



Goal 7

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ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Civil Society and Private Sector Contribution to
Achieving the National Targets of MDG 7 in the
Republic of Moldova



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Many people have heard about or even are aware of the provisions of Millennium Development Goals. In 2000, Governments of member-states of the United Nations Organization took a number of commitments in terms of society development and poverty eradication. It is true that such commitments are under the Government's responsibility, still there is limited understanding of the role that each stakeholder from the society might play in order to bring its individual contribution to the process of development.

The survey under consideration is original due to the fact that through our analysis we attempted to open several parentheses in order to give the opportunity to remark the noticeable role played by civil society and business entities as contributors to development, namely to achieving the national targets of Millennium Development Goal 7 „Ensure a sustainable environment” (**MDG 7**). As a result of a review of the activities undertaken by the above-mentioned stakeholders at present, we may deduce their potential, maybe unvalorized, with a view to canalize their endeavours towards tangential sectors to national targets of **MDG 7** in order to reach the expected outcomes up to 2015.

As we know, the year 2015 is the deadline for reporting on the achieved results, but the Republic of Moldova still has arrears in terms of surface of forested land, water supply and sewerage, sanitation. In order to reach the established goals, there is need for comprehensive involvement of civil society organizations and of private sector, in partnership with central and local public authorities.

As we will see in the chapters below, there are many things to be redressed in these sectors and Government's concern should grow depending on the present situation. National targets of **MDG 7** are expressed in quantitative indicators, and the quality of environment components tangential to these targets is alarming, and could affect the environment sustainability. Consequently, the concern should concentrate on the quality of environment factors too, which might be ensured exclusively as a result of joint efforts of four development partners: development partners, public authorities, civil society, private sector.

From this perspective, besides developing sector policies, there is also need for developing and implementing policies intended to encourage civil society organizations and business entities to involve intensely in the process of realization of relevant activities for Millennium Development Goal 7 „Ensure a sustainable environment”.

This survey includes an overview of **MDG 7**, and of the situation in the respective field, by tangential sectors to national targets of **MDG 7**. Further, we will attempt to assess the contribution that civil society organizations might bring to achieving **MDG 7**, giving examples of relevant activities to this end. We will reveal the potential of civil society organizations from the perspective of involving in the achievement of national targets of **MDG 7**. Afterwards, we will analyze the level of private sector development in the fields relevant for **MDG 7**, as well as its contribution to ensuring a sustainable environment. In that context, we will describe some case studies which might serve as examples for the whole private sector. Finally, we will summarize the contents of the survey and make some recommendations for the efficient involvement of civil society and business entities in achievement of national targets of **MDG 7**.

All the above-mentioned issues will be thoroughly examined in the pages below.



INTRODUCTION

The human being, by its actions, contributes to all changes occurred in the society. Each of us has a contribution, either through individual actions as citizens, or through collective actions by the means of the role we play as authorities, civil society organizations, mass-media institutions, business entities, etc.

The way how we perceive and realize the processes has an influence on our decisions which have a direct impact on the state of affairs in the society, including on the environment. The consequences of such decisions may be visible anytime, in short, medium or long term, as the health condition and the degree of sustainability of our society, i.e. sustainable development, depend on the responsibility shown by each person either through individual, or collective decisions.

In 2000, 189 Governments of member-states of the United Nations Organization took the general commitments to reduce poverty and improve the situation in a wide spectrum of aspects of social, economic and environment fields. Such aspects have been generalized while defining the eight Millennium Development Goals which are to be reached up to 2015:

- Goal 1. Eradicate poverty and hunger*
- Goal 2. Ensure access to gymnasium education*
- Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women*
- Goal 4. Reduce child mortality*
- Goal 5. Improve maternal health*
- Goal 6. Fight HIV/SIDA and tuberculosis*
- Goal 7. Ensure a sustainable environment*
- Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development.*

The signatory states of the Millennium Declaration share a common vision, nevertheless the way how the goals are implemented and the progress are different.

Taking such commitments, Governments have also assumed the responsibility for developing policies intended to foster the achievement of goals within the time limits set by mutual agreement. Therefore, depending on the political will expressed afterwards, the progress done at some chapters complies with the defined targets, while in other – the progress is slow.

Awareness of the fact that the country's development depends on contribution of all stakeholders, including civil society organizations and private sector, would foster progress towards achieving the established goals. Government shall realize that strengthening the partnership with civil society organizations and business entities is an imperative for development. Encouraging policies aimed at such stakeholders would help build an area for achievement of the goals assumed by Government.

This survey is intended to analyze the potential of civil society organizations and of business entities as contributors to development, particularly to ensuring a sustainable environment, from the perspective of individual and/or collective activities.

The report is exclusively focussed on the analysis of the contribution of non-governmental organizations and or private sector to achieving the national targets of the Millennium Development Goal 7 – Ensure a sustainable environment.



Taking into consideration the present situation of environment components in the Republic of Moldova related to national targets, we will make a review of the activities conducted by civil society and private sector stakeholders, relevant for **MDG 7**, point out their potential, and determine the needs for intensification of their contribution to development.

The methodology used for conducting this survey includes questionnaires, individual interviews with representatives of public authorities, international organizations, civil society organizations and private sector. In addition to it, web resources were used to extract relevant information and to find examples of best practices of non-governmental organizations and business entities which had a direct or tangential impact on achieving the national targets of **MDG 7**. In the process of developing the survey, a significant contribution was brought by members of the working group consisting of representatives of central environment authorities, international organizations, civil society organizations, business entities, independent consultants to whom we express acknowledgment.

This analytical report consists of 5 chapters which analyze the potential for contribution of civil society and private sector to society development, from the perspective of the present situation of environment, focussing on relevant components for national targets of **MDG 7**, namely: biodiversity, water, waste.

Chapter 1: MDG 7 in the Republic of Moldova – general framework, makes a brief presentation of the targets, both in their international and national formulation. It also makes a review of the achievements obtained up to present in this field, with a short critical vision on the relevance of national targets formulation.

Chapter 2: MDG 7 – major trends and present situation in this field, describes the state of affairs in such sectors as forestry, protected areas, water resources and waste in the Republic of Moldova, with references to official sources presented in national reports submitted by specialized institutions.

Chapter 3: Role of civil society in achieving MDG 7, makes the analysis of the situation in the associative sector and points out the potential of civil society organizations as contributors to development through relevant examples for national targets of **MDG 7**. This chapter attempts to identify the needs for associative sector development from the perspective of valorisation of its potential.

Chapter 4: Role of private sector in achieving MDG 7, is intended to assess the contribution of business entities to development through basic activities conducted by them, through positive social externalities, corporate social responsibility, philanthropy and community investments made by representatives of private sector. This chapter uses the stricto sensu definition of „private sector” which refers to all private business entities whose primary objective is to gain a profit as a result of service provision, execution of works or manufacturing of goods. This definition excludes state and municipal enterprises, and joint-stock companies controlled by central or local government.

Chapter 5: Conclusions and recommendations, summarizes the survey’s investigations and makes recommendations for governmental, corporative or donor policies intended to maximize the chances for achievement of **MDG 7** within the established time limits.

Thus, the goal of the survey under consideration consists in analyzing the contribution of the associative and private sectors to implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 “Ensure a sustainable environment”.

The survey may be used as a benchmark for adjusting governmental, corporative and technical assistance policies from the perspective of setting favourable conditions for valorisation of the potential of civil society organizations and private sector, as important stakeholders for sustainable development of the society.



CHAPTER 1.

MDG 7 IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The international targets and indicators of Millennium Development Goals related to **MDG 7** „Ensure a sustainable environment” are transposed in the following formulation:¹

1. Integration of sustainable development principles into country policies and programmes; recovery of losses in natural resources;
2. Reducing the degradation of biological diversity due to significant diminution by the year 2010 of the rate of losses:
 - ◆ Share of forestland and share of endangered species
 - ◆ CO₂ emissions, total, per capita and per 1\$ PIB
 - ◆ Consumption of substances affecting the ozone layer
 - ◆ Share of the amount of fish in the limits of biological diversity
 - ◆ Share of the total used water resources
 - ◆ Share of terrestrial and maritime protected areas;
3. Halving the share of population without permanent access to safe drinking water and to primary sewerage systems:
 - ◆ Share of population using safe water sources
 - ◆ Share of population using improved sewerage systems;
4. Significant improvement by the year 2020 of the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers
 - ◆ Share of urban population in slums.

Based on these formulations, the Republic of Moldova established its national development targets which shall be embodied into the international context. The initial national targets of **MDG 7** were aimed at the following performance indicators:

5. Integration of sustainable development principles into country policies and programmes and reduction of the degradation of natural resources, increase of the degree of forestation from 10,3% in 2002, to 11% in 2006, to 12,1% in 2010 and to 13,2% in 2015.
6. Increase of the share of protected areas for conservation of biological diversity from 1,96% in 2002, to 2,1% in 2006, to 2,2% in 2010 and to 2,4% in 2015.
7. Halving by the year 2015 the number of people without permanent access to safe water sources. Increasing the share of population with permanent access to safe water sources from 38,5% in 2002, to 47,4% in 2006, to 57% in 2010 and to 68,5% in 2015.

¹ http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/mdg_goals/mdg7/, accessed on 20.04.2012



8. Halving by the year 2015 the number of people without access to improved sewerage and sanitation systems.

The largest share of targets, in the context of Millennium Development Goal 7, have been updated in 2007 as a result of crossing the first intermediary threshold in 2006. The only target which did not suffer any changes was the one related to ensuring the degree of forestation, as in 2006 the share of forestland was very close to the intermediary target established for that year, therefore, the initial targets established for 2010 and 2015 were considered as relevant. In the same time, there was a vertiginous growth of the share of protected areas for conservation of biological diversity in 2006 (4,65%), so that throughout one year were overcome not only the preliminary targets of **MDG 7** for 2006 and 2010, but also the final target for 2015, estimated at 2,4%. In that context, was taken the decision to maintain that share of protected areas up to 2015 and not to allow their degradation.

The target for increase of the share of population with access to safe water sources was slightly adjusted, taking into account the present possibilities of the Republic of Moldova in terms of investments for the respective sector. In the same time, the source of data was modified, as the data provided by the National Centre for Public Health were considered as more reliable than the ones of the National Bureau for Statistics. On the other hand, the initial target related to access of population to sanitation was over-evaluated, and some adjustments are required. It is important to mention that the First Millennium Development Goals Report had established targets only for sanitation indicator, without examining the indicators related to population's access to sewerage. Such a gap was filled and the required targets have been established. An optimistic scenario was drawn and according to it each household connected to aqueduct shall also have access to an adequate sewerage system².

The updated national targets have the following formulation:

1. Integration of sustainable development principles into country policies and programmes and reducing the degradation of natural resources. Increasing the degree of forestation from 10,3 % in 2002 to 12.1% in 2010 and to 13,2% in 2015.
2. Enlarging the share of protected areas for conservation of biological diversity from 1,96% in 2002, to 4,65% in 2010 and to 4,65% in 2015.
3. Increasing the share of population with access to safe water sources from 38,5% in 2002 to 59% in 2010 and to 65% in 2015.
4. Halving the number of people without access to improved sewerage. Increasing the share of population with access to improved sewerage from 31,1% in 2002 to 50,3% in 2010 and 65% in 2015.
5. Increasing the share of population with access to sanitation from 41,7% in 2002 to 51,3% in 2010 and to 71,8% in 2015.

From the perspective of the enlargement of forestland, the indicator showed a modest progress. In the period 2000 – 2008, the share of such land raised from 10,5% to 10,9%. Because of slow enlargement of forested land, optimization of budgetary expenditures in the context of economic crisis and growing budget deficit, there is little probability that intermediary and final targets at this chapter shall be achieved.

² http://www.undp.md/presscentre/2010/MDG%20Report%20II/index_rom.shtml, accessed on 20.04.2012



On the other hand, the situation is better in terms of achieving the target related to increase of the share of protected areas in order to conserve biological diversity. Both intermediary and final targets of this category have been achieved from the quantitative viewpoint, less from the qualitative perspective. Thus, at this moment, there is no proper management of the protected areas, and this fact has a negative impact on biodiversity in the respective areas.

The progress made in water supply and sanitation sectors is considered as a slow one. In 2009, the share of population with access to safe water sources amounted to 55%, while the target for 2010 was of 59%. Despite the rapid growth of the number of population connected to centralized water supply systems, there is a weak hope to achieve the intermediary target, because the investment costs are high the execution works last for a long period of time. On the other hand, achieving the final target of 65% by the year 2015 depends on the speed of national economy recovery and on the growth of budget revenues.

An important problem faced by the population of the Republic of Moldova is the construction, development and rehabilitation of the centralized system for wastewater collection and of wastewater treatment plants. As a result of the activities implemented in this sector, only 47,9% of population was provided access to improved sewerage systems in 2009. Slow construction of such systems generates a feeling of distrust in achievement of the intermediary target of 50,3% by the year 2010 and of the final target of 65% by the year 2015.

Even smaller progress was done in terms of access of population to sanitation services. This indicator did not suffer considerable changes, and reached in 2008 a share of 45,9% of population benefiting from sanitation services. No data are available concerning the year 2009, but the slow dynamics of changes suggest a small possibility of achieving the intermediary target of 51,3% and of the final target of 71,8%.

Nevertheless, integration of sustainable development principles in national policies and programmes is the most serious challenge for the Republic of Moldova. We may state that the Republic of Moldova does not have a clearly defined vision on sustainable development. The concept of development used by the Government while drafting and developing policies is strongly focussed on economic development, but consumption and protection of natural resources do not seem to be among the priorities. The recently drafted National Development Strategy „Moldova 2020” is an eloquent example of neglecting the commitments taken by the Republic of Moldova in order to achieve the national targets of **MDG 7**, as it focusses on seven priorities aimed at boosting the country's economic growth. According to the Strategy, environment protection activities will be correlated depending on budget revenues.

Governmental policies in the Republic of Moldova are still developed following a classical model of „economic development”, where environment protection was the last wagon of a train going nowhere.

This year, in the same context, under the patronage of the United Nations was held the third International Conference for Sustainable Development Rio+20 which raised relevant issues for „Green Economy and Poverty Eradication”. The participants in the Conference made a review of the progress done by each country in terms of integration of sustainable development principles into national policies, contributing in this way to poverty eradication. This event was for all nations an opportunity to revise its strategic development directions.

The humanity realizes now that Millennium Development Goals were in fact just the first step to changing the attitude of countries towards excessive consumption of resources and towards the huge gap between countries with a developed economy and poor countries. We realize that performance

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indicators assumed within the Millennium Development Goals are rather quantitative, to the detriment of the qualitative essence of the process. It is high time that Government assumes substantial responsibilities in terms of poverty reduction and implementation of policies intended to direct the nation on the way towards sustainable development.

Not long ago, many people asked themselves what would happen after the year 2015, i.e. after the deadline for achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals. As a result of debates held at Rio+20 Conference, it became obvious that new Sustainable Development Goals will be established with a view to set quality targets for humanity development and for development of member-countries of the United Nations, in particular. From this perspective, the Republic of Moldova should revise its potential for implementation of objectives, national policies, as well as the needs in this field, taking into account that we have arrears in achieving practically all national targets of **MDG 7**.

Promoting the concept of **sustainable development** would help understand this phenomenon and would result in a higher quality of environment components and of living standards, and it will responsabilize all stakeholders of the society in relation with present and future generations.



CHAPTER 2.

MDG 7 – MAJOR TRENDS AND PRESENT SITUATION IN THIS FIELD

This chapter reviews the quality of environment components relevant for national targets of **MDG 7** – Ensure a sustainable environment. The information submitted in this chapter makes reference to reports and public data, provided by the National Bureau for Statistics, the Ministry of Environment, National Centre for Public Health.

Such presentation is needed for making an overview on the state of affairs in this field, for identifying the weaknesses in data analysis while calculating the performance indicators of **MDG 7** targets, and for visualisation of niches for intervention of civil society organizations and private sector in terms of contribution to achieving **MDG 7**.

2.1. REDUCING CO₂ EMISSIONS AND THE STATE OF FORESTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Forests play an important role in the carbon cycle, both at national, and at global level. Therefore, the surface of forested land correlated with the level of carbon emission in the respective habitat is a very important issue. According to researchers, the Republic of Moldova should have a share of at least 15% of forested land. Such an index was established under the present conditions when no heavy industry companies cause a serious atmospheric pollution.

According to the data of State Tax Inspectorate, the major source for air pollution are mobile sources, such as road, railway, air, fluvial transport, which makes up nearly 89% of the total amount of emissi-

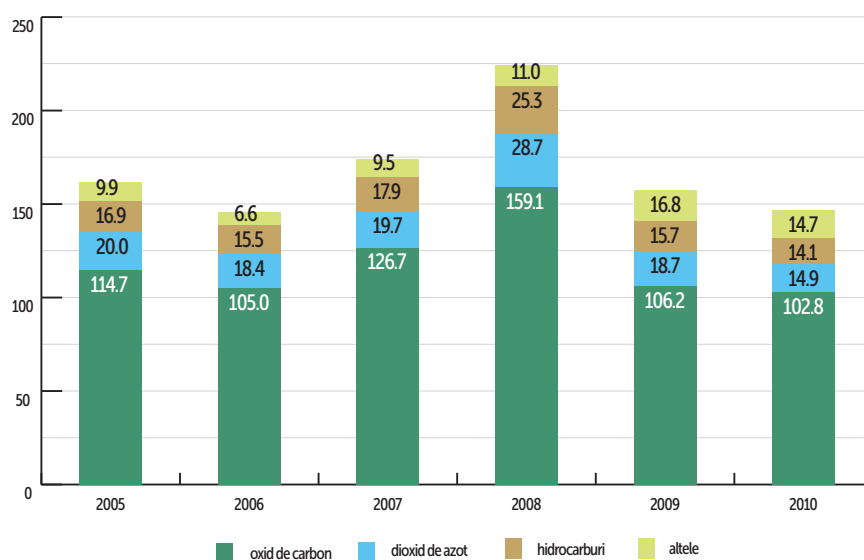


Chart 2.1.
Emission of noxious substances in atmospheric air by road transport

Source: Natural resources and environment in the Republic of Moldova. National Bureau for Statistics. 2011. (page 44)

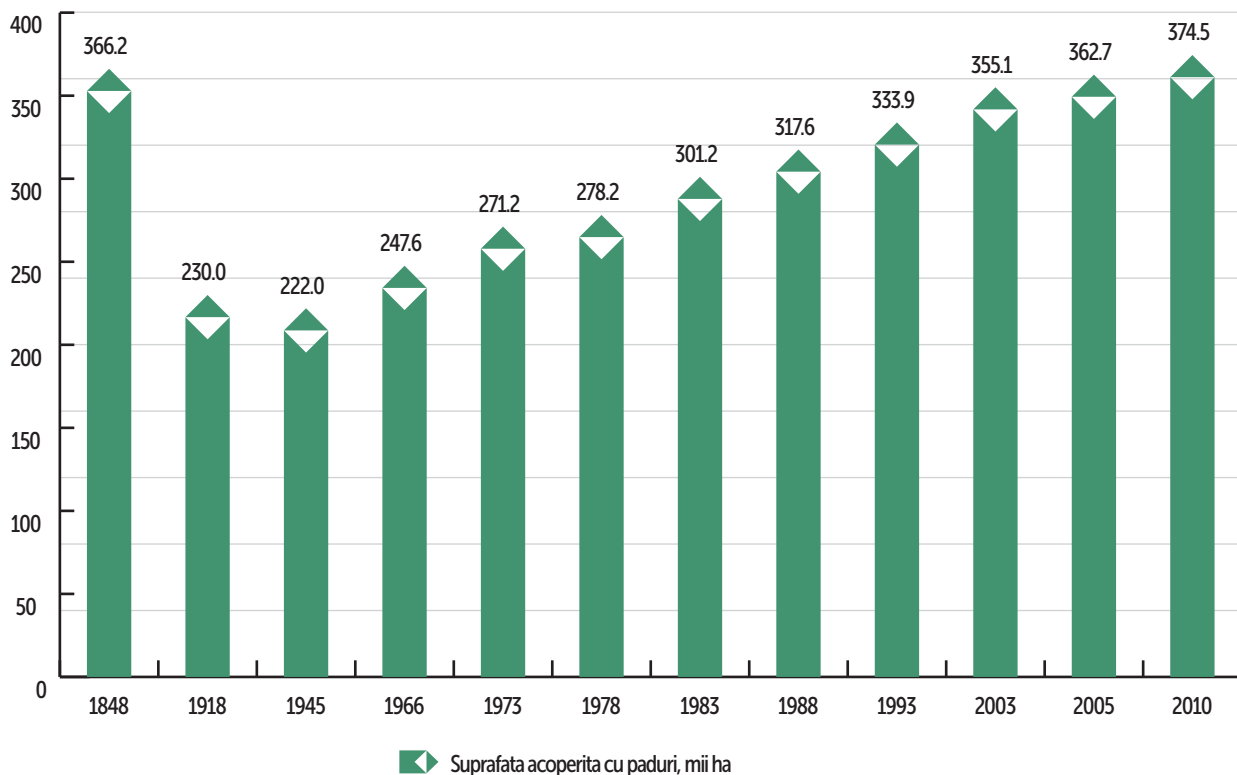
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ons. Among them, road transport is the greatest polluter of atmospheric air with a share of pollution of 93,3% among the mobile polluting sources. Such sources of pollution emanate huge emissions of hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide, nitric and sulphur oxides, etc., exhaled depending on various factors: quality of the fuel, technical condition of the vehicle, number of transportation units, age of vehicles, etc. Despite the trend to decrease the noxious emissions coming from mobile sources over the past years, they still remain at a high level (fig. 2.1).

As a result of the analysis of the data about emission of toxic substances into atmospheric air, we can recommend policy improvements in the field of road transportation. It is noticeable that in the past years were imposed restrictions to importation of used cars more than 7 years old, but it is just the first step towards reduction of noxious emissions. Budgetary-fiscal policy undertakes periodical increases of excises on importation of motor vehicles aiming at reduction of the imports of used vehicle, nevertheless the number of registered cars is constantly growing, having reached in 2010 the number of 556.928 transportation units, including motor vehicles for transport of goods, autobuses, minibuses and cars. In such a situation, it is recommended to start promoting gradual application of European emission standards (EURO 2, 3, 4, 5) for all categories of automotive vehicles. In addition to it, it is also recommended to promote hybrid and electric vehicles. All these issues are covered by the National Environment Strategy 2012-2022, which is now being drafted.

Chart 2.2.
Dynamics of the surface of forestland



Source: Situation of environment in the Republic of Moldova in 2007-2010. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Institute for Ecology and Geography. 2011. (page 106)



It is welcome to share best practices of neighbouring countries, such as Romania, for example, which succeeded to remove high emission vehicles from the road as a result of implementing the nationwide scrappage programme „Rabla”.

Coming back to national targets of **MDG 7** aimed at increasing the degree of afforestation from 10,3% in 2002 to 12,1% in 2010 and to 13,2% in 2015, we find out that the Republic of Moldova has done modest progress towards this direction. The central authority in charge of forestry is „Moldsilva” Forest Agency, subordinated to Government of the Republic of Moldova and vested to promote state policy in terms of enlargement, regeneration, conservation, ecologic reconstruction, rational use of forests, guard, protection, development of national forestry and cynegetic resources. “Moldsilva” Forest Agency promotes state silvicultural policy aimed at implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Development of Forestry Sector in the Republic of Moldova, of State Programme for regeneration and afforestation of forestland, of the Programme for exploitation of new areas and for improvement of soil fertility, at development of forest and rural tourism, development of apiculture.

Forest resources of the Republic of Moldova include the resources of forestland and vegetation of the areas outside it. According to the data of the Land Cadastre¹ on 01.01.2010, the surface of forest areas was estimated to 418,9 thousand hectares. The largest share of the forest areas (86,4%) is state-owned, another share is in the public property of administrative-territorial units (13,0%) and only 0,6% of them is private property. The surface of forestland is estimated to 374,5 thousand hectares or 11,4% of the country’s territory, including 326,4 thousand hectares in state ownership (87,2%), 45,7 thousand hectares in public property of administrative-territorial units (12,2%) and 2,4 thousand hectares of private property (0,6%). Centennial forests spread on an area of about 6000 hectares, i.e. 1,6 % of forestland.

The percentual share of afforestation showed a trend to slight increase over the past seven years due to implementation by „Moldsilva” Forest Agency of „Soil conservation in Moldova” and „Developing community forestry sector” projects (Chart 2.2.).

Nevertheless, the prognosis for achieving the target of 13,2% of the surface of forestland by the year 2015 is rather pessimistic. Because of huge budget deficit and of economic problems faced by the country, Government did not allocate any financial sources for plantation of new forests in 2010 – 2011, retarding the enlargement of the surface of forestland. Instead, the decision was taken to focuss on conservation of existing plantations.

Table 2.1.
Dead forestry

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total	8,2	28,6	114,1	31,3	33,5	15,0
Including forests damaged by:						
wild beasts	7,7	-	-	-	-	-
unfavourable weather conditions	0,5	28,6	114,1	29,3	29,1	15,0
forest fires	-	-	-	2,0	4,4	-

Source: Natural Resources and Environment in the Republic of Moldova. National Bureau for Statistics. 2011 (page 24)

1 Land Cadastre of the Republic of Moldova on 1st of January 2010. Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre of the Republic of Moldova. 2010



The quality of forests is a very important issue for forestry development. It is essential to enlarge the area of plantations with local species, and to plant new areas. Now, tens of hectares are damaged every year because of livestock grazing on new plantations, or because of drought (Table 2.1).

2.2. STATE OF THE PROTECTED AREAS

At present, the Republic of Moldova has 307 state-protected areas with the total surface of nearly 157,6 thousand hectares, what makes up 4,65% of the country's territory. Among them, five nature reserves, including three reserves intended to conserve forest sectors (Codrii, Plaiul Fagului, Padurea Domneasă) – with the total area of 16,851 hectares and two reserves intended to protect water and paludal vegetation (the Lower Prut, Iagorlyc) – with an area of 1,527 hectares. Natural reserves are meant to conserve the natural state of typical or special areas, with the totality of their structural components – flora, fauna, habitats, ecosystems, landscapes.

According to the National Strategy and to the Action Plan in the field of Conservation of Biological Diversity², in order to ensure the protection of 50% of the biota in Moldova and to ensure a sustainable balance in functioning of ecosystems, it is necessary to protect at least 10% of the country's surface. The share of state-protected areas was enlarged over the past years, being now estimated at 4,65% of the country's territory, nevertheless, this index positions the Republic of Moldova behind many European states, such as Romania, Ukraine and, obviously, Germany, Austria, etc.

To point also out that nearly 75 thousand hectares (46,5%) of the total surface of state-protected natural areas are located inside state-owned forestland, what means that they are managed by “Moldsilva” Forest Agency, while the rest of them are managed by local governments and by the Academy of Sciences.³

Because of the fact that many reserves are not delimited, and other have degraded throughout the years, the network of protected areas needs to be re-evaluated; moreover, some nature reserves should be enlarged, and forest reserves should extend.

To mention that the Republic of Moldova is the beneficiary of the UNDP project “Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System in the Republic of Moldova” implemented in 2009–2013 with the financial support of the Global Environment Facility. The expected project's outcomes are revalidation and mapping of the existing protected areas and establishment of the National Park Orhei. In 2010, 141 protected areas were revalidated and proposals were made for including 18 new areas in the list of protected areas. Now, the maps for each protected area are being developed.

2.3. WATER MANAGEMENT

Prior to approaching the issue of the share of population with access to safe water sources and to improved sewerage, it is relevant to review the situation and management of water resources in the Republic of Moldova.

2 Parliament Resolution no. 112 of 27.04.2001 on the approval of the National Strategy and of the Action Plan in the field of conservation of biological diversity. <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=307364>

3 Environment situation in the Republic of Moldova in 2007–2010. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Institute for Ecology and Geography. 2011 (page 119). http://www.mediu.gov.md/images/documente/starea_mediului/rapoarte/nationale/p1_Raport_RO-IEG_2007-2010.pdf

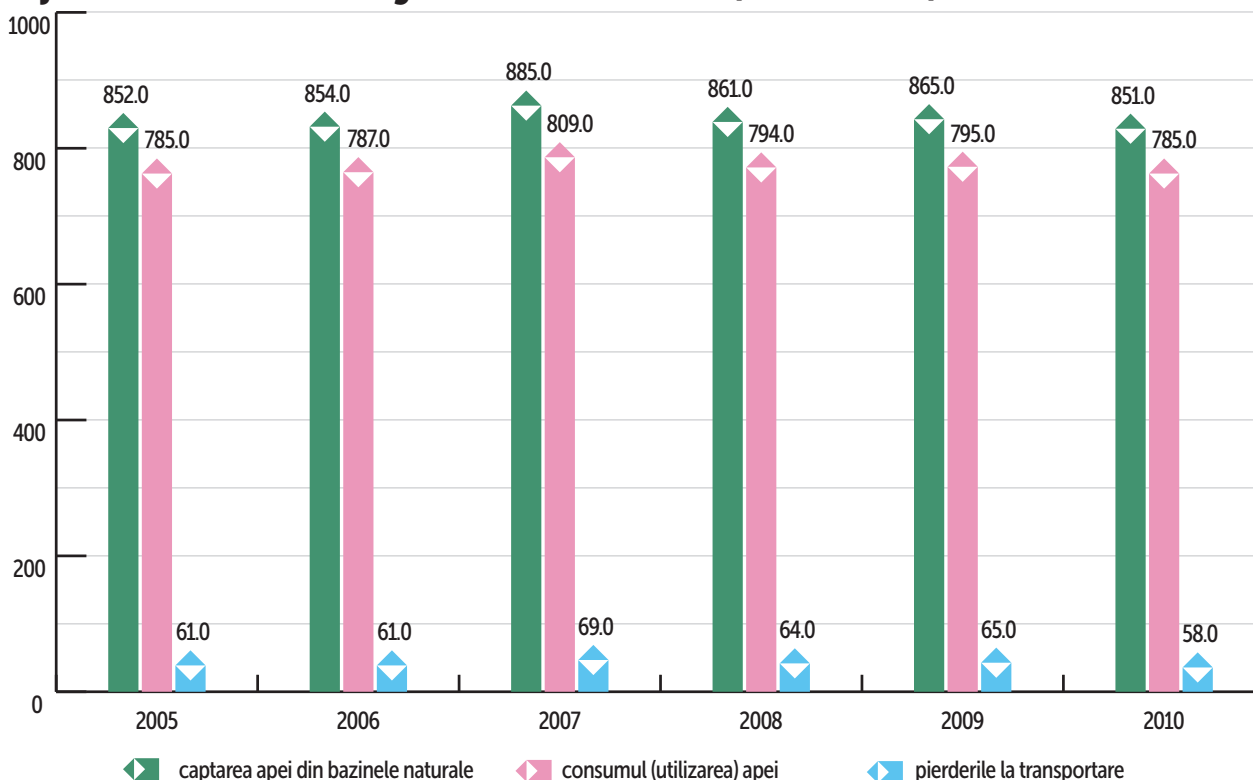


The hydrographical network of the Republic of Moldova consists of 3,621 rivers and streams with the total length of over 16 thousand kilometres, 4,143 natural and artificial lakes with the total area of 41 thousand 671 hectares, situated in river valleys or built on riverbeds, groundwaters with 4,810 artesian wells and nearly 166,542 wells and springs fed by phreatic water. The most important aquatic channels are the Dniester and the Prut flowing from Northwest to Southeast with the length of 660 km and, respectively, 695 km, on the territory of Moldova, and with a basin area of 19,070 km² and, respectively, 7,990 km². The largest natural lakes are situated in the course of the Prut (Beleu – 6.26 km², Dracele – 2.65 km², Rotunda – 2.08 km², Fontan – 1.16 km²), of the Dniester (Byc – 3.72 km², Roş – 1.6 km², Nistru Chior – 1.86 km²). The largest artificial lakes are Costeşti – Stynca on the Prut (59 km²), Dubăsari on the Dniester (67.5 km²) and Ghidighici on the Byc (6.8 km²). This water network ensures regularisation and evacuation of surface flows, and is used for drinking and industrial water supply, irrigation, navigation, as well as for other ends. Among the surface water sources, the Dniester is the most important one, with 83% of supply, the Prut – 1.8%, other sources of surface water – 0.2%. Groundwater resources come from over 4,810 artesian wells, about 166,542 mining wells and 2,545 springs (80% of them have been subject to arrangement works), and provide about 15% of the total amount of consumption needs⁴.

The Ministry of Environment is the major authority in charge of developing and implementing policies, strategies, action plans for environment protection, management and use of natural resources, and waste management. The Ministry of Environment subordinates a number of institutions

Chart 2.3.

Major indicators concerning the use of freshwater (million of m³)



Source: Natural resources and environment in the Republic of Moldova. National Bureau for Statistics. 2011. (page 30)

4 Yearbook of State Environmental Inspectorate, 2010. Environment protection in the Republic of Moldova. Ministry of Environment, State Environmental Inspectorate. 2011. (page 36). http://www.mediu.gov.md/images/documente/starea_mediului/rapoarte/nationale/p6_Anuarul-IES-2010.pdf

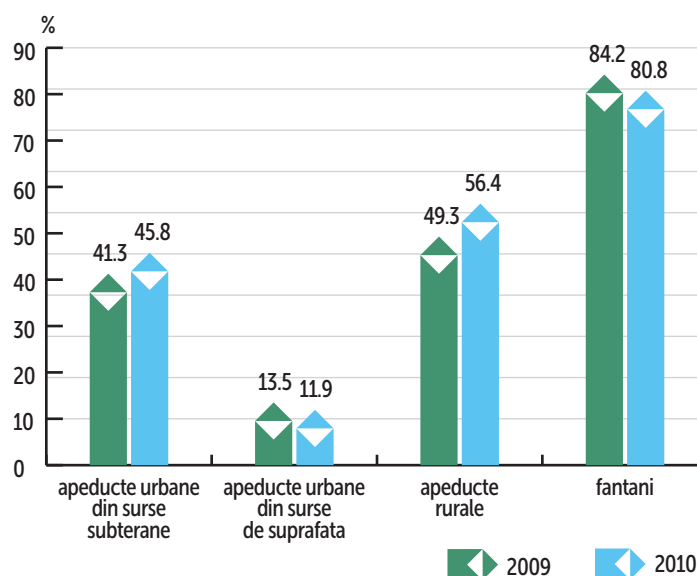


involved in policy development and implementation in this field, such as “Apele Moldovei” Water Agency, State Hydro-meteorological Service, Geology and Mineral Resources Agency, „Hydro-Geological Expedition of Moldova” State Company, Institute for Ecology and Geography, etc. “Apele Moldovei” Water Agency under the Ministry of Environment is the public authority in charge of implementation of state policy in the field of water resources management, hydro-irrigation, water supply and sewerage.

The Republic of Moldova has water reserves, but because of deficient and unbalanced water management, it cannot face the new challenges of allocating resources, efficientization of services for protection of aquatic ecosystems. The data of the National Bureau for Statistics show that there are huge losses of water in water supply facilities of urban communities, as well as in irrigation systems (Chart 2.3). During the period 2005-2010, the situation did not change considerably, an average volume of 861 million m³ of water was drawn, with an average consumption of 793 million m³, and the transportation losses amounted on average to 63 million m³, i.e. 7.32% of the total amount of water. In 2010, the losses related to water transportation were reduced, being estimated to 58 million m³, i.e. 6.82% of the total volume of drawn water⁵.

Chart 2.4.

Share of water tests noncompliant with standard sanitary-chemical parameters



Source: Natural resources and environment in the Republic of Moldova. National Bureau for Statistics. 2010. (page 30-31) and Natural resources and environment in the Republic of Moldova. 2011. (page 35-36)

Table 2.2.

Territorial distribution of water supply systems

Amplasamentul	Number of water supply systems		Length of aqueducts, km	Water supply per capita, m ³
	total	operational		
Total	644	562	8036,2	15,9
Chisinau municipality	21	21	1771,0	48,3
Northern part of the country	125	104	1721,5	5,1
Central part of the country	262	223	1965,9	4,3
Southern part of the country	191	169	1754,9	6,4
Gagauzian territorial-administrative unit	30	30	763,3	8,5

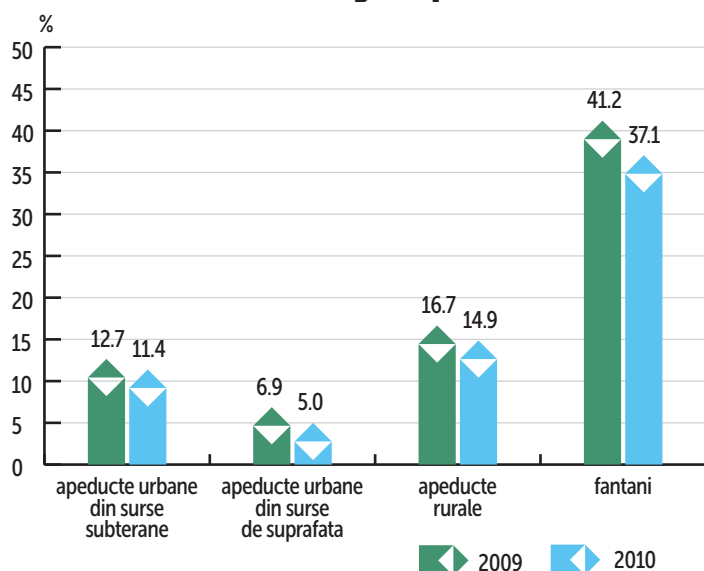
Note: 15 water supply systems, with the length of 59,6 km, under the subordination of SE “Moldovan Railway”, are not distributed by districts

Source: Situation of environment in the Republic of Moldova in 2007-2010. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Institute of Ecology and Geography. 2011. (page 91)

⁵ Natural resources and environment in the Republic of Moldova. National Bureau for Statistics. 2011. (page 30) <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=350&id=3242>



Chart 2.5.
Share of water tests noncompliant with standard microbiological parameters



Source: *Natural resources and environment in the Republic of Moldova. National Bureau for Statistics. 2010. (page 30-31) and Natural resources and environment in the Republic of Moldova. National Bureau for Statistics. 2011. (page 35-36)*

In the whole country, there are 644 water supply systems, with a total length of 8,036.2 km, but only 562 aqueducts are operational⁶. The average volume of water supply per capita is 15.9 m³, varying from 4.3 m³ (in the Central part of the country) to 48.3 m³ (in Chisinau municipality) (Table 2.2).

The quality of water in wells, as well as in many water supply systems throughout the country does not comply with the standards for “drinking water”. The conformance of the quality of water coming from underground sources and distributed through urban and rural aqueducts is alarming. According to the data of Public Health Centres, in 2010, water testing showed that a large share of water coming from underground sources is noncompliant with standards:

45.8% in urban aqueducts and 56.4% in rural aqueducts, i.e. a higher share than in the previous year (Chart 2.4 and 2.5). The situation is particularly serious in the districts of Anenii Noi, Dondușeni, Hâncești, Fălești, Glodeni, Căușeni, Ciadâr-Lunga, Comrat, Glodeni, Drochia, Cimișlia, Sângerei, Bălți municipality, where such an index varies from 84 to 100%.

Insalubrity of communities because of the absence of a proper system of waste management and violation of elementary norms for protection of water sources are the major reasons for degradation of the quality of well water, which is a source of water for nearly 75% of rural population. The share of well water tests noncompliant with sanitary-chemical parameters reached the level of 80.76% in 2010.

Water treatment systems are physically and morally worn out, as they have been operating for over 25-30 years without any renovation and do not comply with the requirements towards treatment technologies. In 1990, there were 304 stations for wastewater treatment in the country, and now less than 50 of them are still operating⁷. Partly or totally untreated wastewater is discharged in surface waters, causing excessive pollution. Throughout the past eight years, the share of population connected to sewerage in relation with the share of people connected to water supply system does not overpass 39% (Chart 2.6).

To mention also that management of water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment systems is ensured in the Republic of Moldova by local governments through municipal enterprises or pu-

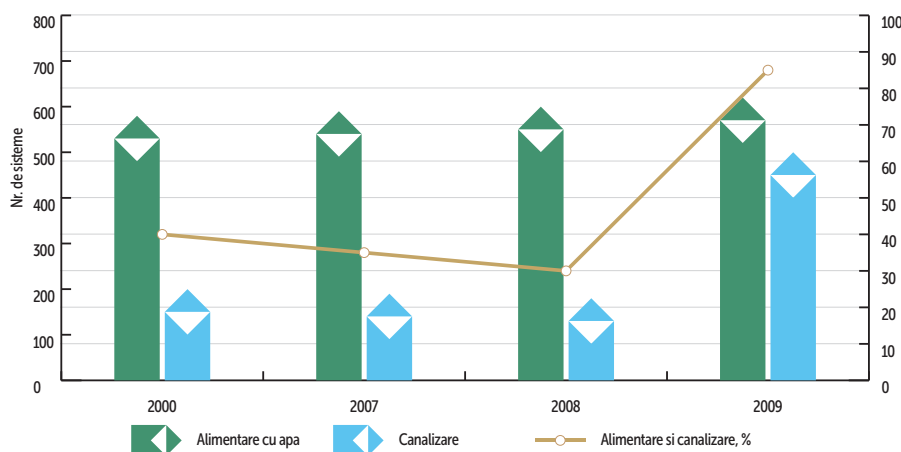
6 Situation of environment in the Republic of Moldova in 2007-2010. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Institute for Ecology and Geography. 2011. (page 91)

http://www.medi.gov.md/images/documente/starea_mediului/rapoarte/nationale/p1_Raport_RO-IEG_2007-2010.pdf

7 The situation of environment in the Republic of Moldova in 2007-2010. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Institute for Ecology and Geography. 2011. (page 92). http://www.medi.gov.md/images/documente/starea_mediului/rapoarte/nationale/p1_Raport_RO-IEG_2007-2010.pdf



Chart 2.6.
Number of water supply and sewerage systems



Source: *The situation of environment in the Republic of Moldova in 2007-2010*.
Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, Academy of Sciences of Moldova,
Institute of Ecology and Geography. 2011. (page 92)

level of operation, their equipment is outdated, energy consumption is excessive, automatic devices are not operational, they occupy large areas, are inefficient and do not respond to environment protection requirements and to desiderata for improvement of living standards through provision of adequate water supply and sewerage services.

To point out that the Republic of Moldova has not taken any commitments related to water supply sector, except the ones established in **MDG 7** "Ensure a sustainable environment", namely, to increase the share of population with access to safe water sources up to 65% by the year 2015 and to increase the share of population with access to improved sewerage up to 65% by the year 2015.

The access to water supply and sewerage systems makes the comfort of population, therefore it can be considered rather a social, than an environment objective. Environment indicators shall refer to quality and quantity of water required to ensure the people's needs in accordance with the standards. On the other hand, water quality is influenced by pollution sources derived mainly from anthropic activities, including from sewerage and water treatment systems. In such conditions, functionality of wastewater treatment plants is very important for reducing the pollution of surface water and of environment, in general. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the condition of sewerage systems and the degree of operation of wastewater treatment stations shall be taken into consideration while calculating the indicator concerning the access of population to improved sewerage. It is important to take into account that the costs of treatment of the water supplied through aqueducts depend on the quality of water sources. Moreover, the condition of water supply systems has an impact of the amount of losses within the network. Or, all the above-mentioned factors play a significant role in establishing the tariffs for water supply and sewerage services, and have an important impact on population's income.

In conclusion, water resources management in the Republic of Moldova is far from being sustainable and requires efficientization and harmonization. It is important to enforce the provisions of Water



Law no. 272 of 23.12.2011⁸, recently approved by Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, concerning integrated management of water resources at the level of the aquatic basin, what means satisfaction of the needs of the inhabitants of that basin, and conservation of water resources. Moreover, strengthened efforts shall be put to set up the tools for enforcement of this policy document, both at regulatory, and at institutional level.

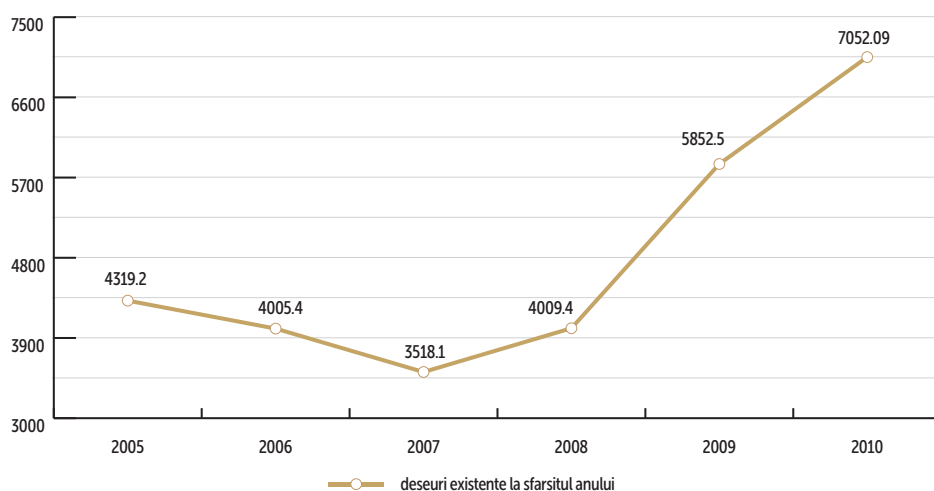
Taking into account the situation of water resources in Moldova, overlooked above, active involvement of all stakeholders is crucial for recovery of the situation and for further reduction of pressure on ecosystems, for ensuring a sustainable environment.

2.4. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management in the Republic of Moldova is still a difficult and an unsolved problem. Although environment protection is regulated by a wide series of legislative and normative acts, the legal aspects of waste management leaves a lot to be desired, as the legal and institutional frameworks need to be restructured, and there is need for establishing an integrated system for waste recycling and recovery.

At present, the issue of waste management gets more and more serious, because of the growing quantity of waste and its diversity, as well as because of the pronounced negative impact of waste on environment. Urban and industrial community development, alongside with general rise of living standards generate a growing amount of waste (Chart 2.7).

Chart 2.7.
Amount of available waste (thousands of tons)



Source: *Natural resources and environment in the Republic of Moldova*.
National Bureau for Statistics. 2011. (page 53)

Because of the variety of organic and non organic substances contained in waste, the process of aerobic and anaerobic degradation of microorganisms is difficult and, in case of non-controlled evacuation or storage, it causes soil, air and water pollution. Ecosystems from the neighbourhood of waste stores are also affected and may cause serious disequilibrium in trophic chains.

Waste generation is to a large extent the result of the inefficient use of raw materials and energy in production processes what leads to economic losses and additional expenditures for waste collection, processing and liquidation. The problem of waste management in the Republic of Moldova got a distinct contour after the diversification of the spectrum of household goods, including of packaging.

⁸ <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=342978>, accessed on 10.05.2012



In fact, the principle of sustainable development in the field of waste management provides for: reduction of waste quantity, including the hazardous waste; waste usage as secondary raw materials; inhumation of unrecoverable waste without causing environment damages; usage of combustible waste as alternative fuel for production of electric and thermal energy.

Waste management is a component part of all environment protection programmes. Solving waste management problems contributes to achieving environment protection objectives. Waste management problems can be properly solved if concrete environment standards are established for regulating waste treatment activities.

Local government authorities play the major role in waste management at local level, and their performance depends to a large extent of their capacity to organize the work and to involve business entities and civil society in raising the required funds for implementing an adequate waste management system. Local governments can take individual decisions on how to set up their own waste management system, through municipal enterprises or concession of sanitation services to specialized business entities. Being aware of the imperative to set up waste management systems, local government authorities are now in search of solutions to this problem. There are some attempts to start waste collection and transportation processes, but no waste storage infrastructure is available at this moment.

The data about waste management in the Republic of Moldova make a distinction between two important waste categories: municipal waste and industrial waste.

Municipal waste is the totality of garbage generated in urban and rural areas by households, institutions, commercial units, business entities (household and similar waste), street waste collected in public places, green areas, streets, parks, waste coming from construction-demolition and dirt from wastewater purification stations. The amount of solid household waste in rural and urban areas varies from 0.5 to 0.9 kg/inhabitant/day⁹.

Rural waste is different from urban waste by its composition and quantity. Waste generated in rural communities was not an object of waste statistics in the Republic of Moldova up to now, as it is difficult to track it, because of the absence of sanitation public services in communes and villages. The quantity of rural waste may be assessed approximately.

The aggravation of waste problem, mainly of solid household waste, is caused by the defective methods used now for various stages of waste treatment.

The most popular method for household waste treatment is storing it on soil, what is a serious source for soil and groundwater pollution. Waste discharge in landfills is still the basic way for waste removal.

Up to present were inventoried 1,868 solid household waste stores which occupy an area of 1,347.07 ha¹⁰, among which:

9 Yearbook of State Environmental Inspectorate – 2010. Environment protection in the Republic of Moldova. Ministry of Environment, State Environmental Inspectorate. 2011. (page 67).

http://www.mediugov.md/images/documente/starea_mediului/rapoarte/nationale/p6_Anuarul-IES-2010.pdf

10 Yearbook of State Environmental Inspectorate – 2010. Environment protection in the Republic of Moldova. Ministry of Environment, State Environmental Inspectorate. 2011. (page 67).



- ◆ 13 solid household waste stores built and arranged according to execution projects endorsed by State Ecological Expertise. Waste polygons are managed by local public services and local government authorities;
- ◆ 1,011 stores for waste storage and neutralisation are built without any execution project. Such waste stores are not subject to any waste control system. Minutes related to selecting the area are coordinated with the concerned local bodies;
- ◆ 844 stores do not comply with sanitary-ecological requirements, as their location contravenes to geological and hydrological conditions, being situated in dangerous, insalubrious areas, generating a danger for underground and surface water pollution.

Most waste stores are overloaded and unsupervised by skilled personnel. Therefore, a share of waste is stored outside the allowed areas, extending in such a way the store's surface. In many communities, there are no authorized landfills, and projects for construction of solid household waste stores are very slow.

In the Republic of Moldova, biodegradable waste is not collected separately and is stored together with municipal waste. Packaging waste forms a large share of municipal and similar commercial, industrial, etc. waste which is collected separately. Separate solid waste collection is a not general practice in the country yet. A few number of waste sorting attempts are made sporadically, mainly on the initiative of business entities or civic groups, including civil society organizations. Such pilot-projects are particularly focussed on collection of PET (plastic bottles). At present, no data are available about the share of this kind of waste in the total amount of sorted waste. The structure of packaging waste by types of materials is as follows: food waste – 56%, paper and carton – 7%, plastic – 12%, glass – 7%, metal – 4%, wood – 3%, textile – 5%¹¹.

The whole quantity of package entering the country is supposed to become waste. The major objective of package and packaging waste management consists, first of all, in preventing generation of packaging waste, then reuse and recycling of packages, alongside with other forms of packaging waste recovery with a view to reduce the quantity of waste eliminated for final storage. Legislation in force shall compel manufacturers and importers of package and packed products to reduce the amount of packaging waste as a result of optimization of technological processes through lowering the quantity of materials used for package production and producing recyclable packs.

Municipal waste management covers all activities related to waste collection, transportation, treatment, recovery and removal, including supervision of such operations. The priorities of waste management are: preventing and reducing the production of waste and minimizing the degree of their hazardness, waste reuse and recovery as a result of recycling, processing as secondary raw materials or using the waste as a source of energy.

Likewise in other fields examined above, the indicators used to assess the share of people with access to sanitation services are rather quantitative, than qualitative. In terms of waste management, the Republic of Moldova still has much to do in the following directions:

- harmonization of national legislation with the EU legislation;

¹¹ Situation of environment in the Republic of Moldova in 2007-2010. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Institute for Ecology and Geography. 2011. (page 132). http://www.mediugov.md/images/documente/starea_mediului/rapoarte/nationale/p1_Raport_RO-IEG_2007-2010.pdf

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- building waste stores in accordance with ecological and hygienic-sanitary requirements;
- cleanup of unauthorised landfills;
- setting up the infrastructure for separate waste collection in all communities;
- setting the proper pre-requisites for developing the system for waste recycling, including the recycling of non organic waste;
- liquidation of hazardous waste inherited from the Soviet times, such as stores of pesticides;
- conducting rigorous control on imports of hazardous substances (for example, pesticides and herbicides);
- reducing the consumption of products which generate non recyclable waste.

To conclude, we would like to mention the need for more concern about the quality of environment components which are interdependent with social and economic issues. The quality of environment depends on a number of key-factors which can ensure the sustainability of ecosystems. Here are some of them: awareness of the interdependence between the quality of environment and the quality of people's life; formulating by decision-makers of a plain and comprehensive vision on development directions based on sustainable development principles; developing consistent policies compliant with the requirements of sustainable development principles; setting operational tools for pollution prevention and control; responsabilization of decision-makers, private sector and of population in relation with environment protection.

To this end, there is need for involvement of all development stakeholders: Government, private sector, civil society organizations and development partners. As a result of joining their efforts within a space of constructive dialogue and eliminating personal ambitions, stakeholders can contribute to building a healthy and sustainable society.

In addition to it, an institutional reform in the field of environment protection is required. Such a reform will make more efficient the collaboration of civil society and private sector with specialized bodies of this field and would increase the level of concern of public authorities.

There is need for reform of State Ecological Inspectorate and for restructuring it into an Environmental Agency and a National Environmental Guard, in accordance with the practice of European countries. The separation of the function of issuing environment authorisations, assigned to Environmental Agency, from the function of control on law enforcement, assigned to National Environmental Guard would minimize the level of corruption in this field and would enhance the quality of environment components in the country. Such a separation of functions would also strengthen the trust of civil society in environment protection bodies and would favour the mutually advantageous cooperation. The reform is also expected to have a favourable impact on responsabilization of private sector in terms of respecting the legislation in this field.

Taking into consideration that, on the one hand, local public authorities are responsible for environment situation in their communities, as well as for managing water supply, sewerage, wastewater treatment, sanitation public services, and, on the other hand, they have minimal competences in these fields, it is recommended to establish a position of specialist in environment protection in all mayoralties of the Republic of Moldova, and an environment directorate in local government authorities of level II. Such a reform would be favourable for logical planning of investments in environment infrastructure at district level, preventing the destruction of environment factors and allowing



the collection of statistical data concerning environment components what will, in turn, help take adequate decisions, corresponding to the real situation. The creation of such positions would make easier the cooperation with civil society organizations which have an expertise in drafting projects in this field, conducting practical and educational activities, etc. In the same time, environment specialists within local government of level I and II would also act as centres of information resources for business entities, helping them conduct their business in accordance with environment legislation.

To enhance the quality of environment components, there is also need for developing at local and district levels Environment Action Plans focussed on recovery of the situation in this field, as the first strategic planning document for encouraging investments in environment protection. The document shall be drafted by environment specialists of local government of level I and II, in collaboration with civil society organizations, and submitted for public debates.



CHAPTER 3.

ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ACHIEVING MDG 7

In the same train of thought, we shall further focuss on the analysis of the potential of civil society organizations to involve in the process of the country's development, from the perspective of national targets of Millennium Development Goal 7 – Ensure a sustainable environment.

Environmental civil society has shown various dynamics since the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of Moldova.

Expressions of civic activism in the field of environment protection have been displayed since the '80es, when an initiative group organized several ecological expeditions on the Dniester. Since then, despite the limited freedom of expressions at some periods, those advocates of nature started to report many potential problems related to the Dniester and to disseminate descriptions of natural patrimony of our country. Their materials were published in "Literatura și Artă" weekly magazine.

After the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of Moldova and the establishment of a legal framework regulating the registration of public associations, such initiative groups have been institutionalized. Among the first non-governmental environmental organizations, we might list: Ecological Movement of Moldova, "BIOTICA" Ecological Society, "BIOS" Public Association, "Gutta Club" National Centre for Children and Youth, "Calitatea Mediului" ("Environment Quality") Public Association, "Ave Natura" Public Association. In parallel, were launched two new periodicals intended to promote and disseminate information about environment – "Natura" magazine and "Gutta" publication for children and teenagers.

The major source of funds for non-governmental organizations founded in the '90es were international donors (ISAR, Eurasia Foundation, Soros Foundation, USA Embassy in the Republic of Moldova) which expressed willingness to support democracy in the young Republic of Moldova in terms of environment protection.

It is worth being mentioned that a part of these non-governmental organizations are still active, bringing their experience in the process of drafting and implementing environment policies.

At the Third Ministerial Conference "An Environment for Europe", held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in October 23-25, 1995, was launched the idea of establishing new Environmental Regional Centres with a view to enhance public access to environment information in countries in transition. As a response to this initiative, Government of the Republic of Moldova issued the Decree no. 1071 of 22.10.1998 on establishment of Regional Environmental Centre Moldova (REC Moldova). According to its statutes, REC Moldova is a non-profit international organization founded by the European Commission and Government of Republic of Moldova. The organization has the goal to support the NGO-s in their endeavours to solve environment problems in the Republic of Moldova.



After the creation of REC Moldova, environmental civil society passed through an explosion of new non-governmental organizations which expressed concern about implementation of various activities in the field of environment protection. Taking into consideration that REC Moldova provided financial assistance to environmental organizations, donors operating at that period in Moldova concluded informally their grant programmes in the field of environment and redirected towards other sectors, such social sphere, democracy, transparency, economic development, etc.

In the period 1999 – 2006, REC Moldova implemented several grant programmes for NGO-s estimated to 500.000 Euros, most of them being supported by the European Commission. Every year, REC Moldova provides funds for implementation of about 50 projects submitted by non-governmental organizations of Moldova. In addition to it, the Centre provides information assistance through dissemination of publications, access to Internet, capacity building and conducting forums for environmental NGO-s. Due to the Centre's financial assistance, a large number of environmental non-governmental organizations were set up and registered at national and local level. The newly-established organizations were spread nationwide, with a stronger concentration in Chisinau municipality.

The first Guide of environmental NGO-s, issued in 2004, listed 200 non-governmental organizations, including 9 organizations located on the left bank of the Dniester. But the estimated number of NGO-s working at that time in the field of environment protection amounted to 430 organizations¹.

When REC Moldova closed its assistance programmes for non-governmental organizations in 2006, the number of environmental NGO-s fell suddenly, because of the lack of other fundraising sources. Consequently, the second issue of the Guide of environmental NGO-s of the Republic of Moldova, published in 2008, listed 114 environmental non-governmental organizations, including 5 associations of the Transnistrian area.

After a four-year break, in February 2011, on the initiative on a group of environmental NGO-s, Milieukontakt International Foundation, EcoContact, National Environmental and Pro Rural Development Centre, was held a new edition of the Forum of environmental NGO-s which was intended, among other, to make the summative evaluation of the situation of environmental civil society organizations of the Republic of Moldova. Participants in the Forum were registered based on application forms prior disseminated in the mass-media. Representatives of 63 environmental NGO-s of Moldova, including 3 organizations of Transnistria, applied for participation in that Forum. Obviously, solely the rate of participation in the Forum is not enough for making a conclusion about the developments of environmental civil society organizations, nevertheless, we find out that, compared to previous periods, the number of environmental NGO-s was constantly lowering. To mention also that representatives of other relevant fields of non-governmental sector, such as human rights, mass-media, social sphere, youth, agriculture, took part in the Forum with a view to get informed about the activities undertaken by environmental NGO-s and to establish inter-sector non-governmental partnerships, with the further aim to increase the degree of qualitative involvement of the associative sector in country policy development, monitoring and implementation. A total number of 12 NGO-s from other fields took part in the Forum: Amnesty International, Transparency International, "Tineri și Liberi" ("Young and Free") Resource Centre, Hyde Park, East-European Foundation, Centre for Independent Journalism, Young Journalist Centre of Moldova, PromoLex Association, etc.

Up to present, neither quantitative, nor qualitative summarized evaluation of environment projects and activities implemented by civil society of the Republic of Moldova was done, or, such an evalua-

1 Guide of environmental NGO-s, REC Moldova, 2004

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tion would help do a comprehensive analysis of civil society contribution to the situation of environment in the country. Nevertheless, the analysis of the forms submitted by applicants to the Forum of environmental NGO-s 2011 reveals that throughout the period 2006-2010 were established a series of environmental civil society organizations implementing environment protection activities and projects. Among them: Rural Rebirth, Pro Rural Development, EcoContact, National Environmental Centre, Regional Development Centre Cahul, Satul meu-Țiganca, Apa Codrilor, Eco-Șuri, Medium, Vișoara, European Solidarity for Water Moldova, Women Association for Environment Protection and Sustainable Development, Apă Bună, Centre for Youth Mediation and Consultancy, Izvorașul, National Centre for Sustainable Development, Certitude, Pomul vieții, Waste Treatment Union – For Clean Moldova. The same method of evaluation showed that, over the previous five years, i.e. in the period 2006-2010, 41 civil society organizations from various fields implemented environment protection projects in the Republic of Moldova. During the same period, the associative sector has implemented projects in the field of drinking water supply and sewerage, waste management and persistent organic pollutants, conservation of biodiversity, promoting eco-tourism, ecological education, access to justice and public involvement in decision-making process, including a large share of activities focussed on increasing the level of people's awareness of environment issues.

Continuing the tradition, Milieukontakt International Foundation and EcoContact organized in February 2012 a new edition of the Forum of environmental NGO-s. The Programme of the Forum included two days of debates among representatives of NGO-s, of academic circles and journalists about the role played by environmental NGO-s at local level, as well as at the level of regional and international cooperation, about the developments in promoting new approaches to waste, water and soil quality management, about the prospects for civil society evolution and its contribution to development of the field where they work.

The Forum aimed at strengthening environmental civil society organizations in the Republic of Moldova through dialogue, cooperation and exchange of expertise. The participants in this event debated on the objectives of environmental NGO-s under the Strategy for NGO Development 2012-2015.

The workshops held within the Forum focussed on a variety of challenges: determining the position of NGO-s in the field of sustainable development and environment issues, including climate changes issues, education for sustainable development, processes of transition towards democracy, support provided by international organizations. About 120 representatives of environmental NGO-s took part in the Forum, including 20 representatives from the Eastern part of the Dniester, alongside with representatives of central environmental bodies, of international NGO-s and of the mass-media.

A growing number of organizations have lately expressed concern about environment protection. Moreover, through their activities, they strengthened collaboration with NGO-s from other fields.

Environmental civil society organizations have not succeeded yet to establish a sustainable network capable to influence on policy making in the country, to promote environment protection and the principles of sustainable development. Nevertheless, such attempts have been made throughout the period of independence of the Republic of Moldova. An important step towards strengthening the environmental associative sector was the resumption of the forums and the establishment of virtual platform for communication with about 160 emails of more than 100 representatives of civil society organizations in the field of environment protection.



In the same time, environmental NGO-s are part of networks of the associative sector of Moldova, such as National Council of NGO-s and National Council for Participation, established on the initiative of Moldovan Prime Minister as a consultative body. Involvement of environmental civil society organizations in national networks has a positive impact on policies in this field.

The analysis of the sources of funds used by environmental NGO-s for conducting their activities, done based on the forms for registration in the Forums of environmental NGO-s of 2011 and 2012, reveals that such funds come from abroad, being provided directly or by the means of intermediaries. Such a situation is, by the way, common for the whole associative sector.

In the same time, civil society organizations have the possibility to raise funds for implementation of their initiatives from the National Environmental Fund (NEF), managed by the Ministry of Environment, and from local Environmental Funds, managed by district Ecological Inspectorates. But the share of such funds is not significant compared to the NEF potential for funding. In 2010, civil society organizations were provided a share of 0.9% of the total amount of funds provided by National Environmental Fund, i.e. 1.2 million lei². In 2011, the general absorption of NEF funds raised by 46.27%, and 194.98 million lei were provided for implementation of projects in the field of environment protection. The amount of funds directed to civil society organizations amounted to 2.6 million lei, i.e. 1.33% of the total amount of distributed funds³.

Judging by the opinions of NGO-s expressed on the electronic communication platform and in individual discussions, environmental civil society organizations are to a large extent discontent with the way how the National Environmental Fund is managed, invoking precarious transparency of the method for project selection, the complicated funding system, and inefficiency of the provided funds. These problems, among other, were pointed out by the Court of Accounts in the report on auditing of the National Environmental Fund for 2008-2009⁴, published in the Official Monitor no. 124-125 of 20.07.2010. The auditing report of the Court of Accounts enumerates a series of measures required to be implemented for efficient use of the provided resources, what means integral restructuring of the National Environmental Fund. A six-month term was established for execution of the above-mentioned recommendations. Unfortunately, these recommendations have not been implemented yet and this fact raises questions about the efficiency of environmental funds.

Civil society organizations are rather passive in terms of exploring other fundraising sources, different from the traditional ones which imply absorption on non-reimbursable funds from external or national sources. Such an impediment determines to a large extent the degree of their manifestation in the society. Consequently, a special attention shall be paid to developing adequate tools and to capacity building for sustainable evolution on non-governmental organizations in the Republic of Moldova, for their active involvement in developing, implementing and monitoring of national policies. Such a prerogative sets the basis for drafting the new Strategy for NGO Development 2012-2015 which aims at developing the associative sector as a whole, including environment protection NGO-s.

2 Investigation on transparency and economic efficiency of the use of ecological funds. Expert-Group Independent Analytic Centre. 2011. http://expert-grup.org/library_upld/d366.pdf

3 List of reports approved for funding and funded by the National Environmental Fund 2011. http://www.mediugov.md/md/act_fen/

4 Resolution of the Court of Accounts no. 33 of 21.05.2010 on the Report on Audit of the National Environmental Fund for the period 2008-2009. <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=335315>



3.1. AWARENESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Our survey showed that most civil society organizations are familiar with Millennium Development Goals, as with a large share of international development documents, such as Millennium Declaration 2000, Paris Declaration 2005, Accra Agenda for Action 2008, Istanbul Principles for effective development of civil society organizations 2009, Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation 2011, International Framework for Civil Society Organizations Development Effectiveness 2011. Non-governmental organizations are also familiar with national reports on MDG achievement, and with national, regional and local strategic documents on country development, relevant for national targets of MDG. An important document regulating environment activities is the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, known as Aarhus Convention. The largest share of environmental civil society organizations are familiar with this document.

In the same time, many civil society organizations show a medium concern about MDGs. With regard to national targets of **MDG 7** „Ensure a sustainable environment”, it might be explained by the fact that, by definition and by virtue of the legislation in force, quantitative indicators may be achieved solely through direct involvement of local or central government. Local public authorities are responsible for management of water supply and sewerage systems, and for provision of sanitation services. In the same time, central government authorities, Ministry of Environment and „Moldsilva” Forest Agency are in charge of forestry and protected areas management. Funding of these fields is the prerogative of central level authorities and civil society organizations have a limited involvement in this process.

In this context, we might evoke the absence of openness for cooperation between local and central government and non-governmental organizations persisting until not long ago. Several years ago, under the communist regime and even before it, the cooperation between central government authorities and civil society organizations was formal, and the attitude of central government towards civil society was rather hostile. Non-governmental organizations were not treated as reliable partners with an intellectual potential which could be valorized through constructive cooperation. On the other hand, local government authorities did not realize to a full extent the responsibilities incumbent on them under the conditions of decentralization of public services, moreover, some of them had a weak potential for generating solutions as a result of establishing advantageous partnerships with civil society organizations. Civil society has been considered as an opponent that criticizes, and such a fact is not convenient for local government authorities concerned about accumulation of electoral credits.

We would not dare to state that the situation has radically changed after abolition of the communist regime in 2009 and that the cooperation between state authorities and civil society organizations is not obstructed by any impediments. On the other hand, we can certainly point out the openness displayed now by both stakeholders of the partnership and their trend to be trustful partners. Both central and local government authorities perceive the civil society members as potential contributors to decision-making and to implementation of such decisions, i.e. as contributors to society development. Such a potential might be developed through equal partnerships generating mutual advantages in terms of development.

To reach such desiderata, adequate national policies shall be developed as prerequisites for civil society development and as incentives for active involvement of non-governmental organizations in the life of society.



The practice of subcontracting the services provided by non-governmental organizations as a tool for cooperation between state authorities and civil society was and remains undeveloped. The practice of establishing partnership projects between local government and NGO-s in the field of developing public infrastructure or expanding forestland is not developed either. It can be explained, among other, by the precarious capability of local government and of many non-governmental organizations to develop infrastructure projects what implies management of important financial resources, and the absence of a common vision on the role of each stakeholder in ensuring integrated management of water resources.

Nevertheless, we should remark the involvement of non-governmental organizations in relevant activities tangential to national targets of **MDG 7** in the field of biodiversity conservation, water management and waste management.

3.2. POLICY ADVOCACY

The analysis of the reports disseminated by the Ministry of Environment⁵ related to implementation of Law no. 239-XVI of 13.11.2008 on transparency of decision-making process reveals a growing concern of the population about involvement in decision-making (Chart 3.1). But it is still difficult to make some judgements about the trends of the decision-making process, the number of involved organizations or the number of received and included recommendations. However, in 2011, there was an increase by 88.98% of the number of recommendations on draft laws submitted for public debates and of the number of accepted recommendations. We assume that active participation of public was due to high level of importance of the documents subject to public consultations: Law of Water, Law on Environment Protection, Law on Evaluation of the Impact on Environment, Waste Law, Law on

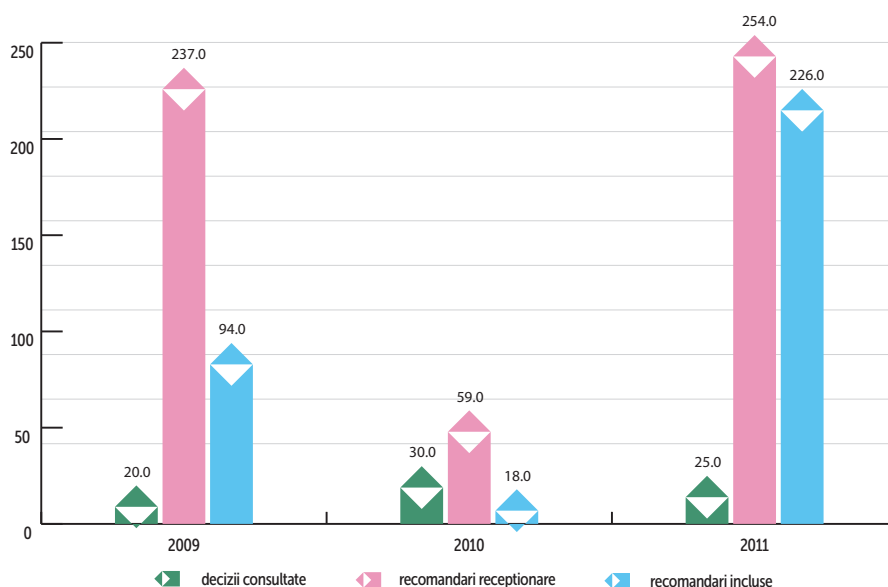


Chart 3.1.
**Society involvement
in decision-making**

Source: Report on transparency of the decision-making process in 2009, 2010, 2011. Ministry of Environment.

chemical substances, National Environment Strategy, Waste Management Strategy, etc. The Report⁶ states that draft laws have been debated in 158 meetings of the working groups, in 7 national seminars and 6 regional seminars (Bălți, Cimișlia, Chișinău), what favoured large involvement of the public in

⁵ Report on transparency in decision-making process for 2009, 2010, 2011. Ministry of Environment. <http://www.mediugov.md/index.php/transparenta-in-procesul-decizional/rapoarte-anuale>

⁶ Report on transparency in decision-making process for 2011. Ministry of Environment. <http://www.mediugov.md/index.php/transparenta-in-procesul-decizional/rapoarte-anuale>



decision-making process, and submission of comments. According to the Report, after publication of documents on the website of the Ministry of Environment a few number of recommendations have been submitted, most recommendations being formulated within various events conducted in this context. This fact explains the wide gap between the number of comments received in 2011 and in 2010, when a total number of only 19 consultative meetings were held.

Representatives of local government authorities, research centres, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders take usually part in public consultations. There are no statistical data about the number of recommendations formulated by non-governmental organizations, therefore it is difficult to analyze the degree of involvement of civil society organizations in decision-making process. What we certainly know, is that a number of civil society organizations, not a great one unfortunately, actively involve in decision-making process: EcoContact, “ECO-TIRAS” International Environmental Association of River Keepers, National Environmental Centre, Ecological Movement of Moldova.

These organizations involve in advocacy policies through various means: conducting surveys, drafting documents, public consultations, developing position papers, participation in working groups of consultative councils. Most activities are conducted in partnership with concerned state bodies or with their involvement in the process.

An eloquent example of involvement of civil society organizations in the process of developing environment policy is the draft of Law on public access to environment information. This document intended to harmonize national environmental legislation with the legislation of the European Union was drafted by “ECO-TIRAS” International Environmental Association of River Keepers and submitted to the Ministry of Environment for public consultations and further approval⁷. Public consultations on this draft document have already been launched by the central environmental authority.

In 2011, the Ministry of Environment, with the financial support of UNDP Moldova, started the process of drafting the National Environment Strategy 2012-2022. This strategic document of national importance is intended to enforce the right to a healthy and ecologically balanced environment, as provided by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, to identify the principles for environment protection, rational use of natural resources and sustainable development of the country. „EcoContact” Public Association has provided its expertise in the process of developing the strategy paper. Public consultations were organized by the Ministry of Environment, in partnership with „National Environmental Centre” Public Association and Centre, North and South Regional Development Agencies and with the participation of local government representatives, concerned bodies and non-governmental organizations. It is a relevant example of civil society involvement in the process of developing environment policies, in cooperation with central and regional authorities.

Environmental Funds are the tools for gathering and redirecting financial resources required for solving environment problems. In 2011, “Expert-Group” Independent Analytical Centre conducted the first survey on the use of environmental funds in the Republic of Moldova, named „Survey on the transparency and economic efficiency of the use of Environmental Funds”⁸. The survey analyzed how environmental funds operate throughout the country, providing a number of recommendations for raising their efficiency from the perspective of the implementation of environment policies. The survey’s authors concluded that Environmental Funds are in the Republic of Moldova an important tool for funding environment policies which does not have any viable alternative in the near future. In the same time, they revealed that serious deficiencies in the work of Environmental Funds dimi-

7 http://eco-tiras.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=110&Itemid=53, accessed on 30.04.2012

8 <http://expert-grup.org/index.php?go=biblioteca&n=212>, accessed on 30.04.2012



nish the efficiency and effectiveness of public resources, and cause direct financial losses. Therefore, consistent measures are required for enhancing the performance of Environmental Funds. The survey's recommendations aim at improving the activity of Environmental Funds through substantial reform of their organization and regulation, as well as through improving their administration and operational management. This performance analysis report was presented within a public event with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Environment, including the head of the National Environmental Fund, of non-governmental organizations and of other concerned groups.

As a result of a situation analysis, a group of NGO-s identified three environment protection directions which need urgent intervention of state authorities in charge of their administration. Consequently, within the project „Strengthening civil society in Moldova for environment improvement”, implemented by „EcoContact” Public Association were established three working groups of representatives of the concerned NGO-s, including from the Transnistrian area, which developed position papers to substantiate their opinions about waste management, surface water and public participation in decision-making on environment issues⁹. The papers have been debated during the Forums of environmental NGO-s held in 2011 and 2012, then adjusted to the sector's vision and submitted afterwards to the public and to concerned state authorities through different means, including through press conferences.

The involvement of civil society organizations in policy advocacy is also done through participation in different working groups, national, regional or local councils, where they can have an influence on the decision-making process. Regional Development Councils established under Centre, North and South Regional Development Agencies are relevant examples in this sense. The councils include representatives of local government - 50%, private sector – 25% and non-governmental organizations – 25%¹⁰. Regional Development Strategies of the above-mentioned regions are focussed on the following priorities: recovery of public water supply, sewerage and waste management infrastructure, improving the condition of environment and tourism attractiveness. The financial resources needed to reach such priorities are allocated to local government from the National Fund for Regional Development. The decisions about provision of funds and about improvement of regional strategies, are taken, depending on the transposition of local needs to the regional level, by the Regional Development Centre, where civil society organizations play a notable role in the decision-making process.

3.3. SERVICE PROVISION

Service provision by civil society organizations shall not be understood in the strict sense of practising an economic activity, although they may conduct economic activities under the terms of the Law on Public Associations, provided that the profit is redirected to reaching statutory goals. Despite the availability of opportunities in this sense, the practice of service provision by NGO-s is not a frequent one.

The discussions with civil society members revealed that unawareness of the way how to conduct economic activities is one of the major reasons why non-governmental organizations do not practise such activities. On the other hand, there are still some stereotypes related to competences of civil society organizations which hinder local government authorities from subcontracting them for execution of works or service provision. Moreover, the participation of business entities in public actions is encouraged, often without any reasonable explanation, rather than of civil society organizations. The system of public payments based on post-service provision payment also discourages the in-

9 <http://www.eco.vox.md/index.php/proiecte-realizate>, accessed on 25.04.2012

10 <http://adrcentru.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=374&>, accessed on 25.04.2012



volvement of civil society organizations which are now considered as vulnerable from the financial viewpoint.

There are also other factors hindering civil society organizations from economic activities, such as legal impediments - for example, limits set by the organization's statutes which seem to be however groundless, taking into account that the profit cannot be used for other reasons than achieving the statutory goals.

In such conditions, the largest share of civil society organizations budgets comes from non-reimbursable assistance provided by foreign donors for project implementation.

Service provision by civil society organizations includes the activities conducted by them to the society's benefit, either through voluntary work, projects funded from non-reimbursable assistance, or through economic activities undertaken in accordance with statutory provisions.

Hereinafter, we will analyze the involvement of non-governmental organizations and the efficiency of their activities aimed at achieving the national targets of **MDG 7** „Ensure a sustainable environment”, describing concrete examples of service provision.

Protection and Conservation of Biodiversity

Many civil society organizations are involved in tree-planting either within the yearly campaign „A tree for our perpetuation”, organized by the Ministry of Environment, or within individual campaigns coordinated with the concerned bodies. Most tree-planting actions conducted by non-governmental organizations are held at local level. A problem related to such activities is their unsustainability. As we have already mentioned in chapter 2 of this analytic report, a significant share of young plantations are destroyed because of livestock grazing or because of unfavourable weather conditions. To reduce the damages, such plantations need to be supervised or enclosed and irrigated, what implies additional expenditures. Non-governmental organizations do not usually have such resources, while local government authorities are not interested in proper management of forestland. Therefore, specialized authorities and bodies shall have a more active involvement in management of the country's forestry.

The activities conducted by “ECO-TIRAS” International Ecological Association of River Keepers are a relevant example of enhancing the system of nature reserve management. This Association developed a Plan for Reconstruction and Management of „Iagorlic” Nature Reserve. Founded in 1988, „Iagorlyc” Nature reserve is situated on the Lower Iagorlic, on the left side of the Dniester and spreads on 836 ha of land and 270 ha of aquatic surface. The reserve includes both terrestrial and aquatic borders where the conditions for reproduction of plants and animal are optimal. The above-mentioned Plan was drafted by a group of researchers from both sides of the Dniester. The document was approved by the so-called environment authorities of the Transnistrian region, what is an important point of their collaboration. A Management Plan¹¹ and an informative brochure¹² about the reserve were published and disseminated with the aim to raise the awareness about the need and the ways how to protect this nature reserve.

11 http://eco-tiras.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=101&Itemid=34, accessed on 24.04.2012

12 http://eco-tiras.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=97&Itemid=34, accessed on 24.04.2012



BIOTICA Ecological Society is another example of participation of NGO-s in enlargement and protection of state-protected areas. BIOTICA is one of the organizations established not long after proclamation of the independence of the Republic of Moldova. Its activities are focussed on biodiversity protection, developing the associative sector, developing environment protection legislation and policies. One of the most recent activities conducted by BIOTICA is the establishment of the National Environmental Network. BIOTICA has submitted to the Ministry of Environment for approval the draft requirements for establishment of environmental network at various levels. In addition to the above-mentioned, the organization actively involved in drafting the National Programme for establishment of the national Environmental Network. One of its major contributions to the enlargement of the surface of protected areas in the Republic of Moldova was the official recognition of Ramsar site „Unguri-Holoșnița”, which was the result of the close collaboration of BIOTICA Environmental Society with the Ministry of Environment (Box 1). BIOTICA has a good experience of developing Plans for Management of protected area, confirmed by the plans for Ramsar sites „The Lower Dniester” and „Unguri-Holoșnița”¹³.

Box 1.

Biodiversity protection and protected area enlargement activities. Case study of BIOTICA Ecological Society

In 2005, as a result of joint activities conducted by BIOTICA Ecological Society and the Moldovan Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR), „Unguri-Holoșnița” was officially recognized as the third site of Ramsar Convention no. 1500. The site has an international importance for protection of birds and of many species of plants and animals in wetlands. It spreads on an area of 15.553 ha, a large share of this area being located in the districts of Soroca, and a part of it – in the district of Ocnita. The site covers the land and water basins situated between Soroca-Otaci highways and the state frontier on the Dniester, spreading from Northwest of the village of Calarașovca to Southeast of the village of Holoșnița. According to the second part of art. 82 of the Law no. 1538-XIII, the land covered by the site remains the property of land owners, but they are managed in accordance with management plans developed based on Regulatory Framework for wetlands of international importance.

BIOTICA implemented the project „Developing the management scenario for the new Ramsar site „Unguri-Holoșnița” and strengthening capacity in the field of rational use policies based on Ramsar Convention”. The project enjoyed the approval of Ramsar Convention and was implemented in cooperation with MENR.

The project aimed at the following major objectives:

1. Evaluation of the value of biodiversity and of the patrimony within the Ramsar site, making proposals about mapping and conservation methods, patrimony recovery and sustainable development.
2. Raising the awareness of local stakeholders about the importance of delimitation and conservation of a Ramsar site, and about the prospects for ecologic tourism development, opinion-making about institutional strengthening for developing the Ramsar site.

13 <http://www.biotica-moldova.org/ru/act.htm>, accessed on 24.04.2012



3. Raising the awareness of local population and of national decision-makers about the value of wetlands, and about the importance of their sustainable use, protection and management.
4. Involvement of experts from Ukraine, alongside with representatives of public authorities and of NGO-s, in dissemination of information about the regional value of the site and the prospects of cross-border collaboration for development of the respective Ramsar site, recognition of the site on the territory of Ukraine.

The scenario for management of this Ramsar site was developed within the project. The paper was approved by the National Ramsar Committee. Another project outcome is publication of the brochure „Ramsar Convention and wetlands – their international importance for the Republic of Moldova”, which is available in Romanian language and a CD with all project papers with photos of all three Ramsar site of the Republic of Moldova.

Source: <http://www.biotica-moldova.org/ru/news.htm>

Management of Water Resources

Management of water resources is regulated in the Republic of Moldova by Water Code, which will be substituted in 2013 by Law of Water, which was recently promulgated and published in the Official Monitor. The new law was developed in response to the requirements for adjusting the national legislation to the legislation of the European Union and provides for water administration based on the river basin principle, i.e. integrated management of water resources.

Promoting the principles of integrated management of water resources in Moldova started much earlier on the initiative of civil society organizations. The first river basin council was set up for the Cubolta river crossing 16 communities of the districts of Ocnîța, Dondușeni, Drochia, Sângerei and Florești. The establishment of Cubolta Basin Council and drafting the Plan for Management of the Cubolta river was done under the coordination of „Apele Moldovei” Water Agency which is in charge of nationwide water resources management. Representatives of specialized bodies, local government, water users and non-governmental organizations are members of the Council. Technical secretariat of the Council is ensured by „Ormax” Culture and Youth Association¹⁴ which conducts, in partnership with local government and other non-governmental organizations, multiple activities for protection of the Cubolta river: removal of unauthorized landfills from the immediate neighbourhood of the river, educating and raising awareness of the population about water resources protection, biological monitoring of water quality, assessing the quality of well water through express tests and public dissemination of test results, the riverbed and spring cleaning.

Sharing the positive experience related to the Cubolta river, a basin council for the Byc river (Box 2) was established in 2012 within a partnership between Centre Regional Development Agency, „National Environmental Centre” Public Association and Chișinău Territorial Organization of the Ecologi-

¹⁴ <http://cubolta.info/>, accessed on 25.04.2012



cal Movement of Moldova. The activities of the National Environmental Centre (NEC) are mainly focussed on protection of surface water, involving central and local government authorities, competent bodies and civil society organizations in such activities. Within such partnerships, NEC provides to local government assistance for drafting fundraising projects for rehabilitation of water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment systems, for enhancing waste management system in the communities located in hydrographical basins of the Cubolta and Byc rivers. The deficient public infrastructure of wastewater treatment and waste management systems is the major source for pollution of surface water, and for groundwater which is a source of water for most rural population. In order to sensitize the authorities and the concerned groups about the existing cases of surface water pollution, to develop a general vision and to support the decision-making process with a view to issue adequate decisions for elimination of polluting sources, the National Environmental Centre, in partnership with „Trimetrica” Ltd., an IT product developer of Moldova, developed the electronic application „Online map of sources of pollution”¹⁵ which shows the sources of pollution illustrated by video, photo and information materials.

Box 2.

Water resources protection activities in the basin of the Byc river. Case study of the „National Environmental Centre” Public Association

It is well-known that the Byc river is the most polluted and degraded in the Republic of Moldova, and that almost one million people are living in this basin. The situation in this sense is alarming and requires active involvement of the competent bodies, local governments and of the population which, because of ignorance, lack of concern, lack of ecological culture and lack of responsibility, do not consider the river's problems as a priority. The river was practically transformed into a channel for flow of wastewater from non-operational treatment plants and from companies situated of the river's course. In this way, the untreated wastewater reaches the reservoirs used for pisciculture, irrigation and leisure, having a direct impact on people's health and on living standards. In the same time, because of the lack of adequate management of solid household waste, including organic waste, surface water in the whole basin of the Byc is excessively polluted. Moreover, the Byc river is slowly running dry because of capture of springs feeding it, and of multiple barrages built on its course for irrigation or fishing which have a considerable negative impact leading to disappearance of the Byc river.

In such a context, the „National Environmental Centre” Public Association (NEC) jointly with Centre Regional Development Agency (Centre RDA) launched in December 2011 an initiative on ecological recovery of the Byc river. The initiative consists in mobilizing a large number of stakeholders for recovery of the Byc with the involvement of the Ministry of Environment, State Environmental Inspectorate, „Apele Moldovei” Water Agency, National Centre for Public Health, local governments, district Ecological Inspectorates, district centres for public health, educational institutions, associative sector, business entities, mass-media and the public.

The Basin Council for the Byc river was established in February 2012. At present, it consists of 17 members - representatives of local public authorities, specialized central and local bodies,

15 <http://cubolta.info/>, accessed on 25.04.2012

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public associations and water users. The Basin Council is a public consultative body intended to ensure integrated management of water resources based on basin principle. Integrated water resources management is a new principle contained in the new Law of Water of the Republic of Moldova promulgated in April 2012. It derives from the EU Framework Water Directive which provides for establishment of river basin councils for all rivers and for developing management plans intended to ensure good administration of water resources.

NEC, in partnership with Centre RDA and local governments from the concerned area, started fundraising for in-depth evaluation of the river's condition which is in fact the first step towards developing a management plan and for solving the major problems caused by pollution with solid household waste in the towns of Călărași and Ialoveni and in the neighbouring communities, and with untreated wastewater in Anenii Noi.

Through its activities, the National Environmental Centre contributes to strengthening water resources management capability of stakeholders residing and working in the basin of the Byc (local governments, business entities, population); conducting information campaigns; involvement of educational institutions in the process of biological monitoring of the Byc river; building the website of the Byc river Basin Council. NEC also aims at involving the mass-media and business entities in activities intended to raise the level of awareness of all stakeholders from the basin of the Byc about the importance of protecting water resources, as a primordial element for life.

Source: <http://environment.md/index.php/ro/ce-facem/salvati-raul-bic>

Water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment form a component of water resources integrated management, and are a prerogative of local government bodies which are in charge of service provision to population. In order to improve the situation in this field, non-governmental organizations join their efforts with local government by organizing study visits to share best practices, drafting fundraising projects for developing water, sewerage and wastewater treatment infrastructure, developing decentralized sanitation systems in rural communities, etc.

„European Solidarity for Water Moldova” Public Association (ESWM) is an example of good practice in building bridges for cooperation between local government authorities from Moldova and France in the sector of water supply and sewerage. The organization has the goal to contribute to improving access to drinking water and sanitation in rural communities of the Republic of Moldova, including youth involvement. The Project „Local Elected Officials and Water Platform” implemented by ESWM aims at strengthening the collaboration between France and Moldova through exchange of expertise in order to improve the capability and knowledge of local elected officials in the field of integrated management of water resources; to develop and promote the required tools and structures for integrated management of water resources at community, inter-community and regional level; to intensify the exchange of expertise between mayors and officials in charge of water management and to support the transfer of French knowledge and expertise in the field of public water management. During the project, a lot of study visits took place: local government officials from France came to Moldova to study the situation in this sector and to establish partnerships with local governments



of Moldova, while local government officials from Moldova visited France to learn best practices in terms of water, sewerage and sanitation systems management and apply them in their communities¹⁶.

Waste Management

Sanitation campaigns are a frequent practice applied by non-governmental organizations, jointly with local governments and educational institutions. But such activities have not proven to be sustainable, because of the absence of adequate infrastructure for waste management, particularly in rural communities, and because of population's behaviour which often contravenes to common sense. The lesson learnt from such activities is that a special attention should be paid to education of population about the need for respecting the principles for adequate waste management, what involves: reduction of excessive consumption, waste sorting, discharging the waste in authorised landfills, recycling waste products, payment for sanitation services, etc. From this perspective, non-governmental organizations might play an important role for informal education of population. There are various forms of education, which can be shared from best practices of other countries, or may be developed based on the organization's experience.

A successful project combining human, economic and environmental factors was „Hai Moldova!” (“Let's Do It, Moldova”) action which mobilized a large number of population, private sector and associative sector representatives in sanitation activities and education campaigns. The action was launched in Autumn 2010 by a group of volunteers of „Medium” Public Association¹⁷ whose idea was to mobilize a great number of people for one-day salubrity activities in green areas throughout the whole territory of the country (Box 3). Through mobilization for a joint cause, this action contributes to developing the people's civic sense and, due to intense dissemination of the results, it sensitizes the public to the need for behaviour changes.

Box 3.

Salubrity and education activities in the field of waste management. Case study of the initiative „Hai Moldova” 2011

IDEA. The idea Let's do was for the first time implemented in Estonia, on 3rd of May 2008, when 50.000 people took part in a one-day cleaning action nationwide. Over the following three years, the idea was shared by over 18 other countries of the world: Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Finland, Serbia, France, Italy, Portugal, India, Brazil, Cambodia, Thailand, Bulgaria, Russia, Ukraine, Romania. Or, the idea was transformed into an international movement.

In Moldova, this idea was promoted by a small number of people who gave a name to the movement – “Hai Moldova!” in October 2010 and registered the domain www.hai.md.

After 8 months of intense preparation for the final event, on 16th of April 2011 took place the action „Countrywide cleanliness in one day”. The whole process involved voluntary participation of an impressive number of people and organizations. The core team of the initiative “Hai

16 “Mayors of France and Moldova work together for inter-community water and sewerage management” <http://www.civic.md/stiri/comunicate/14647-primarii-din-frana-i-moldova-impreun-pentru-gestiunea-apei-i-canalizarii-in-mod-intercomunitar.html?device=desktop> and „Study visit of local elected officials to Alsace (France)” http://adrcentru.md/public/files/Raport_deplasare_Franta.pdf, accessed on 25.04.2012

17 <http://hai.md/ro>, accessed on 25.04.2012



Moldova!”, formed of a group of enthusiastic young people, succeeded to mobilize in the movement tens of non-governmental organizations, private companies, mass-media institutions, state institutions and international organizations.

In April 16-23, 2011, (because of rains, the action was postponed in some districts by 1-4 days) over 110.000 volunteers from all over the country took part in salubrity activity. 73.600 protection equipments were distributed throughout the country, while 40.000 other volunteers, mainly from villages, joined spontaneously the action and used their own equipment. The district of Telenești was the most active, where 7.754 volunteers were mobilized. On that day, the most numerous team of volunteers in the history of Moldova collected over 8.000 tons of waste in green areas all over the country. They collected: household waste, plastic, rubber, household objects and appliances. 30% of the collected plastic waste has been recycled.

PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS. People who involved in “Hai Moldova!” movement played an essential contribution to its success. Over 100.000 volunteers have shown commitment for common benefit. They also succeeded to persuade a large number of organizations and institutions to join and support “Hai Moldova!”. Among them:

Private sector– Trimetrica Ltd. (Eugen Hristev), Interactiv Joint Stock Company and „San Mari” restaurant (Valeriu and Maria Covalenco), Bon’s Offices (Ion) and Poligraf (Tamara Rusu); LeoGrand Hotel & Convention Center (Artiom Antonov); Imago (Olga Cebotari and Victoria Varzari), Lactalis Alba (Olga Miron), Chateau Vartely (Aliona Arianina), TGV (Macar Valentin), Maximum shop, Moldcell, ABS SRL, Air Moldova, Moldtelecom.

State authorities – Local government of Chișinău municipality, local governments of all districts of Moldova, Ministry of Interior –Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service, Ministry of Defence;

NGO-s – National Environmental Centre (Iuliana Cantaragiu and Ina Coșeru), CNTM (Sandu Coica), Coalition for Volunteership (Antonița Fonari), Voievod, AIESEC, Scout Association, Y-Peer Moldova, Justice for All Association, Habitat Regional Development Association, Ormax Public Association, “Ecology for Health” Public Association, Pro-NGO, Rotary, Rotaract.

Mass-media institutions – JurnalTV, ProTV, Moldova1, NorocTV, CTC, TNT, TV7, TVC21, NorocFM, RadioMoldova, JurnalFM, PrimeFM, AquarelleFM, EuropaPlus, Radio21, SportFM, FreshFM, Radio7, RadioPlai, Ploaia de argint, VoceaBasarabiei.

Public people and think-tanks - Nicu Țărnă, Sergiu Beznițchi, “Snails” band, “Zdob și Zdub” band, Adrian Ursu, Johnny Alich, Cristi Burlacu, Nelly Ciobanu, Nata Albot, Doina Gherman, Andrei Bolocan, Sîrghi Cobzaru, Gootsă, Adrian Ursu, Cristi Burlacu, Ruslan Sochircă, Sergiu Reniță, Sandu Coica, Ion Grosu, Oleg Ciubotaru, Tudor Tarlev, Mihai Stipanov, Oleg Poiată, Tudor Darie, Vlad Filat, Dorin Chirtoacă

PRESS. The mass-media expressed a high level of interest in “Hai Moldova!” action. Journalists kept eye on all salubrity events and actions, including the ones conducted abroad. In that period, 20 press-releases on the issue were sent to mass-media institutions and all of them have



been published. The reports broadcasted by TV channels and radio stations expressed in a positive way the campaign's idea and messages.

The mass-media expressed a supportive attitude towards "Hai Moldova!". The team of the movement took part at that time in numerous radio programmes (JurnalFM, Radio Moldova and Radio Noroc) and TV programmes (Moldova 1, Noroc TV, Jurnal TV, Pubika TV). Moreover, many mass-media institutions, such as NorocMedia and Jurnal TV took part in salubrity actions (including on 16th of April 2011), alongside with other volunteers, giving an example of involvement and social responsibility.

Source: "Hai Moldova!" Report, May 2011

The most efficient projects have been implemented as a result of partnerships established by public institutions, private companies and non-governmental organizations, as each partners plays a role in the society and has its own methods for addressing the beneficiaries. Therefore, joint efforts of all stakeholders may generate viable results and ensure sustainability of actions.

Waste separate collection and recycling is an important component part in the process of waste management. „Moldova Verde” (“Green Moldova”) is a pilot-project for promoting recyclable paper collection¹⁸. The project's idea launched by International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) and the Association for Creative Development consists in urging private companies of Chişinău, Bălţi and Cahul to join their efforts for encouraging people collect recyclable used paper. The project is supported by young people aged 16 - 20 aspiring to become environmental leaders in their communities and to persuade local private companies to donate the used paper for recycling.

3.4. SENSITIZATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Sensitization and public awareness are the most important tools for development and change of attitude, so necessary for environment protection, including in sectors related to national targets of **MDG 7**. Or, human factor has the most intense contribution to environment pollution, i.e. to deterioration of natural resources which are then used in consumption. The relations between the human being and nature, affecting the health condition, living standards and life expectancy, are often misunderstood. Otherwise, there is no explanation for the behaviour, often barbarous, of people, including within the framework of institutions where they work.

To what extent are non-governmental organizations, the concerned authorities and educational institutions efficient in working for raising people's awareness about protection of the environment and of natural resources? The answer to this question might be: little seizable, taking into account that the share of polluted water is growing constantly; the waste reappears in the same place after its removal, while separate waste collection is difficult to be done; forests are being illegally cut down and anti-ecological activities are practised within protected areas.

Nevertheless, the young generation is more sensible to environment problems and, being alarmed by the present situation, is willing to involve actively in change of attitude.

¹⁸ "Pilot-project Moldova Verde to „Green” three local communities", <http://www.civic.md/stiri/17084-pilot-project-moldova-verde-to-green-three-local-communities.html>, accessed on 25.04.2012

**Ensure a sustainable environment**

Goal 7

The authorities are still focussed on economic development and on other fields of concern, without taking into consideration the irreversible environment damages which will have serious adverse effects in a few years. The decisions taken by the political class are not derived from a long-term or at least medium-term strategic vision. The concept of sustainable development which implies that economic growth decisions shall take into consideration the social and environment protection factors has not taken root in the Republic of Moldova yet. Therefore, there is pressing need for raising the level of awareness of the political class about environment protection and about perception of the phenomenon of sustainable development.

Awareness of the phenomenon of sustainable development shall be developed since preschool to university education. Recognizing such a need, the United Nations launched in 2005 the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. In 2007, at the Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” held in Belgrade, ministers of environment and of education of the participant states, including of Moldova, signed a joint declaration through which they took the commitment to promote education for sustainable development. But unfortunately this concept does not have any place in the educational system of the Republic of Moldova, despite the fact that a group of environmental non-governmental organizations have repeatedly compelled the Ministry of Education to start the respective process. The impact of their efforts is not perceptible yet.

In such conditions, non-governmental organizations are mainly involved in non-formal education of young people and adults through various events, such as seminars, training courses, camps, etc. and through publication and dissemination of information aids: brochures, leaflets, magazines, etc.

Good examples of promoting non-formal education in the field of water and sanitation are the activities of „WiSDOM” Public Association which are focussed on providing simple and sustainable solutions for decentralized systems of sanitation in rural communities¹⁹. To mention among other activities the publication, in partnership with “European Solidarity for Water in Moldova” Public Association (ESWM), of an educational set of aids on hygiene, sanitation and water. The educational set „Water and Health” contains a wide spectrum of information and sensitization aids about water, sanitation and health without which we cannot be considered civilized, and proposes methods for recovery of the situation in the respective fields. In order to meet the expectations of all readers, regardless of the age and level of awareness, the set is divided into two distinct parts. The first part, developed by ESWM, includes educational and sensitizing aids intended for pupils, teachers, young people and other interested people. The second part created by “WiSDOM” Association is composed of theoretical and practical educational and instructive aids intended mostly for civil society, specialists in the field of water and sanitation and local governments. The set includes the following aids developed by WiSDOM: „Ecological sanitation” brochure, „Ecological sanitation” leaflet, the series of compendia „Construction of dry toilets with separate collection of excretions”, the series of compendia „Maintenance of dry toilets”, the series of compendia „Hygienization of human excretions” and two posters – „Ecological sanitation” and „Hygiene”; alongside with the aids developed by ESWM: teacher’s guide „Water and health in our village”, „Water and hygiene at home” and „Ecosan toilets: a sanitation alternative for villages” leaflets, posters for girls and boys „How shall I use Ecosan toilet”, a poster „Let’s discover how Ecosan system operates!”, a poster „Pollution of phreatic layers in villages”, sensitizing stickers „Wash your hands with soap and dry them” and a series of illustrations. The set is intended for beneficiaries from rural communities of the Republic of Moldova where the situation of

¹⁹ www.wisdom.md, accessed on 25.04.2012



water supply and sewerage system is dramatic, but it can certainly also be used by all people willing to improve their sanitation system.

Mass-media agencies also have a considerable contribution to education and change of attitude, but their involvement might be more active. In 2011, the mass-media were very receptive and involved very actively in promoting „Hai, Moldova!” initiative and its ideas. It is worth being mentioned that one TV channel followed up the process, initiating its own environment protection campaign. In this context, we would like to remark the need for strengthening the cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the media in order to draw the optimal outline of environment protection issues, including the components related to national targets of **MDG 7** – „Ensure a sustainable environment”.

„Metropolitan Media” Public Association gave a good example of cooperation between NGO-s and a local TV station. This organization is specialized in realization of video materials on ecological issues, tourism, and others. In 2011, the organization issued three educational spots with the duration of 20 minutes on adequate waste management in the Republic of Moldova. The spots present the visions of specialized central bodies, non-governmental organizations, development partners and private sector about waste management. The films also present examples of good practices from the Republic of Moldova, achieved both by local governments, and by specialized private companies²⁰. Video materials were disseminated by the means of many local TV stations throughout the years 2011-2012.

3.5. ROLE MODEL

During the survey, many non-governmental organizations stated they have a concrete action plan or are developing action plans in a relevant field to the targets of **MDG 7**. A special attention is paid to the access of population to drinking water, to improved sewerage and waste management systems but they expressed less concern about the protected areas and about expanding the surface of forestland. Nevertheless, their action plans are not published on their websites, being used as internal guides for further actions.

A positive issue to be mentioned is that non-governmental organizations publish on their websites or blogs (if they have such information resources) their reports of activities with the description of their latest performance. This is a model of transparency and dissemination of activities. The websites also provide access to publications issued within various projects, including the ones relevant to national targets of **MDG 7**.

Non-governmental organizations also promote their activities within national or international events.

Anyhow, there is need for promoting more intensely the performances of civil society organizations through the mass-media in order to increase their credibility and to break the stereotypes causing distrust. Or, being in search of sensational things in politics or tragic events in the society, the mass-media often fail to disseminate positive actions, including the ones conducted by civil society organizations.

20 „Waste Impact on Environment”, <http://www.mediu.gov.md/index.php/galerie-video>, accessed on 25.04.2012



3.6. CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO CHANGE

Civil society organizations are concerned about environment situation in the Republic of Moldova, including about management of forestry, protected areas, water and waste. They express their concern in papers submitted to decision-makers and within meetings of forums of environmental NGO-s.

Civil society organizations are alarmed by the fact that a large share of the hydrographical network consisting of over 3,600 rivers is deplorable, as many of them became channels for flow of wastewater or even run dry in hot season, and such a fact causes the reduction of the quantity of water available for irrigation of agricultural land and for supply to population. The country has a Water Supply and Sewerage Strategy since 13.06.2007, but this paper is not largely implemented. The Strategy sets the priority communities where water supply and sewerage systems shall be built or renovated, without raising the issue of wastewater treatment which is one of the most serious causes for pollution of surface water used for human needs. The pollution of groundwater which feeds about 50% of the population grows alarmingly. From economic perspective, this phenomenon has a direct impact of people's health and, consequently, on labour productivity and on the budgets of social and health insurance.

The phenomenon of corruption in water sector and in the field of environment in general is inadmissible as it might have long-term negative consequences on the quality of environment, or can even cause irreversible effects. This is a major obstacle to achieving any objectives.

A few number of non-governmental organizations believe that national targets in the field of water supply and sewerage will be achieved. Nevertheless, it is inadequate to measure the indicators only from the quantitative viewpoint, because the construction of a water supply system, for example, does not necessarily mean conformance of the quality of "drinking water", as the statistical data about water testing show. On the other hand, the construction of a sewerage system is a convenience for the population, but in the absence of a wastewater treatment station, it might be a real threat for the environment and for population, particularly now, when people use a wide spectrum of detergents and chemical substances.

Such remarks are valid for all environment components, including for the ones related to national targets of **MDG 7** – „Ensure a sustainable environment”.

The contribution of civil society organizations can be diverse, and it depends to a large extent on their capability, on real openness of state authorities to cooperation, as well as on the availability of a legal framework favourable for development of the associative sector. Many issues intended to contribute to civil society development will be covered by the Strategy for Civil Society Development 2012-2015 which is being drafted through joint efforts of non-governmental organizations, Parliament and Government of the Republic of Moldova. The involvement and openness of the Government will be very important for implementation of the above-mentioned document. Or, its behaviour will show if Moldovan authorities recognize civil society organizations as trustworthy and reliable partners in reform implementation.

Environmental civil society organizations conduct various activities, most of them being focussed on donors' programmes. A few organizations are specialized in narrow fields, such as water resources protection, biodiversity protection and conservation, soil protection, waste management, including hazardous waste, development of environmental associative sector, and their expertise is very valuable for developing, monitoring and implementing environment policies. The fields of expertise and



activities of environmental civil society organizations are relevant for national targets of Millennium Development Goal 7 – Ensure a sustainable environment.

In conclusion, we may state that the developments of environmental civil society institutions passed both through ascension and decline periods, because of their strong dependence on funds coming from foreign donors. Such a dependence still persists and most organizations conducting environment protection activities rely on foreign funds. In these conditions, there is pressing need for developing the required tools for associative sector development. A relevant solution would be the reform of the National Environmental Fund and the establishment of a fixed percentage of funds (for example, 6-8%) for environment projects of civil society organizations. Administrative and labour remuneration expenditures shall be covered by such funds, as eligible expenditures, what would result into responsabilization of civil society organizations for their activities. In the same time, such a measure would be a proof of factual, not declarative support for civil society from the side of state institutions. Civil society institutions shall be encouraged to use the tools intended to ensure their sustainability and the sustainability of the activities implemented for the society's benefit.

Inter-sector and multilateral partnerships involving all stakeholders are at the basis of society development. Civil society organizations need to realize this fact and to involve in activities conducted following partnership principles. In such conditions, the endeavours will give positive effects on the quality of outcomes.



CHAPTER 4.

ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ACHIEVING MDG 7

As we could find out in Chapter 2 of this survey, management of forested land, of protected areas, of water supply and sewerage infrastructure, and of waste collection and storage infrastructure is mostly a responsibility of either central or local government authorities.

As it was said, 99.4% of forests are public property of central or local governments and 0.6% of them, i.e. 2.4 thousand ha, are private property. Forest plantation is admitted solely on the areas reserved for forestry, otherwise there is need for changing the land's destination which may be done by Government Decree.

Since the year 2000, as a result of putting into force Government Decree no. 530 of 6th of June 2000 on restructuring water supply and sewerage enterprises¹, a reform was undertaken in public service provision which resulted in decentralization of public services and transferring them to the property of administrative-territorial units. Now, water supply, sewerage and wastewater evacuation systems are properties of local government, being managed by municipal enterprises.

The Law of industrial and household waste no. 1347 of 09.10.1997² provides that local public authorities are in charge of collection and removal of household waste, and of waste produced by small businesses, and of arranging sites for waste storage. Following the existing practice for organizing water supply and sewerage services in the Republic of Moldova, sanitation services are also provided by municipal enterprises subordinated to local government authorities. To mention also that such enterprises are mostly set up in urban communities, and there are singular examples of setting up municipal enterprises in rural communities as a result of implementing technical assistance projects.

One of this survey's objectives is to assess the contribution of private sector to achieving the national targets of **MDG 7**. To this end, we shall use the stricto sensu definition of „private sector” referring to any private business entity aiming at getting a profit as a result of service provision, work execution, of manufacturing of goods. This definition does not refer to state municipal enterprises, nor to joint stock companies where central or local government holds the majority of shares.

Therefore, we may consider as development stakeholders the private companies which have a contribution to achieving the targets of **MDG 7** through their basic activity, positive social externalities, corporate social responsibility, philanthropy and community investments and policy dialogue.

Companies whose basic activity might be tangential to national targets of **MDG 7** are the ones practising cultivation of tree and shrub seedlings; forestry activities; ecological and rural tourism in protected areas; import, manufacturing and trade with equipment and installations for water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment systems (pipes, pumps, treatment stations, etc.); import, manufacturing and trade in containers and dustbins for waste collection; collection, storage and recycling of all categories of waste; import and trade in machinery and equipment for specialized construction

1 <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=296443>, accessed on 30.04.2012

2 <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=311576>, accessed on 30.04.2012



works; import and trade in garbage trucks; import and trade in waste recycling equipment; execution of technical projects; execution of feasibility studies; execution of constructions for water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment public services; import, production and trade in chemical reagents for water treatment, etc.

Assuming that all business entities, regardless of the activity they practise, are potential polluters, they might contribute to environment protection and, consequently, to ensuring a sustainable environment by actions of pollution prevention, corporate social responsibility, positive social externalities.

In addition to it, philanthropy actions may bring multiple advantages in terms of promoting the responsible commitments of the business entity towards the society due to the support provided for implementation of environment protection activities implemented by non-governmental organizations or other institutions or through direct implementation of such activities.

4.1. DEGREE OF AWARENESS OF MDG 7

Private sector's concern about environment protection may be qualified as „medium” to „increased”. The most intense concern is shown by private companies whose activities are tangential to environment protection and enterprises with foreign investments of the Republic of Moldova, which „imported” the traditions of bearing responsibility for environment developed by their mother companies.

Fortunately, a large share of private companies included in the survey are aware or have heard about Millennium Development Goals, Millennium Declaration 2000, Paris Declaration 2005, but less about Accra Agenda for Action 2008 and practically nothing about Istanbul Principles for Effective Development of Civil Society Organizations 2009, Busan Partnership for Effective Cooperation in the field of Development 2011 and International Framework for Civil Society Organizations Development Effectiveness 2011.

4.2. PUBLIC SECTOR CONTRIBUTION TO MDG 7 THROUGH THEIR BASIC ACTIVITY

The introductory part of this chapter lists summarily the types of private companies whose basic activities have, in our opinion, a direct or indirect impact on achieving national targets of **MDG 7**.

Enlarging the area of forestland

As we have already mentioned, the activities of a few number of business entities are tangential to enlargement of forested land. This fact can first of all be explained by the monopoly of „Moldsilva” Forest Agency on this sector. The second reason is the low level of local government's concern about maintenance of forests, although they are in charge of forest management, and about afforestation of degraded land. The third reason is the low level of entrepreneurs' interest in practising silvicultural activities, because initial investment recovery will be done after 10-20 years.

Nevertheless, forests spread on 2,4 thousand hectares are private property at present. In Moldova, there are now a number of private companies whose business consists in growing tree and shrub seedlings for forest plantations. For example, „Dendrocultagro” Ltd. with head-office in the town of Hâncești owns 10 hectares of land where it grows species of trees and shrubs for sale and further



plantation on silvicultural land. The company cooperates with local government authorities and non-governmental organizations. But this business entity faces problems related to sale of its products, as local government is not much interested in enlarging forested areas. In such conditions, the company takes the initiative and, in partnership with local government, is in search of funds for fulfilling this objective. No doubts, the financial constraints faced by local government authorities determine to a large extent their lack of concern about forest enlargement. Or, the National Environmental Fund, managed by the Ministry of Environment, is practically the sole source of funds for such kind of activities. The shortage of skilled personnel in the field of forestry is another problem faced by local governments, because the loss of trees would be reduced is qualified staff looked after the seedlings.

In such conditions, specialists of „Dendrocultagro” Ltd. recommend the implementation of a programme for concession of forestland to foresters who have the required qualification and interest in cultivation of forests. An argument supporting this recommendation is the fact that foresters were not beneficiaries of „Pământ” land distribution programme, because they did not take part of any category entitled to be allotted a plot of land.

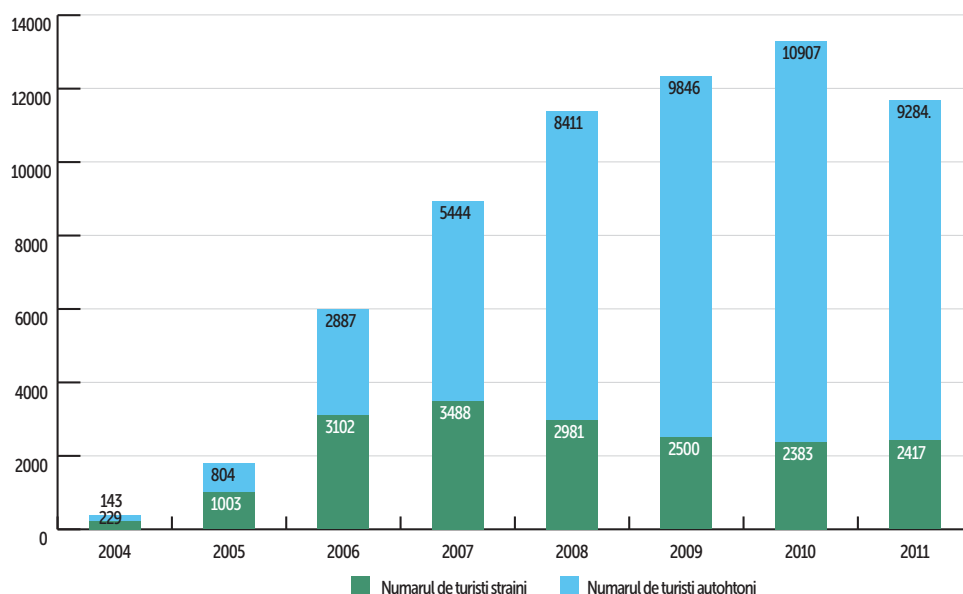
Expanding the surface of protected areas

As we know, the target of enlarging the share of protected areas was achieved in 2006 when 94,7 ha of wetland of international importance, among which the lakes of the Lower Prut, the Upper Dniester and Unguri-Holoşniţa, were declared as protected areas. Now, the maintenance of these protected areas is a challenge.

The maintenance of protected areas implies availability of several elements impeding their degradation. The most serious problem related to protected areas is unawareness of people residing in the respective regions of the importance of protected areas and of the need to have a special behaviour in order to ensure the protection of such areas. For example, solely economic activities which are not

Chart 4.1.
**Tourists lodged
in tourist
and agro-tourist
pensions**

Source: Number of tourists
lodged in structures for
collective tourist reception
with accommodation
functions (2004-2011).
National Bureau for Statistics.



harmful for biological diversity are allowed in protected area.



Development of ecological and rural tourism is strongly recommended, as it will help protect natural areas, and would bring some revenue. The analysis of the data about the number of tourists lodged in tourist and agro-tourist pensions throughout the period 2004-2011 reveals a continuous growth of the number of tourists up to 2010. In 2011, there was a slight decrease of the number of people who opted for rural tourism which might be explained by the difficult economic situation in the country, as well as by the reduced purchase power of Moldovan people. Nevertheless, the growing demand of Moldovan tourists for rural tourism is encouraging. (Chart 4.1.)

Such economic activities are allowed in protected areas, but they require intensive promotion at national and international level in order to have a great number of tourists, so that tourism service providers might improve the quality of their services and could obey to exigent rules for behaviour in protected areas.

Increasing the share of population with access to safe water sources and to improved sewerage

Taking into account the information above, we can conclude that such an indicator depends to the largest extent on the wish of local government authorities to solve the problems related to water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment in their communities, and on their capability to put forward community needs and to raise the required funds for solving the respective problems. In the same time, policies in this sector, as well as water supply and sewerage infrastructure projects, are conducted by central public authorities which have the required financial resources for gradual problem solving coming from foreign technical assistance, state budget, National Environmental Fund, National Fund for Regional Development and from the Social Investments Fund of Moldova.

It seems that water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment sectors have benefited from the most consistent funds over the past years, compared to other fields covered by Millennium Development Goal 7 – „Ensure a sustainable environment”. According to the data provided in the National Report „Situation of environment in the Republic of Moldova in 2007-2010”, 2,007,8 million lei³ have been invested in water supply and sewerage sectors, including 968,2 million lei coming from foreign assistance, 138,7 million lei – from state budget, 152 million lei – from local budgets and 320 million lei – from people’s contributions. Water supply and sewerage works are executed nationwide in the Republic of Moldova, including in Gagauzian Territorial-Administrative Unit.

In addition to the above-mentioned funds, after the establishment of Centre, North and South Regional Development Agencies, in 2010 was opened a funding line from the National Fund for Regional Development (NFRD). In 2010, was initiated funding of a number of regional development projects in many communities estimated to 176,3 million lei allocated from NFRD sources. Investments for water supply and sewerage infrastructure amounted to 72,1 million lei.⁴ The allocations covered the period 2010-2011.

Another important national source of funds for water treatment sector is the National Environmental Funds which totalized in 2011 expenditures estimated to 195 million lei, including 104,5 million lei⁵, i.e. over 50% of the total amount, for water supply and sewerage sectors.

3 Situation of environment in the Republic of Moldova in 2007-2010. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Institute for Ecology and Geography. 2011. (page 92-93). http://www.medi.gov.md/images/documente/starea_mediului/rapoarte_nationale/p1_Raport_RO-IEG_2007-2010.pdf

4 Report on implementation of the National Strategy for Regional Development. Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions. 2011. (page 38). http://www.mcdr.gov.md/files/4511_MDRC_Implementarea_SNDR_2010_ro.pdf

5 List of projects approved for funding and funded by the National Environmental Fund in 2011. <http://www.medi.gov.md/index.php/starea->



Thus, private sector development on segments related to water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment is interdependent with state policy in this field and with the attitude of local government authorities in charge of provision of such services. The increase of local government interest in water sector and the raise of available financial resources generate development of specialized public sector and diversification of its services.

As we have mentioned in the beginning of this chapter, private companies which have a contribution to achieving the indicators of **MDG 7** targets related to increasing the number of population with access to safe water sources and to improved sewerage are the ones practising such activities as feasibility studies, technical projects, topogeodesy and mapping, import and trade in equipment, machinery and installations for water supply, sewerage and water treatment stations, construction of public systems for water supply, sewerage and water treatment plants.

Despite the possibilities for concession of water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment services to a private company, such practices do not exist in the Republic of Moldova yet. But the first steps to this direction were done in December 2011, when a Memorandum for Collaboration was signed by the Ministry of Environment and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) which agreed to conduct a feasibility study for a project of Public-private partnership (PPP) for modernization of „Soroca-Bălți” aqueduct and connecting and enlarging water supply and sewerage systems in the districts of Soroca, Florești, Rîșcani, Sîngerei, Drochia, Telenești and Bălți municipality. Within a PPP, a regional private company operating based on a concession contract might ensure efficient and consolidated management of water supply and sewerage services in communities covered by the project. The Memorandum provides for allocation by EBRD of a grant of 1,2 million Euro for conducting a study of feasibility on establishment of a Public-private partnership focussed on „Soroca-Bălți” aqueduct and on the above-mentioned districts. The Project shall be implemented in two stages. At the first stage, a general analysis of the project will be conducted, the project's feasibility within a Public-private partnership will be assessed and, as a result, a clear project concept will be defined. If the project's feasibility is confirmed by the analysis conducted at the first stage, the second stage of the project will begin with project launch and preparation for the process of selecting the private partner for PPP. The Ministry of Environment committed to establish an Association with local government authorities intended to ensure efficient management of water supply and sewerage services in the concerned areas, and to collaborate with project consultants for ensuring the efficient analysis of project feasibility and further implementation of recommendations for activity⁶.

The works of projection, construction, reconstruction, consolidation of engineer installations and buildings, and topogeodesy and mapping works are subject to licensing⁷. Consequently, companies willing to conduct such works shall have a skilled staff.

This segment is dominated by a state oligopoly held by „IPROCOM” State Projection Institute, „URBANPROIECT” National Institute for Surveys and Projection and „ACVAPROIECT” Institute for Projection of Water Management System.

But now there are some signs of competition in this field as a result of emergence of private operators executing both projection works, and construction of water supply, sewerage and wastewater

mediului/rapoarte/79-categorii-in-romana/despre-minister/institutii-subordonate/72-fondul-ecologic-national

6 „Signing of the Memorandum for Collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development”. <http://www.mediul.gov.md/index.php/serviciul-de-presa/noutati/906-semnarea-memorandumului-de-colaborare-intre-ministerul-mediului-si-berd>

7 Fields of activity subject to licensing. <http://licentiere.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=22&nod=1&>



treatment systems. Here are some operators: IRISERV Ltd., SAMOTLOR-GAZ Ltd, Metiolis Ltd., „Ingineria Apelor” Ltd., CONSTRUCT COMPLEX Ltd., ECOLOGIE-EXPERT Ltd., INTEXNAUCA Joint Stock Company, FACLIA CIMISLIA Ltd., MARCONEX-PRIM Ltd., BONCOM Ltd.

EcoExpert is a trademark of „Ecologie-Expert” Ltd. , an innovation company working in the field of environment consultancy, projection and provision of environment services to natural persons and legal entities which owns, manages and plans its activities in a sustainable manner. One of the company's basic activities is the evaluation of environment impact and risks. The company focusses in particular on business sector, local and central government, investment banks and international organizations. Environment surveys and analyses are a priority for EcoExpert. The company conducts feasibility studies, develops technical projects for water supply, sewerage, water treatment systems, as well as for roads, landing tracks, hydro-technical works, land improvement, protection against dangerous geological processes (Box 4).

Box 4.

Feasibility studies for water supply and sewerage systems. Case study of „Ecologie-Expert” Ltd. company

“Ecologie-Expert” Ltd. Company was nominated as the winner of the tender of the 6th of August 2008 for developing the Feasibility Study “Scheme for drinking water supply and evacuation of wastewater in communities of the district of Făleşti”. The study was commissioned by the District Council of Făleşti. The study was intended to find out a technical solution for conducting priority works aimed at improving water supply and sewerage infrastructure in 67 communities of the district of Făleşti.

The project's objective is to make sustainable investments which shall be integrated in the existing infrastructure and correlated with further investments with a view to comply with the requirements of the legislation in force and to establish accessible and acceptable tariffs for final consumers (people from rural communities).

The priorities taken into account were enlargement and/or recovery of the centralized water supply system in the district of Făleşti which does not have such facilities at present or facilities are not in a good condition; enlargement and/or recovery of wastewater collection system; making proposals for alternative water supply and sewerage and choosing the optimal solution for the communities covered by the study and for the District Council of Făleşti; selecting the most feasible solution for water supply in the district's communities.

In accordance with the national legal framework in the field of drinking water supply and sewerage, four possible options for water supply to communities of the district of Făleşti were analyzed within the Feasibility Study:

Option I – Supplying drinking water from mining wells;

Option II – Artesian wells as a potential source for drinking water supply;



Option III – Supplying water from the Prut river. Prut-Făleşti aqueduct as a source for drinking water supply to the population of the district of Făleşti;

Option IV – Soroca-Bălți aqueduct.

Water supply and sewerage schemes and installations have been described, with a comprehensive presentation of the amount of required capital investments for project implementation, and of the cost-benefit analysis. Afterwards, a SWOT analysis was done for each water supply and sewerage option, and an evaluation of the project's risks and of the potential economic, social, environment, health impact of the project on population, and on the district of Făleşti, as a whole.

Based on two alternatives, were developed 134 water supply schemes and 67 sewerage schemes. A magistral scheme for supplying water from the Prut river was also developed for the district of Făleşti.

The development objectives reached as a result of conducting the Feasibility Survey are focussed on:

1. supporting the efforts of the District Council of Făleşti aimed at improvement of water supply and sewerage systems, securing the population from the viewpoint of water supply and sewerage. Such principles would canalize most national and foreign funds to identified (programmed) directions;
2. implementing national policies for improvement of sanitary and water supply system in the selected communities. Such objectives shall be reached as a result of recovery, improvement and enlargement of water supply and sewerage systems in the district;
3. improving wastewater treatment and evacuation, improving general management of water sector.

As a result of such activities, a request for funding was sent based on Joint Operational Programme Romania – Ukraine – Republic of Moldova.

Source: <http://ecoexpert.md/water-sewerage-353.html>

Increasing the share of population with access to sanitation

Likewise water supply and sewerage services, waste collection and storage services are managed by local government authorities. Such services are usually provided by the means of specialized municipal enterprises. As a rule, such enterprises exist and operate in urban communities, rather than in rural communities. In rural communities, the situation of waste is disastrous, because, in the absence of public infrastructure for waste management, waste is discharged in a multitude of unauthorized landfills, and local government authorities are compelled to conduct an interminable campaign for removal of unauthorized landfills. It seems that such problems are mainly generated by the deficient capability of local government to find adequate solutions for waste management. Most local government authorities in rural communities do not realize the need for cooperation among them with a



view to set up a joint waste management enterprise, or for concession of waste management services to a private operator, either for establishing a Public-private partnership for solving waste problems.

A relevant example of Public-private partnership in the field of waste management is the mixed specialized enterprise established by local government of Ungheni and AVE Group.

AVE Group⁸ is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Energie AG Upper Austria, a corporate group of infrastructure companies, one of the leading corporate groups for waste collection, processing, recovery and disposal in Central and Eastern Europe. It has a team of over 4.200 employees working in more than 120 locations in Austria, Bavaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine. The group's head office is located in Linz, Austria.

The AVE Group's facilities in Austria and abroad are, on the one hand, the basis for waste treatment at the highest technological and environmental level and, on the other hand, guarantee waste removal. The company collects over 4 million tons of waste per year.

In 2009, AVE Group launched its activities in the Republic of Moldova, starting with waste management in Ungheni. As a result of a Public-private partnership between AVE Group and local government of Ungheni was set up the mixed company „AVE Ungheni” specialized in waste collection, sorting and export of recyclable waste. (Box 5)

Box 5.

Waste management. Case study of „AVE Ungheni” Company

Within a Public-private partnership, due to foreign investments and with a capital of tens of millions of lei, 60% of the sanitation system in the town of Ungheni has been adjusted to European standards.

Being elected as mayor of Ungheni, Alexandru Ambros committed to change the system of sanitation in the town which was at that time managed by the Association of owners of privatized dwelling.

„At the beginning, we just wanted to help the Association, but we realized very soon the need for a specialized company in order to change the situation. For good waste management, we need foreign investments, because we cannot have any results with our own forces, taking into account our limited budget”, Ambros says.

Local government authorities of Ungheni had many meetings with private companies of Romania and Germany. But representatives of those companies were in search of an immediate profit. Then a state company of Austria proposed to set up a mixed enterprise with 60% of social Austrian capital and 40% of capital of the district council within a Public-private partnership. „We signed an advantageous contract with AVE Company and created AVE – Ungheni enterprise. The Austrian company invested over 10 million lei in the project, while our contri-

8 AVE Group. http://www.ave.md/ave/resources/519756574667505561_529283343081866881.pdf

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bution was estimated to 4 million lei. Up to now, approximately 60% of the sanitation system has been replaced”, the mayor of Ungheni added.

Rubbish carts are placed on special platforms for waste collection, and waste is afterwards sorted – plastic, paper, carton, glass, etc. Plastic bottles are baled and sold to Moldovan or foreign plants.

„Now AVE – Ungheni covers its expenditures and expects to recover the investments in the coming 5-6 years”, Ambros mentioned.

Source: <http://unimedia.md/?mod=news&id=19195>

The amount of financial resources allotted for waste management is smaller than the funds directed to water supply and sewerage, and this fact might be explained by the absence at national level of a clear vision or state policy in terms of waste management. At present, the Ministry of Environment is drafting the National Waste Management Strategy which is intended to established special sites for waste disposal and the methods for waste management. Meanwhile, waste management projects are implemented aleatorily, depending on the concern of local government authorities about solving waste problems in their communities.

Waste management sector is financed both from foreign sources and from internal resources provided by National Environmental Fund (NEF) and the National Fund for Regional Development (NFRD). In 2011, NEF allotted 20.8 million lei⁹ for implementation of 12 waste management projects in the total amount of 195 million lei. NFRD supported 6 waste management projects estimated to 38.8 million lei, including 18.9 million lei¹⁰ for efficientization of solid waste management in South Regional Development Region. To point out that NFRD focusses mainly on projects of cooperation among local government authorities with a view to set up a joint system for solid household waste collection and storage.

In parallel with the increase of local government’s concern about solving waste problems in their communities, the market of companies specialized in projection of waste stores, import, manufacturing and trade in waste equipment and installations, and garbage trucks is also enlarging. Here are a few companies of this sector: ABS Ltd., ARTMET Joint Stock Company, UNIPLAST Ltd., AVI-ATEHNOLOGIE Joint Stock Company, MONOLIT Joint Stock Company, VIZOL-STUDIO Ltd., ESC-PUR Ltd.

Waste recycling is a very important process in the system of waste management, intended to bring the waste back into the economic circuit. At present, this segment is weakly developed in the Republic of Moldova, despite the rapid growth of the amount of waste and the diversification and increase of consumption. Gradually, both the population and business entities realize the need for waste recycling, but, unfortunately, such a measure is not encouraged and not even mentioned in national policies. This fact probably derives from the absence of an integrated strategic vision on waste management.

9 List of projects approved for funding and funded by the National Environmental Fund in 2011. <http://www.mediu.gov.md/index.php/serviciul-de-presanoutati/79-categorii-in-romana/despre-minister/institutii-subordonate/72-fondul-ecologic-national>

10 Report on implementation of the National Strategy for Regional Development. Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions. 2011. (page 38). http://www.mcdr.gov.md/files/4511_MDRC_Implementarea__SNDR_2010_ro.pdf



Nevertheless, a few business entities and entrepreneurs developed a business on the segment of waste separate collection and recycling. Most of them focuss on recycling plastic, paper, metal and glass waste. At the end of 2010, was established the Waste Treatment Union – For Clean Moldova intended to strengthen waste recycling efforts of the above-mentioned business entities, and to represent their interests at national and international level. This organization focusses on reintroduction of waste into the economic circuit, implementation of a viable waste management system, including of package waste, in line with the interests of national industry, environment protection and cooperation and coordination of its members', defending their rights and representing their interests in state and international bodies.

In accordance with the Law on industrial and household waste no. 1347 of 09.10.1997¹¹, waste management activities shall be practised based on a waste treatment authorisation issued by the Ministry of Environment. The procedure of issuing the authorisation and the required conditions are regulated by Ordinance of the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova no. 20 of 14 of March 2005 «Concerning the authorisation of the activities related to use of natural resources and preventing environment pollution» (Official Monitor no. 83-85 of 17th of June 2005, art.287). The authorisations are issued free of charge for a five-year period, and the applications shall be examined within a ten-day term after submission of the full set of required documents. Up to now, 29 waste management authorisations have been issued to 26 business entities, 2 public associations and one natural person¹².

A problematic sector of waste management is treatment of organic waste which forms a considerable share of the total amount of waste produced in rural communities. Inadequate storage of organic waste is a serious danger for groundwater and is the main factor causing the reduction of the quantity of safe drinking water in rural communities. Now, organic waste is either discharged in authorized or unauthorized landfills near the villages, or is used as organic fertilizer by farmers. A strongly recommended solution in this sense would be sharing best practices in terms of organic waste use, provided that quality standards for organic waste storage and composting are respected. A noticeable example of respecting environment protection requirements is the initiative of local government authorities of the village of Crihana Veche, district of Cahul, for construction of a storage for organic waste. The storage is intended for accumulation of animal waste from three villages of the district of Cahul: Crihana Veche, Pașcani and Manta. A similar example is the platform for organic waste storage and composting of the village of Negrea, district of Hîncești, built in the period 2004-2005. The compost is afterwards purchased by business entities practising farming activities and used as organic fertilizer.

Another important segment of waste management is waste conversion into fuel. At present, the most ambitious project in this field is „Energy and biomass”, implemented by UNDP Moldova with the financial support of the European Union. The Project aims at developing a safe, competitive and sustainable system for production of renewable energy, especially from biomass and agricultural waste. In addition to providing public institutions and private households with the required equipment for biomass heating, the Project will also provide support for launching the production of vegetable waste briquettes. As a result of promoting this type of fuel, the market of equipment for biomass production and of heating installations will develop. At present, there are several enterprises in the Republic of Moldova producing briquettes from vegetable waste, such as sunflower pellets, for example.

11 <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=311576>, accessed on 30.04.2012

12 List of business entities holding waste management authorisations, amount and types of collected/stored, processed and supplied/exported waste. Ministry of Environment. Posted on 23.06.2011.<http://data.gov.md/raw/154>



„Junicard Com” Ltd. is one of them and it operates in the town of Bălți. The use of vegetable waste as fuel has a beneficial impact on protection of forests, as it prevents from cutting trees for heating.

To mention also in this context that business entities of the Republic of Moldova, realizing more and more the need for reuse of waste as a factor for expenditure reduction, are in search of viable solutions in this sense. For example, juice and baby food factory „Orhei Vit” Joint Stock Company is looking for funds for implementation of a project for reuse of vegetable waste derived from the production of apple juice. Or, after the dehydration process, apple waste may be burnt in special installations to obtain steam needed for the factory’s basic production.

4.3. POSITIVE SOCIAL EXTERNALITIES

In general, any economic activity conducted in accordance with environment legislation and with international standards for quality of environmental management ISO 14001 generates positive social externalities.

Our country has much to do in this direction. Because of the high degree of corruption in the field of environment protection, business entities commit serious violations of legislation. For example, art. 47 b) of the Law no. 1515-XII of 16.06.1993 concerning environment protection and art. 37 of Water Code no. 1532-XI of 22.06.1993 provide that, regardless of the form of their activities, all business entities which use water resources and evacuate wastewater are obliged to ensure pre-treatment of wastewater in accordance with the established standards before discharging it into the sewerage network. Accumulation of wastewater in reservoirs is admitted solely with the joint consent of local government authorities, environment authorities and sanitary-epidemiologic service. But in fact, a few number of business entities have the required equipment for pre-treatment of wastewater. Therefore, many of them collect the toxic wastewater in special reservoirs and discharge it into surface water when the bodies in charge of control on enforcement of environment protection legislation are out of programme. Still, business entities with large-scale production and companies with foreign investments respect environment protection requirements in order to reduce the production expenditures, or by virtue of the company’s policy imposing such a behaviour.

4.4. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Judging by the definitions given by the interviewed business entities, we may conclude that the perception of the notion of „corporate social responsibility” is correct and advanced. Here are some definitions:

„Assuming by the company of the responsibility for its acts and ensuring a positive impact of its activities on the environment, consumers, employees, communities and all stakeholders influenced by its activities”, Trimetrica Ltd.

„Contribution to community development; promoting an advanced business culture; commitment to honesty and integrity as needed corporate values for corruption eradication, reaching a high level of environmental performance as a result of reducing the emissions and their negative impact”, „Gas Natural Fenosa” Joint Stock Company.

„Social responsibility is the correct, ethical attitude towards the society where an individual lives and works and which implies concern about the citizens.”, „Bemol Retail” Ltd.



„The obligation to act correctly and legally in relation with all stakeholders involved in company's activities, respecting the rights of employees and the commitments towards customers, philanthropy acts, respect for social values, responsibility towards people, environment which are affected by the company's activities”, „Association for Green Area Management ” Municipal Enterprise.

The implementation of the principles of corporate social responsibility is delayed by many companies of the Republic of Moldova, at least in terms of corporate responsibility for environment protection. Therefore, there is a pressing need to raise the level of company responsibility for natural resources and environment protection through adopting corporate policies adapted to their activities. Intense dissemination of best practices in this field would encourage active involvement of other private companies.

Corporate social responsibility is expressed through the company's basic activities, its attitude towards employees, the responsible behaviour in relation with the society and with the environment, education of the personnel in the spirit of social and environmental responsibility, involvement in social and environmental activities in partnership with different stakeholders from the society: non-governmental organizations, local and central government authorities, preschool, secondary and university education institutions, etc. The best practices of corporate social responsibility are usually shown by international companies which, as a result of starting a business in Moldova, implanted corporate social responsibility policies in Moldovan companies.

The national campaign „GO GREEN” initiated in 2009 by 51 companies members of the Global Compact Network in Moldova is a good example of involvement of private companies and civil society organizations in environment protection activities. The concept of the national campaign „GO GREEN” was developed in accordance with principles 7, 8 and 9 of the Global Compact and sets the general activities for promotion of environment protection by members of the Global Compact Network in Moldova. The campaign included a wide spectrum of activities according to the following schedule: 1.”The Greed Day” –involving the members and employees of the Global Compact Network in Moldova in volunteer salubrity works within the environmental network: habitats, landscapes and their physically and functionally connected elements which have a special importance from scientific and esthetical viewpoints, and from the viewpoint of conservation of biological diversity and maintaining the geosystemic balance; 2. Environment Protection Code of „GO GREEN” Office –drafting a code through which members of the Global Compact Network in Moldova would reinforce their commitment to environmental responsibility and will make recommendations for practical everyday environment protection activities, including at their workplace; 3.”Ecologically most responsible” member of the Global Compact Network in Moldova – a contest for network members to assess their practical activities of environment protection and/or promotion; 4. Promoting environment protection – ensuring an exchange of information among members of the Global Compact Network in Moldova, employees, partners and their customers on available initiatives for environment protection; collaboration with the mass-media, participation in TV and radio programmes on this issue.

4.5. PHILANTHROPY AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

The legal and fiscal frameworks regulating the involvement of business entities in sponsorship of social and environment protection activities is rather conservative in the Republic of Moldova and does not encourage the private sector to support plenary such activities. According to art. 36 of Tax Code of the Republic of Moldova, each resident taxpayer is entitled to a deduction of any donation made by the taxpayer during the fiscal year as philanthropy or sponsorships, provided that this



amount does not exceed 10% of the taxable income.¹³ During the year, it is quite difficult to estimate the taxable income, therefore business entities are reserved about sponsorship. In order to enhance private sector involvement in social life, it is recommended to establish new tools for encouraging them practise philanthropy.

At present, philanthropy acts are mostly performed by companies with a high turnover, which are usually companies with foreign investments. Many companies use to involve directly in various projects implemented by non-governmental organizations or state and educational institutions, assuming a certain share of expenditures. The most relevant project in this sense was „Hai, Moldova!” in 2011 and 2012 when a large number of business entities, including mass-media companies, joined their efforts to implement that social-environmental project with the motto „Countrywide cleanliness in one day!”. Box no. 3 makes a description of the project and of the organizations involved in it.

An example of traditional involvement in environment protection activities was given by „Gas Natural Fenosa” Joint Stock Company whose corporative environmental policy imposes a special attention to environment protection issues and to efficient use of natural resources needed to satisfy the needs for energy. In terms of environment protection activities, the company voluntarily goes beyond the minimal legal requirements, involving its entrepreneurs and promoting within its groups of interest a responsible attitude towards the use of energy¹⁴ (Box 6).

Box 6.

Philanthropy acts conducted by „Gas Natural Fenosa” Joint Stock Company. Earth Hour 2012

„Gas Natural Fenosa” Moldova has been actively supporting for four years consecutively the activities of the global ecological initiative „Earth Hour”, showing solidarity with millions of people throughout the world who plead for a safer environment.

Inefficient consumption of energy and, consequently, excessive energy production, are among the reasons for negative climate changes faced by the Earth. The Republic of Moldova is a small country compared to other large states of the world, but its energy consumption is constantly growing. The increased demand for energy inevitably leads to increased generation of energy, what has a negative impact on environment, because of carbon and exhaust emission.

This year, Gas Natural Fenosa Moldova, jointly with the Ministry of Environment and with environmental NGO-s, launched an appeal to the society in general and to each individual in particular, as energy consumer, to join the action „Earth Hour” in the Place of the Great National Assembly, held on 31st of March 2012. The Programme of the event included many activities since 16:00 (actions for children) to 20:30 when a maximal number of volunteers started countdown before voluntary switch off of electric installations for at least one hour (60+), as a symbolic gesture for sending the message „We care about the environment where we live. We care about the future of the Earth!”

¹³ <http://www.lex.md/fisc/codfiscaltxtro.htm#A16>, accessed on 30.04.2012

¹⁴ Corporate Responsibility Policy of Gas Natural Fenosa Group <http://gasnaturalfenosa.md/sites/default/files/Politica%20Responsabilidad%20corporativa%20PDF%20rom.pdf>



People who remained at home were invited to turn out light and other energy consuming equipment for at least 60 minutes, in order to show support for this action.

Joining the action “Earth Hour”, „Gas Natural Fenosa” Moldova together with its partners, sent an encouraging message about personal involvement of each individual in earth conservation activities, contributing with our „small help for a better world”. „GasNaturalFenosa” has the conviction that: „We have the power to stop degradation of the natural environment of the planet and to build a future where people will live in harmony with nature, maintaining the biological diversity of the earth, ensuring sustainable renewal of natural resources and promoting the reduction of pollution and the responsible consumption of resources. Do not be indifferent! We can change the world if we start with ourselves!”

Source: <http://gasnaturalfenosa.md/page/ora-planetei-2012>

4.6. POLICY DIALOGUE

As a result of interviews conducted with business entities, we can conclude that private sector has a rather passive role in the process of developing state environmental policies. It is regrettable, because their experience might bring practical arguments in decision-making process.

4.7. CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE

Business entities assert that over the past five years the Republic of Moldova has made some progress in the field of environment protection. Still, most owners of business entities are pessimistic about the prospect of achieving the national targets of Millennium Development Goal 7 – Ensure a sustainable environment by the year 2015.

In general, private sector contribution to achieving national targets of **MDG 7** is considered as very weak in the field of protecting biodiversity, and from weak to moderate – in the field of water resources and waste management. Such an assessment was made both by public authorities, international organizations and civil society organizations, and by business entities included in this survey. In the same time, all stakeholders pointed out the major importance of their involvement in environment protection activities.

In the opinion of business entities whose basic activities are tangential to environment protection, the sustainability of services in the field of environment protection can be ensured as a result of developing social entrepreneurship and through collaboration of private companies and non-governmental organizations for encouraging international donors to support environment protection projects.

On the other hand, there is need for developing a legal frame for granting tax privileges to companies which contribute to development of environment protection services as a measure intended to foster the achievement of the established targets and to bring favourable changes in this field.

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Partnerships have also been a factor for development. A policy focussed on promoting Public-private partnerships would have a favourable impact on society development. Consequently, a partnership between private companies, civil society organizations and local and central public authorities would bring visible changes to the present situation.

Or, private sector plays an important role for environment protection and achievement of national targets of **MDG 7** – Ensure a sustainable environment.

Such a role is expressed by responsible attitude towards natural resources and implies respect for environment legislation. Many Moldovan business entities are faulty from this viewpoint, and the authorities in charge of legislation enforcement exercise modestly their prerogatives. Consequently, more intense measures aimed at raising corporate social responsibility of business entities are required.

On the other hand, business entities are in search of solutions for reduction of production costs by the means of reuse of generated waste, including of wastewater. It diminishes the amount of waste and, as a result, contributes to environment protection. Therefore, it is recommended to promote funding policies and tools intended to encourage such activities.

Specialized private sector is developing in parallel with the increase of central and local government concern about solving the problems related to operation of public infrastructure for water supply, sewerage, wastewater treatment and waste management. The solutions to such problems depend on public authorities' capability to manage efficiently the available financial resources and to raise funds. From this perspective, there is need for setting the required tools for proper enforcement of the Law on public-private partnerships.

As we have mentioned in the chapter above, multilateral partnerships established by development stakeholders – central and local government, civil society and private sector – are the key to equitable society development. For this, each stakeholder shall be aware of the mutual advantages. In the same time, in order to improve the cooperation between private sector and civil society organizations, the legal framework shall be improved with a view to encourage business entities to support the activities implemented by non-governmental organizations.



CHAPTER 5.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Millennium Development Goals are the first experience of Governments in taking important development commitments. Achievement of national targets is a proof of Governments' responsibility in relation with the society.

Millennium Development Goal 7 „Ensure a sustainable environment” sets a number of indicators which have an impact on several environment components: forests, protected areas, water and waste. Adequate management of such resources depends on the national environment policy. The existence or the absence of natural resources, as well as their quality are in a direct relation with everyday life and with living standards. Therefore, the place assigned by Government to environment protection issues among the priorities in terms of investments and development shows the maturity of its understanding of the contribution of environment components to society development. The weaker is the perception of the relation between environment components and society development, the higher are the costs of development.

National targets of **MDG 7** are transposed in quantitative indicators tangential to the above-mentioned environment components. The analysis of the situation shows that focussing on quantitative achievement of such targets is not enough for getting the expected final outcomes with a positive impact on development. We shall also be concerned about the quality of resources which has been extremely diminished as a result of intensive anthropic activities conducted over the past 60 years under the auspice of technical-scientific progress.

So, a special consideration shall be paid to **quality** environment components which are in interdependent relations with social and economic issues. The quality of environment depends on a number of key-factors susceptible to guarantee the sustainability of ecosystems. Here are some of them: awareness of the interdependence between the quality of environment and the quality of people's life; formulation by decision-makers of a clear and well-defined vision of the development direction based on sustainable development principles; policy development based on the requirements of sustainable development principles; setting up functional tools for prevention and control on pollution; responsabilization of decision-makers, private sector and population for environment protection.

Taking into account the need for a complex approach to this field and the influence of the environment on living standards, on economic development and, consequently, on society development, the involvement of all stakeholders is relevant, as they are considered as development actors. From this viewpoint, there is need for involvement of all stakeholders contributing to development: government, private sector, civil society organizations and partners for development. As a result of joining the efforts of such key-actors in an area of constructive dialogue, and removing individual ambitions, there will be opportunities for building a healthy and sustainable society.

Civil society and private companies play a special role on this pathway. Therefore, active involvement of civil society and of private companies in activities tangential to national targets of **MDG 7** shall

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contribute to reaching the expected indicators. Alongside with sectorial policies, policies aimed at civil society and private sector development and at encouraging their joint involvement for ensuring a sustainable environment shall also be promoted.

As a summary to the chapter about the role of civil society in achieving the national targets of **MDG 7**, we may conclude that civil society activities in the field of environment protection are diverse and most of them are focussed on donor programmes. In the same time, there are also organizations specialized in narrower sectors, such as water resources protection, protection and conservation of biodiversity, soil protection, waste management, including of hazardous waste, developing the environmental associative sector, and their expertise is valuable for environment policy development, monitoring and implementation. The environmental expertise of civil society organizations is relevant to the national targets of Millennium Development Goal 7 – Ensure a sustainable development.

In their developments, environmental civil society institutions have passed through periods of ascension and decline, because of their primordial dependence on the funds coming from foreign donors. Such a dependence still persists, and the activities of most organizations working in the field of environment protection are financially supported from foreign funds. Therefore, there is a pressing need for developing the required tools for associative sector development. In the same time, civil society organizations shall be encouraged to use the tools intended to ensure their sustainability and the sustainability of their activities implemented for the benefit of the society. Inter-sector and multilateral partnerships with all stakeholders are at the basis of society development. Civil society organizations need to be aware of it and involve in activities based on partnership principles. In such conditions, their efforts will have a positive impact on the quality of outcomes.

Private sector also plays an important role for environment protection and achieving national targets of **MDG 7** „Ensure a sustainable environment” through its basic activities, positive social externalities, corporate social responsibility, philanthropy and community investments and policy dialogue. .

Such a role shall be expressed by responsible attitude towards natural resources and implies respect for environment legislation. Many business entities, mainly Moldovan ones, are faulty from this viewpoint, and the authorities in charge of legislation enforcement exercise modestly their prerogatives. Consequently, more intense measures aimed at raising corporate social responsibility of business entities are required.

On the other hand, business entities are in search of solutions for reduction of production costs by the means of reuse of generated waste, including of wastewater. It diminishes the amount of waste and, as a result, contributes to environment protection. Therefore, it is recommended to promote funding policies and tools intended to encourage such activities.

Specialized private sector is developing in parallel with the increase of central and local government concern about solving the problems related to operation of public infrastructure for water supply, sewerage, wastewater treatment and waste management. The solutions to such problems depend on public authorities' capability to manage efficiently the available financial resources and to raise funds. From this perspective, there is need for setting the required tools for proper enforcement of the Law on public-private partnerships.

Multilateral partnerships established by development stakeholders – central and local government, civil society and private sector – are the key to equitable society development. For this, each stakeholder shall be aware of the mutual advantages. In the same time, in order to improve the cooperation between



en private sector and civil society organizations, the legal framework shall be improved with a view to encourage business entities to support the activities implemented by non-governmental organizations.

In conclusion, to achieve national targets of Millennium Development Goal 7 „Ensure a sustainable environment” and encourage active participation of civil society organizations and of private sector in this process, the following recommendations shall be done, in our opinion:

1. For development partners:

- ◆ Correlation of programmes of activity and of the technical assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova among the development partners;
- ◆ Consulting the civil society organizations and private sector by development partners in the process of identifying the priorities for technical assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova.
- ◆ Consulting with a pre-established periodicity the civil society organizations and private sector by development partners with a view to conduct monitoring of the implementation of the technical assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova, in the context of fulfilling by Government of its commitments taken with regard to national targets **MDG 7** “Ensure a sustainable environment”. This recommendation is valid for all programmes of assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova, not only to the ones directed to environment protection sector.

2. For Government:

- ◆ Correlating the activities of central public authorities and of the concerned agencies (for example: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions, State Chancellery) which work and provide financial assistance in similar sectors: water supply, sewerage, wastewater treatment, waste management, tourism development, etc.;
- ◆ Reforming the State Environmental Inspectorate into an Environmental Agency and a National Environmental Guard;
- ◆ Reorganization and optimization of the National Environmental Fund with a view to ensure proportional distribution of financial resources among the identified environmental priorities, ensure transparent activity and direct a pre-established quota of 6-8% of funds for activities conducted by civil society organizations, with eligible administrative and labour remuneration expenditures;
- ◆ Providing to civil society organizations access to financial resources of the National Fund for Regional Development by the means of projects implemented within partnership with local government authorities;
- ◆ Active involvement of civil society organizations in developing and implementing sectorial projects conducted by central public authorities, specialized agencies and local governments;
- ◆ Restructuring local government bodies through creating a new position of environment specialist within local government authorities of level I and an environment directorate within local government authorities of level II;
- ◆ Improving statistical recording of the data concerning environment components;
- ◆ Providing comprehensive data about the quality of environment components, and about polluters and users of natural resources;

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- ◆ Monitoring of projects funded from internal and foreign sources by all stakeholders –development partners, public authorities, civil society organizations - either individually, or by the means of joint monitoring committees and dissemination of the results through official bulletins;
- ◆ Active involvement by central public authorities of civil society organizations and of private sector in the process of drafting legislative acts and the middle-term budgetary framework;
- ◆ Strengthening by competent bodies of the process of environment legislation enforcement in the Republic of Moldova. Active involvement of Environmental Inspectorates, Forest Guard, police and civil society organizations in this process;
- ◆ Proclaiming the right to water and sanitation in national legislation, as a fundamental human right recognized on 28th of July 2010 by the General Assembly of the United Nations through adopting Resolution 64/192;
- ◆ Setting favourable prerequisites for rural and ecological tourism development in protected areas. To this end, the cooperation between the Ministry of Environment, Tourism Agency, civil society organizations and specialized business entities is recommended;
- ◆ Concession of water supply, sewerage, wastewater treatment and waste management services. Improving the legal and regulatory frame intended to encourage the establishment of public-private partnerships for provision of the above-mentioned services;
- ◆ Developing a programme for distribution of degraded land owned by local government to foresters and other people interested in forest cultivation;
- ◆ Developing state programmes intended to encourage the use by business entities of non-pollutant technologies. For example: reduced rate of customs duties for imports of equipment for wastewater treatment plants, solar panels, waste sorting facilities, etc;
- ◆ Temporary reduction of taxes and duties in priority sectors in order to encourage investments in the respective sectors, such as water supply, sewerage, wastewater treatment, etc.;
- ◆ Developing waste recycling programmes and encouraging entrepreneurship in this field;
- ◆ Setting favourable prerequisites for promoting and strengthening financial sustainability of civil society organizations, as provided by the Strategy for Civil Society Development for 2012-2015:
 - ▶ Improving the tools for deduction of donations and expanding such tools to natural persons;
 - ▶ Removing the restrictions to economic activities, if revenue is directed to reaching statutory goals;
 - ▶ Developing social entrepreneurship and establishing the respective privileges;
 - ▶ Strengthening the relations between business entities and civil society organizations with the view to facilitate private funding and deduce the justified expenditures for their benefit;
 - ▶ Developing a tool for direct contracting of civil society organizations.

3. For civil society organizations:



- ◆ Active involvement in debates on drafts of law, including in electronic format: making comments through particip.gov.md website or sending comments by email;
- ◆ Monitoring of projects implemented in this field by all stakeholders (central and local government authorities, research institutes, civil society organizations, etc.) and publication of data and of reports;
- ◆ Active involvement in drafting local plans for environmental actions jointly with local government authorities of level I and II;
- ◆ Developing periodical bulletins about monitoring on the achievement of national targets of Millennium Development Goals;
- ◆ Developing and implementing anti-corruption programmes and raising transparency in the field of environment protection and people's health;
- ◆ Developing social entrepreneurship;
- ◆ Strengthening the cooperation with local and central public authorities, specialized agencies and bodies;
- ◆ Strengthening non-governmental sector through specialized or general coalitions;
- ◆ Establishing partnerships with various stakeholders: civil society organizations, private sector, local and central public authorities, agencies, educational institutions, etc.;
- ◆ Involving the public in debates on issues relevant to environment protection;
- ◆ Facilitating social dialogue among the stakeholders on issues of local, regional or national importance with a view to increase environment safety;

4. For private sector:

- ◆ Responsibilization of private sector for respecting environment protection legislation and avoiding corruption as a solution to environment problems;
- ◆ Active involvement in debates on drafts of laws through participation in various events, participation in working-groups, sending comments in electronic format through the website particip.gov.md or by email;
- ◆ Developing waste recycling programmes alongside with basic activities of the company;
- ◆ Developing educational programmes for the company's personnel on environmental issues, involving civil society organizations in such programmes;
- ◆ Involving in social activities for environment protection;
- ◆ Supporting environmental activities conducted by civil society organizations and central and local government;
- ◆ Active involvement of mass-media companies in dissemination of environmental issues, existing problems, best practices in this field;
- ◆ Using non-pollutant technologies in the process of production and service provision;
- ◆ Establishing public-private partnerships for provision of water supply, sewerage, wastewater treatment and sanitation public services;
- ◆ Provision of quality services in the field of developing technical projects, conducting feasibility studies related to water supply, sewerage, wastewater treatment and waste management.



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**Ensure a sustainable environment**

Goal 7

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ANNEXES

Private sector representatives having a contribution to MDG 7	Data collected by the means of:
"Bemol Retail" Ltd.	Questionnaire for MDG 7
"Gas Natural Fenosa" Joint Stock Company	Questionnaire for MDG 7
"Ecologie-Expert" Ltd.	Questionnaire for MDG 7
PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit Ltd.	Questionnaire for MDG 7
"Trimetrica" Ltd.	Questionnaire for MDG 7
Waste Treatment Union– For Clean Moldova	Questionnaire for MDG 7
„Association for Management of Green Areas” Municipal enterprise	Questionnaire for MDG 7
„Unit for renovation of artesian wells in Chişinău” State enterprise	Questionnaire for MDG 7
"Orange Moldova" Joint Stock Company	Analysis of activities
"Moldcell" Joint Stock Company	Analysis of activities
„Dendrocultagro” Ltd.	In-depth interview
"AVE Ungheni" Ltd.	Analysis of activities
„Orhei Vit” Joint Stock Company	Analysis of activities
„Junicard Com” Ltd.	Analysis of activities
„ESC-PUR” Ltd.	Analysis of activities
„ABS” Ltd.	Analysis of activities

Civil society representatives having a contribution to MDG 7	Data collected by the means of:
National Centre for Sustainable Development	Questionnaire for MDG 7
„Habitat” Agency for Regional Development	Questionnaire for MDG 7
Amnesty International Moldova	Questionnaire for MDG 7
Centre for Human Rights Resources (CReDO)	Questionnaire for MDG 7
EcoContact	Questionnaire for MDG 7
National Environmental Centre	Questionnaire for MDG 7
ECO-TIRAS International Ecological Association of River Keepers	Analysis of activities
Ecological Movement of Moldova	Analysis of activities
„Expert-Group” Independent Analytical Centre	Analysis of activities
BIOTICA Ecological Society	Analysis of activities
„Ormax” Culture and Youth Association	Analysis of activities
Chişinău Territorial Organization of the Ecological Movement of Moldova	Analysis of activities
European Solidarity for Water in Moldova	Analysis of activities
Medium	Analysis of activities
IREX	Analysis of activities
Association for Creative Development	Analysis of activities
WiSDOM	Analysis of activities
Metropolitan Media	Analysis of activities

Governmental institutions having a contribution to MDG 7	Data collected by the means of:
Ministry of Environment	Analysis of activities
Ministry of Transport and Road Infrastructure	Questionnaire for MDG 7
Ministry of Health	Questionnaire for MDG 7
State Environmental Inspectorate	Questionnaire for MDG 7



Governmental institutions having a contribution to MDG 7	Data collected by the means of:
Institute for Ecology and Geography	Questionnaire for MDG 7
"Apele Moldovei" Water Agency	Questionnaire for MDG 7
National Bureau for Statistics	Questionnaire for MDG 7
North Regional Development Agency	Questionnaire for MDG 7
Centre Regional Development Agency	Analysis of activities
South Regional Development Agency	Questionnaire for MDG 7

International organizations (donors) having a contribution to MDG 7	Data collected by the means of:
UNDP Moldova	Questionnaire for MDG 7
FHI 360 Moldova	Questionnaire for MDG 7
Delegation of the European Union to Moldova	Analysis of activities
Austrian Development Agency in Moldova	Analysis of activities
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Analysis of activities
"Water and Sanitation in the Republic of Moldova" Project (ApaSan)	Analysis of activities
Embassy of the Czech Republic in the Republic of Moldova	Analysis of activities

