

The work contracted was part of the Living Water Exchange project that was funded by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to evaluate lessons learned, opportunities for scaling up and impacts of funding related to water quality in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) over the last decade. Water Stewardship conducted detailed on site evaluations of three recently completed projects and evaluated and synthesized the information related to agriculture from 29 projects funded over the last decade. This was compiled in a synthesis document that identified key impacts, opportunities for scaling up and common issues or shortcomings with the projects. Site evaluations were conducted in Moldova, Albania and the Ukraine.

The project provided a decadal overview of the impact of investments made through GEF and the region. The site specific reviews and evaluations of the projects provided more detailed information on impacts, shortcomings and opportunities for refinement of similar projects in the future. The synthesis will be used by GEF, UNDP, World Bank and others to determine the returns on their investment in the region and help identify adjustments or enhancements that could improve results in future investments in this region or elsewhere. The synthesis also identified the need for a more systems based approach to addressing water quality in the region. It also resulted in the identification of eight critical BMPs that can be employed in a coordinated, systematic fashion to reduce agricultural impacts on water quality.