

## Concept Note

### Presentation of the Study Report “Forest Landscape Restoration in the Republic of Moldova – Feasibility study on the production of forest reproductive material “

Workshop, Chisinau 12.10.2023

#### Background

The Republic of Moldova has one of the lowest the forest covers in Europe with only 461.6 thousand ha, or slightly more than 11% of the total land area. While several national strategic plans and policy documents set the targets for further forest area expansion to 15-17%, and numerous afforestation projects, leading to a constant increase of the forest area from 1990 to 2020 by more than 60 thousand ha, these targets have been met only partially in the last two decades.

At the end of 2021, the Presidency of the Republic of Moldova formally announced the National Afforestation and Reforestation Programme (NARP) for 2023 – 2032. The NARP has set the ambitious target to increase the forest area by 100 thousand ha by 2032, including 66 thousand ha of new forest plantations, 10 thousand ha of shelterbelts (riparian and for agricultural land protection), and 24 thousand ha rehabilitated forestlands requiring reconstruction or reforestation. Most of the afforestation measures are foreseen on communal lands (Local Public Authorities - LPAs) (61%), but also on private (27%) and state lands (12%).

The critical elements determining the feasibility and success of NARP are, the willingness to change the land use from agriculture to forest plantations and, the capacity to produce large quantities of forest reproductive material (FRM) for the envisaged afforestation projects. In fact, a lack of synergies between the strategic planning for afforestation and technical planning for FRM production can cause significant bottlenecks in achieving the assumed NARP targets.

To address these critical elements, in 2021, the Republic of Moldova approached the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) for support to draft a study aimed to assess the sector of forest reproductive material in the Republic of Moldova. In response to this request, the UNECE developed a feasibility study on the production of FRM in the Republic of Moldova.

This study benefited from the inputs of national experts from the Republic of Moldova, namely: Dumitru Galupa, Ion Talmaci and Gheorghe Florenta from the Forest Research and Management Institute, Victor Sfecla (afforestation expert) and Aurel Lozan (biodiversity conservation & forest ecology expert). Experts from the National Forest Agency Moldsilva were involved in the working group and the internal consultation of the report. The authors are Mr. Liviu Nichiforel and Mr. Ciprian Palaghianu from the University “Stefan cel Mare Suceava”, Romania.

#### Objective

The workshop is aimed to present the Study to the Ministry of Environment and relevant institutions and discuss applicability of its findings and recommendations, including for the NAPR 2023-2032 and its Action Plan for 2023-2027.

#### Participants

Officers and specialists of the Ministry of Environment, including from the National Forest Agency Moldsilva and the other interested institutions.