Biodiversity and wetland conservation and transboundary cooperation in the Dniester River basin

Ana Jelepov, PhD

PhD, Senior scientific researcher
Institute of Ecology and Geography, Moldova State University
Head of the Dniester River Basin District Committee
Head of River basin Planning and Management WG, Dniester Commission, MD part

Mobile phone: +373 68 47 37 29
Biodiversity and wetlands: interstate collaboration

- Strategic Framework for Climate Change Adaptation
- Strategic Action Program for the Dniester River Basin (2021-2035)
Biodiversity and wetlands: interstate collaboration

Biodiversity and wetlands: interstate collaboration

Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin

Risk forecasting and analysis measures
- Improved monitoring of climate change
- Early warning and forecasting of climate change
- Inventory of flood protection infrastructure
- Analysis and mapping of flood risk

Risk prevention and reduction measures
- Updating and observance of rules for the operation of the Dniester’s system of reservoirs
- Updating of flood protection plans
- Rehabilitation and optimization of the system of flood protection structures and systems

Remediation measures
- Providing the public and local authorities with timely information about the flood risk
- Updating and implementation of emergency response plans
- Insurance of risks (excluding insurance provided with government support)

Support for and restoration of aquatic and wetland ecosystems and species
- Analysis of ecosystem services at the basin level
- Improved monitoring of ecosystems and biological resources and transboundary information sharing
- Updating and observance of rules for the operation of the Dniester’s system of reservoirs
- Regulation of activities within floodplains and wetlands
- Expansion and strengthening of the network of protected areas and ecological corridors
- Combating poaching and invasive species
- Restoration of shoreline forests, meadows, and wetlands
- Restoration of habitats, spawning grounds, and fish stocks

Strategic Action Program for the Dniester River Basin

2021-2035

3.3. Biodiversity protection

3.3.1. Assessment of the status and trends in biodiversity / aquatic and semi-aquatic ecosystems

3.3.2. Management of invasive species

3.3.3. Planting shelterbelts and massive afforestation

3.3.4. Improvement of protected area management

3.3.5. Expansion of protected areas, wetlands, and ecological networks

3.3.6. Improvement of aquatic biodiversity (especially ichthyofauna)

3.3.7. Valuation of ecosystem services
Biodiversity and wetlands: interstate collaboration

The Commission on Sustainable Use and Protection of the Dniester River Basin (the Dniester Commission)

Main objective is to implement measures aimed at achieving the rational and environmentally sound use and protection of water and other natural resources and ecosystems of the Dniester River Basin in the interests of the population and sustainable development of the states.

Fields of cooperation
- Spring ecological flood release
- Invasive species
- Restoration of old river beds
- Fishery
- Poaching
- Forest management, afforestation and reforestation
- Cooperation and interaction between the national nature parks in the Dniester river basin.
- Creation and management of the Emerald network of Europe in the Dniester river basin

Working groups
1. Strategic Working Group (core group);
2. Working Group on Ecosystems and Biodiversity;
3. Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange;
4. Working Group on River Basin Planning and Management;
6. Working Group on legal framework

Downstream part of the Dniester River 22.04.2021
(Qmax 724 m³/s at Bender 9.04.2021, source https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/)
Biodiversity and wetlands: interstate collaboration

Rehabilitation of Yagorlyc River

1. Promoting the implementation of integrated management and environmentally sustainable use of natural resources in the pilot section of the Yagorlyk River
2. Reduction of reed areas and restoration of floodplain forest
3. Restoration of valuable species of animals and plants.
4. Restoration of a river section of 8.5 km;
5. Dams removal


Funded by The GEF / UNDP / OSCE / UNECE project “Enabling transboundary co-operation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin”
Biodiversity and wetlands: actual achievements in the Republic of Moldova

The Dniester River Basin Management plan (2017-2022): Examples of good Practice

**measure 2.2.7. Creation of the "Lower Dniester" National Park**

The "Lower Dniester" National Park was created:

- Law no. 71 of 31.03.2022.

**measure 1.2.10. Delimitation and inventory of protected areas**

Protected areas delimitation and their digital maps development was carried out.

- G.D. No. 736 of 07.10.2020 regarding approval of the Methodologies for the identification and designation of nitrate-vulnerable areas and nutrient-sensitive areas was also approved.

**Measure 2.2.5. planting and restoring riparian buffer strips of water bodies in the Dniester District**

- Various environmental protection activities were arranged: national Action "Clean river from village to village", Autumn planting "A tree for our permanence". During these events, hundreds of km of nameless streams were cleaned and hundreds of km of river buffer strips were planted.
- Afforestation and river buffers planting campaigns were carried (the Ramsar Zone "Lower Dniester", along the Răut, Botna, Ciulucul Mic, Bîc rivers etc.)
Biodiversity and wetlands: actual achievements in the Republic of Moldova

The Dniester River Basin Management plan (2017-2022): Examples of good Practice

measure 2.1.7. Rehabilitation of river segment „Old Dniester” with elements of flow regulation

- Important sectors of the Old Dniester - oxbow – were cleaned and rehabilitated
- Waterlocks were installed in order to improve the hydrological connection between the old riverbed and the current one of fl. Dniester
- A number of seminars to raise awareness among the local population about the importance of environmental protection were conducted
- Evaluation of ecosystems services was performed
- pedestrian tourist routes were identified and arranged
- Afforestation of certain zones and riparian buffers planting were performed

Source: https://www.lower-dniester.org/

funded by the Austrian Development Agency
Biodiversity and wetlands: actual achievements in the Republic of Moldova

- National Adaptation Plan to climate change was developed and provided for public consultations
- National Forest Extension and Rehabilitation Program for the period 2023-2032, as well as the Action Plan for its implementation for the period 2023-2027 was developed
- Joint Actions for Afforestation of Moldova campaign launched
- Establishment the Emerald Network (Law no. 225 of 13.10.2022).
- Achievement of the Sustainable Development Objective (ODD 15), by updating the National Biodiversity Program (Strategy) 2030
Thank you
Ana Jeleapov, PhD

PhD, Senior scientific researcher
Institute of Ecology and Geography
Moldova State University
Head of the Dniester River Basin District Committee
Head of River basin Planning and Management WG, Dneister Commision, MD part

Mobile phone: +373 68 47 37 29
Email address: anajeleapov@gmail.com