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## CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY IN THE DNIESTER RIVER BASIN

### Report of the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Flood Management and Climate Change Adaptation<sup>1</sup>

*Chisinau, Moldova*  
2-3 July 2014

**Wednesday, 2 July 2014**

#### **Introduction**

Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk (OSCE) welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of the signature of the Association Agreements between the European Union and Moldova and Ukraine for the development of the transboundary cooperation in the Dniester basin. Mr. Kalashnyk also mentioned that in September 2014 there would be the 10-year anniversary of the Dniester process.

Mr. Andrei Ursache (Ministry of Environment of Moldova) emphasized the role of adaptation activities for Moldova and described the main results of the project “Reducing vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change in the Dniester basin” paying special attention to flood risk modeling in the Dniester delta. He thanked the project team for the support in facilitating the signing of the Treaty on Cooperation on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin (the Dniester Treaty) and stressed the importance of its ratification by Ukraine. Mr. Ursache also acknowledged the activities implemented through other projects such as “Environmental Protection of International River Basins” and “Transition to High-Value Agriculture” as well as projects implemented by non-governmental organizations including “Eco-TIRAS” and “Biotica”.

Mr. Valeriy Babchuk welcomed the participants on behalf of the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine and thanked the international organizations for supporting the Dniester process. He stressed that it is very important to select and start implementation of practical measures within the project component “Climate Change and Security in the Dniester basin”. In addition, Mr. Babchuk emphasized the role of signing the EU Association Agreement by Moldova and Ukraine.

Ms. Sonja Koepfel (UNECE) described the new achievements within the project component “Climate Change and Security in the Dniester basin” including further development of the draft strategic framework for adaptation to climate change in the Dniester river basin and of the list of priority adaptation measures and the conduction of national and transboundary consultations on the strategic framework and the measures. With these outputs the Dniester river basin was currently one of the most advanced basins worldwide with regard to transboundary climate change adaptation, even in comparison to many EU basins. Ms. Koepfel also mentioned that the ninth meeting of the Working Group would focus on a further

<sup>1</sup> All presentations are available at :

<https://www2.unece.org/ehlm/platform/display/ClimateChange/Dniester+project+meeting%2C+Chisinau%2C+2-3+July+2014>

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discussion of the strategic framework for adaptation to climate change in the Dniester river basin, the selection of priority adaptation measures and the modalities for their implementation within the project, as well as would include a session on integrating transboundary and climate change dimensions into water-basin management planning (as requested by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova at the eighth meeting of the Working Group, and to be conducted jointly with the Millennium Challenge Corporation).

Ms. Koepfel highlighted the importance of an early entry into force of the bilateral Dniester Treaty signed by Ukraine and Moldova in 2012 and added that the project was trying, as possible, to accelerate the ratification of the Dniester Treaty by Ukraine. Ms. Koepfel acknowledged the contribution of the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) to the implementation of activities and thanked the donors for their financial support, namely the European Union the Austrian Development Cooperation, the governments of Finland and Sweden as well as Switzerland as a donor of a new complementary project “Restoring Ecosystems to Mitigate Floods and Improve Cooperation Between Countries in Transboundary River Basins in Eastern Europe”.

Ms. Christine Kitzler (OSCE) gave a general overview of the project “Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus” of which the Dniester project component is integral part of and informed the meeting about the national assessment workshops implemented in the project region and aimed at identifying links between climate change and security; selecting most vulnerable areas to climate change; and developing recommendations for reducing vulnerability and increasing adaptation potential. Ms. Kitzler also emphasized that the Dniester basin was selected as one of the climate change hotspots in Eastern Europe and as the pilot region for implementing ecosystem-based adaptation measures to climate change in the project area. She then explained the other activities and the next steps in project implementation. In this regard she highlighted the activities in the Dniester river basin as best practice example for transboundary co-operation in adaptation to climate change and security risks that could be transferred to other areas, vulnerable to climate change.

The agenda and the list of participants are presented in Annex 1 and Annex 2 accordingly.

### **Strategic framework for adaptation to climate change in the Dniester basin**

*Development of the strategic framework for adaptation to climate change in the Dniester river basin: review of comments to the draft, steps for finalizing the strategic framework, discussion*

Ms. Sonja Koepfel reminded the participants that the elaboration of the strategic framework for adaptation to climate change and the development of priority adaptation measures are interrelated. Ms. Koepfel also stressed that the strategic framework is the document which provides strategic directions and which helps the countries to develop transboundary cooperation and implement obligations under the Water Convention as well as prioritize investment needs.

Mr. Nickolai Denisov (Zoi Environmental Network) shortly informed the participants about the process of developing the strategic framework to-date, and described key future steps to update the strategic framework based on the received feedback and the most recent results of on-going projects and developments within the countries. Mr. Denisov reminded the participants that adaptation operates in a context of high uncertainty which was reflected in the strategic framework, and that the main focus of the strategic framework as a basin-level policy instrument is to target water-related impacts of climate change in the Dniester basin. The expert emphasized the important role of the new Dniester Treaty and the Dniester Basin Commission to be established through the Treaty for future adaptation activities.

Mr. Denisov drew the attention of the audience to the distributed overview of how the project proposes to address the received recommendations, and of new developments and sources of information that will be taken into account, including geopolitical developments; new climate change scenarios and impact analyses in Moldova and Ukraine; the analysis of future water use; the new results of flood mapping; and the on-going work on modelling the Dniester reservoirs.

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Mr. Denisov concluded that the strategic framework is expected to be finalized by the end of 2014 incorporating all suggestions and comments from responsible stakeholders. He also emphasized that the strategic framework is complementary to national adaptation processes and that it is very important to integrate the strategic framework into national adaptation and water management plans in both countries as well as to develop an implementation and resource mobilization plan.

The national consultants recruited within the frame of the project informed the audience about consultations held with the relevant national authorities on the development of the strategic framework and selection of priority measures. According to Mr. Yurii Nabyvanets (Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Institute) and Mr. Nickolai Babich, the framework was discussed by relevant Ukrainian authorities which agreed that it illustrates well the general climate trends and climate change adaptation needs in the basin. Several national legal documents including laws on national environmental policy, the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the development of the water sector were analysed by the consultants, who in conclusion emphasised that it would be timely to start implementing the elements of the strategic framework for adaptation to climate change focusing on priority adaptation measures.

Mr. Gherman Bejenaru (State Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Moldova) and Mr. Mikhail Pencov referred to several meetings conducted with relevant stakeholders in Moldova in order to develop a common strategic vision of adaptation needs in the basin. The consultants also performed a preliminary analysis of water need within the Moldavian part of the basin, concluding that even with a 10-20% reduction in the average flow projected under climate change within the next 30 years the basin overall will not experience a water deficit. At the same time Mr. Vasyliy Greben (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv) and Mr. Vitaliy Mokin (Vinnitsa National Technical University) raised a concern that water resources in different areas of the basin could be impacted by climate change differently, and concluded that there is a necessity for a detailed assessment of water need within the basin. Mr. Vladimir Gubanov (Nizhnednestrovskiy National Nature Park) and Mr. Svetlana Slesarenok (Mama-86-Odessa) added that the Lower Dniester quite often experiences a lack of water resources. Mr. Pencov responded that one of the adaptation measures could be the introduction of water saving technologies which should ensure the wise use of water and enhance the water availability under the impacts of climate change. He also mentioned that the guaranteed sanitary and ecological flow needs to be reassessed in the context of the operation rules of the Dniester reservoirs. The experts also agreed that the assessment of the basin's water management balance should take into consideration the future impacts of climate change.

#### *Updates on relevant national adaptation activities*

Ms. Irina Trofimova (State Environmental Investment Agency of Ukraine) informed the participants that the EU Association Agreement with Ukraine includes suggestions for cooperation on climate change. Ms. Trofimova also added that in 2013, the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change was adopted; however, significant difficulties remain to adopt and implement the adaptation strategy at the national level even for EU states (e.g. only 15 of them have an adopted climate change adaptation strategy). Ms. Trofimova informed that, although the national adaptation plan in Ukraine was not adopted due to lack of funding and due to the current political situation in Ukraine, some important research was implemented which could be useful for the activities within the Dniester basin. For example, the agency is developing now a general strategy on climate change which will include national adaptation issues as well as outcomes of the Dniester strategic framework for adaptation to climate change. Ms. Trofimova informed that, unfortunately, Ukraine does not have any projects implemented to support the state adaptation policy directly at the national level. Ms. Koepfel added that it is important for the project not only to coordinate activities with national adaptation processes but also to follow the adaptation processes in the EU.

Ms. Ala Druta (Climate Change Office of the Republic of Moldova) described the national adaptation process in Moldova which is supported by UNDP. She informed that the national adaptation strategy was developed and sectoral adaptation plans were elaborated, and a financing strategy to meet priority national adaptation needs was developed. The national adaptation plan based on the strategy is under development involving relevant decision-makers, authorities, research institutions, NGOs and civil society. The expert also informed that sectoral planners were trained in adaptation planning, budgeting and implementation.

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Ms. Druta added that the UNDP project has almost developed the grant scheme to support implementation of some priority adaptation measures in vulnerable districts.

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## **Prioritization and implementation of adaptation measures**

### *Selection of measures to be implemented through the project*

Ms. Hanna Plotnykova (OSCE) presented the list of priority adaptation measures suggested by the members of the Working Group for implementation within the frame of the project, described the process of prioritizing the adaptation measures and consulting with relevant stakeholders and explained why several measures could not be supported within the project, for example installation of meteorological radars due to the high costs which could not be covered by the project. Two measures such as improvement of flow forecasting to the Dniester reservoirs and the development of a joint platform for hydrometeorological and hydrological data exchange between the riparian countries needs deeper analysis. Therefore, it was agreed to take the decision on supporting their implementation after preliminary consultations and the research are performed.

The members of the Working Group jointly agreed that within the project several adaptation measures in the areas of enhancing the information base for climate change adaptation; ecosystem restoration and conservation; and public awareness will be implemented. The selection of adaptation measures was performed according to the following criteria:

- increasing adaptation potential / adaptive capacity;
- transboundary relevance;
- effectiveness and efficiency given the limited funds available.

The jointly agreed measures to be implemented in the project include the following:

### Improvement of the information base for adaptation to climate change

- Installation of 4-5 automated water level monitoring stations (depending on individual costs and the availability of funds) in the basin, and strengthening the exchange of flow monitoring data.
- additional works for modeling and mapping of flooded areas and flood risk zones in the Dniester delta (the majority of work has been implemented within the preceding ENVSEC project on reducing vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change);
- calculation of the current and the long-term water management balance of the Dniester basin;
- development of the model of functioning of the cascade of the Dniester reservoirs. This measure is implemented mainly by AGWA;
- publication of the brochure on flood communication for the general public. (the majority of work on flood communication has been implemented within the project on reducing vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change).

### Ecosystem restoration and conservation

- Conducting a feasibility study and low-scale restoration measures to improve water exchange between the Dniester and floodplain meadows by restoring water culverts under the Mayaki-Palanca motorway;
- feasibility study for one wetland to be inundated during floods in Moldova and support to the development of the necessary legal framework / justification;
- creation of forest margins and riverside protective bands at a Ramsar site in the basin.

### Public awareness

- afforestation events in transboundary areas of the Dniester accompanied by training for local authorities on the selection of species and areas for afforestation at the banks and water protection zones;
- continued support to the “Colours of the Dniester” art-contest, awareness raising youth expeditions and the Dniester festival.

Mr. Nickolai Denisov presented an outline of the implementation plan for the strategic framework for adaptation, which will illustrate which specific steps are needed to implement the different clusters of measures recommended through the strategic framework (a specific example was given with respect to the proposed strengthening of hydrological and hydrometeorological monitoring), as well as will reference other available resources and operating processes in the related fields. Like the strategic framework itself, the implementation plan will prioritize the transboundary perspective of adaptation on the basin level, drawing upon and complementing national-scale and inter-state processes and resources.

Mr. Dumitru Drumea (WWF and GWP Moldova) emphasized that a general program for the implementation of strategic documents is always necessary. Mr. Yurii Nabyvanets asked the representatives of the international organizations to regularly inform local stakeholders about funding opportunities because there is a lack of such information in Ukraine. Mr. Orest Melniciuc (Institute of Geography and Ecology of Moldova's Academy of Science) suggested that one of the measures for implementation could be a deeper analysis of stream flows under climate change and the development of detailed vulnerability maps.

### **Cooperation with other international and national projects and activities**

Several projects related to adaptation and management of transboundary basins were presented. More detailed information can be found in the presentations following the link <https://www2.unece.org/ehlm/platform/display/ClimateChange/Dniester+project+meeting%2C+Chisinau%2C+2-3+July+2014>. The following projects were described during the meeting:

- *Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project, EU (by Victor Bujac, Agency "Appele Moldovei")*
- *Project: Transition to High-Value Agriculture, Millennium Challenge Corporation (by Sergiu Budesteanu, Millennium Challenge Corporation)*
- *The Moldova Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Project (by Ecaterina Melnicenco, UNDP)*
- *Moldova Flood Management Technical Assistance and Investment project (by Enrico Franc, European Investment Bank)*
- *The book "Climate Change Vulnerability: Moldavian Part of the Dniester River Basin" (by Roman Corobov, Eco-TIRAS)*
- *Activities in the Lower Dniester on adapting to climate change (by Alexei Andreev, BIOTICA)*
- *Climate proofing the Danube Delta through Integrated Land and Water Management (Dumitru Drumea, WWF)*
- *Clima East Project (by Mikhail Kozeltsev).*

### **Modelling of the Dniester reservoirs by the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation**

Mr. Rolf Olsen and Ms. Kristin Gilroy (AGWA) informed that the model developed by USACE/AGWA aims to find a balance between different water management objectives such as flood storage, hydropower production, water supply for agriculture and conservation of ecosystems (e.g. a balance in regulation of minimum flow to meet water supply needs downstream and maximum flow to prevent flood damages). Mr. Olsen described the Reservoir System Simulation (HEC-ResSim) software developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC) and which is used to model reservoir operations at one or more reservoirs for a variety of operational goals and constraints. The expert added that the software is free and available for download at <http://www.hec.usace.army.mil/software/hec-ressim/>.

The AGWA team presented some preliminary modelling results for the Dniester reservoirs, for the time-being focused on strategic exploitation of the reservoirs in order to meet flow needs of priority sectors including hydropower, irrigation, flood protection and ecosystem in the Lower Dniester under different hydrological regimes and energy production scenarios rather than on making real-time decisions. In particular, the experts analyzed the difference in operating the reservoirs as a holistic system vs. operating each reservoir individually; the outcomes demonstrated that tandem operations were usually more sustainable and efficient than individual ones.

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Ms. Gilroy described the information needs for modelling of the functioning of the Dniester reservoirs and mentioned that AGWA is trying to raise funds to conduct a separate workshop on the model in autumn in order to discuss the needs and the practicalities in using the model by relevant stakeholders, identify vulnerabilities under climate change and outline adaptation approaches in operating the reservoirs. Ms. Gilroy encouraged the participants to express their view on the model and discuss it.

The participants representing relevant institutions such as the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Centre and the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine welcomed the model, but also emphasized the need to use the model for taking real-time decisions to ensure balance between needs of the priority sectors including flood management and ecological release to sustain the ecosystems of the Lower Dniester. Mr. Olsen answered that, although they demonstrated the use of the model for long-term planning, it could also be used for real-time short-term decisions e.g. in case of floods which could be shown at the next workshop.

Mr. Yuriy Bisovetskiy (Ukrhidroenergo) told that the model is necessary for integrated management of the reservoirs and could be a helpful tool for the Inter-Departmental Commission on the Dniester Reservoirs. He also informed that the research institution “Ukrhidroproject” based in Kharkiv is now updating the operation manual for the Dniester reservoirs; however, it would not be possible to change the operation manual significantly because the parameters of the hydroelectric plant remain the same. Mr. Bisovetskiy added that the World Bank supported Ukrhidroenergo in reconstructing the hydroelectric units of the Dniester Hydropower Plant (the majority of units have been already reconstructed), including the development of a water resources management system which however has not yet been implemented.

Mr. Alexandru Tabacaru (Water Basin Management Authority) highlighted the importance of considering sedimentation processes for the reservoir model and requested information on how this has been considered so far.

Mr. Andrii Demydenko (Global Water Partnership) informed that GWP has extended experience in integrated water management and told that, in case GWP receives funding for the activities related to the modelling of the reservoirs’ functioning, they would be interested in supporting the training on how to use the model.

Mr. Olsen concluded that more detailed discussion on the model is needed with decision-makers and technical experts, and attempt would be made to organize such a discussion in autumn 2014, either with additional funding or within the on-going project.

## **Thursday, 3 July 2014**

### **Flood management activities: monitoring and information**

#### *Flood risk modelling in the Dniester Delta area (new results and developments)*

Mr. Oleksiy Ishchuk (GIS Analyst Centre) described the field work for collecting bathymetry data for flood modelling in the Dniester Delta, data processing and preparatory works for flood risk analysis under climate change. He also informed that only zones of low and medium flood risk would extend under the impact of climate change. Mr. Valeriu Cazac added that additional attention should be paid to the location at the Dniester where the Turunchuk flows into it because the Turunchuk contributes 70% of the flow that could cause loss of the Dniester main course.

#### *Improved flow monitoring and use of information for flood management*

Mr. Stanislav Soloninka (Dniester-Prut Basin Management Board) informed the participants that the automatic monitoring stations belonging to the State Agency of Water Resources in Ukraine are integrated into the automatic information system “Priкарпатіє”. Automatic monitoring stations at Galych and Zalishchyky at the Dniester belong to the same system. Mr. Soloninka suggested that an information platform for exchanging the data could be developed within the existing geo-portal

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<http://dniester.grida.no/en/> or using any other platform. He also emphasized the need to install additional automatic monitoring stations in Sambir and Zhuravno and to calculate the water management balance for the basin.

Ms. Ludmila Serenco (Service of Civil Protection and Emergency Situations) stressed the need to involve in transboundary data exchange (including the development of a joint information platform and data sharing on-line) Moldova's relevant authorities responsible for emergency response in order to shorten the period of response to possible emergencies. Ms. Serenco also suggested studying the experience of the Tisza Basin Management Board in Ukraine which has good expertise in this subject. Ms. Viktoria Boyko supported the idea of improving data sharing, including the provision of data from Zalischyky and Galych to the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Centre and the State Hydrometeorological Service of Moldova. Mr. Vitaliy Kolvenko said that relevant data received from the monitoring stations in Zalischyky and Galych would be also useful for the Hydrometeorological Centre in Tiraspol. Mr. Oleksiy Ishchuk proposed paying more attention to learning how to share data and use it for transboundary purposes.

#### *Update on activities on flood risk communication*

Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva (Zoï environment network) informed the meeting that a local workshop on flood communication was conducted in May 2014 at Vadul lui Voda (Moldova). The workshop gathered representatives of national institutions (Service of Civil Protection and Emergency Situations, State Hydrometeorological Service, the Agency "Apelle Moldovei", and JSC "Vodokanal Chisinau") as well as local representatives including the local council, police inspectorate, kindergarten, schools, children's activity centre and church. The workshop discussed the problems associated with providing information about floods to the public in the Dniester basin, and encouraged exchange of opinions on how to improve flood communication and response on the local level. Ms. Nikolayeva added that a second local workshop would be organised on 4 July 2014 in Mogyliv-Podilskyi in order to present the results of flood risk modelling to the representatives of the local authorities responsible for emergency response.

Ms. Nikolayeva presented the draft leaflet describing general information for local population on actions during floods. As mentioned before (in the item *Prioritization and implementation of adaptation measures*), the publication of the leaflet will be supported by the project activity "Climate Change and Security in the Dniester River Basin".

### **River basin management planning in the Dniester basin**

#### *Development of a river basin management plan for the Moldovan part of the Dniester basin by the project Irigare of the Millennium Challenge Corporation including consideration of transboundary aspects*

Mr. Sergiu Budesteanu presented the development of the river basin management plan for the Moldovan part of the Dniester basin within the project "Transition to High-value Agriculture Project" funded by the American Millennium Challenge Corporation. Mr. Budesteanu informed that the management plan would include the following items:

- general description of natural conditions;
- brief description of pressures and impacts;
- identification and analysis of protected areas;
- analysis and evaluation of the monitoring network;
- evaluation of quantity and quality of water resources;
- planning of construction of water supply systems and new facilities for treatment of waste water;
- risk analysis including risk of development of unfavorable exogenous processes;
- information regarding controls of water abstraction and dams;
- information regarding authorization for direct discharges in the surface and groundwater
- economic analysis of water use;
- analysis of financial resources to implement the management plan;
- program of measures covering measures to implement national policy documents.



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Mr. Budesteanu briefly described the results achieved by the project so far which include preparation of the general description of natural conditions, preliminary analysis of pressures and impacts, evaluation of the monitoring network, preliminary identification and delineation of groundwater bodies, preliminary classification of surface water bodies, and conduction of the first round of public consultations on the management plan. He also added that the project team planned to finalize the first draft of the management plan by August 2014 which would be followed by the second round of public consultation, preparation of the final version, official endorsement and government approval in 2015. Mr. Budesteanu informed that the management plan would include a separate chapter on transboundary aspects as well as general and specific measures proposed in the program of measures and concluded that the project team was open for cooperation with Ukrainian colleagues.

Ms. Sonja Koeppel told that the development of the transboundary management plan is a challengeable task and mentioned that only two transboundary European river basins (the Danube and the Rhine) have transboundary river basin management plans according to the EU Water Framework Directive developed. Ms. Koeppel also added that in Eastern Europe one of the examples (except the Dniester river) of transboundary water management is cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and Lithuania in the Neman basin. In this basin, as a first step, Belarus is providing input to the Lithuanian river basin management plan for the Neman basin in some specific areas. This model could be followed in the case of the Dniester.

*Updates by Ukraine on Dniester basin management planning and other relevant activities including progress with the Dniester treaty*

Mr. Valeriy Babchuk informed that, although Ukraine has not started preparation of the management plan yet for the Dniester, all the activities implemented by the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine focus on integrated river basin management following the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive especially in the context of signing the EU Association Agreement by Ukraine. The relevant activities include:

- incorporation of changes into the Water Code covering development of the management plans;
- delimitation of water management districts in the Dniester basin;
- adoption and implementation of the program on development of the water sector and conservation of water resources in Ukraine which includes monitoring, water supply for rural areas, flood protection and building and reconstruction of dams in the Dniester basin;
- development of the automatic information system “Prykarpattya” which the upper Dniester is part of;
- flood protection by construction of water storage reservoirs (polders) in Lviv region which helped to cope with 4% flood on 14-16 May 2014;
- inter-departmental cooperation within the Commission on the Dniester Reservoirs and bilateral cooperation with Moldova within the Agreement 1994 on transboundary waters.

Mr. Babchuk emphasized the need for installation of automatic monitoring stations and for calculating the water management balance in the Dniester basin which would improve transboundary cooperation between Moldova and Ukraine.

Ms. Hanna Plotnykova briefly informed about recent developments on the ratification of the Dniester Treaty by Ukraine. Before the current political situation in Ukraine the ratification of the Treaty was approved by responsible authorities and the relevant conclusion on further procedure was provided by the Ministry of Justice. However, now due to the current political situation in Ukraine and the change of the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources there is a need for re-approval of the ratification by responsible ministries. Once it is completed the relevant documentation will be provided to the Cabinet of Ministers and later to the Supreme Council which is supposed to adopt the law to ratify the treaty and allow it to come into force.

*Development of the river basin management plan for the Prut basin under the EPIRB project*

Mr. Viktor Bujac informed the participants about the activities within the project “Environmental Protection of International River Basins (EPIRB)” covering the wider Black Sea basin (including Belarus).

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The project aims to improve water quality in transboundary river basins and to develop river basin management plans for selected river basins/sub-river basins according to the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.

Mr. Bujac described the development of the Prut basin management plan in more detail. Moldova and Ukraine develop the management plan jointly in consultation with Romania. The achieved results include preliminary delineation of groundwater bodies and analysis of pressures covering impacts from animal livestock, agriculture, wastewater discharge and reservoir effect. Mr. Bujac added that the project team plans to start public consultations on the development of the management plan in 2014 and to develop the first version of the management plan by February 2016 including economic analysis, the program of measures and the program of surface and groundwater monitoring. He also added that three pilot projects will be implemented to improve monitoring of ground waters and lakes and to develop a GIS system for the Prut basin and concluded that the project team is open for cooperation.

Ms. Sonja Koeppel emphasized that the project team is open for cooperation and sharing information with other relevant projects and would like to facilitate inputs from the Ukrainian side into the river basin management plan developed by the Millennium Challenge Corporation for the Moldovan part of the Dniester basin. She also mentioned that the project could facilitate organisation of a joint session or bilateral meetings with relevant Ukrainian authorities on transboundary integrated water management during the next meeting of the Working Group in December 2014 in Kiev. Ms. Koeppel concluded that it would be very important to incorporate Moldovan experience into the development of a possible future transboundary management plan for the Dniester basin if the funds are available for this task. In particular, Ms. Koeppel reminded about the GEF project proposal on facilitating transboundary cooperation between Moldova and Ukraine which is under preparation now.

### **Discussion about the adaptation measures to be implemented in the frame of the project**

The participants were divided into three groups to discuss the measures to be implemented in the frame of the project. The results of the discussion are presented below.

#### *Improvement of the information base for adaptation to climate change*

##### Installation of 4-5 automated water level monitoring stations in the basin, and strengthening the exchange of monitoring data.

The participants discussed the current state of automation of the monitoring network in both countries. The relevant Ukrainian authorities informed there are five automatic stations installed at the Dniester including the following locations: Stryi, Galych, Zalischyky, Mogylyv-Podilskyi and Goshiv and told that priority locations for installing stations within the on-going project should be in the upper Dniester, covering also the tributaries. Representatives of Moldova informed that 5 automatic stations are installed at the main course of the Dniester, 8 automatic stations are installed at the tributaries and 7 automatic stations are planned to be installed with support of the World Bank. They also added that there is a necessity for installing automatic stations in the Lower Dniester especially at the area of interflow between the Turunchuk and the Dniester and specified two locations: Mayaki (in Ukraine) and Glinnoe (in Transdnistria).

The Ukrainian colleagues agreed that stations in the Lower Dniester are also important for Ukraine especially in Mayaki where Bilyayevskiy water withdrawal takes place to supply drinking water for Odessa. In addition, data obtained from the afore-mentioned station will help to assess the state of the ecosystems of the Dniester flooded areas. The Moldavian colleagues stressed the role of the stations in the upper Dniester for flood prevention purposes. As a result of the group discussion the following locations were selected for installation of the automatic monitoring stations within the project: Ivano-Frankovsk, Sambir, Zhuravno, Glinnoe and Mayki. The participants also mentioned that precipitation gauges are most important for the stations located at the tributaries in the Upper Dniester whereas the main task of the stations located in the main course is measuring water levels.

##### Calculation of the current and long-term water management balance of the Dniester basin

Mr. Vitaliy Mokin and Mr. Vasilij Greben presented the methodology and the process of calculating the water management balance for the Southern Bug river basin which could be the basis for the water management balance for the Dniester river basin. The participants discussed the delimitation of the Moldavian part of the Dniester river basin into water management areas and agreed to use the scheme of 9 water management districts presented below. The districts should be supplied with relevant flow data at its beginning and end.



The participants also discussed the tasks to be performed to calculate the water management balance and concluded all the activities could be finalized by June 2015. The participants concluded that the following data is needed and could be provided by relevant water and hydrometeorological institutions:

- average monthly and annual flow data according to water management districts for the period 1960 – 2010;
- water use data during 2000 – 2010;
- operation regime of the Dniester and Dubossary reservoirs.

The participants also agreed that it would be good to analyze impacts of climate change on the water management balance in the basin. They suggested using the climate change analysis research prepared within the project “Reducing vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change” as a source for information on changes in climate parameters; however, the experts expressed the need for re-assessing climate change projections for the period of 2021 – 2050 taking another reference period of 1981 – 2010 (the previous one was 1971 – 2000). This is necessary to enable inclusion of 2010 which was selected as a test year for water management calculations.

#### Development of a joint platform on data exchange for inter-department and transboundary data exchange

There is no joint platform where relevant information concerning the entire Dniester basin is presented which causes fragmentation of information flows and makes the work of hydrologists more difficult. The participants agreed that the joint information platform should have national and transboundary parts as well as include a hydrological forecasting component. The example of such a information tool could be the automated information system used for the Tisza river basin including the Zakarpatska region of Ukraine

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([http://buvrtysa.gov.ua/newsite/?page\\_id=107](http://buvrtysa.gov.ua/newsite/?page_id=107)). The meeting agreed to create a group of experts who would analyse best European practices for sharing data and would identify principles of and options for the joint information platform for the Dniester basin for the next meeting in December 2014. The Ukrainian colleagues also proposed to discuss the concept of the joint information platform at the meeting of the Dniester basin Council in Ukraine where representatives of the Tisza Basin Management Board could be invited.

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## Improving flow forecasting to the Dniester reservoir

The participants agreed that development of the forecasting system would help ensure a more secure exploitation of hydropower facilities. The need for such a system was emphasized by hydrometeorological organisations of both, Moldova and Ukraine, the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine and Ukrhydroenergo. The requested technical specifications of the system include the following:

- advance time for forecasting should be 5 days;
- ability for short-term forecasting of atmospheric precipitations;
- ability to use modern and efficient hydrological model which will incorporate data obtained from automatic monitoring stations;
- automatization of the process of entering data, modelling and presentation of results.

It was suggested that the technical specifications would be discussed with relevant authorities to clarify the needs of different stakeholders and to assess what could be implemented in practice within the financial and time constraints.

## *Ecosystem restoration and conservation*

### Conducting a feasibility study and low-scale restoration activities to improve water exchange between the Dniester and floodplain meadows by restoring water culverts under the road Mayaki-Palanca

Mr. Vladimir Gubanov (Nizhnednestrovskiy National Nature Park) described the problems of lack of water during dry seasons and overflowing during flood season at the area of Mayaki-Palanca, the part of the road Odesaa-Reni. Mr. Gubanov told that the feasibility study to assess the current state of water channels connecting the main course with the flooded areas could be performed during two months. The feasibility study will also suggest different options for restoration (cleaning, construction, establishment of a sluice) including evaluation of funds needed for different options and will also provide data on a number of water channels to be restored to ensure water exchange. Restoration activities could be performed during autumn-winter. The participants agreed to start implementation of the feasibility study in autumn 2014.

### Feasibility study for one wetland to be inundated during floods in Moldova and development of the relevant legal justification

It was agreed to start preparation of the detailed feasibility study for one area which could be potentially inundated. The area is located on the territory of Moldova in the Lower Dniester. The feasibility study will include cooperation with local authorities and public on the possibility to inundate the area during flood, hydrological and ichtiological assessment and calculation of water needs for the nursery. The additional activities include projection of the nursery and its constructions; however, the on-going project will not be able to support these activities due to limited funds.

Another option for this measure was preparation of the general assessment and a map of all areas which could be potentially inundated in Moldova in the Dniester basin; however, since this research needs significant investment the project would not be able to support it. In addition, Mr. Alexei Andreev told that, although there are a lot of areas which could be inundated in the Dniester basin, only one (described below) could be really inundated. There are a lot of problems with ownership and use for pasture of the other areas; therefore, their use for natural flood prevention is very questionable.



## Creation of forest margins and riverside protective bands at Ramsar site

This measure will include organizational work, awareness activities with local population including relevant authorities, preparation of the map with technical specifications for planting and the trees. The relevant area to be forested is located at the island Turunchuk in Transnistria and could cover 5-7 ha. Mr. Alexei Andreev informed that the trees need to be planted in October-November, and other participants told that there is a big need to plant the trees in autumn 2014. Mr. Andreev also added that there would be no duplication of activities within this project and the project “Improving water management and protection of water-related ecosystems in the Lower Dniester Ramsar Site” implemented by Biotica which is supported by ADA. The expert provided the map indicating locations for creation of forest margins. It is presented below where the area (location D-8) planned for afforestation within the project activity “Climate Change and Security in the Dniester River Basin”, is situated, whereas locations A-4, D-13, D-14, T-6 will be afforested within the project “Improving water management and protection of water-related ecosystems



in the Lower Dniester Ramsar Site”.

### *Public awareness according to the following criteria*

#### Afforestation events in transboundary areas on the Dniester accompanied by training for local authorities on selection of species and areas for afforestation at the banks and water protection zones

Mr. Svitlana Slesarenok (Mama-86-Odessa) told that activities on planting trees could be connected with awareness activities for the general public and local authorities and could be implemented in transboundary areas. Ms. Slesarenok promised to send a detailed description of the implementation of this activity in August.

#### Conducting the art-contest “Colours of the Dniester” drawing contest, conduction of awareness raising expeditions and the Dniester festival

It was agreed that these measures would be discussed in more detail with relevant organizations which are responsible for their implementation (Lviv oblast water authority and Eco-TIRAS).

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## **Closing**

Ms. Sonja Koepfel and Ms. Christine Kitzler thanked the participants, relevant national institutions, AGWA and other projects for their support and intervention during the two days meeting and during project implementation.

## **Conclusions from meeting discussions**

- The report of the meeting summarizing its key outcomes will be shared with the participants.
- The next meeting of the Working Group will take place in early 2015 in Kyiv, Ukraine.
- Comments collected from the relevant stakeholders will be integrated into the strategic framework for adaptation to climate change in the Dniester river basin. The final version of the strategic framework will be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group.
- A draft version of the implementation plan and the resource mobilization strategy for the strategic framework and an update on the implementation of priority adaptation measures will be presented and discussed at the next meeting of the Working group.
- The work on modelling the Dniester reservoirs performed by AGWA is welcomed; the use of the model for practical decision-making will need further discussion and development based on data input from national authorities and experts.
- The project team will cooperate with relevant projects to find synergies and share experience.
- The project team will assess further possibilities for supporting / facilitating the cooperative development of the Dniester basin management plan on a transboundary level.
- The Dniester project activities will be presented at several UNECE and OSCE meetings in the second half of 2014 as well as international events such as the World Water Week or the Alpine Waters Conference.

**Agenda**

**Ninth meeting of the Working Group on  
Flood Management and Climate Change Adaptation**

*Business Center «LeRoi», Chisinau, 29 Sfatul Tarii St.*

**Wednesday, 2 July 2014**

**09.00-9.30 Registration**

**9.30- 10.30: Item 1: Opening session**

*Welcome speech by representatives of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine*

*Opening by the representatives of UNECE, OSCE, ENVSEC, donors*

*Presentation on progress in the project, including outcomes of the national consultations on climate change and security*

**10.30-11.30: Item 2: Strategic framework for basin adaptation for the Dniester**

*- Development of the strategic framework for basin adaptation: review of comments to the draft, steps for finalising the framework, discussion*

*- Updates on relevant national adaptation activities*

**11.30-11.45 Coffee break**

**11.45-13.00: Item 3: Prioritization and implementation of adaptation measures**

*- Discussion and selection of measures to be implemented through the project*

*- Elaboration of an implementation plan and resource mobilization strategy in 2014*

*- Discussion*

**13.00-14.00 Lunch break**

**14.00-15.00: Item 4: Cooperation with other international and national projects and activities**

*- Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project, EU*

*- Project: Transition to High-Value Agriculture, Millennium Challenge Corporation*

*- The Moldova Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Project, UNDP*

*- Moldova's National Adaptation Planning Process Project, UNDP*

*- Moldova Flood Management Technical Assistance and Investment project, EIB*

*- Projects by BIOTICA and Eco-Tiras*

*- Climate proofing the Danube Delta through Integrated Land and Water Management and Climate East Forum projects, WWF*

*- other relevant projects*

**15.00-16.00 Item 5: Flood management activities: monitoring and information**

*- Improved flow monitoring and use of information for flood management*

*- Flood risk modelling in the Dniester Delta area (new results and developments)*

*- Update on activities on flood risk communication*

*- Discussion*

**16.00-16.15 Coffee-break**



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**16.15-18.00: Item 6: Modelling of the Dniester reservoirs by the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation**

**19.00 Dinner at the restaurant**

**Thursday, 3 July 2014**

**9.00-9.30 Item 7: Promotion of the project and its results**

**9.30-11.30 Item 8: River basin management planning in the Dniester basin**

Moldovan part of the Dniester basin

- *the development of a river basin management plan for the Moldovan part of the Dniester basin by the project Irigare of the Millennium Challenge Corporation*
- *consideration of transboundary aspects and climate change: discussion*

Greater Dniester

- *updates by Ukraine on Dniester basin management planning and other relevant activities*
- *progress with the Dniester treaty*

Other / neighboring basins

- *development of the river basin management plan for the Prut basin under the EPIRB project*

Common lessons, information needs, synergies and cooperation: discussion

**11.30-12.30 Lunch**

**12.30-14.30 Item 9: Discussion in small groups about the adaptation measures to be implemented in the project**

**14.30-15.00 Item 10: Review of the meeting outcomes, next meeting of the Working Group and closing**

**15.00- 15.00 Coffee-break**

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