



Transboundary Water Cooperation – Examples of the Dniester and the Chu Talas River Basins

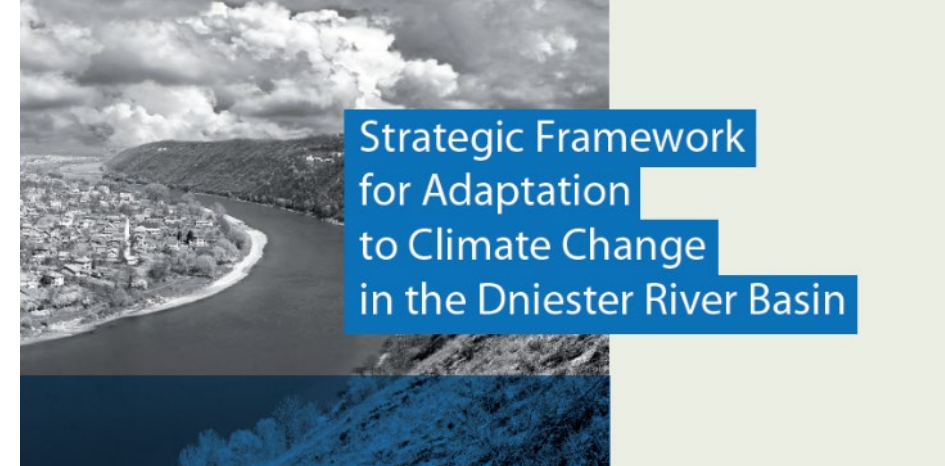
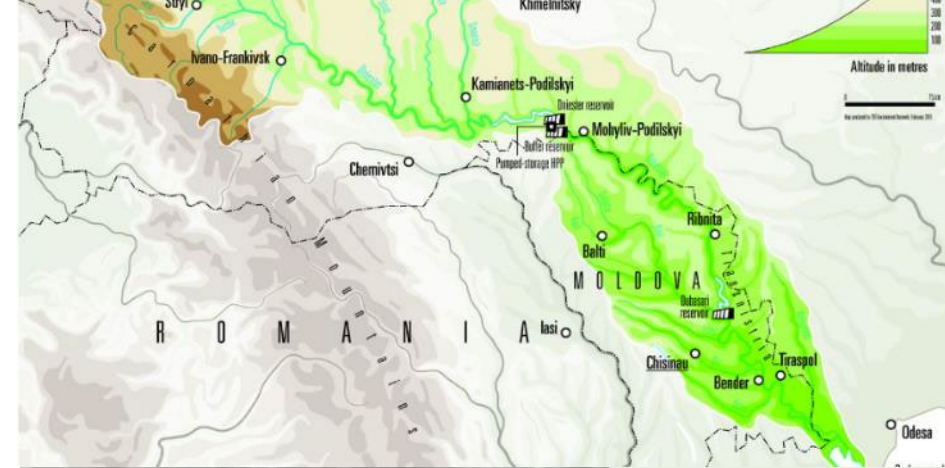
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WATER
CONVENTION

Strategy and practical measures: example of inter-agency cooperation in the Dniester basin

- **Dniester basin** shared by Moldova and Ukraine (support from UNECE, OSCE, UNEP within ENVSEC Initiative and later from UNDP/GEF)
- Since early 2000s support to development of the **Dniester Treaty** and **practical implementation of measures** in monitoring, awareness raising, fish conservation, ecosystem restoration, health etc.
- Facilitating transboundary flood risk reduction and **climate change adaptation** in the basin (2010-2017)
- These activities facilitated **GEF funding through UNDP** which supported establishment and functioning of the **Dniester Commission** (2017-2021)
- Active **stakeholder engagement** incl. Transdniestrian region and NGOs



WEBSITE OF THE DNIESTER COMMISSION
SAVE THE DNIESTER RIVER TOGETHER

Republic of Moldova
Ministerul Agriculturii,
Dezvoltării Regionale și
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DNIESTER COMMISSION

The Commission on Sustainable Use and Protection of the Dniester River Basin (the Dniester Commission) was established under the Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin (Moldovan, Ukrainian), which was signed in Rome on 29 November 2012. The treaty covers almost all aspects relating to river basin issues, except for navigation and hydropower, and is aimed at strengthening and expanding cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, which started in 1994. Besides, the execution of this document was an important step in fulfilling the obligations undertaken by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992) and the EU Water Framework Directive (2000).

RULES AND COMPOSITION

The rules of procedure and proceedings of the Commission were approved at the first meeting of the Commission (Chisinau, 17 September 2018).

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WORKING GROUPS

The composition of the Moldovan and Ukrainian parts of the Commission is represented by the following working groups:

Examples of activities 2010-2017	UNECE <i>Overall guidance and expertise, legal framework</i>	UNEP <i>Knowledge and international thematic expertise</i>	OSCE <i>Facilitation and implementation on-the-ground</i>
Dniester Treaty	Legal expertise		Stakeholder involvement and coordination
Monitoring	Guidance and advice	Field trip on water quality and assessment of its results	Joint samplings between local authorities
Awareness raising	Promotion of the Dniester example among other countries	Study tour for journalists incl. international journalists	Support to art contests and summer schools for children and youth with active involvement of NGOs
Climate change adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Climate impact assessment ✓ Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change and its Implementation Plan 	Flood risk assessment, modelling and mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stakeholder involvement and coordination ✓ Practical implementation of adaptation measures
<i>with GEF support</i> 2017-2021	OSCE <i>Overall coordination and implementation</i>	UNDP/GEF- implementing agency <i>Guidance, advice, funding</i>	UNECE- executing partner <i>Guidance and thematic expertise</i>
Dniester Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support to working groups, meetings and activities of the Commission ✓ Development of the transboundary river basin management plan 	Capacity building, twinning exercise, coordination with UNDP in the countries *UNDP country offices were part of the GEF project steering committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sharing knowledge on the functioning of transboundary basin organizations ✓ Support to the activities on climate change adaptation

Inter-agency cooperation in adaptation: the Chu - Talas basin

- The **Chu-Talas basin** shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan
- Since early 2000s **support to the Chu-Talas Commission** (UNECE, UNESCAP and OSCE)
- Enhancing cooperation on **adaptation to climate** (jointly with UNDP and OSCE) – 2010 – 2014 under ENVSEC
- Integration of **climate change adaptation into river basin management planning** (with UNDP/GEF) – 2015 – 2018



Climate-proofing cooperation in the Chu and Talas river basins



Examples of activities 2015-2018	UNECE <i>Guidance and expertise, thematic coordination</i>	UNDP/GEF <i>Overall coordination, facilitation and implementation on-the-ground</i>
Climate change adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Modelling of climate change impacts and a vulnerability assessment ✓ Elaboration of adaptation measures ✓ Implementation of selected climate change adaptation measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Development of the Transboundary Diagnostic Assessment (TDA) and Strategic Action Program (SAP) for the Chu-Talas basin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integration of adaptation measures into TDA and SAP ✓ Support to the Chu-Talas Commission and its Working Group on Long-Term Programs and Climate Change Adaptation 	



Lessons learnt

- Importance of global legal and intergovernmental frameworks, their tools etc. and the Water Conventions
- Useful combination of regional and national UN agencies: Understanding the expertise and strengths of each organization, clear and transparent communication
- Transboundary cooperation takes years: In-kind contribution of UN/international organisations, e.g. for project proposal preparation and/or supporting countries between projects- value of the Water Convention
- Importance of transboundary funding windows like ENVSEC in the past and GEF, but takes long
- Consider also climate funds in the future, namely Adaptation fund, and hopefully also GCF



Thanks for
your attention!

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For more information:
www.unece.org/env/water/