatic biological resources; (iii) publish a guide on reproduction methods of rare fish species; (iv) develop a national aquaculture strategy; and (v) offer government subsidies to specialized companies and households to microchip fish under state protection. Using existing technologies for fish reproduction, the SGP project focused on practical techniques and local actions to breed the rare fish species in the *Dniester* River. In total, about 2 tons of juvenile fish were released into the river, comprising of 60% Tench (*Tinca Tinca*, sometimes referred to as the "doctor fish"), 15% European Catfish (*Silurus Glanis*), and 25% Zander (*Sander Lucioperca*). As bottom feeders, the Tench is often kept as an ornamental fish in ponds and waterways to keep them clean and healthy, while the Zander is known as a popular gamefish with anglers. The SGP project organized four training sessions on both banks of the *Dniester* with outputs including: (i) 142 local residents, local fishermen, and interested stakeholders trained in measures to conserve rare fish species; (ii) measures to provide the riverine population with both edible and economically important gamefish; and (iii) environmental legislation for freshwater fish species conservation introduced into public decision-making. (*Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2017-2018*)

#### Climate Change

In **Moldova**, a project titled "Smart solutions for smart communities" implemented by AO ECOSCUT raised awareness among the local community about ecological responsibility, supported capacity-building initiatives, particularly for young people, and developed and digitized tourist infrastructure in the Lunca Prutului region. The project initiated energy efficiency improvement in the village of Valeni by insulating the gymnasium building with natural wool in the fall of 2020. Photovoltaic panels, totaling 10 kW and 5 kW, were also installed on the gymnasium and Kindergarten No. 1 in Valeni, further integrating sustainable solutions into the village's infrastructure. An LED streetlighting system was implemented for energy efficiency, with support from Valeni City Hall to fund the completion of the LED system. Moreover, the project launched the first virtual guide platform called "ZONIZ Văleni" in Moldova. This platform promoted all the tourist attractions of "Văleni holiday village" and brought together various producers and guesthouse owners. A solar tree was installed in the village center, equipped with Wi-Fi and device charging capabilities. This innovative solution not only became a model for SMART City initiatives in rural areas but also served as a catalyst for the village's further development direction. Additionally, the project organized local community actions, such as the signing of the "Convention of Mayors for renewable energy and climate" in Valeni, as well as conducting workshops and summer camps to sensitize young people and students about the benefits of renewable energy.

Consequently, the increased domestic demand, coupled with the project's achievements, positioned *Lunca Prutului* as a prominent tourist attraction in Moldova from 2021 to 2022. The positive outcomes of the project were adopted by the *Lunca Prutului* Local Action Group for further implementation of a tourist/virtual guide platform across the entire region. (*Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2022-2023*)

#### **Chemical and Waste Management**

In **Moldova**, SGP supported grantee, *AO Asociatia pentru Valorificarea Deseurilor*, in a project aimed at empowering and encouraging the community to adopt sustainable and green practices by designing a separate network for the collection and recycling of hazardous waste such as WEE and batteries. 60 institutions were selected and benefitted from this project, and 160 dumps, two for each beneficiary, were purchased to store electronic waste. A map of collection points was also developed to increase and facilitate the number of citizens informed about the service and it has reported 50,000 views. Through this project over 70tons of e-Waste were collected and CO2 emissions were reduced by 100.8 tons.

Eco-friendly courses were also delivered to enhance the knowledge and practices of students, teachers and librarians in the field of e-Waste management, a guide has been elaborated for project implementation and 6 editions of the magazine 'Waste Management' were published. The country also participated in activities during the Environment Day event in 2019 and 2020. (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2020-2021)

#### **Capacity Development**

In **Moldova**, SGP supported a project to improve the performance of environmental information in the Republic of Moldova to comply with European standards. SGP Moldova worked with the *NGO AO Oikumena* to develop a public portal for environmental data, *spdm.oikumena.md*, that uses web-based, geographic information system (GIS) technology for the collection and dissemination of data. It can be used by NGOs and other community-based organizations to collect environmental data following both international and regional (INSPIRE) standards. In 2016, training sessions were conducted in Ungheni, Chisinau, and Balti, introducing and presenting the theoretical concepts of GIS, the relevance of the portal to environmental NGOs, and how to use it, to improve GIS capabilities at the community level. *AO Oikumena* is connected with other NGOs to expand the user base and support future users of the portal. This system improves NGOs and CBOs' capabilities to collect, process, and distribute environmental data they gather during the implementation of their environmental protection initiatives. The data collected is checked and validated by a portal administrator and is free and accessible to all stakeholders. Results have been significant for local communities and their ability to participate in decision- making at the policy level. *(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2016-2017)* 

#### **CSO-Government Dialogue**

In Guatemala, Jamaica, Haiti, Morocco, **Moldova**, Niger, Tanzania, Thailand, the dialogues were timed around global conventions and events such as UNFCCC and UNCCD COPs and aimed to help local communities, CSOs, indigenous people and other SGP constituents to meaningfully participate at the critical time as country positions were being developed. (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2016-2017)

#### South-South Exchange

In November 2021, SGP Belarus in cooperation with SGP teams in **Ukraine** and **Moldova** organized a two-day seminar in a hybrid form, sharing experience in youth participation in climate change mitigation. Young representatives of the NGOs in Belarus were invited to visit the eco-center which was built within an SGP project. The GEF/UNDP SGP, together with a team of experts, representatives of NGOs, businesses, and the state authorities prepared a number of presentations on SGP projects dedicated to youth, as well as a video on this topic. After the completion of the online part of the event, a quiz was conducted among the young participants for SGP project ideas involving young people in activities to tackle climate change. In total, 12 new ideas were received, among which the most notable ones were "Development of an online platform for green volunteers throughout the country", "Mobile school camp for planting trees", and "Youth teach each other". A few days after the seminar, the participants created a common group on Facebook to exchange experiences and project results, as well as for subsequent interaction. In the future, it is planned to hold such seminars twice a year and regularly organize travels to the participating countries to exchange experiences and create new project ideas. (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2021-2022)

#### Social Inclusion - Youth

In Moldova, a project completed by the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables (Alianta pentru Eficienta Energetica si Regenerabile) focused on smart energy solutions in Cantemir, a small municipality with approximately 5,000 residents in south Moldova. Solar collectors were installed in two kindergartens, which improved the quality and accessibility of hot water production. 303 children now have access to hot water all day round. During the day, children are able to often wash their hands. As a result, children do not get sick as frequently, and this year's attendance rate was almost 100%. In addition, last year, high school students of Cantemir began to study a new course - Energy Management that aimed to teach the practical applications of energy efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy sources. In class, students learned how photovoltaic panels work and measured how much energy various models with various capacities generate. They also learned about the usage peculiarities of solar panels, such as how the panels' direct or indirect exposure to sunlight affects the amount of energy produced. Together with experts, they used various professional equipment and gained knowledge of certain technical aspects that were usually only studied by students at specialized colleges or technical faculties. Following the feedback from the Educational Department of the Cantemir region, this subject would be included in the curriculum of local schools to further promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources (RES). (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2021-2022)

#### Social Inclusion – Persons with Disabilities

In **Moldova**, the selection criteria for households and social parameters helped the local coordinators to identify the families that were vulnerable, with low income or individuals with disabilities. SGP supported individuals with disabilities to participate in theoretical and practical courses on building solar panels at the best vocational school in Balti. Through which, the PWD beneficiaries socialized with the other beneficiaries, participated at all stages for building the solar panels. As final beneficiaries of solar technology, there were 3 people with disabilities who benefited. In households with at least one individual with disabilities, the solar energy utility was of great help to improve the economic situation of the household. Also, solar panels have been installed in social centers (such as the rehabilitation and social integration center "Hope"), Zorile village, Orhei district and within the social bathroom in Pirlita village and Falesti district. As a result, 70 elderly people, most of which with disabilities, benefitted from this support. The social bathrooms, especially, have been renovated, equipped with solar panels and handed over to the administrator of Pirlita village who committed to support the center, paying annually 30% of the incurred expenses. (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2017-2018)

Asociatia pentru Protectia si Restabilirea Echilibrului Ecologic "Pomul Vietii" led a SGP project in **Moldova** to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, to organize ecological lessons and to inform households on successful agricultural practices adapted to climate change. The objective of the community was to produce and use organic products in urban conditions, as well as to integrate the socially vulnerable groups and people with disabilities. The main idea of the project was to organize the production of organic fertilizer and use it for the year-round cultivation of organic products including onion, spinach, arugula, dill, parsley, lettuce, radish, and tomatoes. The grown products were to be used in the framework of a social project including people with disabilities in social activities, namely, people with mental disabilities in the preparation and delivery of meals to poor citizens. The implementation of the project helped reduce waste from the kitchen by 70% and enabled the vulnerable (poor and disabled) to have access to food products in good quality that are beneficial to health. (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2018-2019)

#### ALIGNMENT OF OP7 COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

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

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

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

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

UNDP-implemented Small Grants Programme is delivering integrated results at the country level supporting local level capacities aligned with multiple Multilateral Environmental Conventions. This includes support to work for CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), UNFCCC Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) and National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA), UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP), and localization of Sustainable Development Goals, amongst many others.

#### METHODOLOGICAL BASIS OF COUNTRY REPORT

- Results aggregations over time are only for completed projects.
- With SGP's rolling modality, results reflect all ongoing operational phases during the indicated period. Please refer to the total projects completed on the first page for information in this regard.
- The source of reported results is the annual monitoring process, which is part of the annual monitoring requirements for each country programme.

  Additionally, evaluative evidence sources have also been leveraged, if available for the country programme.
- This results report benefits from extensive quality assurance. All information across all countries in the portfolio is harmonized, verified, and evidenced before being reported. Several layers of this quality assurance have been implemented in the generation of this report and there are no result duplications across years. This point is important not only for a specific unit of measurement (i.e., indicator selected) but also for results aggregation across years in a given operational phase. Reported results include both direct and indirect global-environmental and socio-economic benefits. This is due to SGP's work in two key areas:
  - SGP works towards behavioural change at individual, organizational, and community levels. Social determinants that shape human interaction with the environment play an important role, especially at the community level, as sustainability and the continuation of environmental gains often depend on them. These factors include positive shifts in knowledge, attitudes, practices, social and cultural norms, and conventions. Such interventions shape not only demand but also communication between community leaders and other influencers in promoting the adoption of environmentally friendly behaviours and practices. Often, SGP projects have ripple effects that go well beyond the direct scope of the project, emphasizing the importance of measuring indirect impact.
  - o Encouraging Community Action for Environmental Change. For many years, SGP has focused on promoting and supporting local community groups to bring about broader and sustainable environmental change. This approach is a key aspect of SGP's work and recognizes the power of motivated community groups to create significant impact and drive positive transformation. Community group action refers to informal gatherings of individuals and organizations in the community who share a common belief and purpose. It involves taking practical steps over time to address environmental and socioeconomic challenges and creating positive change. This grassroots-level approach relies on the active involvement and empowerment of the community, with the initial efforts acting as a catalyst for further mobilization. By encouraging self-governance and involving those most affected by the issues, community action can extend its influence to more people in the community, underscoring the importance of measuring indirect impact.