

UNEP-DHI Centre
on water and environment



SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

Stage 1

Stakeholder Consultation Report

SDG 6.5.1, degree of implementation of IWRM

Moldova

July 2020

Stakeholder Consultation Report for SDG 6.5.1

Executive Summary

Travels were performed in the period of February 2020-March 2020 (before the pandemic period and in the period May-June/July) in relevant centers of the country: Balti (development region Nord/North), Ungheni (Development region Centru/Center), Cahul (Development region Sud/South) and autonomy region Gagauzia with the center in Comrat. Due to restrictive regime travels by car were performed each day because of the closing of the hotels and other public places. Total number of travelled days – 12. Two persons participated in field trips–GWP Moldova chair–Dumitru Drumea with assistance of Tatiana Belous – President of the GWP Moldova host institution NGO “ECOS”.

Main objective of the travels was organizing of local consultation events in order to collect relevant information from local stakeholders, analyzing of local plans/programs and other relevant papers for social and economic development (water related issues), capacities of local stakeholders to implement provisions of the IWRM, environmental related Directives of the EU (river basin management plans, activities on development of water infrastructure like irrigation, drinking water supply, WWTPs etc). On the base of obtained results the survey on SDG 6.5.1. in Moldova was developed and submitted by national SDG 6.5.1. focal point to relevant authorities of UNEP and GWP.

During the field trips GWP Moldova team had contacts with limited number of people because of restrictive measures introduced in the country, but it did not affect final results, because main necessary papers were available for analysis during the mission and allowed to complete the survey. It also allowed developing of relevant recommendations for further implementation of water related activities based on the IWRM provisions in future. Such recommendations are going to be discussed with a larger number of stakeholders after the end of restrictive measures with the use of target-oriented planning and preparing of relevant proposals for water management in the regions of the country.

Main activities performed by GWP Moldova team during consultation event in the Development agency Nord (Director Maria Prisacari):

1. Analysis of the development and implementation of regional programs and plans. In this context authorities expressed necessity and need in development of local infrastructure including water related one and facilitation of the private companies and citizen initiatives in its development and use.
2. Identification of proposals for further projects and activities, which could contribute to the implementation of the IWRM provisions in the activities of the Development Agency, implication of citizens and civil society in project development, water use etc
3. Evaluation of capacities of local stakeholders to implement water related management in practical implementation of actual projects developed in the region.
4. Discussion on issues to be developed to make IWRM implementation more efficient (fundraising, case-studies, experience exchange etc)

Regional stakeholders also expressed special attention to the development of the touristic network based on the use of local river network and water ecosystems. They also expressed commitment in development of management plans/activities/projects etc to support pollution reduction loads on water ecosystems and its sustainable use for touristic and other sectors development. In addition to it agency is going to organize training facilities in order to facilitate strengthening of capacities of local public and sectoral authorities to develop and implement water related projects in the region and cooperate with GWP Moldova/CEE in this domain.

During the field trip GWP Moldova team has analyzed plans for social and economic development for 13 administrative units with total population of around 1,130,000 people, which form the Nord Development

Agency region. It allowed the scoring for relevant items presented in the survey template to be evaluated and calculated and to have an efficient cooperation with the National SDG 6.5.1 focal point in Moldova.

Activities performed in the Development region Center (Director – Viorel Jordan). This region includes 13 administrative units of Moldova. The biggest one is town of Ungheni. Main activities performed:

1. Analysis of the Regional Operational Plan, which covers all administrative units of the region. According to the provisions of the plan around 1,300,000 people (total population is around 1 000 000 people) will be supplied with centralized water system (2017-2020) and thus contribute to the implementation of the IWRM provisions with relevant score presented for the survey.
2. Identification of next activities and proposals for future actions to implement IWRM in the region. This activity was performed based on the outcomes of the analysis of the plan and consultations with local authorities. Relevant proposals are summarized in the survey.
3. GWP Moldova has also proposed relevant training activities, which could be implemented in the region. These proposals are based on the use of materials/studies/planning papers etc developed under GWP CEE and in the frame of different projects like Integrated Drought Management Program (special interest) and also case-studies on moisture conservation.
4. Presentation of proposals for potential projects which could facilitate water management in the region based on the IWRM principles and relevant EU Directives. This could serve as a consultation tool for further planning of water activities in the region and GWP Moldova expressed commitment to contribute to relevant training and fundraising courses based on the materials developed under GWP CEE and international bodies like ICPDR, GEF, UNDP, etc.

Local authorities for the Development Agency Centru/Center expressed an interest in further development of regional cooperation (Romania), extension of networking and partnership with relevant stakeholders from EU, international agencies etc in development of water management practices, especially in such domains as waste water management, use of sludge dumps and constructed wetlands. Such interests could be covered by GWP Moldova in cooperation with GWP CEE countries and presentation of relevant case-studies in the frame of training activities, River basin Councils, etc.

Activities performed during consultation event in the Regional Development Agency Sud/South (Director – Maria Culeosov). This region includes 8 administrative units of Moldova and Gagauzia (autonomy region). Total population is around 600000 people. Agency is located in the Cahul town and hosts the oil terminal with capacity of around 2,5 mln tons/year with port facilities located at the confluence of the Prut river with the Danube.

1. Analysis of existed papers/plans/programs for social and economic development. Actually an informational center for business (including water management) development is going to be created. In this context main objectives for the activity of the center were analyzed and GWP Moldova proposed to develop training program in the field of water resources management and project preparing for facilitation of the activity of this unit in future.
2. During consultation events a special attention was given to the climate change issues. This region suffers from severe droughts each 3-4 years and local authorities as well as farmers would appreciate very much attraction of relevant practices to the region. As it was outlined during the consultation rational use of water resources and existed irrigation network is a key element in ration water use. GWP Moldova expressed commitment to prepare and present case-studies on best moisture conservation practices, which could be implemented in the region.
3. Analysis and discussions on main obstacles which could negatively influence implementation of the IWRM was also discussed and analyzed during event. Insufficient capacities of local stakeholders to implement IWRM were recognized as main concern in water resources management. Local stakeholders also presented issues, which they would like to be developed to improve water resources management in the region.
4. Special attention was given to the management of the first biosphere reserve area in Moldova “Prutul inferior/Lower Prut”, which is located in the southern part of the country. According to the opinion of different stakeholders this area could serve as a pilot one for development of the tourism

activities based on the water ecosystem services, organic farming and environmental protection. Wetland restoration activities were also part of the discussion as well as plans for afforestation of the ravine areas. In this context GWP Moldova has proposed organizing of the training activities and preparing of relevant project files to contribute to implementation of such plans.

Next steps

General recommendations which could be proposed on the base of the outcomes in preparing of the survey on SDG 6.5.1. where GWP Moldova could contribute

- Development of educational and training programs for different level of public, sectoral and civil society authorities in fundraising, development of project files, promotion of regional cooperation etc. Based on the results of consultation events organized to complete SDG 6.5.1 such activities will be very much welcome by local stakeholders and could be supported by relevant focal point (Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment)
- Organizing of the target oriented events in different parts of the country in order to facilitate IWRM implementation with preparing of the list of projects needed for this and identification of potential donors for theirs' implementation. Such events should be organized with involvement of main stakeholders and serve a forum for further discussions on implementation of the IWRM
- According to the opinion of local communities, climate change adaptation should become an important issue in management activities and attraction of best practices in management of droughts is a key element in implementation of the IWRM, especially in the southern part of the country.

Survey for the SDG 6.5.1 was prepared in close cooperation with the relevant focal point for Moldova and presented by the Ministry. GWP Moldova will continue activities with central and regional authorities dealing with water management on national and local level through preparing of project files, organizing of training and national dialog events. Development of the survey has contributed to further cooperation of GWP Moldova with different level of central, sectoral and public authorities in water management issues and activities.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of participants

Workshop participants

Name	Organization	Position	Email address
Radu Cazacu	Apele Moldovei	Deputy Director General	radu.cazacu@apele.gov.md
Maria Nedealcov	Institute of Ecology and Geography	Director	maria.nedealcov@yahoo.com
Vasile Socolov	Free International University of Moldova (ULIM)	Dean of the faculty	vasile.socolov@yahoo.com
Ecaterina Kuharuk	NGO Ecostrategii	Director	ecostrategii@yahoo.com
Victor Bujac	Apele Moldovei, EU Water Initiative Project	project manager	victor.bujac@euwipluseast.eu
Maria Prisacari	Development Region Nord	Director	
Viorel Jardan	Development region Center	Director	
Maria Culeosov	Development region Sud	Director	

Other stakeholders engaged (not in workshops)

Name	Organization/Position	Email address	Summary of inputs (e.g. question number(s), or full survey)
Elena Margineanu	Eastern partnership civil society platform	Margineanu.elena@gmail.com	Youth and civil society issues in water management. Consultation on involvement of youth organizations in water management
Elena Zubcov	NGO "ECOTOX"	elzubcov@mail.ru	Data on water quality and use of water resources from the Dniester river. Climate change adaptation programs in Moldova
Anatolie Risina	UNDP small grant program	anatolie.risina@gmail.com	Management plans for protected areas, civil society involvement
Aurel Lozan	WWF, Moldova	alozan@wwfcee.org	"Prutul de Jos" biosphere area, options for development
Constantin Rusnac	National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO	c.rusnac.md@gmail.com	International cooperation in river basin management planning, UN programs in water management, regional cooperation

Please note that this Annex is supplemented by information in Annex E of the SDG 6.5.1 survey instrument, which reflects on the level of engagement from different stakeholder groups.

Annex 2: Agenda

Consultation events were organized during urgency on public health due to the COVID -19 and agendas of meetings were performed to discuss main objectives for water management in each region as well as analysis of local papers/plans/documents/programs/projects for social and economic development. It allowed to estimate actual level of water management in the country and to discuss further steps for implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) issues in the country.



Agenda for the consultation event (workshop) to prepare SDG 6.5.1 survey on IWRM in Moldova

Consultation events were organized during period May-July 2020 in 3 Development regions of Moldova

Welcome	10:00	10:15	Dumitru Drumea
Objectives of the consultation event	10:15	10:45	Dumitru Drumea, Tatiana Belous
Analysis of papers for social and economic development (water management issues)	10:45	16:00	Dumitru Drumea, Tatiana Belous

During consultation meetings next papers were analyzed:

- Plans for social and economic development for each administrative unit of the Development region
- Ongoing water related projects
- Possible projects for development of water infrastructure
- Main obstacles for development of such projects
- Training needs
- Data collection and use

(consultation meetings had place in conditions of the pandemy and that is why presence of local people was limited as well as contacts with them. Anyway it did not influence data collection, analysis of existed papers, etc and finally preparing of the survey for SDG 6.5.1 in cooperation with national focal point and Ministry)