



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2021 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021



1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Central Asia and Turkey
Country (ies):	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
Project Title:	Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM-2)
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/SEC/293/GFF
GEF ID:	9094
GEF Focal Area(s):	LD, CC
Project Executing Partners:	Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Melioration of Kyrgyzstan State Committee for Environment Protection of Tajikistan Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Turkmenistan Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan Ministry of Water Resources of Uzbekistan State Committee of Forestry of Uzbekistan Centre for Hydro-meteorological Services of Uzbekistan
Project Duration:	60 months
Project coordinates: (Ctrl+Click here)	Coordinates are the same as provided in the PIR-2

Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	17 March 2017
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	16 October 2017
Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	16 October 2022
Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) ²	2 years no-cost extension was recommended during project MTR

¹ As per FPMIS

² In case of a project extension.

Actual Implementation End Date³:	n/a
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Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	\$ 10,874,659 USD
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc⁴:	\$ 64,885,046 USD
Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m):	\$ 5.153.539 USD
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2021⁵	\$192,018,454

Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:	28 January 2021
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	February 2021
Actual Mid-term review date:	22 February - 30 June, 2021
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)⁷:	No
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	n/a
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):	No
Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁸	Yes (Core Indicators)

³ Actual date at which project implementation ends - only for projects that have ended.

⁴ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO document/Project Document.

⁵ Please see last section of this report where you are asked to provide updated co-financing estimates. Use the total from this Section and insert here.

⁶ The MTR should take place about halfpoint between EOD and NTE – this is the expected date

⁷ Please note that the FAO GEF Coordination Unit should be contacted six months prior to the expected MTR date

⁸ Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure for all GEF-4 and GEF-5 projects. Tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD at mid-term, but only at project completion. The new GEF-7 results indicators (core and sub-indicators) will be applied to all projects and programs approved on or after July 1, 2018. Also projects and programs approved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 (GEF-6) must apply core indicators and sub-indicators at mid-term and/or completion

Ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	S
Overall implementation progress rating:	S
Overall risk rating:	Medium

Status

Implementation Status <i>(1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):</i>	3 rd PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Manager / Coordinator	Makhmud Shaumarov, Regional Program Coordinator	Makhmud.Shaumarov@fao.org
Lead Technical Officer	Ekrem Yazici, Forestry Officer, FAO-UNECE	Ekrem.Yazici@fao.org
Budget Holder	Viorel Gutu, SEC-SRC and FAO Representative in Turkey	Viorel.Gutu@fao.org
GEF Funding Liaison Officer	Hernan M. Gonzalez, Technical Officer (OCB) Dirkmaat, Chris, Executive Officer (OCB)	Hernan.Gonzalez@fao.org Chris.Dirkmaat@fao.org

2. Progress Towards Achieving Project Objectives and Outcome (DO)

(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
Objective(s): To scale-up integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agriculture production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey						
Outcome 1.1. Enhanced knowledge of the costs of land degradation and benefits of INRM, drought preparedness and baseline agriculture to national economies and the region as a whole informs policy and investment decisions at all levels, including	Information on the costs of DLDD and benefits of INRM (ELD) informs at least one national policy in each country	Some ad hoc calculations of the costs of DLDD exist, but no coherent estimates of the benefits of INRM/SLM are available. Lack of harmonized approach across the region.	Information on the costs of DLDD and benefits of INRM available for the main land-use systems in Central Asia	ELD for Central Asia informs INRM policies in 5 CA countries	Produced a harmonized methodology on Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) and valuation of ecosystem services, adapted to the conditions of CA countries. It is now being consulted by CA governments Identified incentives to scale up INRM for each country; CACILM-2 project was accepted in an advisory role of the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD) to develop SLM/INRM policies and to produce strategic recommendations on ELD/VES policies in Central Asia; Knowledge was shared with national experts and decision-makers of Central Asia and the participation of WOCAT on Carbon Benefit Project tools, mapping instruments on Watershed management, SLM and Soil Organic Carbon mapping, and on LD trends to assess impacts on ecosystem services, to analyze benefits of	HS

⁹ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project. Please add cells when required in order to use one cell for each indicator and one rating for each indicator.

¹⁰ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

¹¹ Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory** (HS), **Satisfactory** (S), **Marginally Satisfactory** (MS), **Marginally Unsatisfactory** (MU), **Unsatisfactory** (U), and **Highly Unsatisfactory** (HU).

NAP processes					<p>SLM/INRM/IWRM technologies and to monitor/ report on LDN and SDG 15.3.1 indicators;</p> <p>Need assessments for development of agro-meteorology services, drought and salinity management, Land degradation and SLM practices were conducted in the region to identify key bottlenecks and to develop regional roadmap for further capacity development in these areas.</p> <p>Conducted baseline assessment of Rural Advisory Services (RAS) and policy recommendations developed in 4 countries, except TJK, which was postponed due to COVID-19. It includes good progress in UZB in supporting the development of a National Roadmap and Strategy on Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS), which was endorsed at high government level by Presidential Decree.</p>	
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Outcome 1.2: Enhanced interstate dialogue, multi-country collaboration and information sharing to promote investment for INRM scaling up	Sustainable mechanism for regional collaboration in place Decentralized KM system functioning Regional INRM/SLM community of practice	Multi-country collaboration on INRM/SLM has weakened since end of CACILM-1 and a more decentralized and sustainable approach for regional collaboration and KM needs to be developed	CACILM-2 management structures and a decentralized KM platform in place and functioning Regional INRM/SLM community of practice in place	CACILM-2 management structures and a decentralized KM platform functioning and sustainable Regional INRM/SLM community of practice supports science-practitioners-policy/decision makers dialogue	4th Project Steering Committee meetings was conducted virtually on January 2021, whereby the project team reported on activity progress for 2020 and presented annual plans 2021 to representatives of the 6 project countries. The project team has also conducted several need assessments of systems and practices across CA countries to identify bottlenecks and develop a regional roadmap to address these bottlenecks and develop the required capacities. It includes the agro-meteorology services, existing land management practices as well as drought and salinity management approaches and particularly the rural advisory services currently existing throughout CA. Fully completed a functional version of the regional knowledge management platform and available for publishing. The technical works on content management is progressing jointly with WOCAT global SLM database team, including interactive database of SLM maps; Developed and translated into Russian language the WOCAT inventory for documentation of SLM practices and technologies and provided national partners with template to collect best SLM practices from the CA region; Regular consultations with key national partners, GEF and UNCCD/UNFCCC focal points in all CA countries to update on project progress, exchange information and discuss multi-country partnership; Soil salinity maps were prepared for 1 entire province (Zhambyl) covering 6 project sites at the farm-level in KAZ, and soil salinity maps for the Talaa-Bulak district in KYR. Soil salinity map for 1 demonstration site in UZB is in progress.	S
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					<p>Produced a drought vulnerability map for a project site (one province/oblast) in KAZ using the CDI tool; and a drought vulnerability map in UZB using the DI tool. For other countries, the data collection is ongoing. Also developed 2 pasture degradation maps of project sites in KAZ.</p> <p>Knowledge shared – including regional online webinars due to the COVID-19 - with national experts and decision-makers from the region on advanced tools and methods for monitoring / assessing impacts of land degradation on ecosystem services in 5 CA countries, including drought management, SLM, CO2 balance, SLM mapping, (ASIS, Collect Earth, EWS/RDM, QGIS, QM mapping) watershed management, trends earth, carbon benefits project tool, biosaline agriculture.</p> <p>Developed a regional plan on Farmer Field School (FFS) implementation; Published outreach materials and news releases regularly and received by 159 online and offline media resources in 5 countries.</p> <p>Published 322 articles in Central Asian media. Project stories were also actively promoted through the social media – Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.</p> <p>Developed and published a project brochure, website, and newsletter series (1st, 2nd and 3rd quarterly newsletters “Dialogue”) to raise awareness of regional partners on project activities and achievements and to enhance the visibility of the project.</p> <p>Produced and disseminated 20 video materials on basic principles of food processing, storage, marketing, climate-smart agriculture, SLM, IWRM and other topics to smallholders in the region.</p>	
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					<p>Continued National Campaign on “Planting Million Fruit Trees” jointly with national partners and GIZ in UZB.</p> <p>Developed knowledge products and publications, jointly with ICBA and other project partners, on salinity management technologies, baseline assessment on early warning system/drought risk management, overview of best biological approaches to address soil and water salinity in CA, monitoring of ecosystem service in marginal environments, policy brief on salinity management and manuals for salinity management, etc.</p> <p>Conducted regional review of early warning systems, agrometeorology services and drought risk management to develop policy recommendations. Final consultations of the reports with project national partners are progressing.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the project funds were reallocated to national level activities in Kyrgyzstan (\$170,000 USD) and Tajikistan (\$180,000 USD) to provide immediate support to vulnerable rural smallholders and farmers in the project sites on value chain development, capacity building, food production under drought conditions and to improve family income and nutrition. These activities also aimed at strengthening multi-country collaboration of the project in the region.</p>	
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Outcome 2.1: Resilience integrated across natural resources management (NRM) sectors and production landscapes	Resilience principles integrated into national agricultural, water resources management and environmental plans and investment frameworks, policies and programs	CA countries traditionally takes a crises management approach to address drought impacts, and don't take a holistic systems approach to enhance long-term resilience at multiple scales	Resilience integrated into key national policy frameworks and productive sectors in all CA countries using the RAPTA approach.	Resilience integrated into key national policy frameworks and productive sectors in all CA countries using the RAPTA approach.	<p>Conducted baseline analyses of national policies and institutional frameworks regarding integration of sustainability and resilience factors in 5 countries and developed key policy recommendations for integration of resilience factors in RD policies, including the use of the RAPTA approach in Kazakhstan.</p> <p>Completed baseline studies on early warning system, drought risk management and agro-meteorological services in all 5 CA countries, final round of national consultations are progressing to collect feedback and to finalize the reports.</p> <p>Conducted SHARP baseline assessments to analyze community resilience and vulnerability towards CC variabilities in pilot districts in all 5 CA countries. Conducted SHARP survey at project demonstration sites in all CA countries and submitted to the HQ SHARP team for analysis.</p> <p>National trainings on Aqua Crop, EX-ACT, Carbon Benefit Project, WOCAT were held in KAZ, KYR, TJK and UZB.</p> <p>Held a series of SLM/INRM meetings with national partners in all 5 CA countries to strengthen intersectoral collaboration and joint activities.</p> <p>National working groups on SLM/INRM were established in all five CA countries with support of national partner agencies. Schedule meetings postponed due to COVID-19.</p> <p>KAZ: Produced a map of drought vulnerability (Kostanay Oblast); developed 1 map of soil organic carbon stock (1 province – Zhambyl) This map was uploaded to the newly established and publicly available geo-portal; one virtual round table was</p>	S
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					<p>conducted on 22 December 2020 on integrating resilience into pasture resources management with the participation of key stakeholders (2020); and the project team has been supporting the Government in elaborating the Concept and National Project on Development of Agriculture for 2022-2026 in terms of sustainable land management.</p> <p>KYR: Updated the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, which was reviewed and approved by the national experts working group; collected Earth training was held; conducted 3 round tables with national partners: two consultations were conducted in Kochkor district on intersectoral cooperation and interaction, and on regulation to establish a commission at the district level; one round table at the national level.</p> <p>TJK: The Inter-sectoral technical working group expressed its interest to work with CACILM2 on LDN.</p> <p>TKM: Held one round table on <i>"Joint cooperation and exchange of experience in combating desertification and restoring degraded land"</i> and one working meeting with national agencies on <i>"Strengthening legal planning in the field of INRM and SLM"</i>.</p> <p>UZB: Produced a map of drought vulnerability (Kamashi district); the State Forestry Committee of UZB, as Focal Point of the UNCCD organized jointly two meetings with the project team.</p>	
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Outcome 2.2: Incentives for climate-smart agriculture in place at national and sub-national levels	Number and types of incentives supporting smallholder farmers to scale up best practices	Incentives mechanisms for scaling up INRM are generally weak in CA, especially market-based mechanisms	At least 7 different types of incentive mechanisms supporting smallholder farmers to scale up best practices in place in CA countries	At least 10 different types incentive mechanisms supporting smallholder farmers to scale up best practices in place in CA countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted analysis of incentive mechanisms to scale up SLM practices in the 5 CA countries. • Using the Outcome Mapping (OM) methodology selected Boundary Partners (BP) to support smallholder farmers to scale up CSA/SLM/INRM practices in all CA countries: 3 BP in Kazakhstan; BP "Camp Alattoo" in Kyrgyzstan; BP Bonuvoni Khatlon (Women's group) in Tajikistan; 2 BP in Turkmenistan; and 3 Strategic Partners in Uzbekistan. • Conducted the first assessment on OM with BP in all CA countries. Progress made by the BP is assessed semi-annually during workshops, using the progress marker index (progress score). • KAZ: identified and analyzed agro-pastoral value chains, including required project interventions for the sustainable development of value chains; and conducted a cost-benefit analysis of SLM technologies. • KYR: Conducted CSA training at national and subnational levels. Camp Alattoo conducted a study on <i>"incentives for climate-friendly agriculture at the national and subnational levels"</i> to strengthen efficient use of resources and value chains for food and feed production. Purchased seeds of climate-resistant forage crops varieties, diesel fuel and fertilizers for 1,067 farmers (539 of them women). Completed the delivery of seeds (sainfoin, corn, Alfalfa, wheat), distributed diesel fuel and delivered fertilizers to vulnerable farmers. • TJK: Supported the formation of 8 initiative groups, including 206 women farmers in 4 targeted districts, and conducted field trainings on drought- and salt-resistant crops cultivation. Completed and submitted a study on the development of a safflower and almond value chain. • TKM: Constructed 2 irrigation nurseries in project sites and 3 water reservoirs (sardops) for remote 	HS
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					<p>villages in Karakum project sites to support local value chains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UZB: Conducted a cost-benefit analysis for 5 SLM practices. Completed a study on the value chain development with conservation agriculture practices. Developed and submitted recommendations for strengthening value chains on pistachio. • Due to the COVID-19 emergency situation, the project shifted a portion of the regional component budget to national emergency response actions in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to provide immediate support to vulnerable rural smallholders and farmers in the project sites on value chain development in livestock production, procurement of drought- and salt-resistant seeds, fertilizers, home-garden tools for processing, and greenhouses, capacity development in producing food under drought conditions and to improve family income and nutrition. These activities also strengthened the multi-country collaboration of the project in the region. <p>Under the COVID-19 emergency situation, the project also supported the provision of 34 greenhouses, 31 water pumps, 10 two-wheel tractors, 10 tonnes of fertilizer, and 30 thousand seedlings in Uzbekistan.</p>	
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Outcome 3.1: Upscaling of a proactive drought risk management (DRM) approach and innovative integrated natural resources management (INRM) technologies in selected production landscapes / land use systems (e.g. pastoral, agro-sylvo-pastoral, tree-based, irrigated, rainfed, home gardens)	Improved DRM approaches and INRM technologies/best practices applied on xx ha Number of people (#) with improved income (at least 25%) from improved practices	0	152 204 ha 84,657 (Optional to add, "... for demonstration areas")	1 375 165 ha 169,755 (Optional to add, "... for demonstration areas, 785,941 for upscaling areas")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established project sites in all 5 CA countries to demonstrate and up-scale DRM, SLM and INRM approaches. Land-use plans for selected production landscapes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KAZ: Ongoing formulation of two multi-stakeholder pasture plans for Petrovsk rural district, Karagandy Oblast, and Talapsky rural district, Almaty Oblast. Conducted detailed review of pasture management plans and surveys with end-users to identify existing problems and reflect gender equality. KYR: Supported the Kyrgyzgiprozem Institute (TA and equipment) to digitize land use maps covering the entire country, which are stored in a single database. TJK: Ongoing preparation of training materials for FFS for chickpea, sorgho, millet, and quinoa. Conducted regular monitoring of FFSs in 8 communities. Conducted monitoring of safflower planted fields. TKM: Analyzed local needs and priorities for implementing innovative INRM practices. UZB: Produced 2 land-use plan in Kamashi district and one pasture management plan in Guzar district. Developed and submitted to the agricultural department of the respective districts multi-stakeholder land use plans for Kamashi and Bukhara districts. Advisory service providers to enhance skills of stakeholders for wide adoption of proactive risk management approach and drought mitigation technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KAZ: Developed training curricula on DRM and INRM approaches. Developed and conducted 5 national training events and 4 field workshops on DRM/INRM approaches, including one on gender equality. In total 254 people participated, including 130 women (51%). 	HS
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KYR: Developed training curricula on DRM and INRM approaches. Held 6 training events, seminars, and round tables on “Improving agricultural Value Chains for SLM” in Kochkor district. Supported the revision and adoption of the UNCCD NAP at national level. Series of national round tables on “Improving intersectoral cooperation” in the field of INRM at local level in Kochkor district and in Bishkek. Conducted a field workshop on “Soil and Water Conservation Technologies” in Kochkor district. In total 128 people participated, including 23 women (18%). • TJK: Conducted 6 national training events on DRM/INRM approaches: drought-resistant crops cultivation technologies, institutional capacity development, integrated pest management, filling applications to get access to matching grants, how to establish seedling nursery and how to use video training materials on fruits processing, agroforestry, and drip irrigation. In total 1,422 people participated, including 787 women (55%). • TKM: Conducted 4 trainings and seminars on project introduction, on INRM and SLM best practices in Karakum district and in Nohur district. Webinar on the analysis of national plans and programs, country strategies, legal and institutional frameworks in the field of INRM and SLM and recommendations for integration of drought risk management, resilience factors into INRM and SLM government instruments. In total 116 people participated, including 37 women (32%). • UZB: Conducted comprehensive assessment and prepared a capacity-building plan for 3 scientific centers in UZB to promote extension and agro-consulting services for scaling up INRM/SLM practices. Developed and published training curricula with 3 different DRM and INRM approaches. Conducted six training events on INRM approaches 	
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					<p>including two online training courses on conservation agriculture practices in Uzbekistan, including crop rotation, crop residue management. Organized webinar series on no-till seeder use to manage crop residue retention. Field-training course on using no-till drill and laser leveler in Bukhara province and in Qarshi province. In total 326 people participated, including 49 women (15%).</p> <p>Innovative drought mitigation technologies in selected production landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •KAZ: Introduced SLM practices on crop production on 55 ha and pasture management plans on 127,630 ha. Completed the registration of the conductometer and PH meter and equipment delivered to project sites. •KYR: Supported Pasture Committees to incorporate new CSA approaches and technologies into pasture management plans. Improved pasture management plans with the introduction of CSA technologies for 5 Ayil Aimaks with a total area of 282,781 ha (mainly pastures). •TJK: Promoted soil and water conservation practices (e.g., zero till, agroforestry etc.) to 8 farmer groups on at least 200 ha. Organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on “Soil and water conservation measures” for 31 specialists of Boundary Partner and active farmers. Planted salt-resistant and drought tolerant plants such as safflower, quinoa, pearl miller in 5 demonstration plots at project sites. •TKM: Established forest and sand nurseries at project pilot sites in Nohur and Karakum for growing drought-tolerant species. Constructed three sardops (water reservoir) for local schools of remote villages in Central Karakums to collect and store rainwater. Procured and planted 1,000 drought resistant trees seedlings (juniper, carcass, and almond) for reforestation in Nohur. 	
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					<p>UZB: Established demonstration sites for scaling up 10 drought tolerant crops and seed production in Kashkadarya region. Adoption of conservation agriculture practices on 300ha in Kashkadarya region. implemented a drip irrigation system for 11,221ha of cotton. Developed a pasture rotation plan (84,000ha) for Guzor district to increase productivity and improve seasonal herd migration. Delivered over 500,000 seedlings to the "Million fruit trees" initiative.</p>	
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Outcome 3.2: Adaptation and scaling up of technologies and approaches for management of salt-affected production landscapes (e.g. irrigated, pastoral, agro-sylvo-pastoral, tree-based, home gardens)	Improved salinity management and INRM technologies/best practices applied on XX ha Number of people (#) with improved income (at least 25%) from improved practices	0	146 050 ha 81,234 (Optional to add, "... for demonstration areas")	1 215 605 ha 162,892 (Optional to add, "... for demonstration areas, 694,749 for upscaling areas")	Guidelines for development of catchment salinity management plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Produced and distributed guidelines on salinity management in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. •Established project demonstration sites in 3 provinces, conducted field baseline and needs assessment activities, and drafted technical guidelines on CC adaptation measures. Published and distributed brochures/flyers on best INRM/SLM practices (pasture management, drip irrigation, salinity management, etc.) in Turkmenistan. Advisory service providers to enhance skills of stakeholders for wide adoption of salinity mitigation approaches and technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •KAZ: Conducted webinars on salinity management, biosaline agriculture, mapping of salt-affected soils, and on gender equality. In addition, 4 field workshops on salinity management conducted in 4 different sites. In total, 192 people participated, including 81 women (42%). •TJK: Conducted trainings on drought and salt tolerant cropping technologies: established 5 demonstration sites for drought and salt tolerant crops (quinoa, amaranth, sorghum, millet, etc.) on 1ha. Planned to prepare a salinization plan at the target group level (with Hydromet). Developed training materials to deliver second round of training on "Leadership and gender" in 8 groups of farmers. Purchased and distributed 3 tons of drought-resistant crops and 1 tons of legumes. Conducted trainings on Increasing water carrying capacity of soil through applying organic fertilizers. In total 346 people participated, including 146 women (42%). •TKM: Established partnerships with various institutions (Agriculture University, Agriculture Institute, Union of Industrialist and Entrepreneurs, 	S
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					<p>UNDP projects) for enhancing salinity management approaches and technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UZB: Produced guidelines on seed production of drought tolerant crops and conservation agriculture technologies; developed FFS Concept and Master plan (handbook); prepared infographics on salinity management; established demonstration sites; and planted 15 salt tolerant crops, including 5 seeds production. held six workshops for 200+ specialists and farmers on conservation agriculture, seed production and agroforestry issues. Developed and published training curricula with 3 different DRM and INRM approaches. Conducted field trainings on applying mobile salinity measurement equipment EM-38 - 11 people participated, including 2 women (18%). <p>Best practices for combating salinization, while ensuring biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KAZ: Set up collaboration agreements with the Kazakh Institute of Soil Science and Agro-chemistry, National Agrarian Scientific and Education Center, and Kazakh Rice Production to conduct demonstration work on 60 ha of salt-affected areas and to upscale relevant SLM and INRM technologies at project sites in Almaty, Turkestan, and Kyzylorda regions. Introduced 3-4 practices for combatting salinization on 45 ha. • TJK: Finalized technical specifications for procurement of seeds, equipment (hand seeders, light traps) and fencing materials. Submitted request for the establishment of demonstration plots. • TKM: Initiated demonstration of the production of licorice as biological measures to reduce soil salinity on 5 ha at project pilot site in Gurbansoltan eje district. 	
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					<p>UZB: Prepared salinity management guidelines with description of INRM technologies. Planted salinity tolerant crops' varieties on 1,300 ha in project sites in Kashkadarya and Bukhara provinces. Delivered a total of 45.6 tons of seeds of drought and salinity resistant varieties of winter wheat and barley to elite seeds producing farmers.</p>	
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Outcome 4.1: Project implementation based on adaptive results-based management, monitoring, and reporting for enhanced impact and visibility	M&E system is in place to support adaptive results-based management and monitoring of upscaling resulting from the project.	No system in place	Implemented project based on adaptive results based-management	Project delivers expected results and shares best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed an M&E Plan and M&E Framework for the project. • Identified project strategic and boundary partners to develop outcome mapping to better monitor progress and to ensure project sustainability. • Modified the project log frame to reflect targets/indicators at national level in 5 countries and at regional level without changing the overall project design (outcomes, outputs). • Produced regular progress reports • A “Gender and Social Inclusion Mainstreaming Strategy for 2020-2022” for the project was developed and being implemented. • A Communication and Outreach Plan 2020 and Project Visibility Strategy were developed and being implemented. • Developed a roadmap for scaling up of SLM/INRM technologies in all CA countries: at least 2-3 technologies were selected in each country in close collaboration with national partners. • Developed baseline reports on carbon stock changes (CO₂) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for CA countries using the CBP tool. The results of CO₂ and GHG emissions for each CA countries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kazakhstan - Total incremental difference (Expected Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Benefit) for the report period: -309 t CO₂e over 5 years, area reported on: 18ha ○ Kyrgyzstan - Total incremental difference for the report period: -394 t CO₂e over 5 years, area reported on: 170ha. ○ Tajikistan - Total incremental difference for the report period: -9511 t CO₂e over 3 years, area reported on: 1,674ha. ○ Turkmenistan - Total incremental difference for the report period: -193656 t CO₂e over 4 years, area reported on: 21,000ha. 	HS
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					<p>o Uzbekistan - Total incremental difference for the report period: -358918 t CO2e over 3 years, area reported on: 73,237ha.</p> <p>•The CBP tool show that the total volume of avoided GHG emissions from the project demonstration sites with application of SLM practices in 20 years projection will be equal to 3.5 mln tons of CO2e.</p> <p>Due to COVID-19 most project activities since early 2020 have been postponed; hence delaying the implementation of the project.</p>	
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Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?

3. Progress in Generating Project Outputs (Implementation Progress, IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as planned in the Annual Work Plan)

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴			Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR		
Output 1.1.1: Harmonized approach across countries for valuation of ecosystem services at various scales	Q1 y4	<p>The cost analysis of DLDD (Outcome 1.1. indicator) given in the ELD Central Asia report was published by UNCCD through the ELD Initiative Program (available at www.eld-initiative.org). The LoA with ICARDA and ToR for hiring International Consultant were prepared to fine-tune methodology and to conduct ELD at project sites.</p> <p>9 regional level workshops for 133 govt specialists and policy-makers were organized to enhance their knowledge on the benefits of INRM approaches.</p> <p>Report was prepared on Ecosystem-based adaptation challenges and opportunities after attending the FAO-HQ</p>	<p>An International Expert was hired to develop a common methodology on VES/ELD adapted to key ecosystems in the project countries. A draft methodology has been produced and will be verified and tested at project sites in Q3, and the results shall be further discussed to finalize the methodology with national partners in Q4.</p> <p>The RPC collaborated with the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD) under the IFAS on regional policy dialogue to advocate ELD. The project team attended the Meeting of the ICSD in October 2019, where the RPC presented the project and it was accepted as advisory partner in the regional commission on SLM/INRM thematic area. It was agreed to contribute with ELD/VES reports for key ecosystem services in Central Asian countries.</p>	<p>The harmonized methodology on Economics of Land Degradation and valuation of ecosystem services, adapted to the conditions of the project countries, was produced. The application of the methodology at project sites and development of the relevant policy recommendations were postponed due to the pandemic related travel restrictions in 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>Series of consultations with ICSD/IFAS was conducted to enhance regional collaboration and synergies of activities, as well as to contribute in development and adoption of the Regional Program of SDGs Implementation in Central Asia for 2020-2030.</p> <p>Number of regional and national capacity development activities were conducted virtually to build institutional capacity on new tools for drought monitoring and assessment, for</p>	60%	Due to the Covid-19 related restrictions, this activity was implemented with delays.

		<p>webinar on 9 August 2018. Main challenges and opportunities were presented by RPC on application of Ecosystem service-based approaches in the CA region.</p> <p>A side event was organized to build a regional dialogue on INRM concept and raise awareness of national/regional stakeholders, at Regional CC Conference in Tashkent, Apr 2019.</p>	<p>Regional capacity building events were held for national experts and decision-makers to raise awareness on assessing and monitoring of ecosystem service health using various tools such as Carbon Benefit Project tool, QGIS mapping for Watershed Management, SLM and Soil Organic Carbon mapping (QG), and LD trends to monitor/report on LDN and SDG 15.3.1 indicators.</p> <p>Series of consultations and need assessments for development of Agro-meteorology services, Extension System and Rural Advisory Services, Drought and Salinity Management, Land degradation and SLM practices were held in project countries to identify key bottlenecks and to develop regional roadmap for further capacity building under the project.</p>	<p>initiating LDN works in the CA countries, on watershed management, mapping of LD, drought and salinity etc. A full list of all events is available in the below Section 10: Knowledge Management Activities.</p>		
Output 1.1.2: Identification of incentives to scale up INRM (e.g. PES schemes)	Q1 y4	<p>Incentives were identified for scaling up INRM: a ToR was finalized and the IC was selected for the assignment to start from Q3 y2.</p>	<p>International consultant was hired to assess key ecosystem services in Central Asia and to develop viable incentive mechanisms to scale-up INRM/SLM practices. The draft report was produced for further consultation with national partners. Additional primary data collection would be required to test the incentives in project sites and to complete the Output by Q4.</p>	<p>The report was completed and number of incentives for each country were identified. It needs further consultations and primary data collection with national partners in the post-COVID-19 period in 2021. Capacity development webinar was conducted to develop decision-support mechanism for effectively scaling-up SLM practices in each country of the project.</p>	60%	

¹² Outputs as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

¹³ As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

¹⁴ Please use the same unity of measures of the project indicators, as much as possible. Please be extremely synthetic (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁵ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

				Due to the COVID-19 emergency in the project countries since March 2020, part of regional project funds were channeled to national emergency response activities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to provide support to vulnerable rural smallholders and farmers in the project sites on procurement of drought- and salt-resistant seeds, fertilizers, home-garden tools for processing, greenhouses, for value chain development in livestock production, capacity building, food production under drought conditions and to improve family income and nutrition. These support activities were initiated to provide additional assistance to the vulnerable groups of population, and to make sure the pandemic related obstacles do not jeopardize the project activities and achieved results. All of these additional assistance activities were in line with project Outcomes and Targets.		
Output 1.2.1: Multi-country platform for knowledge consolidation and harmonization on INRM/SLM to support national	Q4 y5	<p>Two meetings of the Project Regional Steering Committee were held in May 2018 and June 2019. Multi-country collaboration with UNCCD FPs, UNFCCC FPs, NPCs, regional ICSD and CAREC was established through personal meetings and project briefings</p> <p>GEF, UNCCD recognized “The WOCAT platform” was chosen to develop a regional knowledge management platform.</p> <p>An agreement was signed with Uni-Bern to elaborate national</p>	<p>Third Project Steering Committee meeting was conducted on 24 January 2020 in Bishkek, whereby the project team reported on activity progress for 2019 and presented annual plans 2020 at regional and national levels to agree with key national partners.</p> <p>To develop a regional Knowledge Management Platform, the WOCAT team was selected as a central orchestrator after series of regional consultations with CAREC, GIZ, ICARDA and the University of Bern (WOCAT). LoA was signed to implement this activity in 2019. In 2020, the first model of a Regional Knowledge Management Platform was developed and</p>	<p>Fully functional version of the knowledge management platform was completed and available for publishing. The technical works on content management is progressing jointly with WOCAT global SLM database team. SLM documentation procedures were postponed to post-pandemic period.</p> <p>Working version is available here https://www.wocat.net/cms/pages/255/edit/preview.</p> <p>Soil salinity map was prepared for 1 entire province (Zhambyl) in KAZ and for the Talaa-Bulak district in KYR. Soil salinity map for 1 demo site in UZB is in progress. Drought vulnerability maps</p>	60%	

<p>advisory and climate information services, including early warning systems</p>		<p>capacities on SLM inventory development and on documenting best SLM/INRM practices/ technologies.</p> <p>An inventory of good SLM practices in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes were developed with WOCAT and ICBA teams.</p> <p>The regional ToT workshop on WOCAT tools was organized for national representatives of 6 countries to build capacity on documenting best SLM practices, in Ankara, Turkey from 6-9 May 2019.</p>	<p>SLM database applications were discussed with the WOCAT experts' team. The project team will fine tune the platform and continue collecting SLM practices from countries to update the database, and additional SLM and CO2 balance mapping instruments will be introduced in the platform as agreed with WOCAT experts. The platform will be launched in Q4.</p> <p>Baseline studies on Early Warning System, Drought Risk Management and Agro-meteo Services were completed by 90% in KAZ, KYR, TJK, UZB, and initiated in TKM. This work is currently progressing in KAZ (75%) and starting in TKM (20%). Regional consultation on analysis of Early Warning system, Agro-meteorology services and Drought Risk management was held in December 2019 in Tashkent to produce regional review and to further develop policy recommendations.</p> <p>The project team applied adaptive project management approach and series of consultations and need assessments for development of Agro-meteorology services, Extension System and Rural Advisory Services, Drought and Salinity Management, Land degradation and SLM practices were held in project countries to identify key bottlenecks and to develop regional roadmap for further capacity building under the project. The project team also developed a regional projects' map to identify possible opportunities for collaboration with partner organizations and to establish synergy, while avoiding duplication of investments and activities. These results were reflected in the annual work plans.</p>	<p>for project sites in KAZ using CDI tool and drought vulnerability map in UZB using DI tool were produced. For other countries, the data collection is ongoing and the respective maps will be developed further.</p> <p>Regional baseline analyses of the Early Warning System, Climate change related Disaster Risk Management and Agro-meteorology Services in 5 CA countries were completed. The final reports are under discussion with respective national agencies to receive final feedback.</p> <p>Baseline assessment of Rural Advisory Services (RAS) was conducted and policy recommendations developed in the 4 project countries, except TJK (postponed due to pandemic for late 2021/early 2022).</p> <p>To strengthen strategic partnership and multi-country networking with key national partners, GEF FP and UNCCD/UNFCCC FPs, the RPC conducts regular virtual meetings with key national implementing partners to brief on project progress on key milestones on regional and national outputs.</p>		
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			To strengthen strategic partnership and multi-country networking with key national partners, GEF FP and UNCCD/UNFCCC FPs, regular regional missions and events were conducted by RPC in Kazakhstan (June-July 2019, February 2020), Kyrgyzstan (January 2020), Tajikistan (July-August 2019), Turkmenistan (January 2020) and Uzbekistan (October-November 2019). The RPC met personally with key national implementing partners to brief on project progress and to agree key milestones to deliver regional and national outputs.			
Output 1.2.2 Multi-scale and participatory approaches in place for assessing land degradation and SLM trends, and for assessing/monitoring impacts of management practices on ecosystem services, biodiversity, and	Q4 y3	<p>A regional workshop on decision-support tools and instruments of FAO in the area of SLM/INRM (SHARP, EXACT, MOSAICC, AquaCrop, Collect Earth, LADA) was held in Rome, 23-27 Apr 2018.</p> <p>12 participants from CA countries were capacitated on LD and Combating Desertification by attending the international training in Konya-Mersin, Turkey in 11-15 July 2018.</p> <p>An agreement was signed with ICBA to conduct national and regional trainings on benefits of technologies and practices of biosaline agriculture in Central Asia; and the regional training on "Crop Diversification and Modelling for Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security Management in Central Asia" was organized by ICBA from</p>	<p>10 regional project workshops were conducted on advanced tools and methods for monitoring / assessing impacts of land degradation on ecosystem services in 5 CA countries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Promotion of best practices and management approaches in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes: Capacity building for farmers and decision-makers on best biosaline and phyto-melioration technologies to address salinity and drought issues in dryland areas of the CA region": 05-07 July 2019, Almaty and Kyzylorda Regions, Kazakhstan; 2. "Open Foris Collect Earth; Sampling Methodology using Visual Interpretation and Earth Map": 16-19 September 2019, Ankara, Turkey; 3. "Building Central Asian Women's Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change and Enhance Food and Nutrition Security": 14-17 October 2019, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; 4. "International Training on Combating Desertification": 21-27 October 2019, Konya-Mersin, Turkey; 	<p>The below listed regional webinars were conducted online (due to the pandemic) on tools and methods for monitoring / assessing impacts of land degradation on ecosystem services and LDN in 5 CA countries.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Series of regional webinars of WOCAT: LDN, QGIS, Watershed, Trends.Earth, QM Mapping (SLM technologies and approaches), 15 Jun - 01 Jul 2020 2. Webinar on "Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy Mainstreaming in Communications, Monitoring" on 14 July 2020; 10 people participated, including 5 NPMs and 5 from the Regional office team. 3. Regional Webinar on GESI in SLM/INRM interventions on 21 Jul 2020; 20 people participated, including 8 women (40%). 4. Regional webinar on "Innovative approaches and salinity management technologies for agricultural development in marginal lands": 07 August 2020, 	60%	

<p>livelihoods (vulnerability)</p>		<p>16 – 19 Oct. in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.</p> <p>10 national representatives from CA were capacitated on LD by attending International Training Workshop on "Sand and Dust storms" in Istanbul, 12-15 Nov 2018.</p> <p>27 representatives from 6 project countries were capacitated on estimating GHG emissions and carbon sequestration balance (EX-ACT), in Izmir, 26-30 Nov 2018.</p> <p>An agreement was signed with the Uni-Cordoba to build capacities of project countries on the FAO AquaCrop tool to improve crop-water productivity at farm level.</p> <p>20 representatives from project countries were capacitated on using "AquaCrop" tools in Central Asia, during 14-18 Jan 2019, Cordoba, Spain.</p> <p>17 representatives from CA countries were capacitated to use SHARP tools to assess resilience and vulnerability of farmers and pastoralists towards climate change risks, in Dushanbe, 11-14 March 2019.</p> <p>Series of national SHARP training and baseline data</p>	<p>5. "Regional workshop on ASIS, Collect Earth and EWS/RDM tools": 02-06 December 2019, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19, the following regional workshops were conducted in webinar format:</p> <p>6. "Carbon Benefits Project (CBP) Tools": 25-29 May, 2020.</p> <p>7. " QGIS BASICS. The use of GIS in the context of Sustainable Land Management": 15-17 June, 2020.</p> <p>8. "Watershed Management Tool": 18-19 June, 2020.</p> <p>9. "Trends.Earth software tool to obtain Land Productivity Trend Maps and other relevant LDN indicators": 22-25 June, 2020.</p> <p>10. " QM MAPPING TOOL and Integrating TRENDS.EARTH + Watershed Management in QM": 29 June - 01 July, 2020.</p> <p>SHARP assessment works were held in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to analyze and generate baseline reports on community resilience and vulnerability. In Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan the data collection was initiated and all 5 reports will be completed by Q4.</p> <p>National Partners were provided with the WOCAT inventory for documentation of SLM practices and technologies in Russian language. Documentation of SLM practices will continue in 2020/2021.</p> <p>A Regional Plan on implementation of Farmer Field School (FFS) was produced by an international consultant. It was applied in KAZ, TJK and UZB on project field sites.</p> <p>An IC was hired to conduct baseline assessment of Rural Advisory Services</p>	<p>70 people participated, including 29 women (42%).</p> <p>5. Webinar on SDGs, CEDAW and its article 14 on rural women and Country Policies on 11 August 2020; 14 people participated, including 5 NPMs 3 from national institutions in Kazakhstan and 6 from the Regional office team.</p> <p>6. Regional webinar on "Status and perspectives of conservation agriculture practices in Central Asia": 18 August 2020.</p> <p>7. Online Training Workshop on Climate Smart Mechanization for Dryland Agriculture in Central Asian Countries: 30 September 2020.</p> <p>8. Webinar on "How to establish partnerships with beneficiaries/stakeholders/partners on GESI strategy on 08 September 2020; 11 people participated from the project team.</p> <p>9. Regional Webinar on "Sustainable pasture management approaches": 02 October 2020, 88 people participated, including 26 women (30%).</p> <p>10. Webinar on Gender Budgeting on 13 October 2020; 10 people participated, including 5 NPMs and 5 from the Regional office team.</p> <p>11. Regional Experts Consultation on "State of the World's Land and Water" in Europe and Central Asia: 27-28 October 2020.</p> <p>SHARP assessment works were conducted in all CA countries to analyze and generate baseline reports on community resilience and vulnerability towards climate change variabilities.</p>		
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		<p>collection were initiated in 4 project countries.</p> <p>An agreement was signed with Uni-Bern to develop national capacities on WOCAT inventory and to document best SLM/INRM practices/technologies for scaling up.</p> <p>27 national representatives were capacitated on the WOCAT tool to document best SLM practices organized in Ankara, from 6-9 May 2019.</p>	<p>(RAS) and develop action plan and policy recommendations for RAS system development in the project countries. Currently, the data collection process in 5 countries is progressing.</p> <p>International and Regional Gender Mainstreaming Experts were hired to develop and implement project's "Gender Equality and Social Inclusion" strategy.</p> <p>Number of earlier planned capacity building events and field workshops were postponed to Q4 due to the COVID-19 emergency situation in all project countries.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 emergency in the project countries since March 2020, part of regional project funds were channeled to national emergency response actions in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to provide support to vulnerable rural smallholders and farmers in the project sites on value chain development, capacity building, food production under drought conditions and to improve family income and nutrition. These activities also aimed at strengthening project's multi-country collaboration in the region.</p>	<p>National Partners were provided with the WOCAT inventory for documentation of SLM practices and technologies in Russian language. Due to pandemic, the documentation of SLM practices was postponed.</p> <p>Resource Mobilization specialist was hired to develop proposals for SLM scaling-up. At first, the priorities of the CA countries in the field of natural resources management, current strategies in sectors of agriculture, forestry and water management as well as NDC and LDN targets were analyzed for CA countries. List of current programs and project in CA countries on NRM was developed and updated regularly to further develop partnerships and synergies.</p>		
Output 1.2.3: Targeted knowledge and communication products prepared	Q4 y5	<p>Publication was produced for policy makers on "Overview Report for Central Asian Countries on Analysis of Best Biological Approaches to Address Soil and Water Salinity Issues in Dryland Agriculture".</p> <p>Report was conducted with ICBA on biosaline technologies</p>	<p>For enhancing project visibility a Communication and Outreach Plan 2020 and project Visibility Strategy were developed and being implemented. The project outreach materials and news releases are regularly published and received by 159 online and offline media resources in 5 countries. The project brochure, website and newsletter series were developed and published to raise</p>	<p>20 video materials for capacity development on basic principles of food processing, storage, marketing, climate-smart agriculture, SLM, IWRM and other topics were produced and disseminated for the smallholders in the region. These activities also aimed at strengthening project's multi-country collaboration in the region.</p> <p>The CACILM-2 project's 1st and 2nd</p>	65%	

<p>for wide dissemination on the multiple benefits of INRM in selected production landscapes</p>		<p>to improve degraded pastures, adapt and mitigate climate change in dryland areas dominated by Artemisia.</p> <p>The design of complex publication on practical tools and recommendations in monitoring of field activities was progressed jointly with ICBA.</p> <p>Various visibility materials were produced and displayed in mass media to raise the awareness and scaling up of SLM technologies.</p> <p>All activities held under the project in Uzbekistan, as well as interviews with national experts on field training courses were publicized in mass media.</p> <p>The recruitment process of the Regional Communications Specialist was processed to develop a project Communication Plan.</p>	<p>awareness of the regional partners on project activities and achievements.</p> <p>The CACILM-2 brochure and the project posters were published on the project activity results for enhancing the visibility and communication of the project.</p> <p>Regional communication, visibility and policy dialogue was enhanced during the following 2 high-level events:</p> <p>(1) Regional Working Meeting of the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development in Central Asia under the International Fund for the Aral Sea, October 2019. During this meeting, the FAO CACILM-2 project was presented by RPC and accepted for advisory role on the SLM/INRM policies towards SDG-2030.</p> <p>(2) “International High-Level Conference on the Aral Sea: Innovations, Technologies and Investments”, organized in collaboration with the CACILM-2 project (25-26 October 2019). During this Conference, the FAO-GEF CACILM-2 project team jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture of UZB, the State Committee on Environment Protection of UZB (national GEF FP), the State Forestry Committee of UZB (national UNCCD FP), and the UN Resident Coordinator in UZB, launched a National Campaign on “Planting Million Fruit Trees”, which was one of the brightest high-level events of the International Conference.</p> <p>A number of technical reports and publications on Salinity management technologies, Baseline Assessment on Early Warning System/Drought Risk</p>	<p>quarterly newsletters “Dialogue” were issued and disseminated among national partners in Central Asia. Project brochures and posters were published on the project activity results for enhancing the visibility and communication of the project on the field level.</p> <p>A number of knowledge products and publications on Salinity management technologies, Overview of best biological approaches to address soil and water salinity in Central Asia, Monitoring of Ecosystem Service in Marginal Environments, Policy Brief on Salinity Management and Manuals for salinity management etc. were developed jointly with the project partners.</p> <p>In accordance with the CACILM2 Project Communication Plan for 2020/2021, 322 media articles were published in Central Asian media resources. All these publications were initiated by the project and based on press-releases disseminated among mass media. Project stories were also actively promoted through the social net – Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.</p>		
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			<p>Management, Overview of best biological approaches to address soil and water salinity in Central Asia, Monitoring of Ecosystem Service in Marginal Environments, Policy Brief on Salinity Management and Manuals for salinity management etc. were developed jointly with ICBA and other project partners.</p> <p>Regional Communication and Outreach Specialist was hired and the following list of results achieved to improve project visibility in the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project communication plan 2020 and Communications Strategy were developed and approved; - Regular press releases on various project activities and results in Central Asia were issued and widely distributed, including on topics of drought and salt tolerant crops planting in Tajikistan, collaboration with Government and International agencies towards a national campaign “Planting Million Fruit Trees” in Uzbekistan, results of baseline assessment for Climate Change related Early Warning system in Kazakhstan, Regional webinar on Carbon Balance Benefits tool, project’s emergency response to COVID-19 assistance in Kyrgyzstan and in Tajikistan, and Regional WOCAT webinar on LDN, SLM and, Watershed Management Tool were prepared. The project news and releases were received by 159 online and offline media resources in 5 Central Asian countries. - Two interviews on project implementation results were prepared with RPC and NPM in Kyrgyzstan and 			
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			<p>disseminated in the regional media resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project stories were promoted through social networks – Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. - Project quarterly information Newsletter-bulletin #1 was published and disseminated online among project partners in all Central Asian countries (more than 400 email recipients). - The project website was developed and regularly updated. <p>Regional Knowledge Management Platform was designed, content management and technical works are progressing jointly with WOCAT global SLM database team.</p> <p>The Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy, and Action Plan were developed for the project in 5 countries. The gender equality and social inclusion was mainstreamed in AWP, Communications, Capacity Building, M&E plans, including in procurement processes. Needs based capacity building plan was developed to educate project personnel on GESI on a monthly basis. Check-list on GESI and a tips booklet were developed for the project staff.</p> <p>Stakeholder analysis was conducted to identify institutions with whom projects could collaborate on GESI initiatives. Defined NGOs, social and farmer groups were constantly invited to capacity building activities.</p> <p>Rapid Gender Analysis was processed to start the dialogue with national partners</p>			
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			<p>on integrating gender and social inclusion in INRM in all project countries.</p> <p>Regional FFS Plan was produced by IC for KYR, TJK and UZB.</p>			
Output 2.1.1: Review of national policies, legal and institutional frameworks and their application at different governance levels with the view to identify gaps and potential opportunities for managing transformations	Q2 y4	<p>Country baseline studies on analysis of INRM regulatory frameworks in KYR, TJK, UZB were progressed.</p> <p>2 national Experts on Salinity Management were hired in KAZ and UZB.</p>	<p>National multi-disciplinary working groups on SLM/INRM were established in KAZ, KYR and UZB under the support of MoA and other related agencies.</p> <p>NCs on policy analysis were recruited in all project countries to review policy, enabling environment and institutional frameworks at national level to identify potential gaps. National consultations were held in KAZ, KYR, TJK, TKM and UZB to discuss findings of the analyses. Follow up policy recommendations on integration of resilience into national policies, legal and institutional frameworks were developed in KYR, TJK, UZB and progressing in KAZ and TKM.</p> <p>The reports on analysis of National strategic documents, Obligations of the Government of KAZ under UNFCCC and UNCCD were submitted to NPM and Institutional gaps were identified. International INRM expert for integrating resilience into policies and practices was recruited in KAZ, an analysis of the national documents in INRM were processed.</p>	<p>National Consultants on policy analysis were recruited in all 5 CA countries, to review policy, enabling environment and institutional frameworks at national level and identify potential gaps. Policy reviews and gap analysis sustainability and for integration of resilience factors in RD policies were completed in all CA countries and reports produced.</p> <p>KAZ: As for pasture management, 1 preliminary analysis and 1 gap analysis were conducted, and a framework to integrate resilience was provided using the RAPTA tool based on the findings from the gap analysis. As for salinity management, 1 brief analysis was conducted in terms of legislation and institutions.</p> <p>National Consultant on Policy and Institutional Analysis (IPA) were re-recruited in February 2021. Project team participated at several meetings on the concept of sustainable land management. Work on elaboration of detailed activities is going on.</p> <p>KRG: A policy review with gap analysis in the Kyrgyz Republic has been conducted (Report available). The updated expert working group reviewed the report and approved it.</p>	75%	

				<p>TJK: PILA expert was hired and the country report was drafted and discussed with national working group on UNCCD.</p> <p>TKM: Review of national institutional and policy frameworks and documents and gap analysis and recommendations on integration of resilience factors into policies is prepared by PILA expert.</p> <p>National PILA expert was hired in May 2021 to review and analysis of the legislation and program documents of Turkmenistan in the field of sustainable pasture management, soils, forestry and protected areas.</p> <p>UZB: Report on policy reviews and gap analysis on integration of Resilience factors in RD policies is prepared by PILA specialist.</p>		
Output 2.1.2: Formulation, review or update of national drought policies, strategies and guidelines for drought preparedness planning	Q4 y3	<p>Country baseline studies on Early Warning System, Drought Risk Management and Agro-meteo Services were progressed in KAZ, KYR, TJK, UZB.</p> <p>4 national experts on Drought Risk Management were hired to assess baseline in KAZ, KYR, UZB, TJK.</p> <p>Draft baseline assessments were prepared in KYR, TJK.</p> <p>National regulatory framework on land and</p>	<p>Country baseline studies on Early Warning System, Drought Risk Management and Agro-meteo Services were conducted in KAZ, KYR, TJK, UZB and draft reports produced / submitted to the REU team for review. This work will be completed in TKM by Q4.</p> <p>National and International experts on Drought and Salinity Management were hired and initial assessment works and CD activities started in KAZ.</p> <p>In KYR, an updated version of NAP was developed and discussed in a round table with experts working group under the MoA in June 2020.</p>	<p>KAZ: Comprehensive analysis of a disaster risk reduction system in agriculture was conducted and recommendations were proposed.</p> <p>A policy guideline produced by UNDP in 2015 is regarded as an output of the Project.</p> <p>The contract of IC on DRM has been signed by both parties in May - 2021. IC on DRM will develop action plan on drought planning.</p> <p>KYR: A baseline assessment of the baseline conditions for the early warning system, disaster risk</p>	50%	

		<p>drought management were analysed in UZB</p> <p>The draft agroforestry plan was developed for Qamashi site in Uzbek language.</p> <p>Comprehensive analysis of existing legislation was conducted by UZB and TAJ experts in the field of using natural resources. Gaps were identified to develop recommendations on improving existing legislation on NRM.</p>	<p>In TKM, 2 national experts on SLM and IWRM, and 3 local experts for demo sites were hired. Baseline data on demo areas related to INRM was collected and analyzed. Plan of activities for each demo site was developed.</p> <p>Over 100 farmers and local experts were capacitated on integration of drought planning, crop rotation in agriculture, forestry during seminars conducted in Kashkadarya region, UZB.</p>	<p>management and agrometeorological services related to climate change in the Kyrgyz Republic was carried out and a report on the country situation analysis of the disaster risk reduction system for agriculture in the Kyrgyz Republic was prepared.</p> <p>The national action Plan to combat desertification (NAP) was updated and reviewed and approved at a meeting of the working expert group on June 25, 2020.</p> <p>TJK: The comments for Early Warning System, CC related Disaster Risk Management and Agro meteorology Services country report collected form FETAJ. EWS Report is developed and under review of REU/HQ.</p> <p>NC on Drought Management re-hired in April 2021. An article on arranged round table to present EWS country report prepared and published in cooperation with Regional Communication Specialist.</p> <p>TKM: Baseline report on DRM, EWS and AS (review of institutional and policy framework) is prepared</p> <p>Preparation of the 4th National Communication of and BUR1 to the UNFCCC has started in the fall 2020 in the framework of the UNDP Project "Sustainable Cities in Turkmenistan: Integrated Green Urban Development in Ashgabat and Awaza" Funding was received from UNEP and timeline is 2020-2023.</p>		
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				<p>ToR for NC on DRM expert was approved and NC was recruited in May-2021. National policy documents, organizational and institutional frameworks on accepted country obligations under the UNFCCC and UNCCD agreements, including gender gaps and potential opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resource were reviewed and analyzed.</p> <p>UZB: Developed farmer-oriented manual on seed production management of salt and drought tolerant crops (alfalfa, pearl millet, sorghum). Developed two articles on fodder beet and alfalfa seed production.</p> <p>Submitted report on disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and agro-meteorology services outline. Submitted recommendation on no-till sunflower in rainfed and FAO resource saving technologies in Agriculture. New national drought policies, strategies and guidelines is producing by PILA specialist.</p>		
Output 2.1.3: Participatory resilience assessment and mapping, and livelihood diagnostics (i.e. SHARP)	Q4 y3	<p>Regional ToT workshop, 3 national trainings on SHARP tool, and 3 workshops on AquaCrop modeling were held in UZB, TJK, TKM, and planned soon in KYR, KAZ.</p> <p>3 national trainings on EX-ACT were held in UZB, KAZ, TJK, and planned in KYR, TKM.</p> <p>2 agreements were signed with Tajik Scientific Soil Institute and with</p>	<p>Training and baseline assessment on using SHARP tools were conducted in pilot districts in KAZ, KYR, TJK and UZB. Collected primary data were submitted to FAO SHARP team for analysis and reports are under preparation.</p> <p>National trainings on Aqua Crop, WOCAT were held in KAZ and KYR in July -August 2019.</p> <p>National EX-ACT trainings were held in KAZ and KYR. A baseline assessment of the CO2 balance from the agriculture subsectors</p>	<p>KAZ: SHARP assessment was conducted in two villages. The average resilience score was 7.03 out of 20. The scores by site were 10.03 in Karaganda and 4.54 in Kyzylorda. Based on the major observations of the survey, recommendations for components of interest to both sites were proposed.</p> <p>4 vulnerability maps were produced: land degradation map (entire Kazakhstan, 272.5 mln ha), salinity map (Zhambyl region, 14.4 mln ha), drought vulnerability map (Kostanay region,</p>	60%	

to support evidence-based decision-making		<p>International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) to develop capacity, promote climate-smart agriculture practices, and to disseminate drought and salt resistant plants and SLM technologies in TJK.</p>	<p>was conducted. The Collect Earth training was held in Oct 2019.</p> <p>National land degradation maps were developed in KAZ and submitted to national partners for verification. Soil salinity maps of 2 project sites were developed in KAZ. The webinar tutorials were processed on the development of maps in KAZ.</p> <p>11 sustainable pasture management plans were developed using participatory approach for 11 pastoral communities of Kochkor district in KYR; Participatory field trainings were conducted and the plans were integrated in land use plans of the communities.</p>	<p>19.6 mln ha), and soil carbon organic map (Zhambyl region, 14.4 mln ha).</p> <p>3 training webinars on map creation were given to develop the capacity of specialists and then ensure the sustainability of the Output.</p> <p>Recruitment of GIS Specialist has been finalized and contract were signed by two parties. (EOD – 01 April 2021). Several meetings were conducted in May - 2021 with WOCAT team GIS specialists, MoA and project team to develop a model for mapping LD of project sites.</p> <p>KYR: In the pilot project site - in the Kochkor district for five farms, an assessment (by questionnaire) of climate change resistance was carried out using the SHARP tool.</p> <p>A report on land use in Kochkor district was developed and a joint assessment of the impact of climate change in Kochkor district was carried out, i.e. coverage at the district level with a total area of 222,874 ha, a population of 71777 people from 11 ayil aimags and 14327 households.</p> <p>TJK: SHARP Report developed. Expert on WOCAT was hired. The WOCAT Expert started collection of data, a field trip was arranged and series of meetings with farmer groups organized.</p> <p>TKM: SHARP survey conducted in project pilot districts and submitted to</p>		
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				<p>the HQ SHARP team and report will be done early 2021.</p> <p>Surveys for SHARP tool were uploaded into the system and international experts started with the analysis of the data and to draft the report. SHARP assessment report was finalized in March 2021.</p> <p>Salinity Management expert was recruited in May 2021.</p> <p>UZB: Participated on online training on WOCAT—FAO-GEF webinars. Conducted online training course on crop rotation under Conservation Agriculture and 15 female participants attended the training course. Developed infographics on salinity, drought management, watershed management.</p> <p>SHARP survey conducted in project districts and submitted to the HQ SHARP team.</p> <p>Drought vulnerability map of Kamashi district produced.</p>		
Output 2.1.4: Strengthening of inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms at national level,	Q4 y4	<p>Project partnership plans, coordination and synergies were discussed with 6 country representatives at two regional project coordination meetings in May 2018 and June 2019.</p> <p>Series of meetings with National Project Coordinators, UNCCD FPs, UNFCCC FPs and GEF NFP were held in KAZ, KYR, TJK, TKM and UZB to establish networking,</p>	<p>To strengthen intersectoral collaboration and joint activities, a series of SLM/INRM meetings with national partners were held in KAZ, KYR, TJK, TKM and UZB.</p> <p>In KAZ, the working group was initiated by the Committee for Land Resources Management for strengthening the inter-sectoral coordination. All WG scheduled meetings were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine in KAZ.</p> <p>The analysis was conducted on the integration of salinity management and</p>	<p>KAZ: A Working Group consisting of 3 different sectors - land, water, and forest - was established. The project team is also working with the Government on developing a new state agricultural programme “Development of the agro-industrial complex of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2022-2026”. A draft concept was submitted.</p> <p>Pending - according to AWP-2021, activities for this output should start in March 2021, but has not yet started.</p>	50%	

<p>including mainstreaming of NAPs into national sector budget allocations and investment processes for INRM scaling up</p>		<p>communication and project reporting.</p> <p>Series of meetings were held with senior representatives of the Interstate Committee for Sustainable Development in Central Asia to establish cooperation and to discuss INRM/SLM/CSA mainstreaming into national budget allocations and investment scaling up processes in the region.</p> <p>Agreement was established to conduct a joint regional policy dialogue meeting during the forthcoming regional session of the Committee in October 2019.</p> <p>An international consultant was hired to identify incentives to scale-up CSA/INRM approaches.</p>	<p>INRM/SLM related issues into the Fund programs on amelioration improvement of irrigated lands in UZB. Recommendations were developed to elaborate its activities.</p> <p>An international consultant assessed and identified practical incentive mechanisms to scale-up SLM/CSA/INRM approaches in the project countries. Draft report has been produced and will be submitted for national consultations in Q3.</p>	<p>KYR: In the pilot Kochkor district of Naryn region, where the specialists for land resources state administration, departments of agricultural development, water and forestry, water users associations, pasture committees and agricultural cooperatives Developed regulations on the establishment of the Commission on inter-municipal cooperation.</p> <p>During interactive meetings and round-table discussions, the document adopted and approved by a separate Order of the Head of the Kochkor district state administration. This led to a Round table at the national level with expert working group (National CACILM Board) in Bishkek (at the Ministry of agriculture), which will serve as a basis for further steps in developing and strengthening cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms at the national level. Including integrating the National action plan into national sectoral budget allocations and investment processes aimed at moving towards integrated and integrated natural resource management.</p> <p>TJK: All reports will be discussed with the Government. After RT will be organized to discuss 2 country reports. Also 1 seminar will be organised under the UNCCD Convention to review reports and renew NAP. Environmental Committee's Chairman is FP on desertification. Inter-sectoral Technical working group is established, and they are interested in working with CACILM2 on LDN.</p>		
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				<p>A round table was arranged on 20 April 2021 for 29 participants from the parliament of TJK, academia and 7 line ministries. The brief report on round table was developed and send for approval.</p> <p>TKM: Establishment of National Project Board and conducting of 1st meeting of it scheduled on January 2021.</p> <p>First meeting of the national working group on INRM and CSA planning to strengthen drought preparedness processes (performs the function of the NCB for Turkmenistan) was conducted online in February 2021.</p> <p>UZB: Two meetings of UNCCD national focal point are conducted. Project team has participated in UNCCD board meeting.</p>		
Output 2.2.1: Increase in public and private sector (at least 5 different types of enterprises) supporting smallholder farmers to scale up best practices	Q4 y3	Activities were organized as planned from Q1 y3.	<p>Road map for collaboration with NASEC was drafted to strengthen RAS in project areas in KAZ. LoA with NASEC was signed and draft training reports were submitted.</p> <p>CSA training was conducted at the national and subnational levels (in the pilot area) in KYR. Participants of the CSA workshop developed CC risk assessment in Kochkor district.</p> <p>8 initiative groups, including 206 farmers (over 30% of whom were women) in 4-targeted districts were formed in TAJ. The training on drought-resistant and salt-tolerant crops cultivation was arranged for those groups. NC on Community Mobilization and FFS Expert were recruited, and training materials prepared.</p>	<p>KAZ: Current state of extension service was reviewed in terms of political framework, structure and gender, and recommendations were given accordingly.</p> <p>4 following boundary partners were selected in 3 sectors – public, research institution and NGO – and partnerships were established.</p> <p>Cost-benefit analysis were performed for 3 practices, of which two were found to pay off the investment within the initial 5 years.</p> <p>LoA with TALAP was signed and the first payment has been released. The work as per signed contract has been started</p>	40%	

and adoption of self-reliant approaches for managing climate variability and change			<p>In UZB, 5 SLM practices were reviewed, cost-benefit analysis was conducted and business plans developed. Development of a small subsidy program on scaling up of innovative technology for vulnerable land users with recommendations was prepared. Assessment of existing extension service facilities was conducted in UZB.</p>	<p>in May - 2021.</p> <p>KYR: Six adaptation measures on pastures in 5 aiyl districts were implemented. There are a water distribution structure, fencing for livestock, a bridge for pasture users, a corral for livestock, a watering point, crossings over rivers and ravines in pastures.</p> <p>Detailed report prepared.</p> <p>Procurement of two “Hydrotaran” hydraulic pumps was completed and the Supplier has completed the delivery and trial installation. The Service Provider conducted training for associations of pasture users on CSA and other modern technologies in accordance with the LOA plan and schedule.</p> <p>TJK: In order to support smallholder farmers to scale up CSA / SLM / INRM best practices selected "Bonuvoni Khatlon" (Women's group) as boundary partner of the project and have made the first assessment on Outcome Mapping. The action plan under the process.</p> <p>The NC on Mobilization and FFS Expert recruited for 80 days. The process of approval LoA with potential Boundary Partner «Bonuvoni Khatlon» is ongoing.</p> <p>TKM: etings with entrepreneurs and agriproducers to promote the principles of sustainable agriculture to create conditions for the transition to CSA.</p>		
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				<p>Outcome mapping for BPs was developed. Selected 2 BPs to support smallholder farmers to scale up CSA/INRM practices. Formulated progress markers for each boundary partner due to the late start of the project as well as COVID-19 outbreak situation make it very difficult to meet people and for that reason, it will be slow process to explain BPs the Outcome Mapping in TKM.</p> <p>Tender for creation of drip irrigation system for created gardens in PPS Gurbansoltan eje, Nohur and Turkmen Agriculture Institute was launched by FAOSEC on 10 March. Supplier was contracted and construction works started in April 2021.</p> <p>UZB: Kahkadarya branch of research institute of grain and legume crops and Bukhara branch of Tashkent institute of irrigation and agricultural mechanization engineers, Tashkent state agrarian university (partner organizations) were provided with manuals on FFS, training materials on INRM and SLM approaches, more 20 employees of partner organization completed training courses on organizing of FFS, INRM and SLM approaches. In the training courses farmers from respective project sites in Kashkadarya and Bukhara provinces are participated.</p> <p>Documents of FFS specialist was sent to the FAOSEC office, for recruitment.</p>		
Output 2.2.2: At	Q4 y4	Activities were organized as planned from Q1 y3.	Selection of VCA Specialist is progressing in KAZ.	KAZ: Recommendations for an improved livestock value chain were proposed based on a value chain	50%	

<p>least 5 resource use efficient and biodiversity friendly food and feed value-chains strengthened</p>			<p>In KYR, improvement of potato/ forage value chains were initiated: a survey of farmers and study of value chains were conducted at project sites in Kochkor district.</p> <p>Delivery of food production inputs (fertilizers and fuel) to vulnerable farmers during the COVID-19 completed in KYR: 134 tons of fertilizers and 24.5 tons diesel fuel were distributed among vulnerable farmers in drought prone areas to support their livelihood: Kochkor and At Bashinsky districts of the Naryn region, Suzak district of the Jalalabad region, Karasu and Nookat districts of Osh region.</p> <p>NC on VCA has been recruited and 2 field missions arranged in TJK. Methodology for conducting research on VCA or almond and safflower was developed.</p> <p>TS for a/c Agriculture equipment (laser leveler, no-till planter, seed cleaner, etc.) developed in TKM.</p> <p>A report on improving value chains using conservation agriculture practices was prepared in UZB. Analyzing the current status of agroforestry value chains in progress.</p>	<p>analysis. Approaches to improve resource-efficiency and eco-friendliness in feeding and breeding were given and opportunities to generate more income in packaging and marketing were discussed. LoA with NGO TALAP to conduct analysis of effectiveness SLM technologies was signed and activities started.</p> <p>KYR: A study of value chains was conducted. Developed a report. Seeds of climate-resistant varieties of forage crops, diesel fuel and fertilizers for 1,057 farmers (539 of them women) were purchased for a total amount of 144,174 USD. According to the study of the agricultural value chain in the pilot area, the most appropriate way to improve the value chain in the face of climate change is to grow good varieties of alfalfa, sainfoin and barley. These are the most important forage crops in the area. Most farmers buy seeds at the local market and don't know what kind of seeds they are or what kind of reproduction they are. As a result, they get low returns. The popularization of high-yielding varieties will increase the volume of feed production in the region.</p> <p>The administration of the Kochkovsky district showed great interest in the project, which was confirmed by their availability and activity.</p> <p>TJK: The NC on Value Chain Development addressed comments and submitted report on safflower' and almond' value chain development. The report cleared by RPC.</p>		
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				<p>COVID19 response activities + Matching grants expert, agronomist, mobilizator recruited to scale-up CSA practices.</p> <p>The draft ToR of NC on Value Chain Analysis developed; the request for recruitment is under preparation. The RFQs for procurement of gardening tools, equipment for nurseries aimed for production of seedlings of drought resistant fruit, nut trees and fencing materials for establishing the nurseries / agroforestry demo plots technically evaluated and financial evaluation is ongoing. Procurement is pending.</p> <p>TKM: Construction of 2 irrigation nurseries in PPS and construction of 3 water reservoirs (sardops) for remote villages in PPS in Karakum. PO was signed on November 30 and supplier was contacted to start works immediately.</p> <p>Nursery was established in pilot region Gurbansoltan eje district and seedlings of drought-and salt-resistant plants were procured for needs of pilot regions and Agriculture Institute in Dashoguz.</p> <p>UZB: Prepared a report on value chain development with conservation agriculture practices.</p> <p>Recommendation for strengthening value chains on pistachio is developed and submitted to the relevant organization.</p>		
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Output 3.1.1: At least 2 multi-stakeholder land-use plans for selected production landscapes per country	Q4 y3	<p>In KYR, an agreement was signed with NGO 'Camp-Alatoo' to build capacities of Kochkor community on sustainable pasture management, on climate smart agriculture practices, and on using decision-support tools of FAO for scaling up SLM/INRM technologies.</p> <p>ToRs were developed in KAZ for development of methodology and training module on sustainable pasture management and planning (SPMP), and conducting 3 national workshops on SPMP for livestock and agro-pastoral communities at 3 project sites.</p> <p>2 agreements were finalized with Kazakh Livestock and Soil Science Research Institutes to carry out field works and capacity building activities on sustainable pasture management (including mapping of optimal grazing schemes and pasture rotation), salinity mitigation practices and to demonstrate conservation agriculture approaches at selected project sites.</p> <p>ToR was developed for Service Provider to develop multi-stakeholder land use plans at selected project sites in UZB.</p>	<p>A ToR on participatory pasture management plan was developed by the project team in KAZ in collaboration with the Committee for Land Resources Management of the MoA. 2 regions/sites were identified for project possible interventions in KAZ. The LoA was signed with the Growers Union for development of multi-stakeholder plans of community pasture management for app. 60 000 ha. The development of pasture management plans of 2 project sites was processed under the LoA with Livestock and Fodder Production.</p> <p>An MoU was signed with administration of Kochkor district in KYR to collaborate on development of sustainable pasture management plans. 2 field trainings on sustainable pasture management were organized in Kochkor district. A working group of local experts was established. Recruitment of NC for digitizing land use maps across the country completed, and digitization work of land maps is ongoing. The geo-data a geo-server was installed and tested successfully with national partners. Training materials and geobase data management manuals are under preparation.</p> <p>NC Agronomist on FFS and SLM were recruited in TJK. 8 farmer groups were capacitated through training on drought resistant plants cultivation and water efficiency management through applying organic fertilizers. Preparation of training materials for FFS on chickpea, sorgho, millet and quinoa crops is ongoing. Training materials were prepared on IPM and Conservation Agriculture in TJK. Regular</p>	<p>KAZ: Two multi-stakeholder land-use plans were created for Petrovsky rural district, Bukhara-Zhyrau district, Karagandy region (57,887 ha), and Talapsky rural district, Zhambyl district, Almaty region (69,743 ha). They will be implemented after the discussion with stakeholders.</p> <p>The progress reports of "Kazakhstan Growers Union" was submitted in February -2021. The payment has been issued and paid in April 2021. The field mission trip to the pasture territories and meetings with local authorities has been finished. Press release of the mission trip has been drafted for consideration.</p> <p>KYR: Technical assistance was provided in digitizing land use maps throughout the country by the Kyrgyzgiprozem Institute (3 FAO experts were hired to support the digitization process at the expense of the project). A single database has been developed. Software has been developed for digitizing analog (archival paper maps) land use maps using GIS and satellite technologies, with the possibility of rapid distribution for 543 Ayil Aimags of the country and making changes in land use.</p> <p>Working with "Kyrgyzgiprozem" Institute on scaling up the digitization of land-use maps as well as digitalization of Geobotanical maps. Experts of "Kyrgyzgiprozem" in collaboration with World Bank experts</p>	50%	
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			<p>monitoring of FFSs development in 8 target communities conducted.</p>	<p>will continue to support IFAD in developing pasture degradation maps.</p> <p>TJK: The preparation of training materials for FFS for chickpea, sorgho, millet and quinoa is ongoing. Conducted regular monitoring of FFSs in 8 communities. Conducted monitoring of safflower planted fields.</p> <p>Recruitment of the NC Agronomist for adaptation / development and applying of the materials for FFS to promote drought resistant techniques finalized in April. Provided support in collecting field data for Socio-Economist. Developed scenario for establishment demo plots.</p> <p>TKM: Visited PPS and remote villages in Karakum; held meetings with local authorities and monitored sites for construction of nursery and sardops. Experts at PPS make analysis of local needs and priorities for implementing innovative INRM practices. National expert on pest management and gender issues was hired through casual labor modality.</p> <p>SLM, IWRM and national experts were re-hired and resumed their duties mid-end March. Local experts were taking care of established nurseries and identified needs scaling up INRM and CSA practices.</p> <p>UZB: Two land use plan produced in Kamashi district and one pasture management plan produced in Guzar district.</p>		
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				One multi-stakeholder land use plan for Kamashi and Bukhara districts is developed and submitted to the agricultural department of respective districts.		
Output 3.1.2: At least 2 specialized institutions / advisory service providers with increased capacities to enhance skills of stakeholders for wide adoption of proactive risk management approach and drought mitigation technologies	Q4 y5	<p>Hiring of a Rural Advisory Service international expert was initiated at regional level to assess the current Extension Service system in the CA countries and to develop an action plan for its development.</p> <p>2 agreements were finalized with Kazakh Livestock and Soil Science Research Institutes to carry out field works and capacity building on sustainable pasture management, salinity mitigation practices and to demonstrate conservation agriculture approaches at selected project sites.</p> <p>2 agreements were signed with Tajik Scientific Soil Institute and ICBA to develop capacity and promote CSA practices in CA, and to demonstrate drought and salt resistant plants and SLM technologies.</p> <p>3 ToRs drafted to strengthen agro-pastoral-livestock value chains, to organize national workshops for rural women on CSA practices, and to introduce agroforestry</p>	<p>A comprehensive assessment was conducted and a capacity-building plan for 3 scientific centers was prepared in UZB, to promote extension and agro-consulting services for scaling up of INRM/SLM practices. An LoA was signed with Kashkadarya branch of the research institute of grain and legume crops to facilitate project field demo activities: demo sites were established on 6,83 ha including 10 drought tolerant crops and seeds production in UZB. SLM practices such as no-till, hydrogel application, alley cropping, crop residue retention, crop rotation and bed planting technologies were applied. In UZB, training curricula was developed using DRM, SLM and INRM approaches.</p> <p>Agreements with Kazakh Institute of Livestock and Fodder Production (Jan 2020), and with National Agrarian Scientific and Educational Centers were signed (Jun 2020) in KAZ. Within the LoAs works on enhancing capacities have started. 1 training curricula, 2 brochures on DRM and INRM technologies were developed in KAZ. Capacity building activities of advisory services in KAZ were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and transferred to online format in Jun 2020, webinars materials on DRM and SM are being prepared in KAZ.</p> <p>In TJK, 3 training modules, visual aids, tools for different SLM techniques developed</p>	<p>KAZ: 10 training materials were made: 2 leaflets (Climate-Smart Agriculture, Pasture crops), 1 brochure (fodder crops), 2 training curricula (SLM technologies, organic agriculture), 1 manual (pasture management), and 4 videos.</p> <p>Curricula was finalized by National Consultant on Organic Farming and cleared by NPM on January 2021.</p> <p>8 training seminars/webinars on DRM and INRM technologies were conducted, of which two were for land management and production technologies, two were for DRM technologies, two were for WOCAT DB and Ex-ACT, one was for organic farming, and one was for gender equality.</p> <p>4 field workshops were conducted in 4 different sites with an aim to introduce drought- and salt-tolerant crops, restoration of degraded pastures using phytomelioration and agrosilvopastoral systems and conservation agriculture.</p> <p>KYR: Training curricula was developed. 6 trainings, seminars and round tables were held. Participants were 128</p>	50%	

		<p>activities in Almaty region through “Plant Million Trees” national campaign in Kazakhstan.</p>	<p>under LoA. The safflower, quinoa, pearl miller were planted in 5 demo plots. For the first time, mineral fertilizers (carbamide) and organic fertilizer were used in 3 demo plots. The pistachio and almond seeds were planted in 2 demo plots to promote backyard nursery, and seedlings of unabi in 500 sq. m. were transplanted in 1 demo plot.</p> <p>5 national training courses, 3 farmer field days, 7 workshops were held in UZB on SLM/INRM/CSA practices. Procurement agrometeorological station is in process. Technical evaluation was completed and submitted to the HQ.</p>	<p>people. of these, 105 were men (82%) and 23 were women (18%)</p> <p>TJK: Arrangement of field missions and conducting of monitoring of demo plots and FFS. All planted crops harvested.</p> <p>To start preparation works for establishment of private backyard nurseries and review possibilities to support state nurseries. The technical specifications for procurement of seeds for backyard nurseries approved. The request for establishment of private backyard nurseries submitted.</p> <p>The NC Agronomist on Biosaline Techniques recruited in April to support of the expansion of the network of state and private nurseries for production of seedlings of drought resistant fruit and nut trees. Developed scenario for establishment FFS is ongoing.</p> <p>TKM: Arrangement of INRM and SLM best practices for local stakeholders at PPS Karakum and Nohur, including gender issues.</p> <p>Contracts of SLM, IWRM experts and experts from PPS extended until February 2021.</p> <p>2 trainings on INRM/SLM approaches were conducted at project pilot sites in Nohur and Karakum</p> <p>Jointly with UNDP SCRL Project training was held on irrigation planning issues using Aqua Crop program. About 40 reps from ministries/agencies,</p>		
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				<p>education institutions, as well as reps from pilot communities took part in this online training. National workshop was held (online) on methods of salinity management and using GIS technologies for development of drought/salinity vulnerability maps. About 30 reps from ministries/agencies, education institutions, as well as reps from pilot communities took part in this online training.</p> <p>UZB: Training curricula with 3 different DRM and INRM approaches has developed and published</p> <p>Conducted six trainings on INRM approaches including two online training courses.</p>		
Output 3.1.3: Upscaling of 5-6 innovative drought mitigation technologies in selected production landscapes on 239,500 ha of land (at least 15 drought-tolerant species and	Q4 y5	<p>In total 18 demo sites were selected in 5 countries to demonstrate and up-scale DRM, SLM and INRM approaches.</p> <p>In UZB, in total 32 varieties of drought and salt tolerant crops, plants and trees were sown at demonstration sites (Black cumin, Brome grasses, Cauliflower, Chickpea, Crocus sativus L., False oat-grass, Field pea, Flax, Grape, Indigofera etc.), and 6 field technologies were applied - no till, drip irrigation, application of hydrogel, etc. So far, 35 farmers introduced growing of drought tolerant crops and plants under different tillage methods, and hydrogel</p>	<p>To demonstrate and up-scale DRM, SLM and INRM approaches demo sites were established in KAZ, KYR, TJK, TKM and UZB.</p> <p>The project sites were identified in KAZ for upscaling DRM technologies (drought-resistant crops and conservation agriculture). 2 demo plots on 10 ha have been established in Akmola and Karaganda Oblasts (North KAZ). Agricultural inputs needed for the demo plots in North KAZ are being procured (seeds, no-till drill, seed treater etc). Under the LoA with RI of Livestock and Fodder Production (2 payment installments completed) a collection nursery of 16 genotypes of drought-tolerant crops was established in Almaty oblast, multiplication of pasture fodder crops started. Thus, field works on upscaling conservation agriculture, pasture management and drought-tolerant pasture crops and grasses are ongoing on 29 ha.</p>	<p>KAZ: Two multi-stakeholder land-use plans were created for Petrovsky rural district, Bukhara-Zhyrau district, Karagandy region (57,887 ha), and Talapsky rural district, Zhambyl district, Almaty region (69,743 ha). They will be implemented after the discussion with stakeholders.</p> <p>4 DRM practices were demonstrated on 45 ha</p> <p>Procurement of seeds, for the farmers suffered from COVID-19 was conducted. The farmers have accepted the wheat seeds in April. Pre-sowing and preparatory work at field project sites was provided and the amount has been transferred to supplier.</p>	50%	

<p>5 habitats, xx tCO₂e, 15 % crop water productivity / irrigation efficiency)</p>		<p>application in drought prone areas of UZB.</p> <p>179 farmers and specialists were capacitated via series of field days and demo workshops conducted in UZB: Kashkadarya region - 38 people, including 29 farmers, 9 researchers, 6 women; in Bukhara region - 39 participants, including 21 farmers, 18 local authorities & scientific experts;</p> <p>Demonstrations of sustainable agricultural practices including crop rotation, conservation tillage, water saving technologies, and selected salt/drought tolerant crops were established at project sites to develop capacities on climate-smart agriculture technologies in TJK, KAZ and UZB. In total, 9 ha of demo sites have been established in Kamashi, Karshi (Kashkadarya region) & Bukhara (Bukhara region) districts to demonstrate SLM technologies, addressing drought & salinity in Uzbekistan. Additional 14 project demo sites were endorsed by Govt's in TJK, KAZ, KYR and TKM to start demonstration of SLM/INRM/CA technologies.</p> <p>8 communities were selected jointly with partner</p>	<p>ToR for field works in agroforestry (development of nurseries and afforestation) was developed in KAZ. Best practices on SLM related to conservation agriculture (2) were registered at the WOCAT SLM Database.</p> <p>In KYR, 3 seminars on development of a pasture management plan at the local level were held in the villages of Kochkor, Kokzhar and Cholpon. Pasture management plans were adapted to CC risks at 11 ayil Aimaks (pastoral communities).</p> <p>In TJK, 4 demo plots with non-convention crops, drought-resistant and salt-resistant crops have been established. 30 active farmers were capacitated on the topic of drip irrigation. 70 sets of Family Farm Drip Irrigation Systems with planting materials were distributed to women-led households and partners jointly with FAO Telefood project. 2.1 ha of kitchen gardens were covered.</p> <p>Procurement of 3 tons drought-resistant crops seeds was initiated in TJK. Promotion of Soil and Water Conservation practices among the 8 farmer groups on at least 200 ha (zero till, agroforestry) is being conducted. Planting materials and fertilizers were procured for 4 demo sites.</p> <p>In UZB, suitable drought mitigation SLM technologies were identified for selected sites. Field activities for demonstration of drought tolerant and salt resistant crops and implementing conservation agriculture practices at 4 project demo sites in Bukhara and Kashkadarya provinces were conducted.</p>	<p>LoAs with the RI of Livestock and Fodder Production has been signed and the first tranche payment has been transferred to SP. The works as per ToR has been started. The sowing process is ongoing.</p> <p>Upscaling of DRM and INRM practices is supported by data or made on 351,881,423 ha.</p> <p>KYR: Improved pasture management plans using CSA technologies have been developed on the territory of 5 Ayil Aimaks with a total area of 282781 ha (mainly pastures).</p> <p>Elite varieties of forage crops for farmers in 7 demonstration fields was purchased. The work on the purchase of materials to improve water resources management carried out. Technical specifications for materials have been prepared and approved and have been approved by LTO. Procurement of materials was done as needed.</p> <p>TJK: Promotion of Soil and Water Conservation practices among the 8 farmer groups on at least 200 ha (zero till, agroforestry etc.) To conduct assessment and prepare list of Soil and Water Conservation techniques for further promotion among the Farmers Groups.</p> <p>The technical specifications of seeds and goods for procurement and promotion of Soil and Water Conservation techniques is ongoing.</p>		
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	<p>organizations and local authorities in TJK to establish women farmers groups (with average 25 members per group) in 4 targeted districts of the project to demonstrate salt-resistant crops.</p> <p>In KAZ, the Livestock Research Institute under the MoA started conducting demonstrations of drought resilient forage crops, improved pasture management approaches, conservation tillage practices, supporting drought/salt tolerant seeds production systems, and multiplication of improved local varieties of forage crops in Almaty Province as contribution to project objectives.</p> <p>In UZB, the Government contributed to the project objective by establishing drought tolerant tree plantations in the semi-desert areas on the dried bottom of the Aral Sea and other regions in the total area of 533,000 ha (50,000 ha in 2018 and 483,000 ha in 2019). In KAZ, the Government conducted afforestation and forest rehabilitation works, as contribution to the project objective, in the total area of 46,700 ha in 2018.</p>	<p>The financial costs analysis of water delivering to selected farming areas is started under the LoA with Innovations and Scientific Research Cluster (ISRC). Conservation agriculture practices adopted in Qashqadarya region at 300 ha. New flow process charts (technological maps) for cotton using drip irrigation technology were developed, printed and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture. Drip irrigation system is implemented in 11,221 ha of cotton area. A manual (Agroforestry plan) on technologies for the production of nuts and fruit trees in rainfed conditions pre-mountain and mountain areas of the Kamashi district of Kashkadarya region was produced.</p> <p>385 people were capacitated with infographics on conservation agriculture, water harvest, drought management via training courses, workshops and field days. Drought tolerant winter crops planted in irrigated site in Qarshi. Planting of alfalfa and forage beet planting in Bukhara was done. Planting of pistachio saplings was completed in Qamashi district.</p>	<p>TKM: Forest and sand nurseries were established at project pilot sites in Nohur and Karakum for growing drought-tolerant species</p> <p>3 sardops (water reservoir) were constructed in the territory of local schools of remote villages in Central Karakums for collecting and preserving rain water</p> <p>1000 seedlings of draught resistant trees (juniper, carcass and almond) was procured and planted in PPS in Nohur for reforestation purposes.</p> <p>The procurement of diesel generator and solar panels for NIDFF laboratory for expansion of planting of desert species to restore desert pastures is finalized.</p> <p>Drip irrigation systems were created for nursery in PPS Gurbansoltan eje (1 ha), training site of the Turkmen Agriculture Institute (1,56 ha) and PPS Nohur (5,1 ha).</p> <p>Generator and solar panels were procured for needs of the NIDFF laboratory for expansion of planting of desert species to restore desert pastures.</p> <p>UZB: Developed pasture rotation plan for Guzor district. The pasture rotation is designed to increase productivity and improve herd migration on seasonal rotation. Total hectare of pasture rotation plan is 84000 ha.</p> <p>Recruited horticulture specialist (under "Million fruit trees" campaign) in April. Procurement of seeds of drought and</p>		
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				salt tolerant varieties as well as seedlings, rootstocks under “Million fruit trees” campaign was finalized. Developed recommendation on agroforestry in Qamashi district.		
Output 3.2.1: Guidelines for development of catchment salinity management plans developed and piloted in each country for sustainable and biodiverse aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems	Q2 y4	<p>Publication on “Best Biosaline Practices and Technologies for Reclamation of Salt Affected Soils in CA was prepared.</p> <p>A guideline on soil salinity management is being developed in UZB and KAZ based on selected technologies and approaches in irrigated conditions.</p> <p>Publication was prepared on “Monitoring of ecosystem services functioning in drylands, promotion to out-scale best performing drought and salt resistant crops adapted in Central Asian region”.</p> <p>In KAZ, an agreement was finalized with Soil Science Research Institute on introduction of biological approaches for reclaiming root zone in soils at 3 project sites.</p> <p>Experts in UZB developed new flow process charts (technological maps) for cotton production under salinity conditions using drip irrigation technology.</p>	<p>In KAZ, analysis of national salinity management framework was conducted, and guideline on salinity management in irrigated croplands is being developed (40 ha) for project sites under agreement with the Kazakh Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry. Recruitment of the Field Technical Specialist on CSA and SLM/FFS and International Expert on SM and DRM was completed in KAZ. In collaboration with the Committee for Water Resources, negotiations on joint activities on assessment of drainage systems in KAZ have started.</p> <p>In TJK, the guidelines on salinity management was produced and translated into Tajik language under the LoA, and distributed to farmers at project sites.</p> <p>Technical guidelines on practical CC adaptation measures were drafted in TKM.</p> <p>In UZB, a guideline on Seed production of drought tolerant crops was prepared. Also, FFS concept note and Master plan (handbook) on establishing of FFS were developed.</p> <p>Regional FFS Plan was produced by IC for KYR, TJK and UZB.</p>	<p>KAZ: Two guidelines on catchment salinity management were created, of which one contains demonstration results of the technologies. The plots with the technologies applied showed significantly positive results in terms of land rehabilitation and yield.</p> <p>Follow up with editing and translation of the Guideline on Salinity Management to Kazakh language ongoing.</p> <p>KYR: no activities as per AWP</p> <p>TJK: Under LoA translated to Tajik guidelines on salinity management. Comments to finalise brochure provided. Aqua Crop has been linked to another TCP project.</p> <p>TKM: Soil salinity management Expert recruited, who will pilot licorice production in saline soils. Demo production of licorice as biological measures to reduce soil salinity at project pilot site in Gurbansoltan eje district.</p> <p>Brochures/flyers on best INRM/SLM practices (pasture management, drip irrigation, salinity management, etc.) were published and distributed.</p>	50%	

		<p>Agroforestry plan, salinity management and FFS guidelines were prepared in UZB.</p> <p>Training needs of specialists at the republican, regional levels including farmers were identified. The list of trainings and workshops on field level for project sites were prepared by experts in UZB.</p> <p>221 farmers benefited from workshops conducted in 4 project demo sites by a formed group of young researcher facilitators of Kashkadarya Research Institute of Cereals and Legume Crops; International expert on FFS and RAS will be hired to develop regional plans for FFS and RAS activities.</p>		<p>International scientific and practical magazine issued by NIDFF "Desert reclamation problems in Turkmenistan" was printed (300 copies).</p> <p>UZB: Manual on salinity management produced, published and distributed.</p>		
Output 3.2.2: At least 2 specialized institutions / advisory service providers with increased capacities to enhance skills of	Q4 y5	<p>Activities will be started as planned from Q3 y2.</p>	<p>Training curricula on salinity management was developed for CD of stakeholders in partnership with the Kazakh Soil Science Institute. An International Expert on SM was recruited for increasing the capacity of specialized institutions via online trainings.</p> <p>8 community rural women groups (206 women farmers) were capacitated on salinity, drought management and non-traditional crops cultivation in TJK under LoA with ICBA. Delivery of the second round of trainings on increasing water efficiency through applying organic fertilizers is ongoing, currently covering 4 farmers groups in 2 target districts. The</p>	<p>KAZ: 4 training materials were made: 2 leaflets (salt-resistant crops: sweet clover and sorghum), 1 brochure (salinity management technologies), and 1 billboard.</p> <p>Project team have met with representative of GSP Olivera Sanchez, and Carolina on 26 March 2021. The discussion on further development of posters in Kazakh and Soil Kits were provided. Follow up with GSP and partners in Kyzylorda on planning activities.</p>	25%	

<p>stakeholders for wide adoption of salinity mitigation approaches and technologies</p>			<p>training materials were developed to deliver the first round of institutional capacity building training on “Building Cooperatives”. Infographics on drought, salinity management and water harvesting were prepared in UZB.</p>	<p>8 training seminars/webinars on salinity management were conducted, of which three were for WOCAT DB, Ex-ACT and AquaCrop, two were for salinity management, one was for organic farming, one was for International Soil Day and one was for gender equality.</p> <p>4 field workshops were conducted in 6 different sites with an aim to introduce drought- and salt-tolerant crops, improved pasture management practices and conservation tillage, support seed production systems for drought- and salt-tolerant crops, and multiply improved local varieties.</p> <p>KYR: no activities as per AWP</p> <p>TJK: Trainings are held on drought - salt tolerant technologies. It is planned to prepare a salinization plan at the target group level. (with Hydromet). Developed the training materials to deliver second round of institutional capacity building trainings on “Leadership and gender” in 8 FGs.</p> <p>TKM: Partnerships were established with various institutions (Agriculture University, Agriculture Institute, Union of Industrialist and Entrepreneurs, UNDP projects) for enhancing salinity management approaches and technologies.</p> <p>UZB: Training curricula with 3 different DRM and INRM approaches has been developed and published</p>		
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				<p>Conducted four training courses on salinity management.</p> <p>Training on GIS technologies for Tashkent state agrarian university was conducted. Official handover ceremony of GIS laboratory was in March 2021.</p>		
<p>Output 3.2.3:</p> <p>Upscaling of 5-6 best practices for combating salinization, while ensuring biodiversity conservation and sustainable use on 95,500 ha of land (at least 15 salt-tolerant species, xx tCO₂e, 15% crop water productivity / irrigation efficiency)</p>	Q4 y5	<p>Activities will be started as planned from Q1 y3.</p> <p>In UZB, the Government contributed to the project objective by conducting land reclamation and melioration works to manage soil salinity in the total area of 416,600 ha in 2018 and 2019 (296,600 ha and 120,000 ha respectively). In KAZ, the Government contributes with land rehabilitation works in the total area of 126,000 ha during 2018-2019.</p>	<p>In KAZ, field works on combating salinization were started at 6 project sites (60 ha) in Kyzylorda, Turkestan and Almaty oblasts. The monitoring of soil reclamation and management practices were completed at these sites. Procurement of agricultural inputs were completed. The works are being completed with the LoAs with Ri of Soil Science and Agrochemistry and NASEC.</p> <p>A concept note on combating Haloxylon pests and diseases was prepared in collaboration with the Committee of Forestry.</p> <p>The technical assistance area for scaling up is being identified in Kyzylorda region of KAZ.</p> <p>Analysis of best SLM practices in KAZ was conducted, capacity building activities on upscaling salinity mitigation technologies were postponed due to the COVID-19 and related quarantine.</p> <p>In TJK, 3 tons of safflower seeds were procured and distributed among 6 farmers groups. The procurement of goods for establishment of FFS is ongoing.</p> <p>Following activities were done in UZB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - portable field instruments and equipment for salinity monitoring, software and hardware for GIS mapping were purchased. 	<p>KAZ: Two guidelines on catchment salinity management were created.</p> <p>3 salinity management technologies were demonstrated on 60 ha</p> <p>The follow up final report from NASEC has been submitted.</p> <p>The final report of RI of Soil Science and Agrochemistry has been cleared and the payment was finalized and transferred.</p> <p>LoA with RSE Rice Institute named after Zhakhayev was signed and the first tranche payment has been processed. The works as per ToR has been started in 2021.</p> <p>Procurement of field density measuring device, rotary harrow/cultivator and farmers kit for beneficiaries for North Kazakhstan are ongoing.</p> <p>Upscaling of SLM and INRM practices is supported by data or made on 346,653,808 ha.</p> <p>KYR: no activities as per AWP</p> <p>TJK: The technical specifications for procurement of seeds, equipment (hand seeders, light traps) and fencing materials is under the preparation.</p>	50%	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - demonstration sites were established (15 salt tolerant crops and plants sown) on 2.17 ha including 5 crops and seeds production. - training packages and extension materials for drought and salinity mitigation/adaptation and scaling out of INRM/SLM practices were developed. - Prepared Annual work plan of FFSs in Kashkadarya and Bukhara regions. - Workshops on FFSs have been conducted since Nov 2019. Number of participants is more than 100 in 2019. - five training (96 participants) and three field days (216 participants) in Kashkadarya and Bukhara regions on selected technologies were conducted. - 201 specialists and farmers were capacitated on conservation agriculture, seed production and agroforestry issues during organized 6 trainings in the region. - 45.6 tons of seeds of drought and salinity resistant varieties of winter wheat and barley delivered to the seed farmers in Kashkadarya and Bukhara region. The sown area is 311.3 ha. - Procurement of no-till planter and laser leveler was conducted and equipment delivered in UZB. 	<p>Request for establishment of demo plots and fencing materials submitted.</p> <p>Procurement of goods and seeds was postponed due to resignation of Procurement Specialist. The procurement is pending.</p> <p>TKM: Demo production of licorice as biological measures to reduce soil salinity was initiated at project pilot site in Gurbansoltan eje district (5 ha).</p> <p>Procurement of vehicle - TS for vehicle was submitted to local UNDP for clearance and UNDP provided approval for TS in April. Tender for vehicle procurement was launched with deadline on 31 May 2021.</p> <p>TS for water and resource saving technologies were drafted and pilot communities were supported by construction of drip irrigation systems in established gardens and procurement drought-and salt-resistant seedlings.</p> <p>UZB: The UzGip will provide catchment salinity management plans in Kamyshinsky district at the pilot site. Prepared salinity management guidelines with description of INRM technologies.</p> <p>Salinity tolerant crops' varieties planted on 1300 ha in the project sites in Qashqadarya and Bukhara provinces.</p>		
Output 4.1.1: M&E	Q4 y5	To develop an M&E framework and action plan, an International Expert on M&E	International and national M&E Consultants were hired and the Project	International and national M&E Consultants were re-hired, and the Project M&E Framework was produced	60%	

<p>system established to measure project progress and impacts in terms of multiple global environmental benefits (GEBs), social and economic benefits</p>		<p>was recruited. The project LogFrame is being split by 5 project countries and project indicators are being reviewed for effective monitoring purposes. A ToR was developed to hire NC on M&E to follow up on the M&E Plan and to apply it at each country level.</p> <p>Weekly monitoring meetings with the project team held and Monthly monitoring reports are collected to closely follow up on project implementation at country and regional levels.</p> <p>The project team jointly with FAO HQ teams started developing the project baseline and monitoring system using FAO-led tools EX-ACT, AquaCrop, Farmer Field School, SHARP, Ecosystem-Based Approaches and as well as WOCAT and ELD approaches.</p> <p>Regional ToT workshops and follow up national training on EX-ACT, AquaCrop, SHARP, and WOCAT, including data collection to assess baseline at project countries. Project website and visibility products are being developed.</p>	<p>M&E Framework was produced, and being implemented.</p> <p>The M&E team modified the project LogFrame to reflect details at national level in 5 countries and at regional level as agreed during the II PSC Meeting in Ankara, June 2019. These modifications aimed to fine-tune the project targets and indicators at national level, while the overall project design (Outcomes, Outputs) was not changed.</p> <p>The first PIR-2019 was submitted to GEF in early July 2019. The project team generated M&E reports on monthly and 6-monthly basis to report on the progress.</p> <p>Project baseline reports on EWS/DRM/AS, on SHARP assessment, on CO2 balance is progressing and will be completed by Q4. Development of the regional maps on land degradation and productivity trends was initiated and will be completed in Q4-y4.</p>	<p>and being implemented. International M&E Consultant presented the Logical Framework Analysis as well as methodology of Outcome Mapping to the project team on 27 December 2020.</p> <p>The Performance Data Table, designed by the M&E expert supervised by the RPC in which base line data, project targets and achievements are listed as well as gender aspects are taken into the account. Outcome and Output monitoring were reported in the Performance Data Table by the NPMs and were reviewed by M&E expert. The Performance Task Schedule, was prepared and presented to all project staff; the table summarizes the various M&E tasks to be carried out during project implementation. The second PIR-2020 was submitted to GEF in early July 2020. The team regularly conducts weekly planning/reporting meetings with the entire project team. The project team generated M&E reports on Results-Based Monthly Monitoring Report (RBM) and six-monthly basis to report on the progress. Monthly and six-monthly monitoring reports are collected on time. The Project Progress Report (PPR) from 01 July – 31 December, 2020 was submitted to FAO SEC. The outputs and activities presented by NPMs in the RBM reports will be monitored monthly in accordance with the Annual Work Plan. Training evaluation questionnaire (pre/end of training) was developed for assessing the effectiveness of the project's capacity development</p>		
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				<p>activities. The regional and national training reports from 2018 up to February, 2021 were collected and the table of capacity building events with gender aspect (women and men) was prepared in which 5,642 people participated in the training, webinar etc., including 2,310 (41%) women. The project team applied the Outcome Mapping (OM) methodology to monitor the progress of selected key partners - in OM terminology called boundary partners (BPs), in their contribution to the objectives of the project. Identified project strategic and boundary partners, in CA countries and formulated a set of progress markers (indicators) for each BP. The Outcome Journal for each BPs were prepared and the first assessment was conducted with the BP in each CA countries. In order to monitor results of the progress markers, NPMs with BPs should repeat this assessment workshop every half year. The results of the first assessment for each CA countries are:</p> <p>In Kazakhstan were selected 3 boundary partners (BPs). The first assessment was conducted on 22 October 2020.</p> <p>In Kyrgyzstan were selected Public Foundation «Camp Alatau» as boundary partner. The first assessment was conducted on 11 September 2020. The boundary partner with NPM have made an action plan, for the progress markers which have low score for the following reporting period.</p> <p>In Tajikistan were selected NGO «Bonuvoni khatlon» as boundary partner and have made the first assessment on 18 October 2020. The</p>		
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				<p>Outcome Journal was reviewed by M&E team and addressed to NPM of Tajikistan to follow up on action plan for each progress markers. NGO «Bonuvoni khatlon» needs to build capacity first before it can become effective in the CACILM2 project and increase the score of the progress markers.</p> <p>In Turkmenistan were selected two boundary partners and the Outcome Journal of BPs was prepared. As the project activities was started in August 2020 as well as COVID-19 outbreak situation, make it very difficult to meet people and for that reason, the NPM could not provide first assessment with BPs. During skype call in November 2020, NPM have suggested that to work with the National Institute of Deserts, flora and fauna (Institute), if Institute can contribute to the goal of the project than NPM can select this Institute as Strategic partner.</p> <p>In Uzbekistan were selected 3 Strategic Partners. The Outcome Journal for each Strategic Partners were prepared and the first assessment was conducted on 22 November 2020.</p>		
Output 4.1.2: Mid-term review and final evaluations carried out and reports available	Q3 y5	Activities will be started as planned from Q2 y3	In Jan 2020, the MTR was planned in September, however due to the Coronavirus emergency situation in all project countries, the project activities such as travels, trainings, field activities, procurement of items were postponed, and it was agreed with GEF Unit, BH and LTO to start the MTR in Feb 2021. In the meantime, the project team will start all preparations to the MTR in 2020.	Mid-term project review has been conducted in 6 project countries and report is available. FAO management response is being prepared and the MTR recommendations will be applied in the implementation of the project activities accordingly.	50%	

Project Management	Q3 y3	<p>Regional and 6 national inception workshops were held during May-Aug 2018.</p> <p>Regional 1st Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) was held in Almaty on 29 May 2018. The 2nd PSC meeting was held on 17 June 2019 in Ankara.</p> <p>CACILM-2 Program Secretariat and Regional Project Office were established in Almaty in May 2018, and PMUs were established in 5 project countries.</p> <p>Regional Program Coordinator and 5 National Project Managers were hired during Mar-May 2018. Regional and National Project Assistants were hired in Almaty, Tashkent and Nur- Sultan during Aug- Nov 2018. 17 National experts were hired in 5 countries to start field works.</p> <p>Annual work plans and budgets were developed and approved for regional and 5 national activities for 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>Procurement of office equipment and bulk items were initiated and partly</p>	<p>The overall project management at Regional CACILM-2 Secretariat office was strengthened by hiring Regional Project Associate, Regional Communication and Outreach Expert, Regional Gender and Livelihood Expert, Data Management Expert, M&E Specialist and Project Secretary under the leadership of the RPC. In total, 34 project consultants were hired (both international and local) during the reporting period at regional and national level.</p> <p>In TKM, the project agreement was signed on 12 August 2019. The internal project registration with the Govt of TKM is ongoing. The project core team - NPM, Assistant, 2 key technical experts and 3 field specialists at project sites were recruited and initial works at project sites started. Project office was allocated by the partner agency and it was renovated and furnished.</p> <p>KAZ: National core team, consisting of PM, Project Assistant, Drought Expert, Salinity Expert, Specialist on Policy and Institutional Assessment were hired to speed up project implementation and field activities.</p> <p>AWP-2020, HR and Procurement plans and budget for 5 countries and for regional activities were prepared and approved in January 2020. However, due to the COVID-19, they were revised in April-May to address the implications on the project activities. It is expected that the project delivery in 2020 will be reduced by 10-15% than it was planned in Jan 2020.</p> <p>Project LogFrames for project countries were fine-tuned, approved by the LTO and</p>	<p>Due to the COVID-19 emergency situation in all project countries, the project activities such as travels, trainings, field activities, procurement of items were delayed or postponed. The project MTR was conducted in all 6 countries from Feb-June 2021. The MTR was conducted successfully and the list of recommendations were received to enhance the project effectiveness. The MTR team also recommended to extend the project with no additional cost for 2 more years due to delays related to global pandemic.</p> <p>The Regional CACILM-2 Project office in Almaty was relocated to the new UN Building, which was donated by the MFA of KAZ. Project vehicle was purchased to monitor project activities in KAZ and Regional Office.</p> <p>The project was finally registered by TKM Govt in Aug 2020, and implementation of activities started as per AWP.</p> <p>The technical officer was hired in Turkey and workplan was developed to resume project activities in Turkey in close cooperation with the MOAF.</p> <p>The Project Steering Committee was conducted in January 2021, while Project Task Force meetings were conducted in Sep 2020 and May 2021.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the project staff mostly worked in teleworking mode due to the pandemic related quarantine regime in all project countries.</p>	90%	
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		received in Tashkent, Almaty and Nur-Sultan.	<p>the National M&E frameworks were developed to improve project implementation and M&E.</p> <p>The procurement of the major planned items was completed by 90% during the reporting period in REG, KAZ, TKM, UZB.</p> <p>During the reporting period, 12 LoAs/contracts were signed for implementation of project activities at regional and national level (REG, KAZ, KYR, UZB).</p>	<p>Due to this fact, the project capacity building events at regional/national levels were conducted mostly in virtual format too.</p> <p>Procurement of planned items ongoing as planned in AWP 2020/2021 with minor shipping delays in.</p> <p>Recruitment procedures progressing as planned without delays. Implementation of project activities by Service Providers under LoAs progressing satisfactorily for 90% with minor delays due to the COVID-19 related travel restriction.</p>		
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4. Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on Project Implementation

Please briefly summarize main progress achieving the outcomes (cumulative) and outputs (during this fiscal year):

During the reporting period, the project implementation progress was satisfactory. The workplan implementation generally went as planned with minor delays due to the global pandemic. Despite of the travel limitations, the project team, under the leadership of RPC, with the guidance of LTO and with regular support of the PFU team, progressed well towards the end targets of the project: The 4th project Steering Committee Meeting was conducted online in January 2021. The project Mid-term Review was held successfully during Feb-Jun 2021. The capacity development activities were all organized online as well. Due to the pandemic, additional support in procurement of seeds, home-garden tools & equipment, greenhouses and small machinery was provided to the most vulnerable households in the project districts in KAZ, KYR, TAJ and UZB. Procurement of 13 agrometeo station were completed in UZB to improve climate forecast capacity of the Hydrometeorological services in agriculture. Regional baseline studies for FFS, Rural Advisory Services, Early Warning System/Drought Risk Management/Agrometeo Services, SHARP tools, Carbon Benefit Project to estimate CO2 balance at project sites from applied SLM practices, common methodology on Economics of Land Degradation adapted to the ecosystem services of Central Asia was produced during the reporting period. The project team hired required number of technical expertise and contracted LoAs as planned in the AWP 2020/2021 as well.

The project team also continued to improve project's visibility and communication with regional media as per annual communication workplan, and implemented its gender mainstreaming strategy, applied project's M&E Framework with results based reporting tools. The RPC also strengthened regional dialogue with UNDP, GIZ, CASIB, CAREC, WOCAT, IWMI, ICBA, WB, IsDB, UNEP, IAMO, ICRAF and with other international partners through joint events, partnership meetings and creating synergy with project activities in the CACILM-2 countries. The multi-country partnership with key Government partners and regional stakeholders were also strengthened through participation at regional workshops and consultations under the framework of Inter-state Commission for Sustainable Development of the IFAS. The project team continued capacity development activities on SLM/INRM using online tools and implemented field demo works to the extent possible. The procurement, recruitment and LoAs were completed by 75% as planned in the AWP-2020/2021. About 30% of the field activities and missions were postponed to Q3/Q4 due to the COVID-19. During the reporting period, the delivery reached \$5,3 mln USD, which is nearly 50% of the total budget.

What are the major challenges the project has experienced during this reporting period?

Due to the global pandemic of COVID-19, nearly half of the project activities, including procurement, project's M&E missions, field missions, field days training events, FFS seminars, and other field demo activities were delayed or postponed in all countries of the project. This has also affected the regular meetings with the national partner agencies and GEF/UNCCD/UNFCCC National Focal Points. Despite of this pandemic related staff mobility limitations, the project team managed to implement other project activities as per annual workplans 2020/2021. As a result, the project budget delivery in 2020 was reduced by 30% against the initial planned budget. The project's MTR was planned in mid-2020, but due to the pandemic, it was postponed and conducted during Feb-June 2021.

Another emerging risk in the region is drought issues, which hit all project countries in 2021. It may have side effects for the project activities and field efforts due to water shortage and low productivity in the 2021-2022 cropping seasons.

Development Objective (DO) Ratings, Implementation Progress (IP) Ratings and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR.

For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	FY2021 Development Objective rating¹⁶	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating¹⁷	Comments/reasons¹⁸ justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
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¹⁶ **Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet.

For more information on ratings, definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁷ **Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. For more information on ratings definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁸ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

Project Manager / Coordinator	S	S	<p>In the past 12 months, the project team, with regular guidance of BH and LTO, and under the leadership of RPC, worked on implementation of the project activities in 6 project countries, particularly with the focus on the following strategic directions of the project: improved regional / national synergies and partnerships for scaling-up SLM practices, including mobilization of resources; strengthened the regional dialogue and multi-country collaboration with key government partners as well as with regional and national stakeholders; successfully conducted major part of planned field demonstration activities for scaling-out SLM/INRM and CSA technologies at project sites; built capacities of key institutions and national expertise on SLM/INRM technologies, including strengthening institutional capacity; developed regional knowledge sharing platform and produced knowledge products for its SLM database; improved project visibility and communication with media resources; focused on gender mainstreaming and social inclusion both at the project demo sites and internally for the project activities; enhanced and systematized project M&E activities, including conducting of the project MTR procedures; hiring consultants and procurement of goods / services to support annual project activities and outputs.</p> <p>However, about 30% of planned activities and field missions were postponed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic situation and related mobility restrictions, more efforts and flexibility were required to conduct field activities to meet cropping seasonality and to timely procure required goods and services at grassroot level. The project team continued capacity development activities on SLM/INRM technologies using online tools, and implemented some of the planned field demo works in close partnership with local institutions, to the extent possible. The pandemic response activities were launched in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to support vulnerable rural households at project sites, while still focusing on project Targets and Outcomes.</p>
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2021 Project Implementation Report

Budget Holder	S	S	<p>During the reporting period, the project progress in general was satisfactory and efforts were made by the project team and SEC FPU (Operation Unit) towards meeting the global development objectives and emerging new priorities in the project countries considering the global COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions. Due to this fact, the number of field activities were postponed, although they did not jeopardize the overall performance of the project and its general progress at output level.</p> <p>The FPU team provided all required operational support for timely and successfully implementation of recruitment, procurement and general admin-finance operations.</p> <p>In Aug 2020 the project was finally launched in Turkmenistan and implementation of national activities initiated at the project demo districts with support of the national partners. In Feb-June 2021, the Mid-Term Review of the project was conducted successfully in virtual format in 6 project countries with support from various stakeholders. Relevant recommendations to improve the project efficiency and sustainability were provided by MTR team.</p> <p>The level of cooperation and contribution of the national partner agencies of the project have been improved substantially and both the total co-financing amount in the project and the land areas under scaling-up of the SLM technologies are demonstrating a positive trend in the whole region.</p>
GEF Operational Focal Point	S	S	<p>The annual project progress has been well communicated to GEF OFPs through meetings and liaison persons in each of the CACILM-2 countries, and the project team received the overall very positive feedback from all of them. The following comments were noted from the partners:</p> <p>Additional support on mobilization of resources was requested in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to support project activities and COVID-19 related emergency activities. The project team will work further on mobilization of resources in these countries.</p> <p>GEF FPs and national project partners also requested to support the LND and NDC procedures in the CACILM-2 countries. For these purposes a national consultant on SLM scaling-out was hired and required activities started.</p>

Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	S	S	<p>The overall project implementation progress was very satisfactory during the reporting period, despite of the COVID-19 pandemic in the project countries. The project team worked on the project implementation of major planned activities toward meeting the planned development objectives through the support from local partner institutions and service providers under the Letters of Agreement. The project's Mid-term review was conducted timely with support of FAO team and external consultants. In the next period the project team shall concentrate on fine-tuning of the project activities to scale-up SLM practices, considering LDN priorities in the countries, and to ensure institutional sustainability as concluded by MTR recommendations. Emerging drought issues in the region shall be considered by the project team in the upcoming period as well, while preparing conceptual basis for the regional program on LDN/NDC development.</p>
FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer	S	S	<p>Project implementation is satisfactory, as supported by the MTR. The project management team has found its rhythm and is advancing in a satisfactory manner to deliver the latest Annual Work Plans. The project is well on its way to achieve its goals.</p> <p>As discussed above, during the final years of the project, it will focus on ensuring its sustainability and upscaling pilot work in target countries. Alliances with international partners (WOCAT, ICARDA, ICBA, etc) have proven beneficial for project stakeholders and have advanced the science on economics of land degradation and LDN. Special topics (drought) will be aligned to recent guidance provided by the UNCCD.</p>

¹⁹ The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESM plan, when appropriate. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please add recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESM plan, when needed.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
ESS 7: Decent Work				
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY				

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate if the initial Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid; if not, what is the new classification and explain.

Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.

<i>Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.</i>

6. Risks

Risk ratings

RISK TABLE
<i>The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified in the course of project implementation. Please make sure that the table also includes the Environmental and Social Management Risks captured by the Environmental and social Management Risk Mitigations plans. The <u>Notes</u> column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in your specific project, as relevant.</i>

²⁰ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is changing, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
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²¹ GEF Risk ratings: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High

²² If a risk mitigation plan had been presented as part of the Environmental and Social management Plan or in previous PIR please report here on progress or results of its implementation. For moderate and high risk projects, please Include a description of the ESMP monitoring activities undertaken in the relevant period".

1	No alignment of views and priorities between institutions and the main beneficiaries of current land and water resource use systems, with limited political support to advance women's and men's equal voice and access to resources and services in rural areas	Low	The establishment of mechanisms for INRM planning and SLM scaling up that incorporating the full range of land-use trade-offs, will inevitably reveal some initial divergence of views. FAO will provide a neutral and distributed platform for multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral dialogue with project partners, e.g. FAOSEC, WOCAT, ICBA, ICARDA, GIZ, CAREC and UN Agencies, to reach consensus on key issues, and provide guidelines, extension materials, etc. The enabling environment for INRM will be strengthened to promote joint decision making across sectors. It will facilitate cooperation between national institutions and local communities, and strengthen the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of institutions to adopt gender-sensitive approaches and promote gender-sensitive technologies.	<p>The project developed partnership with the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development in Central Asia (ICSD) under the IFAS, where key policy recommendations on SLM/INRM will be integrated into national and regional policies.</p> <p>Project Logframe was split and fine-tuned to reflect baselines, Targets and Indicators for each project country. Risk Logs were updated for each county.</p> <p>Gender team was hired and a regional 'Gender Equality and Social Inclusion' Strategy was developed to implement gender mainstreaming activities in the project countries.</p>	An updated risk register will be formulated based on the country logframes, including risk response actions
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	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
2	Building of sufficient capacity and capability of existing national and regional institutions and local authorities will take too long to allow project sustainability	Moderate	Need for strengthening cross-sectoral coordination and institutional capacity have been revealed in the CACILM and other projects in Central Asia for the last ten years. A novel approach to sharing of information and knowledge will be therefore promoted that will not require that a central hub be maintained, but will promote the building of networked institutional memories and INRM CoPs.	<p>The project develops a regional Knowledge Management Platform to strengthen regional collaboration and communication among the 5 project countries.</p> <p>Core experts' working groups were established in KAZ, KYR, TJK and UZB to streamline national consultations, integrate policies and to develop capacities and institutional sustainability.</p> <p>Project's annual Capacity Development Plans will be updated accordingly in each country to address institutional capacity building and relevant policies to ensure sustainability.</p>	During the III PSCM it was agreed that national partner agencies should pay attention on the selection of the national experts for CD and further application of the tools in the countries and to ensure institutional sustainability.

3	The catalytic effect of the project on SLM upscaling and investments at regional and national level is limited	Low	<p>Linking a decentralized approach to multi-stakeholder INRM and SLM use plans and with incentive mechanisms, such as more inclusive value chains, PES schemes, etc. can catalyze investments from multiple sources, including local communities, national governments, NGOs, and international institutions.</p>	<p>Common methodology on ELD/VES for CA countries and Incentive Mechanisms for 5 countries were drafted to initiate policy dialogue on investments into scaling up SLM practices.</p> <p>Regular ICSD meetings will be utilized as a regional platform to facilitate and integrate such policies into national plans and strategies.</p> <p>On the field level, series of video courses and FFS events are applied to facilitate SLM scale up actions among farmers.</p> <p>Strategic and Boundary partners were identified and Outcome Maps developed to identify institutions for scaling</p>	
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	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
				<p>up SLM practices and to ensure sustainability of the project's interventions.</p> <p>The national partners are regularly communicated and encouraged to invest into INRM/SLM technologies and scaling up. In 2020/2021 the co-financing amount from the project countries reached trifold compared to initially planned investments.</p>	

4	<p>Climate change impacts on land resources use and management systems can jeopardize the project efforts on demo plots, as well as land degradation assessment and INRM/SLM Best Practices knowledge platforms might quickly get outdated.</p>	Moderate	<p>Climate change resilience measures will be included in national integrated NRM and SLM scaling up plans in terms of multi-criteria selection of SLM best practices for scaling up in each country using the RAPTA approach (component 2) complemented with the SHARP tool at the field and community level. In addition, the KM platform will be based on knowledge sharing and orchestration of existing platforms using new IT for enhancing cooperation and developing organizational capacities. The approach does not require the maintenance of a central knowledge hub, and the KM platform will be automatically updated as key partners gather and store new knowledge in their respective systems.</p> <p>National systems on early warning system has been assessed and the relevant policy actions shall be taken by the government to identify CC related negative impacts and bridge the gaps in the national systems.</p>	<p>The knowledge on land degradation assessment and SLM/INRM practices are applied in the latest mapping tools such as QGIS, Trends.Earth, Q-Mapping, Collect Earch, Carbon Benefits Project Tool and integrated into the WOCAT regional knowledge platform. The SLM best practices are collected and regularly updated in the WOCAT global database and accessible online for decision makers, practitioners and farmers, who would like to apply SLM technologies.</p> <p>The project jointly with IAMO team initiated scaling out an insurance schemes based on climate index to compensate drought related risks</p>	
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	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
				and losses of farmers at national level.	

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
5	The COVID-19 pandemic continues in the project countries and negatively affect the project implementation.	Substantial	This is an external global risk which started in March and still effective in June 2020. The work plans and budgets have been revisited accordingly. Capacity building activities at regional and national level were conducted in online format to the extent possible.	<p>The project team keeps track on the national restrictions in mobility and possible changes to the project annual work plans in the project countries to do its best to accommodate any possible risks and to timely address them.</p> <p>Adaptive management approach is applied to seek alternative solutions to achieve project results: most of the planned regional and national trainings, consultations, M&E and important meetings are being conducted online, to extent possible where applicable.</p>	It has been recommended that the project's annual work plans and budgets 2020 are revisited to address impacts of the COVID19 emergency in the region.

Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2020 rating	FY2021 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
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Medium	Medium	The overall risk rating of the project has remained at Medium level due to the COVID-19 global pandemic effects in all countries of the project. This risk is mostly related to the project activity implementation speed at regional and national levels. Because of the delays, we expect decline of the project budget delivery in 2021 by 25-30% as compared with the original workplan in early 2021. This applies to pandemic related travel limitations, delays in procurement, and seasonal field activities at project sites, which are uncertain in all countries of the project.
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7. Adjustments to Project Strategy – Only for projects that had the Mid-term review (or supervision mission)

If the project had a MTR review or a supervision mission, please report on how the MTR recommendations were implemented as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented
Recommendation 1: As the project is entering its remaining phase of 19 months, measuring the performance of the project towards its objective is needed	n/a <i>[The final MTR report has been received in June 2021, and under review by the project management team. The implemented measures and revised project workplans will be applied and reported in the next PIR period accordingly]</i>
Recommendation 2: The role of National Inter-Agency Working Groups in the implementation of the project needs to be strengthened as a mechanism to engage national stakeholders, including a focus on the institutionalization of project achievements in each country	n/a
Recommendation 3: To extend the project for up to 2 years (a no-cost time extension), however, the final decision should be made only after conducting a financial analysis/work plans to identify scope, costs, and timing of activities to be implemented with the remaining country budgets and how to finance the regional component and the project management costs	n/a
Recommendation 4: To conduct a survey assessing the socio-economic benefits after the introduction of new technologies and best practices and how they improve income and food security for women and men in demonstration areas	n/a
Recommendation 5: To hire a Turkey-based part time NPM for the remaining period of the project	n/a
Recommendation 6: The activities supported by Turkey need to be more visible, particularly in progress reports and in communication products	n/a
Recommendation 7: To continue to support governments in strengthening their rural advisory services (extension services)	n/a

Recommendation 8: To increase the cooperation with CAREC to find synergies between the 2 initiatives, particularly with the project funded by UNCCD, when seeking to institutionalize SLM technologies and approaches in Central Asia	n/a
Recommendation 9: The project needs to reach out to international and regional partners seeking more cooperation and possibly collaboration in close relation with national governments	n/a
Recommendation 10: To conduct capacity assessments of key relevant organizations using the FAO Strategy on capacity development in order to identify capacity gaps, particularly at the institutional level and to develop a plan of actions focusing on the institutionalization of project achievements.	n/a
Recommendation 11: Hoping that the interest in webinars lasts, to continue to deliver SLM/INRM knowledge through webinars and focusing more on practical implementation mechanisms of these measures as a cost-effective way to engage a maximum number of stakeholders throughout Central Asia.	n/a
Recommendation 12: To develop a project exit strategy to identify what is needed to be done to secure the sustainability of project achievements but also importantly to maximize the replication/ upscaling of results from the demonstration areas.	n/a
Recommendation 13: To review the list of activities remaining to be implemented and, where possible, prioritize what is critical to be done and focus on the institutionalization of current achievements.	n/a
Recommendation 14: To screen the project against the updated GEF policy on Environmental and Social Safeguard.	n/a
Recommendation 15: To increase synergies and knowledge sharing among policy makers, researchers, regional/local administrations, and farmers/land users (beneficiaries) through “field-days” in demonstration areas (pandemic allowing).	n/a
Recommendation 16: To promote CSA and SLM knowledge platform at national level through cost-effective webinars.	n/a

Recommendation 17: To implement gender recommendations issued from the gender analysis.	n/a
Recommendation 18: To introduce the 3 GEF-7 core indicators in the Results Framework of the project.	n/a

Adjustments to the project strategy.

Please note that changes to outputs, baselines, indicators or targets cannot be made without official approval from PSC and PTF members, including the FLO. These changes will follow the recommendations of the MTR or the supervision mission.

Change Made to	Yes/No	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project Outputs	No	
Project Indicators/Targets	No	

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, mid-term review, final evaluation or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval, please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes. The Budget Holder may decide, in consultation with the PTF, to request the adjustment of the EOD-NTE in FPMIS to the actual start of operations providing a sound justification.

Change	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project extension	<p>Original NTE: October 2022 Revised NTE: October 2024</p> <p>The projects' Mid-term Review Team recommended no-cost extension of the project for additional 2 years.</p> <p>The following has been provided as justification for the project extension:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the delivery of the project activities were delayed in all project countries2. The actual project implementation started in June 2018, while the GEF CEO Endorsement was approved in March 20173. Delays in signing project document and late registration in Turkmenistan (August 2020) <p>For processing the no-cost extension the project team shall revise the project country budgets and workplans 2021-2024 accordingly and develop a roadmap to address the extension related changes.</p>
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8. Stakeholders Engagement

Please report on progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))

The following list of stakeholders are involved in the project implementation, including national partner agencies, regional and national NGO's, international multilateral and bilateral development organizations, UN agencies, international development banks, academic and research institutions in the Central Asian region:

1. National Focal Points for GEF, UNCCD and UNFCCC in the 5 Central Asian countries
2. The Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan
3. Committee for Land Resources Management of the MoA of Kazakhstan
4. The Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation (MAR) and its specialized Department on Water Management and Reclamation, Kyrgyzstan
5. The State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry Kyrgyzstan
6. Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CEP)
7. Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan
8. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Turkmenistan
9. The State Committee on Water Economy of Turkmenistan
10. Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan
11. Ministry of Water resources the Republic of Uzbekistan
12. Uzbek Center for Hydro-meteorological services
13. State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and the State Cadaster of Uzbekistan
14. State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Ecology and Environmental Protection
15. Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD)
16. UNCCD Secretariat
17. World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)
18. International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)
19. International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
20. International Platform for Dryland Research and Education
21. Department of Land Cadastre under the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan.
22. State Corporation "Government for Citizens" (KAZ)
23. National Agrarian Science and Education Centre (NASEC, KAZ)
24. Kazakh Research Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry after U.U.Uspanov
25. Kazakh Research Institute of Livestock and Fodder Production
26. Kazakh Research Institute of Rice Production
27. State design Institute for land management - Kyrgyzgiprozem
28. NGO CAMP Alatau
29. Agency on Hydrometeorology, Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
30. Soil Institute under Tajik Academy of Agricultural Science
31. The National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna, Turkmenistan
32. Tashkent state agrarian university
33. Agricultural Economics Research Institute, UZB
34. Kashkadarya Branch of Scientific Research Institute of Grain and Legume Crops

35. Bukhara branch of Tashkent institute of irrigation and agricultural mechanization engineers.
36. UzGIP (Research institute for land and water infrastructure projects), UZB
37. German Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ)
38. Wageningen Research Center, The Netherlands (WUR)
39. Central Asia Regional Environmental Center (CAREC)
40. Association of individual entrepreneurs and legal entities "Kazakhstan growers union"
41. Public Organization "Women of Khatlon", TJK
42. The Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan
43. Republican Association "Uzbek qorakuli"
44. NGO "Innovations and scientific research Cluster on sustainable development"
45. International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)
46. Bioversity International
47. The World Bank office in Central Asia
48. Islamic Development Bank
49. IAMO – Leibnitz Institute for Agriculture Economics in Transition Countries, Germany
50. International Water Management Institute
51. UNDP offices in KAZ, TKM and UZB
52. National Association of Pasture Users in Kyrgyzstan
53. National Association of Rangeland Users of Kazakhstan

9. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)

On Q3 of 2020, the Boundary partners were identified under the M&E activity. Gender equality indicators on capacities were set for Boundary partners assessment process. The first assessment on Outcome mapping with BPs was carried out. As identified, BPs lack internal capacities on mainstreaming gender in their activities and further work will be carried out.

A brief gender-sensitive analysis of the systems for agricultural extension/provision of rural advisory services (RAS) in Kazakhstan was conducted. The institutional analysis, including gender analysis on pasture management (PIA) was conducted and infographics on findings are to be prepared.

The Kazakhstan SHARP assessment was conducted. The questionnaire was updated with new indicators to identify challenges and gaps met by women farmers, and women-led households. Nearly 270 people were interviewed (of whom 30% are women).

The guideline on salinity management was issued by Kazakhstan project team. The gender was mainstreamed across the guideline and included section on empowerment of rural women.

The webinar on salinity management was organized, the awareness raising session was conducted as a part of the event in Kazakhstan.

The Institutional capacity building training on “Leadership and gender” was organized in Tajikistan, participants were 246 people (53% men and 47% women). Similar work will be carried out in 3/4Q of 2021.

The first piloting two-day workshop on gender equality in INRM was conducted in Kazakhstan. Nearly 86 people (men 33% and 67% of women) were capacitated on FAO/GEF gender policies, gender analysis tools and M&E mechanisms. Similar workshop will be conducted for Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in 3Q and 4Q of 2021.

1Q of 2021- LoAs and ToRs were gender mainstreamed, meetings were conducted with service providers to inform on project’s expected results for 2021.

The monitoring visit was organized in Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan project sites 2Q of 2021. The gender expert participated at the mission to learn about internal gender capacities of Rice Institute. The meetings were held with the deputy head of the institute and staff, farmers and beneficiaries of the projects and gender gaps were identified.

The infographics factsheet on gender equality gaps in INRM for Kazakhstan was developed, similar booklet will be published for other project countries in 3/4Q of 2021. The materials will be widely publicized and disseminated to all partners and beneficiaries.

Q2. The interviews are ongoing on gender and socio-economic assessment in project countries. The project staff are conducting online and offline meetings for data collection.

10. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval

During the reporting period following work has been done regarding developing Regional Knowledge Management Platform and project webpage:

The draft of the CACILM-2 WOCAT knowledge management platform was designed. Project photos and video materials were uploaded. Some minor updates needed on integrating interactive maps and videos from YouTube. The IT specialist from WOCAT team is working on solving these issues. Upon finalizing mentioned updates the platform will be available for publishing.

Regarding CACILM-2 project webpage: it was developed and general information about the project was uploaded. For now waiting for FAO IT team to update the entire portal with new webpage design to be developed. Data management expert was rehired and work is continuing on development of Regional KM Platform.

Ms Aizhan Karabayeva (Aizhan.Karabayeva@fao.org), the Regional Project Associate was assigned as the project’s Focal Point for Knowledge Management, who is supporting the implementation of knowledge management plan and ensuring participation of project staff on FAO mandatory trainings and other workshops. All project staff completed 8 following FAO mandatory trainings:

- 1) FAO’s Whistle-blower Protection Policy;
- 2) BSAFE;
- 3) Achieving Gender Equality in FAO's Work;

- 4) Ethics and Integrity at the United Nations;
- 5) Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Authority;
- 6) Prevention of Fraud and Other Corrupt Practices;
- 7) Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse;
- 8) UN Course on Working Together Harmoniously.

Moreover, an online database file was prepared and shared among the project staff. The file includes capacity building trainings, courses, and webinars from FAO eLearning and other different resources, which is managed and updated by KM FP regularly.

The project team participates in relevant internal and external trainings on regular basis. During the reporting period the project staff have participated overall in 40 professional and individual capacity building events listed below.

- 1) Regional Experts Consultation on "State of the World's Land and Water" (SOLAW) in Europe and Central Asia organized by SOLAW with CACILM-2 contribution, 27-28 October 2020;
- 2) FAO webinar invitation/Keeping smallholders and family farms through the COVID-19 pandemic, June 24 2020;
- 3) Impact of COVID-19 and social protection: What measures work?, FAO, July 7 2020;
- 4) "UNCCD/CAREC online Stakeholders Consultation Meeting, CAREC/UNCCD, July 28, 2020;
- 5) Online Review workshop "The Future of Food Systems in Europe and Central Asia – 2022–2025 and beyond", Aug 28, 2020;
- 6) "SDG_SESSION 4: Sustainable Food Systems and Healthy Nutritional Patterns, Sep 3, 2020;
- 7) "Zoom in on Learning- Email management: Tips and Best Practices, Sep 10, 2020;
- 8) Introduction to FAO Project Cycle and FPMIS (briefing), Sep 18, 2020;
- 9) VIRTUAL LAUNCH EVENT OF THE STATE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY MARKETS (SOCO) 2020, Sep 20, 2020;
- 10) Zoom in on Learning: Multitasking in the digital world: how to optimize your time online, Sep 24 2020;
- 11) "FAO WORLD FOOD DAY TALKS 2020", Oct 14, 2020;
- 12) GIZ Central Asia: online seminar K-Link/K-Box, open source knowledge management tool, GIZ, Oct 22, 2020;
- 13) Zoom in on Learning: The 5 myths of great procrastination, Oct 22, 2020;
- 14) THE ROAD TO THE 8WCCA- Invitation to Webinar 3. Farm and ecosystem level benefits of CA systems to farmers, society and environment, Nov 5, 2020;
- 15) Africa, Near East, Europe and Central Asia Consultation on FAO-GEF Strategy and Action Plan, Nov 9, 2020;
- 16) SOFA 2020 Launch, Nov 26, 2020;
- 17) World Soil Day 2020 webinar: Managing soils for a sustainable future, Dec 7, 2020;
- 18) Generic Procurement Briefing Session: 11 February 2021;
- 19) Digital data for agri-food system transformation, Feb 26, 2021;
- 20) Farm-to-Fork under the European Green Deal, 2021 March 2;
- 21) Briefing session on FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030, 2021 March 9;
- 22) The first meeting of the Advisory Board of the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, ICSD, March 11. 2021;
- 23) Rural Women, Youth and Economic Opportunities: Cases from Europe and Central Asia to Accelerate the Achievement of the SDGs, March 12|17, 2021;
- 24) First meeting of the International Network on Salt-Affected Soils, April 15, 2021;
- 25) Briefing on FAO Strategy on Private Sector Engagement, 2021-2025, April 22, 2021;
- 26) May 5th - UNCCD/CAREC Drought Management and Mitigation in CA (Workshop), May 5, 2021;
- 27) "UNFSS Regional Dialogue on policy and governance issues to transform food systems in Europe and Central Asia", May 25, 2021;
- 28) Launching ceremony of the Central Asian Climate Information Platform, CACIP, May 26, 2021;
- 29) "WEBINAR COVID-19 response and digitalization in Europe and Central Asia", May 27, 2021;
- 30) The virtual Launch of the GEF-7 Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program, June 2, 2021;

- 31) GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF SOIL POLLUTION, June 4, 2021;
- 32) Remote sensing for water productivity: WaPOR applications and data quality in Gezira irrigation system, Sudan, June 1, 2021;
- 33) Zoom in on learning - Speaking up without freaking out, June 3, 2021;
- 34) FAO and UNEP Geneva Webinar Event Celebrating the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030", June 8, 2021;
- 35) OCCP workshop on Titles and blurbs – Calling it right, saying it tight, Jun 15, 2021;
- 36) Launch of the Global Agro-Ecological Zones platform, June 17, 2021;
- 37) Zoom in on learning: you@fao LinkedIn learning opportunities & trends, June 17, 2021;
- 38) FAO water-energy-food webinar series: Supporting water-energy-food nexus research and innovation in the EU-MPC region, June 17, 2021;
- 39) Gender Transformative Approaches to Financial Inclusion for Food Security and Nutrition, June 22, 2021;
- 40) The 8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture, June 21-23, 2021;
- 41) AGRIS virtual annual conference 2021, ARGIS/FAO, July 1, 2021.

Besides that, project team organized following capacity building events at regional and national levels:

Regional:

- 1) Regional and national project staff the following trainings/workshops .
- 2) Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy Mainstreaming in Communications, Monitoring, 14 July 2020
- 3) Regional Webinar on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in SLM/INRM interventions, 21 Jul 2020;
- 4) Regional webinar on "Innovative approaches and salinity management technologies for agricultural development in marginal lands", 2 Aug, 2020;
- 5) Sustainable Development Goals, CEDAW and its article 14 on rural women and Country Policies, 11 Aug 2020
- 6) Regional webinar on "Status and perspectives of conservation agriculture practices in Central Asia", 18 Aug 2020
- 7) Online Training Workshop on Climate Smart Mechanization for Dryland Agriculture in Central Asian Countries, 30 Sep 2020
- 8) How to establish partnerships with beneficiaries/stakeholders/partners on GESI strategy, 08 September 2020
- 9) Gender Budgeting, 13 October 2020;

Kazakhstan:

- 10) Webinar "Innovative approaches and salinity management technologies for agricultural development in marginal lands", 7 Aug 2020;
- 11) Webinar "Bio-saline agriculture in marginal lands of Central Asia, in particular in Kazakhstan», 10-12/08/20;
- 12) National training " Reserves for improving the efficiency of agricultural production in arid conditions of Northern Kazakhstan», 13-14/08/20;
- 13) Sustainable pasture management, Oct 2, 2020;
- 14) Land degradation mapping 1 (QGIS, Trends Earth), 26-28.08.20;
- 15) Land degradation mapping 2, 11-18.09.20;
- 16) Introduction to ASIS in Kostanay Oblast, Oct-Nov, 2020;
- 17) Capacity building of service providers and boundary partners on GEWE, 2-3 Dec, 2020;
- 18) Sustainable land management practices: organic agriculture, 11-15 Dec 2020;
- 19) Institutional and policy analysis of pasture management in Kazakhstan, integration resilience to resources management, 22-dec 2020;
- 20) Field day on introduction and demonstration of improved pasture management approaches and technologies through applying geobotanical maps, pasture rotation schemes and plants monitoring activities at selected pastoral farm, Sep 17, 2020;
- 21) Event on Intl Soil Day (Institute os Soil Science+CACILM-2), 07-dec, 2020;

- 22) Webinars on DRM technologies; 11-14-dec, 2020;
- 23) Field day on capacity development and public awareness on the production of drought-and salinity-resistant crops through 1 field workshop and demonstration for pastoralists and agricultural organizations , Sep 15, 2020;
- 24) Field day on introducing Innovative technologies for cultivation of rice in salinized areas of Kyzylorda Oblast, Sep 14, 2020;
- 25) Field day on introducing Innovative technologies for cultivation of maize in salinized areas of Kyzylorda Oblast, Sep 29, 2020;
- 26) Field day: The approaches and technologies on soil salinization and rehabilitation of the irrigated degraded lands in Kyzylorda Oblast (3 technologies), Sep 18-19, 2020;
- 27) Field day: Support to seed production systems for drought- and salt-tolerant pasture crops in Almaty Oblast, Oct 2, 2020;
- 28) Field day: Restoration of degraded pasture management in the Eastern Kazakhstan Oblast, Oct 8, 2020;
- 29) Round table “Comprehensive analysis of the disaster risk reduction system in agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan”, April 16, 2021;

Kyrgyzstan:

- 30) Seminar - improving agricultural Value Chains in Kochkor district, August 28, 2020;
- 31) Workshop on Soil and Water Conservation Technologies in Kochkor district, September 14-17, 2020;
- 32) Round table on EWS/DRR/AS, Dec 18, 2020;

Tajikistan:

- 33) Institutional capacity building training on “Organizational Building” – 1, July, 2020;
- 34) Institutional capacity building training on “Leadership and gender” – 2, August 2020;
- 35) Trainings on filling applications to get access to Matching Grants, October, 2020;
- 36) Round table on EWS/DRR/AS, May 2021;

Turkmenistan:

- 37) Training - INRM and SLM best practices training in PPS Karakum, October 27, 2020;
- 38) Training - INRM and SLM best practices training in PPS Nohur, October 31, 2020 ;

Uzbekistan:

- 39) Conduct field-training course on SLM technologies in Bukhara and Qarshi, October 2020;
- 40) Status and perspectives of conservation agriculture (CA) practices in Central Asia, August 18, 2020;
- 41) Online training course on No-till seeder to manage crop residue retention , August 2020.

For enhancing project visibility in reporting period (1 July 2020/30 June 2021), a project **Visibility Strategy and a Communication and Outreach Plans for 2020 and 2021** were designed and being implemented. The project outreach materials and news releases are regularly published in five countries of Central Asia. During reporting period project stories and releases got 460 publications by both online and offline media and social nets in the region. The project brochure, website and newsletter series were developed and published to raise awareness of the regional partners on project activities and achievements.

Regional Communication and Outreach Specialist was hired in early 2020 and the following list of results achieved to improve project visibility in the region in the reporting period:

- Project Communications Strategy and Communication plans for 2020 and 2021 were developed, approved and being implemented;
- In accordance with the Communication strategy the online Communication trainings and briefings were conducted for National CACILM-2 project managers in order to build their capacity in public relations and effective communication with the project donors, partners and beneficiaries;
- Regular press releases on various project activities and results in Central Asia were issued and widely distributed, mostly on main focuses of the project, namely on sustainable nature resources management, including drought and salt tolerant crops and agro-techniques upscale, results of baseline assessment for Climate

Change related Early Warning systems in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, project's emergency response to COVID-19 assistance in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, project's activities on sustainable and effective pastures management including techniques on its reviving through both traditional approach on pasture rotation and modern technologies of Climate Smart Agriculture.

- The project news and releases were regularly sent to more than 170 online and offline media resources in five Central Asian countries and the list of regional media is regularly maintained and updated;
- Two interviews on project implementation results were prepared with the Director of the Scientific Research Institute of Animal Husbandry and Feed production and NPM in Kazakhstan got FAO recognition prize on the excellent results in 2020, first pandemic year and disseminated in the regional media resources;
- Project news and stories were promoted through social networks – Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn;
- Three issues of the project quarterly information Newsletter “Dialogue” were designed, published and disseminated online among project partners in all Central Asian countries (more than 400 email recipients). Well-designed and decorated with quality photos the bulletin contains both interviews with key project staff and detailed short news on project achievements from all countries-participants of the project. Translated into English, the bulletin is being disseminated to all development partners/donors. All three issues of the newsletter both in Russian and English can be accessed online here:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UHZUI4F1ctRur20S2hQt7t6rBrTkTayh?usp=sharing>
- Practice of “human stories” mostly with stories of project beneficiaries but also with scientists and other partners demonstrated its effectiveness and being continued to get more supporters of the project both on local and national levels. These stories both disseminated to media in countries and included into the Newsletter;
- The project website was developed and regularly updated: <http://www.fao.org/in-action/cacilm-2/en/>
- Project video documentary will be produced until the end of 2021 and promoted through FAO global and project Youtube channel and social networks.

11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples involved in the project? How? Please briefly explain.

n/a

12. Innovative Approaches

Please provide a brief description of an innovative²³ approach in the project / programme, describe the type (e.g. technological, financial, institutional, policy, business model) and explain why it stands out as an innovation.

²³ Innovation is defined as *doing something new or different in a specific context that adds value*

The project applies number of innovative approaches as listed below:

1. Regional Knowledge Management Platform for Central Asian countries on SLM technologies:

During the reporting period following work has been done regarding development of a regional Knowledge Management platform in collaboration with WOCAT team at the University of Bern. The draft KM platform has been designed and finalized jointly with WOCAT team. Project photos, publications and video materials were uploaded. Filling up the contents of the platform and minor updates needed on integrating interactive SLM maps and videos from youtube. The IT specialists from CACILM-2 project and WOCAT team are progressing on these matters. Upon finalizing mentioned updates the KM platform will be available for publishing.

2. Development of Regional drought and salinity maps:

During the reporting period, the project team developed soil salinity maps for 3 regions in Kazakhstan, in 1 rural district in Kyrgyzstan, and 1 district in Uzbekistan by using GIS and CDI technologies.

Kazakhstan:

- 1) Soil salinity map of Zhambyl region;
- 2) Soil organic carbon map of Zhambyl region;
- 3) Soil salinity map of Kyzylorda region.

Kyrgyzstan:

- 1) Soil salinity map of Talaa-Bulak r.d. (rural district, Kochkor region);

Uzbekistan:

- 1) Soil salinity map of Bukhara district.

Besides that, the drought map of the most drought-prone areas in Kostanay oblast in Kazakhstan was developed using over a 20-year period based on CDI tool.

3. Carbon balance project applied at project sites to project CO2 sequestration rates and avoided emissions in the 20-year perspective:

CBP analysis in each country - baseline reports on carbon stock changes (CO2) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were developed for each CA countries using CBP tool. The results of CO2 and GHG emissions for each CA countries are:

- Kazakhstan - Total incremental difference (Expected Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Benefit) for the report period: -1,296 t CO2e over 20 years, area reported on 18 ha.
- Kyrgyzstan - Total incremental difference (Expected Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Benefit) for the report period: -1,578 t CO2e over 20 years, area reported on 170 ha.
- Tajikistan - Total incremental difference (Expected Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Benefit) for the report period: -60,411 t CO2e over 20 years, area reported on 1674 ha.
- Turkmenistan - Total incremental difference (Expected Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Benefit) for the report period: -978,320 t CO2e over 20 years, area reported on: 21000 ha.
- Uzbekistan - Total incremental difference (Expected Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Benefit) for the report period: -2,465,925 t CO2e over 20 years, area reported on 73237 ha.

The GHG benefit over 20 years for the 96,099 ha site is -3,507,530 t CO2 e (a negative number indicates net C sequestration and or avoided emissions). The GHG benefit is the incremental difference between the baseline scenario and the project scenario (Expected Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Benefit). This gives an annual incremental difference of -175,377 t CO2 e / year. Plans for Q3/4 2021: Conduct analysis on CO2 and GHG emissions for the project upscaling area in the CA countries.

4. Outcome Mapping methodology was applied for the project sustainability and effectively scaling-up of SLM practices on the ground:

The project team applied the Outcome Mapping (OM) methodology to monitor the progress of selected key partners - in OM terminology called boundary partners (BPs), in their contribution to the objectives of the project. Identified project strategic and boundary partners, in CA countries and formulated a set of progress markers (indicators) for each BP. The Outcome Journal for each BPs were prepared and the first assessment was conducted with the BP in each CA countries. In order to monitor results of the progress markers, NPMs with BPs should repeat this assessment workshop every half year. The results of the first assessment for each CA countries are:

In Kazakhstan were selected 3 boundary partners (BPs). The first assessment was conducted on 22 October 2020.

In Kyrgyzstan were selected Public Foundation «Camp Alatau» as boundary partner. The first assessment was conducted on 11 September 2020. The boundary partner with NPM have made an action plan, for the progress markers which have low score for the following reporting period.

In Tajikistan were selected NGO «Bonuvoni khatlon» as boundary partner and have made the first assessment on 18 October 2020. The Outcome Journal was reviewed by M&E team and addressed to NPM of Tajikistan to follow up on action plan for each progress markers. NGO «Bonuvoni khatlon» needs to build capacity first before it can become effective in the CACILM2 project and increase the score of the progress markers.

In Turkmenistan were selected two boundary partners and the Outcome Journal of BPs was prepared. As the project activities was started in August 2020 as well as COVID-19 outbreak situation, make it very difficult to meet people and for that reason, the NPM could not provide first assessment with BPs. During skype call in November 2020, NPM have suggested that to work with the National Institute of Deserts, flora and fauna (Institute), if Institute can contribute to the goal of the project than NPM can select this Institute as Strategic partner.

In Uzbekistan were selected 3 Strategic Partners. The Outcome Journal for each Strategic Partners were prepared and the first assessment was conducted on 22 November 2020.

13. Possible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the project

Please indicate any implication of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and progress of the project. Highlight the adaptive measures taken to continue with the project implementation.

Number of the project activities planned in 2020 and 2021 were delayed and postponed due to the unexpected circumstances caused by COVID-19 pandemic situation in the project countries. It mostly affected the project team's mobility and access to the project districts, conducting of field missions both at national and regional levels, regular M&E missions, individual meetings with GEF FPs, UNCCD and UNFCCC FPs and other national project partners, field trainings and FFS workshops, field surveys and data collection for ELD / VES / WOCAT / SHARP / RAS and other analysis at national level.

To facilitate the above project activities, the team applied virtual meetings and capacity development approaches to implement these activities to the extent possible.

The global pandemic situation has also affected and delayed the MTR process, which was expected in mid-2020 initially, but eventually conducted in virtual format in Feb-June 2021. The

During the COVID-19 situation since early 2020, the project team took adaptive measures and implemented the following activities:

- In consultation with the BH, LTO, RPC and the PMU team, the project team reallocated a portion of the regional component budget to national activities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to provide immediate support to vulnerable rural smallholders and farmers in the project sites, who were affected by COVID-19 pandemic, on value chain development in livestock production, procurement of drought- and salt-resistant seeds, fertilizers, home-garden tools for processing, and greenhouses, capacity development in producing food under drought conditions and to improve family income and nutrition.
- The project team also supported the provision of 34 greenhouses, 31 water pumps, 10 two-wheel tractors, 10 tons of fertilizer, and 30 thousand seedlings in Uzbekistan.
- Additional support in provision of drought tolerant and salt resistant crop seeds was provided to farmers and smallholders at project sites located in the South Kazakhstan.

During the pandemic, the capacity building events were all conducted in online webinars format, where possible. This mode has proven to be more effective as we significantly reduced costs for the events and increased the number of participants. However, they could not replace field visits for M&E, field trainings, field days and FFS workshops. They were postponed or cancelled due to the seasonality of the crops production and field agro-technical calendar schedules.

14. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁴	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2021	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan	Parallel financing: cash and in-kind	\$16,640,546	\$52,619,878	\$52,619,878	
National Government	Ministry of agriculture, food industry and melioration of Kyrgyzstan	In-kind/Grant	-	2,000,000	2,000,000	
National Government	Committee of Environmental Protection of Tajikistan	In-kind	\$1,465,000	500,000	500,000	
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Turkmenistan	Parallel financing: cash and in-kind	\$ 6,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey	In-kind/Grant	\$2,000,000	1,030,860	1,030,860	
National Government	Ministry of Water Resources of Uzbekistan	Parallel financing: cash and in-kind	\$23,780,000	123,725,209	123,725,209	
Multi-lateral Agency	ICARDA	cash and in-kind	\$ 1,700,000	1,935,000	1,935,000	

²⁴ Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Other.

Multi-lateral Agency	ICBA	cash and in-kind	\$ 560,000	120,800	120,800	
Multi-lateral Agency	GIZ		\$ 909,500	-	-	
Multi-lateral Agency	ZOI		\$50,000	-	-	
GEF Agency	FAO	Cash and in-kind	\$11,780,000	6,086,707	6,086,707	
TOTAL			\$ 64,885,046	\$192,018,454	\$192,018,454	

Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since Project Document signature, or differences between the anticipated and actual rates of disbursement

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. **DO Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS)** - Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”); **Satisfactory (S)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings); **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits); **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)** - Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental

objectives); **Unsatisfactory (U)** - Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits); **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)** - The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.)

Implementation Progress Rating – Assess the progress of project implementation. **IP Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS):** Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”. **Satisfactory (S):** Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action. **Moderately Satisfactory (MS):** Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action. **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU):** Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan. **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):** Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.